

editorials

& comments

Gantt Faces Strong Challenges

The day following his historic election as mayor of the nation's 47th largest city, Harvey Gantt said, "Throughout my term as your mayor, quality will be the watchword. I want to enhance our quality of life, our quality of jobs, our quality of neighborhoods...and the quality of our relationships with one another."

While probably not aware of Mr. Gantt's comment, yet reflecting a part of the challenge the new mayor faces, a resident of Earle Village said, "I don't need a better job. I need a job. Is Harvey Gantt going to do anything?" This is a question that will undoubtedly be in the minds of many black Charlotteans. The reason behind such thinking is the unrealistic assumption that simply because the City now has a mayor who is black that he can and should suddenly change the quality and opportunity in their lives.

While Mayor-elect Gantt, as might any other mayor whose election enhances the prestige of his city and his vision encourages the in-migration of business and industry, will mean new jobs for some, few will have the perception to relate such jobs to the personal efforts of the mayor. Ironically, too, it is doubtful that any of the new jobs would be within the skill level of the citizen asking what will Harvey Gantt do.

Nevertheless, since local government can and does impact upon the daily lives of its citizens, a mayor, and quite possibly a black mayor, can heavily influence how government touches their lives.

Gantt's challenge is a signal to the citizens of our city that

working, playing and cooperating together we can collectively improve the quality of life within our city for all citizens to some degree.

This too poses a challenge to Mr. Gantt because elected officials tend to give their energies and support issues of those most responsible for electing him to office. In this regard, the black community cast very few votes for two of the three at-large Republican City Council members. Mayor-elect Gantt should not be expected to overcome this challenge alone. Members of the black community must offer vocal support and by their presence at City Council meetings let it be known to the full City Council what their concerns and desires are.

In Mayor-elect Gantt's commitment to "quality" as his watchword, he offers himself a challenge in stating a goal to be the kind of mayor who can bring the diverse elements of the city together in order to promote "quality." This is indeed a challenge considering the variety of interests and levels of emphasis that may occur among and between the rich and poor, young and old, Republican and Democrats, neighborhoods and developers, and blacks and whites.

We have made these observations in the aftermath of the hoopla surrounding the excitement in Harvey Gantt's election in an effort to remind us that the work, the challenge, the opportunity and the pitfalls of the Gantt Administration must be shared by all citizens if we hope to continue the effort in moving Charlotte from being a good city to a great city.

Black Caucus Needs Policy Direction

We were dismayed to learn that four days before the November 8 general elections that the 50-odd member Black Political Caucus had not reached a decision on who or whether the group should endorse candidates. The issue underlying the delay was involved with whether to endorse an all-black slate, a slate with black and white candidates, Republicans and Democrats or no candidates at all.

It appears to us that the division along these lines that delayed the eventual endorsements demonstrates that the Caucus does not have a clearly defined policy on endorsements.

If the Caucus expects to be

ascended to the level of a dynamic political force in the political community in general and the black political community in particular, it needs to pause now to develop a policy on endorsements. We might add that any policy that proposes to endorse only black candidates or only Democratic candidates will render the Caucus a useless, bigoted, narrow-minded organization that has out-lived its usefulness in the City of Charlotte.

It is past time for the Black Political Caucus to reassess its mission and to begin to offer some meaningful, non-partisan political leadership on an ongoing basis.

"IF THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PROTECT US AND THE POLICE CANNOT, IT FOLLOWS THAT BLACK CITIZENS MUST PROTECT THEMSELVES."

"WE CANNOT WAIT UNTIL DISCRIMINATION ENDS BEFORE WE RID OUR COMMUNITIES OF CRIME. WE CAN NO LONGER EXCUSE CRIME BECAUSE OF SOCIETY'S INEQUITIES. WE STAND MENACED BY OUR OWN KITH AND KIN. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT WE WHO HAVE PREVAILED IN SPITE OF THE BARBARISM OF WHITE PEOPLE SHOULD, IN THE LAST QUARTER OF THE CENTURY, STAND AS MUTE SPECTATORS TO OUR DOOM."

