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Healthy competition

From early indications, the 1985 aldermanic races ought to be spirited.

Each of the four black aldermen has told the *Chronicle* that he or she expects opposition and, while that may or may not be good news for the incumbents, it bodes well for the community at large.

Healthy competition is just that -- healthy -- and political races with high-quality challengers and incumbents will, we hope, focus on issues and create a forum for positive debate.

A good, old-fashioned political dogfight also can keep even the most comfortable incumbent on his or her toes and can remind him that he works for his constituents, not vice versa.

Adding spice and mystery to the potential races are the everpresent questions. Will, for instance, North Ward Alderman Larry Little shun another term and seek to become the city's first black mayor? Or will Little turn his back on elective office altogether and, as he has mentioned on more than one occasion, go to law school?

Little insists that he sometimes tires of the public life and that he'd like to get on with the business of being a husband and, perhaps not too far down the road, a family man. He also would like to cultivate a career that pays money, he says, because you certainly can't make very much money in Winston-Salem being a full-time alderman.

As for East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell, the word around these parts is that "you don't mess with V.K." and it's no exaggeration. Mrs. Newell is well-entrenched in her ward and stands about the same chance of being re-elected as Ronald Reagan did against Walter Mondale.

Mrs. Newell also has been mentioned as a possible mayoral candidate but we don't expect her to run -- at least not yet. As dynamic as she can be, Mrs. Newell, strangely enough, takes a lot of cajoling to seek a job that traditionally has belonged to a man. She's simply old-fashioned.

Yet, while Little and Newell seem to be heavy favorites to repeat in their wards, Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian Burke and Southeast Ward Alderman Larry Womble face more uncertain futures, though each is politically strong.

Democratic Party precinct leader Joe Daniels has said he might run against Mrs. Burke. High school assistant principal Victor Johnson also has been mentioned as a possible challenger.

But, even though some members of her ward have said they would like to see her lose her seat, Mrs. Burke is a tireless campaigner with many allies. Her challengers would

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White Republicrats strike again

By **CARLTON HOLLAND**
Special to the Chronicle

Well, here we go again, my good and faithful black Democrats. We've "been had" once more by what I can only describe as the "white Republicrat."

Allow me to define this enigmatic card-carrying member of the Democratic Party, who disappears into the Republican Party's column on election day when black Democratic office-seekers need his help. The Republicrat, pronounced reep-likk-krat, is (1) usually Caucasian and a registered member of the majority political party in the United States, which is the Democratic Party; (2) he/she usually espouses Democratic Party principles and causes and, more often than not, advises members of the black race to join the Democratic Party for their best interests, inasmuch as the Republican Party "does not give a damn about blacks and their plight;" (3) the Republicrat's strongest feature is that of strict adherence and/or allegiance to the Democratic Party line as regards financial support, getting out the vote, and sharing the spoils of their political victories; and most of all, (4) the Republicrats have an unflinching belief that all



Holland

really good Democrats always, but always, sit down and plan and strategize together.

Now that you who are interested have read the definition of this political huckster of black votes, let's attempt to describe some of his habits and habitats during the political season, so that you will have your defenses set when he returns to hustle you in the next election.

These Republicrats can be seen from time to time at black churches, black house parties, black lawn parties and/or other social events hosted in the black community which are politically beneficial to them. They have even been

overheard at some of these gatherings to proclaim real affection for their black brothers and sisters (as the political spirit moved them.)

They are most notably adept, while attending these functions, at redirecting sticky political questions to a black political activist in the room who is perceived as knowledgeable by stating, "If y'all want to know where I stand on 'second primaries' or anything else which might have an effect on your progress and/or civil rights, you can just ask Mr. or Mrs. X here, who's known me for more years than I care to remember." (Probably six weeks or, at best, the time since that particular campaign began.)

But let's move on. These Republicrats, disguised as registered Democrats, have a plan that is unbeatable. Sound strange? Believe me when I tell you -- they do. As an illustration, Republicrats have been known to run for some of the highest political offices in North Carolina under the Democratic Party banner, with the blessing and support of black Democrats. But listen to this: (And I know that you, the reader, will find it an almost incomprehensible political absurdity) some of these Republicrats have been

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Letters

Who's really shortsighted?

To the Editor:

Many residents of the Carver community are concerned about the *Chronicle's* perception of us as shown in the article "Tunnel Vision" about the proposed apartments by the Northgate Associates, which are to be located in the area of Berl Street.

If someone from our community said that they felt the apartments would attract "substandard people," they probably were trying to express their fears in an intelligent way, rather than risk sounding like the rhymes and cuts on the playgrounds of our childhoods about social positions, etc.

I'm certain we all remember them said by those, without that much, to other underprivileged people. They are ingrained in many peoples' minds in a cutting way.

