

# Commentary

# THE NEWS RECORD

## Editorial

### Do You Believe In Fairy Tales?

The American people went to the polls by the millions last week to elect our leaders for the next four years. If the campaign promises are to be kept, we elected leaders who will not raise our taxes over the next four years.

Not only are these fellows going to lower taxes, they'll balance the federal budget to boot. Hunger will be erased and our schools will somehow improve. The tobacco support program will be saved, along with Social Security and Medicaid. Of course, we'll also have "a defense second to none."

The economy won't take a dive in '85'. That would harm the economic recovery we've heard so much about. We won't go to war, either. President Reagan has sent gunboats to the Nicaraguan coast so sailors can keep up their suntans.

An arms treaty with the Soviets is just around the corner. All they have to do is learn to trust us.

Who says only children believe fairy tales?

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Mr. Koenig:

On October 27, the Mars Hill Elementary School Parent, Teachers and Students Association held its Fall Festival. From all indications, it was a great success. It would not have been without the efforts of a great number of people.

There is not enough space to mention everyone by name, but I would like to publicly thank several groups and individuals.

Foremost, thanks must go to the parents and teachers who gave their time on Saturday. These groups were unselfish in many ways and without them there would be no Fall Festival.

A special thanks is also due to the Mars Hill area merchants for donating prizes. By receiving donations, we will have more money to spend on school projects. Of course, a big thanks is in order to all the parents and students who came and spent their hard-earned money.

The other officers of the PTSA are to be commended for their long hours in planning the festival and carrying out a wide range of tasks. Our festival co-chairwomen, Grace Ray and Debbie Reece, carried an extraordinary

burden and made everything run smoothly.

I have worked with many volunteers and I have never seen anyone more determined to see a project succeed than Frederick Anderson, the principal of Mars Hill Elementary. He was first to arrive and last to leave on Saturday night and Sunday when we cleaned up. He cooperated in every way and I owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work.

Recently, we have read a great deal about the failure of public education in America. One of the major points these articles have stated is the lack of volunteerism in our schools. If the writers of those articles had been in Mars Hill on Oct. 27, they would have seen the coming together of parents, teachers, administrators and students for the betterment of Mars Hill Elementary School. It was certainly a great day. Thank you for allowing me to publicly express my gratitude.

Sincerely,  
Robert S. Ruark, president  
Mars Hill Elementary School  
PTSA

## Koenig's Corner

### Hunt Lost The Election

A few final words on the elections...

The longest, costliest and most bitter Senate race in history is over and Jesse Helms is still North Carolina's senior senator. While it is true that Helms received more votes in last week's poll, the race was actually decided months ago in Jim Hunt's campaign planning strategy.

Helms' victory in the polls is not a victory for the right-wing crusades he champions. Rather, it is a rejection of the campaign Hunt chose to run, an \$8 million smear campaign that linked Helms with Latin American death squads, the big oil companies and Moral Majority.

Ninety percent of North Carolinians fall into one of two categories—either you love Jesse Helms or you hate him. Helms is not the sort of politician that inspires indifference.

Tar Heel voters were similarly divided on Jim Hunt after eight years in the governor's office.

The ten percent of voters who somehow remained undecided until late in the race decided the final outcome of the most costly Senate race in history.

Hunt's task was to win over a majority of those few undecided voters. His strategy guaranteed his defeat. Rather than address Jim Hunt's solutions to the problems facing this nation, Hunt spent millions on television ads attacking Helms' record.

Attacking Jesse Helms didn't change any minds among Helms' supporters. Apparently it didn't sway any of the undecided voters, either.

Helms ran as dirty a campaign as did Hunt, but he was armed with many millions more for TV ads. Somehow, a negative ad for Jesse Helms was what voters expected. Hunt tried to use Helms' tactics, but he was unable to beat Helms at his own game.

Likewise, Rufus Edmisten choreographed his own defeat by trying to shadow box his way to victory. Martin went on the offensive early in the campaign and never let up.

He challenged Edmisten to a series of debates and Edmisten declined. Why give your opponent more publicity? was Edmisten's reply to the challenge.

Martin stumped the state while Edmisten relied heavily on slick TV ads promoting his image as a tough attorney general.

Edmisten tried to make the utilities a campaign issue and Martin suggested doing away with taxes on food and medicine. Martin got the voters attention and kept it on Nov. 6.

Edmisten's lack of action in the Clay County sheriff's debacle certainly hurt his prospects with western voters. Despite his denials, Edmisten never cleared himself of charges he helped indict Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green.

Green's many supporters had little trouble ignoring Edmisten's candidacy. We'll shed no tears for the defeated Democrats. Both Hunt and Edmisten failed to give the best of the ticket, Walter Mondale, the support he was due. When Mondale brought his campaign to Asheville, both Hunt and Edmisten were conveniently unavailable.

Mondale may be the most capable and decent man to ever lose a presidential election. He deserved better treatment from his North Carolina ticket-mates.

Jamie Clarke was another victim of Tuesday's Republican landslide. Clarke and Bill Henderson both ran clean campaigns, in sharp contrast to their first race in 1982.

Clarke lost valuable time in his campaign because of business in Congress. The late summer conclusion of Congress gave Henderson time to press the local flesh while his opponent was tied up in Washington.

