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Words Of Wisdom

A man in earnest finds means, or if ye cannot find, creates them.

—Channing

Nothing astonishes men so much as common sense and plain dealing.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Black Political Leaders Seem To Have Retreated From Hayti Confrontation

By Donald Alderman

Most of Durham's black political leaders have apparently backed off from an earlier challenge to city officials to produce assurances that Hayti would be developed, or the black community would not support the coming civic center bond referendum.

Now, black leaders, with only one clear exception, are saying that the issues are separate and the one should not be held hostage to the other. There is also a split vote among black political leaders on how the area should be redeveloped.

This is a clear switch from an earlier posture that said Durham's black voters should stop supporting city bond issues and "always wind up on the short end of the stick."

The switch raises at least three important questions:

* Did the black leaders issue a challenge earlier this year before checking to determine if they had the votes to back it up just in case city officials called the bluff?

* Is the current position the result of a restudy of the facts, or a response to political pressure?

* Where does the vacillation on the part of black political leaders leave the average black voter who apparently will have to decide how to vote on the civic center issue by the end of June?

But no matter why they've switched, the black

political operatives have changed their tune.

For example, earlier this year, City Councilman Ralph Hunt, who represents the predominantly black Third Ward, said the issue of Hayti's redevelopment was important enough that the black community should insist on some guarantees from city officials, some demonstrated proof of goodwill, before backing the civic center.

Now Hunt says the bond vote should be decided solely upon a feasibility study that determined a civic center is needed. "The second phase," Hunt continued during a lengthy interview in his southeast Durham home, "is to determine what is a feasible concept to develop Hayti from a business sense."

Similarly, Councilman Chester Jenkins echoes reversed sentiments.

"I don't think that Hayti and the civic center have anything to do with each other. Neither should be sacrificed for the other. . . I don't think the black community is ready to throw its support in any direction."

Also Willie Lovett, chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, and one of the first to insist that blacks get something from the civic center proposal, has modified his position. "We approach bond issues like elections and, at the appropriate time, we'll make a statement."

Lovett sidestepped the issue of the black leader-

ship's apparent retreat from its challenge to city officials just two months ago, noting that many questions have to be answered and much work. He did not clarify whose questions or whose work.

Apparently only one of the group that threw the gauntlet earlier this year still holds his guns: "My position is that we ought to have assurances on Hayti before we take a position on the bond," said J.J. "Babe" Henderson, chairman emeritus of the Durham Committee. "It ought to be formalized and not a blanket statement."

Henderson, who was recently released from the hospital following a three-week stay, said if there appears to be dissension among black leaders, that " . . . we'll have a group discussion and come up with a decision that will represent the black community."

That will be a lot easier said than done, because it is not clear what, if anything, the black community wants Hayti to be. Nor is it clear if Hayti advocates have more than a dream, the reality of which might have died almost twenty years ago under the crumpling blades of Durham's urban renewal program.

Hayti, once called the mecca of black economics, was leveled over a ten-year period under Durham's urban renewal program. More than 100 black owned businesses were moved. More than 600 black families were relocated. Despite earlier promises,

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WHAT A DAY! Warm, sunny days have been infrequent in the area this spring, so Sanota Parks, 21 months, and Coretta Parks, 8 months, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Parks of Fargo Street, take advantage of one this week on the sidewalk in front of their home.

Photo by Silas Mayfield

Blacks Spend More For Alcohol And Drugs Than For Food

By Milton Jordan

For most urban blacks, Durham included, the following scenes are very familiar:

* The bedraggled derelict lurking along the sidewalk, smelling for all he's worth like a walking distillery.

* A well-dressed black man or woman, soused to the gills at a party or nightclub, arguing with friends that being drunk has nothing to do with the ability to drive.

* The well-dressed and well-heeled pusher delivering the deadly white powder to his long line of customers.

But though just as prevalent and damaging, the following scenes are not as easily recognized:

* The troubled housewife stashing her comforting bottle of booze or pills in her favorite hiding place in her home, away from prying eyes after it has momentarily lifted the load of troubles from her shoulders.

* The respected minister, businessman or community worker who must find comfort from the burning sting of the bottle, the piercing prick of the needle before he can face the rigors of another day.

And almost totally hidden from the common view are the families torn asunder and the lives of relatives and friends wrecked beyond recognition because alcohol and drug abuse is a raging epidemic in most black communities.

These scenes and many others, all endemic to the problem of alcohol and drug abuse among blacks, were the focus of a three-day conference in Durham last week, sponsored by the N.C. Task Force on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Among Blacks.

