

# EDITORIALS

## Politics Without Ethics?

John Naisbitt tells us in his nationwide best seller book "Megatrends" in bold print that "today the national political parties are in name only; on Capitol Hill there are 535 political parties" - that is, one for each Senator and Congressman in the U.S. Congress. Naisbitt adds that America is becoming a nation of independents characterized by voter ticket splitting, voting for candidates from opposition parties and using the historic two-party system simply as a mechanism for nominating candidates and almost nothing else. Implied in these trends is the assumption that politicians and a growing number of voters have no political values, principles or philosophy and in some cases, no code of ethics.

Before taking exception to Mr. Naisbitt's trend conclusions, it would be wise to look at some recent political developments in our own City. Popular Democratic Party County Commissioner Bob Walton has announced that he is seriously considering switching his political affiliation to the Republican Party. Another prominent Democratic County commissioner, Fountain Odom, who, worked with Democratic Mayor Harvey Gantt on issues of mutual benefit to the City and the County, has announced that he may oppose Gantt in the September Democratic primary election.

Mr. Odom is serving his third two-year term as a commissioner. Mr. Walton is serving in his fourth two-year term. However, with the Republicans gaining the majority of the seats in the last election, Odom and Walton lost their posts as chairman and vice-chairman respectively. Considering the prestige and recognition that these men currently have in the Democratic Party, their possible actions would appear to make them opportunists lacking in any depth of political philosophy or code of ethics.

Ironically, in spite of the relative political success that the local Republican Party had in the last election under the wing of the Reagan Charisma, the Republicans are in short supply of established political personalities to run for public office. Therefore, Rod Autrey, a County Commissioner and a Republic Party recruiting committee member, suggested the idea to Walton of switching parties. Autrey then convinced Fountain Odom that if he would run against Harvey Gantt, he Autrey would cease efforts to find a Republican to oppose Gantt.

## Political Ideology

It appears quite clear the Messrs. Odom and Walton may be about to let themselves be used by the very Party and political ideology that they have led the voters to believe that they have opposed through the years that they have been elected and served.

The hidden agenda involving Mr. Odom is that through his opposition to Mr. Gantt quite possibly the Democratic Party vote

might split and make it easier for a Republican to win the Mayor's race. Significantly, Mr. Autrey could very easily keep his promise to not recruit a Republican to oppose Mayor Gantt. The potential of a division among Democrats in the Mayor's race will probably motivate a number of Republican mayoral candidates without any encouragement from Mr. Autrey.

## Political Analysts

The Republicans, apparently headed by Rod Autrey, who are seeking to move Bob Walton into their political corner have begun to appeal to Walton's opportunistic instincts by telling him that the whole country is going Republican and that he'd better get on the bandwagon or get lost. Furthermore, political analysts have concluded that under the County's new district system a black candidate would very likely win one of the four district seats. However, as potentially one of the three at-large commission candidates, Walton's chances of winning as a Democrat are said to be slim. Thus, the argument goes that if Walton runs as a Republican he might get, and we report, might get, enough white votes along with black voters to win. However, we must quickly add that at the rate President Reagan and his policies are alienating increasing numbers of people, Mr. Walton may not get sufficient black votes or white votes running on the Republican ticket.

Finally, in an appeal to Bob Walton's ego, the Republican Party hopes to convince him that his chances of becoming commission chairman or at least vice-chairman again, will be enhanced as a Republican. However, if Walton ran fourth of fifth in five member at-large races in the past we don't believe this will be improved upon by a party switch.

Mr. Naisbitt's one-man, one-party concept has also been verified by the headless nature of the Mecklenburg County delegation to the General Assembly. After a month in the 1985 General Assembly, the six Democrats and six Republicans have not been able to agree on a delegation chairman. Ironically, it has been freshman Senator Mel Watt and Representative John McLaughlin, both Democrats, who have offered compromise plans that have each been rejected.

It is a known fact that local bills that might benefit Charlotte and Mecklenburg County cannot be processed through the G.S. without a united front from the delegation. This "voter be damned" attitude needs to end if we are all to benefit from and be represented by our 12-member delegation. A loud and clear message needs to be sent to these elected officials to advise them to end this shocking behavior and to get on with the business of representative government.

If Naisbitt's one-man, one-party mentality continues, the nation is headed for real trouble and freedom as we know it will die.

## From Capitol Hill

# Second Revolution Is Resurrection Of Pre-Rights Days

By Alfreda L. Madison  
Special To The Post

The President said in his State of the Union speech this is "a Second American Revolution of hope and opportunity. A revolution that carries beyond our shores the golden promise of freedom in a world of peace." Evidently, Mr. Reagan means that this revolution of hope, opportunity and freedom is for white folks, because he is using the full force of his Administration to make this Second Revolution, a resurrection of all of the pre-64 Civil Rights Acts and the pre-'54 Brown school desegregation decision injustices and inequities for Blacks.