ORDE COOMBS  
N.Y. MAGAZINE



BLACK'S DESTINY IN OWN HANDS....

Optimists To Hear Donald Hand

Donald J. Hand of San Antonio, TX, President of Optimist International will visit the newly established North Carolina Central District Friday night, November 18.

A practicing attorney, Hand has been a member of the Optimist Club of San Antonio for 20 years, and has served as a Representative to the Texas Legislature. President Hand will be officially representing Optimist International, an organization of more than 3,700 men's civic service clubs in North America. Now in its 65th year, the organization membership totals more than 145,000 men.

The North Carolina Central District of Optimist International is governed by Charlotte Attorney Ralph Dougherty. The District is comprised of 54 clubs located in a band that stretches from Charlotte and Rockingham northward to the Greensboro and Winston-Salem area. Included in this number are six black clubs in the city of Charlotte.

These clubs and their presidents are: East Charlotte (Gordon Boulevard), Hidden Valley (Odel Witherspoon), Hornets Nest (James Davidson), Northeast Charlotte (Roderick Lewis), Southwest Charlotte (Alvin Woods) and West Charlotte (Frank Pharr). The Weddington Club in Waxhaw, NC is a mixed club with a black president, Eddie Wallace.

Local optimist clubs sponsor activities such as the Carolinas Golden Gloves, Mecklenburg County Pop Warner Football League, Oratorical Contests, Youth Appreciation Week, and numerous other youth and community service projects. Contact Jasper D. Forbes, 704-597-1502, West Mecklenburg Optimist Club, for further details.

Davidson Participates In Southeastern Meeting

Davidson, NC - Three Davidson College faculty members and 12 students and recent graduates participated in the 35th Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society held last week at the Civic Center and Radisson Plaza Hotel in Charlotte.

Davidson's faculty and students were among 580 persons invited to present research papers at the week-long meeting, which attracted more than 1,200 participants.

Faculty members who presented papers are Dr. Felix A. Carroll and Dr. Merlyn Shuh, both associate professors of chemistry, and former visiting assistant professor of chemistry Dr. John A. Mackay III.

Participating students were David M. Lincoln, Lynmarie A. Posey, J. Rene Herlong and Jeffrey R. Knudson.

Recent graduates included Kevin R. Pressley, Carie K. Nunn, Michael S. Ameen, Warren F. Beck, Kenneth S. Manning, Elinos A. Whitlock, David K.

Green, and Joseph C. Sloop. Dr. James M. Frederickson, chemistry professor and chairman of Davidson's premedical department, served as general chairman of the regional meeting and Dr. Carroll served as program chairman.

..Raleigh - Representative Ruth M. Easterling of Mecklenburg County has been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey as co-chairman of a continuing study of the problems and needs of women in North Carolina.

The Legislative Research Commission study will continue the work done earlier by a study group created in 1981. It will examine "the entire range of the economic, social and legal problems and needs of the women of North Carolina."

Mrs. Easterling, a Charlotte businesswoman, is chairman of the House Governmental Ethics Committee.

Trend To Continue Towards Greater Sexual Freedom?

By Loretta Manago  
Post Staff Writer

"What do the coming decades hold for us in the realm of intimacy between boy and girl, man and woman?"

"In the first place the trend toward greater freedom in sexual relationships, in adolescents and adults is likely to continue, whether this direction frightens us or not.

"By the year 2000 it will be quite feasible to insure that there will be no children in a union. Also by that time computerized matching of prospective partners will be far more sophisticated than it is today and will be of great help to an individual in finding a congenial companion for the opposite sex.

"Some of the temporary unions, thus formed, may be legalized as a type of marriage - with no permanent commitment, with no children - no legal accusations, no necessity for showing legal cause and no alimony.

