

editorials

& comments

Drinking And Mortality

The news media has devoted a great deal of ink and dialogue in commenting on the state's new drunken driving law and the number of drivers arrested as the law went into affect. At the same time, 18 and 19 year olds have been quoted on their opposition to the law. One of their big points in objecting to the law is that if they're old enough to be drafted for military duty they should be old enough and free enough to drink what they please.

The very need for the new drunken driving law, the "numbers game" perspective given the law by the news media, and more significantly, the attitude of the youth the law will probably most affect, and finally, the apparent apathy toward the whole situation by parents indicates a new level of moral decay.

Add to this the joy and happy time atmosphere that television commercials give to drinking beer, even among athletes, and you can begin to understand why deaths on the highways from drunken drivers killing themselves as well as others have reached shameful levels.

We don't need to provide statistical data on the number of persons killed or crippled as a result of drunken driving because

one such person is one too many. What we do need to do is ask, wonder, and theorize, about what is happening to our moral character as a state and as a nation when so many of our citizens, especially your youth, are preoccupied with the consumption of beer and other alcoholic beverages.

What is in the minds of parents who allow their teenage children, who knowingly drink, to drive an automobile? Is it so difficult for such parents and teenagers to realize that for many of them the consumption of beer and whiskey is simply the first step toward the use of addictive drugs?

The Bible warns us in the book of Leviticus 10:9 "Do not drink wine nor strong drink . . . lest ye die . . ." In spite of this warning and numerous others we appear to be hell-bent on drinking and driving until we find death, our own or someone else's.

Parents, teenagers, ministers, teachers and counselors, it is time to reassess our behavior, attitudes and moral character so that we can stop the senseless drinking, loss of life, wasted productive minds and

the spiritual decay that is occurring within us. It is past time to act on this vital issue for the benefit of our youth today and our state and nation tomorrow.

Senator Helms Hypocrisy

To no one's surprise, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said that he may resort to a filibuster to delay Senate passage of a bill making Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

While admitting that there is no evidence to support his allegation that King was a communist, Helms nevertheless charged that the slain civil rights leader practiced "action-oriented Marxism." Such allegations are typically characteristic of the ultra-conservatives' views in our nation's foreign policy. That is, American should, and too often does, support repressive dictatorial governments of any type as long as they claim to be anti-communist. The Marcos "presidency" in the Philippines is just one example.

While Helms might be admired for his courage in opposing a strongly favored measure to honor a deserving true American, especially before an election year, he has demonstrated that he is a hypocrite, has no understanding of the politics of compromise, and gives reason for people to believe he's a racist.

Helms' hypocrisy arises from his sudden decision to abandon the filibuster of the King bill after being told by other Republicans that his failure to compromise might hurt passage of a tobacco bill that would benefit N.C. farmers. Thus, while Helms was claiming he would not abandon his beliefs in exchange for a few votes, that is exactly what he

did.

Significantly too, Helms' support of the tobacco bill is "an act of hypocrisy because the bill is totally inconsistent with the Senator's philosophy on free-enterprise, capitalism. Helms thus shows he's a man without principle.

Political Process

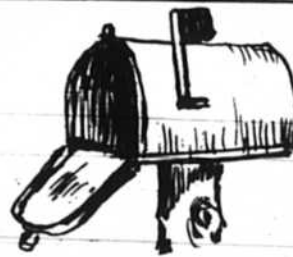
Another mixed dimension about the election is the report that blacks may play a dominant role in swing election in areas where 20 percent or more of the voters are black. Yet, this has been said before but with only mixed results. The nearly 95 percent support by blacks in 1980 for Jimmy Carter in a losing cause, some fear may renew the political apathy historically common among black voters. You, the black voters in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, must rise above that kind of defeatist attitude and demonstrate to other Blacks and Whites that you will not be deterred in your continuing quest for full participation in the American political process.

No one, we repeat, no one is going to make it easy for blacks, other minorities or just plain John Doe American to secure a share of the better part of wealth and prosperity of this nation.

BE APART OF THE NEW AWARENESS



Letters To The Editor:



Kilgo's Column Misses Point

Dear Mr. Bill Johnson: I would like to respond to John Kilgo's recent column "Charlotte Primary Was A Real Yawner" in the October 5 Weekly West.

First of all his comment "...Harvey Gantt has made it pretty clear since the primary that he doesn't like Ed Peacock" is for the birds. Of course, this is merely his opinion backed by nothing. Perhaps Mr. Gantt does not agree on Peacock's policies but to say that he doesn't like Mr. Peacock is to diminish the mayoral race to a kiddie battle of insults.

