

Editorials

A Good Time For Cleaning Up

April is a good time for the statewide and local county clean up efforts which are underway. It's the first month in which we in the mountain counties can be reasonably sure of warm, spring-like weather.

The flowers have pushed up from underneath the ground and are adding color and life to what was for months a bleak and lifeless landscape. Trees and shrubs are budding and blossoming; renewing the land with beauty and pleasant fragrances. Newborn calves wobble along the fresh green hillsides and nibble at the spring grass in that transition from mom's nourishment to earth's provisions.

Mother nature's metamorphosis touches man and beast alike and stimulates our human awareness of rebirth and new growth taking place all around us.

So, it's an appropriate time to throw out the old and dispose of the discarded, and spiffy up the outward appearances of our environs.

Many groups and organizations began

clean up projects this week and will continue their efforts through the rest of the month. They can use, and will appreciate, your help. It's an opportunity to join neighbors and friends in an effort that will benefit both residents and visitors in Madison County. Elsewhere in these pages are tips on what individuals and groups can do to aide in the clean up campaign. They're worth reading and putting into action.

Easter also comes in April this year — this weekend. It affords us a time to reflect on our Christian heritage and to focus on a different kind of cleaning up — an inner cleaning of ourselves as human beings: parents, neighbors, friends, government leaders, business associates, and other roles we assume.

Surely we can take some pride in cleaning and beautifying our surroundings, but how can we be proud of ourselves if we don't clean out some of the inner garbage that has accumulated over the years? It would do us well if we worked on both projects this month.

The First Step

Psychiatrists use to say the first step in solving a problem is to admit or recognize that you have one.

In a two-week period beginning March 27 there were five reported drug overdose cases in Madison County. Two men died, one just 19 years old, from drinking a mixture of methadone and alcohol. Murder charges have been filed. A high school student suffered from an overdose of "angel dust" at a party. Allegations have been made that the chemical was slipped into a drink without the student's knowledge. No charges have been filed. Two youths

allegedly at the same party wrecked their car in another county that night.

Illegal drugs and so-called "controlled substances" have become a part of everyday life, and death, in our society today, even here in Madison County. Pretending it doesn't exist or thinking "it can't happen in my family" will only perpetuate the problem.

A community or society, like an individual, must recognize a problem exists before there is any hope of finding a solution. And, to quote another saying, "the first step is the hardest one."

Living and Growing

'Spring Feisties' Self-Induced

By CARL MUMPOWER, M.S.W.

A positive outlook toward the future is common, as is a sense of excitement and enthusiasm. Your energy level tends to go up instead of down and many people with the infection seem to sleep better.



Carl Mumpower

Watch out world, I'm feeling dangerous. Feisty might be a better word, but whatever the condition, I've got it.

It's those darn yellow flowers that did it. You know the ones I'm talking about. They look a lot like onion plants and they usually are the first colorful thing we see in the spring. I don't know what it is about a Jonquil, but it does it to me every time. A little bit of visual exposure, and I start getting these funny tingles in my stomach. My pulse quickens and a grin starts spreading all over my face. Before you know it I come down with an acute case of spring feisties.

Don't get excited, it's not terminal. It is, however, very catching. One grinning person can infect a whole crowd if they're not careful. The symptoms are fairly typical and easy to spot. Feelings of elation are to be expected. You'll probably also see a tendency to look at the good things about life instead of excessively worrying about the bad.

There is sometimes a distinct urge to pursue members of the opposite sex. Finally, older individuals who are exposed to the bug often develop an excessive yearning to go out and dig in the dirt, trim shrubs, and push lawn mowers.

As you can see, the symptoms are varied and insidious. Fortunately, the spring feisty bug seems to be a short lived one. Most people can expect to return to normal within a week or two. It's a pity, isn't it?

The majority of us don't get enough of those kinds of feelings in their lives. Enthusiasm, excitement, confidence, optimism, and that "happy to be alive" feeling are too often replaced with depression, hopelessness, insecurity, and a negative outlook on life.

