

# Editorials & Comments

## Mayoral Race In Perspective

Putting the race in perspective means looking at the meaning and impact of race (as a sociological force) on the race (Primary) and the eventual outcome. This appears relevant because race - skin color - may be a factor in who becomes our next mayor and it should force us to review or take a hard look at our own prejudices, narrow-mindedness and our hostilities to the extent that they exist in each of us.

If we observe the fact that Mr. Gantt, allegedly won a majority vote in only 22 of the 87 voting precincts and that 17 of those were in predominantly or heavily black districts, it would appear that blacks voted for a black and whites voted for a white.

However, the race or race theory loses its worth when we look at the closeness of the vote itself with Mr. Knox winning by a mere 1,287 votes. In fact, the closeness of the vote merely says a few more people, for whatever reason, voted for Knox than they did for Gantt. Add to that the simple logic in the fact the clearness of the issues presented by the candidates makes it quite possible that a few more people found Mr. Knox easier to agree with than they did Mr. Gantt.

Yet, there is the nagging suspicion that the specter of race and race alone was an influencing factor in whom people voted for. Did a sufficient number of white voters refuse to vote for Gantt simply because he's black? This is easy to believe when we continue to witness in this nation how even so-called liberal white people find it unthinkable to select a black over a white in almost anything from supervising

## Will Gantt's Growth Views Prevail?

Even before the calm after the primary election had set in, Harvey Gantt's campaign viewpoint that growth in southeast Charlotte needs to be slowed down by the use of a combination of controls and incentives may be something the next mayor and city council will have to adopt as a policy commitment.

We have made this observation based on a few very recent developments beginning with mayor Ken Harris' statement that by accepting Knox over Gantt the voters were saying they would not accept controls on growth in southeast Charlotte.

In reacting to the mayor's comments, mayor pro tem Betty Chafin said she continues to believe, along with Mr. Gantt, that controls and incentives are needed to redirect growth away from southeast to northeast Charlotte.

Then she added, "I do think southeast Charlotte doesn't fully understand the issue yet. The southeast has more to lose than anyone else... They'll have more crowded schools, more clogged roads."

Ironically, while Ms. Chafin was making her remarks about crowded

ditchdiggers to quarterbacking a On the other hand, did the high black voter turnout result merely from Gantt being black and his hard work to get that vote? We believe this to be true.

Finally, the white press said more than once that whites didn't vote for Gantt because he's black with an implied note of racism. However, they appeared to take it for granted that blacks would vote for Gantt with little thought that this might be racism too.

Laying the black-white race issue aside and leaving it to you to judge its worth in the election, we think the candidates deserve being viewed, evaluated or analyzed from the perspective of some other valid facts and issues that probably were equal, if not more important, than race in deciding the eventual outcome.

For example, Eddie Knox, reportedly spent \$57,000 compared to Gantt's alleged \$24,000 on the primary and then won by a margin for whatever it is worth that represent a moral victory for Gantt. On specific issues that may have made the difference in the race was Gantt's announced intention to abolish the mayor's charter review commission, his late entry into the race, his stronger position on limiting growth in southeast Charlotte, and we think his reluctance to attack his opponent more boldly.

Be that as it may, we believe Charlotte is a better city simply by having this kind of an election with these kind of candidates, let's hope it continues into the 1980's and beyond.

schools, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System was announcing that soaring residential construction has led to an overflow of students in southern Mecklenburg county Schools.

It appears that Mr. Gantt was right, without some kind of growth management plan subject to city council action we will, as we apparently are now, have trouble in moving Charlotte the good city to its potential as a great city.

## Something On Your Mind?

"Something on your mind" is the name of a column devoted to you - the young at heart readers of this newspaper - as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

Or any other subject you want to write about.

Remember it's your column. Remember, your article should be at least 250 words, type-written and double spaced preferred. Include your name, age, school, and a clear photo, and send it to the Editor, Charlotte Post Newspaper, Post Office Box 97, Charlotte, N.C. 28201.

WE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAFETY IN THE STREET, HALLWAYS, APARTS AND BUSINESS PLACES OF OUR COMMUNITIES.



Will The Black Community Protect Its Senior Citizens .....

## as i see it

### Future Of Black Institutions

By the year 2000 Black Institutions will be a thing of the past. Unfortunately, this is not speculation but reality. The facts to support this claim are substantial.

