

# Editorials

## The Charlotte Post

Bill Johnson, Publisher Emeritus

Gerald Johnson, Publisher • Bob Johnson, Co-Publisher • Jalyne Strong, Managing Editor  
Jackie Carr, Production Manager • Dannette Gaither, Office Manager  
Fran Farrer-Bradley, Advertising Manager

Published Every Thursday

### Anti-Gantt Ads Are Foolish

"Anybody But Harvey" and "Anybody But Harvey and Company" newspaper ads released in June are as foolish and stupid as the unregistered group sponsors - the Charlotte Citizens Coalition. First, the Coalition apparently did not have enough sense to know that in spending money on behalf of or against a specific political candidate requires prior registration as a political action committee.

Secondly, and more significantly, if enough citizens accept the "Anybody" theory, they would make themselves and the City reflect a full and ignorant misunderstanding of what a progressive city is, and could conceivably elect people with the same ideas and viewpoints as "Harvey and Company." The point is, rational thinking people who appreciate the value of a free and democratic society

accept the responsibility to state in specific terms what their beliefs are and why they oppose, as in this case, the political views and actions of the incumbent elected officials.

By way of example, we don't agree with what we think are overly simplistic understandings of city government by the so-called Citizens For Effective Government, Inc., but we respect their right to express what they believe. Likewise, we respect their willingness to take the time to study the issue of their concern and then take a position on those issues.

A careful study of history tells us that it was an "Anybody But..." mentality that helped bring Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party to power in post-World War I Germany and resulted in World War II. Think, Charlotte Citizens Coalition, think, it will do you well.

### Coping With Success

We were pleased to receive the announcements about the number of Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and other Carolina-area college basketball players who were drafted by the National Basketball Association (NBA) last week. Kenny Smith, Horace Grant, Joe Wolf, Tony White and Tyrone Bogues are among the fortunate few who will get an opportunity to play in the "big time" NBA with megabucks, fame, glory and newspaper and television headlines.

Yet, with all of this opportunity for professional success, there hangs a shadow of possible fear, failure, stressful pressures, nearly too much money, idle time, women, sex, drug use and constant travel. We are thinking too about Len Bias, David Thompson, Phil Ford and John Lucas. Bias died on the doorstep to success, Thompson and Ford had their careers cut short prematurely, and Lucas got a second chance. In these young men's lives the challenges of coping with the demands of success became overwhelming to the point of self-destruction for Bias and a nearly similar fate for the others.

Interestingly, the Reverend Jesse Jackson

presented to the owners of professional baseball recently an idea whose time has come to help prepare young athletes for coping with success. Jackson's idea is a sort of spring training for the players' minds. Jackson said, "they have six weeks (spring training) for their bodies. Why not give them one week of life-style training, a week to prepare them for the outside world? Many of these players go from extreme poverty to extreme wealth, from being Nobody Knows You to Eric Davis, overnight, and some of them can't handle it. Give them advice on investments, drugs and sex. This is in the owner's best interest as well. They'll get a better return on their investment."

In commenting on Jackson's point, Steve Wolf in *Sports Illustrated Magazine* (6-22-87) says, "It may sound like a sermon, but what Jackson says makes a great deal of sense. If only the owners and Players Association could set aside their differences long enough to draw up plans for just such a program." The NBA and NFL need to do likewise in the interest of their respective sports, but more important, in the interest of helping to develop young human beings.

moderate who often cast the swing vote that gave the liberal justices an edge in many major court decisions. In fact, under the liberal leadership of associate justice William Brennan, Powell voted with the 5-4 majorities to approve preferential job treatment for minorities and women. Powell also wrote the key opinion in the 1978 Bakke case that upheld the concept of affirmative action.

Again, it's our optimistic belief that the U. S. Supreme Court won't slide down the hill to full conservative views. Reagan's nominee, who must be confirmed by the U. S. Senate which is now controlled by the Democrats, will not be an ultra-conservative because he could not be confirmed. Thus, a compromise conservative and hopefully a reasonably balanced court. Only high court case decisions will tell, so let's hope for the best.

### Supreme Court Tilts Right?

The somewhat surprise announcement last week by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell that he was retiring after 16 years on the bench resurfaced again concerns about the high court's direction.

In particular, Powell's exit gives President Reagan another chance to tilt the nine-member court's ideological balance more in the direction of conservative views. Just nine months ago, Reagan had elevated William Rehnquist to the Chief Justice's post and filled Rehnquist's Associate Justice seat with conservative Antonin Scalia. Mr. Reagan had also appointed Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court bench.

