Who's Got The Pitch?

The upcoming World Series may well stir many Memphians more than the imminent municipal elections. If voting statistics of the past are an indication, however, residents of the Vollintine/Evergreen community will once again exercise their voting privilege in record numbers. And for good reasons. Among the candidates for the Board of Education and County Court this year, some of the best qualified live in our community.

Among the candidates for City Council for whom Vollintine/Evergreen residents can vote, we unfortunately cannot boast a neighbor, but we hope that, in regard to these very important positions too, the questionnaires which they have answered below, will aid us in making our choice.

The candidates for City Council for whom Vollintine/Evergreen community residents can vote were asked the following questions:

1. Do you have specific plans for preserving the vitality of inner-city areas?

2. What will you do to support the Board of Education in maintaining and improving the quality of mid-town schools?

3. What channels of communication will you provide to listen to neighborhood associations and under represented groups like the elderly, the poor, and the black?

4. What can you do to prevent categories of zoning that would have adverse effects on mid-town residential areas?

5. What will you do to increase minority employment in responsible city positions?

Here is a summary of the answers the Evergreen News received:

City Council

DISTRICT 5

Robert B. James
1. Proponent of careful zoning practices, urban renewal, and preservation of historic sites. 2. Suggests increased expenditure to keep up school quality. 3. Set goal of visitation with various underrepresented groups. 4. No blanket policy on zoning; relies on Planning Commission. 5. The problem of minority employment is taking care of itself and should be helped by the planned Community College. (Lives in Central Garden District; president of the Memphis Building Maintenance Co., Matco; incumbent councilman)

Jerry P. Tucker
1. Has specific plans for improving inner city with emphasis on residential improvement and the development of community centers. 2. Assuring an atmosphere conducive to learning and encouraging a strong administration. 3. Plans regular meetings with neighborhood groups and consultation with constituents on all ordinances. 4. Will use influence as councilman to protect district zoning. 5. Has plan for providing minority employment and solving pay parity problem in police and fire departments. (Lives in Mid-Memphis area; president of Universal Mechanical Contractors)

DISTRICT 7

Alma Morris
No response. (Owner of Morris Barber Shop and Cleaners; husband lost to J. O. Patterson in election 4 years ago)

J. O. Patterson, Jr.
No response. (Attorney; served as state representative; endorsed by AFL-CIO; incumbent councilman; incumbent state senator)

AT-LARGE POSITION 1

Gwen R. Awsumb
1. More stringent housing code enforcement. 2. Supports upgrading of physical plants and curriculums (ed. - no specific plans mentioned). 3. Will remain available to listen to groups in an attempt to prevent problems from arising. 4. Will keep eye on mid-town area and oppose any detrimental zoning. 5. Current council has set policy of "equal opportunity" and it is now in the hands of the administration to implement it. (Long time political worker; incumbent councilwoman)

Paul (Dilly) Dillingham
1. Use of modern building practices in improving neighborhood; getting inner city residents involved. 2. Proponent of vocationally-oriented educational programs. 3. Continued support of police department's community relations program. 4. Work with local groups to get their opinions of zoning. 5. Supports fairness in hiring policies. (Plumber; active in American Party)

Wayne Mink
No response. (Office building manager; has served on Planning Commission)

Travis D. Yarbrough
1. Plans for improving downtown and attracting tourists; also mass transit and development of small businesses.

