

The Charlotte Post

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Editorials

Wanted: Ethics In Government

Ethics refers to the study of standards of conduct and moral judgment. We have defined the word ethics as a reminder of who ought to be and to note the tragic fact of what is -- that the foundations of all levels of government in our nation appear to be cracking from the abuses of unethical practices by a growing number of elected officials.

From the White House to the county court house, public officials have and are engaging in conduct that has resulted in increasing questions about ethics and ethical behavior. While still shaky from the Oliver North Iran/Contra affair, the Reagan White House is hell-bent on trying to help defend Attorney General Edwin Meese against certain legal and ethical questions in his private activities. Whether the charges and allegations are true or false is not the issue. What is, is the fact that as the highest law enforcement officer in the nation, the person serving as the Attorney General should always conduct his affairs in a manner that is above reproach. Ms. Meese has failed to do this. Likewise, there are troubling questions about the Reagan administration's refusal to launch an all-out war against drugs and at the same time playing politics with drugs that are killing and enslaving thousands of Americans.

In a number of congressional elections, ethics has raised its beautiful head in the wake of, again, questionable activities. For example, in Pennsylvania's 22nd District, Democratic Rep. Austin Murphy has no Republican opposition in his quest for a seventh term. Yet, last year Murphy was reprimanded by the House of representatives for keeping a fictitious employee on his payroll, allowing someone else to vote for him in the House and for diverting government resources to his former law firm.

Mary R. Oakar, a Ohio Democratic Rep., defeated a formidable challenger for her

congressional seat only a year after the House Ethics Committee found her in violation of a federal law involving a salaried aide. Another Democrat, former Rep. Bill Boner, won election as mayor of Nashville, Tennessee, last year while still under investigation for taking bribes from a defense contractor. Another Tennessean, Democratic Rep. Harold Ford, has no challenger in his race for an eighth term representing Memphis while being indicted for mail, bank and tax fraud in early 1987.

The sad part of all this is that incumbents are finding it easy to win reelection in spite of legal and ethical challenges to their credibility.

Charlotte voters in the Mecklenburg County District 2 Democratic primary runoff race on May 31 will have an opportunity to reject these apparent indifferences to moral and ethical conduct by voting for Nasif Majeed, a man of character and integrity, to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. The election of Mr. Majeed will hopefully send signals to other parts of the country that it is past time for voters to end their apathy and indifference to the conduct and behavior of elected officials.

Any candidate for public office, no matter how well he or she has served previously, who violates the public trust, abuses the privileges of the office that he or she holds, should not be reelected to represent any segment of the population.

A vote for Nasif Majeed will be a vote for good government, honesty, good character, integrity and moral righteousness. If the voters of District 2 want to maintain their self-respect they must vote for Majeed on May 31.

Don't fail to vote, to do so is equal to a vote for Majeed's opponent. Vote for Majeed on May 31 if you want high quality public service leadership that you can respect.

Racism On College Campuses

Last year a *Newsweek* article raised questions about the possibility that many of the nation's major colleges and universities have set enrollment quotas to limit the number of Asian students that will be admitted. As reported, Arthur Hu, an MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) graduate who has studied and analyzed Ivy League schools' admission practices, says, "Asians are being discriminated against. Unwritten quotas are making it more and more difficult to get into selective schools." Asian-Americans tend to have a very high value with regard to education; shown on relative high grades and the fact that they comprise only two percent of the nation's college age population but account for 11 percent of this year's college freshman classes.

Ironically, the statistical data for blacks is nearly just the reverse with overall lower grade averages partly, but not fully, rooted in past inferior educational opportunities, lower educational values of parents who often did not get employment opportunities when they had university degrees and an as yet lingering apathy toward higher education by far too many black people.

In spite of this, pressure continues to increase to get more black students and faculty members at many of the nation's more prestigious colleges and universities. These

pressures include specific or special programs to help meet some of the unique needs of black students beyond that of their roles in competitive sports.

