

# The Carolina Times EDITORIALS

## Voter Registration

If black people are not to end this decade as disadvantaged as we began it, there will have to be a strong grassroots movement to influence the political institutions of the country. Black people have the numbers and the know-how to help bring about the political "browning of America" that will at long last result in the total inclusion of blacks in the democratic political process.

Some people think that if a black man is elected mayor of a city, that proves the existence of black political power. To some degree, it does, but that mayor is going to have to deal with regional authorities, governors, planning boards, councilmen and legislators, not to mention federal officials, and his power to benefit his black constituents is partially dependent upon these outside forces. So black political power must come to mean more than electing a few mayors. It must mean the complete participation of black people in the political process and their involvement in party-decision making and government machinery at all levels.

Black office-holders amount to only three-tenths of one percent of the 522,000 elected officials in this country. There is need to increase this percentage, as well as to influence the political institutions to become more aware of the needs and power of black voters.

Massive registration of black voters is, then, a necessity. Some stumbling blocks in many places will be thrown up to stop this registration. Election laws and regulations are gradually being changed so as to include 18 year old citizens. It will not be enough to just give lip service to voter registration and lambast the system. In some places the only way to register is to go to the county courthouse in the center of town. It is open usually from 9 to 5 on weekdays and in some areas there may be other times to register.

Local governments have a responsi-

bility to encourage widescale registration and voting. Many existing practices really amount to the undemocratic denial of our basic citizenship rights. If this system is to survive, those who have long been excluded from it must now be included.

There should be opportunities to register all year round, not just for a few days in the fall. Registration offices should be open evenings and weekends. Neighborhoods with low registration might get their own neighborhood registrars drawn from those living in the community. Mobile units could go to where people work and live. Community groups could be commissioned to register people.

If this system is to work, it will have to expand the participation of its citizens in the political processes. And if black people are to make our needs and interests felt, we'll have to learn how to make the political system responsive. This is why voter registration as well as voter education are important.

Registration is the important first step. Black citizens also have to become more active in party politics of both major parties, for it is the party structure that is the basis for our political system. The party delegates and the party machinery pick the candidates for offices and write the platforms and strategies they run on. So we must be involved at all levels to gain power in politics these days.

Remember election day may be too late for black voters. Unless enough blacks register, become active in party meetings and clubs, and run for party posts, we may be back in the old political role of being taken for granted and forced to choose among candidates and programs that do not reflect our much needed interests. We must truly learn the name of that game called politics.

It is through the ballot that black people and other oppressed people will bring the meaningful change in our communities and in our lives.

## "Of Trial And Error"

The names McGrue Booker, and Larry Hatten have issued forth from the mouths of many city residents, particularly members of the black community. Such issuance has come forth rightfully so in the sense that a member of the black community has been slain, and as such, we must remain attentive whenever the respect for one well-being, and especially his life has been violated.

But on the other hand, fruitless rhetoric, limp theory and idle philosophy occupies time spans which could well be spent otherwise, if in no other way than clipping one's toe nail in serene silence.

In many instances tempers have risen in heated debate over the trial and its outcome. For those who storm sloppy police investigation involved leading to a miscarriage of justice, not one person bothered to contact the authority to push for a better handling of the situation. No, its much easier, and typical of many of us, to "wag our jaws", blare our eyes", and demonstrate how alert we are to our own little groups by "not being satisfied with the verdict.

On the other hand, many clamored that the two football players had been falsely accused and "shafted" from the beginning. That it was an attempt at a speedy conviction to cover up the negligence of the school for having an unlighted area on campus, motives of vengeance on the part of students who testified against the

defendant, and the surrendering to opportunity of court solicitors." And yet, somehow no defense fund to hire investigators and to aid the defense attorneys was organized or mentioned. And neither did there come an offer of assistance for leg-work or of moral support to the young attorneys who waged an uphill battle.

And, for those of us who ardently sought the avenging of Ollie Spranglin's death, where is the reward for information leading to the apprehension of the murderers?

Of course, there are others of us who have been genuinely moved from the beginning. Some who have been weighed by the awful reality that a young black student is dead and two others have sat facing even the possibility of death sentences, and who will continue to be plagued by an indictment for murder. All three students, unlike many members of our community were intelligent, ambitious and energetic enough to launch a quest for higher education.

Currently, one is dead. Neither of the other two remain in school. It is tragic—inexcusably tragic.

