

Opinions

Republican victories run deep

Cliff Blue



People and Issues

The striking Republican victories on November 6 go deeper than the surface.

Republicans have a chance to concentrate on their major opponents in the U.S. House. They will probably go again after such obstructionist as Cong. Peter Rodino of New York. Tip O'Neill says he is retiring after this two-year term, but he may change his mind!

In years when the president isn't running, the party traditionally has trouble in congressional races. If the trend in the nation is, as some suspect, conservative, that may not hold true in 1986—if the economy is strong.

As to 1988, obviously Vice President George Bush is well positioned for the G.O.P. Democrats will be forced to face the fact that they have little chance without the South.

CANCER DEATHS...The cancer death rate continues its historic climb. According to latest reports, there were about 1 in 7 life insurance policyholder deaths in

1945, rising steadily to nearly 1 in 4 in 1982. However, more cancer patients are living longer. In the 1940's one in four patients lived at least five years after diagnosis; today three in eight are expected to live that long.

THANKSGIVING...We have just celebrated another Thanksgiving Day on November 22.

With Indians as guests about tables loaded with game and fish, wild fruits from the forest, and cornbread and vegetables from their gardens, the early Pilgrim Fathers celebrated their first American harvest festival in October 1621, the first autumn of the exiles in their new home.

A quaint old account describes

the occasion: "Our harvest being gotten, our Governor sent four men on fowling, so that we might after a more special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labours."

Many of the Indians, among them Chief Massasso, the Pilgrims' friend and ally, joined in the three days feasting.

There was plenty of roast turkey, for the fowling found "great store" of the now famous Thanksgiving bird in the neighborhood of Plymouth. But in this old account there is no record to show that this was a day set apart for giving thanks.

The year following the harvest festival was filled with misfortune and the colonists held no autumn feast.

In the first year of his office, President Washington issued a proclamation recommending that Nov. 26, 1789, be kept as a day of "national thanksgiving" for the establishment of a form of government that made for safety and happiness.



Letters To The Editor

Foster care volunteers still being sought

To the Editor:
The Hoke County Department of Social Services would like to express their appreciation to those persons who have responded to our need for Foster Homes.

We had two persons to attend our first training session and several persons have called to express their interest in helping the children-of Hoke County by pro-

viding them with a home when it is impossible for them to remain in their own homes.

We will be holding another training session on Thursday, December 13, 1984 from 7 to 8 p.m. in the conference room of the T.B. Lester, Jr. County Office Building located on South Magnolia Street.

Those of you who did not attend the first session who have had contact with us either by a visit to the agency or a telephone call will

receive a packet of information to complete and bring with you to the training session on December 13.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a foster parent who has not contacted the Department of Social Services may do so and then will receive a packet of information to complete and bring with them to the training session on December 13.

Sincerely,
Susan R. Moss
Hoke County DSS

Americans healthier than before

By John Sledge
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

In spite of all the bad news we're almost continuously bombarded with about new threats to our health, Americans are doing quite well.

In fact, the American Council on Science and Health gathered statistics that show just how well we are doing, and the stats show Americans are healthier than ever before in our history.

An American born today should

live 27 years longer than an American born at the turn of the century. In fact, 10% of the infants born in 1900 didn't live until their first birthday, compared to a death rate of 12 out of every 1,000 infants born today, 1.2%.

Yes, medicines and drugs are helping us survive infectious diseases that were responsible for many deaths before this century, but we're doing much better on other health fronts, too.

Death rates from heart disease and stroke have declined significantly in the past 30 years, and age adjusted death rates for most forms of cancer have been declining gradually since the 1930's according to the Council on Science and Health.

Many Americans feel the public health is declining due to poor dietary habits, food additives, pesticides and pollutants, but the statistics don't substantiate the fears.

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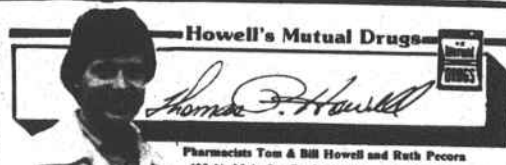
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Kids: Enter Christmas contest

We have a Christmas treat for area kids. It's our first "three wise men" Christmas Coloring Contest. Enter your 4 to 10 year olds by or before 6 PM, Christmas Eve.

Pick up your special coloring poster at our Rx Counter and have your child color it in with oil paint, watercolor, or crayon. Then, drop it off at the pharmacy. "Best efforts" will be recognized and displayed between Christmas and New Years. So, come see the results!

Our best to you this wonderful Christmas Season. We care about you!

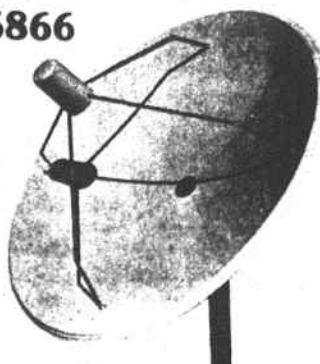
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