"It is becoming increasingly clear that a man-woman relationship will have permanence only to the degree to which it satisfies the emotional, psychological, intellectual and physical needs of the partners."

Certainly the above view expressed by noted psychotherapist, Carl Rogers, author of Becoming Partners: Marriage And Its Alternative presents a radical deviation from marriage as it now exists.

In light of Rogers' future diagnosis of marriage, the conventional marriage that involves a man and woman who unite because of common interests such as sex, economics, child-rearing, security, companionship, love, or social pressure will be placed under a strenuous test.

According to Dr. Lawrence Casler, professor of Psychology at the State University of New York and the author of Is Marriage Necessary, conventional marriages are facing this test, not sometime in the distant future, but now!

"Because of the extensive changes between now and an earlier day in nearly every aspect of life - widespread industrialization, reliable contraceptives, increased lifespans, compulsory education, changes in residential patterns... marriage appears to be losing its grip."

Although not totally supportive of Casler's statements the statistics on marriage licenses issued in Mecklenburg County standing at 2,579 do lean in that direction. According to Debra Martin of the Registers and Deeds office

that number represents a decline in the number of marriage licenses that were granted the same time last year.

What has contributed to "the breakdown of the idea of the picture-book marriage in our society has not come from institutional demands such as child-rearing and economics, but rather from a breakdown of the centered relationship people have come to expect to be at the heart of a marriage." Completing this premise David Sammons, a minister of St. John's Unitarian Church in Cincinnati and author of The Marriage Option, asserted, "In a society which places such a high value on love and romance and which now tolerates alternatives to lifelong monogamy, it is not surprising that merely the functional responsibilities of marriages are no longer able to keep many families together."

These "alternatives" to lifelong matrimony are being sought by people who find the conventional monogamy relationship too rigid or outmoded. Casler discussed two of these "alternatives." They are 1) modified monogamy and 2) non-monogamous matrimony. Under the category of modified monogamy there are several types - the first of which is the non-exclusive monogamy. In this arrangement a man and a woman are married to each other, but are under no obligation to refrain from sexual (or other) relationships with other persons.

Next is child-free monogamy. This marital situation is similar to the conventional marriage, but minus the child-rearing function.

In the contractual monogamy the marriage is recognized as a civil contract. As such the relationship could be terminated without recourse to complicated legal or religious procedures, or unseemly accusations.

Trial marriage, commonly known as "shacking," involves a couple living together for as long as they wished, or for a stipulated period of time, after which they either separate or become married in the conventional sense.

Also included in non-exclusive monogamy is quaternary marriage. This set-up involves two married couples and their offspring living together with the goals of companionship and division of labor. Mate swapping may or may not occur.

Last to be mentioned under this non-exclusive monogamy are the three generation family which includes a married couple, their offspring and the couple's parents.

In non-monogamous matrimony polygamy, group marriages and communes are representative of this type.

It may be thought that with so many options available to marriage the "sacred institution" may be considerably damaged. On the contrary, Sammons interjected this idea:

"The existence of all of these other options, however does not diminish the value and worth of marriage. In fact since no one has to be married to be accepted in society, the option of marriage becomes more accepted in society; the option of marriage becomes more meaningful than ever."

References: Casler, Lawrence: "Is Marriage Necessary?", New York: Human Science Press, 1974.

..Rogers, Carl R.: "Becoming Partners: Marriage and its Alternatives." New York: Delacorte Press, 1972.

..Sammons, Davis: "The Marriage Option," Boston: Beacon Press, 1977.

House Of Charles

Continued From Page 1A which the company practically dominated at one time.

Presently, the administrators at The House of Charles are more interested in franchising. "We're more interested in franchising to help other people who are interested in starting this type of business," Williams acknowledged.

Besides business interests, however, Williams believes in supporting the community with efforts such as the Achievement Awards Banquet. "We hear all the time blacks do not support black businesses. Ninety-nine percent of my business is black and through this banquet I want the people to recognize the positive aspects. The House of Charles also contributes scholarships."