Jamie Clarke was instrumental in passing two key environmental bills during his brief tenure in Congress. The additional wilderness lands created by Clarke's legislation will stand forever as a monument to his term in Congress. A man could hardly ask for more.

## Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



### FRIDAY NIGHT'S FIRE

Soon after the fire alarm sounded at about 9:30 p.m. last Friday, the news spread that one of the old landmarks on Back Street in Marshall was afire and hundreds of people gathered to view the fire. People stood on Bridge and Main Streets watching as flames destroyed the large warehouse owned by Bowman's Hardware.

Flames engulfed the wooden building so quickly, it was impossible for Marshall and Mars Hill volunteer firemen to extinguish the fire. The flames sent a red glow into the skies which could be seen for miles. From a distance, it appeared that the fire was destroying the middle of town.

Marshall firemen were quick to respond. Mars Hill firemen arrived shortly to lend assistance. Electricians from French Broad EMC were also quick to arrive at the scene and turned off live wires to avoid injuries to firemen and the public.

No injuries were reported. Frankie Davis and Bobby Allen were in charge of the Marshall volunteers and Eddie Fox led the Mars Hill VFD. Especially useful was the "Deluge Gun" on the Mars Hill truck.

Congratulations are in order for the fine work of the firemen, electricians, town and county officers and others who assisted.

### PAGEANT DRAWS NEAR

"Definite plans for the Marshall Christmas Pageant are going forward rapidly," Ed Fender, pageant director, told me this week. The pageant will be presented on the court house lawn on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The pageant is being revived this week after several years absence and various committees have been meeting formulating plans for the renewing of the pageant which received wide publicity and recognition in years past.

"Much interest and enthusiasm is being shown and the cooperation of the Marshall Merchants Association, sponsors of the pageant, many community churches and the general public has been outstanding," Fender said.

### FOOTBALL SEASON ENDS FOR PATRIOTS

A sparse and shivering crowd watched the West Henderson Falcons end a perfect season by defeating the Patriots, 56-7 here last Friday night. The undefeated Falcons will meet Tuscola this Friday night in the playoffs. Madison's lone touchdown came in the fourth quarter on a pass from Dale Ponder to Greg Burnette. Kris Kramer kicked the extra point. Rush Taylor was the leading rusher with 56 yards.



## Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



Having been born at a time when society moved at a walking pace, I learned early to appreciate nature.

Many times I have been totally absorbed by the activity of sub-human creatures around me in such a way that the technology of man cannot surpass.

On the farm my mother would set hens to hatch eggs for our ongoing chicken population. When a hen laid all the eggs she wanted to lay in one season, she would simply quit laying. Then she would sit for long periods of time on a nest.

Constantly clucking, she seemed to me terribly irritable among the other chickens.

Convinced the hen would lay no more eggs, my mother would put 16 eggs under her and wait 21 days for the eggs to hatch. In the meantime, the hen would leave the nest only rarely and briefly. Often she would turn the eggs under her warm body.

I was agape with curiosity to know how that hen knew to hatch her eggs. And why was she so patient? When the eggs finally began hatching, all of

the chicks were out within 24 hours. First, the egg would pip, then crack; finally, a completely wet, wobbly new individual stood there between the halves of his shell. Although his peep-peep was heard before he hatched, his sound was now much clearer—and was answered by the clucking of his mother.

How did this mother know to defend her babies so furiously and to scratch for their food?

"Instinct" is only a substitute or partial answer.

Our cat occasionally (or frequently!) had a litter of kittens, usually in the hay loft. Searching the loft or barn until we found the new kittens was an exciting family affair. When we finally found them, they were sometimes sleeping, sometimes crawling around with unopened eyes as they made a noise that was half squeal, half grunt, and part moan.

Many times I would place a kitten some distance from its nest just to see the mother carry it back. Such a delightful sight! In every instance, she would carry the baby to exactly

the same manner — by the nape of the neck while the little one drew himself up into the perfect fetal position.

How did the mother know how to carry her babies? Instinct, of course. That word identifies, but it does not explain.

Two Jays had a nest just outside My Girl's second floor office window. From the time they began building, until the young Jays had flown, we enjoyed them every day.

The peak of our pleasure came when the young birds were about a week old. The mother had been covering the babies when the father arrived with an unusually long worm.

As he perched alongside the nest, the mother hopped all the nest onto the other side of it opposite her mate. Taking one end of the worm in her mouth while he held firmly to the other end, they pulled the worm in two. He fed one of the babies his piece of worm while she fed the other baby.

That was a division problem which did not seem to need to solve. "Instinct," we say. Of all the engaging animal

behavior I have observed, I believe that of a squirrel thrills me most. When we give one of the squirrels a nut, we never know whether he will eat it or bury it.

Maybe digging a hole and putting the nut into it is not too much to expect of a squirrel. And maybe he should even cover the hole with the nut in it. But what captivates me is his packing the dirt or leaves over the buried nut. He stands there and packs alternately with both front feet.

The time was when I thought squirrels buried nuts to hide them from each other. Now, I doubt that. It is far more likely that this burying is a protection from Jaybirds and crows.

In a contest between the instincts of animals and the intelligence of man, human intelligence will win hands down. Hence, animals often are sacrificed needlessly. The sad part is that man needs more than raw intellect to guide his behavior. He needs decency, civility, and morality.

It is unfortunate that man knows so much about so many things and how he should best use his knowledge.