

The Carolina Review: Coastal Area Priorities Under Discussion

Political ... With adjournment of the North Carolina General Assembly, attentions in Raleigh have switched from the more tedious legislative issues to the more interesting political questions.

Last week, Governor Hunt was on vacation at a place called "undisclosed location," which was undoubtedly Emerald Isle. Attorney General Rufus Edmisten had his annual birthday bash and supporters of Lieutenant Governor Jimmy Green were still assessing the political damage over recent cash disclosures.

Governor's Office ... As could be expected, things in the governor's office were quiet and relaxed after the busy, just-finished legislative session.

"Things are really dead around here," said Hunt spokesman Brent Hackney, "I don't even know where the governor is."

Even with the governor's absence, his office was still gearing up for a couple of probable confrontations with the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Interior, James Watt.

According to Hackney, the state might go to court in a week or so to seek a restraining order against the U. S. Department of Interior which is planning to issue oil leases on six tracts of offshore land about 20 miles off Cape Lookout. "An oil spill in that area could be catastrophic to the North Carolina coastline,"

Hackney said. Another stew over coastal area priorities seems to be brewing as well. The latest argument concerns the proposed construction of giant jetties at North Carolina's Oregon Inlet.

The jetties, proposed by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, are strongly supported by the governor. But final approval of the jetties is needed by the - you guessed it, the U. S. Department of Interior - since the jetties would rest on land managed by the Interior.

According to the Corp of Engineers, the jetties would

help to stabilize the notoriously shifting sands in the channel of Oregon Inlet. Concern has grown over the years that the shifting channel bottom will eventually close off commercial boat traffic in the Inlet.

Such an occurrence would spell doom for the area's recently dedicated \$7-million seafood industrial park at Wanchese. So far the park doesn't have any commercial tenants.

To the dismay of the governor and other jettty supporters, Secretary Watt has suggested in a letter to the governor that other alternatives be in-

vestigated. The governor, without the presidential pipeline of the Carter years, has accepted Watt's letter as rejection of the jettty plan. However, there is still hope for the plan, apparently through Congressional influence.

And outside the governor's office, observers are still trying to figure how the governor fared politically

with the gas tax. Another political question that probably will be settled this week is the long-delayed appointment of Department of Administration Secretary Joe Grimsley to take over departing Howard Lee's job as secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Rufus ... Every year, one of the most laid back, foot-

stomping political events in North Carolina is the annual birthday bash for the fun-loving attorney general, Rufus Edmisten.

Thousands of people attend the outdoor event, free of charge, and partake of booze and barbeque with only one hand - the other is reserved for endless handshaking.

Edmisten always sings

with the country band but says very little. This year he did offer as to how he was drinking "only lemonade".

With tongue-in-cheek, Edmisten suggested he was "creating a new image."

The new image is, of course, gubernatorial.

Green Troubles ... Jimmy Green's troubles over his acceptance of a \$4700 cash gift from a convicted bid-

rigger continues. A letter of support from nine state senators holding high Senate appointments through Green did little to cool the controversy.

An endless array of negative editorials from papers across the state has emerged and the Raleigh News and Observer, citing Green's record, called for his resignation.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir: For 750,000 North Carolina handicapped citizens, the designation of 1981 as the International Year of the Disabled Person is of special significance as they strive to become fully integrated into society and the economy of this state.

North Carolina, through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Human Resources, supports programs designed to aid handicapped persons in achieving these goals.

Through the intervention of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) programs, thousands of disabled persons are given the opportunity to overcome or reduce their vocational handicap and to obtain the skills necessary

to enter the labor force. VR focuses on handicapped persons of working age who have work potential. It also aids 20,000 youths under age 21 and nearly 1,000 individuals over age 60.

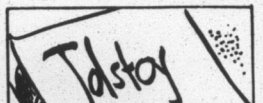
The state helps to support 51 sheltered workshops where handicapped persons are individually evaluated as to their skill level and work potential and placed into a suitable program designed to assist them to employment. Many are hired to work at the workshop while some are able to secure work in competitive employment.

The Adult Developmental Activity Program, along with the Vocational Work Adjustment program of the sheltered workshops, seeks to increase the level of independent living by providing the mentally retarded and the physically disabled with access to job skill training and competitive employment.

