

Editorial

School Building Bonds Are Investment In The Future

Next Tuesday, March 13, has been dubbed "Super Tuesday" by members of the press corps following the race for the Democratic Party nomination for president. The day has been tagged "Super Tuesday" because no less than 11 states will choose delegates to the national convention.

The North Carolina primary is still three months away, but voters in Buncombe County will have a chance to make March 13 a "Super Tuesday" here in Western North Carolina.

On Tuesday, Buncombe County voters will be asked to approve or reject a proposed bond issue to finance school construction within the county. We would urge all our readers in the north Buncombe County and Weaverville areas to support the bond issue.

If approved, funds from the bond issue will be used to construct a new North Buncombe and Enka High Schools and make improvements and additions at other Buncombe County schools. We believe that new schools are a good investment and hope our neighbors to the south agree on Tuesday.

It is time that we here in Madison County begin to plan a similar bond issue to improve our schools. At the present time, all of our elementary schools are in need of repair or replacement. Even our most modern facility,

Marshall Primary School, is not adequately meeting the demands placed upon it. Several of our schools are nearly fifty years old and should be replaced.

It is time that the school board began to prepare a study to determine what our needs will be in the future and formulate a plan for constructing the schools the Madison County of the future will have.

The narrow defeat of the last school bond issue in 1977 has left members of the school board nervous about proposing another bond issue. We believe that the people of Madison County will invest the necessary funds to improve our schools if an equitable plan for constructing new facilities can be presented to them.

Devising a construction formula that will please all the sections of our far-flung county will be no mean feat, but it is a task the school board needs to face.

An investment in our children is the best possible investment a community or a nation can make. We cannot afford to wait until the walls fall down to begin planning the replacement of our old school buildings. The time has come for Madison County to face the future and bear the costs of improving our schools.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



'It Was A Miracle', Morton Says

Ed Morton, the director of the Madison County Health Department, had the misfortune of having three fingers on his right hand severed by a hydraulic log splitter on Dec. 20.

The accident resulted in Morton having to spend seven days in the hospital and since then he has been recovering at his home. Morton will regain much of the use of the injured hand thanks to the skills of surgeons who sewed the fingers back on to the hand.

Ed believes he will eventually have full use of the three middle fingers. Ed is also glad the injury happened to his right hand since he is left-handed.

Ed attended the latest meeting of the Marshall Lions Club, of which he is a member, and removed the bandages to show the work of the surgeons. Fellow members of the club were amazed at how well the surgery went.

"I attribute my recovery to the higher power, and the prayers of many, and, of course, to the skilled surgeons," Morton commented.

March Comes In Like A Lamb

Although there was still some snow left on the ground, the first day of March came in like a lamb. I was reminded of this by Gladys Meadows who always call me each March 1. We'll have to wait and see if it goes out like a lion.

Southern Conference Tourney

Thanks to the kindness of Roy Reeves and Charlie Sawyer, I attended the Southern Conference basketball tournament at the Asheville Civic Center last weekend.