We can thank Mother Nature for being kind enough to give us things like the spring feisty bug to jolt us around every once in awhile, but how much can we depend on her to keep us on track?

You see, the spring feisties can be a permanent and self-induced condition. If we try hard enough, we can get turned on like that a good bit of the time. By building some meaningful purpose in our lives, by breaking the "all American"

habit of obsessing about what's wrong vs. what's right, by trying to give instead of always take from life, and by making happiness a priority, we can take the bug with us throughout our lives.

Spring is a time of rebirth and growth. After a period of death and dormancy, nature begins to do its thing. Could that pattern of dormancy fit you? Are you about due to blossom? Go ahead and do it. It's a whole lot more fun that laying around in the dark covered in dirt. Besides, happy and excited people are a valuable commodity and we need all of you we can get.

Editor's Note: Living and Growing is a regular feature column in this paper and is offered as a service to our readers. If you have enjoyed this or previous columns and would like Carl Mumpower to make a related presentation to your club or organization, give him a call at 252-8390. He would be happy to bring his "living and growing" theme to your group.

Heard and Seen

By POP STORY

Millions of people watched the space shuttle Columbia successfully go into orbit Sunday in what was termed a flawless flight. As this column is written, the two astronauts, John Young and Robert Crippen are still aloft and everything is reported in great shape. The Columbia is expected to return to earth Tuesday afternoon.

Death claimed the life of boxing great Joe Louis Sunday at the age of 66. He was one of the world's most popular heavyweight champions of all time. Heart failure was given as cause of death.

I admired the ex-champ who had a 35-1 record which included 31 knockouts. I happened to be in New York when the Louis-Walcott title bout was scheduled at Madison Square Garden. I even bought my ticket while Bill and I were vacationing in New York. However, the bout was postponed and I never got to see the bout since Bill and I had to come home. Nevertheless, at the weighing-in ceremonies the day before the postponement, I was within ten feet of Louis at the weigh-in. I later had the thrill of walking beside Joe Walcott on 8th Avenue as he returned to his hotel.

Time really flies by, doesn't it?... In

less than two weeks, (on April 26) it's time to turn our clocks forward one hour to Daylight Saving Time.

Jan Hager, of 35 Panola St., Asheville, was honored on April 8 with a three-column picture on the front page of the Asheville Times. She was pictured enjoying a hedge of forsythia near her home. She, herself, is as pretty as the flowers. Jan is well-known in Madison County for her work as a Girl Scout official, and has many friends in this area. She formerly resided in the Paint Fork area.

Just a tip: Callers should let the phone ring at least six times before hanging up. All too often when the phone rings, I hurry as quickly as I can to the phone, only to have the caller hang up after three rings... just too few rings, especially if I'm some distance from the phone. Worse still, is to have someone hang up when I answer "hello". I've heard others complain about this practice, so I'm not alone in this criticism.

Always welcome is a greeting from someone who says, "Have a good day" when you speak to them in the mornings.

Letters To The Editor

Editor:

Rather than "outsider" or "insider" of this county, I consider myself and others to be involved people of Madison County.

I have had the opportunity to work with existing ambulance personnel to make this county's ambulance service more skilled and respected. In a county without a hospital, with limited clinic hours and long distances between homes and help, it seems to me that trained, tolerant and compassionate people would be the logical choice as ambulance staff.

I fail to see why a person who wants to make this county home, pays taxes, is involved with friends and neighbors and is trained as an emergency medical technician should be

overlooked because of their place of birth. How many people from Madison County have gone to Detroit, made their money, and returned here to finish raising their family? I hope that future efforts will be directed towards positive hiring practices based on qualifications rather than where a person wasn't born.

I thank friends, family and acquaintances who have helped me live and work here. Their acceptance is the basis upon which we all, people of Madison County, can help create efficient, cooperative county services.

"Tom, Dick or Harriet"
Katherine M. Jellicoe
Marshall, N.C.

