



The Charlotte Post

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Hot for Halloween. 8A



Trick-or-treat isn't just for ghosts and goblins. This year, people are masquerading as Barney, Batman and other popular characters.

Entertainment The prince of funk. 1B

Some things never change: George Clinton, one of the pioneers of funk music in the '70s and a staple of hip-hop samples today, has a new CD, "Hey Man, Smell My Finger."

GEORGE CLINTON

Sports More than passing fancy. 8B

Howard quarterback Jay Walker has the attention of NFL scouts as he tears through his senior season.

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Columnist Robyn Gool concludes a series on unanswered prayers and how that can be changed.

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Tuesday's elections will be about more than city council and mayoral races. Local and state bonds will be on the ballot, including the controversial Mecklenburg school referendum. Everyone has an opinion, and The Post makes endorsements.

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The next time you watch an Atlantic Coast Conference football or basketball game, Beverly Rumley will be responsible for everything you see.

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School board member won't support bonds

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

In a move that runs counter to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board and its supporters, board member Arthur Griffin says he opposes the school bond referendum.

Griffin, one of two blacks on the board, said he doesn't support the \$192 million

package because the school system has yet to satisfy concerns that building two new high schools would threaten the future of West Charlotte High School. If the new schools are built in the mostly-white northern and eastern part of Mecklenburg as planned, West Charlotte could lose its student base, and identity with it.

"I've been talking to staff as often as I could about West

Charlotte and the best they could tell me was we could go north and get (white) students from the Long Creek area," he said. "Without some plan on the table, it won't go."

West Charlotte, the last survivor of Mecklenburg's seven all-black high schools, has loyal alumni who have met with political and civic leaders regarding the school's fate. Alumni have attended

school board meetings and planned to be at Tuesday's before it was moved to Nov. 9, a week after the Nov. 2 elections.

"It's a key-stone institution in the community," said William

Hamlin, president of the national West Charlotte Alumni Association. The group has not taken a stance for or against the referendum.

"We're really concerned that if two new high schools are built, West Charlotte will suffer."

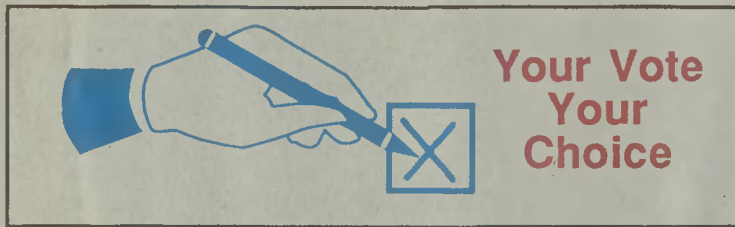
Griffin joins a growing list of opponents to the school bonds. Citizens For Effective



Griffin

See GRIFFIN On Page 2A

Candidates Take A Stand



City council at-large

Ella Scarborough Democrat

• Inner city neighborhoods:



"One of the major goals is to enhance the matching grants programs. That empowers neighborhoods to

do what they think is right, rather than having us coming to them telling them what to do."

• Crime: "We need to not allow repeat offenders on the street. Neighborhoods must take on some responsibility...to report the people causing trouble."

• Taxes: "We should avoid tax hikes at all costs. We need to look at being cost efficient in running government."

• Minority participation in economic growth:

"One major problem is the African American community not feeling a part of the economic growth...We need to help minority businesses learn the system with things like seminars and buddy systems."

• Biggest needs: "Our older neighborhoods need some help in rebuilding the infrastructure. The lack of playgrounds and amenities in certain neighborhoods are concerns."

Pat McCrory Republican

• Inner city neighborhoods:



"In an effort to keep young children away from crime and in school, I developed the concept of Tolerate

No Truancy (TNT)."

• Crime: "Two things must be done to prevent further crime. First, we must as a community ensure that any citizen convicted of a crime in Charlotte is punished. Second, direct efforts to prevent children from trying drugs or getting involved in crime through our schools, churches and community policing."

• Taxes: "A tax increase is not needed at this time for additional services. We should immediately direct savings from stopping backyard pick-up to public safety initiatives."

• Minority participation in economic growth:

"We should continue ensuring equal opportunity is available for all citizens."

• Biggest needs: "The areas with the biggest needs continue to be our low income areas in which crime, drugs and alcohol are strangling these neighborhoods."

Don Reid Republican

• Inner city neighborhoods:



"Community-based policing is the first step toward improving inner city quality of life. This is a proven

way of reducing the crime and drug problems. Without safe neighborhoods there is little hope that programs...will work."