City Of Charlotte

Continued From Page 1A With approval of the bonds, there will probably be more City projects than there have been in the past years.

Wallace, who has coordinated the program for 2 1/2 years stated he has seen some improvement in soliciting minority contractors; however, the numbers are still relatively low. A conference for bidders on City construction projects was held today.

No cost is required for attending the conference and refreshments will be served. McDonald's Cafeteria is located at I-85 and Beatties Ford Road. For more information about the M-WBE conference, contact George Wallace at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Office, 374-2424.

From Capitol Hill

News Suppression Wrong For Russia

Alfreda L. Madison Special To The Post The Reagan Administration appears greatly in need of psychological treatment, to rid it of its Soviet hysteria, which is translated into "gunboat" foreign policy. All internal and external problems of foreign countries around the world, this Administration attributes to communist intervention. This causes our nation to immediately find some reason for military support. We are rapidly becoming a heartless, inhumane blood-bathing country.

We are exposing our boys to wide open fire, without any protection in Lebanon. In Grenada, they are accidentally killing our own Marines, firing on hospitals, and killing the sick. Then the President talks about their heroism. Does killing one's own fellow soldiers and bombing hospitals make a soldier a hero? The President needs to fire either the commanders in both Lebanon and Grenada for allowing these incidents to occur. Also Secretary of Defense Weinberger should be called into question by both the President and Congress to give full account of the atrocious acts. Our boys are being taught that life is only valuable unless it's one's own. Speakes, a Marine wounded in Grenada said that he found being



Alfreda L. Madison

in the battles in Grenada adventurous. He says that he is anxious to return so he can get in his battle time. Perhaps the street murderers find killing adventurous also.

Condemnation of Russia's Afghanistan invasion and its suppression of the press have been greatly criticized by this country and the President. Yet, we are doing the same thing. All news about the Grenada invasion, for the first days, came from the Administration. The press, for the first time in American history, was prevented from going along with the armed forces to cover the news. The purpose of the press is to correctly report happenings to the public. The public has a right to know the truth. The Administration comes up with the phony idea of protecting the press. The real truth is protecting the American people from the opportunity to get the facts.

These actions have the White House correspondents fighting mad, because they are supposed to get true information from the White House press, instead they are getting incorrect information or trumped up excuses.

The Reagan Administration gave two reasons for the invasion: 1) request from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). However, two of the states abstained and four strongly condemned the invasion, 2) to protect American students. The President ignored assurance by the New Grenadian government, to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of the Medical University that the students would be in no danger. Canada had offered to get the students out of Grenada.

Jamaica, Dominica and the other OECS countries that asked the United States to invade Grenada, received greater portions of the Caribbean Basin appropriations than the other OECS countries. In all likelihood, their support was bought.

When Prime Minister Eugenia Charles of the 200,000 inhabitant Island of Dominica met with the Congressional Black Caucus, some of the members didn't show up, and of that number, three walked out. The Prime Minister said she didn't know blacks had

any problem with President Reagan. Representative Gus Savage, said on the House floor in speaking of Eugenia Charles, "I felt insulted by her deliberate misinterpretation in referring to article 8 of the OECS charter as giving legal authority for the U.S. invasion. That citation only confers the powers to coordinate the efforts of member states for collective defense and the preservation of peace and security against external aggression." Savage said the Prime Minister, "represents Aunt Jemima in geopolitics."

President Reagan gave misinformation to the American public, when he said on national television that the Grenada airport was being built by Cuba and Russia for military purpose, where Russian military planes will land and Cuban military planes can take off for Angola. He ignored the fact that some U.S. corporations, European countries and Canada, all contributed money for construction of the airport. General Crist, who served as a liaison person in the Caribbean, admitted that he was unable to say whether the airport could be used for military or tourism. Grenada is a beautiful country and many tourists go there.

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