These pressures parallel the pressures of Asian-American youth with grades that should qualify them for admission to many of our nation's finest institutions of higher learning.

Beginning in the late 1960s it was the "thing to do" to admit black youth into our major colleges and universities. Then in the 1970s when America was trying to export democracy to Asia, in the face of the Vietnam War, it became likewise the "thing to do" for Asian-American and foreign Asian youth, too.

Now it is ironic that in addition to what is happening to Asian youth, black youth are being harassed, insulted and told "Nigger, go home" on many white college campuses. Similarly, some white faculty members on these campuses have exhibited anti-black attitudes and make no effort to respond to black students' needs.

It is time for the administrative leadership on these campuses, mostly in the North, to show some American leadership to end these racist activities, what can blacks do for themselves in these hostile environments? Let's talk about it next week.

Have We Forgotten Memorial Day?

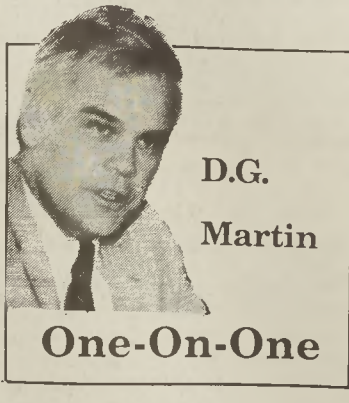
A trip to the beach.
The car races.
A family picnic.
An extra day off.
The beginning of summer.
It is a good holiday. Now that it comes on Monday every year, it means another three day weekend.
Great.
But why?
What does Memorial Day mean to us anymore?

Originally, it was a day for laying wreaths on the graves of the fallen on both sides of the Civil War. During that war, some southern women began to decorate soldiers' graves each May 30. In 1868, Union General John Logan designated the same day to be used to honor the graves of Union soldiers.

Because it was a time to decorate the graves of Civil War veterans, this day of honor was first called Decoration Day.

Later, it came to be a time for remembering all those who died in any war.

For a long time, states chose different dates to observe Decoration Day, but it was observed, solemnly, almost everywhere. People remembered, and were



D.G. Martin

One-On-One

grateful.
Now, we call it Memorial Day and we observe it on the Monday closest to the end of May. Observe it? What will you be doing this Memorial Day weekend?

Will you be there, by a soldier's grave?

Probably not.
In his famous address at Gettysburg battlefield, Lincoln said of those who fought there, the world "can never forget what they did here."

Was Lincoln wrong?
Have we forgotten? Have we

forgotten those who fought and died for us in Vietnam, Korea, the World Wars, and in other conflicts?

Think about it. Think about what they did for you. Attend one of the grave-side ceremonies. Or visit the grave of a friend and leave a wreath or a flower or a flag. Call the family of someone who gave his life and let them know you care.

Say a prayer.
Lest we forget.

What's On Your Mind?

Let us hear your comments, ideas and opinions.

Write to:

Letters To The Post
P.O. Box 30144
Charlotte, NC 28230

Please include name, address and phone number. We edit letters for clarity and grammar.

The Basis Of Post Endorsements

The problem with endorsing candidates for political office is that it is a lose-lose proposition for the endorser. The candidates not endorsed and their supporters take the endorsements personally. Heaven forbid if you endorse a white candidate over a black one.

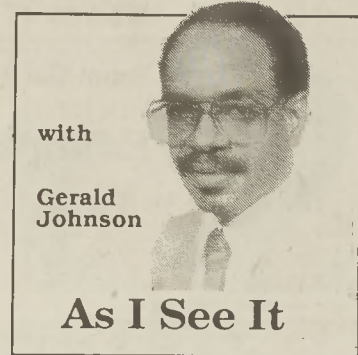
Obviously, a black newspaper is doing a dis-service to the black community if a white candidate gets the nod over a black candidate.

Fortunately, it never bothered me to have other people question my actions. It bothers me a great deal if I have to question myself. To this end, I have to call it as I see it.

