

# The Charlotte Post

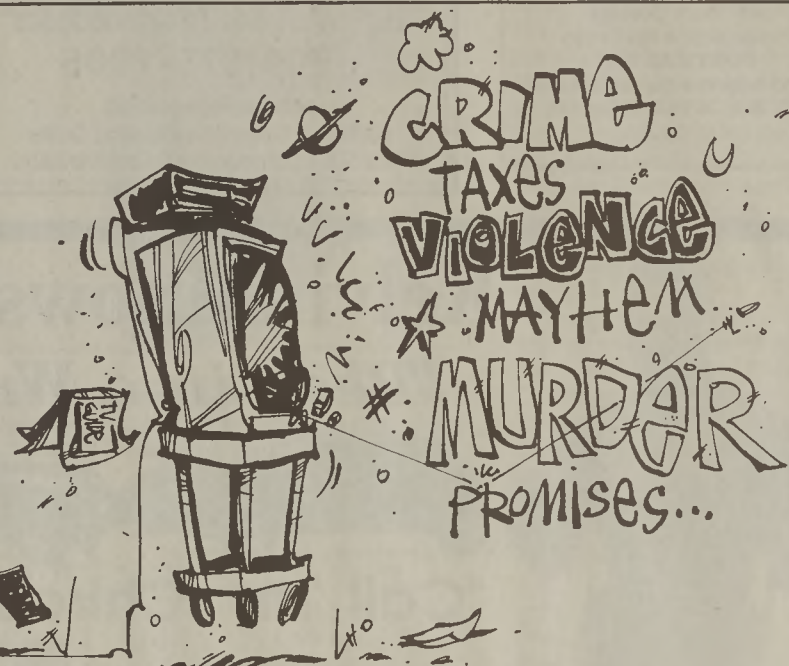
The Voice Of The Black Community

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TV NEWS TEASER ... OR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AD

## Search for democracy goes on

As Americans face the end of a political epoch, the demise of the Cold War, and the dawn of the 21st century, we are challenged to reexamine our principles and politics.

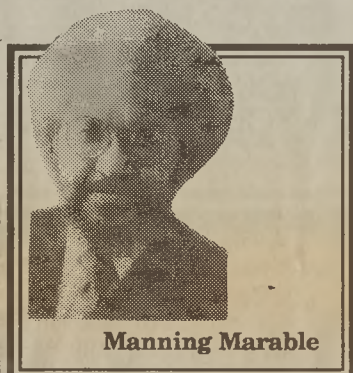
With the collapse of the Soviet Union and communism, it has been claimed that America's system of corporate capitalism has triumphed. The basic problems inherent in our class system, such as economic recessions and depressions, deep pockets of poverty in our central cities, hunger and homelessness, supposedly can be resolved.

But from the unemployment lines and the closed factories, from the inner city ghettos and barrios, from the underfunded public hospitals and schools, a strikingly different perspective emerges. Millions of Americans continue to ask themselves how a "democratic" country like America can have so many poor people, or have 37 million people without medical insurance. Many of us are forced to try to reconcile our democratic ideals and aspirations with the actual contradictions of daily life. The values in which we believe are constantly undermined and compromised by a pervasive system of power, privilege and coercion which seeks to curtail dissent, silence critics, and limits the very concept of democracy itself.

We the people believe in the ideals of political democracy - the ideal of the electoral franchise, the freedom of political thought, association and choice regarding representation - yet we must dwell beneath a political plutocracy, buoyed by vast financial contributions from corporate interests and maimed by a biased electoral system which rewards the wealthy and severely restricts alternative voices. We the people believe in the ideal of human creativity and work, the principle of a job for everyone who wishes to work. Yet we live under a corporate-controlled system of elitism and privilege in which the upper 1 percent of all households has a greater net wealth than the bottom 90 percent of all American households. We believe in the concept of human equality and equal treatment under the law, regardless of race, religious beliefs, gender and sexual orientation. Yet we live in a time of growing inequalities between people, a polarization between the super affluent "haves" and millions of increasingly marginalized "have nots." Black, Latino and low income dissent exploded on the streets of Los Angeles last year, yet our government has not passed an urban jobs program which could address the root eco-

nomical factors beneath this discontent.

We the people believe in the democratic principles of peace and the right of all people and nations throughout the world to self-determination, the right to choose their own leaders and forms of government. Yet our country leads the world in launching military



Manning Marable

invasions against leaders and governments it doesn't like; we blockade Cuba, against all reason and logic, because we don't support that country's leader. We prop up corrupt authoritarian regimes and indirectly finance terror, rape and murder across the Third World, perpetuating social conflict and repression at the expense of the poorest and most oppressed people on earth.

