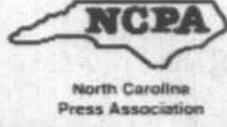


OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Carter for Congress Photo
 Roy Carter stands outside the local office of Rep. Virginia Foxx. Carter was there to challenge Foxx to a debate.

Who We Like

Experience or change? That's a choice that voters in Forsyth County will be making starting today, and not just in the hotly-contested battle for the White House. The two competitive races for District Court pits legal veterans against two relatively fresh faces.

Incumbent Victoria "Tori" Roemer faces challenger Kelly Patterson, who has spent his 10 years as a lawyer in private practice and mostly handling family law cases.

Judicial races became nonpartisan several years ago in an attempt to take politics out of the process of choosing judges. The attempt has been rather lame. Although most judges don't wear their party affiliations on their sleeves, it is generally well-known that Roemer is a Republican and Patterson is an unapologetic Democrat who has been a longtime Democratic Party volunteer and official.

In fact, we are most familiar with Patterson because of his years of work with the local Democratic Party. We have seen him active and engaged in events in the community over the years. He is personable, knowledgeable and has the spirit of a true community servant.

We don't know much about Roemer as a person. What we and many, many others do know about her are things that she wants to bury in her past. Most recently, the judge ordered two people to jail for unpaid rent, a act that was so unheard of that she was reprimanded for it.

But most blacks in Forsyth still refuse to forgive Roemer for injecting the issue of race into an election more than a decade ago when she was facing popular African-American incumbent Judge Loretta Biggs. Although Roemer has said she regrets how her campaign was viewed, we still cannot bring ourselves to vote for her. The black community still doesn't know which is the real Tori Roemer. Until then, we only know the one who stooped so low as to play racial politics. We are voting for Patterson. This county needs another community-friendly District Court Judge like the Honorable Denise Hartsfield.

The other District Court race pits incumbent Chester Davis against newcomer Amy Allred. We know little about these candidates. If you are like us, we like to form bonds with folks over time. It is awkward when people simply show up in our community

during an election to try to win our votes and then we never see them again. On paper, Davis appears to be the better choice. His legal career has been nothing short of stellar. While we admire Allred for being young and ambitious. She needs a few more turns around the legal lap.

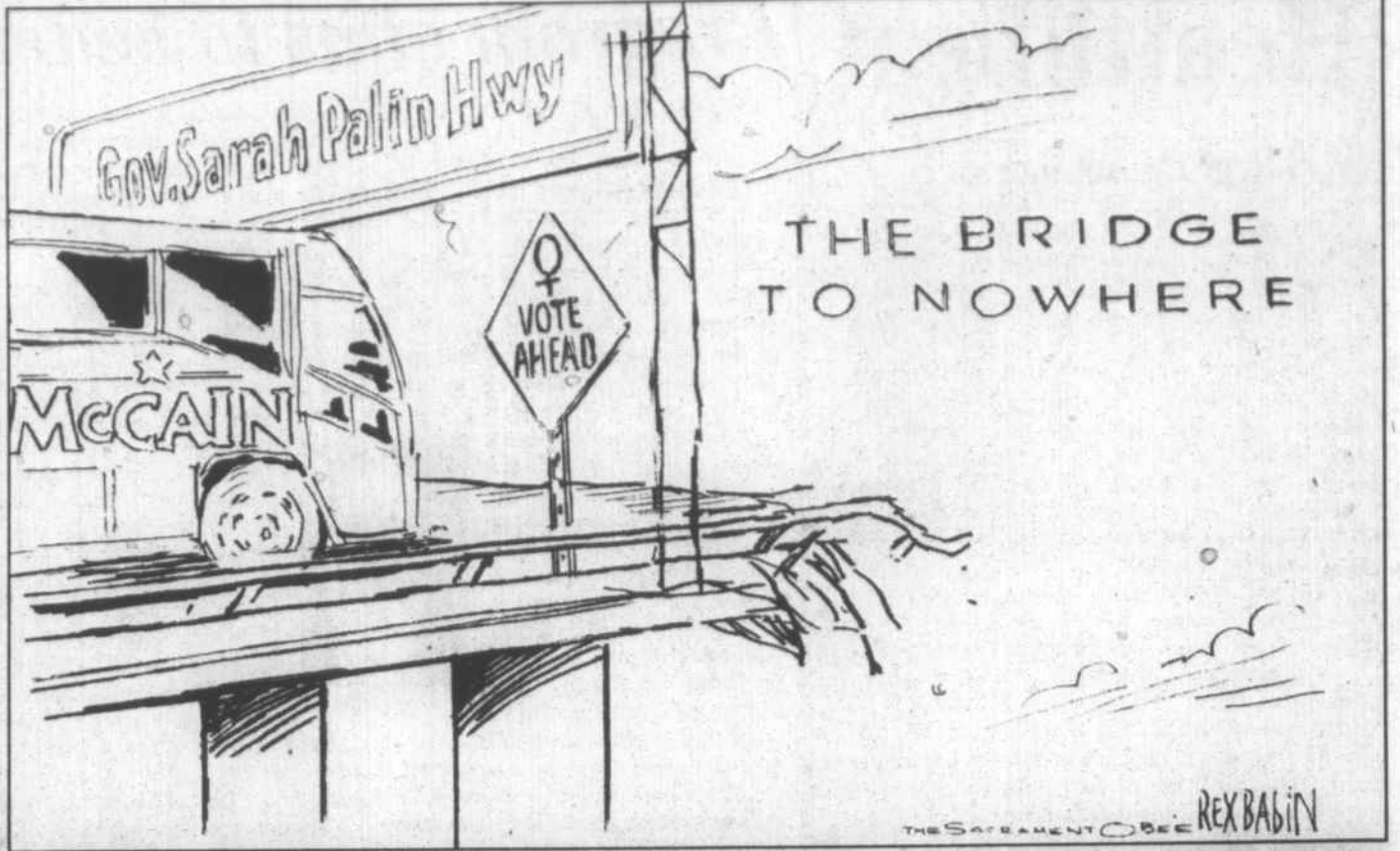
We will enthusiastically vote for Roy Carter to replace Virginia Foxx as our U.S. Representative for the Fifth District. We like the idea of a regular, Average Joe like Carter - a retired educator and high school football coach - going to Washington to fight the good fight for average, everyday people.