But as we reflect, even as the picture of Spranglin's brutalized body pushes its way into our mind's eye and as the irreplaceable void appears deep and dark, there are universal truths we may touch upon for an instance and share.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson: "There is a law of compensation.

## Should Low Income Consign Us to a Life Of Poverty?

**FOREST HILLS, N.Y.**  
LOW INCOME TENANTS WILL RAISE THE SPECTER OF INCREASED CRIME, SAID GARY BIRBACH, LEADER OF THE PROTEST GROUP.  
WE WILL BUILD AN IRON CURTAIN AROUND THIS PROJECT, SAID NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN, HERBERT MILLER.



## India's Peace-Loving Myth Debunked

WASHINGTON — Whatever the military outcome of India's piously calculated aggression against Pakistan, India already has suffered one crushing defeat.

Its deliberately provocative attacks on its smaller and weaker neighbor have resoundingly debunked for all time two great myths India has sedulously propagandized for years:

—That it is a lofty peace-loving and nonmilitary nation that meticulously does not meddle in the affairs of other countries, and sternly disapproves of others doing so.

—That it is firmly "neutralist" and "uncommitted," and righteously not beholden to either the East or West.

To informed authorities, these two sanctimonious claims have long had a hollow ring. Realistically, they have had no illusions about India and its self-righteous pretensions. Its crass

falsity has been too glaring to Time and again, India has proved herself a liar, hypocrite knowledgeable insiders. and a fraud.

Example: A few years ago when millions of Indians faced outright famine and the U.S. gave and sold (for Indian currency that has remained in that country) immense quantities of grain and other products, Delhi pulled a typically deceitful act:

On one hand, it stentoriously sided with the Arabs and with equal fervor championed the Vietcong; on the other, India excoriated the U.S. for supporting Israel and intervening in Vietnam against the Communist aggressors.

Example: While incessantly proclaiming its alleged "neutrality," India irately threatened to crack down on its small neighbor Nepal when that isolated Himalayan country proposed to modernize its currency. For years, Indian cur-

rency was Nepal's legal tender. As a modernization move, King Mahendra instituted a native currency—to India's vehement indignation.

In retaliation, it threatened to stop the U.S. from using its hundreds of millions in counterpart funds in India (accumulated from sales of food to avert famine) as economic aid to Nepal. That amounts to only a few million dollars a year, but India proposed to block it and was deterred only by strenuous Washington protests.

DOUBLE-DEALING — Example: In the past 20 years, India has received more economic aid from the U.S. than any other country in the world—and shown the least appreciation. In fact, about all the U.S. has gotten in return for more than \$7 billion poured into India is snooty disdain and censorious reproof—and often outright animosity and hostility.

## Things You Should Know

*Alice Dunbar*  
**NELSON**



BORN JULY 19, 1875 IN NEW

ORLEANS, AND A GRADUATE OF STRAIGHT UNIV., SHE SOON WENT NORTH TO TEACH IN COLLEGE—SHOWN HERE AS A YOUNG LADY, AT THE TIME SHE ORGANIZED THE DOUGLASS PUBLISHING CO., HARRISBURGH, PA.! SHE EDITED MANY IMPORTANT BOOKS BEARING ON NEGRO LIFE! ON MARCH 6, 1893, SHE MARRIED THE POET DUNBAR! SHE WAS FAMOUS IN WORLD WAR I AS AN ORGANIZER OF WOMEN FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DEFENSE!

CONTINENTAL FEATURES

The value of the universe contrives to throw itself into every point. If the good is there, so is the evil; if the affinity, so the repulsion; if the force, so the limitation."

Emerson wrote also, that: "Justice is not postponed. A perfect equity adjusts its balance in all parts of life. The world looks like a multiplication table, or a mathematical equation, turn it how you will, it balances itself. Every secret is told, every crime is punished, every virtue rewarded, every wrong redressed, in silence and certainty.

"We feel defrauded of the retribution due to evil acts, because the criminal adheres to his vice and contumacy and does not come to a crisis or judgement anywhere in visible nature. There is no stunning confutation of his non-sense before men and angels. He has therefore outwitted the law? Inasmuch as he carries the malignity and the lie with him he so far decreases from nature. In some manner there will be demonstration of the wrong to the understanding.

"Commit a crime and the earth is

made of glass. Commit a crime and it seems as if a coat of snow fell on the ground, such as reveals in the woods the tracks of every partridge and fox and squirrel and mole.

"You cannot wipe out the foot-track, you cannot draw up the ladder, so as to leave no inlet or clue. Some damning circumstances always transpires."

