

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN

From
ALMAR FARM
In Transylvania
BY CAL CARPENTER



You know, the poor old weather man really takes a beating.

There's a saying among meteorologists, which I heard often while working as a weather forecaster myself, that a weather man has to have a thick skin. For not only does he have to work with a very difficult and still inexact science, where errors are common, but he has to accept the blame for errors he actually doesn't make.

Someone, half-listening to a weather program on radio or TV, hears the word "snow" or "rain." They don't bother to note that the forecast was for South Carolina or some other part of the state or country instead of here; then, when what the weather man didn't say was going to happen doesn't happen, they lay him out for being "wrong again."

In addition to the mis-understood forecast, there's another hazard the thick-skinned official forecaster has to accept. This is the strong tendency for TV and radio announcers to read more into the forecast than the forecaster put in it, in order to make it more newsworthy.

The TV weather programs are the greatest offenders in this. The "weather men" who put on the shows are seldom ever weather men at all, they're staff announcers or maybe pretty "weather girls" who are completely unqualified in this highly technical field. Sure, the basic information and the forecasts come to the studios on the teletype from the U. S. Weather Service. Sure, this is put out by qualified professionals. But the Weather Service has nothing to say about the way their information is presented.

A tradition has built up whereby the TV "weather man" must stand in front of a map and "explain" the weather situation before he gives the official forecast. This is something like a first aid course graduate trying to explain a heart transplant. The physically impossible situations they depict on their charts and the erroneous explanations they put out would be laughable except that they are, unfortunately, taken seriously all too often.

And their eager efforts to make the "Weather show" more interesting, often lead to "enhancement" of the official forecasts that the real weather man never intended. Yet the real weather man gets the blame when the exciting forecast fails to pan out. He's "wrong again."

If this sounds a little like sour grapes it is. No professional, even an ex-professional, likes to see the profession made to look ridiculous.

As I said, the official weather man has a hard enough time without his best efforts being distorted by others. He knows, and any qualified meteorologist will tell you, that he's doing well if he's right 85 per cent

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S. adv.

of the time with a 24-hour forecast. In a 48-hour forecast he's lucky to hit 65 per cent—just 15 per cent better than half-right. In a three-day, long-range forecast, he's down to very little better than 50-50. The 72-hour and anything longer is an "outlook" in which the experienced meteorologist is merely exercising a trained guess.

What about the week and month-long "forecasts" you ask?

These aren't forecasters at all, they are merely expected trends; and, if presented correctly, they'll be so labeled. The forecaster is simply saying that, based on all the information he has, it looks as if it will trend to be wetter, drier, cooler or hotter than the climatic records give as normal for the particular time and place.

How about the almanac and dairy-type monthly "forecasts"?

They aren't forecasts either. They're climatology; i.e., they are composite records of what has happened for the last 50 years or so in this area at these times. They are not even "educated guesses"—they are simply average records of the past. When they hit, they're hailed as great forecasting; when they miss, which is often, they're excused because, after all, they're not official. It seems to be the nature of Americans to be more lenient with unofficial, non-establishment things than with the official.

The Woolly Bear (caterpillar), corn husk, squirrel tail or bark-on-trees winter-long forecasts—are they any good?

I don't know. They've not been accepted seriously and subjected to systematic verification. They've not been proved and as such must still await a verdict. At present they're folk lore rather than serious forecasting methods.

How about the individual old-timer weather prophet?

He's pretty good as long as he sticks to short range forecasting. Any intelligent man—farmer, ship's deck officer, flier, construction worker—anyone who has spent years living outdoors and observing the weather, is a good 24-hour forecaster.

As an ex-weather man, what do I do?

I read the printed Weather Service forecast in the newspaper. It is authentic even though brief. I watch the "Today Show" weather briefing on TV. It has professionally-prepared charts and a good, unemotional, country-wide summary. I also listen to the weather "reports" on our local radio, WPNF. It gives the unembellished Weather Service forecasts. It should be kept in mind, however, that this is based on a rather broad Western North Carolina area forecast, and there can be considerable local differences in our mountains.

When all these turn out wrong, as they sometimes do, I grouch at the "weather man" just like everybody else.

Gash Speaks To College Business Club

Taking time out from his busy schedule, Judge Robert T. Gash spoke Tuesday night to the Business Club about present secretarial opportunities and demands.

Judge Gash reported the average secretary in a law office makes about one hundred dollars a week. A primary concern of any employer will be the secretary's accuracy as well as her value as part of his firm. Law firms particularly can't afford mistakes in deeds and documents. Job opportunities include court reporters, personal secretaries, and secretarial pools.

Some of the major problems facing newly graduated business majors will be their age and lack of experience.

Before being elected as judge three years ago, Mr. Gash had been a practicing Brevard lawyer with his father for eighteen years. A former Brevard College student, he smiled, "if you get the urge — go on to law school!"

