

Green Line is an independent, solution-oriented project in journalism promoting thoughtful approaches to social change in Western North Carolina. *Green Line* coverage reflects a belief that citizen involvement in these changes should be encouraged.

We welcome reports, essays and other commentary as well as volunteer help. *Green Line* is available free, at over 200 locations in Western NC, or it will be mailed to you for \$7 per year.

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Stories printed in *Green Line* are the opinions of the authors unless otherwise stated.

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Our budget is lean...
Green Line staff work either for free
or for only token payments

• • •
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The Green Line Effect

Head Forest Service nominee endangers forests • *Green Line* should cover only the environment • Peace Child applauded • and more...

Dear *Green Line*,

In just a year since President Bush announced, "I am an environmentalist," it is interesting to note his nominee for Assistant Secretary for Agriculture, a man named James Cason. Cason, a former assistant to past Interior Secretary James Watt, has an abysmally poor record on the environment, and has been referred to as a "James Watt clone."

What makes this relevant to western North Carolina is that if approved, Cason would be put in charge of the U.S. Forest Service. In spite of the recent outrage over clear-cutting of timber on Forest Service land in this area, the appointment of a man like Cason to this post could seal the fate of North Carolina forests (regardless of the efforts of those who oppose this practice).

Hearings on this nomination are presently underway in the US Senate. Among the members of the Agriculture Committee charged with making a decision on this matter is North Carolina's Jesse Helms. Anyone interested in attempting to influence Senator Helms' opinion may wish to write him at 409 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

- Jennifer E. McKee,
Cashiers, NC

Dear *Green Line*,

We have read several of your *Green Line* issues, and as you printed the note "sample/consider subscribing" in your copy to us, we decided that worthy of a reply.

Both my wife Elizabeth Jane and I are convinced environmentalists, and fully agree with your stance on most environmental issues. In fact, when I go on a Carolina Mountain Club hike (we're both long-time members), I carry a plastic bag to pick up some of the litter that can be encountered along the trail. As a volunteer worker at the University Botanical Gardens (where I've seen your publication), I police the area for trash.

For years we have recycled cans, bottles and newspapers. Recently we have been distressed that all over town the receptacles for newspapers have vanished. Somebody is sending the wrong message on the benefits of recycling and keeping landfill intake at a minimum!

We practice organic gardening to the extent practicable in our vegetable garden.

We agree with you on much. As Christians, Jane and I feel God created this world for us to live in and respectfully use, not to abuse.

However, you seem to have incorporated in your agenda several social/political views we simply cannot accept, and have nothing to do with the environment. For example, you apparently have a pro-homosexual bias. Again, as Christians, we do not hate those practicing homosexuality, but cannot in any way condone such a lifestyle. As Jane and I understand the Bible, it is contrary to God's standards of morality. We view homosexuality as a psychological or emotional dysfunction (despite the American Psychiatric Association, which was influenced by gay lobbyists), much as alcoholism, drug abuse, pedophilia, compulsive gambling, and the like. People with such disorders are not to be hated, but to be considered emotionally ill. Not to be assaulted, but to be treated. Such behavior cannot be considered normal, and certainly not something to be proud of!

Another example is pro-abortion vs. pro-life. Jane and I come down on the pro-life side, considering abortion akin to murder. Rape, incest, or a genuine threat to the mother's life, and only those, should be grounds to terminate a pregnancy, and only very early except for the life threat. You seem to favor the "pro-choice" line. We are pro-choice, too, but this in reference to becoming pregnant. A woman should have that choice, but such a decision should be taken in concert with her husband and

mutually agreed on. If she doesn't wish to become pregnant, she knows what to do, or what not to do. But once she is pregnant, she is then responsible for the life of another.

Also, you apparently took Jesse Helms to task for objecting to federal financing of obscene art. As taxpayers, Jane and I are outraged that we should help pay for obscenities so vulgar and offensive that none of the media that jumped on Jesse have offered to print pictures of this art so we taxpayers can see what we are paying for! It does bring up the larger question why is the federal government in the art funding business at all, to the tune of some \$200 million a year, while we struggle with mammoth budget deficits. Jane and I believe artists should compete in and be supported by the private sector, as their talents and demands for their services dictate, just like the rest of us. Why not?

Stick to the environmental issues. That is where you belong, and there is plenty to do there. Because you have strayed into non-environmental matters, and taken stands we cannot support, we decline subscribing.

We wanted you to know why.

- Mr. and Mrs. Lewis A. Blodgett, Jr.
Asheville, NC

Dear *Green Line*,

Thomas Wolfe auditorium was packed to standing room only. "Peace Child," performed in Asheville on Oct. 1, was a large and successful production. The play's theme was peace for the planet.

The hum of contentment and excitement coming from hundreds of children made me happy I was there and the spontaneity of the production's actors — both young and old — was contagious. Bravo to Asheville for a fine performance.

- Hazel Fobes
Asheville, NC

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