My endorsements are based purely on whom I feel can provide the best leadership for the constituents being served by a particular office. In particular the interest of the black community must be accommodated. There are instances when black candidates seeking office may not be as qualified as others seeking that position. In some instances the only thing a candidate has to offer is the fact that they are black.

Supporting candidates in such instances is irresponsible journalism. Knowingly endorsing less qualified blacks would lessen the credibility of the endorsements. It would weaken the credibility of the newspaper, and it would cause me to have second guess myself.

It doesn't bother me to have people disagree with my candidate choices based on differ-



with Gerald Johnson

As I See It

ence of opinion on qualifications. But it is disappointing to have someone tell you that you should have endorsed candidates because they are black. My disappointment is because if you think I should endorse this way, obviously you must vote this way. Consequently, you are abusing, rather than using the electoral process. As a result we end up with self serving, instead of community serving politicians.

Like most things in life, you get out of politics what you put into it. Irresponsible participation breeds irresponsible politicians.

My endorsements and your voting practices should follow the teachings of Martin Luther King which states that "a person should be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character". This statement seemingly had meaning to many of us only as it applied to how we were being treated by others, and not how

we treat others.
Having said all this, Here is what I think about the run-offs.

Arthur Griffin is by far the best candidate in the school board run-off. Griffin has been involved with the school board in some form or fashion for many years. As a concerned parent he brought many issues and concerns to school board meetings. He was later appointed to a vacated seat on the board and served for a year. He is very familiar with the system and the city and would be a great asset to the board.

Judy Gibson is my choice for Register of Deeds over Kelly Alexander. Gibson has worked for the Register of Deeds office for a number of years and should be quite familiar with its workings. Though Kelly is a fine gentleman in his own right, Mrs. Gibson's experience makes her ideal for the post. I am not sure why this is an elected position in the first place.

Nasif Majeed is my choice for District 2 County Commissioner over Bob Walton. His direct involvement with and general vision for economic development in the black community provides a new dimension of leadership that's long overdue.

The run-off election is very important. Regardless of what you may think of my endorsements, you need to go vote. When election results are determined by a hand full of voters, then it is not representative of the total eligible electorate.

Star Dust Gets In Your Eyes

Guest Editorial

By Cong. Augustus Hawkins
"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, But in ourselves..."

This quote, from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, should send a signal to this Administration that we need moral leadership on the real world problems facing our people.

Perhaps too much hoopla was made by the media of Donald T. Regan's memoir, *For the Record*, about the First Lady's reliance on astrology to plan the President's schedule. Although this was an interesting, if not bizarre revelation, the real bombshell was not the White House' attention to the zodiac, but rather the passive manner in which the President dealt with domestic issues.

For example, in his memoirs, Don Regan writes:

"In four years as Secretary of the Treasury, I never saw Ronald Reagan alone and never discussed economic philosophy or fiscal and monetary policy with him one-on-one. From first day to last, I was flying by the seat of my pants."

This statement is incredulous! One of the precepts of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employ-

ment and Balanced Growth Act was that in order to best manage the economic affair, of the nation we should embrace a mutually reinforcing relationship between the President the Congress, and the Federal Reserve System. According to Donald Regan's observations, however, this type of relationship could never work. No one is suggesting that a President should be involved in every facet of policy setting or decision-making. But he should be responsible for establishing a set of policy goals to move the nation forward. If this Executive passivity had been revealed during the middle of the severe recession which occurred in Reagan's first term, there would have been an incredible backlash of public anger. Now that the unemployment data show a decrease from that lofty level there is less resentment.