Mr. Kilgo knocked District Representation like Larry Holmes knocked Jerry Cooney. He forgot one of the most important reasons prompting District Representation: to make sure black citizens have an equal chance of being elected. To blame low voter turn-out on District Representation is a sorry excuse for apathetic voters. Even with all the media coverage of the candidates I still had a friend to tell me after the election that he did not know it was time for a primary.

I found it interesting and exciting that Gantt filed a discrimination suit against Clemson University and was therefore able to attend it. This at least gives me the impression that he has the spunk to take the necessary action for justice.

If people would only read they would find out that our politicians are not as "bland" as Mr. Kilgo makes them out to be.

As for Mr. Kilgo's comments that "Bob Walton knows how to laugh...he ought to give his cohorts a lesson in how to relax and Bob's the kind of guy who'll prop his feet up in public"...that's fine, for Mr. Kilgo, and anyone else who enjoys a smiling Negro.

But for my vote I want a serious person who is not so relaxed because he or she

wants to make those positive changes for a better community. I do not want to see the bottom of Mr. Walton's shoes; instead, I want a generous, effective and polite politician who will get to the bottom of our (Charlotte's) problems and solve them to the best of his or her ability.

Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for publishing this paper. It gives me the opportunity to respond. The Post is truly "The Voice of the Black Community."

Sincerely,
Tish Burnette

Thanks For Bright News

Dear Editor:

I'm glad I have the opportunity to thank you for some "bright news" concerning the sports world. Most reporters seem to think people want to hear about people like Tony Peters who was recently suspended without pay for possession of drugs.

I realize these factors can't be brushed under the rug; however, must they be elaborated on? Apparently you don't think so. I agree with you. Without your column, few in this area would have any idea of what is happening with CIAA contenders. They get very little coverage by other newspapers and television

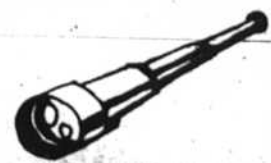
stations in the city. Even locally based Johnson C. Smith University gets little attention.

There are thousands of people from various colleges living in Mecklenburg who graduated from or attended CIAA schools. They deserve to know what is happening with their schools' sports as much as the graduates at Duke, UNC-Charlotte, etc. deserve to know what is happening with their teams.

Thank-you for realizing this factor and giving well-deserving CIAA schools some attention.

Sincerely,
J.P.

WITH SABRINA JOHNSON



SCOPE



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Equal Pay

"Equal Pay For Equal Jobs". That is a common comment made by women in the work force. This does not mean that women want to wear "the pants" but merely paid equally for doing the same or substantially similar work. The 1963 Equal Pay Act was supposed to insure this right for working women, however, unfortunately this act has had no great bearings on women's earnings. Full-time year around women workers earn only 59 percent of what men earn. Civil Rights Acts and the Equal Pay Act have not narrowed the gap, henceforth it is wider today than in 1955 — which was 64 percent.

Women in the working world face many problems — namely the problem of pay or lack of it. The majority of women work because of economic need whether they are single, divorced, widowed or with husbands earning less than \$15,000 — all must work. These women are 47 million strong — that is 15 million more than in 1971. In 1981, 43 percent of all workers were women. Black women made up 49 percent of the black labor force and white women 42 percent of the white labor force. This increase in working women is due to nearly equal labor force participation rates for women during the 1970s.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor — Women's Bureau (1982), women with 4 or more years of college earned about the same as men with only one to three years of high school (\$12,085 and \$11,936, respectively). Full time working women with high school diplomas earned the same income as men who had not completed elementary school (\$12,332 and \$12,866, respectively). Traditionally women are concentrated in low paying dead end jobs and earn only about three-fifths (59 percent) of the average man.

Women continue to occupy a large portion of traditional jobs such as secretary, nurse, retail sales clerk, seamstress and teacher. However this trend is changing. Within the last seven years women have pushed their ways into business, law, medicine (as doctors), newscasting, and reporting, and everything in between even construction workers.

A large portion of households in the United States are maintained by women — one out of six in 1982. Of all races 9,712,000 (16 percent) families were maintained by women. Of that number 6,878,000 (13 percent) were white women, 2,646,000 (41 percent) were black women and 778,000 (23 percent) were of Hispanic origin women. These statistics are strong enough to make the president and presidential hopefuls take notice of the importance of working women and women's issues.

Women, especially black women are very important staples in the current society. Not only are they making major accomplishments in the business world, they are taking over. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) is one of the tools used by working women in accomplishing equal pay for equal work.

