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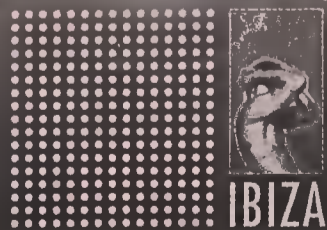
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TARA'S ALL STAR REVIEW



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P E R S P E C T I V E

## Editor's Note

by David Moore

### What if?

A few weeks ago my partner and I were doing a little bit of weekend antique shopping in Charlotte when I came across an old photograph in a store on Central Ave.

It was a scene of uptown (or downtown, depending on your perspective — Charlotte's never quite gotten that down pat) at the corner of Trade and Church, taken sometime in 1960.

I was immediately attracted to the image just because of its antiquity, but also because it gave you a glimpse into the visual details of life in the city at a specific moment in time.

The focal point of the image is President John F. Kennedy, seated on the backseat edge of a 1960 Ford Galaxie convertible — I'm guessing the other two men in the photograph are then-Charlotte Mayor Stanford Brookshire and possibly the state governor of the time, Terry Sanford.

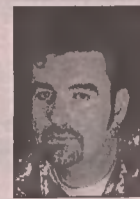
A close inspection of the photo revealed a particularly fascinating image of a little black girl frozen in time. She's standing by herself to the right of the president on the sidewalk beside the motorcade. Her hair is in pigtails and she's wearing a skirt and sweater with her hand placed firmly on her hip and her head slightly tilted — as if she's thinking *who does he think he is?*

Housewives out shopping are waving gleefully and shopkeepers and businessmen have all stepped out to see the newly-elected boy wonder president.

Later that evening, after attending a showing of "Bombay Dreams" at the Blumenthal, we headed over to a restaurant/bar called Arpa for drinks. As we sat at the bar talking about the play we'd just seen, I glanced out the window and realized we were at the very corner President Kennedy had been 46 years before.

That, of course, got us to thinking. Especially considering the political atmosphere of the day.

What would the world be like had



President Kennedy never been assassinated?

Had he lived, he would today be 89. Had he not been gunned down — in all likelihood — he would have been easily re-elected in November 1964. His approval rating just prior to his death was almost 60 percent (far higher than George W. Bush's now), the economy was thriving and Vietnam caused only minor anxiety.

A frequently raised question is whether Kennedy would have escalated the war in Vietnam, as President Johnson did — but let's speculate that Kennedy would have pulled the troops out.

An interesting blurb I came across in the British newspaper *The Independent* offered the following possible scenario:

*A Democrat, rather than Richard Nixon, would probably have won in 1968. Thus no Watergate, and no President Jimmy Carter. Ronald Reagan might have come to power, but as Sean Wilentz argued in [the] New York Times, there might have been no Republican "Southern Strategy" along the lines conceived by Nixon, which has produced the most important shift in the U.S. electoral map of the past half-century.*

As Ted Sorenson, Kennedy's former close



aide and speechwriter, said in a 2003 press conference: "In JFK's day, people admired the United States not because of him, but because of the values of the U.S., not its military might, not its wealth. But that's not quite true of America these days.

"This country's role has suddenly changed from being the leader of freedom to being the country that often acts like a schoolyard bully, insulting our old allies and turning our back on the United Nations." ▀

## Letter to the Editor

Perhaps the upstate is by far the most heterosexual community in South Carolina and subsequently the internalized homophobia in our community is so extreme, only years of extensive therapy will help make the changes needed for the community to stand up for the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution.

I feel the same frustration that South Carolina Editor David Gillespie felt in his oped "Fear and Loathing in the Upstate."

I live in the upstate and have searched for assistance in promoting equal rights. I attended the bus tour rally downtown during the

morning and the evening. I have walked all over town talking to people about equal rights. I have registered voters in gay bars and at public events. I have forced a technical college to rethink its approach to diversity and change policy. I have spoken at churches, county and city council meetings and I attended every discussion Bob Inglis held at the local libraries. Each time I spoke out on behalf of the LGBT community. I have written letters to the editors of local newspapers (a few of which made it to print).

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