• Crime: "The new police chief should be someone with a proven record of dealing with inner city problems. It is outrageous that little has been said about the deaths of dozens of young black males and it took the murder of two police officers to wake up our City Council and city leaders."

• Taxes: "We do not need tax increases. By reducing wasteful spending on big, glitzy, special interest projects, we have plenty of money to provide quality services for all citizens."

• Biggest needs: "I have been a strong advocate of equal services for all areas of our city. The inner city and the Westside have not received their fair share."

Lynn Wheeler Republican

• Inner city neighborhoods:



"Expand community policing to link inner city neighborhoods in an effort...to develop their own anti-crime, anti

drug programs."

• Crime: "The expansion of community-based policing will have an immediate impact on neighborhood safety. The new police chief should be sensitive to the inner city. It is an outrage that any citizen feels hostage by crime...and every means must be taken to eradicate crime in those neighborhoods."

• Taxes: "Proper management of city resources and services will preclude the need for additional taxes."

• Minority participation in economic growth:

"We must pursue a better vehicle to create more growth opportunities for minority contractors."

• Areas of biggest need: "Although I have represented District 6 for two terms, my record indicates not only a concern for the entire city, but also a leadership role in our regional economic development."

Impasse over Haiti leaders

Military vows not to give Aristide power

By William Reed
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Two years and one month after he was driven from his country, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was supposed to return to Port-Au-Prince and assume power as head of the government. It hasn't happened yet.

The Haitian military, commanded by Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, and the police chief, Lt. Col. Joseph Michel Francois, have resisted Aristide's return and employed hundreds of anti-Aristide paramilitary forces to keep the deposed president and his associates from re-taking office.

The United Nations imposed sanctions against Haiti this month and President Bill Clinton ordered American warships to patrol Haitian waters to enforce the embargo. The U.S. and UN actions came after Aristide's Justice Minister, Guy Malary, was gunned down in broad daylight by paramilitary forces known as "attaches." U.S. assets of 50 to 100 of Haiti's ruling military and police officials, such as Cedras and Francois, were ordered frozen by Clinton, who has pledged to Aristide that he would help him to return to office.

Aristide, who has been in exile in Venezuela and Washington, was democratically elected by over 67 percent of Haitian voters and was scheduled to return to office October 30 based on the Clinton administration-brokered talks on Governors Island, N.Y. Although the military leaders had agreed at the July 3 talks to step down, they remained defiant in the face of the sanctions and allowed citizen soldiers to block the arrival of U.S. and Canadian troops sent to Haiti to assist the transition back to Aristide's leadership.

While ordinary Haitians rushed to stock up on food and fuel, a spokesman for the military rulers said they would rather fight to the death than hand power back to Aristide. The military has allied with supporters of the Duvalier family dictatorship to keep Aristide out. The prices of basic goods in Haiti skyrocketed in face of the sanctions and analysts expect the embargo to stop the country's economy. The impoverished nation has about 8 to 10 weeks of oil supplies on hand and could be stretched to three months with rationing.

The last oil deliveries were made October 3. The poor, of whom over 150,000 have lost jobs in the past year, are expected to be the hardest hit in the embargo. Many of the military and elite are suspected of getting rich through the shipment of drugs headed for the U.S., which is the reason for the freezing of assets. Haiti is located 800 miles off America's East Coast.

Mayor

Ann Hammond Democrat



Hammond

On gun control: "There's absolutely no reason for semi-automatic assault rifles to be carried on the streets of our city, so I do support a ban on assault weapons."

On saving taxpayer dollars: Roll-out garbage collection will allow money to be put into more pressing needs. "Clearly, that's going to be a source of income to the city that would not normally have been available."

On managing growth: Contends growth of city with regards to new and expanded businesses should be balanced with quality of life for all residents.

Involvement of all people, especially African Americans, to solve crime problems: "It is even more important to get the input of citizens...I want to take advantage of the opportunity to motivate and bring citizens into the problem solving capacity."

Richard Vinroot Republican



Vinroot

On gun control: "If we're going to have a federal gun control law that stops guns from being sold in this country, that's fine. But for Charlotte to take a step and have a gun control law as a symbolic step, it simply doesn't do any good."

On saving taxpayer dollars: Favors privatization of city services to help save money along with advocating roll-out garbage collection that would save an estimated \$49 million over 10 years.

On managing growth: Favors allowing private sector to generate jobs and stimulate city's economy. "We couldn't have a better solution to our problems, social problems or whatever, than that growth."

Involvement of all people, especially African Americans, to solve city's crime problems: Favors professional recommendation, then public input. "We're fighting over the deck chairs on the Titanic while the Titanic is sinking."

For more on the positions of city council and mayoral candidates, please see Page 3A.