Foxx has lost her way. She has spent the last four years worshipping President Bush like he is some sort of Messiah. She is one who prefers to try to extend her conservative credentials rather than fighting for (and voting for) issues that will make the lives of her constituents better. Like with Roemer, we can never forget Foxx's refusal to support emergency funding for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and her 'no' vote for the 2006 renewal of the Voting Rights Act. It is our time to make votes that Foxx won't like - ones for Roy Carter.

Do we even have to say that we are voting for Mel Watt to continue his stay as our 12th District representative in the U.S. House? We all know Mel and he knows all of us, many of us by first-name. His up close and personal relationships with his thousands of constituents is one of the many reasons we love him. We know that when we call Mel, he'll listen.

Although money is tight for everyone these days, we cannot pass the opportunity to help Forsyth Tech. The school's mission of educating the local workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow has never been so important.

Forsyth Tech has been there for us when our plants have closed down. They have given our laid off workers top-notch training at bargain-basement prices so that they can enter new fields such as nursing and education. We are voting YES for the FTCC bond because we know that a slight increase in property taxes is a small investment considering all that the school does for this community. And in these uncertain economic times, any one of us may have to turn to FTCC at anytime to prepare us for a new career and new future.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Prayer event at local jail was moving for all

To the Editor:

I recently participated in the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries' Hope on the Inside Outreach (Sept. 14, 2008). Going inside the maximum security Forsyth County Jail to preach was a rewarding experience.

Once inside the housing unit, I entered an arena where during the day trained jail volunteers led the inmates on a journey of self-discovery, surrender and



Rev. Rivers

love. I saw God's mercy and grace flowing through the ministry's volunteers in their words, actions and love for the inmates. Their hearts

had been prepared for my fellow pastors and me to preach our messages of hope and reconciliation to God.

On behalf of my fellow pastors and me who participated that Saturday, we thank Sheriff Schatzman, Major James and the staff at the Forsyth County Jail for allowing us to minister inside the jail. We also thank the Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries for coordinating this special outreach day. We are blessed to have this local jail and prison organization ministering to inmates in our community.

Reverend Prince Rivers,
 Pastor, United

Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church

Also, Reverend Bob McCaskill - Pinedale Christian Church, Reverend Byron Battle - Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian Church, Reverend Tom Shelton - Friedberg Moravian Church, Reverend Janet Dixon - Mt. Pleasant & Oak Summit United Methodist Churches, Reverend Tejado Hanchell - Mt. Calvary Holy Church, Dr. Earl Wilson - Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church Reverends John & Pansy - Potter's House Resource Center

