

# Editorials

## You Must Vote Your Conscience

Once again we are approaching the time when responsible, concerned, involved citizens should or will be prepared to cast their votes for the candidates of their choice for mayor, council members at-large, and district council office seekers.

As we look forward to Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, we want to pause and look back over our shoulders for a reminder of the embarrassingly low voter turnout our city had in the primaries. Only 16 percent of the city's registered Republicans and 10 percent of the Democrats used their votes to decide who, hopefully, a lot more of us will vote for on November 5. We are reminded again of the comments made in this column last week about how fragile our freedoms are. They are even more fragile and in fact in danger of being lost if we don't exercise our basic and fundamental right to vote, and vote our convictions on Election Day.

Taking their cues from the candidates, letters to the editors and the mood of the voters, The Post has clearly and, hopefully objectively, laid out the issues in the campaign - transportation, growth management, taxes, neighborhood preservation, and uptown revitalization - for your

careful study and analysis. Now, it is up to you, the voters, to act with your votes to determine which way and by what method Charlotte will move and grow and lay a foundation for the decade of the 1990s - the launching pad for propelling into the 21st century.

Consistent with our policy over the past eight years, we offer no candidates for endorsement. We believe we have offered you, our readers, varied opinions on the issues in a fair, objective, accurate, and balanced way. Therefore, we don't believe we need to clutter your minds with opinions on specific candidates. As a community newspaper, we believe we have done our part in keeping you informed about the issues. Now, it's your turn to tell us, to tell the candidates, what you, the citizens, the taxpayers, want and expect through your votes.

It's your city, your neighborhood, your home, and your tax dollars, so you decide what's best for your future and the future of your children by voting your convictions on election day - November 5. VOTE, VOTE, and VOTE, it's your right, your duty, and your freedom.

## Sam Johnson Teaches Valuable Lesson

With the recent organization of the West Trade-Beatties Ford Area Merchants Association, followed by a dynamic address to the organization and its supporters by the renowned journalist Tony Brown on promoting a Beatties Ford Road economic renaissance, optimism is high and interest is growing. However, before we get carried away with the dream, as important as the dream may be, we need to get back to the world of reality and hard work.

First, as we noted in this column last summer (August 29), the promise of America is not guarantees, but rather is opportunities. However, opportunities become realities in business only to the extent that we can apply and practice good management.

Secondly, in searching for a good example, or a role model of good business management, we come across a profile of Sam Johnson, president-owner of Sam Johnson Lincoln Mercury, Inc., in the Network (July, 1985), a publication of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

Network, referring to "Business Opportunity Network," says that while Sam Johnson has "a business with more than \$35 million in sales, a workforce of 65 employees, and one of the largest car dealerships in the area...." and is considered by many in the industry to be highly successful, he says there is always room for growth and development. One former Beatties Ford Road black businessman has noted that if he had followed this principle he might still be in business.

In Network Mr. Johnson notes some basic "but often overlooked principles of manage-

ment":  
-Personal benefits for employees. He subscribes to the view that employee loyalty heightens the success of a business and therefore should be rewarded. In this regard, too, Mr. Johnson practices an "open door" policy with his staff and speaks to each employee daily. He wisely believes people are his most important asset.

-Likewise, Mr. Johnson continues to deal directly with his customers.

-Thirdly, Johnson says, "commitment" to a project is the "key element" particularly in the start-up phase of a new business.

-Finally, Johnson makes the important point that as a business owner, a commitment of financial resources is second only to a commitment of time required to develop a business. This, Johnson concludes, may mean sacrificing time with your family, personal financial resources and social activities.

Simply stated, Sam Johnson is a successful businessman because he believes success is constantly reaching for new heights. He knows, too, that this is the only way to survive in a highly competitive industry. We would add, standing still to glorify in one's success is the first step of decline and failure.

The Post hopes and advises that the businesses, new and old, that will be a part of the landscape of the West Trade-Beatties Ford Road area will heed the advice of Sam Johnson because he offers sound common sense viewpoints on how to be truly successful in a way still largely foreign to most black business people.

### Miller Says:

## Small Business: A Step Child Or Tomorrow's Job Security

By Sherman N. Miller  
Special To The Post

Remorse is the stereotype emotion that one is expected to feel when the major industry in their community announces plans to phase out its local operations. However, Steve Theye, president of Summit City Radiator of Fort Wayne, Ind., argues that the departure of a major corporation can be the best thing to happen to a city. Theye averred, "... (When) International Harvester left ... it was good for Fort Wayne."

His comments ran counter to traditional thinking, so I asked him to help me understand his reasoning. Theye continued, "Primary one, it put the city in crisis and forced the civic leaders to be active in wooing new businesses to the area."

Theye seemed to be arguing the case that stress brings action. He said that the local Chamber of Commerce got busy on a national advertising program to attract new businesses to Fort Wayne and they were "very successful."

