

editorials & comments

Disappointing Primaries

In one of the few opportunities that the Mecklenburg County Republican Party has had to capture the imagination of the voters, it fell flat on its GOP elephant face. The poorly built Peacock-Selden mayoral primary race fizzled like a collapsing balloon as Peacock ignored Selden by campaigning on the theme that a vote for him would be a vote for an ultimate challenge to Harvey Gantt or a conservative challenge to a liberal.

That strategy had two interesting results. First, while Peacock ignored Selden, the Republican voters nearly ignored Peacock and the entire primary as only 6,522 Republicans even bothered to vote for either candidate. This represents only 14.5 percent of the 44,985 registered Republican voters in the city and only half of the predicted voter turnout.

Secondly, Peacock's focus on Gantt helped the Democratic mayoral candidate to enhance his name and image before the voters without even being on a primary ballot. Gantt, presently mayor pro tem, had said last week, "We were concerned that we would be lost, that no one would hear our name again until after the great Selden-Peacock battle." He added, "It didn't turn out to be a battle, obviously, and Ed's helped us a lot by not even dealing with George."

on November 8. We don't need another disappointing overall voter turnout of only 15 percent for the general election. Your vote is the only way to preserve and enhance the democratic process, therefore use it on election day.

Insulting Flap

James Watt, Secretary of the Interior in the Reagan Administration since 1981, is viewed as a controversial, insensitive, loud-mouth. In addition to devastating the wilderness and destroying the environment since assuming his post, he has used the most derogatory terms in referring to those who oppose his policies. For example, Watt has characterized the zeal of environmentalists as similar to that of the Nazis in the 1930s.

In his latest insulting flap last week, Watt explained the composition of a coal leasing commission by stating to the press, "We have every kind of mix you can have. I have a black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple." Furthermore, the remark was uttered in a sarcastic half-joking manner as if to insult civil rights advocates and minority groups.

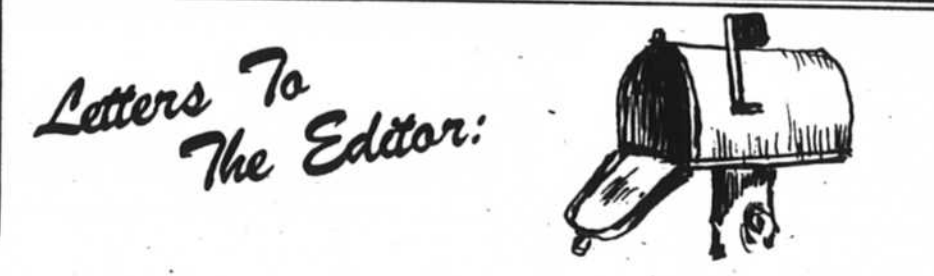
Ironically, one of the people to come to Watt's defense when many Republicans were calling for his resignation was Senator John East (Rep.-NC). East, who has been wheelchair bound since becoming a victim of polio 28 years ago, said Watt's use of the word "cripple" to describe a member of his committee "does not rise to the level of a slur." Yet, Senator East was apparently sensitive to "slurs" and similar insensitivities of some people when he was campaigning for the U.S. Senate. We are referring to the fact that Mr. East's campaign, largely done through television advertising, carefully hid from public view the fact that he is confined to a wheelchair. In fact, Mr. East had been elected before most N.C. voters were aware that he uses a wheelchair.

Therefore, while Mr. Watt is an ineffective public servant, Mr. East is a hypocrite who deceived the voters out of a fear of the very same thing he is now defending on behalf of Mr. Watt. All people, and especially public servants, should be sensitive to the concerns and feelings of other people.

Finally, the talented and hard working incumbent Ron Leeper won a deserving landslide primary victory in District 3, and Bob Davis and Willie Stratford deserve a round of applause for their surprising one-two finish in the Democratic Council At-Large primary.

The dye has been cast and the candidates have been selected, now it's up to you to VOTE and VOTE and VOTE your choices

THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST RATS IS A GARBAGE CAN WITH THE LID ON TIGHT!



Last Chance To Register To Vote In City's General Election

Dear Editor: Monday, October 10 is the last day for Charlotteans to register to vote in the city's general election. I hope all citizens, black and white will pull the lever for someone on November 8.

Voting is a right taken rather lightly by many people. For blacks especially it has been a long, difficult struggle winning the opportunity to participate in deciding on political representatives. As I once heard Willie Stratford, an at-large city council candidate state, "there are people in Charlotte who can affect good leadership."

However, we'll never meet them if we don't have enough concern to follow the necessary procedure of getting these leaders into office—namely—voting! Failing to vote, be it on the local or national level is why Americans have so-called leaders like North Carolina's Republican Senator Jesse Helms.

