

# One-Minute Editorial



**GREENSBORO NOVELIST ORSON SCOTT CARD** has a great quote. He said, "If pigs could vote, the man with the slop bucket would be elected swineherd every time, no matter how much slaughtering he did on the side."

One of our friend's daily chores used to be sloppin' the hogs. He filled up the trough and all the pigs came running. They grunted their way through buckets of the stuff, helping turn themselves into country ham sandwiches.

Now that we're into the election season, every wannabe candidate is trying to carry a larger swill bucket, stuffed with cash, than the other guy and is ready to promise every voter a bigger swig of the swill.

But first, the bucket goes to the gas, coal and oil industries who will be allowed to gulp down \$23 billion in tax breaks. Out of this chunk of money, these industries will spend only \$1.5 billion to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.

It's highly likely the federal government, under the gentle guid-

ance of President Bush, will find a way to slip a sip to California, helping them out of their \$10 billion budget hole.

In Iraq, American contractors haven't taken a single sip from the bucket. The government has let them stick a hose in and siphon it out, as they work with their no-bid contracts while they sock it to the American taxpayer.

The bucket gets lighter as the list of favors handed out gets longer and it's still a long way from the average voter.

But, when it gets around to people like senior citizens, to give them help paying their prescription drug bills, they'll be lucky if they're even allowed to lick the bucket clean.

Of course, then the election will be over and we'll realize how we've been hogwashed—again!

**An observation**—President George Bush's trip to London was about as welcome as a dirty pair of cowboy boots on a white shag carpet.



## THE PASSING PARADE The Week in Review

**Two Black Hawk helicopters**—collided in Iraq killing 17 soldiers. Officials believe one aircraft was trying to avoid ground fire.

**Bush's fast exit**—in Iraq could trigger loss of control. The administration's demand for a constitution in place has been abandoned. Transfer of power is set for next summer.

**A House/Senate**—committee has recommended \$1.2 billion for Amtrak during the next fiscal year starting in October.

**Boeing in Seattle**—laid off tens of thousands of workers and moved its headquarters to Chicago leaving long time workers with a feeling of betrayal.

**President George Bush**—will not accept public financing and will not be on the N.C. primary ballot unless 10,000 Carolina voters sign his petition.

**Penny Singleton**—who played Blondie in a series of films, died in Los Angeles. She was 95.

**Another delay**—for Indians demanding the Department of Interior account for hundreds of million of dollars owed thousands of Native Americans. Congress added language to the bill that again blocks the court order.

**A hard mattress**—may not be the best for your back, researchers say.

**We spent**—more than we sold in September. The trade gap widened to \$41.3 billion.

**Plans for peacekeepers in Iraq**—from South Korea and Japan, will be limited or delayed, officials said.

**Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice**—Roy Moore has been suspended after a Ten Commandment dispute in which he defied federal court order.

**The U.S. military**—says there are no more than 5,000 guerrilla fighters in Iraq.

**Exxon Mobile**—has been ordered

to pay \$11.9 billion for cheating Alabama out of natural gas royalties.

**In 12 months**—ending Sept. 30 last year, the number of personal bankruptcies was 1,625,813.

**Sen. John Edwards**—said the way to get jobs is to put pressure on China to quit manipulating its currency.

**Sen. John Kerry**—says he will not accept public financing of his campaign.

**A chewable spearmint**—birth-control pill has been approved by The Food and Drug Administration. Called Ovcon 35 it can be chewed or swallowed whole.

**Arnold's California budget deficit**—is expected to be more than \$10 billion.

**A Canadian regulatory group**—wants their government to stop selling low-cost prescription drugs to U.S. customers.

**Three are dead**—and almost 500 have been hit with hepatitis A after eating at a Chi-Chi Mexican restaurant in Pittsburgh.

**Hundreds of U.S. war planners**—have been ordered to CentCom's forward headquarters in Iraq. The military expects large-scale operations to continue in Iraq for an extended period.

**In France**—a gangway on the Queen Mary 2 collapsed killing 13 and injuring 32.

**A Hawaiian private school**—receives no federal funding. Because of this, a federal judge ruled it may continue its Hawaiian-only admissions and is not violating any student's civil rights.

