

# Graduates Take Giant Step

This Friday night, hundreds of proud parents will converge on O.E. Roberts Stadium to watch their sons and daughters receive their high school diplomas.

It is fitting that our county high school should award diplomas on the field upon which so many battles have been fought. Sitting in their seats while listening to speeches that are always too long, the new graduates will take time to reflect on the battles they have fought on the way to Graduation Day.

Today, we honor the graduates with our second annual Senior Salute edition compiled by the staff of the student newspaper, 'Patriot

Pride.'

We wish to thank the staff members of the student paper, particularly editor Julie Allison and Julie Meeks for their hard work in putting the special section together.

We wish, too, to offer our own congratulations to the new graduates. Many parents in the audience Friday night will be bursing with pride, with good reason.

A high school diploma is still something to be proud of and we share in the pride their parents will know.

Congratulations, graduates.



CONFIDENTIALLY, I LIKED THE WAY THE PRISON WAS BEFORE REV. MOON GOT HERE...

## Thomas Jefferson On The Press, 1787

*"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."*

## Twenty years later . . .

*"Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle."*

## Letters to the Editor

### Hendon Is 'Misinformed'

To The Editor,

On May 17th, Bill Hendon, Republican candidate for U.S. House of Representative, Eleventh Congressional District, was interviewed by a Rutherford County radio station. Among the topics discussed was the MX Missile. Hendon was strongly in favor of continuing the MX program and called attention to the fact that Congressman Clark had voted on May 16th to kill the MX.

Hendon's statements in support of the MX appear to be based on factual misinformation and distortions of history. For example, one of his

reasons for support is to help "close the window of vulnerability," a concept preached by Ronald Reagan all during the 1980 presidential campaign and for the first year of his presidency. According to this theory, the improving accuracy of soviet missiles could wipe out our retaliatory capabilities with a first strike on our land-based missiles and render us hostage to a soviet threat in time of crisis.

In 1962, Congress appeared ready to talk at continuing development of the MX unless a satisfactory basing mode could be developed. More than

30 basing modes had been proposed for the MX, only to be rejected as unworkable. Reagan appointed a special commission popularly known as the "Scowcroft Commission" to study all aspects of the MX. This commission concluded there was no window of vulnerability, there was no military requirement for the MX, but that it would be a political asset in arms negotiations. In other words, its only value was as a "bargaining chip." As for the basing mode, the commission recommended the MX be placed in the existing minuteman missile silos. If, as Hendon says the MX will help close the

"window of vulnerability" which now threatens our land-based missiles, how can this be if we place the MX in the same vulnerable silos? Even Reagan has quit talking about the "window of vulnerability".

With regard to the political — or "bargaining chip" — aspect, this same reasoning has been used to justify previously proposed irrelevant military hardware. Most of these "bargaining chips" have ended up as operational weapons, but still irrelevant and useless either militarily

or at the negotiating table. Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick describes the MX as "the Pentagon's Edsel, a \$69 billion dollar lemon with no trade-in value." If Hendon wants to play international poker with these chips, I do not want him to represent me.

The MX compromise as passed by the House of Representatives on the 16th explicitly carries a threat to the Soviets — either bargain or we will deploy the MX. As one of the telephone callers pointed out to Hendon, how will the addition of these few (but terribly expensive) warheads add to our security when we already have over 30,000? We already have an overkill factor of 45. These 15 MX's with 10 warheads each will give us an overkill factor of 45 2/3 times instead of just 45 times!

Frankly, I would not be surprised if Chernenko tells Reagan exactly where he can put the MX's. And, you know, that possibility will be the perfect basing mode.

W.H. Withrow  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
(Retired)

## Appreciation

Editor, The News Record:

I would like to express my appreciation to the Madison County Sheriff's Department for recovering the tools that were stolen from my vehicle while parked in front of the

Marshall Baptist Church on May 15.

I would also like to thank the persons, whose names I will not divulge, for the actions they took after seeing this crime committed.

WILLIAM CHAMBERLAIN

# Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



## PLAUDITS FOR P.R. ELAM

The retirement of Philip R. Elam as manager of the economic development department of the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce not only affects the Asheville area but definitely affects Madison County.

Phil has meant a great deal to the development and growth of Madison County in the past 16 years he has been associated with the Chamber of Commerce. Before his splendid record in Asheville, he had served as farm agent and civic leader in our county. For many years he headed the P.R. Elam Farm Supply Company located in Marshall and was an active member of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department.

His optimistic attitude and desire to see our town and county progress made him a valuable leader.

Phil rightfully deserves the many honors given him following his announcement of his retirement.

I extend to him congratulations for his outstanding service and achievements and wish for him years of happiness in his retirement.

