

Editorials

Gibson Reacted Too Hastily

The headline was one which would naturally jump off the page at most journalists: College Newspaper Editor Loses Trainer Job For Writing Article.

The story told of how Andy Behl, editor of the Mars Hill College newspaper "Hilltop," was fired from his athletic trainer job last week after he wrote an editorial criticizing athletic director and head football coach Claude Gibson.

Behl, 21, a senior majoring in sports medicine, said he was prompted to write the Dec. 4 editorial after Gibson was quoted in the Asheville Citizen-Times as saying of his football players, "I sometimes think that we would have been better off falling on our faces."

The young editor said he thought the article was unfair and that some of the players were "not too happy" about it. In his editorial, he wrote that support of the team had dwindled since the interview with Gibson appeared in the Asheville paper, so he countered with: "What we seem to lack here at Mars Hill is a head football coach."

Gibson summarily fired Behl last Tuesday. Behl said that means he will not be allowed to work with any men's athletic programs. The whole deal reminds us of

when God returned to the garden and found that Adam and Eve had tinkered with the fruit tree. He threw a fit, tore up the lease and threw them out.

Subsequent information has revealed that Behl never held the trainer position from which he was supposedly fired. College President Dr. Fred Bentley said Monday that Behl is under the direction of Dr. John Wells, sports medicine director, who runs the student trainer program on a rotating basis.

Bentley said Behl had since written a new editorial correcting seven points of "misinformation." Gibson's happy and all's right in the garden.

Gibson obviously reacted too hastily in tossing Behl out of his trainer position. He would have been more in line had he tried to get Behl removed from the "Hilltop" staff. He took unfair advantage in putting pressure on him as trainer.

Few young editors have any sacred cows — or sacred footballs or fruit trees for that matter. We consider that healthy, at least for journalism.

By the way Andy, don't let journalism become a sacred cow either.

Other Editors Say

Greater Ivy's Honor Provides A Lesson

The prestigious national award earned by the Greater Ivy community of Madison County not only deserves high praise from Western North Carolinians, but it also reminds us of a large lesson.

Many mountain residents long have been aware of Greater Ivy's leadership and success in community development. The community, blessed with incredibly talented residents, has demonstrated again and again what a sense of community really can accomplish. Through the years, Greater Ivy has become a fine place to live and rear families, and it has achieved these things largely because its residents have wanted to improve their surroundings and their way of life.

The community has been a regular winner in competition of the Western North Carolina Development Association. It and other communities across the region have received praise and appreciation for their work. But chances are many of us really have not stopped to realize how much progress these communities are making.

Well, a lot more eyes are going to be focused on Madison's Greater Ivy now that the community has won Keep America Beautiful's second place award. This is truly a magnificent honor for Greater Ivy. It also reflects well on the entire community development program in Western North Carolina, which is so ably led by Morris "Mac" McGough.

It is tempting to think that the best people and programs and activities are far from our own communities. But Greater Ivy's success offers resounding proof that quality programs and capable people exist among us. That is a major lesson in this happy occasion for Greater Ivy! And it is a lesson that all of us should remember.

There are in these mountains great people who are working tirelessly to improve the quality of life. They could do well elsewhere. But they feel a sense of family. They cling to the roots of this land. They want to be prouder each year to call these mountains home.

Greater Ivy's success is not the only evidence that others around the country know how special the mountains are. Last weekend in a book published by Rand McNally, Asheville was rated as the No. 1 small metro area (under 125,000 population) in the country and 41st among metro areas of all sizes.

What these things are telling us is that we have a basis to build and become even finer in Carolina and in the nation. We do need to acquire a regional sense of community, the kind of feeling that exists in such places as Greater Ivy. That should be one of our goals in 1982 — to seek to view the mountains as one large community whose needs and interests are linked.

The Asheville Citizen

Heard and Seen

By POP STORY

Monday morning was a dreary day with light rain falling and plenty of fog during the early hours. Weather forecasts stated that several bridges and overpasses were dangerous due to freezing rain in the northern mountains of WNC. Thank goodness there were no icy spots around town.

The main upsetting thing about the rain was the accumulation of water on Main Street. Whenever a car or truck would pass the office here you'd better watch out if you were walking on the sidewalk opposite the post office. Gallons of water were splashed across the sidewalk onto the windows.