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE

In The General Court of Justice Superior Court Division State of North Carolina Transylvania County Having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of McKinley Owen of Transylvania County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said McKinley Owen to present them to the undersigned within six months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 18th day of November, 1971.
S/Julia M. Owen
P. O. Box 308,
Brevard, N. C.
HAMLIN, POTTS & HUDSON
Attorney.

11-18-4z (b) For purposes of this

It's The New Law

By - J. C. ROWE
Chief, Brevard Police

Editor's note: The 1970 North Carolina General Assembly made 84 changes in the state Criminal Statutes—wrote some new laws and changed old ones by addition or deletions. Since these laws affect the general public, Brevard's Chief of Police, J. C. Rowe, has collected the changes and THE TIMES is publishing them over the next several months as a public information service. The laws are here published as they appear in the General Statutes; no effort has been made to explain or interpret them. This is a function of the legal profession and the courts.

14-190.1. Obscene literature and exhibitions.—(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to intentionally disseminate obscenity in any public place. A person, firm or corporation disseminates obscenity within the meaning of this Article if he or it:

(1) Sells, delivers or provides or offers or agrees to sell, deliver or provide any obscene writing, picture, record or other representation or embodiment of the obscene; or

(2) Presents or directs an obscene play, dance or other performance or participates directly in that portion thereof which makes it obscene; or

(3) Publishes, exhibits or otherwise makes available anything obscene; or

(4) Exhibits, broadcasts, televises, presents, rents, sells, delivers, or provides; or offers or agrees to exhibit, broadcast, televise, present, rent or to provide; any obscene still or motion picture, film, filmstrip, or projection slide, or sound recording, sound tape, or sound track, or any matter or material of whatever form which is a representation, embodiment, performance, or publication of the obscene.

(b) For purposes of this

Article any material is obscene if:

(1) The dominant theme of the material taken as a whole appeals to the prurient interest in sex; and,

(2) The material is patently offensive because it affronts contemporary national community standards relating to the description or representation of sexual matters; and,

(4) The material as used is not protected or privileged under the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of North Carolina.

(c) Obscenity shall be judged with reference to ordinary adults except that it shall be judged with reference to children or other especially susceptible audiences if it appears from the character of the material or the circumstances of its dissemination to be especially designed for or directed to such children or audiences. In any prosecution for an offense involving dissemination of obscenity under this Article, evidence shall be admissible to show:

(1) The character of the audience for which the material was designed or to which it was directed;

(2) Whether the material is published in such a manner that an unwilling adult could not escape it;

(3) Whether the material is exploited so as to amount to pandering;

(4) What the predominant appeal of the material would be for ordinary adults or a special audience, and what effect, if any, it would probably have on the behavior of such people;

(5) Artistic, literary, scientific, educational or other social value, if any, of the material;

(6) The degree of public acceptance of the material

Little Theatre Play Postponed Until January

Jo Ann Dehon, director of the Brevard Little Theatre's production of "The Voice Of The Turtle", announces that the play has been postponed until January following emergency surgery on a member of the cast. Performances were scheduled for December 9, 10 and 11.

Becky Pelletier, playing the lead role of Sally Middleton, underwent an appendectomy Monday at the Transylvania Community Hospital.

Mrs. Dehon stated that she will begin rehearsals again immediately following the holidays and is scheduling the production for January 13, 14 and 15. She added that the second production of the BLT's 1971-72 season is scheduled for March, and the third will be in May.

throughout the United States;

(7) Appeal to prurient interest, or absence thereof, in advertising or in the promotion of the material.

Expert testimony and testimony of the author, creator or publisher relating to factors entering into the determination of the issue of obscenity shall be admissible.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to knowingly and intentionally create, buy, procure or possess obscene material with the purpose and intent of disseminating it unlawfully

(e) It shall be unlawful for a person, firm or corporation to advertise or otherwise promote the sale of material represented or held out by said person, firm or corporation as obscene.

(f) Any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and unless a greater penalty is expressly provided for in this Article, shall be fined or imprisoned in the discretion of the court.

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Local News At 7:30 A.M. 12 Noon 6:00 P.M.



Tomorrow.
All your tomorrows. And each tomorrow has a different need. And each need something today doesn't know about. You can make tomorrow better. More special. How? Uncover today the help we can give you tomorrow. Know who can serve when you feel all alone. Whatever your needs become, learn who we are and learn what full service really means. Let's make tomorrow everything you want it to be. Let's make tomorrow together.

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We are pleased to announce that we have a new groomer, Mrs. Ruth Hampson. She is English trained and has had six years of experience in all types of grooming, especially Poodles. We invite you to call for an appointment or come by and discuss your grooming needs with Mrs. Hampson.
Please Make Early Reservations For Christmas!

First Union National