

# Editorials

## Politics Requires More Than Courage

While two Republican Party mayoral candidates are seeking to stir up interest in the upcoming election by searching for some valid issues upon which to attack incumbent Mayor Harvey Gantt, a political newcomer has announced his candidacy, thus creating the need for a Democratic Party Primary.

The newcomer, James Baldwin, is 34 years old, unemployed, married to a Southern Bell employee and has two children. Democratic Party leaders were said to be surprised by Mr. Baldwin's announcement to oppose Mr. Gantt. The Post sees no reason to be surprised, in fact, Mr. Baldwin's primary election candidacy may in itself be a better measure of support for Mayor Gantt's bid for reelection than not having a need for a Democratic Party primary. We have come to this conclusion based on the weakness of Mr. Baldwin's political platform, or the lack of it.

Baldwin said, "I consider Mr. Gantt's politics the politics of a rich man's puppet." He criticized Mayor Gantt's role in delaying a decision on where to locate the proposed new coliseum and for his support of a

one percent payroll income tax and funds for the Tryon Street Mall.

However, Baldwin's primary election bid appears to have been ill-timed and ill-prepared. He could not specify a rich man with control over Mayor Gantt. Furthermore, Mr. Baldwin's political activity appears to have been limited to some work in the Jim Hunt and Eddie Knox campaigns in past years. Yet, Baldwin did not become a registered voter until 1980 and did not vote in the last City Council elections in 1983.

The near non-existent platform of Mr. Baldwin appears to have only a plank-managed growth. On that issue, Baldwin made the somewhat simplistic statement that he would stop growth "right now."

As if these facts are not enough for Mr. Baldwin to overcome in his bid for mayor, he has no campaign funds, no organization and no name recognition. Thus, all we can do is admire his courage and remind him that politics in America is serious business and not the place for the uninformed, unprepared and lacking in local political circles as a worker and in his political party.

## Issues: The Substance Of Politics

Alden Clark asks in the Charlotte magazine (August, 1985), "Should Harvey Gantt Be Re-Elected?" The article, sub-titled "A Retrospective On His First Term," focuses on a hypothetical set of Dos and Don'ts that the writer would have offered to Mayor Gantt in November of 1983. However, the Dos and Don'ts deal with issues that have actually occurred - "Don't push for a downtown coliseum" is one example.

Clark leads into his hypothetical situation with the statement that "there were very few campaign promises floating about in the 1983 mayoral race - none meaty enough to sink teeth into." While Mr. Gantt stressed "growth management" and his Republican opponent focused on "fiscal responsibility" in 1983, Clark considered these

vague issues that neither candidate would admit to being against.

We believe "growth management" was and is an important political issue. We recall that during the 1983 mayoral campaign Mr. Gantt emphasized that uncontrolled growth, especially in the southeast, would have an impact on the City's public services - utilities, public transit, police and fire protection and public schools. The controversy centered around the location of Highway 51 and the laying of water lines to the southeast. Thus, Mr. Gantt's 1983 campaign issue on growth was an issue of substance that you can sink your teeth into, that is, much of what he expressed concerns about are now facing us as real life issues.

## Support The Black Community!

Over the past two weeks, we have stressed in this column the need for black Americans to be more supportive of those issues - social, political, economic, educational and the like. In particular, we focused on the need for blacks to support predominantly black colleges and universities and civil rights organizations and to not expect large white-owned corporations to do it for us.

In the same context, we must work harder to reduce the number of broken black families, i.e., reduce the number of female, single-parent households. It is primarily from such households that youthful daughters become teenage unwed parents. Likewise, while these single-parent mothers are out struggling to earn a living, their children have three to four undirected hours

at home alone. This is often the setting for teenage pregnancy, declining interest in school work and involvement in street gangs or theft.

In the past we have blamed too much of these problems on race and racism in America. Yet, the fact is while racism has lessened to some degree, our problems of divided families has grown. Therefore, it is time for black sociologists, marriage counselors, psychologists, preachers, and parents themselves to begin to attack the problem of broken black families.

The challenge, the need, the survival is ours; therefore, only we as black Americans can solve this social problem that threatens the very survival of black America. Help a family means to help yourself.

### Miller Says

## Toliver: It Is A Sin Not To Grow In Capitalism!

By Sherman N. Miller  
Special To The Post

I have often wondered if black America would ever learn to embrace "American capitalism." Blacks' disdain for capitalism was aided and abetted by some black leaders who equated this concept to white America's exploitation of black America. Yet, I have come to believe that these anti-capitalist black leaders' caustic rhetoric has unintentionally helped to stymie black America's socioeconomic evolution into the economic mainstream.

