Letters To The Post



Legislators: Make Others Clean Up

Dear Editor:

Recently in Raleigh, The House of Representatives discussed and voted on a very important piece of legislation that would require responsible parties to monitor, contain, clean-up and record on the property deed their Hazardous Waste Dumps. With some degree of responsible concensus, the legislature gave Horace Bill #134 a favorable recommendation and it is closer to becoming law in North Carolina.

As a responsible citizen of North Carolina, I realize the importance of this law. In 1986 similar legislation faced the General Assembly only to die in a Senate committee without a vote! I fear the political motives which discourage legislators to pass laws such as the one being mentioned. I believe one should be responsible for whatever he does in society, especially the responsibility of cleaning up dangerous Hazardous Waste Dumps.

The last General Assembly of N. C. failed to insure a clean environment from Hazardous Wastes and Hazardous Substances. Today in 1987, the legislature has another and perhaps the last chance to correct the past injustice made in favor of industry and against the people and environment of North Carolina. Laws such as H B #134 are long overdue and in some cases, too late to save the environment and its most precious resources, the soil and water.

Of course, by now, the American people are about tired of hearing about the failing environment, but just wait; you haven't seen anything yet! The ecological Toxic Time Bomb is about to really explode. As a professional scientist in the field of Earth Science, I constantly deal with clients who for

some reason want to have their soil and water decontaminated from Hazardous Waste or desire to know how far and how fast the contaminated ground water is approaching a potable water source. I have some advise to all North Carolinians; there are two choices to be made today. The people of N. C. can pay the cost of pollution before it happens or after the fact. The latter choice allows for the potential for significant ground water contamination. Whether it be a private well or a multi-million dollar water resource, the result is the same, an unusable resource.

In reality, these choices are once again left to our legislators. The research is in; there is no more time for study. More discussion on this will surely render much of the place I like callin' home useless.

Sincerely, David A. Brentlinger

Election Of Sadoff Means Trouble For Education And Schools

Dear Editor:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education is the "employer" of all 8,000 employees in the system, including the superintendent. They often do not function as such, but we employees need a body that is in touch with our day to day problems and are willing to face problems without regard for political and personal rewards and favors.

In anticipation of Peter Relic's arrival, we all looked forward, optimistically, to a much needed fresh face, fresh start, and fresh approach from the sweep-underthe-carpet reactionary and politically responsive "rule" of Jay Robinson. Robinson managed to wrap the media around his finger while accomplishing very little except publicity for himself at the expense of the system's operation.

But our optimism for change was diluted recently as word passed among us that Harvey Sadoff, an appointed Board member who has yet to be elected by voters, would become the Director of Instruction and Curriculum for the system. It appears to be a gross irregularity for a Board member to be given a job such as this after voting "yes" for Relic as new superintendent and while currently remaining on the Board as Relic's boss and others involved in choosing someone for this high level po-

Can anyone expect fairness in a situation such as this? Why was the application deadline extended for him?

Mr. Relic needs to build his team on the strength of his own

personality and skill. If Mr. Sadoff wanted a job, he should have resigned, and thus avoided the appearance of impropriety, arm twisting and "back stabbing," which has often plagued the system's hiring.

Mr. Sadoff has already racked up an unprecedented record for influencing political hiring. With less than a year in his appointed slot on the Board, he influenced getting a personal friend, Allen Queen, hired a principal without having to go through the strenuous interview and hiring process established by the administration and the Board. He also successfully influenced the creation of a position for his brother in the career development program which also was not advertised so that others could apply. Many loyal, efficient employees have to stand in line for years for such promotions. Now, for Mr. Sadoff to put himself above other employees, underscores what is generally felt about the Board and the highly placed administration "support for support and a favor for a favor" without regard for the integrity of the Board, the administration and the

Mr. Relic does not need to doom his administration by having a team that few respect because of the unethical, special favor, back stabbing manner that they have achieved their high positions. Mr. Relic would feel compelled to support the man who hired him and was to become his boss. Sadoff is an opportunist who has demonstrated little regard for the morale of employees. Employees know of

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his heavy handed influence as a new Board member. We are doomed at the hands of such an individual as a part of this current administration who created the "mess" and ill will among us. Dr. Relic would do well to clean house of the current staff which has demonstrated a disregard for what is ethical and just. The strong opposition leveled against Bob Hanes in his bid for the top slot should be a strong indication that there is trouble in the Education Center and schools, which ultimately hurts our children and abuses our tax dollars. We don't need for this to continue.