We believe deeply that our nation's greatest strength is the colorful mosaic of its ethnic diversity - yet our government actively seeks to curtail immigration from most non-European countries, and brutally rejects and imprisons refugees from countries such as Haiti. In short, we the people believe in expanding democracy to include greater rights for all Americans. Those who exercise real power in our system actively seek to curtail our voices, to limit our choices, to block and eliminate genuine alternatives in politics. Our current political process, designed two centuries ago, must be reformed in order to reflect the new and deeply democratic aspirations of the majority of American people. Thus our challenge is to reconcile our democratic dreams with our undemocratic realities. We must transform our society to end the hypocrisy and elitism which fosters alienation and frustration among voters.

We must go beyond a politics of the "lesser evil" toward a political strategy which opens the process and empowers all of those who have been silenced and disillusioned.

MANNING MARABLE is a nationally-syndicated columnist.

## Vote for university bonds

Every now and then my editors let me write about my job - working for the 16 campuses of the University of North Carolina. Sometimes they let me write about things about my job that are fun - or funny. Sometimes about more serious matters.

Today, it is serious. Early next month - on Nov. 2, to be exact - we go to the polls to vote on a package of statewide bond issues. The bonds would fund the construction of capital facilities for community colleges, clean water projects, parks, and our 16 universities.

For the past few months, I have been spending a lot of my time giving information and advice to people campaigning for the passage of the bonds, especially the university bonds. And I have gotten lots of questions.

A basic question is "Why borrow money now?" There are several good reasons to use borrowed money to finance needed capital improvements at this particular time. Here are just a few.

- The cost of borrowing is lower than it has been in years. Interest rates have dropped unbelievably. The other day somebody told me about public bonds selling at interest rates of less than 3 percent.

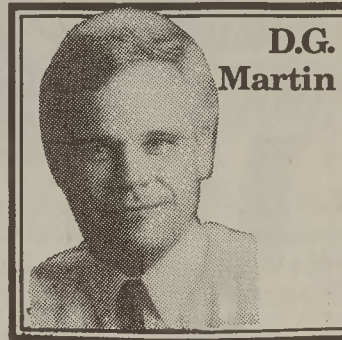
- Construction cost are also very low. Why? During the last few years the construction business has suffered during the bad economic times. As a result, many of contractors are hungry for work. So, needed facilities can be constructed for a much lower cost today than in the future.

- North Carolina's good credit rating (the best possible) makes it possible to borrow at the lowest interest rates available. But our credit rating is not automatic. It needs to be protected. Sometimes, they say, you have to borrow to invest, if you are going to be able to stay in a fiscally sound position.

All that is well and good. But some people are reluctant to approve the borrowing of money or the issuance of bonds unless they get good assurance about two things: (1) The money is going to address specific and genuinely needed facilities. (2) Taxes won't go up.

The question about need is pretty easy to address. On each university campus, the facilities to be constructed or renovated are identified specifically. And on each campus these

facilities are the most needed of a group of much needed projects. At East Carolina, for instance, the current library is so crowded



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that many books have been sent to off-campus storage facilities. Meanwhile, students crowd into inadequate space to study and do research.

At UNC Charlotte, study body growth has outstripped the ability of the university to provide classroom space for all the classes the kids need to graduate. At Fayetteville State, ancient dormitories are unsafe and unfit for that growing campus. Every campus needs similar projects to help it provide the good teaching and public service that our citizens expect.

The entire university system has grown by about 16,000 students during the last four or five years - about the student body size of UNC Charlotte or one of the other larger UNC institutions. But the state has not been able to provide the funds for new facilities during this time.

Without new facilities, the university system can't continue to grow. If it can't grow there won't be a place for the increasing number of North Carolina young people who are qualified to go to college.

What about taxes? Taxes won't have to go up to pay for the bonds. That is what the experts say - including Harlan Boyles, our fiscally conservative state treasurer.

People have a tough time believing that their taxes won't go up. But nobody has come up with real facts or reasoning to challenge Mr. Boyles.

However you see it, don't forget to vote on Nov. 2.

D.G. MARTIN is vice president for public affairs for the University of North Carolina system.

## The ADL and Farrakhan

By Conrad Worrill  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is at it again in their ongoing campaign to disrupt the efforts of black leaders to unite.

It was reported in the major media on Sept. 17 that Rep. Kweisi Mfume, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, had endorsed the Nation of Islam and Minister Louis Farrakhan.

This endorsement took place at a massive town hall meeting at the annual Congressional Black Caucus Conference. Also, appearing on the panel with Minister Farrakhan were Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. Ben Chavis and Rep. Maxine Waters.

All across America, African Americans were saying "it was about time that African American leaders unite."

On Sept. 23, the Anti-Defamation League released a press statement indicating Mfume would meet "to discuss the agency's concern about the Black Caucus uniting itself with Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam."

This action, on the part of the ADL, came on the heels of some Jewish Leaders, through Rabbi David Saper-

stein, using their influence with prominent African American civil rights leaders to disinvite Minister Farrakhan from speaking at the March on Washington on Aug. 28.

