The Franklin Press

The Highlands Maconian

WEIMAR JONES Editorial Page Editor

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... Or Do We?

As part of the effort to meet the Russian challenge, the 1958 National Defense Act set up the federal student loan fund program. It seeks, through loans, to make it possible for bright students who lack financial backing to attend col-

Now a dozen of the nation's biggest universities and colleges have withdrawn from the program because the law requires an applicant for a loan to swear to his beliefs. The colleges take the position the requirement of such an oath is repugnant to the basic idea of education, since education means freedom of the mind; they argue such an oath will screen out no Communists; and, since everybody isn't required to swear to his beliefs, they insist the law discriminates against a single group - poor students.

Under the law, a loan applicant must swear he does not believe in, support, or belong to any organization that believes in or teaches the overthrow of the government by force.

Under this law, the colleges well might have added, George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson would have been barred. They not only believed in the overthrow of the then government, but succeeded in do-

Aside from the question of principle, it seems to us the oath does not make sense for a purely practical reason: If we believe what we say we believe, the Communists and others dissatisfied with our form of government are the very ones we ought to be trying to educate, the very ones we ought to encourage to go to college.

For we in this country believe in the free exchange of ideas; we believe, in such an exchange, that truth always triumphs; and we believe the truth is all on our side. We believe, therefore, we have nothing to fear in the realm of ideas.

Or do we?

A Fine Performance

Some 600 or 700 persons jammed the Franklin Methodist Church Sunday night for Handel's "Messiah", presented by the combined choirs of the four Protestant churches here. And the crowd, many of whom had to stand, was not disappointed. It was a fine performance, a credit to this community. It demonstrated not only that there is musical talent here but also that people from throughout the county appreciate good music.

Less obvious was something else.

The members of that big audience could have stayed comfortably at home and heard music, via radio or television or record player, that, since it would have been professional, would have been technically more perfect.

That they didn't is explained only in part by the fact this was a local performance, presented by local talent. Equally important was the personal element. The audience could feel the presence and the emotions of the performers; there was a rapport between musicians and audience that is never quite possible with a program that is broadcast or

That is why a local performance of this kind always is popular, why we should have more such programs. And the size of the crowd demonstrated something that has long been apparent-the greatest civic need of this community is an adequate auditorium.

Friendly Criticism

Public transportation is important to all of us as individuals, and to the nation. For that reason, the letters on this page from Mr. Barnett and Mr. Chambers are doubly welcome.

While the "Strictly Personal" piece they refer to was critical of some of the methods of rail and bus companies, the criticism grew out of the hope and the conviction that they can, with imagination, so adjust to changed conditions as to be able to meet competition and stay in business.

Incidentally, the Tallulah Falls Railway is not excused from taxes because it is unprofitable many businesses and individuals have to pay taxes on property that is not profitable; because it is in



PEACE PORRIDGE HOT-PEACE PORRIDGE COLD.

receivership, its taxes are deferred. The fact that it is not paying taxes gives the public an additional reason for being interested in it's intelligent man-

We'd like to see the T. F., as well as other railroads, prosper. Mr. Barnett's letter lends weight to our suggestion that, with a different approach, it

... Burning Bright'

There is a fascination about lighted candles.

A festive dinner table, when it's candle-lit, possesses a distinctive glamour. And what is more beautiful than a lighted candle in a window, seen from a distance!

At Christmas, candles are especially appropriate.

We moderns, though we have retained our love of the candle, may have forgotten what our grandparents knew-how to handle it safely. And as the Christmas season approaches, it is worth reminding ourselves that what makes the candle glow is fire; and fire, always dangerous, is doubly so in this age of plastics and flimsy curtain and other materials.

If you're going to have lighted candles in your home or church this Christmas, be careful where you put them; keep a close eye on them; and never go off and leave them burning.

Otherwise, what should be a season of joy may become one of tragedy.

LETTERS

500 Ride Excursion Train

Editor, The Press;

After reading your "Strictly Personal" article on trains, in the December 3 Press, I am taking the liberty of sending you some snapshots (one is reproduced here—Editor) of the last steam passenger train run in the state of Georgia.

uld not have been Atlanta Sunday paper, while in Franklin last summer. In that paper, I read that the Atlanta chapter of the National Historical Railfans had arranged with the Seaboard to run an excursion from Atlanta to Athens by diesel, and from Athens to Gainesville to Athens by two 40-year old, hand-fired steam locomotives, with six-chime whistles and plenty of steam.

