

# Opinions

## Letters To The Editor



### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

### CCC workers being sought

To The Editor:  
During 1983, The National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) celebrated a 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The NACCCA is trying to locate about 2 million former members and persons who were connected or affiliated with the CCC during the 1930's and 1940's.

It is a known fact that many of these persons reside in North Carolina and areas serviced by *The News-Journal*.

I am sure that many of your readers have often wondered what became of the CCC.

The CCC lives again in the NACCCA.

It is a young and growing organization with 106 chapters throughout the nation, and more are in the planning and development stages. One of its major objectives is to have the CCC reactivated.

A commemorative postage stamp honoring the CCC 50th An-

niversary has been available for purchase for the past year.

Anyone interested in the organization can write to NACCCA, Leohmann's Plaza, 7245 Arlington, Blvd., Suite 318, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, for more information and literature.

Victor Vengrouskie  
Silver Spring, Maryland

### Teacher pushed for improvements

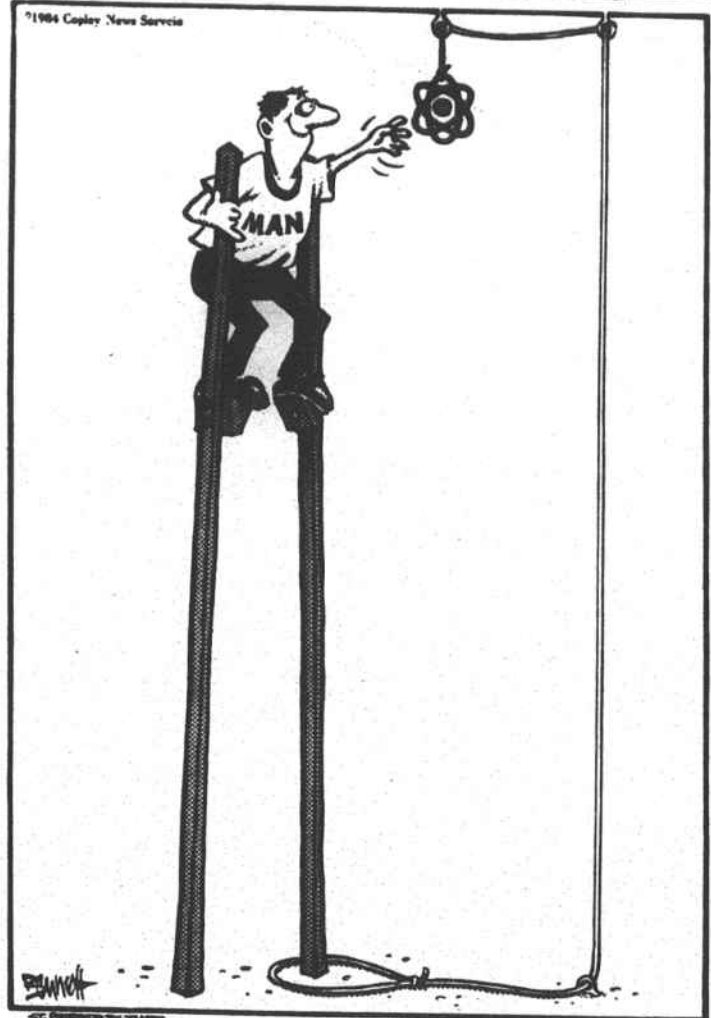
To the Editor:

Last year I was a student of Mrs. Naomi Johnson, and it has come to my attention that while she has pushed for better rights and more learning activities for students, she was pushed against a blank wall.

Instead of losing her job, she should be given a chance to further her education and learning activities for the students.

I hope this letter will get more of the students' attention to write and help Mrs. Johnson in any way it can.

Sincerely,  
Ann McPhatter



## Reporters cover politico users

By Richard A. Viguerie  
Most reporters go out of their way to avoid becoming too friendly with the people they write about, and most politicians avoid doing anything improper in front of reporters. But within a small circle of elite politicians and journalists, the use of illegal drugs is common. You haven't heard about it because there is a conspiracy to cover it up.

John Ehrlichman once said that he knew of politicians who were drunks but got away with it because "there is a kind of unwritten law in the media that it is not discussed." Apparently the same law applies to drug abuse.

In his book *The Boys on the Bus*, Timothy Crouse of *Rolling Stone* magazine wrote about reporters covering the 1972 presidential campaign. Among those featured in the book is Hunter Thompson, the model for the drug-crazed "Uncle Duke" in the "Doonesbury" comic strip. "There were usually a few young reporters around with whom (Thompson) could roll a joint or share a tab of MDA -- not to mention the young staffers on the McGovern Campaign. Even some of the representatives of the nation's great newspapers had taken to smoking dope."

In the 1976 Carter campaign, "There were only two unwritten rules," said a campaign worker who later joined the White House staff. "If you were married, you weren't supposed to (philander), and you didn't smoke grass with reporters. But, hell, that's where most of us got our grass." Patrick Anderson, Carter's speechwriter, later wrote, "If marijuana had become an issue in the 1976 campaign, it would probably have been because some of us on the Carter staff occasionally smoked, not only among ourselves, but with friends in the media."