He spoke of having created 7.3 million new jobs in the past two years, with more citizens working than ever before. What he failed to say is that most of the jobs went to whites, widening the economic gap between Blacks and whites. He left out the fact that there are more people out of jobs than ever before. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that there are 8.5 million jobless persons, even with counting those who got part time jobs, if it was only for one day.

The President said "policies that increase dependency, break up families and destroy self-respect are not progressive, they are reactionary. Despite our strides in civil rights, Blacks, Hispanics and all minorities will not have full equal power until they have full economic power." Mr. Reagan has the impression that only minorities are recipients of social programs. These groups are disproportionately represented on government assistance, but whites make up the largest number of people in the social



Alfreda

programs. The President seems to feel that people are in these social programs because they are too lazy to work.

How can Mr. Reagan expect civil rights strides to really increase economic gains for Blacks and Hispanics, when he has, for the last four years, not only failed to enforce civil rights laws and remedies, but he has put the full force of his Administration behind overturning all of these measures. His job hiring and appointment of Blacks, Hispanics and women, is shameful for a President who preaches democracy.

Mr. Reagan emphasized strongly the importance of the family, yet, he is cutting, severely, funds for families with dependent children. He is also against comparable worth pay for women, although there are 2.7 million Black families headed by women, and 6.5 white families. Hispanics are included in this number, since 90 percent of Hispanics are classified as white and ten percent as Black. The Administration's opposition to



## Medical Science Conquers Another Milestone

Medical science seems to be conquering another milestone - artificial heart implants. Murray Haydon has become America's third artificial heart recipient in three years. At first, the phenomenon seemed like a Buck Rogers story but the studies and experiments have proved that the future is here.

Back in 1982 Barney Clark's operation and implantation raised many questions about doctors playing God, or is it right to prolong a life mechanically under such conditions and was his dignity taken away. Clark was viewed as a human experiment much like a rat or mouse. With all the bad press Clark's operation was a giant leap in the right direction, it opened doors, clarified and increased man's ability to improve himself mechanically when it cannot be done physically.

Barney Clark's implantation was considered a success although he only survived 112 days. Clark is considered to be the least healthy of the three prior to surgery. He had received



Sabrina

implants, had bypass surgery and suffered from organ failure.

William Schroeder continues to teach doctors and scientists about the artificial heart. Prior to the operation Schroeder was in considerably better health than Clark. However he is still hospitalized since his November operation and is now suffering from a number of problems that seem unrelated to the artificial heart.

On a positive note, Murray Haydon - recipient number three - is the one given the best chance of extended sur-

vival. He was healthier than any of the others prior to surgery and is progressing much better. His prognosis is good and the plastic and metal Jarvik-7 Device is functioning very well.

The 3 1/2 hour operation was considered routine by Dr. William DeVries. There were no major complications and the transition went smoothly. Accordingly artificial heart implants will become as common as bypass surgery. However the question of machine preserved lives remains evident.

The artificial heart is connected to and run by a 320 lbs. machine. At first this allows the patient only movement in bed. Later into recovery the patient is switched to a much smaller unit that affords him greater mobility beyond the bed. But the human life is still secured within the workings of a machine. Is this dignity? Yes when compared to those millions of people kept alive by machines but are not aware of their existence. To the general population, living is experiencing. Being able to use the five senses independently or collectively is life. Laying in a hospital bed with a respirator, monitoring machines and receiving hourly injections through an intravenous bottle and tube is truly not a dignified existence. One in such a state has no real control whereas one with an artificial heart or kidney dialysis in not living a sensation free life but one with dignity and substance. Not to say that one living via a respirator does not have a chance of recovery, because he does with each passing day, but let the public not be so quick as to condemn mechanical living machines when it condones mechanical existence machines.

William Schroeder and Murray Haydon should receive as much support as possible, not criticism. They too deserve a chance just as the medically helpless. The American spirit is alive and moving up - let us continue on and keep it that way.

## Southern Sisters

"Southern Sisters: Heroines Making History" is the theme for this year's International Women's Day celebration, March 8, 9 and 10. The program begins Friday, March 8 with a concert by the Harnabee Singers, dedicated to the women of South Africa, at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, 401 N. McDowell, at 8 p.m. On Saturday, March 9, from 1-6 p.m. a Conference will feature workshops on music, organizing, survival skills and women in South Africa and Latin America, also at Little Rock Church.

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