I figured my work schedule ahead and found that I could make the trip. I was interested mainly in having my 10-yearold son have a trip on a steam train. He collected cinders in a bottle like rubles from the Gibson mine. I believe some of the cars came out of museums. The windows and screens of these old cars-all in excellent condition-lifted easily, and I found the cars more livable than the air-conditioned ones that run out of ice and turn into ovens.

When Seaboard bought the short line between Gainesville and Athens, they converted to diesel locomotives and have six steam locomotives at Gainesville. I overheard railfans saying



the Seaboard would junk them or give them away, if some

city wanted them for exhibition, I believe the Atlanta chapter of the Railfans had to guar-

antee the Seaboard \$4500. The fare was \$9 per person (including children). There were 500 or more on the train. Seating limit was said to be 600.

L. P. BARNETT

St. Petersburg, Fla

Another Viewpoint

Dear Mr. Jones:

I can sympathize with your predicament about train and bus schedules from Franklin to other places, but I think you would have an entirely different viewpoint if you were associated with either the bus company or the railroad

Passenger service never was a paying business for the railroads and the bus company isn't going to operate where it doesn't pay because their passenger business has to pay. With the railroads receiving the trucking competition that

they do, they have to cut corners to stay in business. You mention the Tallulah Falls line never paying any taxes. Tallulah Falls Railway would have been out of business a long time ago if it hadn't been for pressure brought on them by people like yourself. Why they should be taxed when they are forced to stay in business I don't know.

Have you checked with Capital Airlines about their transportation between Greensboro and Asheville? I think you would find it a great deal simpler. The airlines have replaced the railroads on most of the passenger service. If you do not choose to use the airlines when they are there to be used,

and can give you all of the service you ask for, it seems to me you have no complaint to make about the other services. Finally, Mr. Jones, you should live in Highlands where they

don't have even a bus schedule.

Chicago.

OVERTON S. CHAMBERS

Then And Now

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

Twenty-odd years ago the Public Works Administration was paving streets in Greeley for a cost of less than \$15 per homeowner. At the same time, though people didn't have much money, what they bought they paid for. It was the exception to buy something now and pay later. There was a great deal of pride in being able to keep one's head above

The 20 years which followed were full of upheaval—wars and long shortage of household goods, then the atom bomb, the end of the war, the immediate cashing in on U.S. bonds for cars and appliances, and when this surplus grew small, the increasing popularity of installment buying.

Now, when people have more money than ever before, few people seem to care about keeping their heads above the water. Today's philosophy is, "Buy now, pay later." Spending has reached a sort of fever pitch; people who find they are happier doing without material things than going into debt are reactionaries—perhaps even dangerous to the continuation of "progress."

Now we're paying about ten times as much for the same paving—and also for newsprint, and groceries, and most other things we have to buy. And what we can't pay for, we charge.

The Traffic Disease

(Huntington, N. Y., Long-Islander)

Detroit has created a syndrome which none of its models has ever been designed to cure. Even this year's "compact" cars do nothing to cope with it-in fact, they make it worse Automotive engineers and car designers should begin to give it some thought.

The Detroit syndrome changes even the meekest of us into different and horrifying specimens of homo sapiens the min-ute we get behind the wheel of an auto. No matter the make of our car, the moment we turn the key in the ignition, every other person in a similar position becomes our personal enemy The road, which, the moment before we entered the car seemed a public facility, to be equally shared by all, suddenly becomes our very private possession. No one else has a right to it, unless they're behind us—way behind, with no intention of passing us.

No other car on the road is driven by a human, All of them, naturally, are piloted by lunkheads, idiots, roadhogs, cowboys and fools. All of them that is, but ours. Some of these assorted specimens sit in side roads and wait for us to come along, whereupon, at the very last minute, they pull out directly in front of us, go two blocks at twenty miles an hour, and then make an unexpected left turn without signaling. Others, instead of waiting for us to go majestically through when the light turns green, jockey themselves half way across the road so that we have to wait until they complete their left turns before we can go. And still others cut and weave to pass us, or tail-gate us or drive strategically down the middle of the road at some ridiculous snail's pace so we can't pass them.

