

Voters Accept Mint Bond Package

Political Issues And Cold

Cash: The Means To Win?

By Terri Byrum
Special To The Post
Take any issue and get it on the ballot. Convince your wealthy friends to back your cause with plenty of cash, and you are likely to come out a winner. True? Maybe. Maybe not.

Good examples of both sides of the money issue were made Tuesday. Backers of the Mint Museum bonds launched a top dollar advertising campaign and won by a wide margin. A handful of people spent a hefty sum urging voters to adopt the 4-3 District Plan and lost due to grassroots efforts from the neighborhood advocates who led a zero-budget rally for defeat.

Despite a struggling economy, it has been estimated that records for campaign expenditures were far exceeded this year. Dan Rather, of CBS News, said the candidates elected were "the most expensive money can buy."

It has become obvious in the past several years that in many cases, the better financed campaigns yield the better results. However, this week's election results on the two local issues prove that it takes more than money to win.

Voters defeated the \$10.4 million Mint Bond package last spring and barely 18 months later were called to the polls again to vote on a "Now or Never" \$3.5 million package.

Mint backers were determined not to fail at the polls a second time, so they spent over \$50,000 to promote the deal.

At the onset, there seemed to be no significant opposition to the Mint Bond issue, which would allow a Randolph Road access drive as well as expansion of the current Eastover location to house the Dalton Collection. In the days just prior to the election, however, there was an undercurrent of question as to whether the Mint Bond campaign claims were legitimate. Radio and TV ads stated emphatically that voting for the bonds would not raise taxes.

Many questioned the "free lunch" idiom and denied that residents could get "something for nothing." Also, the ballot itself clearly said that in approval of the bonds, the voter would be "authorizing the levy of taxes in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on said bonds."

Tom Cox, a leader of the Bond campaign, addressed this conflict on the "H. A. Thompson Show" on WBT Radio Monday. He admitted there was a possibility that taxes would be raised due to bond passage but said it would be so "insignificant" that he felt it would not refute the claim



Peggy Beckwith
...MASCSD director



Shirley Farrar
...AACC director

of "no cost" to the taxpayer. Perhaps the electorate was deceived to some extent, but most were able to look beyond the PR campaign and support the Mint expansion.

Charles Cross, director for the Neighborhood Centers, said, "The new Randolph Road entrance (to the Mint) will make everyone feel they are a part of the community which is served by the Mint."

The access road is a key feature of the package and will help enhance the Mint's image as a hobby for the well-to-do to a true metropolitan museum from which we can all benefit.

Due to the Mint expansion plans, Shirley Farrar, executive director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, says, "Attitudes will change as the Mint is more accessible. People will see it as a new museum." The Dalton Collection of art, which is in line to be donated by the Mint, includes masterpieces by Delacroix, Rembrandt, Turner and Wyeth. Ms. Farrar, who participates in educational programs at the Mint, says, "Through the arts, we can teach our children so very much about our past, our culture and where we came from. The Mint expansion will allow us to broaden our teaching possibilities."

Responding to the question of whether the Mint bonds will affect taxes, Peggy Beckwith, director of the Metrolina Association for Sickle Cell Disease, says, "As a property owner, I think it (bond passage) will have to affect taxes," but does go on to say she feels the expansion will be "a very exciting thing for Charlotte."

Tuesday afternoon, no one on the 4-3 District Plan committee knew a total amount spent on the campaign for the districts. The best estimate was over \$20,000 raised primarily amongst the 34 people who publicly endorsed the district plan.

A well financed campaign is important, such as in the case of the Mint Bonds. But the impact of a single vote cannot be overlooked.

Steele Believes In The Importance Of Love

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor

Put away those thoughts that those who have joined the military are ruthless and hard-hearted. It's not amazing that people like Adrian Steele, a person who believes in the importance of life in this world, can enlist in a branch of the military.

"We need a lot more love in this world," Steele commented. "A lot of people have it. But it doesn't mean anything if you don't give it away."

Steele, the son of Mrs. Mary Steele, enlisted in the Delay Entry Program for four years in the Marine



Adrian Steele
...Marine enlistee
Corps (plus two years in the Marine Corps Reserve).
"I felt it will be a chal-

lenge," Steele stated.

Scoring high in the Administrative portion of the entrance exam, Steele has been guaranteed training in the Marine Corps Administrative Option Field.

According to Sergeant Bridges, Steele will be able to complete a BA or AA degree in Business Administration. Steele felt he had scored well in this area because of his successes in math-related courses in school. Presently he is a senior at Myers Park High School.

He will leave for Parris Island, S.C., July 28, 1983. There he will undergo 11

weeks of recruit training. Following those weeks he will return home a Private for a well-deserved 10 days leave of absence.

Steele is interested in accounting and eventually would like to begin a business of his own. "I'd like to start my own bank," Steele commented about his ambitions.

Since the Marines has guaranteed his position in Administration he will no doubt continue to sharpen his mathematical skills.

Presently, however, Steele continues to concentrate on his studies and extracurricular activities at

Myers Park. He is a member of the Latin Club and the Gentlemen's Quarterly Service Club (GQ).

He has received letters in track and awards in football and band.

A member of Faith Memorial Baptist Church where Rev. Caldwell is pastor, Steele is a member of the Young Adult Choir and the Usher Board.

He has one sister and three brothers.

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