The press statement by the ADL went on to say: "In a letter to Rep. Mfume, Melvin Salberg, ADL national chairman and Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director, had asked to meet with him to clarify the caucus position before those who thrive on divisiveness escalate the situation."

Continuing, the ADL release stated, "While the Caucus has the right to unite with whomever it pleases, associating with an avowed racist and anti-Semite erodes the moral fiber of your worthy mission."

Following this press release by the ADL, the New York Times in its editorial on Sept. 25 threw its hat in the ring in joining the ADL by also raising questions.

The Times editorial condemned Rep. Mfume and the Congressional Black Caucus in this manner:

"It's reasonable for the caucus to reach out. But Mr. Mfume and his duly elected colleagues needn't be threatened or guilt-tripped into sharing platforms with peo-

ple without portfolio who would soon drop from sight if the press ceased to cover them - or if the Black Caucus ceased to invite them to conferences."

It is clear that at this critical juncture in history, the forces of white supremacy are doing everything within their power to prevent African American leaders from uniting and working together on the acute problems we face as a people.

Syndicated African American columnists Clarence Page and William Raspberry repeatedly serve as apologists for Jewish interest when they raise a hue and cry about African American leaders uniting with Minister Farrakhan, as they did in their recent columns. These two brothers are completely out of touch with the real struggle that African American people should continue to wage in our efforts to achieve true liberation and independence.

A people can only truly coalesce with other people, including Jews, when they coalesce and unite with themselves.

CONRAD WORRILL is Chairman of the National Black United Front in Chicago.

## After thumbing nose at U.S., Aideed is Somali anti-hero

By William Reed  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

When U.S. Marines first landed in Mogadishu last December, Americans applauded the effort to save starving people in Somalia.

Now that television pictures portray scenes of black boys and women dragging the body of a U.S. soldier through the streets of that African city, scores of American fighters dead or being held hostage, domestic polls now reveal that the vast number of Americans want to bring home the forces of the world's reigning military power immediately. On the other hand, based on the past history of the Western powers, blacks in America and around the world have con-

flicting views about General Mohammed Farrah Aideed, who some call a new anti-establishment hero.

Instead of achieving international acclaim for the humanitarian effort, Americans are being accused of "colonialism" and "racism" by many Africans. After letting themselves get sidetracked from their humanitarian projects and getting involved in Somalia's internal battles, American politicians and military experts are looking for the fastest way out. Clinton told the nation, "It is not our job to rebuild Somalia."

Responding to the American Congress and critics' pressure, President Clinton pledged in early October to get out of Somalia by the end of March 1994. Members of the U.S. Congress, such as

West Virginia Sen. Robert Byrd, are considering dealing Clinton a fatal blow by voting to bring the troops back by Dec. 31. Liberals, such as former President Jimmy Carter, are urging the administration and Congress to "carefully consider the course of action the United States should take in Somalia."

Congressional Black Caucus member and Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee Ronald Dellums (D-Calif.) said, "I urge you not to make hasty judgements in reaction to the tragic events in Somalia. We as a nation must act quickly to restore a proper relationship between the ends and means in Somalia. We owe it to our casualties and their loved ones, as well as to our national in-

terests, to re-embrace political options in Somalia. And, at all costs, we must avoid any form of precipitous withdrawal."

Twenty-five percent of the U.S. soldiers in Somalia are African American and black leaders are concerned about blacks fighting blacks in an African country. Jesse Jackson has sided with Clinton's stance to stay, but is urging the U.S. and the United Nations to allow more participation of African soldiers in the peacekeeping. A Nigerian soldier was also held by Aideed's clan faction before being released last week.

The major force in Somalia's internal battles is Aideed. After the June 5 clash when Aideed's military forces killed 24 Pakistani UN peacekeeping soldiers, the

strongest of the Somali warlords was branded "a criminal," a public arrest warrant was issued for him and a \$25,000 bounty was established for his capture. After having been a major player in that country for years, Aideed's forces control the capital city of Mogadishu. Although there are other clan leaders in the country, the U.S. and UN diplomats downplayed his stature in the "political reconciliation" process.

The snag in the U.S. program for "humanitarian efforts" in this country was the underestimation of Aideed's political power and heavy armaments. It was Aideed's forces that drove dictator Mohamed Siad Barre from power in 1991. Aideed was Barre's Army Chief of Staff

and had military training in Italy and the Soviet Union. He had been a major participant in internal talks when U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley was leading the mission to restore a government there. There have been direct actions by U.S. Rangers to kill Aideed.

The sight of what was thought to be a "bunch of rag-tag teenagers" forcing the world's mightiest power to run has terrified U.S. citizens. But many American blacks agree with Aideed's contentions of "colonialism" and "racism" and take some pride in his military and political prowess.

WILLIAM REED is communications director for the National Newspaper Publishers Association.