In late July, I was stunned when I witnessed a group of black church workers giving a die-hard capitalist businessman, who very eloquently espoused the virtues of capitalism, a standing ovation. Mr. Lawrence Toliver, vice president of the Charlotte, N.C., Chamber of Commerce, mesmerized his audience with pro-capitalistic rhetoric befitting a stodgy business conference. I could not believe my ears when he gushed forth, "It is a sin not to grow in capitalism!"

Toliver was the guest speaker at The Charlotte Post's Fifth "Church-



Sherman

worker of the Year" Banquet. This activity was also co-sponsored by Radio Station WPEG-FM, Winn-Dixie Stores, and Eastern Airlines.

Toliver touched on some very important issues that also face the national black community. Charlotte has a black mayor but there are not enough black businesses to harvest all the potential business opportunities that are currently available with the city. Toliver, vice president of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce's Small Business Division, claims he intends to help improve the dismal state of Charlotte's black business community. He welcomed anyone with a sound idea to stop by and see him. However, Toliver made it clear that he was not a token black stressing the fact

## BLACK HISTORY

"A Race Is Like A Man-Until It Uses Its Own Talents, Takes pride In Its Own History, And Loves Its Own Memories, It Can Never Fulfill Itself Completely."



## Should Marijuana Be A Legalized Drug?

The debate continues - should marijuana be a legalized drug? The major debates began in 1969 when President Nixon declared war on marijuana. Ironically, since then marijuana use has tripled in schools and on the streets throughout the country. Even the fact that all states eradicated programs in its war has demonstrated that law enforcement may not be the answer.

Marijuana is often viewed as a harmless drug - however, medical reports are proving the contrary. The active ingredient in marijuana Delta 9 - Tetrahydrocanna - Binol (TNC) caused disease fighting cells in the body to grow more slowly and respond poorly to foreign bacteria. The reaction time for motor skills decreases an average of 42 percent after smoking one marijuana cigarette. The affects of five marijuana cigarettes a week has the same respiratory system effect as smoking 112 tobacco cigarettes.

Taking these three facts on the surface lets the public know that marijuana is not harmless. Marijuana is a serious drug that has serious consequences.

Some other medical facts that have risen out of mari-



Sabrina  
juana studies are: marijuana has the potential to cause lung disease such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema and lung cancer. THC is a fat-soluble substance that is stored in areas of high fat content such as the liver, reproductive organs, brain and the lungs. THC can still be detected in these areas up to one month after the use of marijuana. Pot has 12 times the "tar" and can generate 10 to 20 times as much carbon monoxide as tobacco.

Much more remains to be learned about the biologic effects of marijuana. The full impact of marijuana smoking on health is still under investigation.

Along with the biologic war tactics there is another side -

the health problems being caused by those protecting their fields from intruders. The health problems being increased criminal activity. A fair fraction of the domestic marijuana crop is grown on federal lands, where people out for enjoyment can stumble onto a plot rigged with booby traps or where growers use guns to protect the crop. The weapons used are trip-wired explosives, bear traps, fish hooks dangling at eye level and punji stakes. Remember when the woods were safe.

Would legalizing marijuana be the solution to the problem? Some feel the best and only way to deal with the problem is through the social and health issues raised by its use. The National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws feels that the police cannot solve the health problem - that health professionals can. Fine - but what is done in the meanwhile?

Some argue that the ration on marijuana fields is a publicity stunt led by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese. And that it will affect the marketing of it. However, the legalizing of marijuana would be a green light to millions of people that smoking pot is okay. It ain't!

Studies have shown that marijuana use is a huge problem among American youth. It is responsible for a range of problems including moodiness, apathy, bad grades, and vandalism.

The people who want marijuana legalized, minimize the health risks.

Does America want to see the consequences of legalizing a drug for people to see themselves?

Current statistics have that five percent of high school seniors use marijuana - half the number smoked pot in 1978. If legalized, the possibility of increased use is more than

it is scary. If legalized marijuana would be chandized and marketed toothpaste, painkillers, soap. Smoking pot would tagged on to "what beautiful people do" drome.

The United States enough problems with national deficit, unemployment, decline in farm and chemical leaks - do need another problem. A problem that has the potential to destroy more lives, minds and join the rest of life of alcohol abuse. Legalizing marijuana not be the successful render as a result of

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