Let us here not fail to commend the jury for respecting "reasonable doubt" and the young attorneys for enforcing their belief in the innocence of the two. And let us not fail to pay homage to the court solicitors for forcing light upon the evidence.

And for those who continue to voice dissatisfaction, we ask, is it not better to err in the donation of freedom than to translate doubt into further tragedy?

And for all of us, let us not forget that it was an act of passion, and irrational possession which led someone to take the life of another human being. Let us re-enforce the line between thoughtfulness and compassion; and the sea of wanton destruction.

## TAKING A CLOSER LOOK



By JOHN MYERS

Santa Claus is dying. At least the one in Modesto, California is. He has terminal abdominal cancer. Cyril B. Sherwood, a 70 year old former school teacher, was Santa Claus for hundreds of children at a shopping center for the past three years.

A bachelor who taught deaf persons for 42 years, Sherwood says he hopes children will come to visit him in Yosemite Convalescent Hospital, although he won't be wearing a bright red suit.

"That's why I grew my beard," he says, "I wanted to be Santa Claus again."

Here is a man who knows, and has accepted, the fact that he may not see tomorrow. In the past he wore a costume and a fake beard. These things are not available to him this year, so he grew his own beard. He wants to be Santa Claus again during three weeks before probably his last Christ-

mas. He might not make it. Here is a man who taught deaf people for 24 years. People who can not hear his last pleas for happiness, his children. He is a bachelor, but who has more children than Santa Claus? This year he can not go to them. They must come to him. Will they? Have their parents taught them the true meaning of Christmas or is all they see in Santa Claus confined to a bag of toys? Let's hope the children of California have the knowledge and the good will to recognize a person in need. Let's hope the children of Durham and the rest of the world are taught at least a brief understanding of what Christmas really is.

I fear people have taken Christmas as a time of good will when they may accumulate all the hatred, fears, and injustices of the past year into a small gift and a card, redeem themselves for another year. I sincerely gain a feeling of love, brotherhood, and peace at Christmas; But, we can not depend on three weeks in December to be the salvation of eleven months of pain. Each year, through commercialism, Christmas is spread over a larger time span. Each year the feeling of Christmas is denied a little more by the dread of buying gifts one cannot afford. Is it to be, in the years to come, that Christmas will be turned into a December white sale and good will, packaged in department stores?

Christmas is giving. Not gifts in bright paper and sparkling ribbons, but should be, instead, tied in plain love with simple strings of understanding.

Cyril B. Sherwood is a good example of the Christmas spirit. He gave until the time came when he could give no more. It is now his turn to receive. Not gifts of material, but a card saying "we love you Santa. Hurry and get well;" A hand shake from a stranger who came to see him because he felt compelled at Christmas; Or by far the best gift to Sherwood: A small head at the edge of his hospital bed, standing on tip-toes to give him a kiss on the cheek and say "Merry Christmas Santa." I hope he gets it.

## EMPRESS OF THE BLUES

**BESSIE SMITH**  
1895 - 1937

THE GREAT BLUES SINGER WAS BORN IN CHATTANOOGA, TENN. OF POOR PARENTS SHE SANG FOR PENNIES ON THE SIDEWALKS. AT AN EARLY AGE SHE JOINED THE RABBIT FOOT MINSTRELS. BY 1920 SHE WAS HERALDED AS THE GREATEST. HER FIRST RECORDING (1923) THE DOWN HEARTED BLUES—SOLD OVER 800,000 AND BECAME COLUMBIA'S FIRST BIG HIT. IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, SHE WROTE OVER 30 SONGS—RECORDED 160 WHICH SOLD OVER 10 MILLION RECORDS. SHE DIED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT IN 1937 IN MISS., AND BURIED IN SHARON HILL, PA.



## GAS MASK INVENTOR

**GARRETT A. MORGAN**  
1873 - 1945

A NATIVE OF TENN. WHO THRU HIS EFFORTS INVENTED A GAS MASK. ALTHO HE HAD WON FIRST PRIZE AT THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION OF SANITATION AND SAFETY, HE HAD LITTLE SUCCESS UNTIL JULY 25, 1916. ON THAT NIGHT AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN TUNNEL 5 OF A CLEVELAND (O) WATERWORKS. MANY MEN WERE TRAPPED. HE AND HIS BROTHER WITH THEIR GAS MASKS SAVED MANY LIVES. A HEROIC DEED!



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