However, Theye appeared to harbor great disdain for the ill-natured reception that was afforded small businesses. He says there was some



Sherman

softening of the step child treatment of small business during For Wayne's crisis "... (The) city and large business paid more attention to small business," contended Theye.

Theye vented his frustration when he poured forth, "There were a lot of jobs that would have stayed if they had been treated right. Service business always seems to get the back seat. People do not get excited about service (industry) because it is not as obvious as someone with a manufacturing plant."

He attempted to offer credibility to service industries by pointing out that a chap with 25 dry cleaning stores may hire as many people as some manufacturing operations. Theye went on to explain that some

## AIDS Numbers Are Scary And Confusing

Some call it the Bubonic Plague of the 1980s. Others compare it to the cholera outbreak in the 19th century. However, it is a problem unique in its own way - acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) - one of the top health problems currently. Such a health problem that it has Americans afraid of their shadows in the doctor's office.

It is true that AIDS has killed more than 6,000 people in the country. An estimated 6,000 are sick with small chances of survival.

The numbers are scary and confusing. Public statements and statistics show AIDS will double each year, or 10 months or nine months, approximately one million of Americans have been exposed to the virus. It is a disease of homosexuals, and heterosexuals, old and young.

The virus has been identified, isolated and cultured. Studies now show how it is spread throughout the body. Some drugs have been developed to slow down the process of the virus reproducing and scientists now know how the virus destroys



Sabrina

disease-fighting blood cells.

Some people view AIDS as strictly a homosexual problem with which the entire population should not be concerned; and that taxes should not be spent to aid in combating the disease. That is a sad attitude for Americans to take.

Since the passing of actor Rock Hudson, people are realizing that AIDS is not a homosexual disease. AIDS is a viral illness that is spread through sex and the exposure to contaminated blood. While it is difficult to catch, anyone can get it, including unborn children and hemo-

philiacs. In full force AIDS is fatal, however many who are infected have only limited symptoms.

Education and research are the keys to combating the problem and are much needed.

Evangelist Don Boys calls AIDS "cultural and moral suicide to make perversion acceptable, legal and normal." He states that the only way to stop the spread of the disease is to stop sexual promiscuity. The statements made by Boys is due to the fact that he feels Congress is afraid of homosexual lobby; whose "sodomites" want federal funding that would include his tax money.

To people like Boys' public funding of research for AIDS shows society's acceptance of the disease. How can a society accept a disease that is wiping out millions annually? Boys is viewing AIDS from an off-shore island view. AIDS is not the "gay-plague." It is man's plague.

Don Boys suggests five steps in stopping the spread of the disease. They basically are: 1. make sodomy illegal again; 2. close all bath houses and porn shops as health hazards; 3. Test all blood donors for AIDS; 4. infected homosexuals would be required to provide a list of sexual partners to public health officials; and 5. sodomites should be prosecuted.

While his five-step plan may be well intended, it still focuses in on his view of AIDS being a homosexual problem and not a general population problem. Boys' plan makes AIDS infection as easy as a common cold. While he claims to have empathy for those with the disease, he feels "angry and agitated that tax dollars are being used to find a cure."

Mr. Boys, AIDS cannot be transmitted by touching a door knob, eating finger foods, or by being in close physical proximity to a person with AIDS, such as hugging. Yes, Mr. Boys, AIDS victims have feelings and minds just as you claim.

Instead of attack and criticism, is not it time that the population bypassed the sensationalism and got down to brass tacks as far as the disease is concerned?

The entertainment industry is one of the few to show compassion and support for persons with AIDS. The recent fund raising dinner was a success and a prime example of how the industry feels about combating the virus.

"DUTY IS CARRYING ON PROMPTLY AND FAITHFULLY THE AFFAIRS NOW BEFORE YOU-IT IS TO FUL-FILL THE CLAIMS OF 'TO-DAY'!"  
-MORTHE



Community Control .....By Whom????

THE CHARLOTTE POST	
North Carolina's Fastest Growing Weekly	
704-376-0496	
"The People's Newspaper"	
107 Years Of Continuous Service	
Bill Johnson	Editor, Pub.
Bernard Reeves	Gen. Mgr.
Fran Farrer-Bradley	Adv. Mgr.
Dannette Gaither	Office Mgr.
Published Every Thursday by The Charlotte Post Publishing Company, Inc. Main Office: 1531 S. Camden Road Charlotte, N.C. 28203	
Second Class Postage Paid at Charlotte	
Member, National Newspaper Publishers' Association North Carolina Black Publishers Association	
National Advertising Representative: Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.	
One Year Subscription Rate One Year - \$17.76 Payable In Advance	
USPS No. 985500 POSTMASTER Send Change of address to: Charlotte Post 1531 S. Camden Rd. Charlotte, N.C. 28203	