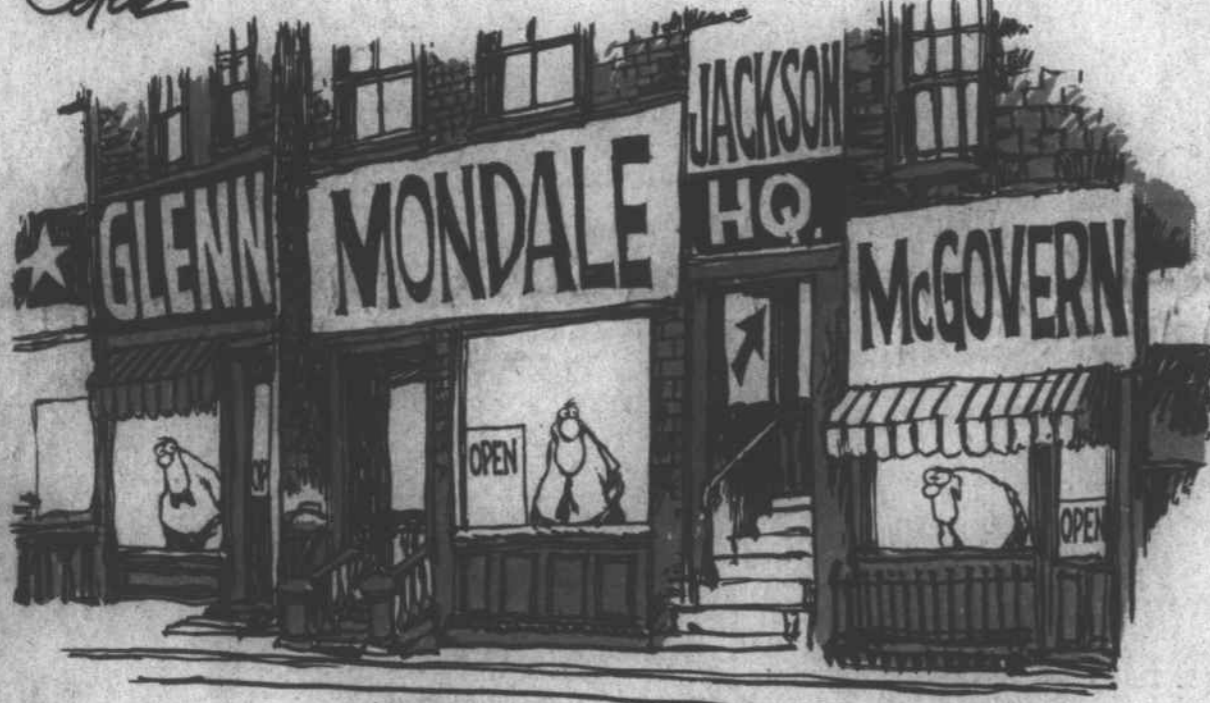
I went with Roy, Harry Silver and "Dub" Deal to Friday's quarterfinals. We enjoyed the games, but were sorry that the Catamounts were eliminated by Furman.

I had not planned to go to the semi-finals on Saturday night, but changed my mind when Charlie Sawyer informed me he had an extra ticket for the games.

Charlie and I sat high in the balcony where we had a "bird's eye" view of the games.

Thanks, fellows, for making it possible for me to attend the events.

WIRE COPY FROM DAILY NEWS



LONELY HART CLUBS

Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



As complex as man is, to attempt to characterize him in one word would be difficult if not impossible. Several words identify particular attributes we all possess, but no one of them ever does us justice.

Possibly, fear is the characteristic by which most human beings are known. Viewed from one perspective, this is understandable. From another point of view, it is totally perplexing.

It all depends on what one is afraid of.

Recently, I asked a small group of young adults in a seminar, "What are you afraid of?" Pausing briefly, I asked them to respond very personally one at a time.

- "Failure."
- "Not being able to get a job."
- "Being understood."
- "Judgemental people."
- "Not being taken seriously."
- "Being left out."
- "Being ignored."

Other individuals within the group voiced similar fears. No one said that he or she was not afraid of something.

Trying to summarize the responses, I asked, "Would it

be fair to say that all of you have really expressed the same fear, and that is anxiety which comes from insecurity?"

They all agreed that this was the case.

They were all anxious because they felt insecure because they did not know what the future held for them. They were afraid.

Not one of the young people voiced even the slightest fear that was directly related to their families, to the nation, or to the world. They all voiced personal fears.

As they analyzed the fears that gave them the deepest concern, not one mentioned the fear of disease, starvation, the energy shortage, the Russians or nuclear or chemical warfare. Not one mentioned the pollution of our environment, the wasting of our natural resources or the threat of overpopulation.

My purpose here is not to identify nor discuss what young people should be afraid of. I am simply asserting that

fear is one of the most prevalent human concerns, and I am showing how egocen-

tric these concerns can be in young adults.

One would suspect that a cross-section of adults, while naming some fears the young group did not mention, would show these same self-centered concerns about the future.

It is a basic anxiety which relates to the reality and nature of the unknown, as it applies to one personally.

It is not the certain knowledge that the enemy is near that causes well-trained soldiers the most concern; it is the uncertainty as to whether or not the enemy is anywhere around.

In the area of religion, the need to know in order to avoid uncertainty is so strong in some people that they become dogmatic when dogmatism is altogether inappropriate. One wonders whether they are whistling in the dark.

Should we strip off our preconceived notions and approach Christianity with an open mind, we would find it to be a religion of faith, and not of knowledge or certainty.

It has always been interesting to me to hear good,

well-meaning Christians argue the insignificant elements of their faith. They never seem to ask, "If correct knowledge is so important, why do children figure so prominently in Christ's kingdom?"