The first fact is that the students are becoming more and more educationally inferior to students of predominately white schools. Consequently, industries refrain from recruiting students from predominately Black institutions. This in turn will ultimately mean that a degree from one of these institutions will become meaningless. Once this fact is completely understood, funds currently supporting these institutions will not be forthcoming. Currently, few minority institutions can give followup reporting on its graduates. This is good because if they could, it would be evident that only 1 out of every 15 graduates from a minority institution finds meaningful employment that required his going to college. It would, also, become apparent that this number is becoming worse. By 1985 it will be 1 out of every 18. Once funding agents require such statistics to justify giving funds, then these institutions will suffer. To aggravate this fact is



Gerald O. Johnson

the increasing number of qualified Black professors leaving the Black College campuses. The reasons are simple (1) more money and (2) less aggravation. Secondly, the 1980's will prove to be a decade where taxpayers are going to demand a balanced budget. This will force hard guidelines in funds justifications and the reality that the cost of keeping the Black institutions open is to high for the product being produced. Though most people don't realize it, this is the reasoning behind H.E.W.'s integration program. The program is designed to bring parity between the white and black institutions, thereby, allowing a gradual move away from Black institutions. Then by cutting out

aid to private Black institutions, the private institutions fold.

Thirdly, the need for Black institutions will be gone. By 1990, there won't be any students that desire to attend an all Black school. Today integration has not gone full cycle. If you look at the students that currently attend all Black institutions they fall into 3 classes:

- (1) those that can't go anywhere else (not college material).
- (2) those that have experienced both segregated and integrated educational environments.
- (3) those that have parents who attended Black institutions.

Obviously, class (1) students will be the biggest reason for shutting the schools down. As competency base testing gets up to full steam this class of students will never get out of high school.

The students that fall into class (2) will be non existent by 1990. Since integration started full steam nationwide in 1974, those students already in the school systems possibly attended segregated schools in their earlier years and integrated schools in the latter years. A lot of these students don't adjust to the integrated system and consequently they opt for a see FUTURE on page 5

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

## TO BE EQUAL



### Spotlight On Police Acts

The long-festering issue of police excesses is now getting more attention after a long period in which only minority communities in some cities displayed concern.

The single most important factor in bringing police acts under wider scrutiny is the Justice Department's lawsuit against the City of Philadelphia.

Filed in August, the Department accuses the Philadelphia Police Department of shooting nonviolent suspects, abusing prisoners, suppressing dissent within its own ranks, and engaging in systematic brutal behavior that "shocks the conscience."

The Justice Department's charges and stories in local newspapers include: routine use of unconstitutional third degree methods, abuse of pedestrians and motorists without course or due process, whitewashing rouge cops, and harrasing critics. All are supposed to be part of the general operation procedures of the department.

In the past eight years more than 150 civilians have been killed by Philadelphia policemen. In more than half of those cases the civilians had been unarmed. About 75 civilians are shot by city policemen every year.

While the suit charges the police with across the board brutality, it also says blacks and Hispanics are singled out as special police targets.

The courts will decide the accuracy of the Justice Department's charges, but you know that for a federal Department to brave inevitable political pressures and considerations to file a suit of this kind, naming not only the police but twenty top city officials including the mayor, the situation has to be petty extraordinary.

The story doesn't end in Philadelphia. Other urban police departments have similar problems. There is suspicion of systematic abuse of citizen's rights as a matter of regular departmental procedure in other cities. The Justice Department is said to be investigating those cities, and may ultimately file suit against them as well.

Such abuses are the inevitable result of the "law and order" solganeering the leads to emphasis on "order" and a disrespect for "law".

But official, systematic abuses of this sort are only part of the problem. When they occur there is at least the prospect that higher authorities will step in as the Justice Department has done.

But even in the best run police departments there have been instances of excessive use of force. Some departments have built tight walls of regulations to try to prevent this. Some require complete investigation of every police discharge of a firearm. But still excesses occur.

In New York last summer a man wielding a pair of scissors was killed by five officers who pumped over 20 bullets into him. Does it really take that kind of deadly force to stop even a deranged person? One shrp blow with a billy club could have ended an incident that instead left a man dead.

Blacks and Nispanics are at times as likely as whites to be at the receiving end of a police bullet. Those figures can't be explained away by the argument that minorities are more likely to commit offenses. Ture or not, they are not 10 times more likely to be offenders.

## From The White House

# Blacks Find President Carter Different From Candidate Carter

by Alfreda L. Madison Special to the Post

When president Carter came on the scene, he was viewed by blacks as a person with deep concern for the welfare of minorities, the aged, handicapped, poor and justice and fairness for all. They say him as a person with stamina and forthrightness to stand up for rights and justice in the face of adversaries, even if it meant taking precedence over political gains. However, with the forced resignation of Ambassador A. W. Young by the Administration, blacks are not so strong in those beliefs.

