



The Public Parade

The Unlearned Hand?

There used to be an able federal judge named Learned Hand, whose opinions on a wide variety of issues were respected by the legal establishment throughout the land.

Now there is another federal judge with the same surname who has just handed down a ruling which could well cause him to go down in history as the Unlearned Hand.

For U. S. District Judge W. Brevard Hand has held in an Alabama case that secular humanism is a religion and, for that reason, banned the use of some four dozen textbooks in the public schools of that state.

This decision came in a class-action lawsuit filed by some 600 parents and teachers who alleged, during a long trial back in October, that secular humanism was being promoted as a religion in numerous textbooks used in the public schools.

Judge Hand agreed, holding that some texts in virtually all Alabama public school classrooms illegally promoted "the religion of secular humanism." "With these textbooks," he continued, "the State of Alabama has overstepped its mark and must withdraw to perform its proper non-religious functions."

Certain texts in such disciplines as social studies, home economics and history were banned. This passage from "Teen Guide," a home economics book, was held objectionable as a value judgment: "Nothing was 'meant' to be. You are the designer of your life. If you want something, you can plan and work for it. Nothing is easy. But nothing is impossible, either."

We, frankly, don't find much wrong with that although we can see how it might raise the hackles of some fundamentalists who accept the doctrine of predestination or who believe "heaven will provide." But to hold that such values should not be taught in the public schools is going too far.

In assessing Judge Hand's latest ruling we should keep in mind that in 1981 he upheld an Alabama statute permitting prayer in the classroom, but was reversed by the United States Supreme Court. Has he now swung to the other extreme? Is he saying that if we cannot have prayer in the classroom, neither can humanistic values be taught?

If that is really his position, then he simply had to build a bridge from one to the other by declaring "secular humanism" to be a religion and subject to First Amendment prohibitions. Thus, by equating non-religion with religion, he wipes out a whole array of troubling questions about intellectual freedom in this country.

In a similar case up in Tennessee another judge held that children could not be required to read texts to which their parents objected on religious grounds. That judge even went so far as to order the state to reimburse parents who, on religious grounds, had taken their children out of the public schools and sent them to private schools.

Are we by court decree going to give those who still believe the world is flat a legal stick with which to beat the modern day Copernicans over the head? Are we going to permit them to put academic freedom, along with freedom of inquiry and research, in straitjackets tailored by the courts?

We hope not. But we will not be satisfied until the U. S. Supreme Court once again runs up the red flag against steps toward what Jefferson termed "tyranny over the minds of men."

County Commercial Fisherman Urges Action On Water Pollution

By JEANETTE WHITE

If someone put a million dollar bounty on the last rock fish in Albemarle Sound, a fisherman wouldn't collect it, but pollution would.

That's how commercial fisherman Rod Cross sums up the plight facing his industry.

"I think it's ironic that fishing and farming are suffering so much in an area that places so much emphasis on its heritage. If it wasn't for fishing and farming, North Carolina would not be what it is today," Cross said.

"Point source polluters must realize that part of being a corporate citizen in this area involves protecting our resources. I don't want to put anybody out of work, but we've all got to work together," Cross added. Point source pollution comes when businesses or towns dump treated waste into a waterway.

The state also has 30,000 under-

ground leaking gas tanks, Cross said, or about 30 per county.

The 30-year-old Cape Colony waterman considers himself a newcomer to the fishing industry. He is a first generation fisherman who avails himself of much information on fishing and water quality control and tries to make the public more aware of what's happening to hurt the resources our waterways provide.

Cross is one of 150 full-time and 250 part-time fishermen in the Albemarle area who brought 11 million pounds of fish, worth \$2.5 million, into the economy in 1986.

The catch included all species, but Cross says when he started seven years ago, watermen landed more pounds in herring alone.

Cross says it's time the government stopped spending millions on water studies and compiled the

information already gathered so it can be put to use. He feels that limiting fish catches is not the way to fight problems watermen are facing today.