He is a national figurehead who should be aware of America's political history enough to realize the grave mistake he was making in his initial attempt to prevent Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday from becoming a national holiday. His comments on the issue were

absurd, and irrelevant.

Continuing to have Jesse Helms in office is an embarrassment to the state of North Carolina. Of course there have to be some people in the state who favor that image of conservatism and heartlessness. However, it's not the majority of the state and the only way to make that apparent is by going to the polls and voting.

There are many unregistered voters in Charlotte who can make a significant change in the way our city, state and nation are represented. Let's get out of this mood of complacency and register by Monday, following up that move with a vote on November 8.

Of all the senseless ideas, Sen. Helms reportedly stated, "King practiced action-oriented Marxism." Had it not been for King, blacks and poor whites would have had a much longer and possibly unsuccessful battle against segregation. At least King didn't work only for socially defined groups of people.

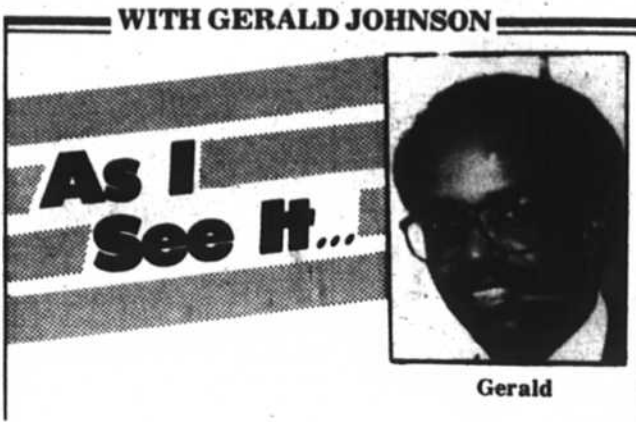
The civil rights leader had one concern—equality for all. Dr. King broke barriers for all humanity. Grant, he didn't solve all problems. Sure, there's still racism, sexism, and

equal opportunity does not always prevail; nevertheless, the civil rights movement with Dr. King in the forefront led to many improvements in this country. As a result, America gained more respect from other nationalities.

Then when it was all over, do you think he had received a deserving award? Certainly not, the leader was assassinated. He gave his life fighting for others' freedom. How many people does Sen. Helms know or does any other person know with that bravery? There are a number of Americans who achieved, but few in the terms that Dr. King has achieved.

Besides, why should Black Americans only have the opportunity to celebrate holidays that are the creation of white ideology? Blacks have contributed to substantial economic, social and political growth in the U.S. Everyone needs to be aware of that, and what better way to devote that deserving attention than through one special day that especially pays tribute to an "All-American" leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mail your social news to: Editor, The Charlotte Post, P. O. Box 30144, Charlotte, N.C. 28230.



Sunday-Monday Reflections

Every Sunday morning I take about an hour just to reflect on life. Here are some of those thoughts from this past Sunday.

If a stranger came to Charlotte and was given fact sheets on Ed Peacock and Harvey Gantt, then told to vote on one of these gentlemen for mayor of Charlotte based solely on qualifications, who would he vote for? Based on experience, qualifications, city-wide representation, and leadership ability, the choice would be clear. However, we don't live in a vacuum, and we aren't unbiased in our actions. Therefore, this mayoral race is being slated as one that will end with a photo finish. I think this is indeed a shame. The possibility of our next mayor being chosen based on the color of his skin, rather than by addressing the issues, leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. If this should happen Mr. Gantt is not the real loser, Charlotte is.

Is there any way we can have Wylie Harris boycott being quoted by the media? It's bad enough the team is losing.

One of my proudest moments occurred a few weeks back when both Miss America and the first runner-up are black. I COULDN'T WAIT TO GO TO WORK AND boast to all of my white associates that "black is beautiful. To my amazement all of the black folks I came in contact with were

putting the two black ladies down. "The affair was fixed," or "She didn't look black" were the most common statements. I always thought to be black was simply a feature of pigmentation and not a special look. But these comments really depressed me because as a people we don't support one another. We look for excuses and reasons to fail. When they didn't allow blacks to enter the contest, we complained because it wasn't representative of all America. When they allowed us to participate, we complained because it was tokenism. Now that one of us won the thing we complain because she wasn't black enough for us. Black folks and flies!

JCSU should feel quite proud of its institution these days because of Mr. Albright, the new president. As most of you know I have openly criticized how this institution was being managed and the poor results of that management. Mr. Albright brings new hope for JCSU and its future. Mr. Albright, in my opinion, has a better perspective of the role a black institution must play in these changing times than did his predecessor. If he is given the support by all of us, I feel JCSU will be one of the few black institutions left as we approach the decade of the 90s.