These programs also seek to remove society's stereotyping attitudes that prevent disabled persons from participating fully in the many physical, social and creative activities that North Carolina has to offer.

The International Year of the Disabled Person provides a unique opportunity to increase recognition of these barriers and help find ways to overcome them.

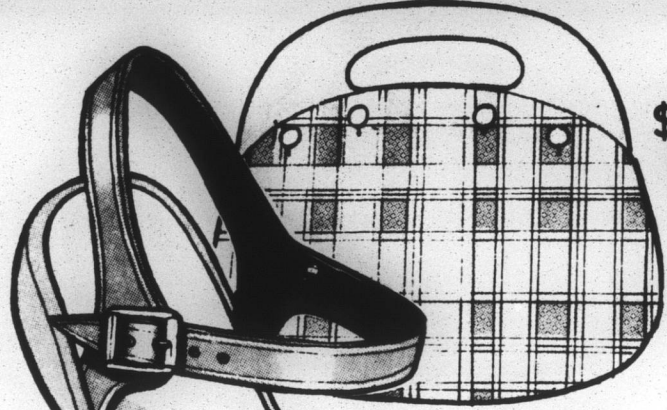
Sincerely yours,
Tom Gilmore
Deputy Secretary



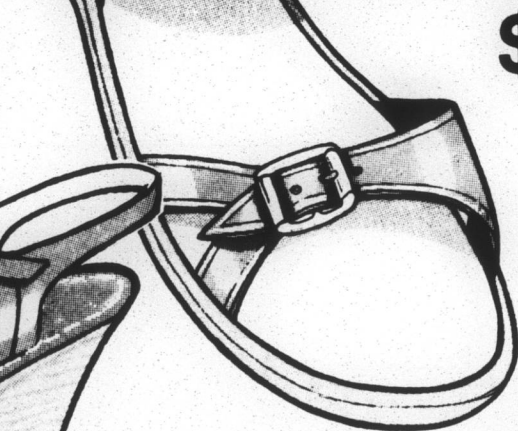
Leo Tolstoy was nominated for, but never won, a Nobel Prize.

GRAND OPENING

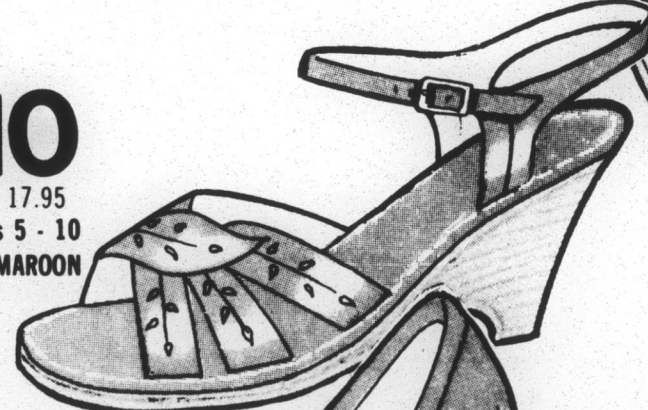
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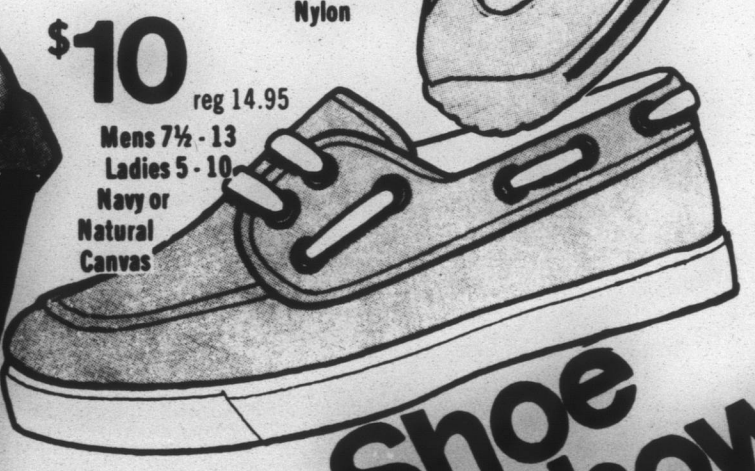
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