The media needs to apply the same thoroughness and persistence to Board actions, as applied to Jim Bakker and PTL. Taxpayers and voters deserve to know about the patronage system and unfairness at work with our tax dollars. The media has taken an active role in school matters by influencing the superintendent selections, by endorsing school board candidates, and by supporting programs and individuals. Do you follow the performance of the Board candidates on the real problems of education and of employees and report this to rea trust your reporting and endorsements? There needs to be more accountability to have the kind of system we project ourselves as being. The Board and the administration need to be responsible in their actions for their benefit and that of the system.

Sincerely, C. Reid

Black Colleges Graduate Seven Out Of Ten Students

Overall, only 20 percent of all black college students attend a predominantly black college, but more than 50 percent of today's black graduates are produced by these 114 schools.

Conversely, while 80 percent go to white colleges, less than 50 percent of the black college graduates come from those 3,200 schools. About seven out of 10 blacks at white colleges never graduate. The exact opposite is true at black colleges; seven out of 10 graduate - including a very high percentage of athletes. Finishing college leads to jobs. On that basis, black colleges create employment.

In the South, black colleges award 80 percent of all college degrees earned by blacks even though black schools there have only 43 percent of the black college enrollment.

And the fact that black colleges have this special ability to graduate disadvantaged students does not mean a sacrifice of academic achievement. A recent study comparing the graduate school performance of 210 blacks with degrees

Tony Brown's Commentaries

from black colleges with 140 black graduates from white colleges found that "black colleges turned out students whose grades in advanced-degree programs matched those of blacks who were graduates of white universities."

But more important, 75 percent of all blacks with advanced degrees from white universities received their undergraduate degrees from black colleges.

The 114 black colleges represent only five percent of all fouryear colleges, yet they control in excess of 270,000 or about 20 per-

cent of all black students and have almost a million living alumni. They are Afro-America's biggestbridge to success and the foundation of the black middle class. More than 80 percent of all black college graduates finished one of these institutions.

That includes 85 percent of black lawyers; 85 percent of all black physicians; 75 percent of all black Ph.D.'s; 75 percent of all black officers in the American armed services; over 50 percent of the country's black executives; 85 percent of all black federal judges. including Thurgood Marshall; and the vast majority of all black secondary teachers in the country.

More importantly, these successes of black institutions are accomplished primarily with students from deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds.

Tony Brown's Journal TV ser ies can be seen on public television Sunday on Channel 42 at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Please consult

What Price Morality?

The President has taken leadership in expressing a particular line of thought on the question of preventing the spread of the deadly disease known as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). His leadership supports the morality position, and the teaching of this position in the nation's schools, with the emphasis on abstinence until marriage.

On this, the President gets my unqualified support because I think that regardless of the social reality, one must always advocate the best moral code. In addition, I sincerely hope that Mr. Reagan has a thorough success in this effort, which I define as a rebirth of morality in future generations of the entire people of the nation in all matters. For this level of success, the President could be forgiven much, for creating an atmos-

phere for the proliferation of racism, for campaigns of disinformation, misinformation, lying, and even incompetence. I would go so far as to forgive the bombing of Libya, his Grenada invasion, the Nicaragua policy, and every other reprehensive policy and act

in drugs, the suspicion of which now hangs over his admit, at

By Abu Hassan

NATIONALIST

The reason for this outpear. of kindness is simple, for such as a erations of Americans, capable the correct moral choices, and guarantee that a man of Rom. Reagan's quality would not again sit in the White House.



Gary Hart called it a stupid mistake. No question about that.

Has it destroyed his presidential campaign? Only time will tell.

Campaigns are fragile. Ed Muskie's tears about a newspaper attack on his wife doomed his front running campaign in 1972. Gary Hart has an even tougher

problem. Maybe he can make it. Hart's attractiveness has been the appeal of his fresh, new ideas and his willingness to stand apart from old ways of doing things. Voters in a recent Washington

Post survey said they wanted "a President who is younger, exhibits a knowledge and awareness of current events and is experienced in government and politics."

Some argue that a strength based on ideas and policies will not be destroyed by question about the management of his personal life. Indeed, very few of us could withstand the kind of scrutiny that a front running presidential candidate must endure. Maybe he can make it.

On the other hand there is a clamor for moral leadership. The same Washington Post survey said that what voters are most



seeking in their next President is "moral leadership and integrity."

Even before last week's events there were concerns among the voters--even those who support Hart. The Post quoted the comments of participants in its survey: Something about him disturbs me...Something about him doesn't ring true....I can't quite put my finger on it...Not a good family man."

It Hart's campaign is over, it is because the "mistake" confirmed a worry that the voters already had about his "character" at a time when "moral leadership and integrity" is the biggest issue.

What is to be learned by all of this? If character is to be the big is-

sue, political parties that were to win elections have to figure our way to filter out candid. - who don't have good character.

