

Names:

Barnard, William D.
Baxley, Bill
Brewer, Albert,
Governor

Gallion, MacDonald,
Attorney General
Vance, Bob

Wallace, George,
Governor
Woods, Charles

Alabama Young
Democrat

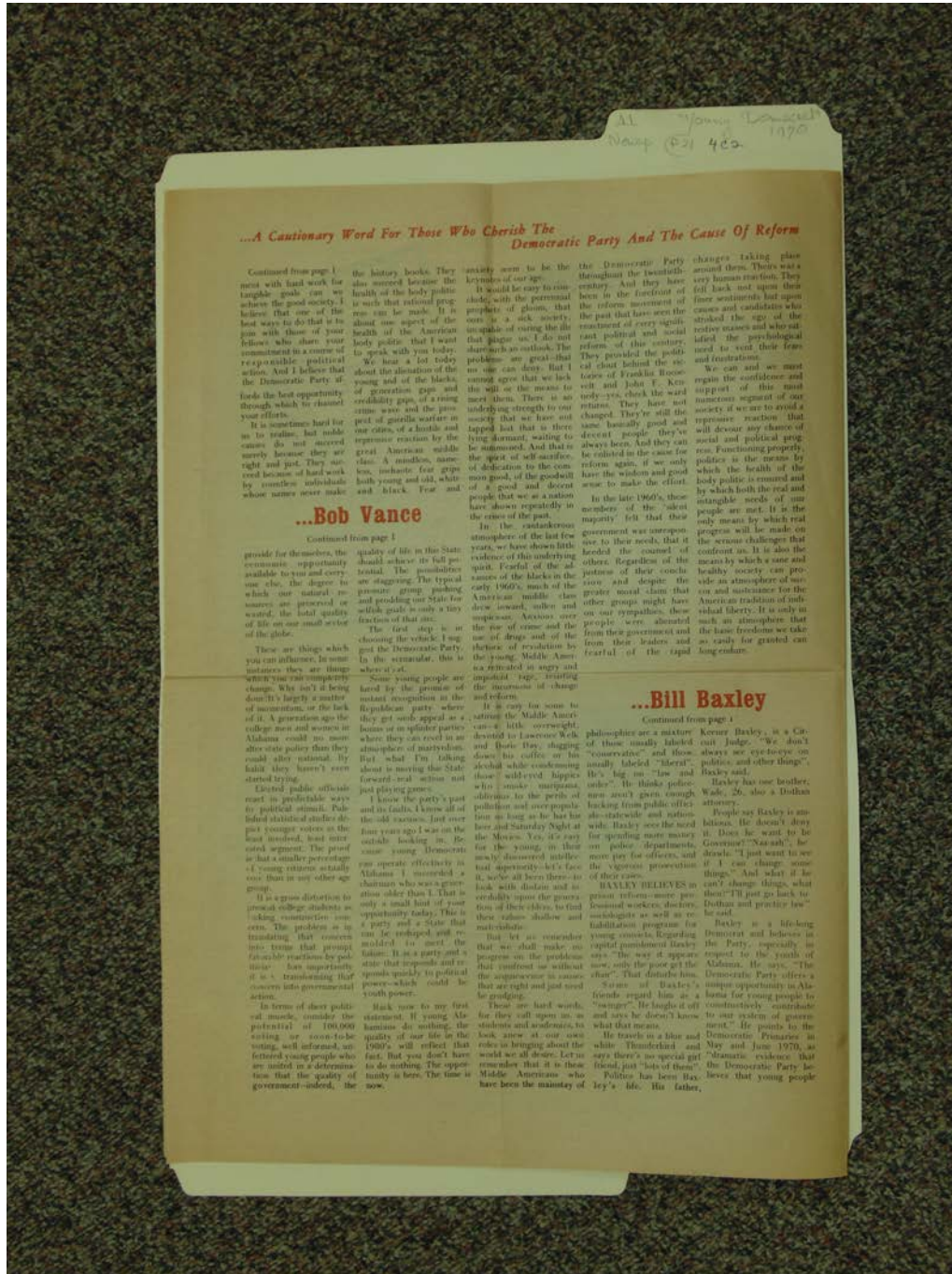
Types:

newspaper

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Dates:

Oct 1970



...A Cautionary Word For Those Who Cherish The Democratic Party And The Cause Of Reform