Featuring workshop sessions, as well as three major speeches, the conference at the Downtowner Motor Inn covered the subject of substance abuse among blacks from a legal, social and religious perspective, as well as discussed causes of the problem, treatment methods and ways to prevent the abuse.

"What we are trying to do with this conference," said Curtis Hunter of Charlotte, an alcoholism treatment and prevention consul-

tant, "is the same thing the Task Force has been trying to do since its inception in 1975: get the prevention and treatment programs to the black community, to the people who have the problem, because the established programs are not going where the blacks with the problems are."

Hunter, who is chairman of the Task Force, says that most substance abuse treatment programs operate on week days only from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., " . . . when most blacks who have this problem are working. . . " and so the information from established programs often just does not get to the substance abuser in the black community. In addition, according to Hunter, some blacks are simply reluctant to go to the "white side of town" where most of the treatment centers, and prevention programs are located, so again help does not reach the black community.

National statistics indicate that the black community seriously needs help with the alcohol and drug abuse problems.

According to one report, blacks spend about ten per cent of their gross annual income — about \$150 billion now — on alcohol. Thus blacks spend about \$15 billion annually on booze.

The report continues: "Thirty per cent of the Scotch, 39 per cent of gin and 40 per cent of one well-known brand of wine purchased in this country is bought by black Americans."

* Blacks individually spend \$125 less on food each year than on liquor.

* Blacks are described as "superconsumers" by the liquor marketing handbook. Specific advertising procedures and materials have been developed to get blacks to use more alcoholic beverages.

Other characteristics of blacks and alcohol, revealed by the report include the fact that blacks tend to be group drinkers, rather than drinking alone.

Blacks tend to drink more frequently and heavily during weekends, and urban blacks tend to drink more than rural blacks.

A large proportion of

black women who drink tend to be heavy drinkers, though about 51 per cent of black women don't drink at all.

Finally, alcoholics in the black community come from every social, economic class. This includes individuals who may have good paying jobs, who hold advance college degrees, who come to church and who are on public assistance.

There are fewer specific statistics on drug abuse among blacks, but one report says that the number of black heroin users alone could range as high as 350,000 persons, more than half of all known addicts.

"The effect of alcoholism alone is tremendous in the black community," says Ms. Kay Patterson, a counselor at the Lincoln Community Health Center. "The loss to the community is devastating."

According to Ms. Patterson, who says she works mostly with women alcoholics, often when one member of a family develops the disease, eventually the whole family does. In other words, according to Ms. Patterson, the alcoholism of one family member becomes the controlling factor in the family and dictates the family's reaction to the rest of the world.

"For example," she said, "sometimes a wife whose husband is an alcoholic will take over his responsibilities, and sometimes simply breaks under the double burden."

But almost all alcohol and drug abuse professionals, many of them recovered addicts, like Hunter, for example, insist that the disease is both treatable and preventable.

The essence of both, however, the professionals says, boils down to education, getting to people as much as possible of the critical information they need to know to either conquer the problem, or the desire.

"For example, according to Ms. Patterson, some people are allergic to alcohol and therefore more susceptible to alcoholism.

"Eating habits, a person's weight and size, the environment in which

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Clement: New RDU Means Nothing For Blacks Unless They Function In Mainstream

By Milton Jordan

Raleigh-Durham Airport, with its new \$9.6 million terminal and a proposed \$50 million long range expansion, means a great deal to this Triangle area, according to Durham's William A. Clement, a member of the Airport Authority.

"But none of this means anything to blacks in this area unless they learn to negotiate the mainstream," Clement said. "There is no such thing as a trickle down effect in this situation. Blacks must be prepared, and aggressive in their pursuit of success."

Clement's observations came Monday during the official dedication and ribbon cutting of the new RDU terminal. He took a moment after the ceremony, and during a festive reception to talk with *The Carolina Times*.

"If the growth projected for the Triangle area is as good as everyone expects," Clement said, "black people will certainly be in a position to benefit. But we are going to have to be competitive and expand our horizons beyond the traditional professions."

As examples, Clement cited doctors, lawyers and teachers as some of the traditional profes-

sions, noting that engineers and computer scientists are examples of the new professions that blacks must look to for careers.

"We need to understand," Clement continued, "that the microelectronics industry will soon be the number one industry in North Carolina, and we need to begin preparing our young people for that."

Along that same line,

Chuck Allen, a local official with Piedmont Airlines, one of the nation's fastest growing airlines, said the key to careers in his industry is education and aggressiveness.

