

# The Charlotte Post

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## Editorials

### Neighborhood Drug Busters

By HOYLE H. MARTIN  
Editorial Writer

In the city of Philadelphia, a six year old boy was shot and paralyzed as the result of cross fire between disputing drug dealers. In a Houston neighborhood, an elderly woman was murdered by a teenager who was burglarizing her home in search for money to buy drugs. In yet another city, a child is shot and killed, again in some way related to drugs.

These horrible incidents of wounding and killing of law abiding citizens, often in public housing project neighborhoods, has led to the forming of neighborhood-based anti-drug groups in many cities across the nation.

In a USA TODAY cover story recently, the grandmother of the paralyzed youth was quoted as saying, "We own this neighborhood. We're not going to let the drug pushers take it away." The shooting, the reporter wrote, "lited (the grandmother) and her south Philadelphia neighborhood out of their paralysis."

Thus in Philadelphia, and in other cities across America, neighborhood-based groups are being organized to protect their communities. "Law enforcement (alone) is not the answer to the drug problem, it's got to start with people," says one federal drug enforcement administrator. And start it has, as neighborhoods across the nation have come to the realization that, as the Philadelphia grandmother has said, the "police alone can't stop the drug trade."

The neighborhood-based drug busters, without any public financial assistance, have boarded-up so-called crack houses, sat outside their doors or in doors at their windows at night to call the police as soon as the drug dealers entered their neighborhoods. Others have chased the unwanted guests out of their

neighborhood. In addition, coalitions have been formed to encourage more police involvement and clean-up teams have worked to clear the neighborhood of discarded drug paraphernalia in order to protect small children playing in a given area.

In some communities, people have placed signs in their front windows that read in large letters, "No Drugs." Likewise, others have placed anti-drug placards on street corners often frequented by drug pushers.

Here at home in Charlotte, Mayor Sue Myrick hosted a three-day drug information and education conference that has at least heightened concerns and awareness about the drug problem in our community. Subsequently, Fay Jones, president of the Fairview Home Residents Organization, referred to a drug-free neighborhood festival held last Saturday as "The First Block Party Against Drugs." The event was highlighted by the presence of policemen, firefighters and emergency medical personnel interacting in a social setting with the residents. Refreshments were served as approximately 300 youth or more enjoyed a relationship with people whom they usually only see in times of trouble or conflict in the community.

Mayor Myrick told the group, "This is only the beginning of what we can do. We can't rid your community of drugs without you (the residents) being involved."

Nonetheless, let us not be fooled, the drug problem is not limited to public housing project communities only. Therefore, all of us need to join in the war against drugs in some fashion if we want a better future for ourselves, our children and their children. The time to act is now, for tomorrow may be too late.

### We Need To Keep PAL

Last Saturday afternoon about 50 youth, 9 to 12 years of age, gathered around their youngest member, 2-year old Julius Antoine, in front of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Governmental Center to demonstrate their support of the Police Athletic League (PAL) sports program. The message they were attempting to communicate to the City Council was to that it continues to support PAL.

For nearly a half hour the boys chanted "Keep PAL Alive," as they marched in front of the new City Hall.

PAL, which began in Charlotte in 1977 to provide recreational and sports activities particularly for inner city youth from low income families, is now facing the possible loss of its approximately \$150,000 annual city funded budget. City Manger Wendell White has proposed eliminating the PAL program because it costs about \$100 more per child than Park and Recreation programs per child. In support of their cause, the PAL youth carried placards that read: "Don't Balance The Budget on the Backs of Children," and "Save PAL and Save the Children." Since it was a Saturday and all offices were closed, none of the Council members nor city staff witnessed the children's demonstration at 1:30 p.m.

Any prudent adult can sympathize with the plight that City Manager White has in providing a budget within the existing tax rate. However, cutting the PAL budget is totally inconsistent with the comments in the above editorial and with the intent of the city to continue building bridges of cooperation and understanding.

According to data provided by one of the PAL staff members, the program serves 10 football teams, 43 basketball teams and 12 Little League Baseball teams, about 75 youth

participate in the boxing program and 100 girls serve as cheerleaders --- for an average participation of nearly 1700 youth each year.

When the program began in 1977 about 30 police officers served as volunteers along with about 100 civilian volunteers. However, with the cost of living constantly rising, police officers with families to support were faced with the choice of either serving as a PAL volunteer or performing private duty service at the rate of \$12 per hour to help with home expense. Understandably, most select the pay-for-service activity.

It appears too that the City Manager believes with fewer officers involved in the program, the initial reason for creating the program, that is, for officers to serve as positive role models, has been fulfilled or is no longer needed.

The question might be asked, is it better to have fewer police officers and maintain the high interest of youth or should we scrap the program for a relatively few dollars? We need to be ever-mindful of the sensitivity of youth from low income families who too often have low self esteem because they don't have the opportunities children from more affluent families have. Thus, the loss of the PAL program by these youth will be just another of their disappointments and makes them a little more vulnerable to the grips of the drug and crime lords that frequent their communities.