If one believes, really believes, that God is, and that He is all-powerful, has all knowledge and is love in its essence, he or she has met one half the certification of religion. If he or she accepts God's greatest gift in gratitude and with loving service to his fellows, the certification is complete.

What does all of this have to do with basic anxiety?

Belief and trust in the absolute goodness of The Unknown is man's best antidote for fear. There is, for all of us, in this attitude plenty of room for growth.

The chief measure of emotional and spiritual maturity is how comfortably we can live with personal uncertainty while we grapple with the larger concerns of our fellows and with the problems of the world.

Letters To The Editor

Craig Phillips Endorses Carl Stewart

To the editor:
Public School Law 115-c-21(a)(2) says that it shall be the duty of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction "to keep the public informed as to the problems and needs of the public schools... by information furnished to the press of the state."

In response to that mandate I have chosen this month to break normal political tradition by directly endorsing a candidate for Lt. Governor in the Democratic primary in May and the general election in November. I have done this because the Lt. Governor holds such a key role in pro-

viding State leadership for public education through the Presidency of the Senate and key membership on the North Carolina State Board of Education.

I have strongly endorsed Carl Stewart for the Democratic nomination and election as Lt. Governor for North Carolina. I have considered carefully all of the factors in my making this endorsement; my duties as State Superintendent, the traditions of the political arena, the conditions of stress and difficulty under which public elementary/secondary education has struggled and lost much support over the last four years.

Carl Stewart has a strong record of advocacy and action in education as a long-time member of the North Carolina House of Representatives and especially as Speaker of the

House at a time of great progress in North Carolina. We need, again, the kind of positive, caring, aggressive leadership of the type given in the early 70's by Carl Stewart, Ralph Scott and many others in days of real growth in education in North Carolina. Carl has the wisdom, the experience, the training and the true sense of what good government really is and what it can truly mean to education and to all of us. He needs to bring those talents and that commitment to the Presidency of the Senate and to the work of the State Board of Education.

The decision as to who shall be the next Lt. Governor is, I believe, the most important decision before the voters of North Carolina.

A. Craig Phillips
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Living And Growing

By Carl Mumpower, MSW
The Asheville Counseling Center

Life is a bit like running down a gravel road barefooted. No matter how high you try to lift your feet, you're bound to stub a toe or two. It seems like there is always something getting in our way. Sometimes that's OK, if our thing is destructive or inappropriate, it's helpful to have some external obstacles to keep us on track.

All too often, however, there is a certain type of person who likes to throw up obstacles regardless of our merits or intentions. I find this group of people more than a little distasteful.

I once worked for a man whose philosophy of life was that if what you do might not work, there's little sense in do-

ing it. Consequently, he didn't do much of anything because everything had the potential for failure. He also went out of his way to make sure that I didn't get anything done, either. I was pleased when he and I finally parted ways.

It seems like February has been my month for running into these obstructionist types. Professionally, I've stumbled on several of my peers who are seemingly devoted to stopping our world from turning whenever possible. The predictability of their approach is sort of cute, but it still gets a bit old having to kill all the fleas before you pet the dog.

My experience is likely no different from your own. These individuals abound in our world. I'm not saying that everyone who disagrees with

my position or yours is a blockhead. Who expects to be agreed with all the time? The bunch I'm talking about are those folks who habitually throw up road blocks to change, growth or improvement whenever it comes their way.

Having limited talents at creating and building, they seek identity from undermining and restricting others. That's not a terribly fulfilling foundation for a happy life. Nonetheless, these folks continue to thrive in this little world of ours.

You might be wondering how one might deal with the roadblockers in our society. What else can you do but go around them? Treat them like a bear on the road. One generally doesn't stop to pick it up and waste time throwing it away. Neither is it con-

sidered normal to slam on your brakes and lament this overwhelming obstacle. When possible, you go over the can. You don't let it stop your progress.

Obstructionists thrive on the attention they get from resisting change. If they don't get that attention, it deprives them of reinforcement. If we spend our energy figuring out ways to do our thing despite their obstacles, then we don't waste our energy and effort being mad at their up-tightness. It's a freeing experience to realize that in the total scheme of things, this type of person can only slow you down. They can't stop you if you keep your eye on your goal and not on their resistance to your goal. Like those fleas I mentioned earlier, they can only bite you a little. They can't chew your leg off.

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