

Editorials

Let The Parties Pay Their Salaries

Guest Editorial
From The Carolinian

The rise of the Republican Party in North Carolina is prompting some politicians to put forward something short of their "best foot."

When the Democrats perceived themselves as being the only game in town, they would discuss and wrestle with the issues confronting the people of the state.

But now that the Republicans are on the playing field, an enormous amount of time is spent in attempting to curtail further growth of the new team. This obsession with limiting the ability of the Republican administration and its allied lawmakers to develop the policies of their agenda is exercised at the citizens' expense.

Apparently, politicians would prefer a monolithic political situation with all Democrats and no Republicans, or all Republicans and no Democrats. Either one would be a disservice to the state.

Checks and balances, debate and choice are as American, allegedly, as the flag and apple pie. Unfortunately, in this state, we have believed for so long that the American process can only be engaged in within the confines of the Democratic Party.

If the debate which now engages the lawmakers was over issues, that would be fortunate. But much of it appears to pertain to who has what powers to do what, the

underlying concern being which political party is to be enhanced.

It might be well if government officials were elected on a non-partisan basis. The 25 percent of their time which is spent in promoting their party in the government process could then be used more effectively in representing and handling the concerns of the people.

When the names of legislators are listed, instead of saying "Dan Blue, D-Wake County," just identify the legislator by his name and where he comes from, i.e., "Dan Blue, Wake County."

Dropping the party tag allows an observer to evaluate the officials in terms of those things which are germane to the governing process and the people to be served, not who their ideological friends are.

One should note also that often the party labels are of little significance if they are intended to indicate consistency in philosophy. In the Democratic Party, one can find a George Wallace, James Eastland or an I. Beverly Lake Sr. In the Republican Party, one may find a Nelson Rockefeller, G. Mennen Williams or Edward Brooke.

So for North Carolina lawmakers to spend 25 percent of their time promoting their parties is in the final analysis a waste of taxpayers' money.

Other Half Of The Teen Pregnancy Problem!

Guest Editorial
The Michigan Chronicle

Have you sat down and talked to your teenage son about the responsibilities involved in sexual activity and parenthood? If you have not, you should soon.

The teenage male is often the forgotten piece of the teen pregnancy puzzle. We adults tend to focus our efforts and concerns on the female half of the problem. Yet, clearly as they say, "It takes two to tango."

Now, the National Urban League has broadened the fight against adolescent pregnancy with a media campaign aimed especially at young men. "Don't make a baby if you can't be a father" is the common-sense message of the league's new print and radio ads. League President John Jacob thinks that teen pregnancy is an "epidemic problem" which has the potential to wipe out all the gains blacks have made in the last quarter-century. I agree.

The league's campaign is a laudable effort to open up a dialogue with the "other half" of the pregnancy problem: the male teen.

These young men need information - and they are not getting it. The average black male is sexually active by the time he is 14 and a half. Yet only 11 percent of big city school districts have discussed the topic of contraceptives by ninth grade, and only 17 percent have discussed the responsibilities of parenthood.

Of course, there is a very good and obvious reason why many parents and other adults tend to worry more about young

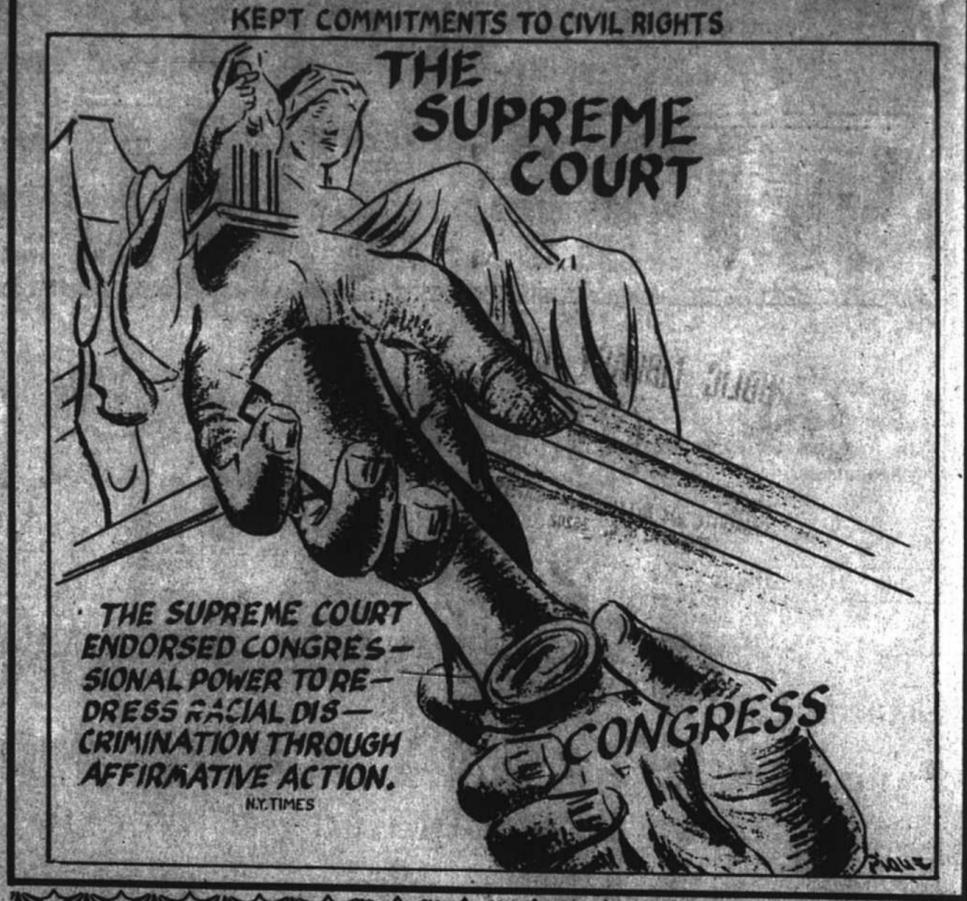
women. They are the ones who have to bear the consequences of unintended pregnancies. The male can deny the charge or shirk responsibility, but the female has to respond.