Surely, it appears that Mr. Young was fired because of pressure from Jewish people and some leaders in this country. Not once has anyone said that Andy has not done a good job. He has been criticized by some congressional leaders for only speaking the truth. Once, he said that Nixon and Ford were racist and he explained that perhaps all of us have some racism. One could only take a look at the people in the employment of Nixon and Ford and many other public officials, certainly including members of congress and see racial discrimination in the hiring practices. None can deny tht racism exists in

the United States, and how can there be racism without some racists? Mr. Young was chided for saying in a French interview that there are political prisoners in the United States, depending on how one looks at it. He spoke of the joining of civil rights fighters and of the numerous conscientious objectors during the Viet Nam War. On the floors of congress none said that he was wrong.

When he talked with the PLO, trying to get them to accept the administration's plan which he certainly was the chief figure, according to opponents in getting acceptance of the plan, no one said that the mission he performed was wrong, only that he should not have talked to the representative about it. The U.N. is an organization for the purpose of settling matters through talks, and the U.N. delegates are suppose to talk with each other. The non-workable Kissinger plan did not work for the previous administration and is a colossal failure for the present, so a better plan is highly necessary. Only the Jewish community seems to be standing up for such a policy. Even John Connally has said that we should talk to the PLO, but that Ambassador Young should be fired for



Alfreda L. Madison

doing so, that the United States should talk to them through other countries or other ambassadors. We should talk it right but it is utterly ridiculous for the United States to conduct its foreign policy through other countries. If this is true then why should we have U.N. representatives and United States ambassadors; just have messengers?

If Mr. Young was fired for not following the U.S. policy, then what about others who have not followed and none has called for their hides? What about Ambassador Wolff? What about Henry Kissinger when he was sup-

porting anti-NATO forces in Angola against the American policy? Nothing was done about him, only that congress stopped the support. What about CIA Director Stanfield Turner with instructions from the National Security Council presented a plan to them,

## Letter To The Editor

### Radio Station Doesn't Measure Up

Dear Editor, In an article published August 24, 1979 in the Charlotte News entitled "Harold Parks says radio station does not measure up" I criticized the programming and community support of station WGIV.

My comments were critical because I feel the station's management and absentee owner lack commitment to the overall Black Charlotte community. Opting to provide an overly commercial format and public service programming to meet the minimum Federal Communication Commission requirements.

I'm here writing because recently the FCC proposed deregulation of such public facilities. If approved, the content of what is aired over public facilities, such as WGIV, will be at the discretion of such stations. The FCC will

Senator Dick Clark for American covert aid to guerrillas against NATO in Angola, and its violations of U.S. policy. The senator refused to accept the plan. It was reported that this covert aid had its origin with Mr. Brezinski. No one was reprimanded about this,

neither was there any outcry of any wrong intentions on the part of either the CIA or National Security Council. Some say that President Carter dismissed Young because he was a political liability. If telling the truth, if causing the United States to have better relationships with

the Third World countries, it carrying out duties of his office, if expecting the same treatment that is accorded other American appointed officials, if relying on the fact that the policies of the United States are dictated by its administration rather than the whims of a foreign country are a political liability then the administration and country are in a sad state of affairs.

In talk with many blacks they feel sacrificed for Jewish support. They recall Mr. Carter's statement; that he would rather commit political suicide than offend the Jews.

Harold J. Parks, Jr.

**THE CHARLOTTE POST**  
Second Class Postage No. 965500

"THE PEOPLES NEWSPAPER"  
Established 1918  
Published Every Thursday  
By The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc.  
1524 West Blvd., Charlotte, N.C. 28208  
Telephones (704) 376-0496-376-0497  
Circulation, 9,915

---

60 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE

---

BILL JOHNSON...Editor Publisher  
BERNARD REEVES...General Manager

---

Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid At  
Charlotte, N.C. under the Act of March 3, 1878

---

Member National Newspaper Publishers  
Association

---

North Carolina Black Publishers Association

---

Deadline for all news copy and photos is 5 p.m.  
Monday. All photos and copy submitted become  
the property of the POST, and will not be returned.

---

National Advertising  
Representative  
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.  
45 W. 5th Suite 1403 2400 S. Michigan Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10036 Chicago, Ill. 60616  
(212) 405-1220 Calumet 5-0200

