

# Editorials

## The Charlotte Post

Bill Johnson, Publisher Emeritus

Gerald O. Johnson, Publisher

Jackquelyn Carr, Production Manager

Dannette Gaither, Office Manager

Bob Johnson, Co-Publisher

Fran Farrer-Bradley, Advertising Manager

Jalyn Strong, Managing Editor

Published Every Thursday

### Christmas Story For The Ages

Christmas means many things, but most of all it means a time for caring and sharing; that is, caring enough to share one's heart in love and understanding and doing enough to help someone realize that there is a greater gift in giving than in receiving. Christmas is also a time for remembering - of the good that you have done for someone and the good that has been done for you.

There is a story that has been shared quite frequently because it personifies caring and sharing and, in this holiday season, illuminates the true meaning of Christmas. Paraphrasing the unknown author's story, we hope you will share it with others as its full meaning penetrates your heart as it did ours.

A professional man in a southwestern city parked his new car on the street while attending a business meeting. Upon returning, he saw a little boy looking and admiring the car. As he put the key in the car door, the little boy asked, "Is this your car, mister?" The man replied, "It sure is."

"How much did it cost, mister?" the little boy asked in an increased show of excitement and interest. "Son, I don't know what it cost because my brother gave it to me." As if in total amazement, the little boy asked, "You mean your brother gave it to you, and it didn't cost you anything?" "That's right," the man replied.

Then, and this is important, the little boy said, "I - I wish..." (the man was thinking, "I think I know what he's going to wish - that he had a brother like that, that is, someone to give him a car?") But when the boy finished the sentence, the man said, "I was

jarred to the soles of my feet." The little boy concluded, "I wish I could be a brother like that." (Be able to give his brother a car.)

When the man regained his sense of balance, he offered the little boy a ride in his car, to which the boy replied, "I'll dirty up your car." The man thought to himself, "Your clothes may be dirty, but your heart is as white as snow." Therefore, he insisted that the boy accept the car ride.

After riding a few minutes, the little boy asked, "Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?" When the car stopped, the little boy jumped out, ran into his home and came back carrying his little brother, crippled with infantile paralysis. Carefully sitting his brother on the bottom outside step, the little boy pointed to the pretty car and said, "There she is, Bud. His brother gave it to him. One day I'm going to give you one just like it, and then you can see all of the Christmas windows for yourself."

The man, choking with emotion, said, "Buddy, you are going to see them all today, this minute, and both of you are going to pick out what you want and have it."

Taking the crippled boy in his arms, the man placed him in the front seat of the car along with his brother and drove off to the biggest toy store in the town. "The next few hours were the happiest Christmas of my life just to see the joy in the faces of the two boys as they selected their toys."

Finally, our unknown author said, "Do you want a foretaste of heaven? Be a big brother to someone in need." This is a true meaning of Christmas. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

### Factors In Black Mayoral Elections

Last week we took exception to syndicated columnist Neal Pierce's article, "America's Black Mayors: Newcomers Unlike The Old Guard." In summary, Pierce was critical of most of the well-known black mayors including Tom Bradley, Coleman Young, Marion Barry and Wilson Goode on the grounds that they did not build organizations of political skill and corporate-like strategies that would tie city underclasses to growing business wealth. It was just such ineffectiveness that led to the defeat of Kenneth Gibson in Newark and Richard Hatcher in Gary.

We noted that many such urban cities were in rapid decline when these black mayors were elected as whites, both residents and businesses fled to the suburbs taking their individual and corporate taxable income with them. Combined with immigration of low income, low skilled, high unemployment prone blacks and hispanics, black mayors inherited public administration nightmares. However, many large cities that have never had black mayors have suffered the same fate - New York City is an excellent example.

In addition to missing or overlooking these economic factors, Pierce appeared to not recognize two interesting conclusions drawn from the November elections. These were first that the forces influencing racial politics (black candidates) voter patterns or outcomes is changing. For example, Harvey Gantt's bid for a third term as Charlotte's

mayor was lost on this issue of traffic problems, not race. The black mayor of Flint, Michigan, lost on a similar hard issue - public service issue - not race or economic decline. The second conclusion was seen in the determination of the voters to play a role in the change affecting their communities.

Long-time incumbent Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana, was unseated by another black, Thomas Barnes, who alleged that Hatcher was so preoccupied with a national agenda for blacks that he was ignoring the needs of the City of Gary and its people. In other developments, black conservatives have begun to have an impact upon elections and affect the black-vote-for-black candidate. In Durham black Republican conservative Howard Clement used business community support, some conservative whites and a small percent of blacks to challenge in a losing cause to the incumbent mayor Wilbur Gulley, who had majority black support.

