

# EDITORIALS

## We Support Balanced Growth Concept

If our memory serves us right, while serving as a City Council member about four years ago, Harvey Gantt was calling for balanced growth. Again, last year at the Urban Symposium, Mayor Gantt reissued his call for balanced growth. The basic concern expressed by Mr. Gantt in each pronouncement was that in the absence of a balanced growth policy the city would be inundated with uncontrolled growth leading to major traffic problems, an imbalance in our schools, overloads on our public utilities, and excessive disproportionate demands on other public services.

Mr. Gantt's concerns were primarily focused at southeast Charlotte because of growing potential for such an impact in that part of the city. Developers expressed opposition to Mayor Gantt's viewpoint and said the free market should determine the direction of growth. The problem with the developers' unmanaged growth approach is that in the name of their desire to earn a profit demands are placed on the taxpayer to provide public utilities and public services with limited resources.

Our impression is that Mayor Gantt believes that government has a responsibility to have some role in geographic growth because of its impact on all citizens, those caught up in the web of traffic jams, delay in getting public services, and the mushrooming high density

multi-family housing impact on single family detached subdivision, as well as other citizens — all taxpayers — because of the imbalanced burden to provide the needed public services.

Earlier this week, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Director Martin Cramton echoed Mayor Gantt's concerns when he told a meeting of City and County officials and members of a citizen's 2005 Plan Advisory Task Force that balanced growth should be the No. 1 priority for guiding the county's development toward the year 2005.

Mr. Cramton said "we have got to quit talking about balanced development" and start doing something about it "we got to make some tough decisions." Among these tough decisions Cramton sees is the need to defer the building of the much-discussed and debated outer belt road until after the year 2000.

In discussing his staff's proposals, Cramton pointed out the balanced growth will require spending increased sums of public money in water and sewer lines, roads, parks and schools in north and northwest areas as an incentive to renewed development.

We support Mayor Gantt and Planning director Cramton views on balanced growth first, because it makes good economic sense and secondly, it may provide the needed incentives to bring new opportunities for growth and development in the largely neglected north and northwest part of the city.

## Post-Season Basketball Fever

Johnson C. Smith's roundballers made it successfully through the treacherous waters of the first round of the CIAA post season basketball tournament by defeating Virginia State then lost to another Virginia five, Norfolk State. However, basketball buffs need not despair as plenty of roundballs will be bounced on the hardwood this month.

First MEAC tournament and visitation champ N.C. A & T State (19-9) will face powerful and fourth ranked Oklahoma (24-5), the Big Eight regular-season and tournament champion, today, Thursday, in a Tulsa, Okla.,

first round NCAA game. Today also North Carolina's Tarheels (24-9) face Middle Tennessee State (17-13) at Notre Dame. Tomorrow, Friday, four other ACC teams swing into NCAA tournament action. In addition, and as a credit to the quality of play in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the three remaining teams

— Wake Forest, Clemson and Virginia will compete in the NIT beginning next Tuesday.

Thus, Charlotteans and other bastions of ACC basketball support can look forward to much excitement on the hardwood in the weeks ahead.

## Perpetrating New Racism

"The new racism is what whites and blacks are perpetrating upon black people. It's the continued clamoring by a lot of black leaders for preference from an administration,

whether it be Republican or Democrat, that leads black people to assume that they are some special wards of the state in perpetuity." These are the words of Clarence Pendleton, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He added that the new racists are typically supporters of civil rights.

These civil righters reacted angrily to Pendleton's remarks and accused him of being insensitive to the plight of many black Americans. We could almost agree with Mr. Pendleton's viewpoint except for the fact that his comment refers first to people who are

economically deprived and happen to be black.

Those blacks reared outside of the inner cities of the nation in homes with positive values toward education, the work ethic, sexual behavior and religion have largely been successful even without civil rights laws and federal handouts. However, for those people,

black or white, who for whatever reason have not been endowed with such values, there is truly a need for some assistance. Thus, if there is anything wrong with governmental assistance to the economically disadvantaged, be they black or white, it is that no emphasis is placed on value development, the primary ingredient for motivating self-help.

IT IS UP TO US TO IMPOSE ORDER—NOW



ARE WE GOING TO SIT AND LET BLACK COMMUNITIES CRUMBLE AROUND US? GRASS ROOTS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, MUST EMERGE, TO FORGE A UNITED EFFORT AGAINST CRIME, NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING, BLIGHT AND DECAY.

## North Carolina Is "God's Country With Angels Working To Achieve"

By SABRINA JOHNSON  
Rarely in this business oriented society does one have the opportunity to interact with people on a not so business level. One such occasion arose on March 6. The writer was invited to a reception at the home of Dr. Mildred Baxter-Davis honoring and welcoming Sherry Suttles, new assistant county manager, for her accomplishment and to Charlotte.



Sabrina

The atmosphere and the group of ladies present reinforced the concept of Southern hospitality. It takes someone new to the area or someone returning home, such as the writer, to realize that there is no place like the South and that North Carolina is God's Country with angels working to achieve.

Studies and statistics state that North Carolina is one of the fastest growing states in business and population in the South, and that Charlotte is becoming a business center. Why? Maybe because of the weather, or cost of living, or maybe it's the location of the state and its accessibility. Or could it be the availability of land and space — thus giving way to being a good place to

have a family. Maybe it's the colleges and universities and basketball. While all of the answers are correct, when people are asked why they are here their reply is primarily "Because folks here are so nice and sincere." That says a great deal about a group of people.

