

editorials & comments

Vote For Your Future

Once again we are approaching the time when responsible, concerned citizens should be prepared to cast their votes for the candidates of their choice from mayor to council members at-large, to others at the district level. Once again also, but with considerably more emphasis from the charisma of Jesse Jackson and the efforts of the Voter Education Task Force, more blacks and more whites have registered to vote.

Taking their cues from the candidates, The Post and the other media have clearly laid out the issues - growth management, transportation, fiscal responsibility, taxes, neighborhood development, uptown revitalization, and public-private relationships - for your careful study and analysis. Now, it is up to you, the voters, to act with your votes

to determine which way and by what method Charlotte will move and lay a foundation for entering the 21st century.

Consistent with our policy over the past half dozen years, we offer no candidates for endorsement. We believe we have offered you varied opinions on the issues in a fair, objective, balanced and accurate way and we don't need to clutter your minds with our opinions on specific candidates. As a community newspaper, we have done our part, now it's your turn to tell us, tell the candidates, what you the citizens, the taxpayers, want and expect through your votes. It's your home, your neighborhood, your tax dollar, and your city, so you decide by voting your convictions on election day - November 8. VOTE, VOTE and VOTE.

Vote "Yes" On Bonds

Along with the election of a new mayor and City Council on November 8, you, the voters, will be asked to support \$92.9 million in city and county bonds. The bonds are for water, sewer and street improvements, court facilities, library expansions, flood control facilities, sanitary landfill, CPCC, a garbage-to-energy incinerator, and county government office space.

The \$92.2 million bond package is a staggering sum of money, but it's for vital and important needs. A broad-based citizens' committee studied the needs for many months and recommended the improvements through bonds. Significantly, while property and intangible taxes, ABC revenues, water and sewer fees and interest income from capital funds will be used to pay off the bonds, there will be no tax increases to pay for the bonds.

In specific terms, it has been more than 20 years since the library requested public support in a bond referendum. That fact in itself considering population growth and related matters should clearly show why a library expansion is necessary. The \$9.3 million bond issue will allow for expansion of the Tryon Street Main Library branch, the construction of a new branch in the Hickory Grove community and expansion of the Matthews library branch. With substantially increased use, the LaSalle Street library branch might have been in the bond package. Included in the "street im-

provements" bond referendum is money to widen Parkwood Ave. partly around Optimist Park. This will help to retain the neighborhood character of Optimist Park, an issue of great concern to the residents of the area. Included with these "improvements" also will be sidewalks at a cost of \$1.5 million. Significantly, the building of these sidewalks will be at locations directly suggested by citizens and organizations. All sites were evaluated and ranked in priority.

The Central Piedmont Community College \$2 million bond will be used for the purchase of both new and replacement instructional equipment for many of the departments at the institution. Considering the quality education that thousands of Charlotteans and others from near-by areas receive at CPCC, including many, many blacks, this bond issue is a worthwhile investment.

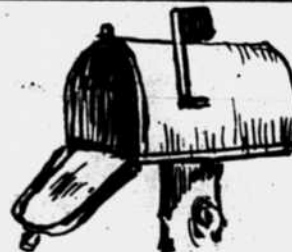
It is a widely known fact that our county court facilities are inadequate to meet our judicial needs for the timely processing of court cases. Therefore, the \$11.1 million court system facilities bonds for additions to the Mecklenburg County Courthouse, the renovation of 70,000 square feet of space in the County Courthouse and Court-house Annex, and a new parking facility.

These and other bond issues are important and necessary for the orderly growth of our city in a healthy and safe manner.

NOW IF THE BLACKS WANT POWER - THEY WILL HAVE TO GET IT THROUGH THE BALLOT BOX.



Letters To The Editor:



WPAC Announces Endorsements

To The Editor:

The Charlotte National Organization for Women Political Action Committee sent questionnaires to all candidates in the mayoral and city council races. These questionnaires covered issues of broad concern to women (i.e., ERA, productive

choice) as well as local issues (housing, day care, minority and female participation in bidding for city contracts, candidates' perception of the major issues facing Charlotte).

Based on the responses to our questionnaire and our knowledge of the candidates' records, the Charlotte NOW PAC makes the following recommendations.

For mayor, we endorse Harvey Gantt (D). We believe that he will be an excellent mayor for the city of Charlotte.

In the at-large city council races, we give our full support to Minnette Troesch (R). Ms. Troesch has demonstrated a good grasp of the issues and has worked hard on those of particular importance to women. We consider her to be the best of the candidates running for city council at-large. Our preferences among the other at-large candidates are for Ed Harris (D) and Bob Davis (D). We did not receive a response from Willie Stratford.