Continued from page 1...
ment with hard work for tangible goals can we achieve the good society. I believe that one of the best ways to do that is to join with those of your fellow who share your commitment to a course of responsible political action. And I believe that the Democratic Party affords the best opportunity through which to channel your efforts.
It is sometimes hard for us to realize, but makes sense to not succeed merely because they are right and just. They succeed because of hard work by countless individuals whose names never make

the history books. They also succeed because the health of the body politic is such that rational programs can be made. If it should not appear of the health of the American body politic that I want to speak with you today.
We hear a lot today about the situation of the young and of the blacks of generation gaps and credibility gaps, a rising crime wave and the prospect of general warfare in our cities, of a holistic and repressive reaction by the great American middle class. A middle, non-class, moderate fear grips both young and old, white and black. Fear and

anxiety seem to be the bywords of our age.
It would be easy to conclude with the perennial prophets of gloom, that ours is a sick society, incapable of curing the ills that plague us. I do not share such an outlook. The problems are great, but we can do more. But I cannot agree that we lack the will or the means to meet them. There is an underlying strength to our society that we have not tapped but that is there lying dormant, waiting to be summoned. And that is the spirit of self sacrifice, of dedication to the common good, of the goodwill of a good and decent people that we as a nation have shown repeatedly in the crises of the past.

...Bob Vance

Continued from page 1...
provide for themselves, the economic opportunities available to you and every one else, the degree to which our natural resources are preserved or wasted, the total quality of life on our small section of the globe.
These are things which you can influence. In some instances they are things where you can completely change. Why isn't it being done? It's largely a matter of momentum, or the lack of it. A generation ago the college men and women in Alabama could not measure state policy than they could after national. By faith they haven't even started trying.

In the caustic atmosphere of the last few years, we have shown little evidence of this underlying spirit. Fearful of the advances of the blacks in the early 1960's, much of the American middle class now leans, not to the right, but to the left, and the use of force and of the distance of revolution by the young. Middle Americans are irritated, angry and impatient. They're fearing the increase of change and reform.

In the late 1960's, these members of the "silent majority" felt that their government was unresponsive to their needs, that it lacked the courage of other. Regardless of the pattern of their conclusion, and despite the greater moral claim that other groups might have on our sympathies, these people were alienated from their government and from their leaders and fearful of the rapid changes taking place around them. There was a very human reaction. They felt that not upon their finer sentiments but upon common sense and candidates who stroked the ego of the retiree classes and who indicated the psychological need to vent their fears and frustrations.

Some young people are lured by the promise of instant recognition in the Republican party, where they get some appeal as a leader of an splinter party, where they can feed in an atmosphere of martyrdom. But what I'm talking about is moving the State forward, real action not just playing games.

It is easy for some to satiate the Middle American with little oversight, devoted to Lawrence Welk and Boris Day, giggling down his coffee on his steamed white condensation those wild-eyed hippies who I must, with respect, add to the perils of pollution and overpopulation as long as he has his beer and Saturday Night at the Movies. Yes, it's easy for the young in their newly discovered intellectual superiority, let's face it, we've all been there, to look with disdain and as condescend upon the generation of their fathers, to find their values shallow and materialistic.

They can and we must regain the confidence and support of this vast numerous segment of our society if we are to avoid a repressive reaction that will devour any chance of social and political progress. Functioning properly, politics is the process by which the health of the body politic is ensured and by which both the real and intangible needs of our people are met. It is the only means by which real progress will be made on the serious challenges that confront us. It is also the means by which a sane and healthy society can provide an atmosphere of social and substance for the American tradition of individual liberty. It is only in such an atmosphere that the basic freedoms we take so easily for granted can long endure.

I know the party's past and its goals. I know all of the old routines. Just over four years ago I was in the outside looking in, because young Democrats can operate effectively in Alabama. I succeeded a chairman who was a generation older than I. That is only a small hint of your opportunity today. This is a party and a state that can be reshaped and remolded to meet the future. It is a party and a state that responds and responds quickly to political power, which could be youth power.

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Back now to my first statement. If young Alabamians do nothing, the quality of our life in the 1970's will reflect that fact. But you don't have to do nothing. The opportunity is here. The time is now.

These are hard words, for they call upon us, as students and audiences, to look anew at our own role in bringing about the world we all desire. Let us remember that it is these Middle Americans who have been the majority of

the Democratic Party throughout the twentieth century. And they have been to the forefront of the reform movement of the past that have seen the enactment of extraordinary political and social reform of the century. They provided the political clout behind the actions of Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy—yes, check the ward rotaries. They have not changed. They've still the same, basically good and decent people they've always been. And they can be relied in the cause for reform again, if we only have the wisdom and good sense to make the effort.