General Assemblin'

Snake Handling And Struttin'

By JINCY MESSER

Every April 5 Secretary of State Thad Eure struts out in his straw hat to mark the official beginning of spring in Raleigh and to memorialize his late dad's birthday.

Sunday was the day and Capitol Square was a picture. The green grass, tulips and pansies were at their prettiest and the azaleas and flowering trees are close behind. Dogwoods are ready to dogwood. Maybe the potholes won't get any bigger and the state revenues will take an upward surge now that the sap's a-risin'.

Although they both represent Columbus County, Sen. R.C. Soles and Rep. Richard Wright don't always see eye to eye. Wright introduced a bill dealing with the election time

of and compensation for school board members. Grinning broadly, Wright arose on the House floor to plead, "House members, it's no secret that my Senator and I don't always agree. Right now we do. Won't you pass this bill quick before he changes his mind?"

His bill passed and went over to the Senate. Women don't have all the options on mind changing.

Sen. Ollie Harris of Cleveland whumped up a snake bill that didn't fare so well in the House. When House Speaker Liston Ramsey called upon Rep. Vernon James to explain the bill, James blurted, "I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite ready. Will you pass over the bill for the time being?" "Well, alright," Ramsey consented. "But get ready."

Pretty soon it was time to come back to the snake bill. "I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker," the gentleman from Pasquotank apologized, "but that snake had me charmed." He went ahead to explain that under the proposed bill health

department people or Natural Museum employees would examine captured reptiles to see if they are poisonous. Rep. Sam Bundy of Pitt wanted to know what effect the bill might have upon religious cults who handle snakes. "They might remain longer here on earth," James figured. Amendments kept popping up and the bill barely squeaked by its second reading.

Mostly third readings are routine, but next day James' cohorts again had a batch of amendments. Overnight objections had poured in.



Jincy Messer

Nobody wanted to handle those reptiles. To save face and the bill, James backtracked it to committee. I expect it'll languish away there.

Freshman Rep. Martin Nesbitt was feeling strongly about the many-sided comparative fault bill, and he arose to tell about a client who scooted off an unlevel restaurant bench and injured her back. Rep. Howard Chapin of Washington interjected, "It might be safer to let visitors stand up." "Yes, or be sure to provide them safe seats," Nesbitt added.

As colleagues kept asking questions, the Buncombe lawmaker was getting frustrated. "Mr. Speaker, they sure do make it hard on a fellow making his first floor speech," he said. "There's nothing in the rules that says you have to yield," advised House Speaker Liston Ramsey. "Up to now it's been

fun," Nesbitt said and he finished without further interruption.

Nathan Yelton is only 80 years old and he can't get a chance to retire. He currently heads the division of aging in the Department of Human Resources and was responsible for setting up the state government retirement system.

Governor Jim Hunt declared April 3 Nathan Yelton Day in honor of his 50 years service to state government. For his birthday party, he'd penned a poem, "Life Begins at 80" which he read to the 150 people who gathered in the House Chamber of the State Capitol to celebrate along with him.

"At 80 you can spill gravy on your tie or forget to mail a letter and nobody fuss," Yelton bragged.

Minimum Wage Bill Halted In Committee

RALEIGH — The state House retrieved from parliamentary limbo and sent back to committee Friday a bill that would increase the state minimum wage while exempting the elderly and the young from its provisions.

The House voted by the needed two-thirds majority to resume debate on the bill, following a ruling Thursday by House Speaker Liston Ramsey on a parliamentary challenge that the bill was out of order.

Lawmakers voted to send the bill back to committee while an amendment — taking

out exemptions for the young and old was pending.

The bill would exempt persons 70 years old and over from the state's minimum wage and also exempt persons under 18. It also would lower the minimum wage for fulltime students.

The bill would increase the current state minimum wage — for those still covered by it — from \$2.50 an hour to \$3.10 an hour next year and to \$3.35 an hour in 1983. It would set a minimum wage of \$2.45 an hour for fulltime students or apprentices, compared to the present rate of \$2.40 an hour.



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