**Oil, gas and coal**—industries are happy. Two thirds of the \$23 billion Republican energy bill goes to them. Only about \$1.5 billion will be used for conservation and efficiency systems.

**Toys "R" Us**—doesn't mean jobs for you. The toy retailer is closing

182 stores and cutting 3,800 jobs.

**Presidential candidate Rep. Dick Gephardt**—says he has opposed the NAFTA trade agreement for the past 20 years.

**Mickey Mouse**—turned 75. Lucky he's a mouse. In dog years he would be over 500!

**Jim Graham**—former N.C. commissioner of agriculture and the voice of farmers for four decades, has died. Often call "The Soddfather," his death was from pneumonia complications at Mayview Convalescent Hospital in Raleigh. He was 82.



**Thursday-Friday Nov. 27-28**  
**Friday-Saturday Dec. 13-14**  
The Humane Society of Iredell County is sponsoring a pet-Santa photo shoot 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Petsmart located in the Brawley Commons Shopping Plaza in Mooresville. Half of all proceeds goes to the Humane Society and its Save-a-Pet adoption program. No appointment necessary.

**Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 8 and 9**  
The Iredell County Partnership for Young Children hosts a pre-Christmas fundraising event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will be held in the boardroom of the Partnership, located at 132 E. Broad St. Timely Treasures, Discovery Toys, Mary Kay cosmetics and local crafters will have their merchandise for sale and a percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the Partnership to help carry out services for children and families. For more information, please contact Denise Rogerson, 704-878-9980.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**  
The 70-piece North Iredell Band will perform a Christmas concert at Plaza Apartments at 1 p.m. The concert will held in the atrium area and will be standing room only. The concert can be enjoyed from any of the Plaza's four levels.

**Saturday, Jan. 24**  
The Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce announces a Wedding Expo 2004! The event will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Charles Mack Citizens Center, 215 N. Main Street in Mooresville. A total of 45 booths will be sold and there will be a bridal fashion show, door prizes and special happenings all day. DJ Fast Freddie who has been featured on the Jenny Jones show will be the MC. For more information please call MSI Chamber Office 704-664-3898.

## City Council Approves City Office Building's Facelift

Linda Wilson  
IREDELL CITIZEN

**A FACELIFT FOR THE CITY OFFICE** Building was approved at the Nov. 17 City Council Meeting for the City Office Building despite two members of the city council voting against spending an estimated \$890,000.

Ernie Sills of CBSA Architects, Inc. presented the council with variations of what could be done to the building to blend it better with the City Hall and Civic Center Buildings. One proposal included new landscaping, parking and changing the drive-up window location, which would cost \$430,000.

Council member Jim Lawton made the motion to go ahead with the facelift, landscaping and a one-story addition on the south side at the estimated cost of \$890,000. "We have a wart sitting in the middle of our downtown," Council member Lawton said. "I think we are getting out cheap if the cost is less than \$1 million."

Rob Hites, city manager, told the council that more space was not an issue. The space in City Hall and the city office building together will be enough for the next 20 to 30 years.

Council members Paula Steele and J. O. Johnson voted against the propos-

al. Steele said she had a problem spending almost a million dollars on a cosmetic project. "There are no structural problems with the building and I'd rather see that money go into a recreation project. I see other projects that need to be done before this," Steele said. She felt additional parking and landscaping would be enough to do at this time.

Mayor John Marshall argued that the facelift was much more than cosmetic and voiced his approval for the project.

The new renovations will replace inefficient windows and will move the drive-through to the back of the building and include an addition to house utility tellers.

In another matter, the council tabled discussion of a fire escape in the back of the Clock Tower Building. The building is owned by Dr. Paul Swaney and in order to bring it up to code a fire escape is needed. But Dr. Swaney was said to just own the building. Reportedly the city owns the parking lot directly behind the building where four parking spaces, which will be affected, are located. The tax value of the four parking spaces is \$15,424.20. Council discussed providing a 20-foot easement to Dr. Swaney and putting restrictions on the type of fire escape constructed. The council decided to discuss the matter with the owner before making a motion.

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102-B South Center Street • Statesville, NC 28677  
704-872-1200 • 704-872-1280 • Fax 704-872-1281  
editor@iredellcitizen.com • circ@iredellcitizen.com • ads@iredellcitizen.com

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