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Names:

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Baxley, Keener

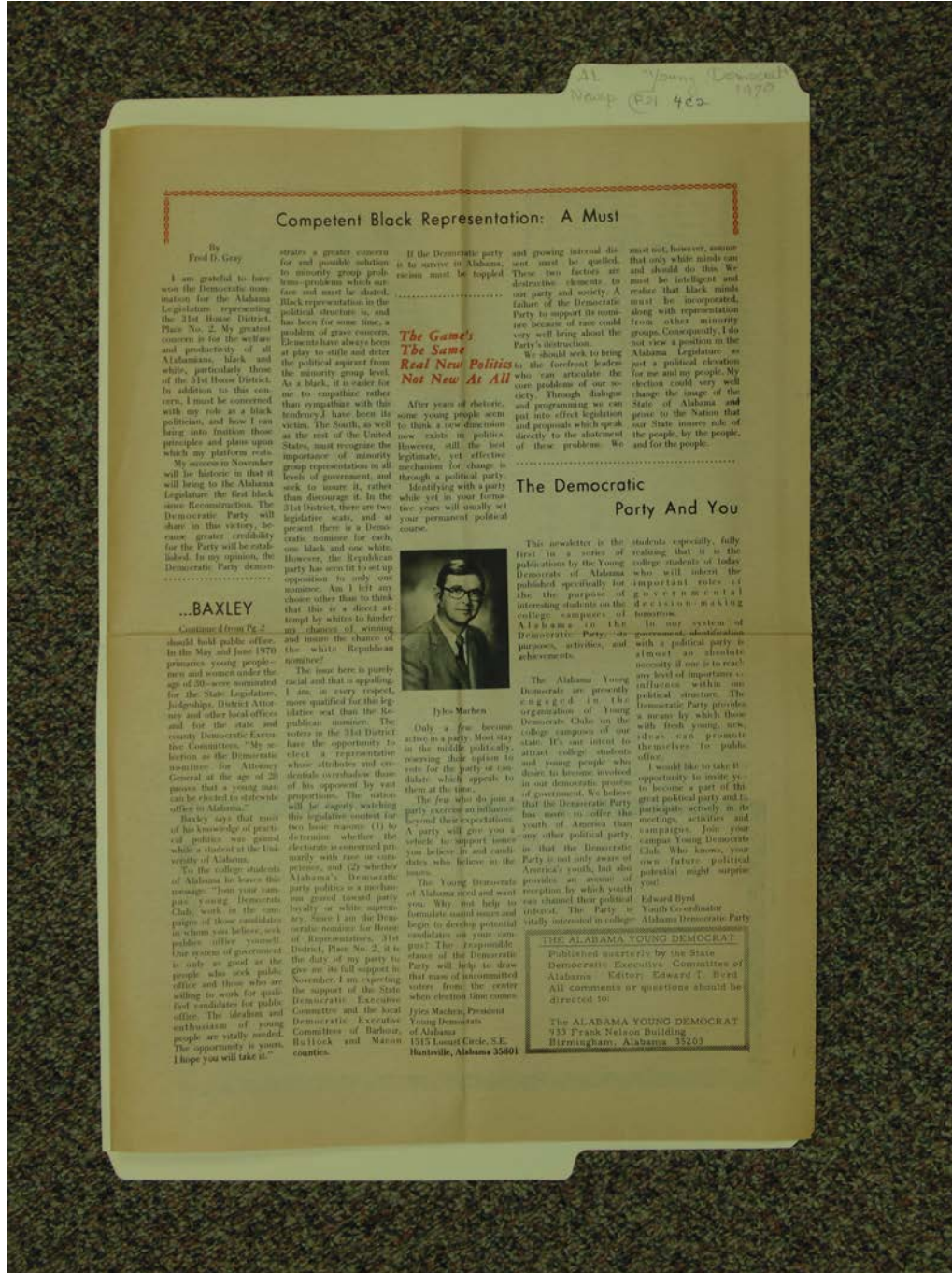
Baxley, Wade
Day, Doris

Kennedy, John F.
Roosevelt, Franklin

Vance, Bob
Welk, Lawrence

Types:

newspaper



Competent Black Representation: A Must

By Fred D. Gray.
I am grateful to have won the Democratic nomination for the Alabama Legislature, representing the 31st House District, Place No. 2. My greatest concern is for the welfare and productivity of all Alabamians, black and white, particularly those of the 31st House District. In addition to this concern, I must be concerned with my role as a black politician, and how I can bring into fruition those principles and plans upon which my platform rests.