Some of us do recall it being said at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen that often apartments located in the black community become slums. Certainly, most of us do not feel that this happens in every instance. Some of us who grew up in areas such as the Terrace do know that those areas deteriorated a great deal over the years. It cannot be denied that often apartment complexes in black communities eventually end up being less than what was planned. It would be foolish to deny this.

We are concerned about the rumor that one prominent white developer has had blacks front for him so that he could make financial inroads into the Carver community. We fear that he or others may be connected with the rezoning and apartment effort off Berl Street, since there are adjoining parcels of land which could subsequently be rezoned.

Most people that live in the projects like to move to better housing when they can. We hear that people in some projects are paying nearly as much rent as what would be required for the proposed apartments in the Carver community. We are concerned that we will end up with projects very close to the Turnkey housing project.

Crime has increased recently in the Carver community and that would certainly increase it more. When police answer break-in calls, they themselves often comment on the number that they respond to in the area.

It is a fact that Monticello Park is a part of the Carver community. Most residents come from humble beginnings and, as teachers, etc., are not snobbish because they don't make enough money to be.

Most of the doctors and lawyers have served the black community in various capacities for years without much ado compared to their white counterparts. Traditionally, many of the residents who have been involved in the nitty gritty of developing the black community and have helped youngsters and others in a way which is vanishing.

Surely, many whites will not give black youngsters the nourishment and help that they have. The loss of com-

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Crosswinds

Working with Martin

From The (Raleigh) Carolinian.

As political administrations are changing, including the entrance of the Jim Martin team to the governor's office, an enormous amount of concern is being expressed regarding who will remain and who will leave.

The public should be aware that it is not unusual for Republicans to serve in posts in Democratic administrations, and for Democrats to work in Republican administrations.

Often, when the cross-serving does not occur, it is because of the wisdom of operating and governing within the context of the two-party system, and because there are those public servants who perform professionally and in a statesmanlike manner, putting the interests of the people above their own.

Office-holders who are dedicated to the well-being of the people beyond their own aims and objectives are more productive, highly respected and consequently valuable to any administration in office.

We think it would be advantageous to black government employees and political appointees to establish themselves as productive and effective job holders and less as party functionaries.

The support of the people gravitates to results. The political party seeks the support of the people, which comes by results. Consequently, the people, party and office-holder should all meet at the well called "results."

On the basis of such a meeting, the office-holder will remain in demand, the needs of the people will be met and the party will succeed.

The system of ostracizing those in the outside party during recent years brings havoc and confusion into government, which is self-defeating.

If the progress of the people could be the guideline for government work, instead of promoting a party, some of the current fear and trembling could be avoided.

Can a dying Africa feed itself?

By **C. PAYNE LUCAS**
Special to the Chronicle

With one or two possible exceptions, there is no African country today that is incapable of feeding itself if it is determined to make the most of its human resources and physical endowments.

The continent has vast untapped reserves of arable soil and water. It has traditional land tenure systems which ensure the great majority of Africans access to adequate gardens and pastures.

Yet, as many as 26 African countries are expected this year to require emergency shipments of staple foods. You can cite drought and desertification, population growth and high energy costs, the world recession and plunging commodity prices to explain Africa's mounting food deficit.

You can quote national development plans which have stressed industrial versus agricultural investment. You can show how Africa's overvalued currencies frequently made it cheaper to import food than to grow it.

In 15 or 20 years, nevertheless, I believe Africa will again be feeding itself. I believe we will look back at Africa's first generation of independence as an inevitable passage of political teething, economic trial and error and climatic extremes which temporarily disrupted the produc-

development agencies have been establishing rural storage facilities, extending more roads into farming zones and constructing more large and small-scale irrigation systems.

In southern Africa, which is contending with its worst prolonged drought in a century, regional plans are being drawn

"There are farm-to-market roads to build, rural storage and milling capacity to establish, extension services to train, and road, truck and tractor maintenance services to strengthen."

tive capacities of Africa's greatest source of wealth -- its peasant farmers. The signs are encouraging:

The Sahel last year experienced a severe shortage of rainfall. Per capita cereal production was only 71 percent of the average level during the 1967-73 drought, yet the degree of human suffering was far less than a decade ago. In addition to improved monitoring of weather, rainfall and crop conditions, the Sahelian countries and international

up by the SADCC (South African Development Conference) nations to coordinate development of food production, water resources and transportation.

And throughout Africa, governments are assessing and changing pricing and other policies which have tended over the past 20 years and more to discourage smallholding farmers from producing food beyond their own subsistence needs.

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WELL - WE'VE GOT OUR CHOICE OF TAX REFORM PLANS -



THE FLAT TAX OR THE MODIFIED FLAT TAX OR THE SIMPLE MODIFIED TAX OR THE FLAT SIMPLE TAX



BUT NONE OF THEM ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM OF THE DEFICIT



YOU'RE RIGHT - THEY'RE ALL GOOD!!

