

Editorials & Comments

Which Way For City Council?

In the City's lowest voter turnout in over 10 years, 21 percent or 30,437 of the eligible voters elected unopposed Eddie Knox to his second term as Mayor and returned Harvey Gantt (D) to City Council after a two-year absence with the highest number of at-large candidate votes.

At-large Councilmen Dave Berryhill (D) and Herbert Spaugh Jr. (D), and District Council members Charlie Dannelly (D), Laura Frech (D), Ron Leeper (D), George Selden (R), and Minette Trosch (R) were all re-elected. Along with Harvey Gantt, these veteran lawmakers were joined by former County Commissioner Ed Peacock (R), who captured the four at-large seats, Pam Patters (D) and Ralph McMillan (R).

While the individual campaigns were low key and the underlying philosophical issues - planned growth, scattered site housing, landfill locations, etc. - hardly reached the surface, the election does raise the question of how the four new Council members will affect the philosophical directions or leanings of City Council.

In responding to a television newsman's question on this point, Harvey Gantt said he believes Council's philosophical leanings will be about the same as the past Council's because Pam Patterson probably shares the views of Don Carroll whom she replaces. McMillan has about the same philosophy of government as his predecessor

and Ed Peacock is a "replacement" for Pat Locke.

Mr. Gantt made no mention of the probable philosophy of government comparison between himself and his predecessor Betty Chafin. We believe there are similarities in their liberal viewpoints. Furthermore, as the highest at-large vote getter Mr. Gantt will probably succeed Ms. Chafin as Mayor Pro Tem.

Assuming that both Mr. Gantt's and our views on the City Council philosophical leanings are correct, Council will, as Gantt suggested to the television newsman, remain about the same in its thinking with, we think, the liberal faction having a general one vote edge.

However, with federal funds becoming smaller in number and with citizens opposed to talk of even necessary tax increases, it would appear that on any given issue it will be difficult to predict how City Council will vote or what they will support. Therefore, the sheer nature of declining resources, tighter budgets and citizen demands for traditional public services will in themselves affect Council's actions in part to the exclusion of philosophical differences among individuals or groups of Council members.

Citizens can make this burden of selecting options for fulfilling with limited resources by keeping Council members aware of their needs and concerns. This simply means practicing good citizenship responsibility. Let's do our part in this regard to help make our good government a better government.



A Cleaner Neighborhood Is Up To You...

Tony Brown's Journal

Nationally Syndicated Commercial Television Series



Tony Brown

"Atlanta Racist Like Rest Of US?"

Andrew Young will soon start what is almost certain to be an eight-year reign as Atlanta's mayor. And the city that spends so much of its energy promoting an image of progressive racial relations as the "City too Busy to Hate" just flunked its most serious test.

Young's first promise as mayor was to heal the deep wounds caused by the mayoral contest between himself and the white state Rep. Stanley Marcus who pitted blacks against whites. None of this, however, surprises me. I have always maintained that Atlanta's public relations about a race-free city was more fiction than fact - that racism was as deeply embedded in Atlanta as in the rest of the country. And when the chips were down, racism won.

A friend told me in Atlanta on election eve: "I'm not impressed with Andy. He's simply the lesser of two evils. But in a showdown between a black and a white, I go with the black." Although this kind of logic got him elected, Young denounced such people as racist. "There are some racists in this city on both sides who see this city in racial terms."

Believing his own words, Young's campaign workers, knowing the racial realities, placed signs in the black neighborhoods warning the blacks that the whites across town were outvoting them. During the campaign, Young accused Marcus of "tricking" poor blacks out of their homes. Young's chief supporter at-

tacked blacks who did not support Young. Mayor Maynard Jackson singled out blacks who supported Marcus as "traitors" to the civil rights movement.

Jackson called them "shuffling, grinning Negroes" and compared them to slaves who refused to leave the plantation after the Emancipation Proclamation. And Reagan's "slick-taling Negroes," the outgoing mayor asserted, were waiting for scraps from the table. Some "Negro voices," he said, "are the voices of the new selfishites...that has forced some Afro-Americans into the corner of racism..."

Marcus who had the white vote in his pocket, but needed a black crossover vote to win in this city that is 66 percent black, naturally called America's standard racist-politics "racist and divisive." "The politics of panic used by Mr. Young," the white liberal said in all of the innocent indignation he could muster, "shows he's willing to destroy our city by manufacturing racial tensions and distrust rather than lose an election." But while the racial issue easily overshadowed the economic issues confronting the city, Young's election puts the reality of a racist society right on Atlanta's doorstep.