My success in November will be historic in that it will bring to the Alabama Legislature the first black member Reconstruction. The Democratic Party will share in this victory, because greater credibility for the Party will be established. In my opinion, the Democratic Party demon-

strates a greater concern for and possible solution to minority group problems—problems which surface and must be dealt. Black representation in the political structure is, and has been for some time, a problem of grave concern. Elements have always been at play to stifle and deter the political aspirant from the minority group block. As a black, it is easier for me to empathize rather than sympathize with the minority. I have been the victim. The South, as well as the rest of the United States, must recognize the importance of minority group representation in all levels of government, and seek to ensure it, rather than discourage it. In the 31st District, there are two legislative seats, and at present there is a Democratic nominee for each, one black and one white.

However, the Republican party has seen fit to not up opposition to only one nominee. Am I left any choice other than to think that this is a direct attempt by whites to hinder any chance of winning and insure the chance of the white Republican nominee?

The issue here is purely racial and that is appalling. I am, in every respect, more qualified for the legislative seat than the Republican nominee. The voters in the 31st District have the opportunity to elect a representative whose attributes and credentials overshadow those of his opponent by vast proportions. The nation will be eagerly watching the legislative contest for two basic reasons: (1) to determine whether the electorate is concerned primarily with race in competitiveness, and (2) whether Alabama's Democratic party politics is a mechanism geared toward party loyalty or white supremacy.

Since I am the Democratic nominee for House of Representatives, 31st District, Place No. 2, it is the duty of my party to give me its full support in November. I am expecting the support of the State Democratic Executive Committee and the local Democratic Executive Committees of Barbour, Baldwin and Mason counties.

If the Democratic party to survive in Alabama, racism must be toppled.

The Game's The Same Real New Politics Not New At All

After years of rhetoric, some young people seem to think a new dimension now exists in politics. However, still the best legitimate, yet effective mechanism for change is through a political party.

Identifying with a party while yet in your formative years will usually set your permanent political course.

and growing internal dissent must be quelled. These two factors are destructive elements to our party and society. A failure of the Democratic Party to support its nominee because of race could very well bring about the Party's destruction.

We should seek to bring to the forefront leaders who can articulate the real problems of our society. Through dialogue and programming we can put into effect legislation and proposals which speak directly to the statements of these problems. We

must not, however, assume that only white minds can and should do this. We must be intelligent and realize that black minds must be incorporated, along with representation from other minority groups. Consequently, I do not view a position in the Alabama Legislature as just a political elevation for me and my people. My election could very well change the image of the State of Alabama and prove to the Nation that our State insures rule of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The Democratic Party And You

This newsletter is the first in a series of publications by the Young Democrats of Alabama who will inform you of important roles of college students in the college campuses of tomorrow. The purpose of this newsletter is to interest students in the Democratic Party, its purposes, activities, and achievements.



Jyles Maben

The Alabama Young Democrats are presently engaged in the organization of Young Democrats Clubs on the college campuses of our state. It's our intent to attract college students and young people who desire to become involved in our democratic process of government. We believe that the Democratic Party has never to offer the youth of America than any other political party.

It is that the Democratic Party is not only aware of America's youth, but also provides an avenue of recognition by which youth can channel their political interest. The Party is truly interested in college students especially, fully realizing that it is the college students of today who will inform the published specifically for the purpose of interesting students in the college campuses of tomorrow.

In our system of government, identification with a political party is almost an absolute necessity if one is to reach any level of importance or influence within our political structure. The Democratic Party provides a means by which those with fresh young ideas can promote themselves to public office.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a part of the great political party and to participate actively in its meetings, activities and campaigns. Join your campus Young Democrats Club. Who knows, your own future political potential might surprise you!

Edward Byrd
Youth Coordinator
Alabama Democratic Party

THE ALABAMA YOUNG DEMOCRAT
Published quarterly by the State Democratic Executive Committee of Alabama. Editor: Edward T. Byrd. All comments or questions should be directed to:
The ALABAMA YOUNG DEMOCRAT
933 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

...BAXLEY

Continued from Pg. 2
should hold public office. In the May and June 1970 primaries young people—men and women under the age of 30—were nominated for the State Legislature, Judgeships, District Attorney and other local offices and for the state and county Democratic Executive Committees. My selection as the Democratic nominee for Attorney General at the age of 28 proves that a young man can be elected to statewide office in Alabama.

Baxley says that most of his knowledge of practical politics was gained while a student at the University of Alabama.

