

Editorial

Hart: looking out for No. 1

Gary Hart began his second presidential campaign last month by proclaiming to be the standard bearer for a new age of politics: an age in which ability and ideas, not personality and character, would determine who governed. Yet, Hart declared his candidacy amid rumors of womanizing and evidence of unpaid debts from his 1984 campaign. In an attempt to revert attention to Gary Hart, Man of Ideas, from Gary Hart, Man About Town, he challenged the press to follow him and report on any extramarital affairs. The Miami Herald answered Hart's challenge and his relationship with Donna Rice became front-page news.

Whether Hart committed adultery is unimportant. It is important that he put himself in a situation in which the facts could easily be misconstrued. By so doing, Hart called into question not only his character, but his judgment. Hart's poor judgment cost him dearly, but it cost Hart's campaign staff, the forgotten men and women of any campaign, much more.

Political campaign workers are filled with motivations, often conflicting, from idealism and patriotism to ambition and opportunism. But one characteristic unites the different motivations of men and women within a campaign, the willingness to sacrifice. Campaign staffers work long hours and face numerous crises as the immovable deadline of Election Day approaches.

Hart's campaign staffers were working from California to Maine raising money and preparing for the Iowa caucuses, the New Hampshire primary, and the Super South. Meanwhile, their candidate, with full knowledge that the womanizing issue could destroy his candidacy, chose to sail from Miami to Bimini with an actress and then

spent part of a weekend with her in Washington. Evidently, Gary Hart, Man About Town, did not believe that his lifestyle lent credibility to the womanizing rumors. This callous disregard for the sacrifices and aspirations of his most ardent and loyal supporters says more about Gary Hart than any of his ideas.

As the situation deteriorated during the days following the weekend rendezvous, Hart's staff attempted to gather the facts and respond to the mounting accusations. Hart's actions reminded one staffer of March 1984 when the press broke stories about his name and age. "It's happening again," the aide said. "We can't get a straight story out of him."

Although his staff and volunteers were willing to make tremendous personal sacrifices to help him, Hart was apparently unwilling or unable to make any sacrifices for them. Hart came across as an insensitive man who cared not for individuals, but only for his own entertainment and ideas.

As he left the political arena, Hart complained that press scrutiny "is clearly one of the reasons many talented people in the nation opt out of public service." The press did not force Hart out of the race. He requested unusual personal scrutiny, and the press merely showed Hart to be what he is — a selfish man with a tremendous intellect, but poor judgment and limited compassion.

Gary Hart no longer has to worry about press scrutiny. Today, Gary Hart is what he should be, a private citizen. And he has plenty of time to stop thinking about himself and start reflecting on the pain and disappointment he brought into other people's lives.

Off the Record

An easy way to improve your GPA

Welcome to summer school.

Go ahead, read this paper. No need to worry about assignments or due dates or whatever else that professor is droning on about. Studying and taking notes are not the way to get through Carolina.

For those of you who haven't caught on yet, the easiest way to graduate from this esteemed institution is by brown-nosing or butt-kissing.

The best way to describe this age-old Carolina tradition is probably by example. For instance, think back to elementary school, when there was always a "teacher's pet." This kid always complimented the teacher's new dress or volunteered to dust the erasers. But as soon as the teacher was out of the room, her "pet" called her names and threw spitballs just like everyone else — except he got away with it. And while you wrote, "I will not call Mrs. Jones a fat Frankenstein," 500 times, he got to go make bulletin boards or practice his poem for the PTA program.

Well the teacher's pet grew up and came to Carolina. Now called a brown-noser or a butt-kisser, he or she follows the motto: Don't know the material — know the professor.

So now the brown-noser goes from class to class raising his hand to ask as many questions as he can possibly think of. These questions don't have

to be intelligent. Quantity counts more than quality. The experienced butt-kisser tends to save the best questions until there are only one or two minutes left in the class so everyone has to stay late to hear the answer.

After class, the brown-noser will stand in line with all the other brown-nosers and wait for a chance to talk with the instructor. These two-minute conversations range from complimenting the class to flattering comments about the instructor.

The most interesting thing about brown-nosing is that it often works. Brown-nosers do seem to get better grades. Why? Because many instructors simply can't tell the difference between a brown-noser and a genuinely interested student. This is seldom a problem for other students.

So if you want to get good grades without having to learn too much, maybe you should give brown-nosing a try. Summer school, with its small class sizes, is a great time for a novice to take up the sport.

But don't expect to end up with many friends — or an education.

Editor's note: Off the Record is a column created by the editorial board for its own devious purposes.

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Letters

Will sanctions really help?

To the editor:

A great deal has been said during the past year about the "positive" impact that economic sanctions would have in forcing the apartheid government in South Africa to reform its racist policies. Yet, experts now contend that the punitive sanctions are having the reverse effect and the imposition of sanctions has consolidated the government in its retreat from meaningful, if indeed, any reform.

The South African Roman Catholic Church, one of the outspoken voices in support of sanctions a few months ago, recently reported this finding and has further concluded that economic sanctions will "become very hurtful to the economic and, therefore, the social fabric of the country."

Bowing under the pressure of the noisy and emotional crowd in this country that has advocated sanctions as the "moral" policy to affect change in South Africa, General Motors, IBM, Coca-Cola, and other corporations have pulled out. GM, you might remember, was the company that established the Sullivan principles, a standard of respect for human rights and civil liberties. But GM

has left South Africa, and U.S. influence in the reform process may have left with it.

William Raspberry, a liberal columnist with the Washington Post, has written that since sanctions were imposed by the Congressional override of President Reagan's veto last year, there has been "an end to any pretense of serious reform."

Most importantly, blacks are being punished by the economic sanctions, the very people that sanctions were supposed to help. Black unemployment in many parts of the country is rising. In the Eastern Cape, it is running at 50 percent. So much for our faith in economic sanctions.

BILL PEASLEE
Class of 1987

Letters policy

The STH welcomes all reader comments, ideas and criticisms. All letters must be typed, double-spaced on a 60-space line. You must include your name, signature, year in school, major, phone number, and the date submitted.



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