And there's always that unspeakable character who insists upon "merging" first when traffic has to "squeeze". Who does the idiot think he is, anyway? And the crude brute who tries to back into the same parking space we're heading into—there's another fine specimen for you.

You can tell when the Detroit syndrome has reached its

peak—that's the day you decide there ought to be a law keeping everybody off the road but you. That's the dangerous day, and if the auto makers don't do something about it soon, everybody will turn into lunkheads, idiots and fools-

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

A rumor that a panther was running at large in the neighborhood was confirmed recently by an assault on Lorenzo Boyd.-Cowee item.

Three young men were tried before N. P. Rankin, Esq., last week on a charge of cutting bridles and saddles and shaving horses at a social party in Smith's Bridge township one night

It is an easy task to size up the principle of a man who owns a good farm and is too stingy to subscribe for The Press, but persists in reading it regularly at the expense of a Negro tenant on his farm.

35 YEARS AGO (1924)

James B. Duke announced in Charlotte December 11 the creation of a trust fund totaling \$40,000,000 for educational and charitable purposes, including the establishment and maintenance of a vast educational institution in North Carolina to be known as the Duke Lniversity

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Moore are now at Crystal River, Fla When Judge Willis and Bill Moore get back to Franklin, the fish tales they will tell will make Baron Munchausen's stories sound like extracts from the Bible

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

Dr. G. B. Woodard entertained the newly elected officers of the Junaluskee Lodge No. 145, A. F. and A. M., at a steak dinner at The Tavern Tuesday evening.

The charter of the new troop of Boy Scouts at West's Mill was presented at a gathering there last Friday afternoon

> 5 YEARS AGO (1954)

Stephen A. Bundy has been named superintendent of the Burlington Mills' new Franklin plant.



STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

For all our informality, some- to make the speech? They've times we Americans are sticklers probably been told all this at a

things that aren't necessary; or, all been in the newspapers. Moreif they are necessary, we do them over, if he weren't well enough backwards. And the more un-known not to need an intronecessary they are, or the more duction, he'd never have been backward our way of doing them, asked to come make the speech! the more insistent we are that Yet somebody is designated to out the slightest deviation.

at any kind of formal meeting, he is there. we "introduce" a lot of people and always the wrong people. And ence may never have seen him the more formal the meeting, the before, it isn't necessary even to which we carry this custom.

who are prominent in the com. at the head table. munity; if they weren't well But we pretend, until seated some place other than the speaker.

president of the chamber of commerce, etc. (Even in a big town, blue, this thought came to me: where these notables may not be "I'm telling em which one

But, slaves to conformity, we feel no meeting is complete with-

doubt about who he is and what that subject appear elsewhere or he's done and why he was chosen this page.)

previous meeting of the organiza And when we are formal, we tion that's holding the dinner re quite likely to do a lot of meeting; and if they haven't, it's formalities be followed with-the slightest deviation. spend 5, 10, 15, or even 20 minutes "introducing" him — telling who The perfect example is the way, he is and what he is and why

And though those in the audimore ridiculous the extremes to identify him. His is probably the one strange face there. The If it's a dinner meeting, of chances are they spotted him the course there's a head table. And instant he walked in the door; if who is seated at the head table? not then, they surely did when The answer is obvious: People he was given the place of honor

known, they wouldn't be at the secret is let out by the "introhead table. On the other hand, ducer", that everybody is in total if there's anybody there almost ignorance of which one, among nobody knows, he's sure to be all the people there, is the

How foolish all this is came Yet whom do we "introduce"? to me the other night as I Do we select the person who needs was introducing Senator Sam J it, the man few people know? Ervin, Jr., when he was the guest Not at all! Instead, we go down speaker at a meeting here. I the line of well-knowns at the darned near disgraced myself; behead table and carefully and cause I almost laughed, out loud, solemnly tell the audience what right in the middle of the most they know already — that this serious part of my introductory is the mayor and that is the speech.