As mayor, he will carry the stigma of having disrupted the city's racial harmony when, in effect, the flaws of this so-called racial harmony are beginning to show through the grease paint. In the elec-

tion, blacks voted for the black and whites voted for the white in the city's heavily segregated precincts. And Marcus' blank check from the downtown white business leaders will not be transferable to the new black mayor. Young's promise to offset this benign neglect with African money looks doubtful, at best.

Another tough reality is a stable poverty rate of 25 percent, those who live on an average family income of less than \$7,000 - mostly blacks - untouched by Atlanta's "racial harmony" and social and economic progress which provides a \$20,000-a-year-per-household income for the middle class. "It is the face of failure, by the city and by each of us who is a part of it," admitted the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION's associate editor in a front page commentary.

"It has shown us that, nearly two decades after President Lyndon Johnson's celebrated 'War on Poverty,' poverty in this city remains perhaps Atlanta's most serious problem - and that the gaps between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' are wider than ever, and growing wider," Bill Shipp wrote.

A glut of office space downtown is a symptom of the racial overtones that Atlanta's ruling class tries to bury.

"Tony Brown's Journal," the television series, is shown every Sunday, on WBTW-TV, Channel 3, at 11:30 p.m.

By Rev. John Perkins

Walk Your Talk



Rev. Perkins

Positive Change For The Black Church

What we are talking about in this series of "Walk Your Talk" is the need for re-structure of the black church. This does not change our basic theology which recognizes the fact that Jesus Christ is the eternal son of God, that God has revealed himself in Jesus Christ and that Jesus' death on the cross exemplifies God's love for us.

The work of the early disciples and of the church showed that God was alive, that Jesus Christ was alive and the Holy Spirit worked through Him to empower the members who became a part of Christ's body. Through this empowerment they were able to reflect God's love in the world and be both salt and light in a world that was in darkness and decay. So we're not speaking about a change in theology. We're talking about the restructure of the church so that this generation of young people can more effectively deal with the problems that are especially unique to the black community; we're talking about the church taking responsibility. We're talking about the people who come to know Jesus Christ in the local community being empower by God to take responsibility for the problems that exist within our communities. What are some of the problems that we face? I think the major problem we face in our community is a problem of the right kind of education. Education that relates itself to skills for the individual; skills that are related to employment for the individual. I think that's the first problem. And out of that problem comes many other problems. Now someone is going to say, "You have missed it, brother John. The problem is sin."

Pure Christianity is our involvement with people who are aching and hurting in society. It is looking after those unfortunate people; it is going to the prisons; it is helping the outcast; it is helping the sick. Pure religion is to be involved with the poor and to keep one's self unspotted before the world. So how then can we, as the black church begin to restructure the process by which our people can regain the kind of momentum made immediately after emancipation. Can we look back to the days of our fathers, after the emancipation here in Mississippi, and draw from their example the king of pater we need to liberate our people anew in the 1980s? Let us recall the fact that they established business enterprises such as banks and they established schools. They established these enterprises to provide work and employment for our people. It was not the same as the welfare type of program that takes away incentives and initiatives--they had to do it themselves.

I think we are in the days where we, within our community are not excluding our government and not removing the government from responsibility but rather we're at the place where we, the people God within our community, take the responsibility for leadership. At the beginning of this leadership is the goal to develop the kind of education and philosophy with which we can reeducate our people in terms of self-determination which manifests itself in creative ownership and productivity.

Responses to this column may be made to WALK YOUR TALK, 1655 St. Charles St., Jackson, MS 39209.

Unwed Mothers: Where It All Begins?

Since the release of data pointing out that over half of all black babies born in the USA today are born out of wedlock and a substantially less number, but equally disturbing fact, exists among whites. Significantly, most of these babies are born to teen-agers or as Eleanor Holmes Morton said, "babies making babies."

Obviously, many people are searching for answers and solutions to this serious problem. However, before looking forward to what should be done, we need to look backward to determine how we got where we are today.

In looking back there is the dangerous and misleading tendency to just assume that our teen-agers are less moral and more permissive about sex. That may be correct, but the important question is what conditions in our society have led to such permissiveness?

The answer to this question can be found in the behavior, attitudes and expectations of our nation's adults, who are supposed to be the role models for our youth.

We adults now have over one million households with inhabitants who are not married to each other. We seem to idealize, publicize and commercially exploit one Hollywood sex symbol after another. We market products from blue jeans to automobiles with a sex appeal approach. We encourage youth to purchase tapes and records of songs with such titles as "Love To Love You, Baby," sung by a woman billed as "sex-obsessed" disco and "Erotic" love queens.