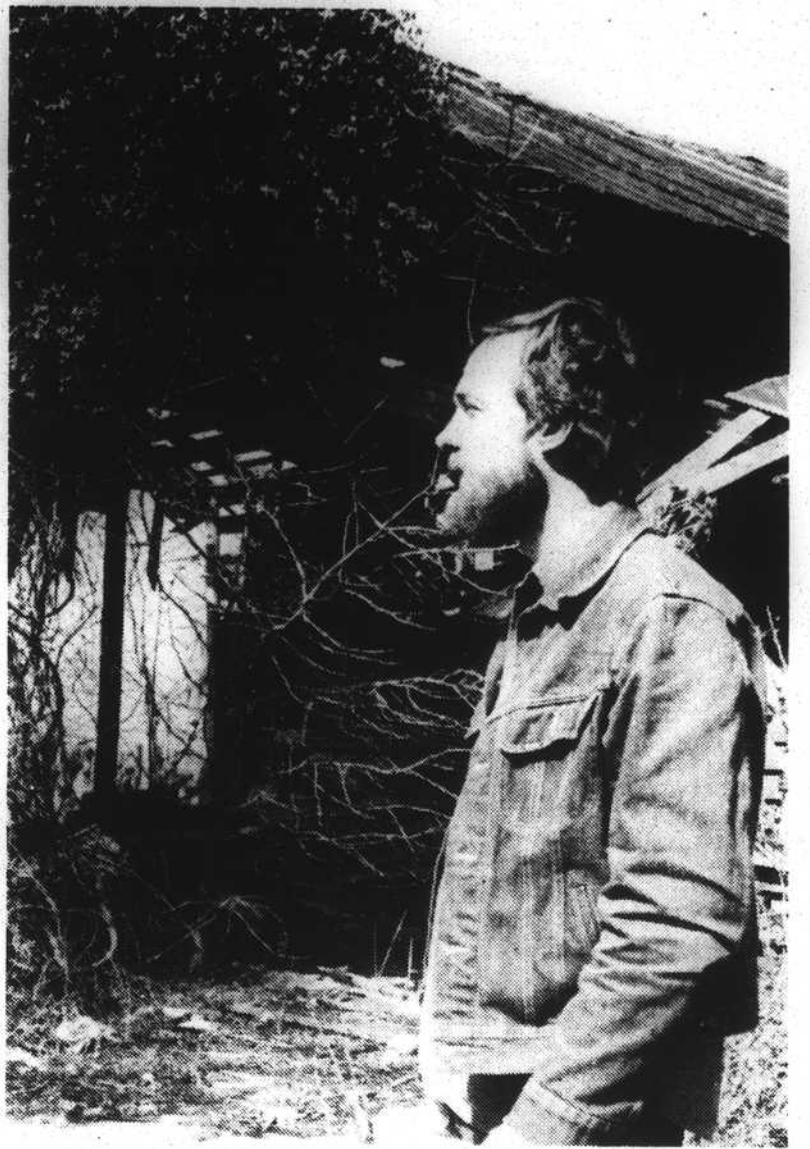
"Putting a ban on rock fishing is like putting a bandaid on internal bleeding," he said. "A study back in 1941 showed that our rivers supported rock before pulp and paper mills came along. Scientists said we were not going to save the rock by stopping the catch, but we have to provide the environment fish need."

Cross feels technical knowledge is available so pulp and paper mills never have to discharge into waterways.

"They should never have to dump overboard. Our monitoring program in North Carolina is a joke. And I don't want to put anymore weight on the farmers' backs. Most of our farmers are doing what they can, but better education would mean more would be using Best Management Practices (BMP).

These programs keep nutrients and herbicides on the land, where farmers want it, instead of in a ditch. You know a little bit of fertilizer helps the crops, but too much burns it up and that's what

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FISHERMAN ROD CROSS—looks at the abandoned Emperor fish processing site, one of many left to the elements during the decline of the seafood industry. Cross says the industry's biggest problem is pollution.

Economic Concerns Discussed

Jim Martin met recently with Earl Rountree of Gatesville, former member of the N.C. Board of Transportation, to discuss economic development issues and other topics of concern to Northeastern North Carolina citizens.

Governor Martin praised Rountree's work while he served on the Board of Transportation. "Earl has been a valuable asset to the Northeast and he continues to serve as a trusted and valued advisor on statewide issues," Governor Martin said after the meeting in his office in Raleigh.

"I hope Earl Rountree's expertise will help us continue to develop strategies for rural North Carolina," Governor Martin added. "He knows well my commitment to education and its relation to development in the Northeast."

Rountree said he discussed several critical transportation needs during the meeting with Governor Martin. "I reiterated my concerns about linking the Northeast to the Piedmont by improving our major highways -- particularly the need for four-laning U.S. 17 and U.S. 64," Rountree said.

Superior Court Cases Are Decided

Judge Paul M. Wright presided over Chowan Superior Court Monday.

A suspended sentence for Darryl Alexander Gibbs was revoked and he was sentenced to 90 days active term.

On probation violations, Stacy Wilson Blount and William C. Leary were continued on probation.

A motion to release George Lee Revell on a charge of armed robbery and discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle was denied.