Because just then, out of the

"I'm telling 'em which one of personally known to those present, us, up here at the head table, is their pictures often have been in Senator Ervin . . . as though it's the newspapers, so their faces likely anybody in this audience are known to everybody in the would get us confused and take me for a United States senator - and him for me!"

(Such unorthodox ideas about out this meaningless rigmarole of all this "introducing" often have "introducing" those who don't run through my mind, but only now am I emboldened to put Then there's the rite of "intro- them on paper. I screwed up my ducing" the guest speaker. courage to do it, after reading Since he probably comes from what Mark Twain had to say out of town, it's true he may not about his "introductions" when be known personally to those in he was on a lecture tour. The the audience. But are they in famous humorist's comments on

Letter To Santa Claus

HENRY BELK in Greensboro Daily News

Dear Santa Claus:

Please bring Luther Hodges some contemplative quietude. He has been running hither and you over the state and the world so much he needs some rest.

Put in Chris Crittenden's socks note telling him where to find the money needed to build the museum and rest rooms at the Governor Aycock restoration site. Without these facilities the shrine the Education Governor is handicapped.

For all of North Carolina bring such shame at the cuts in aid to aged and helpless people's checks that restoration shall be made.

And can't you give Eastern North Carolina just one big, year-round plant for processing, freez-

ing, drying or preserving its veg tables and fruits. Santa, there will be a glass of milk and piece of cake for you

on the mantel. Thank you, Santa

WHEN PEACE

WAS SIMPLER when you could beat swords into plowshares, or even later when artillery shells could be converted into umbrella stands. But what

can you make out of an ICBM?

Mark Twain On 'Introductions'

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Below are Mark Twain's comments on his lecturing experiences and his 'introductions" to the audien This excerpt is from Twain's

lecture flights out of Boston and knew what was coming. plenty of good talks and smokes after the committee had escorted taken from my California experi-me to the inn and made their ences. It was gravely made by a at the station and drove me to forced him to ascend the platform of chairs behind me on the stage, ing a moment, then said: minstrel fashion, and in the earliest days, their chief used to this man. At least I know only introduce me to the audience.

made me ashamed and so I began ly), I DON'T KNOW WHY." to talk at a heavy disadvantage. was a stupid custom. There was no occasion for the introduction; the introducer was almost always an ass and his prepared speech a fumble of vulgar compliments and dreary efforts to be funny; therefore, after the first season, I always introduced myself — using, of course, a popular with committee chairmen. To stand up grandly before an audience of his townsmen and make his little devilish speech. was the joy of his life and to have that joy taken from him was almost more than he could bear.

"My introduction of myself was most efficient 'starter' for a while, then it failed. It had to be carefully and painstakingly worded and very earnestly spoken, in also that the flow of overdone goes in here tonight, PAYS. compliments might sicken those was reached and the remark trouble.

casually dropped that I was the lecturer and had been talking about myself, the effect was very satisfactory. But it was a good card for only a little while, as I have said; for the newspapers printed it, and after that I could "I had pleasant company on my not make it go, since the house

"Next I tried an introduction good-night. There was always a slouching and awkward big miner committee and they wore a silk in the village of Red Dog. The badge of office; they received me house, very much against his will, the lecture hall; they sat in rows and introduce me. He stood think-

two things; one is, he hasn't been "But these introductions were in the penitentiary, and the other so grossly flattering that they is (after a pause, and almost sad-

"That worked well for a while, then the newspapers printed it and took the juice out of it, and after that I gave up introduction: altogether.

"Now and then I had a mild little adventure but not which couldn't be forgotten without much of a strain. Once I arrived burlesque of the time-worn intro-duction. This change was not mittee in waiting and no sleighs on the stand. I struck up a street in the gay moonlight, found a tide of people flowing along, judged it was on its way to the lecture hall — a correct guess — and joined it. At the hall I tried to press in, but was stopped by

> " 'Ticket, please.' "I bent over and whispered:

the ticket-taker.

'It's all right, I am the lecturer.' "He closed one eye impressively order that all strangers present and said, loud enough for all the might be deceived into the sup- crowd to hear: 'No you don't. position that I was only the in- Three of you have got in up to troducer and not the lecturer; now, but the next lecturer that

"Of course, I paid, it was the strangers; then, when the end least embarrassing way out of the