People who work on this side of the street have grown accustomed to looking up the street for vehicles before venturing onto the sidewalk. The unevenness of the street causes ponds of water to accumulate and many motorists don't realize or don't care how fast they drive. I wish they'd be more careful.

Mr. and Mrs. John Corbett, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Huey, Billie Jean Haynie, Kristen Payne and "Bill" and I attended the cantata at the Groce United Methodist Church near Asheville Sunday morning. Entitled, "Carol of Christmas," the cantata was one of the most beautiful and inspiring programs I've ever seen and heard.

The cantata was directed by Charles Huey, popular minister of music at the church. It was thrilling to see a local man do such a magnificent job in directing the cantata. It was also thrilling to see and hear the congratulations of the congregation to Charles following the service.

Mr. and Mrs. Huey, parents of Charles,

were recognized and asked to stand prior to the program. In addition to the chancel choir members, 13 members composed the handbell choir which performed excellently. Congratulations, Charles, for a splendid cantata.

Following the cantata, the Madison County "gang" enjoyed a delicious buffet luncheon at the Sheraton Motor Inn.

"Bill" and I then headed for Mars Hill where we attended open house at the historic Baird House, which Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hoffman have remodeled. The beautiful guest house was teeming with friends who toured the open house to see firsthand what a wonderful job Jeanne, as innkeeper, and Dick have accomplished.

The First Baptist Church in Marshall also held its cantata, "Christmas Is Love," Sunday night with a near-capacity crowd attending. The cantata was directed by Harold Ellis, minister of music. The Rev. Buddy Freeman, pastor, was narrator, and Casey Dunaway was organist. Members of the choir did a wonderful job and the soloists were great.

All in all, last Sunday was an exciting day, long to be remembered.

Marshall residents were alarmed last weekend when they turned on their faucets and discovered the water was too muddy to use. I later heard that it was one of those "necessary evils" of turning on some of the pumps. "It had to be done sometime so it was last weekend that turned out to be the "sometime" one official stated. However, the water soon cleared up, much to the delight of everyone.



Living and Growing

Go On Offensive For Trouble

By CARL MUMPOWER, M.S.W.

Asheville Counseling Center

Have you ever day dreamed about how nice it would be to have a trouble free life? Probably so. The idea of living without burden of hassles and problems is pretty appealing to most of us.

Some take that idea so far as to try and create a life situation that frees them of trouble. Unfortunately, since Mr. Adam and Mrs. Eve, no one has been able to successfully pull off a trouble free life.

So, assuming that trouble is a companion that we can't avoid, what do we do with him? Do we sit around waiting for him to tap us on the shoulder and let us have it? Or do we keep a few pencils in the hopes he will pass us by for a while and give us a little peace?

It's a no on both counts. Trouble waits for no man and



Carl Mumpower

trives on complacency.

Well then, what do you do? Very simply, you borrow an General Patton of World War II name and attack. Intentionally, actively, and enthusiastically attack him he all you're worth. You can't avoid trouble, although he often masquerades as being tough and mean, is really a weak-

fellow without a whole lot of depth. He's not the toughy he pretends to be.

The principles are simple. Trouble grows in strength as it grows in momentum. If you cut it off before it gets started, you in a sense rob trouble of much of it's power. It's kind of like preventive medicine with your car. By changing the oil today, you avoid an engine job tomorrow.

The process of attacking trouble before it attacks you isn't very complicated. You start by thinking. Putting time and energy into creatively identifying potential sources of trouble. Next, you evaluate your potential alternatives for dealing with it. Finally, you implement a plan of action to stop trouble before it stops you.


A good football player will tell you that you're almost always better off getting in the first hit than waiting for your

opponent to hit you. Your chances of catching trouble off guard are much improved if he's on the defensive and you're on the offensive. You can go so far as to even take the attitude that it's your job to make trouble for trouble.

You'll notice that the tone of my article is a bit tongue in cheek. Actually, my point is a serious one.

You and I are surrounded in real troubles and potential troubles that can rob us of our ability to live an enjoyable and meaningful life. I'm for anything that can help us to keep things on a good track. Rather than stick our heads in the sand and wait for the bad guys to come knocking on our door, maybe we'd be a little better off meeting them out on the street.

Try it. Make trouble for trouble before it makes trouble for you.



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