Tragically, the cost of recapturing or rehabilitating a youth who is lost to drugs or the world of crime is staggering. We can only hope and pray that the City Council will see the value of the PAL program not only in monetary terms but also in terms of the quality of life that we so often talk about but do little to support.

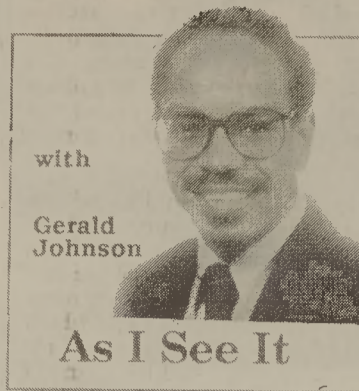
### The Business of Publishing

The newspaper business is an exciting and interesting business. Unfortunately, we don't spend enough time explaining certain aspects of how the business works to the public. This is unfortunate because some of the process utilized in producing the paper has a direct impact on your news getting published. So, to partially correct this inadequacy, I am going to talk a little about the business of newspaper publishing.

Newspapers receive the bulk of its revenue from advertising. The space utilized by ads basically pays for producing the news. Advertisers place ads in publications based on who is reading the publication and how many people are reading it. Consequently, the price publications charge for ad space is a factor of how many newspapers will be distributed.

Hence, circulation in my opinion is the lifeblood of any publication. Circulation of course means you, the reader. In order to attract and maintain an audience, it is necessary that the publication's content provides the type of information that is desired by the audience.

At *The Charlotte Post* we use what is known as the 60-40 rule of publication. Basically, this says that 60 percent of our newspaper each week should be advertising. This percentage will cover the cost of producing the paper. This also says that the amount of ads sold dictates the size of the paper. If we sell 14 pages of ads, then we can produce (theoretically) a 22 page paper. In reality we would have to produce a 24 page paper because the pages come in sets of fours. Sixty percent of a 24 page paper



with  
Gerald Johnson

As I See It

We want all of you to continue to flood our office with your articles. Moreover, we want you to continue to bug potential and current advertisers about using the Post as an advertising vehicle. But, I do want all of you to understand the process that the staff goes through each week to bring you the news.

It is important to remember, also, that we have a small staff. It is impossible for us to cover all the events and activities going on in the community. However, if you know of a newsworthy event that you would like to see in the paper, just do this: Write a press release stating the essential information about the event. Make sure the release reaches the office of *The Charlotte Post* at least a week before the event. Earlier if possible. Include a contact person's telephone number on the release.

It's best if you follow up your release with a telephone call to the person who will likely handle your news. The editor of *The Post* is Jalyne Strong. Section editors are: Lora Vanderhall, Lifestyles and Herb White, Sports. Millicent Link handles news for the *Alliance*.

Because we have a small staff it still may be impossible to have a reporter cover a certain event. In that case, make arrangements to have pictures taken at the event. It's best to hire a photographer. Once you have your pictures and press release, mail both or bring both by the office. We will take care of the rest.

On behalf of *The Charlotte Post* staff, it is a sincere pleasure serving you, our public. Thanks for your continued support.

### Democracy Gaining In China And Soviet Union - What About The U.S.?

All over China, people have gone to the streets to demand democracy. In the Soviet Union, contested elections have generated unbelievable excitement. As people in the communist countries push towards an expansion of democracy, you have to ask this question:

What about us?  
Is democracy expanding in the United States?

The answer is a clear "no" if you look at recent elections to the United States House of Representatives.

There are 435 seats in the House. Guess how many seats have changed from one party to the other since the 1980 election.

Only 50 seats, according to the *Congressional Quarterly Weekly*. That is an average of less than 15 seats in each election.

Democracy in action?  
But there is more. Guess what percentage of incumbent Congressmen won reelection last year. Would you believe 98 percent?

It sounds like election results from the old days in Russia. But it is here in the United States. Last year, almost every Congressman who chose to run for reelection won---unless he was involved in some kind of scandal.

The message? Once a Congressman is elected, he stays there are long as he wants.

Democracy? I don't think so.  
"But," you say, "we could kick them out if we wanted to. We have a democracy, but we just don't choose to use it to kick out members of Congress."

Maybe you are right. But I don't think so. Answer these questions. Do we like what Congress is doing? With the deficit? With defense policy? With ethical matters?

We don't, do we? Then why



D.G. Martin

One-On-One

don't we change our Congress?

The answer is, we can't. As a practical matter, we are stuck with Congress and all Congressmen ---as long as they want to serve. That is no democracy.

Why? What has happened?  
PACs and postage. They are two of the biggest reasons for the loss of democracy in House elections.