Dr. Peter Bourne was a close confidant of Jimmy Carter; he wrote the original 1971 memo urging Carter to run for president. In December, 1977, Bourne attended a party at the annual convention of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). At the party, Bourne said, he saw marijuana and cocaine "everywhere." He said that "about half the White House staff was there that night, looking--well, looking as though they belonged." Reporters were also present, but the story went unreported until months later when the president of NORML accused Bourne of snorting cocaine at the party.

After he was caught issuing a prescription for Quaaludes to one of his assistants -- using a phony name for the patient -- Bourne was forced to resign his position as the President's advisor on drug abuse. In a subsequent interview with *The*

*New York Times*, he said that there was a "high incidence" of pot smoking and "occasional use" of cocaine among the members of the White House staff. Other aides confirmed that allegation, and *Newsweek* quoted a "topside" Carter aide as saying, "We'd be a sociological anomaly (that is, unusual if people in our age group hadn't tried at least pot, and maybe coke, too.)"

News reports about Dr. Bourne angered White House press secretary Jody Powell, who said it was a "hypocrisy" for journalists to condemn others for using marijuana when they use it themselves. Some reporters agreed. "Unless it was proved to me that it has a demonstrable effect on the way he did his job, it (the use of illegal drugs by White House official) is just not a story," said one reporter who was a guest at NORML's pot party.

Covering the Bourne story, James Wooten, then of *The New York Times*, wrote that "The use of marijuana is not uncommon at various levels of the government and journalistic community. Since the subject has seldom been raised in the news media, many assumed that an unwritten law had been promulgated in the community, an informal statute that rendered the subject taboo."

According to columnist John Lofton, Wooten added, "Reporters--at least two employed by *The New York Times*--have smoked marijuana in the presence of and with members of the White House staff and other federal employees." The charge was removed from the story by Wooten's editors, one of whom told Lofton that, "by tradition and reputation," newspapermen "are terrible wastrels who do awful things like smoking pot, committing adultery, and (sleeping) around."

A 1978 *Washington Post* article contrasted the attitudes of different generations: "A senior journalist at this newspaper, for instance, compares cocaine to heroin. A colleague, 20 years his junior, compares it to coffee."

That liberal attitude toward cocaine may be common among some Washington journalists. On the "CBS Morning News" last June 7, Bob Woodard, assistant managing editor of the *Post*, said he had heard that "probably 40 people" at the *Post* "use cocaine regularly."

What matters is that the politicians who smoke dope in front of reporters are almost never exposed, and reporters who use drugs in the presence of government officials are almost never busted. The two groups are members of a mutual admiratin society. They protect each other, as partners in crime.

## FOURTH OF JULY SALE!

Storewide Clearance Sale On  
LADEIS - MEN'S - BOYS - GIRLS - INFANTS  
READY-TO-WEAR

Many Famous Brand items  
reduced for quick sale  
to make room for Fall Merchandise.

SHOP NOW & SAVE WHILE QUANTITIES LAST . . . . .

LADIES' FULL FIGURE SLACKS	Reg. 14.97 NOW	7 <sup>00</sup>
LADIES' FULL FIGURE TOPS	Reg. 11.99 NOW	9 <sup>00</sup>
LADIES' WRAP-A-ROUND SKIRTS	Reg. 4.99 NOW	4 <sup>00</sup>
MEN'S MCGREGOR SLACKS	Reg. 19.97 NOW	16 <sup>00</sup>
BOYS' SHORTS	Reg. 3.47 NOW	2 <sup>50</sup>

6 PK.  
KEN-L-RATION  
DOG  
FOOD  
Reg. \*1.83  
**\$1<sup>27</sup>**

8-8-8  
FERTILIZER  
50 LB. BAG  
Reg. \*4.47  
**\$3<sup>33</sup>**

HASSOCKS  
Reg. \*13.99  
**\$10<sup>00</sup>**

20 GALLON  
GALVANIZED  
TRASH  
CAN  
Reg. \*7.99  
**\$6<sup>00</sup>**

BADMINTON  
SET - TWO PLAYERS  
Reg. \*3.49  
**\$3<sup>00</sup>**

HUGGIES  
PK. 33  
Reg. \*8.97  
**\$8<sup>88</sup>**

LADIES' WEDGE  
SANDALS  
Reg. \*2.99  
**\$2<sup>00</sup>**

PLASTIC SWIMMING  
POOLS  
5 FT.  
Reg. \*9.99  
**\$6<sup>00</sup>**

BATH  
TOWELS  
Reg. \*2.50  
**\$1<sup>88</sup>**



Savings You Can See... Quality You Can Trust!



Edinburgh Center 9-9 Mon. thru Sat. 875-2512 1-6 Sun.

We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not valid to dealers.