



REFLECTIONS

FROM NCCU
By Mary Bohanon

First I wish to thank the publisher and the reader for their cooperation during this first semester's attempts. Belou is Mark Kenas' last creature effort. It occurred to me that it might in some tangible way effect all of us.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. See you the second semester.

Mary Bohanon

BELOW!

What is the cause of the deterioration of our American society? Basically this: the erosion of each citizen's concern for government and politics.

I assume that America once was a society interested as a whole with the problems of the day, with faith in the solution of these problems through common effort by means of sometimes intelligent and well-reasoned, sometimes heated and belligerent discussion of the issues. As evidence I point to the open town meetings, well-attended lyceum programs, numerous street corner debates, political bar-room brawls—in essence, the local nature of politics in our early American history. I do not intend to dwell at length on these as sources of governmental policies. I only wish to point out the personal involvement characteristic of the citizens at that time.

Contrast this with the present day situation, apathy to the nth degree. The individual is no longer concerned about our society, rather he is concerned about his society. The dynamics of his society do not encompass the political spectrum of life. That

disatisfied, why not upset the status quo? Life does not have to be as it is. You can change it. How? By your own (eventually, our collective) zeal and determination. What method? Certainly not by vegetating in front of the "boob tube." Or by calling on the gods. Or by dutifully paying your taxes. Concrete change can only be accomplished by your active participation in the control of the society you live in.

POLITICS IS THE INSTRUMENT OF CONTROL AND CHANGE IN OUR SOCIETY. There are others woven into the fabric of our society, but this is the most basic. The founders of this country made it that way and that method remains intact to this day. However, the exercise of political power has been divested from the auspices of the people and invested in the professional politicians. What once was the power of "We the People" has been abdicated by those people, you and me. The power did not cease to exist because we neglected it, rather it has been usurped by self-serving professional politicians collectively known as Congress, individually, as the President. (Note: We all are self-serving to some extent. It is up to each of us, including politicians, to realize where on that continuum we lie and be willing to publicly proclaim that with honesty and openness.) Power is now concentrated in the national government and will be perpetuated there until the day we die, unless you and I, the grass roots, demand its return to us.

I ask you, do you really think the national government, or state, or local, for that matter, can decide for you, independent of your input how to best educate your children, how to build your highways, how to combat your urban sprawl, your pollution, etc.? Of course, if you don't complain when the quality of life, your life, deteriorates and you find yourself unable to figure out why or who's

Thrifty Savings Club Sponsors Christmas Party

The night was dark and stormy; the wind and rain sweep and drenched not only the countryside, but downtown Durham glistened ominously in the glare of the street lights; because, shadows of buildings, lampposts, trees and moving vehicles were stretched into grotesque capering figures by blame.

I know I sometimes find myself helpless when I think I am standing alone before that Colossus known as Democracy, knowing that sometimes along the line its ideals and goals have been perverted within the practical system of government that has evolved from it. A system so perverted, I look at it with revulsion in my soul. I can barely compromise my spirit to work within its devious methods. Fustrated, I am at times moved to tears of despair.

So what can I do, flee from America, hoping to find the elusive precepts elsewhere? No. For democracy is not as elusive as it may seem. It is within me where-ever I may go. I need not chase it to hinterlands unknown. Knowing there are others fighting the same when I can; without, when I must. The Colossus must be destroyed. Government "of the People, for the People, by the People" must be restored as a system of transactions between you and me, for our real not imagined, mutual well-being. Let us join hands and work together diligently with hope, while enduring our frailties, to bring about a healed spirit of democracy to the land of our forefathers.

the rain drenched winds. Such a night was unfit for man or beast to venture out into. But, the members of the Thrifty Savings Club, apparently, thought differently—a better average attendance put in an appearance at Durham's Downowner where the Club's annual Christmas Party was being staged.

A long line of beautiful gorgeously begowned, smartly coiffured ladies piroquetted into the red and gold banquet room of Durham's palatial Downowner Motel.

The Thrifty Savings Club is a woman's club whose unwritten slogan is manifested through its activity programming and achievements: "when we work, we work hard; when we relax, we relax in elegance." Good-food, good friends, and gorgeous backgrounds.

Coordinator for this Christmas Dinner Party was Mrs. Stattie H. Russ; Mrs. Mary Vanhook served as toast mistress during this festival.

Christmas Belles: Mmes. Carolyn Cates, Irene Hall, Bertha Harris, Tempie Young, Elizabeth Edwards, Anzella Hancock, Mattie Jones. Greetings and Best Wishes for all the joys and blessings of the Holy Christmas: President, Mrs. Beatrice Holman. A Yuletide Prayer: Mrs. Marie McMillian Harris.

Special string music: the girl with the golden fingers and her guitar—Miss Eltonza McNair. A dramatic reading: Mrs. Pauline Boxley—"8 Days Before Christmas"—author: Mrs. Sadie L. Thompson. The pink lady with the shimmering smile, Mrs. Alpe Davis recited a

poem she penned: "A Christmas"

The Rev. Vader Johnson said Grace. The president's table guest were: Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Collins; Rev. & Mrs. B. Sanders; Mrs. Marie McMillian Harris; Rev. & Mrs. Percy L. High; Mrs. Carrie McNair, Miss Eltonza McNair.

(Professor) Mr. W.R. Collins and the Rev. P. L. High extended Best Wishes to members for continued success in the splendid word of sharing their time and talents with others.

Other friends and Members of T.S.C. Club Jimmie L. Lyons, W.P. Edwards, Panzy Leathers, Sandra F. Jackson,

Sat., Dec. 22, 1973 THE CAROLINA TIMES—44

James Moore—91 Sherman St., P.O. Box 1214 N. Roxboro St. —688-7784; M.R. Core, Queen Cooper, Mattie Rouse, Lucille Bass, George R. Russ, Nannie R. Daye, Jeane Hopkins Lucas, Mildred Katis, M. Johnson, Thelma Bullock, O.L. Bullock, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Buford; Mr. & Mrs. Oliver L. Biddle; Mrs. Elaine Jones, Miss Irene Hall, Laura Lee Grimsley, Mrs. Daisy B. Caine, Mrs. Christine Sales, Mrs. Millie Williams; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Holman; Mrs. Alpe Davis, Mrs. Sadie L. Thompson; Mr. & Mrs. Albert

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