... They know not what they do



Marge Robben

Guest Columnist

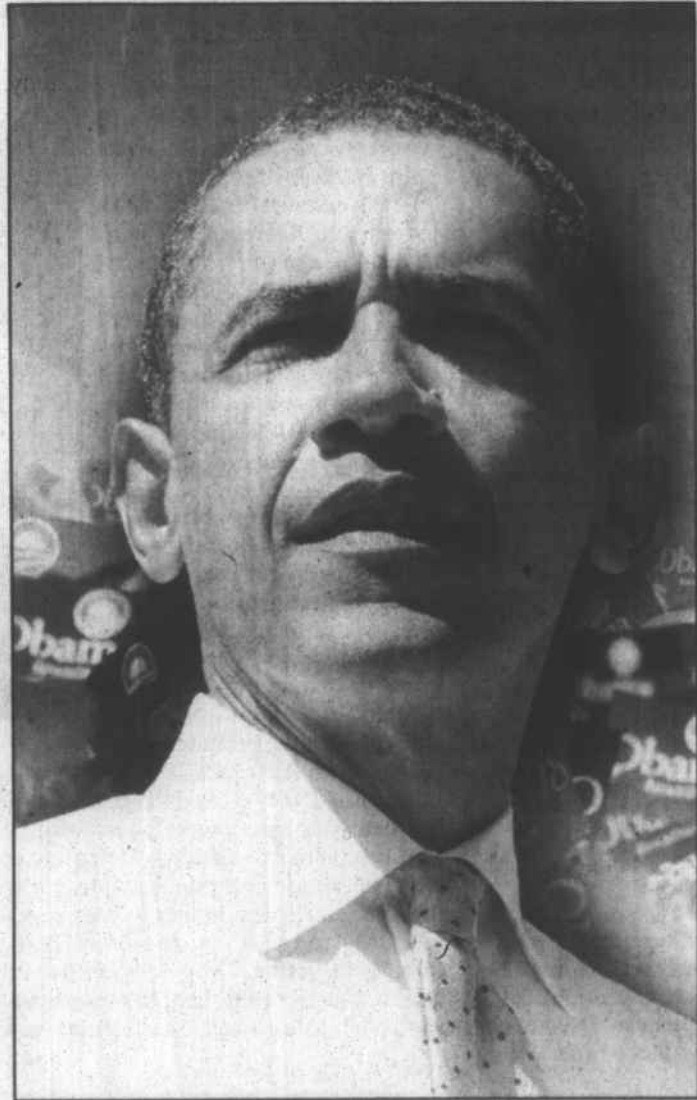
I think I may be an elitist. I think I may be a "typical" white woman. I think I may cling to analyzing and intellectualization when I find things falling apart around me. I can't understand why people do not think the way I think. I think I may be naïve. I think I may be a dreamer.

I am 74 years old and near the end of my days. I thought that trying to change the world was behind me. Lately, I have been thinking about taking my sisters' advice, "Slow down, sit by the beach with a book and sip lemonade."

I have always been interested in how people interact. My curious nature led me to college at age 36 when my fifth child was ready for kindergarten. I wanted to know all there was to know about sociology and psychology and why people behave the way they do. I wanted to know what all the smart people know.

At night I used the TV news programs to fall asleep. During one of those evenings while watching election results, I was inspired by a young man who won a Senate seat from Illinois. I followed his progress through the years, read his books and was very impressed. He had a tongue-twister of a name: Barack Obama.

Before Obama, I wasn't much interested in politics except for one brief moment when John F. Kennedy rode down Hempstead Turnpike on Long Island just before his election. It was a cold autumn day and my husband and I, along with our five children, and one baby carriage, ran several blocks to where his motorcade was



going by. There he was, standing in an open car, hair blowing in the wind, coat opened, big smile on his face waving to us all. Those were happy days.

The happy days were soon followed by very sad ones. Three great American men killed: John, Martin, and Bobby. Politics were too painful. Over and over, I would ask, "Why do people kill great people?" Is it because they are different from the ordinary? Is it because they want to "change" things?

Change is Obama's campaign platform! He wants to change and fix things that do not work. He wants change in all aspects of American life - foreign relations, education, and economics. He wants to bring our troops home. He wants to make health care available and

affordable, and make the drug companies accountable!

Barack Obama to me is humble, empathic, and extremely intelligent. He has street smarts, and is hopeful, spiritual, loyal, and optimistic. He loves his family and they love him. He has a sense of humor and an infectious wide smile and he's slow to anger.

He listens to others. He can think on his feet and sees where the problems lie. He is loyal and emotionally stable. He is wise beyond his years. He has a calm and serene temperament. He has an innate ability to know when something is right or wrong. He is a great teacher!

On Memorial Day this past May, I bumped into an old friend. When she saw me she rushed to greet me with a big warm hug. I was wear-

ing my favorite patriotic sweater and my just purchased Obama hat. She glanced at my head and shouted for all to hear, "You are a disgrace to your country, Margie!" I felt dizzy, like I was going to fall over. The word "disgrace" hit me like a ton of bricks. The pain in my chest was incredible. I turned from her and I started to walk away and never went back.

I know she did not mean to hurt me. I think she was threatened by who Barack Obama is and his message of "change." I believe I was the victim of her fear.

The opposing political party, like my friend, has launched their own attack against Obama. They use ridicule and distortions to attack him. They also seem to be afraid of change. McCain proposed the same platform as the President for the last eight years.

Younger Americans, like I was many years ago, do not have time to sort the truth from fiction. They are too busy. This can be a dangerous situation today because truth in America is a rare commodity. In all areas of life, lying and deceit is a national pastime.

Until Nov. 4, I will continue to organize non-partisan Voter Registrations as a gift from the Obama Campaign. I am out there dragging a table and two chairs to the beaches, parks, and storefronts signing up unregistered citizens.

My greatest hope is that Barack Obama wins the Presidency of the United States.

My worst nightmare is that fear will win out over change and that Barack Obama will lose the election and I will sadly be saying on the morning of Nov. 5, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Marge Robben - an enthusiastic supporter of Sen. Barack Obama - lives in Old Greenwich, Conn.