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YARBROUGH continued
2. Raise per-capita expenditures and encourage kindergartens and vocational training. 3. Advocates regular district meetings with local groups. 4. Creation of special group to give consideration to preservation of mid-town residential areas. 5. Eliminate discrimination in hiring and employ best person. (Bread company route man)

AT - LARGE POSITION 2

Chapman Bain
No response. (Real estate agent; campaigned for Ingram in 1963)

Curtis Byrd
No response. (Real estate agent; minister of Mt. Sinai Methodist Church)

John Joseph Campbell
1. Supports revitalization. 2. Will support School Board. 3. Willing to listen to anyone. 4. Will support zoning that will maintain quality of mid-town. 5. Support re-evaluation of present job holders and this should result in the hiring of minority group members. (Mid-town lounge owner - also lives in mid-town)

Clayton P. Elam
1. No specific plans but wants to discuss issues with mid-town residents. 2. Proposes better salaries to attract higher quality teachers. 3. Plans mid-town office for communication with district residents. 4. Communication with residents on zoning problems. 5. Qualifications should be the only basis for employment. (Insurance executive; has run for office numerous times)

Tom Todd
No response. (Incumbent councilman)

AT- LARGE POSITION 3

Thomas B. Avery
1. Efforts to prevent block-busting and other social problems. 2. Supports better working conditions for teachers. 3. Will be accessible for listening to neighborhood groups. 4. Will support detrimental zoning. 5. Will eliminate discrimination. (Former state senator)

James M. "Mickey" Keep
1. Improvement of downtown and transit systems; resident involvement. 2. Will support schools. 3. Accessible for consultation. 4. Can vote to oppose adverse zoning. 5. Will influence mayor in his appointments. (Truck line employee)

Betty C. Lawo
1. Encourage neighborhoods to improve; will make Council resources available. 2. Each school should be best possible. 3. Plans regular meetings; this is a main area of concern. 4. Encourage voter to take part in zoning discussion. 5. Qualifications should be only criteria. (Wife of retired police inspector; ran last time for Council; lives near VECAA area)

Philip A. Perel
1. Will emphasize zoning as deterrent to deterioration. 2. Will encourage intelligent appropriation of funds by Council. 3. Will be available for consultation with any group. 4. --same as answer to number 1 question-- 5. Urge all departments to be fair. (Vice-president of Perel and Lowenstein's; former president of Downtown Association; incumbent councilman)

AT- LARGE POSITION 4

Jim Lockard
No response. (Law clerk and law student)

AT - LARGE POSITION 4 continued

Robert H. (Bob) Love
No response. (Attorney; reserve police chief)

Charles Monger
Withdrawn from race.

Ron Schaff
1. Will encourage physical improvements as well as communication and pride. 2. Promote decisions of School Board. 3. Take the Council to the people; utilize neighborhood leaders. 4. Zoning system should be improved and spot zoning eliminated. 5. Bestman should be hired for the job. (Sales manager for land development firm; Naval Air Reserve commander)

Frank White
No response. (Former state representative and state senator)

AT - LARGE POSITION 5

A.D. (Andy) Alissandratos
1. Support residential zoning; improve street conditions. 2. Will cooperate with School Board. 3. Full-time attention to Council and will regularly attend area meetings. 4. Will oppose any zoning that will be detrimental to city's older neighborhoods. 5. As a minority group member, will support equal opportunity. (Owner of Canada Dry bottling company)

Drew J. Canale
No response. (Member of well-known Memphis family)

AT- LARGE POSITION 6

Jack McNeil
No response. (Attorney; served as state representative)

Cecil K. Miller
No response. (Retired fire captain; has run for office before)

Mrs. C. B. "Cob" Smith, Jr.
No response. (Former county constable)

James H. (Jim) White
No response. (Attorney; former reporter)

Informing a basis for an evaluation of these candidates, it seems that V/E neighborhood voters should look for evidence that a candidate is sensitive to the needs of an integrating mid-town community. Many candidates appear to have neighborhood-oriented platforms, but several of these have originated in reaction to integration threats of integration, and such a candidate might polarize the Council. It would seem that happiness in V/E means a non-polarized Council, and we should look for evidence not only of a candidate's interest in promoting business but also of his concern for environment, taxes, services, and a spirit of cooperation.