To the college students of Alabama he leaves this message: "Our young campus Young Democrats Clubs work in the campaigns of those candidates whom you believe, seek public office yourself in such as good as the people who seek public office and those who are willing to work for qualified candidates for public office. The idealism and enthusiasm of young people are vitally needed. The opportunity is yours. I hope you will take it."

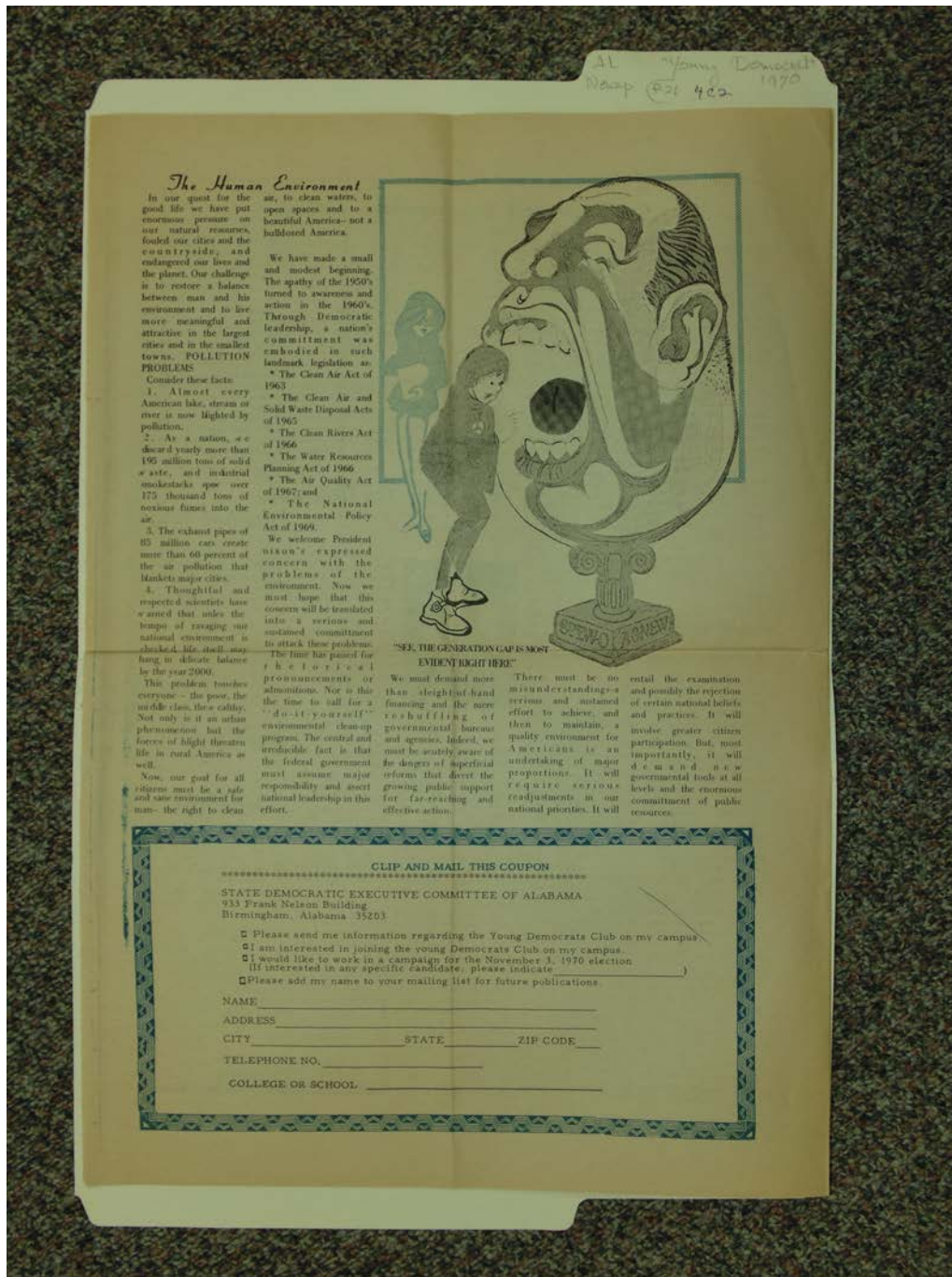
Names: Byrd, Edward T.

Gray, Fred D.

Machen, Jyles

Types: newspaper

photo



Names:

State Democratic
Executive

Committee

Types:

newspaper

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 2, Folder 21
"The Young Democrat" Newspaper, 1970

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

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Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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