PACs. You know the story. If you give to a business or interest group PAC, you know why you give. You want your group's lobbyist to use that money to get across to Congressmen---access and influence. That is why PACs give mostly to incumbents. PACs give a lot, but little of it goes to people running against incumbents. Why? Challengers don't vote. So PACs don't waste their money. If a challenger should win, PACs can give him money after the election.

In short, incumbents have money. Most challengers don't. People who have money to spend generally win elections.

Postage is the other reason. Congressmen get free postage and they send a lot of mail. Six mass mailings can be sent to every home in their district each year. Plus, they can send an un-

limited amount of free individually addresses first class mail.

My Congressman buys lists of veterans, farmers, educators, and all kinds of other groups. Thanks to the computer, he mails thousands of special letters to people like you and me. All of that is a taxpayer expense---and almost all of it is thinly disguised campaign mail.

A challenger has to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to send out the same amount of mail.

And the challenger is the one without the money---thanks to the PACs!

With the advantage that PACs and free postage give to Congressmen, challengers seldom win. In fact, it won't be often that you can get a challenger to try.

What can we do to get our democracy back? Do we have to go to the streets like the Chinese? Or wait for a Gorbachev like the Russians?

I don't think so. Here are a few ideas that would help open the process up.

First, limit the role of PACs in House elections. If it means some public funding of Congressional elections to get democracy back, it will be a bargain.

Second, take away free postage for Congressmen. Put them on a budget and limit their use of the mails to what it takes to do the job.

Third, limit the time a Congressman can serve without a break. A President can serve only two four-year terms. Why not apply the same eight-year limit to the House?

Don't you like those ideas? If you have better ones, share them with me in care of this paper or at Box 2688, Chapel Hill, NC 27515. But we have to do something. Otherwise we may have to learn---like the Chinese and the Russians---that democracy is not easy to get back.

### It's Not Enough To Have A High Intelligence Quotient In America Today

Intelligence Quotients (IQ) are both a blessing and a curse for many people. They legitimate elitism amongst the supposedly gifted and become a stigma for the so-called average.

There have been controversial attempts to exploit even race to explain differences in intelligence between groups of people.

For example, black Americans were garroted by a Nobel Laureate's skullduggery when he attempted to authenticate Blacks' inferior intelligence. This sort of race bashing is exacerbated each year when the national academic achievement test scores show that black children score significantly lower than white children.

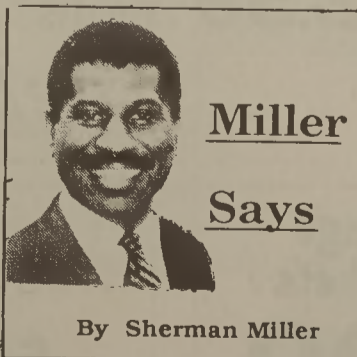
Thus, it is easy to equate success with high academic achievement. We show great reverence for a person who makes straight A's. These ge-

nuses are often considered the most likely to succeed.

Let me highlight some stories which suggest that high academic achievement is not a sufficient condition for success. I define success as having accomplished one's personal goals and objectives.

I am acquainted with a doctor, a graduate of an Ivy League Medical School, who fell in love with a young lady. He was brought up in a cloistered environment where his life centered on high academic achievement. This doctor fell victim to naivete'. When he purchased a new home to impress the young lady, she took little note of this costly gesture.

This young lady emotionally crushed the naive doctor by chasing after a playboy. She later became pregnant by this playboy. The doctor is still un-



Miller Says

By Sherman Miller

able to comprehend that the playboy's offering of strength and excitement were more important than his high IQ and worldly goods.

A Spanish lady told a tale about her husband's mother being taken to a dress shop to purchase some dresses. The father-in-law purportedly dictated

to this woman what dresses she could buy.

Now, the son, a medical doctor, wants to adopt his father's chauvinistic style. This Spanish lady claims she is a liberated woman who produces world-class musical events. She says she has left her husband several times because he still cannot accept her equality.

Finally, I was trapped at the Chicago airport on a Friday night because of an ice storm. While standing in line at the Airport Hilton Hotel, I chatted with a Pennsylvania businessman. He only wanted to get home to take his dog to the veterinarian.

He spoke of a wife, but he placed her second in priority to the dog. I commented, "You are one of those guys who kiss the dog and says goodbye to the wife." He retorted that he had been married 12 tough years.

America's success depends on people with emotional not scholars but who are masters at utilizing other people to accomplish tasks. These emotionally gifted people recognize the importance of establishing an emotional link with the other people if they are to lead them.

When the 1989 achievement scores for America's youth are announced this year, I only ask that you look beyond the implied performance gap between blacks and whites. Consider the possibility that high emotional IQ is a requirement for surviving in America's death laden ghettos.

Perhaps the framers of these national tests will someday start to measure Emotional I.Q. as well. Will emotional genius, when juxtaposed to academic genius, eventually be recognized as equally important to success in life?