Board Of Education

The candidates for the Board of Education for whom Vollentine/EvenGreen community residents can vote were asked the following questions:

1. Vollentine School is at least 75% black while the neighborhood probably 75% white. This imbalance is a major factor in "white flight". What would you do to help solve this problem?

2. Snowden School is crowded this year with over 35 in some classes. How could you help here?

A VOTE FOR

GEORGE H. BROWN, JR.
BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 7

IS A VOTE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Committee for the Election of George H. Brown, Jr.

Political Advertisement------Dr. Laurence Fitzgerald
3. What is the most effective way to spend the federal money the schools will be getting in the future?

Here is a summary of the answers:

**DISTRICT 5**

Mrs. Lawrence Coe
1. "Adoption of a policy to adjust school boundaries where possible to maintain integrated school situations."
2. "A state law requiring that no elementary school may have any class over 30 may be needed."
3. "Form advisory committees for all federal programs, such as ESAP and Title I, to have, now, to better meet the real needs of students." (Only incumbent seeking re-election; Commercial Appeal endorses her as candidate with "dedication and high personal standards", "fully acquainted with the problems and potentials of city schools.")

Norman D. Bryant
1. "Not really a Board problem." 2. "Add mobile classrooms and more teachers, or possibly expand the physical facilities." 3. "Use funds for vocational training to enable students to secure jobs when released from school". (8 years' experience as Probation and Parole Officer; puts emphasis on vocational training because 89% of all law breakers are school dropouts.)

**DISTRICT 7**

George H. Brown, Jr.
Says cannot answer questions succinctly in a few words. As a neighborhood resident and member of VEGAA he is familiar with problems of our schools. (Former teacher; now attorney and director of Memphis and Shelby County Legal Services Association; adviser to Memphis Board of Education; endorsed by Commercial Appeal.)

C.B. Myers
No response. (Businessman; president of Hyde Park-Bollywood Civic League and prominently active in several other civic and political organizations; graduate of LeMoyne College with a degree in Romance languages.)

**AT-LARGE POSITION 1**

Ruby Gaither
1. "Send children to school of choice — redistrict neighborhood (Vollentine) — defy court decision". 2. "Add classrooms and good teachers" (at Snowden). 3. "Refuse federal money" -- don't pay the part of income tax that goes for Health, Education and Welfare. (Member several community advisory boards.)

Arnold Hurst
No response. (County teacher. Endorsed by AFL-CIO.)

Wm. S. Pollard, Jr.
No response. (Engineering and planning consultant. Endorsed by Commercial Appeal.)

Joe Scott
No response. (Restaurant manager; member Parkway Village Citizens Against Busing.)

**FOR ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP**

**ELECT**

**BARBARA SONNENBURG**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

POSITION 1 AT-LARGE

Political Advertisement—Mr. M.J. Williams

**AT-LARGE POSITION 1 continued**

Barbara E. Sonnenburg
1. "Apply to courts for limits on minority transfers."
2. "Classes with over 30 should be divided". 3. "Spend Title I funds for reading in the lower grades and ESAP funds to make desegregated schools appealing to students." (Chairman Title I Advisory Committee to Board of Education, member of Community Action Agency board.)

Rev. Melvin Wade
No response. (Minister and school board employee, advocates more vocational and special education.)

Mrs. Milton (Marilyn) Wray
1. "Would redistrict Vollentine". 2. Add "more classrooms and teachers". 3. If permissible, use federal funds to reduce local school taxes. (Former city elementary teacher, opposes educational experimentation.)

**AT-LARGE POSITION 2**

Hunter Lane, Jr.
No response. (Mid-town resident, former city commissioner, attorney. Endorsed by Commercial Appeal and AFL-CIO.)

David L. Wietes
1. Would study Vollentine situation. 2. "Seek temporary facilities" for Snowden. 3. Apply Federal money to "smaller classes, better qualified teachers, and more instructional aids". (Supervisor, Greyhound Lines; Frayser resident; member, Citizens Against Busing.)