AFSCME has been instrumental in filing pay equity/comparable worth class action suits in the states of Connecticut, Washington, Wisconsin and Hawaii and against the cities of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Chicago. These states and cities have been found in violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act for paying female employees in female job classifications lower wages. Politicians react and will sway elections because, if one is not concerned with women's issues, the why should women vote for him!

The average working woman is as well educated or better educated than her male counterpart. More educated women seek paid employment more readily than non-educated women. She can expect to spend 27.7 years of her life working. She is educated, motivated, competitive and demanding, so why should not her issues play an important part in elections on all levels. And why should she not push for equal pay, after all it is women who are responsible for shaping leaders.

Hart Says "No" To War Powers Compromise

Washington - Senator Gary Hart, (D-Colo.), said that he is "unwilling to give the President a free hand" with American involvement in Beirut, Lebanon and voted against compromise legislation.

"I cannot support the so-called 'compromise' War Powers Resolution. It is a truly dubious compromise at best. The President maintains it does not implement the War Powers Act. Secretary Shultz has made it clear that the Administration can expand, prolong or change our military involvement in Lebanon, regardless of the wishes of Congress. "The likelihood that we could get into much more

serious problems in Lebanon is great. Today's vote essentially gives the President unlimited authority for a year and a half to increase the size of the military forces. The President could easily involve these forces in military conflict and cause American casualties or the loss of lives.

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From Capitol Hill

Black Caucus Weekend Victimized

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post Superstition deems 13 an unlucky number. Yet, in many respects the Congressional Black Caucus' 13th legislative weekend was an overwhelming success. For its press coverage and the press in general, number 13 was a colossal disaster.

The New Times and Washington Post gave great coverage to Jesse Jackson and the Post style section followed Congressman Charles Rangel around and did an extensive story on him. The wonderful workshops, Ninety Eight Congressional Black Caucus accomplishments, and the challenging speeches were ignored.

This was the first that the press was so badly handled. In previous years, the press has always been either given dinner tickets or they have been fed separately. There have been times when the press dinner has been underwritten by local businesses. Press members who were allowed to attend the awards dinner, had to stand in the back of the ballroom. No seats were provided for them. No transcripts of the speeches, or any material on the workshops were available in the press room. The only materials that could be gotten from the press room were the Caucus Biography books



Alfreda L. Madison and the program schedules. Press members were asked to write in ahead of time requesting people with whom they would like to interview. No interviews were arranged. Many of the press members walked out of the ballroom and expressed the idea that they would not attempt to cover another Caucus weekend unless better arrangements are made for the press.

This reporter has covered, even One Thousand Dollar Plate dinners and the press is always served in an adjoining room, they are free to attend the receptions, preceding the dinner and chairs are provided them in the dining room. The Caucus aims and accomplishments are only made known to the people through the press. So improvements will have to be made for press members or their works and goals will be a well-kept secret. Because of popular de-

mand the Caucus increased its workshop time from one day to three days. There were around 30 workshops, centering on issues that are peculiar to poor and minorities.

The Unemployment Workshop stressed awareness of the economic plight of blacks during World War II, black unemployment was almost twice that of whites. Now it's two and a half times that of whites with 56 percent black youth unemployment. The group was urged to pressure their senators and the White House to push for passage of the Hawkins Community Renewal Employment Act.

The Minority Business Workshop, chaired by Parren Mitchell, emphasized the obstacles black businesses are now facing from this Administration. New business opportunities were stressed with ventures into the international market.

Ronald Dellums, chaired the Military Workshop. It was shown that President Reagan's nuclear control (asking for a verifiable treaty) hides the fact that some weapons are impossible to verify. Dellums says peace is not the absence of nuclear weapons, but the absence of conditions that cause war. Workshop attendants were urged to give strength to their weak Congress members who only act from

constituent pressure to halt this insane, immoral military build-up. In the next month Mr. Dellums, who is second to none in the knowledge of the world military phobia, is coming out with a book, "Defense Sense: The Search For a Rational Military Policy." The workshops covered every phase of American economic, social and political life. The workshop attendants expressed that they learned a great deal and that they received valuable hints on just how they can go back home and make valuable contributions to improvements in the American ways of life.

Caucus Chairman Julian Dixon enumerated the Caucus' 98th Congress successes. They were: House passage of the King Birthday Holiday, having 75 percent of the Caucus alternative budget placed in the Democratic Budget plan, a six-month extension of unemployment benefits, CBC provision in the International Monetary Fund bill requiring opposition to loans to South Africa, five year extension of Civil Rights Commission, 10 percent set aside for minority business federal government contracts, new fair housing legislation, Hawkins Community Renewal Employment Act, and funding for effective domestic programs to undo damage from the Reagan revolution.

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