Jimmy Blount was charged with two counts of indecent liberties and one count of first degree sex offense. He was found guilty of one count of indecent liberties and the other charges were dismissed. He was sentenced to three years suspended for one

year of supervised probation, fined \$113 court cost and \$500 fee for a court appointed attorney, ordered to attend Wake County Mental Health and ordered not to be in the company of the minors

involved unless accompanied by an adult.

On a charge of felonious death by motor vehicle, the attorney for

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Kathleen Miller

Director Resigns

Kathleen Miller, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce has announced her resignation, effective April 20. Mrs. Miller will be entering the private business sector with Shamrock Marketing Group Ltd., an investment company in which she is a stockholder.

Projects that were accomplished under Mrs. Miller's direction were: development of a leadership package consisting of revised by-laws, a new policy manual, a sales manual and an operating and procedures personnel manual, remodeling of the Chamber offices, establishment of the President's Club, upgrade of the Membership Journal, board of director's retreat meeting to plan a Program of Work, 32 new member businesses, and grant award from the state for tourist video production for N.C. Welcome Centers.

Mrs. Miller stated that the decision to leave the Chamber was very difficult. The accomplishments, she says, she is most proud of are the network between our Chamber and other area Chambers and the increased positive communication and cooperation between our Chamber and the various branches of local and state government. She said that the board of directors is a real working Board with lots of energy and ideas and motivation.

Mrs. Miller stated that under Beth Taylor's leadership this year she is confident that the Chamber will maintain its new image and positive direction. A board of directors meeting will be held at 7:30 a.m. March 24 to select a search committee to find a new executive director.

Mrs. Miller says she looks forward to being an owner of her own business, and a dues-paying, active member of the Chamber and will support the Chamber's work to promote and protect all businesses in Chowan County.

Investigations Continuing

Chowan Sheriff's Department is investigating one case of first degree burglary and rape and an unrelated possible suicide.

The alleged rape occurred early Sunday morning in the Chowan Beach area when an assailant entered a home through a front door and attacked an 18-year-old woman.

The victim was taken to Chowan Hospital for examination after a friend called the sheriff's department.

The investigation is continuing

by Spruill, Deputy David Jethro, SBI Agent Dwight Ransome and the SBI Crime Lab.

In the suicide investigation, Chowan Medical Examiner Dr. Leibert DeVine said Mrs. Viola Byrum Goodwin, 63, Tyner, died at Chowan Hospital Monday from a gunshot wound.

"It's fairly conclusive that the death was a suicide," DeVine said.

The rescue squad went to the Goodwin home just before 9:35

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Spirits Soar As Edenton Aces Win Over Whiteville Wolfpack

By JACK GROVE

Excitement was running high last Thursday afternoon in the John A. Holmes gym where the student body welcomed home its victorious basketball team. The Aces won a close game Wednesday over the number two team in the east, the Whiteville Wolfpack, 52-50 in the Cumberland County Auditorium.

This was the first round of the

Eastern Regionals and a victory over the Farmville Central Jaguars Saturday would have taken the Aces to the Dean Dome in Chapel Hill for a try at the state 2-A championship.

The Jaguars had other ideas and became the regional champs by defeating the Aces 58-50. At the end of the first quarter, Farmville led 10-6 and didn't relinquish the lead for the rest of the game.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Aces were down 41-29 but closed the gap to 50-47 but couldn't overcome foul trouble. "Free throws iced the game for the Jaguars," according to coach Robert Woodley.

Darrell Overton and Robert Rankins were named to the Eastern Regional All-Tournament Team. Top scorers for the Aces were Dorrone

Felton and Rankins with 14 each and Overton with 12.

The Aces finished fourth in regular conference play with a season record of 15-11. Six of the game losses were by two points or less. They were defeated in conference tournament action by Roanoke 54-46.

Edenton swept the sectionals in away games. They bested Duplin, 47-45; Ayden-Grifton, 51-44 (took 7 straight points in overtime); and

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Truck Runs Into House

No injuries were reported when a truck ran into a house beside N.C. 32 about one mile north of Edenton Monday evening.

The truck, owned by M.G. Brown Co., was operated by Melvin Anthony, 46, Edenton. The house is owned by Jim Criddle.

According to a report filed by Trooper W.F. Whitley, Anthony was driving the truck south about 12:25 p.m. when he ran off the wet highway in a curve, glanced off a tree and struck the house.

Damage to the 1985 Chevrolet truck was \$2,000 and minor damage was reported to the house.

Anthony was wearing a seat belt when the accident occurred and was cited for exceeding safe speed.



WARM WELCOME—Excited John A. Holmes students held a welcome home rally for the Aces basketball team upon their return Thursday after toppling Whiteville 52-50. Here Coach Woodley speaks to the rally as his Aces listen.