But there is another, less valid reason we tend to focus on the female half of the problem: The stereotyped notion that "boys will be boys" while girls must be taught to protect themselves. But the fact is that many boys today do make some effort to prevent their partners' pregnancies. According to a recent Urban Institute study, 60 percent of all 17 to 20 year old males either used (or knew their partner was using) some form of effective contraception the last time they had intercourse.

We cannot expect young males to become more responsible if we do not teach them responsibility - at home, at school and at church. We also cannot expect them to be responsible unless we adults set them a good example. It is worth noting that half the babies now born to teen girls are fathered by men who are over 20.

As parents, we have just as much responsibility to sit down with our sons and talk about sex and its consequences as we do with our daughters. The tendency of many adults is to look the other way when their son brings the car home at 4 a.m.

We cannot continue to take this attitude. If we do, we will never solve our teen pregnancy problem and protect the future of the black community.



Fourth Of July Philadelphia Style?

Fourth of July Philadelphia style - how is it different from 4th celebrations in, say, Charlotte? The sentiment is the same but the festivities are not.

Philadelphia, being considered one of the seats of democracy, considers the 4th of July week as a time to pull out all stops and have a grand celebration. Not only does the Fourth represent independence, but it officially kicks off summer. It all starts with a summer food festival.

A great many of Philadelphia's restaurants set up tables along the famous Front Street. They offer their specialties for little or no cost. All with the expectation of getting people familiar with their restaurant and its food. For under \$10 a person can eat some of the best food the city has to offer: everything from soft pretzels to lobster to prime rib and, of course, beer is sold. Every Sunday for five weeks one can stroll along Front Street sampling the delights.

During the actual week of the 4th, everything is going on that pertains to that great



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day in history. One can see the Liberty Bell and have a chat with Ben Franklin. Or go to City Hall and have John Hancock be your tour guide. Maybe your fancy is to learn how to make the American flag by hand - taught by Betsy Ross. Perhaps one would prefer a historic tour in a horse-drawn carriage. One place of particular interest to many is the 4th of July celebration at the Afro-American Cultural Museum in Philadelphia. Plays, music, storytellers, and guided tours make this a fantastic place to spend a few hours of the week if not more.

The Independence Day parade is colorful to say the least. Most of the ethnic groups participate showing things or playing music common to their cultures. Bands from across the U.S. participate, drum and fife corps, U.S. Naval Academy Band and much, much more. The parade ends at the steps of the Art Museum which stands at the end of the Ben Franklin Parkway. Once the parade has ended, the Philly Pops plays on the steps of the Art Museum - usually following a local disc jockey playing Top 40 music.

Meanwhile, down on the river, people are sculling, barbecuing, drinking, playing volleyball, baseball or frisbee, or just hanging out. There are also the brave and devoted few who spend the day fishing in the river. And back at home people are enjoying family barbecues in a more private setting. Plainly put - 4th week is party-hangout week in and around Philly!

The main event of the week as it is across the U.S. is the fireworks display. About 7:30 on that evening people start thinking about moving the fun down to the Art Museum steps to get a good spot to watch the fireworks. The fireworks are scheduled for 10:15 p.m. The Philly Pops begins playing at about 8:30 p.m. to get everyone in the spirit of things. The fireworks are imported from lands far and near - from China, France, Italy, the United States, and South America, just to name a few. Breathtaking is the best way to describe the event. To close the extravaganza the "Star Spangled Banner" and "America The Beautiful" are played by a band consisting of at least two representatives from each ethnic group in Philadelphia. The event turns flesh into goose flesh.