We include sex as an underlying item and point of interest in most of our television programming. We are making an increasing number of our movies "R" rated because of sex scenes and language. We have made pornography a multi-million business while exploiting millions of young teen-agers in the process. We simply refuse to pass laws to control and punish prostitutes, pimps and drug pushers.

Not only are to many of our magazines and books filled with nudity and sexually suggestive language, there is a heavy market demand for such products.

From Capitol Hill

Reagan's Administration Is "No Friend To Blacks"

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Even though President Reagan's campaign promise, "...not to set civil rights back", his constant rhetoric that he has a color blind policy, his actions prove that just the opposite is true.

Recently, the President broke his long silence on the Administration's Voting Rights stand. He, as usual, on issues where black people are concerned has chosen the path of the most ultra-conservative elements in this country, whom one questions whether or not they would vote against God if he would happen to be wearing a black tie.

Although the present Voting Rights Act passed the House by an affirmative margin of 328 to 24, Mr. Reagan wants to soften greatly the "bail out" provision and he wants the discrimination against persons to prove that the violators of the act intended to do so. Yet, when the Administration was testifying before the House Subcommittee on African Affairs, the witness said in referring to a proposed bill,



Alfreda L. Madison

...our analysis leads us to believe that the net effect of the legislation - though not the intent - would be to create a large, complicated and probably not very effective bureaucratic enforcement machine." This is a direct departure from its Voting Rights stand that intent proof is right and most effective, but intent in the bill which calls for this country's taking a stand

against South African apartheid is ineffective. The Administration has said that it will push for its stand which lessens the effect of the Voting Rights bill passage, by the senate, where it feels it has a very

good chance.

Recently, when Richard Allen was giving a briefing on the President's meeting with President Carlos of Spain, he stated that the Spanish President understood very clearly our foreign policy. When Mr. Allen said that the United States will give military supplies to Northern Africa and at the same time he condemned Cuba for supplying Central America militarily, he was asked what was the difference. Allen replied, "There is a fundamental difference." He was asked to explain the fundamental difference and Allen appeared greatly irritated, very curtly answered, "No, I'll not explain."

Later in the press briefing Deputy Press Secretary David Gergen, when emphasizing that the United States will protect Egypt and its neighbors to the extent that American men will be sent in if necessary, against the question was, "What is the difference in our sending our men to defend that territory and Cubans being in Angola to protect it from South Africa. The answer

was "Egypt is a much older country." And another White House staff member stated that there is a great difference - there are 20,000 Cubans in Angola." However, to indicate that age has priority, since Egypt is 3,000 years old and the United States is only 200 years old, maybe we should keep our mouths closed until we become of age. Concerning 20,000 Cubans in Angola, and the aim in any war is to win, we might have to put 40,000 or more men in the Egyptian area. Usually countries use as many men, if possible, as it takes to win. The military measurement is not generally numbers, but necessities.

President Reagan speaks of Libyans and Palestinians as terrorists because they, are said to attack people in neighboring countries. Yet, South Africa commits raids in Angola, Namibia and Mozambique, while Mr. Reagan has never uttered one word against their raids. He is maintaining his policy that the Governor of South Africa is our friend, and that takes precedence over human rights.

The President sharply criticizes Russia for treatment of dissidents by hobnobs with South Africa in its brutal treatment of blacks who seek freedom from white supremacy apartheid.

Haitian refugees are black so Mr. Reagan has implemented its only interdiction on the high seas policy, against any refugees, other than the Haitians.

Haitians are the only refugees who come to our shores and are imprisoned without being criminals.

Even though black unemployment is more than twice as high as white, which is certainly a clear example of employment discriminatory practices. Reagan is putting forth every possible effort to cut out affirmative action - a remedy for correcting this racist practice.

This Administration is completely for states rights, this is evidenced in his removing all requirements that states disperse government funds equitably. When Mr. Reagan says leave things to the states and private sector because he believes the

people will act honorably, he has to know that the Federal Government was required to impose these measures, he is working hard to eliminate, because these honorable sources, of whom he speaks were acting dishonorably. Then too why does the President feel that the state officials and private sector are more honorable than he, his entire executive branch and congress?

Mr. Reagan is surely proving that he is no friend to blacks. However, one Black Caucus staff member, realizing that in every ill wind some good can be found says, that Mr. Reagan's action are serving to solidify blacks not only in this country but around the world.

RACE PRIDE Begins With Black Press.



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