One subgroup that is working toward that and maintaining the positive attitude is the Black Women's Caucus of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. These women are working toward increased involvement in all aspects of living in and about North

Carolina with obvious emphasis on Charlotte/ Mecklenburg area. Their efforts helped to encourage women to seek key positions in local and county government. They talked and hammered until people started to listen and said let us get on the stick and do something productive in this office. Sherry Suttles is one such example. She is the first black woman to hold the seat of assistant county manager. Being assertive does pay off especially when one joins forces with others and strive for the same goals.

And because these ladies are a small part of a vast group of people they are able, in their own way, to interact with the community in a more positive form. Thus reinforcing the concept that Southern hospitality does not stop at the front door but continues on as part of everyday living — in business and personal lives.

It is elements such as these that will help this country continue on the road to economic recovery and social justice. This country needs its citizens to carry the hospitality pass the front door to making it part of everyday interaction. It is this kind of disposition that got the 13 colonies and numerous territories to come together and work together under one free name: The United States of North America. As chaotic as things may seem sometimes this country is truly united — the civil rights movement is one such example and the renewed patriotism occurring at present. And where does patriotism begin — in the home with hospitality.

Imagine this! If more people work and come together in the home, combined that good feeling with assertiveness and good relations into a club, political organization or work, did the same there, ultimately passed on the compassion and level mindedness — where would this country be and where would it go? Unfortunately this can not be true totally, because Utopia is hard to achieve for all, people can try. It truly is amazing how far trying can get a person.

Those who openly practice the art of Southern hospitality have two basic goals — to welcome and make a person feel at home, and to let the one or ones involved know that he or she has someone to reach back for support. Sherry Suttles has such support and belief from those ladies at the reception in her honor.

No wonder so many people and companies are flocking to the area — because they have realized that under all the icing of wonderful things — North Carolinians are supportive and believe in trying to make everything and everyone the best it or he can be.

## From Capitol Hill Administration Attempts "Back Of Bus" Policy

By ALFREDA L. MADISON  
Special To The Post

As one of the two Black reporters, representing the Black media at the White House, I was confronted with blatant racism, by two of the members of the White House press staff.

The White House correspondents who cover the White House daily have seats in the briefing room with their names on them. White House correspondents who represent the small media usually sit in the windows, stand, or take a vacant seat when some of the others are absent. I've always gone in the back room where there are coffee and donuts for the correspondents, and get a chair. I place this chair against the wall, parallel with the second row of press seats. It is against the wall to allow for free passage, and it is beside the four seats of the White House press staff.

On March fourth, while waiting for the briefing to start, I was reading the newspaper. Robin Gray, assistant press secretary, who appears to be in his late twenties, came by and said, "Alfreda, why are you sitting up front?" I responded that since I didn't have a seat I usually get a chair and sit here against the wall. He said, "move in the back." I informed Robin that they took us off the back of the bus in the fifties, and that I will not be relegated back there again. I asked why he had objections to my sitting there, and he said that he had none, but that my colleagues do. I immediately then went to Helen Thomas and Sam Donaldson and asked why my colleagues objected to my sitting up front. Both of them very strongly denounced the accusations as not being true. They said the correspondents have no objections whatsoever about my seat.

That day Bob Simms, assistant to the President and deputy press



Alfreda

secretary on Foreign Affairs, gave the press briefing. At the close of the press briefing I told Bob that I had a question for my colleagues. I wanted to know why they objected to my sitting in a chair near the front. The entire press seemed astounded and Helen Thomas, the dean of the White House correspondents, in speaking for the entire group said, "we have no objections at all." Bob Simms said that he objected to sitting beside me because often they (the White House press staff) have sensitive material, so he advised me to sit on the other side of the room. Helen said, "if that is your reason, then why say that her colleagues objected?" If they have sensitive material why bring it to the press briefings? They are certainly not going to discuss it with the press. Is it that they walk around with secret information in their hands, because they are afraid to let it out of their sight?

I'd admit that I became furious of being considered as a sneak and a snooper. I responded that I take notes during the briefings, so I have no time to even notice whether or not they have any papers, that I considered his and Robin's actions as racist — that I'm a respectable tax-

paying citizen, working for respectable taxpaying people, whose taxes help pay for support of the White House and that I'll not accept any racism at the White House.

Dr. Alvin Poussaint, the noted Black Harvard University psychiatrist, in a telephone interview on racism stated that people, usually, fear the unknown. Whites do not know Blacks. He said some whites view Blacks as a threat to their status in life and there are others who like to have someone on whom to look down.

Robin Gray seems to fit the mold of some whites who look around for some Blacks they feel they have the right to order around, which inflates their ego. As for Bob Simms, his actions were just another example of a person trying to cover up a racist act. Those explanations always prove to be silly and insipid.

Having been a member of the White House press corp during the Carter and Reagan administrations, by comparison, more racism is apparent during this administration. President Carter did have Blacks on the White House staff and he did give a group of Black reporters an interview.

It appears that President Reagan's reversal of civil rights, his denunciation of Black leaders and Black organizations, affect some White House employees, who seem to feel that they have a signal, like Clarence Penniston, to take a similar stand against Blacks with whom they come in contact. They appear to be playing the game of "follow the leader."

This is another example which shows that racism is based on ignorance. James Farmer, former CORE executive, in responding to a question on whether or not he considered President Reagan a racist, he said he didn't think he was a racist, but that he is ignorant of civil

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