Powell was appointed by President Richard Nixon in 1972. He was considered to be a



### Charlotte's Stand On Klan

In light of Ku Klux Klan planned march in Charlotte on July 4, 1987, the Charlotte City Council adopted a resolution expressing its perspective on the group. The resolution was recorded on June 22, 1987 and reads as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the people of Charlotte comprise a rich diversity of racial, religious and ethnic character; and **WHEREAS**, under the U.S. Constitution each of these persons enjoys the same freedoms guaranteed to every other citizen and shares the same dignity and worth accorded to every human being; and

**WHEREAS**, Charlotte has a long and proud history of diligently working to remove barriers that separate different segments of the community and is nationally regarded as a community where different segments of the community harmoniously work together for its peace and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, as elected officials of this City, it is important that we publicly and officially express our views and concerns about groups that seek to undermine the diverse yet peaceful values and beliefs that characterize our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Charlotte, in regular session duly assembled:

1. That we reject all claims of racial, religious or ethnic superiority and deplore all public gatherings for the purpose of promoting such superiority.
2. That we deplore the activities of all groups which would divide our community and promote hate and violence toward any other group.
3. That we specifically disavow and unequivocally oppose the principles, purposes and activities of the Ku Klux Klan groups and similar groups.
4. That we reaffirm our support and charge to the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee to aggressively monitor any hate/violence activity in our community and to make recommendations to control and eliminate such activities as not being consistent with the beliefs and values of this community.
5. That we reaffirm our support and charge to local law enforcement agencies to protect citizens from threats of violence and intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups.
6. That while we acknowledge the constitutional right of individuals and groups to free speech and peaceful assembly, no individual or group will be permitted to unlawfully disturb the peace of this City while exercising such constitutional rights.
7. That the strongest statement of rejection that individual citizens and the entire community can make to such groups is to avoid and ignore their public actions, gatherings, and marches thereby defusing their desired publicity and reducing the potential for any violence they may seek to encourage.

### A Spouse Is A Business Asset

A workaholic who trades his family life for success is the stereotypical image of the upwardly mobile executive. Yet, common sense suggests that marital problems are a mental albatross for an executive or a professional. This, then, poses the question, "Does American businesses have an economic incentive to make the spouses of their employees become quasi-employees of their companies?"

America's huge trade deficit demands that its executives and professionals have the latitude to perform to the maximum of their potential. Although product quality and rapid product impede the foreign economic carnage in America's domestic market, she can make a quantum leap ahead of these international aggressors if we eliminate some mental shackles.

If we examine the scenario of black Americans entering the white collar work force over the last 20 years, we get an inkling of the deleterious impact of a mental burden on harnessing an employee's full potential. Many black executives and professionals started out with the mental trepidation of the civil rights struggle still afresh in their minds. Some of these people fell into the career destruction trap of continuing to wage the civil rights struggle rather than demonstrating their ability to significantly turn a profit for their company.

Thus, many blacks became world-class sprinters in the world



By Sherman Miller

marketplace business Olympic games wearing heavy mental ankle weights.

A young Domino's Pizza executive says this company has programs to reduce mental burdens, one of which is a spouse involvement program. This chap claims their spouse program is premised on getting the spouse to understand and share in the mate's commitment to the success of the business.

Since small business is the prime generator of new jobs, I queried two small business owners on the importance of spouse involvement in their business. One chap was a manufacturing fabricator in Frazer, Pennsylvania, and the other the owner of a carpet service business in Albany, Georgia. Both men felt their employees must make unencumbered decisions.

The manufacturing fabricator, who serves a regional market, agreed that to foster the proper

marital climate for his employees to excel, the spouse should be involved in the perks of the business. Yet, he cautioned about the potential of abuses to a company's reward programs. He pointed out that there have been cases where yearly sales fluctuated radically between two companies because trips were won based on sales improvements over the previous year.

A third businessman, from near New Orleans, Louisiana, seated directly in front of us on this Atlanta to Philadelphia flight chimed in on our discussion. This chap argued that the spouse must possess the mind-set, "We work for the company!"

Nevertheless, all three chaps expressed serious concern over integrity in American business today. One worried about the impact of extra-marital affairs on an employee's productivity. The other two felt that today's businessperson's words were meaningless and any information these people had to offer may be suspect.

I could not resist asking these businessmen what American schools should be teaching. The all felt reading, writing, and arithmetic were imperative.

In recounting my discussions with the above businessmen, I've concluded that American business must view their employees' spouses as a business asset. And like any other asset, if properly cultivated, it can produce a significant return for the business.