There doesn't seem to be a w. to do that now, Nobody is citier party has responsibility for assess ing the character of candidata Nobody speaks out on character It is all whispers and ranges !too personal, too private it is to the candidates' opponents to raise the question. But in a port of primary election, an attack . . . character of an opponenviewed as "negative" coning. It taints the one who make the charges almost as much negt hurts the accused.

Even though there is now, t qualify or reject candidates in ... on the character issue, the esserfrom Hart's problems is cent Hard as the task may be, pr parties that want to win e.c.". have to find a way to keep their nomination from going to candi dates whose character won a stand the scrutiny of a persistent report er for the Miami Herald.

Let me know what you though Write me in care of this paper or a: Box 37283, Charlotte, NC 28 237

Time For Blacks To Break With Democratic Party piece of his 1984 campaign that

Special To The Post by Dr. Lenora Fulani

Recently I had the opportunity to tour a series of Southern black colleges across the state of Mississippi, speaking with hundreds of students about the 1988 presidential election and the role that black students in particular need to play in shaping a new political movement for social change in this country. I spoke with them about the debate currently underway in the Rainbow movement over which direction the black community needs to take in the presidential election - following a route solely inside the Democratic Party or building an independent path to empowerment.

In March, The Atlanta Journal and Constitution ran a series of articles covering the public commentary on the potential run in 1988 by Jesse Jackson for the Democratic Party presidential nomination. According to the At-lanta paper, some black leaders are arguing that Jackson's 1988 campaign must run along pragmatic and not idealistic lines. Urging Jackson to tone down the message of the militant and broad social vision which was the center-

garnered close to three and a half million votes, black establishment figures are counseling Jackson that he must stick close to the center in order to strengthen his chances of winning. Those Rainbow leaders who are encouraging Jackson to run a campaign which would continue to fire the hopes and aspirations of millions of African Americans in the 1988 Democratic Primary, are charged by elements of the black and white liberal establishment with being

"idealistic" and "impractical." The Atlanta Journal article quotes a 1984 Jackson supporter as typifying the mood of the black community: "I love Jesse Jackson. But I'm sure he can't win. And I don't have time



to waste with somebody who can't win. I don't want any more Re-

publicans in the White House." It's true that the mood of the black community is that if Jesse is to run, we need something more than a re-run of 1984. And it's also clear that Jackson and the African American community have more to gain by running a campaign based on the Rainbow social vision. But I would go one step further. I think that it is the black establishment which is impractical an idealistic, because it is basically telling us that if we only "act right," then the Democratic Party will give us a fair deal.

As a national leader of the independent black-led New Alliance Party, I have a plan to get a fair deal for the African American community. It is a powerful plan and it is a plan which is profoundly practical. The New Alliance Party plans to run a black candidate for President in 1988 on an independent ticket in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. I have urged Rev. Jackson to participate in this plan by running a bold Democratic Party campaign and then throwing the support of the Rainbow movement behind the independent black candidacy after the Democratic National Convention that will be held in Atlanta in July, 1988.

Anyone who thinks that Jack-

son can capture the Democratic nomination by toning down the demand for economic and political justice for African Americans and the Rainbow is the impractical idealist. The Democratic Party will not give the nod to Jackson no matter how much he tries to cater to the establishment. He's too black and he's too progressive.

We need a movement that is militant and strong, that is relevant and that impacts, but won't sacrifice our principles or our people. When I ran for Governor of New York States on the New Alliance Party ticket in 1986, the only black, the only woman and the only progressive on the ballot against three white, well-financed males, the corporate media, along with the Democrats and Republicans, called on me to repudiate Minister Louis Farrakhan as a condition of allowing me to participate in the official gubernatorial debates. I refused to repudiate Minister Farrakhan, for while I have some differences with him on a host of issues, I respect him as a militant and independent black leader, and I unconditionally insist upon the right of black America to choose its own leaders and not be told by white America whom we should and shouldn't follow.

Twenty-five thousand voted for me as an independent, the highest number of vote for a progressive independent in New York State in over 30 years.

Those votes were very significant. What that shows, I believe, is that the time is right for the black community to lead the way in breaking with the white, corporate-owned Democratic Party. If a black independent candidate runs for the Presidency and polis several million votes on that independent ticket, then we will have established a national black-led third party in this country. In 1992, that third party could move forward, in a position to win tens of millions of votes, and determine the outcome of the presidential race and perhaps even win it. A black-led. independent third party with that kind of clout could mean that American politics would be completely transformed.

DEMOCRACY VS APARTHIED

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Enclosed is my check/M O for \$_ contribution to the Freedom Fighters in the South African struggle for One man - One vote.

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