I hate reading the sports reports by Observer staff writers. When I read sports I only want facts and quotes (barring Wylie, of course). But these guys not only give a storybook version of the event but they throw in their opinions.

Opinions are for the editorial pages, not the sports pages. Take these excerpts from a recent story: (1) "Remember that 20-0 lead? This is what happened next:" (2) "You guessed it." Lines like these do not belong on sports pages. Grow up Observer and give us facts in our sports, not opinions.

Growth management is an issue that is being fussed over a lot these days, being this is an election year. But few people realize all of the ramifications of how a city grows and why it needs to be managed. One consequence of city growth is the impact of building new schools and closing old ones. With the uncontrolled (or maybe it was designed??) growth we have witnessed over the past 15 or so years, we have seen southeast Charlotte grow by leaps and bounds while the north side of Charlotte has been relatively stagnant. The population of southeast Charlotte has increased drastically while other areas of Charlotte have declined in population. This situation created the environment that caused five schools to be closed on the north side of Charlotte and several schools to be built in the southeast with more being planned. This means that people living on the north side will have to carry more of the burden with school busing. As more schools on the north side close the further the north side children will be bused.

This is just one consequence of the impact growth of Charlotte has on you! Hence, if you thought this city election was meaningless to you - think again!

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From Capitol Hill Constructive Engagement Aid Apartheid

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Divide and conquer is a tactic that has long been used by those in control when non-whites seek justice and equality. South Africa's constitution divides the coloreds and Asians from the 21 million Blacks, who make up the majority of South Africa's population.

Representative Howard Wolpe, Chairman of the House African Affairs Committee, in a committee hearing on the internal and political conditions in South Africa, speaking of this Administration's position, said, "The blame is usually attributed to Moscow and international communism. Essentially the escalation of violence is a response by people to the built-in violence in an apartheid society."

Prime Minister Botha of South Africa heralded a number of racial reforms by using the phrase "adopt or die." The constitutional proposals promised a limited autonomy to the coloreds and Asians, but no representation at all for the Black Africans who comprise 73 percent of the population.

Polls show that Black South Africans are politically dissatisfied; that large scale unrest and violence can be expected. The African Nationalist Congress (ANC) which is banned in South Africa, has engaged



Alfreda L. Madison

in armed struggle against apartheid. This Administration shares the white South African leaders' views that the ANC struggle is a result of outside subversion.

President Reagan's South African policy is "Constructive Engagement." Marc Steppe, Vice President of the International Union of Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Workers, says the "Constructive Engagement" policy, attempts to cajole South Africa into better treatment of non-whites rather than the use of sanctions. This policy serves white South African interest and further entrenches apartheid in Namibia.

The Administration's policy has alienated Black African countries. This was evidenced in Zimbabwe's and numerous other African countries' votes in the U.N. against the condemnation of the Soviets' shoot-

ing down Korean flight 007. Prime Minister Mubage was asked about this vote in his recent visit to this country and he said this was done because the United States failed to condemn South Africa for murdering more than 400 Angolans.

The Administration emphasizes that change is taking place in South Africa by the creation of independent Black African countries. These are carved out of the poorest and most barren sections of the country. It is impossible for these countries' inhabitants to make a living, so they have to seek employment in apartheid South Africa.

The government recently issued regulations to ensure that the coloreds get preferential employment over Black Africans. The Reagan Administration applauds South Africa's supposed evolution away from apartheid, which restricts rights, mobility and opportunity of blacks. Since many blacks are relegated to the poorly created homelands, they are considered migrants and foreigners who commute to South Africa for employment.

Mr. Steppe stated that one out of every four Black babies born in the homeland dies before reaching the age of one. They die from inadequate food, infected water, poor sanitation and unavailable immunization, while very few

whites die from the same causes. Education of Blacks in South Africa is a disgrace. Illiteracy is 24 percent. In some areas only seven percent of Black school-age children are enrolled in school.

This Administration is ignoring the battles that South Africa is waging in neighboring countries as well as in its own. The U.S. should pass legislation that would outlaw all U.S. nuclear cooperation with South Africa. Instead recently the Washington Post reported that the Reagan Administration is contemplating allowing Westinghouse to provide technical training and maintenance services for South Africa's two atomic plants. South Africa is one of the countries that needs specific Energy Department approval to obtain American technology for atomic power. It is one of the countries that has not signed the non-proliferation Treaty or has accepted international safeguards on all facilities.

There has been some progress made in labor relations. Many corporations recognize that Blacks have the right to join unions. Consequently, they are hiring non-whites in both skilled and unskilled jobs. Black South African unionists intend to win work equality by their own efforts.