"It's getting so that jobs that once did not require degrees are being filled by people with degrees," Allen said. "And therefore, it's rather imperative that anyone who is considering working in this industry should get

the degree first." Allen also said that it's a good idea for college students to try to get some summer experience in his or any other industry in which they plan to work after college.

Monday's dedication of the 135,000 square foot terminal officially opened the first passenger terminal construction at RDU since the older terminal, now known as Terminal B, opened over a three-year

period from 1953 to 1956. The new terminal has been designated Terminal A. It actually opened for operation on January 24.

The new terminal was financed through airport revenues, cash-on-hand and government grants.

Gov. Jim Hunt spoke at the dedication noting that the airport expansion program is a major key to Triangle progress and later cut the ribbon.

Market Day To Feature Low Cost Fruits and Vegetables

By Donald Alderman

Early Saturday morning, May 8, a tractor-trailer truck, loaded with about 40,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables will ease onto the back parking lot at Operation Breakthrough headquarters on Umstead Street at Roxboro.

In the parking lot, about fifty volunteers and coordinators for Durham's first Farm to Market Project will spread the perishables "stock market" style, and the city's People's Market Day will get underway.

It'll take about 2,500

buyers to make the food fair successful, according to Breakthrough's director, Fred McNeill and officials of Agricultural Teams, Inc., the Raleigh-based non-profit corporation that is sponsoring the market day.

Further, according to Ag Teams officials, these "days" also assist small farmers by providing a ready market for their produce with consumers who are eager to buy fresh produce at below the average market price.

According to McNeill, a "shopping cart" survey of six Durham supermarkets indicates

that "Market Day" produce prices will be about 33 per cent below average supermarket prices. The food fair will run from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

A second market day is scheduled for June 12.

McNeill hopes the event will be successful, mainly because the poverty fighting agency will get ten per cent of all sales. But he declined to predict the outcome, "because this is the first time we've tried anything like this."

Breakthrough's principal role in the market day is advance publicity and promotion, designed to convince people that they should come and buy Ag Teams' produce.

According to McNeill, promotional efforts have included requests to local nurseries and day care centers that they buy perhaps a month's supply of fresh produce. He said announcements have been made in 350 area churches. Hundreds of 11 x 15 posters have been distributed, according to McNeill, and public service announcements have been sent to 22 radio and television stations and newspapers.

Food stamps, certified checks and credit cards will be accepted at the food fair.

In an unrelated situation, Ag Teams will hold its first Awards Dinner, exactly one week after Durham's market day. The awards banquet, slated for May 15 in Raleigh's Royal Villa Hotel on Highway 70, will begin at 7 p.m. A preceding reception will begin at 6 p.m.

Esther Rolle, star of the television comedy "Good Times", will serve as mistress of ceremonies, and Congressman Walter Fauntroy will deliver the keynote speech.

Durham's own Evangelist Shirley Caesar and International singing star Roberta Flack will be honored. Others to be honored are:

- * John Blackwell, Jr.
- * Attorney Julius Chambers
- * Bishop Thomas A. Fraser, N.C. Episcopal Diocese
- * Jim Graham, N.C. Secretary of Agriculture
- * Nathan T. Garrett, Garrett, Sullivan and Company
- * Jennifer Henderson, N.C. Hunger Coalition
- * John R. Jones
- * Rev. Joseph Keesecker, United Presbyterian Church
- * Annie Loftin, Wake Opportunities, Inc.
- * Hon. Sarah Morrow, N.C. Department of Human Resources
- * Rev. J. Benton Rhoades, Agricultural Missions
- * Julia W. Taylor, Mechanics and Farmers Bank
- * Doreen Tilghman, United Methodist Church
- * Kathryn Waller, Rural Advancement Development Fund
- * Rev. Charles W. Ward, First Baptist Church
- * Lincoln O. Lynch
- * C.E. Lewis, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company
- * Howard Quander, Episcopal Church.

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NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY received a \$16,000 grant from The Merck Company Foundation of Rahway, N.J., to strengthen its teaching and research programs in chemistry. Dr. Andrew M. Pinckney, Jr., right, of the Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories Division of Merck & Co., Inc., presented the foundation's check to Dr. James M. Schooner, left, chairman of the NCCU Department of Chemistry, and NCCU Chancellor Albert N. Whiting. The funds, given through the foundation's Educational Assistance Grant program, will be used to improve laboratory facilities and equipment in the NCCU chemistry department.