For the Board of Education, we must consider that Memphis, though only the 17th largest metropolis in the country, has the 10th largest school system, and with its rash of annexations continuing, it will take every cent of the nearly $20 million budget, in addition to administrative and legislative genius, to just maintain the educational standards our children enjoy now. Yet, as is demonstrated in the Vollentine/Evergreen community, where the concept of "the neighborhood school" falls flat, changes of some sort are urgent. To bring these about, we need Board members with proven intelligence, imagination, and a genuine interest in education.

"County Court"

Justice of the Peace, County Quarterly Court consists of a body of eleven members. The County Court, as it is normally called, functions like City Council, but for all of Shelby County, including city, giving twice as many funds to school systems, supervising appropriations for sheriff and fire departments, hospitals, and many other services.

The election in District 2 is a special one to replace James Long who resigned. There are four candidates to fill this vacancy:

**Walter Lee Bailey, Jr.**

Qualifications: Attorney; B.A., Political Science; LLB from Southern University; President of Shelby County Democratic Club; President of American Civil Liberties Union; Member of Memphis Human Relations Commission; past member of County Charter Commission, current member of City Planning Commission.

Platform: To make county government more responsive to people; to decentralize the Memphis hospital system, with annex in North Memphis, a move already under consideration by other members of the Court; to study need and feasibility of morning nutritional program in schools. (Mr. Bailey is a resident of our community;
The six precincts, or parts thereof, that comprise the Vollintine/Evergreen community range in political outlook from what could be termed "moderately conservative" to a persuasion that could be called outright "liberal". On the basis of voting patterns during the past ten years the area between Jackson Avenue and the L&NRR (36-3) would have to be described as the most conservative section of the neighborhood, with the precinct containing Southwestern (36-1) and the precinct between Vollintine and Jackson (36-3) being a close second and third. On the other hand, the area north of Vollintine including Baron Hirsch Synagogue (61-2) would have to be termed the most liberal at the polls. Also with fairly liberal voting habits are the Springfield area (62-1) and the northwestern section of the community (40-2).

An apparent factor in voting patterns is the racial make-up of the precincts involved. Not surprisingly, those "solid" white precincts have the most conservative voting records, while what might be called "gray" precincts generally support the more liberal candidate. The ethnic origins of the neighborhood sometimes becomes a factor also, as in 1967 when council-aspirant Philip Perel made a much stronger showing in the VECAA area than in the city as a whole. Another interesting phenomenon is the small part that party affiliation plays in influencing votes. Since area voters are not registered by party, the only way of determining party affiliation is by looking at participation in the Democratic and Republican primaries. If the record here is indicative of actual affiliation, then the VECAA community is overwhelmingly Democrat. Yet, when election day comes, recent years have seen these Democrats throw their support to the Republican candidate.

Vollintine/Evergreen residents generally turn out in large numbers for elections, with over 90% participation not being unusual. The proportion of registered voters who actually vote seldom falls below 70%, although last year's consolidation referendum was a notable exception (25 - 30%). This nevertheless was a higher rate of participation than the city as a whole. Again, racial composition affects voting habits, with the "gray" areas turning out in slightly less force than the solid white precincts.

In none of the above-mentioned instances was there any political consensus. These voting patterns, if nothing else, underscore the divergent viewpoints characterizing the Vollintine/Evergreen community and render election predictions for our six precincts an exercise in folly.

VECAA Hears Hopefuls

About 150 persons crowded into the chapel of McLean Baptist Church September 20 to witness the largest VECAA meeting yet. About 25 of those present were candidates for political office in the October 7 elections and their speeches constituted the program. The audience was attentive and the program had plenty of zip, rambled by chairman Margaret Dichtel and paced by timekeeper Bruce Sells.

Candidates for mayor and the District 5 and 7 candidates for Council and School Board were the invited guests. In addition, other at-large Council and School candidates were present and were introduced for brief statements.