

The tradition lives

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Black Women More Electable?

The black winners in last Tuesday's local primary (Woodruff), Evelyn, Mose' were two women and a

black male who has recently become involved in politics, Graves says.

"Due respect to (County Commissioner) Mazie and state House Rep. Annie

Brown Kennedy, but there is a dangerous, unsettling trend taking place," says Graves. "Only black women can garner or attract white votes in a countywide race."

State House Rep. C.B. Hauser, city-county school board vice chairman Beaufort Bailey and U.S. District Court Judge Richard Erwin are the exceptions, says Graves.

"But if you look at their politics, they are pretty much of moderation," he said. "All the men had the backing of the Democratic Party. They were educated and more politically acceptable to the Democratic Party's principals and goals. That's not bad-mouthing them, but it shows or illustrates the type of black leadership the white community is willing to accept."

Why white voters are more willing to vote for black women versus qualified black candidates, male or female, is a mystery, Graves said, but he assumes it stems from a slave-master mentality.



Evelyn Terry



Larry Little



Virginia Newell



Earline Parmon



Clifton Graves

Little

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primary victory May 8, all that need be said is that the result speaks for itself. To be sure, Jesse would not have been victorious in Forsyth had it not been for the committed cadre of volunteers who sacrificed their weeknights and weekends assisting the local campaign effort. Further, gratitude should be extended to those of you who had the vision to go out and vote for Jackson.

But, behind it all, or rather, on top of it all, was Larry Little. The straw that stirred the drink, the motivator, the overseer, the catalyst, the genius...

Sadly, however, despite the tremendous contributions Brother Larry has made to this community, there are those who still unfairly criticize the brother, those who, out of one side of their devious mouths utter how the "brother" has "sold out," and then turn around and exclaim how they cannot understand why an intelligent young man with a master's degree in public administration can't find a job in his own hometown.

It is a sad commentary on this society and on our people that black leadership can still be discredited by some envious or ignorant Uncle Tom or Aunt Thomasina spreading vicious lies that said leadership is either "communist" or has "sold out." Such trash was said about Robeson, Martin, Malcolm, and, yes, Larry.

To his credit, Larry Little has endured the lies, the rumors, the criticism. To be sure, Larry Little has made many mistakes and misjudgments, but, like Jesse Jackson, he has never claimed to be a "perfect" servant, but only a "public" servant. Besides, let he or she among you who is not without sin cast the first stone. We're waiting, brother. We're waiting, sister.

Larry Little has given and given to this community until he cannot give anymore. He is tired, sisters and brothers, and needs your prayers, your consolation, your inspiration now more than ever.

Show your appreciation for this African-American warrior by writing him directly through City Hall or through this newspaper. Call him if you must (722-8028). But whatever you do, do not let this great man go into a shell because of lack of appreciation from his people.

For if we lose Larry Little, it is this community and our children who would surely suffer. Think about it.

Winston Lake

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and drink and smoke is an unattractive sight.

"They're here and they're not fishing," she says. "It's just a place where they hang out, but nobody bothers anybody."

"It disturbs me, and I don't think they ought to do it," she says. "I think it's just their way of getting away from the adults to really do what they want to do."

She then emphasizes, once again, that the youth "don't get rowdy."

Deputy City Recreation Director Tommy Gavin says his office has received few complaints about young people congregating in the park.

However, as a preventive measure, he has asked the Police Department to patrol the area more frequently.

"Basically, with a large gathering, we can see the potential for trouble," says Gavin. "We're trying to take preventive measures, but there have been no incidents of fighting or destructiveness."

Gavin says he is concerned, however, that some people may not want to use the park because of the congestion in the late afternoon hours, mostly due to the afterschool crowd.

The Police Department is aware of the congestion problem and of the violations involving alcoholic beverages.

"We're through the park quite often; it's controlled like any other neighborhood," says Maj. Oliver Redd, the department's field operations commander.

When park activity picks up in the summer, Redd says, patrolling of the area is beefed up and, on occasion, officers have even volunteered to patrol the park.

He also reports that the department has been faced with no widespread, serious problems and that complaints and disturbances have been minimal.

"We seem to keep it (the park) pretty well in hand," he says.

Redd adds: "Our officers are aware that young people like to congregate there. But if nothing's going on, we can't shake 'em down."

He also says that offenders of the alcoholic beverages regulation have been cooperative when officers ask them to pour out beer or wine, and points out that officers are not obligated to make arrests in such instances.

They sometimes will simply dispose of the contraband and ask the offender to leave the park, he says.

Alderman Virginia K. Newell, whose ward the park is located in, says what bothers her most about young people gathering there with such regularity is that it indicates the amount of idle time they have on their hands.

"We need to impress on those young people that they're wasting their lives away," says Newell. "I certainly think it would be a challenge to the Y (the Patterson Avenue is building a facility near the park) to direct those young people. They (the YMCA) need to go after that young man and lady."

Newell also considers the frequent gatherings to drink and smoke for lack of anything better to do a "dead end for our black kids."

But the youth Newell refers to say the situation is being exaggerated.

"Most people don't come down here and get sloppy drunk," said Dr. "They say hello and keep on their way. They don't camp out down here."

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