Thus, the so-called old guard black mayors, just like some who are white in similar big city economic settings have been in no-win situations from the beginning and cuts in federal urban program funds have only made bad situations worse. Second, the winning or losing of mayoral offices by blacks based on hard public service issues, not race, is a very positive sign for the cities and the nation. Think on these things, Mr. Pierce.

### Children Grow Up Fast During Holiday

"Are you going to leave those toys in the trunk of the car until Christmas, Gwynelle?" I asked.

"I want to put them in the basement," she replied.

"I think it will be better if they stay where they are."

"You know our children don't miss a thing."

"They'll be fine," said Gwynelle. Since her mind was made up, I concluded it was futile to try to change it. I, therefore, gave no further thought to the matter.

When I came home from work a couple of days before Christmas, I saw Sherman II and Missy Sammye frantically trying to wrap a set of pots for their mother, whose hobby is cooking. I mistakenly suggested that this present be placed under the Christmas tree.

"We've got to give it to her today!" gushed out Sherman.

"Christmas is two days away," I retorted. "Your mother will want the present under the tree."

"No! No! She's got to have it today," protested Sherman.

My mind started to run a mile a minute because Sherman had stirred my curiosity.

"What is the problem?" I asked.

There was a sudden stillness. I repeated my question, only to receive the same response. Then I looked Missy Sammye in her eyes and demanded, "Tell me



Miller Says  
By Sherman Miller

what the problem is!" As she prepared to speak, Sherman, the older child, started to show extreme stress. Sherman is an easy-going chap who does not appear highly disturbed by anything. But his face revealed "I'm dead meat," an expression that portends my issuing corporal punishment for some severe infraction of the rules.

Whilst Sherman shivered, Missy Sammye said, "Sherman spooled my surprise."

She went on to tell of Sherman's leading her to the basement to see their Christmas toys. Sammye did not want to accept responsibility for this crime. She felt it was all Sherman's fault.

I ignored her plea of innocence. I told her she was also

guilty. Sherman and Missy Sammye never stopped to consider that their present merely alerted their mother of their dastardly deed. When Gwynelle found out what they had done, she was hot.

"To think that they feel they have outsmarted me!" she repeated over and over again.

I allowed her to vent her anger on me whilst quietly insuring that she did not become disenchanted with our Christmas celebration. But deep down inside I was laughing because I wanted to say, "I told you so." Nevertheless, Christmas Eve saw her frantically trying to see that everything met her very high standard of excellence.

After Christmas dinner, we usually engage in small talk whilst sitting by the fireplace. This afforded me the opportunity to say, "Students are supposed to surpass their teachers. If we have two bright children, you've got to expect them to mentally challenge us."

Gwynelle's response was etched in a distraught stare on her face. Her eyes said, "I didn't mind so much what they did, but I lost both of my babies to adulthood in one day."

## Integrity And Politics

Gary Hart has been getting a lot of hype for re-entering the Democratic party's Presidential campaign.

Many people feel that his decision to re-enter the race was a bad one. Many have said that it was bad enough to get caught fooling around, but this adds insult to injury.

However, I think there are several points that are being overlooked. Mr. Hart accumulated a huge campaign debt from the 1984 race. It has been rumored that all of this debt has not been retired.

Moreover, he had managed to accumulate additional debt from this campaign.

Putting all this together, it makes logical sense for him to re-enter the race. Well, it makes financial sense, anyway.

If Mr. Hart has huge campaign debts outstanding, then in order for him to get contributions, he must be a candidate. By withdrawing from the race, he withdrew from receiving campaign contributions.

By re-entering, he stands a better chance of getting contributions to help retire his debts.

In addition the U. S. Government has a matching funds program for Presidential candidates. The Government will match a candidate's campaign dollars up to a certain point. Consequently, by not being a candidate, Mr. Hart cut off all possible sources of campaign revenue. He cut his own throat to spite his face, so to speak.

I feel that Mr. Hart came to his senses and realized being out of the race was not financially feasible.

It would surprise me if he was running to win. But I think he



made a smart choice by re-entering.

With politics as the obvious is never as obvious as it may seem.

While we are on Gary Hart, the whole incident has created a dilemma for our society.

Because of the sophistication of the communication medium today, we actually receive more information than we can handle. The moment an event occurs, it can be reported all over the world in a matter of minutes.

Satellite communications, computers, and fiber optic cables have made receiving information child's play. Unfortunately, once we receive it, we don't know what to do with it.

I say this to emphasize the point that politicians today are no better or no worse than they have ever been.

However, in today's environment, we know about their carrying on a lot quicker. Imagine the Hart episode forty years ago. The elections would have been over before the news was made national.

The media is not to blame for covering this sort of thing and reporting it. However, the media is not totally responsible for

what you do with the information once you receive it.