## AN ALERT ANSWER

When Rutherford B. Hayes was a college student he went out walking one day with two of his chums and met an old farmer coming along the road. Hayes addressed him in this manner, "Good morning, Father Issac." Then his two friends spoke to the old tiller of the soil, one calling him Father Abraham, and the other, Father Jacob. "Gentlemen, you are mistaken," said the old man solemnly. "I am neither Abraham, Isaac nor Jacob, but Saul, the son of Kish who was sent out to find his father's asses, and lo, he has found them."

Submitted by Everett Barnett

## FISHING FANATIC RODEO

For the third consecutive year, a group of local fishermen enjoyed several days (and nights) last week in Florida at Horseshoe Beach. Those making the trip from Marshall were "Dub" Deal, Buddy Freeman, Linwood Hunter, Wayne McDevitt, Ed Niles, Jim Quinn, Roy Reeves and Harry Silver. Several Floridians joined the fishing party. They were Clark Christopher and Frank Preston, friends of Rev. Buddy; and George Booth and Herbert Davis.

Since Rev. Buddy has been "bookkeeper" for fishing honors, he reports that Roy Reeves and Wayne McDevitt tied for catching the largest trout on Wednesday. Thursday, George Booth; Friday, Clark Christopher. The trophies for most trout in a single day, Wed., Dub Deal; Thursday, Roy Reeves; Friday, Clark Christopher. Trophies for largest fish of any variety went to: Wed., Linwood Hunter (6-lb. sail catfish); Thurs., Ed Niles, (5-lb. sail catfish); Friday, Jim Quinn (30-inch Spanish mackerel).

The Hotdog trophy for worst fisherman could have been won by several members but went to Dub Deal because he is the only man, out of 12 years of Rev. Buddy taking fishing parties to Florida, who ever fell out of the boat into the Gulf of Mexico. There are many theories but Rev. Buddy felt that since Dub was the only Presbyterian this was the Lord's way of using Roy Reeves, a Baptist Deacon, to baptize Dub by immersion.

A total of 169 trout were caught along with many other kinds of fish.

Space does not permit me to tell about other thrills and experiences "enjoyed" by the fishermen but they all returned safely.



# Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN

If you don't mind waiting while I explain, I shall tell you why blue jeans are my favorite clothes.

I hate the term "social class" when it is applied to human beings, because all human beings are in a class by ourselves.

Equally distasteful is the common term "socio-economic" which indicates that one's standing in society should be tied to his state of economic well-being.

That is ridiculous. One's standing among his peers should be determined by the character that he is rather than by the wealth he has.

It is clear that earthquakes do not respect persons according to their class or socio-economic standing. I have been is a major earthquake and can personally testify that these upheavals do not play favorites.

It is evident that a poor man's shanty and a millionaire's mansion crumble to a common denominator; and, depending on where they are, one man will live and the other will die.

An earthquake is a great democratizing force.

So far this spring, the tornadoes have not visited our locality, and we are deeply grateful for that! However, I shall never forget when one touched down in the bottom land to the south of our home. Along smooth, straight lines, it absolutely devastated some of the largest trees. About one hundred and fifty yards wide and one mile long, the destruction was complete.

From that time until now, I have seen no evidence that tornadoes respect persons, animals, or property.

A tornado is a great democratizing force.

Disease is no respecter of persons. Any person's lungs can be disabled by emphysema or destroyed by cancer if that person smokes enough. Nor does it make any difference whether that person is a saint or sinner.

Recently, I talked with a minister who had just experienced open heart surgery. Another friend lay dying with cancer while some of us sat with him, and over in the pediatric unit, a small innocent child was being overgrown by a fatal illness.

Disease knows no class nor socio-economic distinctions. The rich and poor, saint and sinner are made of the same tissue which can suffer and die—and with the same emotions which can know no limits of joy.

Animals remind us that no one among us is too special. It may appear at times that dogs had rather gnaw the drumsticks of postmen than any others, but such is not the case.

When dogs and bulls prepare to attack, they do not research their victim's place of residence nor his ancestry. They care not where their victim lives, nor are they interested in his bank account. To them, we human beings are all equal.

Tears create a more cohesive commonality between people than could ever be done by eating, working, or traveling together. This is because the three most common causes of tears—sorrow, disappointment, and physical pain—are no respecters of persons. Tears come from the core of one's being, and only a very few can voluntarily call them forth.

Tears are a powerful democratizing force.

When I'm not in the classroom, in the pulpit, or in the office counseling, I like to wear blue jeans. When I travel, blue jeans are my favorite attire. The same is true when I am gardening and when I am shopping.

Blue jeans are comfortable; and when I get mine dirty, my wife simply tosses them into the washing machine, then into the dryer. Soon they are ready to wear again.

My attraction to this garment does not derive primarily from its comfort nor relatively easy care. Blue jeans are the most democratizing garments I know. So many people—men and women, boys and girls—wear them, I never know whether I'm rubbing shoulders with another doctor, a farmer, lawyer, mechanic, merchant, engineer, or banker. Nor does it matter!

With the use of blue jeans, we remind ourselves of what floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, diseases, animal attacks, and tears tell us all: God is no respecter of persons.

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