In Charlotte, the festivities are here but in a different sense. Fourth of July here is more family-oriented than a city-wide celebration. Here, people take pride in having the family together and the family going to the fireworks together. This too is indeed a special, unique celebration: it is a celebration of independence and family cohesiveness.

The scale is not as grand but the hearts and sentiment are. So whether the holiday is spent in Charlotte or Philadelphia, all are celebrating for the same cause - independence and freedom.

From Capitol Hill

Will President's Actions Maintains US Support

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post

In his recent press conference, President Reagan said, "The United States is a nation being attacked by international terrorists who wantonly kill and who seize our innocent citizens as their prisoners." Mr. Reagan stated that he has instructed the Transportation Department and the FAA to improve their security conditions and he has called on other friendly countries to redouble their airport security efforts. The President further said, "Let me further make it plain to the assassins in Beirut and their accomplices, wherever they may be, that America will never make concessions to terrorists. To do so would only invite more terrorism. Nor will we ask nor pressure any other government to do so."

The President seemed to have ruled out military force because such a route would be counter-productive, since more innocent people would be killed. Mr. Reagan appeared frustrated over being unable to secure the hostages' release. Yet, he remained calm and realized that the best retaliation is to wait until the terrorists are known and then inflict a punishment.

However, there are some hot heads who are bent on exhibiting American machismo by advocating military power. Morton Kondracke, Editor of Newsweek, said on the McLaughlin talk show that we should attack Libya because of its ties to Iran which has religious ties to Shites, even though there is no proof that either Libya or Iran are anyway involved in the present hostage crisis.

Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, who has really no



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prominent place today, ranted and raved on Ted Koppel's Nightline, emphasizing that there should be no deals, no negotiations, and no news coverage of the present hostage situation, because the media is giving the hostages a platform. He does not realize that the American people, being members of a democracy, have the right to know. Kissinger emphasizes strong retaliation when the crisis is over. Mary McGrory said, "Kissinger was only saying what he always said - although not in so many words - at the height of his glory: that you cannot trust ordinary Americans to reach the right conclusions without the guidance of someone superior, like himself."

Veteran journalist Ben Wattenberg said, On Face the Nation, in response to a statement that Syria had been asked to aid in the release, "I think we ought to be retaliating against Syria for setting into motion this entire process. I think they (Shites) are out to destroy the great Satan - that's us. That's the United States of America. That's western -" Jesse Jackson, appearing on the same show,

responded, "In talking to State Department officials last week they said that the Syrian officials and the Algerians had been most helpful. In a situation like this, when we are operating from a position of disadvantage, we must, (a) choose to use the route of military aggression to get them, the President has determined that that is an unfeasible route. The other is some form of negotiation to get them out. And so from the disadvantages, you simply reach out to as many forces as you can." Replying to Wattenberg's statement that the President is taking the proper stand now, but that after release of the hostages, we should take military action against Syria and Iran, Jackson said, "It's wholly unwise to say to a man with a gun at your neck, once you release me, I'm going to shoot you. Our approach ought to be, release and re-evaluation, as opposed to release and retaliation."

Since Rev. Jackson secured the release of Lieutenant Goodman and more than forty Cuban prisoners, many of the American people have the confidence that he has the ability to deal with the Third World countries, so they call upon him to aid them in getting their families and friends released. Jesse was asked by some of the families for help in their present crisis.

I was informed by an Administration official, that when Jackson talked with the State Department about the matter, they left the door open for him to give aid if he could. Even though, the Administration official, that when Administration is talking about not negotiating with terrorists, there seems to be serious negotiations taking place, and Jesse Jackson just

might be one of the key players.

Newsweek listed some options that can be taken, one is to make several airports that are considered dangerous safer, the U.S. should beef up its own security around its airports and embassies, U.S. should improve its intelligence gathering, it should better prepare its diplomats and officials who might find themselves in a terrorist crisis, the U.S. should cooperate with other countries in supporting the Hague treaty, which calls for punishment of terrorists; safe rescue of hostages should be the top priority.

Conservatives, liberals, women and men of both parties in Congress support Mr. Reagan's present handling of the hostages.

Representative Charles Rangel said, "I agree with the President's stand, and that Jesse Jackson said it all when he said it is wholly unwise to say to a man when he is holding a gun to your neck, once you release me I'm going to shoot you. The United States has made a mistake by only learning about European culture, without attempting to learn anything about the Third World cultures. There is no one in the State Department that can be relied on to understand these people."

Representative George Crockett said, "The President is not dealing with the hostages properly since he knows that Israel is holding more than 750 Shites hostages, whom he should require it to release immediately, then the Americans will be released. It's our support of Israel in its invasion of Lebanon."

Representative Julian Dixon said, "I support the President's action now, but any military action later will be a mistake." Congressman Mervyn Dymally supports the President.

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Published Every
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1531 S. Camden Road
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