In District 1, the choice is clear: Pam Patterson (D). She has shown sensitivity in her questionnaire response and in her work on City Council. We recommend Charlie Dannelly (D) in District 2. In District 3, our choice is Ron Leeper (D) who has been a perceptive and hardworking Councilman. In District 6, we recommend Evan Web-

ster (D). His position on issues of concern to women is excellent. In District 7, our choice is Nell Fisher (D). Candidates in District 4 (Laura Frech) and District 5 (Ann Hammond) are running unopposed.

We urge you to vote on Tuesday, November 8th.

Sincerely,
Rick Deitchman for the Charlotte NOW PAC

Vote "Yes" For Court Facilities Bonds

Dear Editor:

We strongly urge all citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to vote yes for Court Facilities Bonds on November 8.

For the past 12 months, the Citizens Criminal Justice Commission has been studying the Mecklenburg County Court System. We were asked to serve on this commission because we had no vested interests. We are not lawyers or judges or employees of the system. We have looked at the problems closely, carefully and objectively. We are unanimous in our conclusion that the system is not working efficiently, and that significant improvement must be made. Our citizens expect reasonable protection of life and property, and every person is entitled to a fair trial and justice.

A major problem for the

courts is the inadequacy of their physical facilities. There is simply not enough space, and the arrangement is not designed for the present complement of people or flow of work. The volume of work has increased dramatically - due to the increase in crime and lawsuits, new laws, and the growth of our population. Our commission believes the working conditions in these facilities are intolerable and there is no way our court personnel can work efficiently under these conditions.

Please, vote "Yes" on November 8 for all the bonds, and especially for Court System Facilities Bonds.

Citizens Criminal Justice Committee
J.A. Tate Jr., Chairman
Rolf Neill
Harriet A. "Sis" Kaplan
The Rev. Leon Riddick
Dr. Jay Robinson



Editor's Note - Scope will return to this space next week.

Symbol Or Substance

By Charles G. Adams

In these lean days of economic deprivation, there is a tendency to deprecate symbols, ridiculing them for their seeming lack of substance or practical gain. However, an important dimension of being human is the capacity to create symbols and respond to symbolic words and things. Only a human being knows the difference between holy water and drinking water, between a sanctuary and an auditorium, between a rag and a flag.

We are pleased that Congress demonstrated its knowledge of the difference between just another human being and a bonafide prophet and martyr, Martin Luther King Jr., by establishing a paid federal holiday to celebrate his birth. The only other American to be so highly honored is George Washington. Lincoln's birthday is not a legal holiday, and Columbus was not an American but an Italian explorer.

So many, great Black heroes and heroines have done their work and laid down their lives and then passed into obscurity, that it gratifies us to know now that Martin Luther King Jr. will not be forgotten. Hundreds of years hence, when we and our children and their children shall have marched off the map of history, unborn generations of Americans will ask, "What does this holiday mean? Who was Martin Luther King Jr? What did he do to merit such long and perpetual commemoration?"

Then the story will be told of his birth and parentage in Atlanta in 1929, and the strength and love in black family life will be honored. They will speak of his religious beliefs. They will tell of how King enhanced American law and improved the awareness of the American public at the expense of personal safety with courage and truth. Others will say that his light still shines, that his words still inspire.

We must remember that many who deeply abhor the meaning of Martin's message and holiday bill are the same ones who also passed a bill for the MX missile and other dreadful instruments of war. That same Congress has curtailed budgetary outlays for health and human services. President Reagan did reluctantly agree to sign the bill with one hand while clinging to the other hand. His heart is not in it. Someone said, "I only wish he felt in his heart what he will write with his hand." The political fear of growing black voter registration and participation has produced what the love for justice and equality could not yield.

Who cares whether he means it or not? The very fact that he doesn't mean it is a clear witness and a tremendous tribute to the political strength and persuasion of the black voter. It ought to awaken and encourage unregistered blacks to register and vote. The love of politicians is not necessary; but their respect and fear must be won by those who wield the vote.

From Capitol Hill

Marines Described As "Sitting Ducks"

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post
The dictionary defines patriotic as love and defense of one's country. President Reagan has referred to the Marines who were placed in Lebanon, in a vulnerable target position, being described by some as "sitting ducks," as doing their patriotic duty. Americans are not Lebanese, so why risk their lives in a civil war with several Lebanese factions fighting each other?

When the Republicans were meeting to effect the 1980 platform, former Senator Jacob Javits said, "We and our European allies must control the trade routes to the Persian Gulf." The Senator told this reporter that control of the trade routes were necessary so we could control the oil there, instead of the Soviets. Is putting our Marines in Lebanon part of a sneaky plan to obtain oil in that region? Perhaps the labelled terrorists who killed the French soldiers and our Marines had that in mind. The French have a vital interest in the region's oil, so the Italian and British forces were not harmed.

President Reagan committed 1,200 Marines to Lebanon - more than 200 have been killed and around 100 wounded. The President says we will not let terrorists run us out. Is



Alfreda L. Madison

it compassion for the Administration and Congress, none of whom have sons among the 1,200, to consign the Marines to inevitable death to support these American leaders' bullishness or to gain oil control for American oil barons? Mr. Reagan must do some clear, true explaining to the American public.