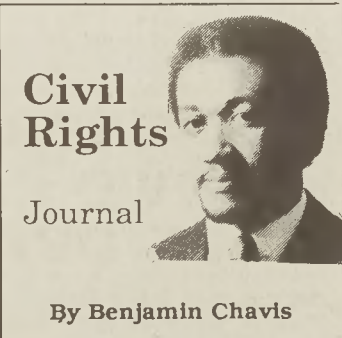
We must not forget however, what a tremendous price our nation paid during that crisis -- long term layoffs; record home foreclosures; small business bankruptcies; and family break-ups. The swelling crowds of new homeless represent a sad testimony to this devastation. No

one can put a price on the human agony these individuals suffered as this Administration was stumbling through the recession with slogans instead of coherent policies. Remember "Stay the Course...?"

There were other perplexing signals from the Administration during the jobless crisis such as the President scratching his head suggesting that the unemployed should look at all the listings in the want ads. Try telling a displaced auto worker with a family to feed that he must go from a \$25,000 annual salary to slapping hamburgers on a bun at McDonalds for \$6,900 a year.

As the quote from Julius Caesar states, "the fault lies in ourselves" to address these pressing problems. The education of our children, adequate shelter for the homeless, the decline of America's manufacturing sector, drug abuse and infant mortality are real life issues. We must cease using these problems as political footballs. We must provide leadership and advocacy on every one of them. Perhaps this November, when the nation picks their new Chief Executive, the stars will have a different answer.

Democratic Party: Be Fair To Jackson



Civil Rights Journal

By Benjamin Chavis

Jesse Jackson is breaking all records as he continues to win votes and delegates in the race for the Democratic nomination for President. The last state primary elections will be held on Tuesday, June 7th. In California, New Jersey, Montana and New Mexico 466 delegates are at stake.

In both Los Angeles, California and Newark, New Jersey, I saw thousands of people rally in support of Jackson as he continues to define the key issues of this presidential campaign. Dukakis and Bush are increasingly being forced to respond to Jackson on the critical issues of the day: the drug epidemic, full employment, equal justice, a comprehensive national child care program, quality education for everyone, comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, and nuclear disarmament and world peace.

Since 1983, Jackson has been responsible for registering millions of new Democratic voters. In fact, Jesse Jackson has done more to pump new life into the Democratic Party than any other person alive. The building of the Rainbow Coalition has not only expanded the Democratic Party; it has transformed the character of rank and file Democratic voters.

Now, as we move closer to the Democratic National Convention, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from July 18 - 21, one fundamental question needs to be raised. This is the question of fairness.

After all that Jesse Jackson and millions of his supporters have done to show their explicit support for a Democratic win in the upcoming Presidential election, will the leadership of the Democratic Party be fair to Jackson?

Better yet, can the leadership of the Democratic Party afford not to be fair to Jackson? Fairness means giving respect, but fairness should be meas-

Governor gave all of Puerto Rico's delegates to Dukakis.

Fairness means that, at the least, in those states where the electorate overwhelmingly voted for Jackson, the Governors who are also "super delegates" -- should throw their support to Jackson.

Of course, we are only able to make the argument for fairness because of prior massive turn-outs of voters for Jackson on primary day. Every vote -- particularly on June 7th in California, New Jersey, Montana and New Mexico -- will count and will increase Jesse Jackson's leverage at the Democratic Convention.

Jesse Jackson deserves to be President. The Democratic Party must face this reality. The leaders of the Democratic Party have respected Dukakis; Jackson deserves no less. If, by chance, the leaders of the Party are willing to gamble with the future of the Democratic Party by being unfair to Jackson, then millions of Jackson supporters should not be expected to come out on Election Day in November. And this will not be Jackson's fault; it will be the fault of the Party bosses.

When I was in southern Africa recently, hundreds of people spoke to me of the importance of the Jackson candidacy. They saw it as a campaign with worldwide significance for the cause of justice and freedom. Jesse Jackson is the only presidential candidate who has lifted up the fact that South Africa is a terrorist state. Jesse Jackson has literally increased the hopes and aspirations of millions of people throughout the world, particularly in Latin America, the Middle East and in Africa. We, who have an opportunity to vote, must take this historic opportunity seriously. The future of the world is at stake.