As responsible citizens, we must realize that automation, and communication has put us on a new plateau as it relates to obtaining data. This puts the burden of deciphering this data on us.

We must determine what is relevant and what is irrelevant. We must decide on sources we will use for obtaining information.

With all this we must learn to utilize God's greatest gift to man, the human brain.

There is no substitute for thinking.

Having said all this we are ready for the big question. Where do we draw the line for integrity as it relates to politics?

The line is drawn by each of us based on our own principles and moralities. We decide on what is acceptable and what is not on an individual basis.

We collectively put our individual principles to work through the voting process. Through this process, the majority rules.

When done fairly and equitably, there is no better process on earth to govern a society.

Hence, if you feel Hart is wrong running for President after his fiasco, then you can be heard.

The electoral process is quite effective and works for everybody if everybody takes an active role in it.

The situations like Gary Hart's makes sense from his financial perspective.

But only time will determine if it made political sense. The answer lies with those of us who will vote in the 1988 primaries.

Let the vote cast the fate.

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK TO THE ISSUES...

MONKEY BUSINESS STUDIOS PRESENTS...

THE THING THAT WOULD NOT DIE!

FROM THE BEDROOM IT CAME!

STARRING GARY HART AS THE MADMAN

with DONNA RICE AS THE BIMBO

EXPLICIT SEX, SCANDAL AND STUPIDITY.

JAZON 87 The Charlotte Post

### Culture Improves Black Self-Image

Teens who use drugs are not typical of the acne society.

Half of them started drinking and using illegal drugs by age 13.

Moreover, their problems ranged from sexual abuse to arrests to self-hatred, if they're Black. The self-image problem or racial anxiety among Black youth is so obvious that a scientific study is not necessary to observe it.

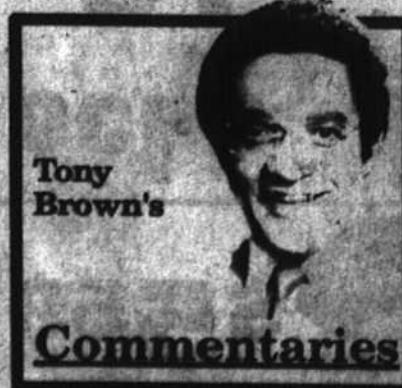
Abuse comes in many forms: physical, sexual and psychological. Abuse then acts as the basis for self-destruction or drug usage, which is this generation's choice of gradual (not so gradual in some cases) suicide.

Poppy parents are the new menace in child rearing. They are the "closet druggies," parents who use drugs around their children. In one study, 60 percent of the young people on drugs reported that someone else at home also abuses drugs.

Poppy parents present another of the many challenges to raising healthy children. Parents such as these add to the already overwhelming burden of open drug dealing on the streets in poor neighborhoods.

The battle against drugs in Black communities is substantially different from the battle that is fought in White, middle-class neighborhoods. AIDS, for example, among Black drug addicts, is at an epidemic level. Because they live among other Blacks and are sexually intimate with other Blacks, the drug problem has brought the AIDS problem to the front door of Black America.

Here are some other drug-



related statistics, reported under the "endangered species" category. An estimated 50 percent of young Blacks are unemployed; 25 percent under the age of 25 have never held a job; one in six has been arrested by the age of 19; more than 10,000 Black males between the ages of 15 and 19 die each year in homicides (their second leading cause of death); an estimated 72 percent of Black males in New York City drop out of some high school.

Also drug related: Among Blacks between the ages of 20 and 24 there are only 45 "marriageable" males for every 100 females, largely because of unemployment and incarceration.

It is my belief that so many young Blacks are being destroyed because they simply don't believe they can cope. And they don't believe because they have learned to hate being Black.

A White child may fail because of low esteem due to sexual, physical or psychological abuse, but not because he/she is systematically taught that

being White is a burden.

Many Blacks are falling in White institutions (7 out of 10 Blacks at White colleges never graduate) largely because they are not culturally equipped by a love of their own heritage to adapt emotionally and intellectually.

The clear exceptions among Blacks are West Indians and followers of the Islamic faith. Both of these groups over-achieve because they are steeped in a pride system.

Muslims, for example, because of abstinence from alcohol as well as illegal drugs, obviously stay out of many of the other ancillary categories: unemployment, homicides, AIDS, etc.

Culture works. It even works within the culture. And for those who work against it, it works against them.

Tony Brown's Journal TV series can be seen on Channel 42 at 5 p.m. It can also be seen on Channel 58 Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Please consult listings.

The Charlotte Post  
Newspaper, Inc.  
Published Every Thursday  
USPS #965500  
Postmaster, Send Change Of Address To:  
The Charlotte Post  
1531 Camden Road  
Charlotte, NC 28203  
Yearly Rate: \$17.85