After the first six Marines were killed, Congress went into action - calling up the 1973 War Powers Act, which limits U.S. troop involvement in war beyond 60 days without the consent of Congress. The Administration wanting no limitations put on its actions, so it began to lobby the people of Congress until the majority of both houses agreed to give the President the privilege of keeping American troops there for 18 months. Many Congress persons argued that we were already engaged in war.

Senator Hollings stated, "American citizens serving in the armed forces of this nation have been interjected into a hostile and threatening environment.

American citizens are involved in fighting, the wounded, the dying, American dead are listed as killed in action, wounded in action and the Marines are receiving combat pay."

In commenting on the recent Marine tragedy, Senator Hollings urges the President to "1. get the U.S. troops out of their present position of vulnerability, 2. replacing the entire peace-keeping force on board ship off shore."

Senator Kennedy, referred to the Marines as a "terrorists Pearl Harbor in the Middle East. The Administration must answer whether it has a plan which within a reasonable period, envisions a settlement in Lebanon or the withdrawal of our Marines."

Representative William Clay said, "The tragic situation of our brave, young men being murdered in their sleep necessitates our withdrawal. The initial purpose for the Marines being in Lebanon was to keep the peace. There was a possibility of a negotiated peace, but we took sides with the Christians. There are several different factions in Lebanon with several different wars

going there."

Representative William Gray, whose resolution to get the "Marines out of Lebanon in 60 days was defeated when the War Powers Act was being discussed, said, "I was deeply shocked by the loss of life." He said he realized the Marines could not be protected at the airport, when he was in Lebanon four months before the tragedy occurred. Gray said, "The U.S. has two options: 1. increase the troops, 2. withdraw the Marines and place them with the U.N. Forces."

Representative John Conyers said, "We must withdraw the Marines because we are facing a no-win situation."

Congressman Walter Fauntroy said, "I'm deeply saddened and outraged at the savage act. Ever since this nation, PLO and Begin government refused to seek peace through nonviolence, the situation had been disastrous. It is ironic that in the week that the country paid tribute to the Prophet of Nonviolence, two beastly acts occurred in Lebanon and Grenada. We've sown to the wind and we've reaped the whirlwind."

All 21 members of the Congressional Black Caucus voted against giving the President the privilege of keeping Marines in Lebanon.

Crime Prevention

There was a time when front doors could be left open without fear of robbery. But just in the past decade bolt locks, sticks and many other security items are used to keep thieves out.

One program initiated in 1979 entitled the Mecklenburg County Crime Prevention Association, has merged the caring attitudes of neighboring individuals to provide safer home environments.

The next meeting of the Mecklenburg County Crime Prevention Association, which covers all of Mecklenburg County except the city of Charlotte, will be held Thursday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the United Community Services Auditorium, 301 Brevard St. Meetings are held each quarter according to William M. Sims Jr. Program Chairman.

"We are hoping that at least two members from each community crime prevention program will attend," Sims commented. "Everyone is invited, however...the whole neighborhood is invited."

The idea for the crime prevention association came from the Mecklenburg County Police Department. "People were seeing that their neigh-

bors' homes were being broken into. The police would ask the leader to get at least 75 percent of the neighbors together for a meeting. They tell you how to secure your home, how to mark your property with your driver's license

number with an engraving tool. Then police even lent us the tools for about four weeks until each neighbor had a chance to use it." If items are stolen from the home, police have only to contact Raleigh to check driver's license numbers for the rightful owners' names.

"Basically the program is the same in each community." Sims lives between Cornelius and Huntersville. "Watching out for your neighbors. My neighbors pick up my mail and newspapers for me when I am out of town. There are also signs at the entrance and exit of the community with the warning that we have a crime prevention association," Sims concluded.



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| THE CHARLOTTE POST | |
| "THE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER" | |
| Established 1918 | |
| Published Every Thursday | |
| by The Charlotte Post Publishing Co., Inc. | |
| Subscription Rate \$17.68 Per Year | |
| Second Class Postage No. 965500 | |
| Postmaster Send 3579s To: | |
| 1531 Camden Rd., Charlotte, N.C. 28203 | |
| Telephone: 704-376-0496 | |
| Circulation 11,023 | |
| 106 Years of Continuous Service | |
| Bill Johnson | Editor, Publisher |
| Bernard Reeves | General Manager |
| Fran Farrer | Advertising Director |
| Dannette Gaither | Office Manager |
| Second Class Postage No. 965500 Paid at | |
| Charlotte, North Carolina | |
| 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. | |
| 2400 S. Michigan Ave. | 45 W. 45th St., Suite 1493 |
| Chicago, Ill. 60616 | New York, New York 10036 |
| Columet 5-0200 | 212-489-1220 |