

Editorial

Marshall Must Find New Tax Revenue Sources

Marshall became a more expensive place to live last week.

At a special session of the town's Board of Aldermen, a ten-cent increase in the property tax rate was passed without opposition. The new rate of 85 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation gives Marshall one of the highest tax rates in all Western North Carolina.

While the aldermen's decision will undoubtedly be an unpopular one with many Marshall taxpayers, those familiar with the town's financial situation must realize that the town officials had few alternatives available to them. Faced with an increasingly shrinking tax base and rising costs, the town was forced to choose between higher taxes and reduced services. Marshall has already cut the police force as a result of decreasing tax revenues. The tax increase was necessary if essential services such as garbage collection were to be maintained.

Even before this latest increase, Marshall residents were paying one of the highest property tax rates in Western North Carolina. Now, only merchants and residents in a revitalized section of the Hendersonville business district are taxed at a higher rate.

Although this latest increase may have been necessary, it should be clear that the tax rate can go no higher. Other sources of tax revenue will have to be found to support the town.

Although it will no doubt meet with a great deal of opposition, it is time that Marshall considered allowing alcohol sales within the city limits. With the state General Assembly poised

to increase taxes on the sale of alcoholic beverages, now would seem like a good time to take advantage of this source of tax income. Revenues from a similar store in Hot Springs have benefitted the town's financial situation. We see no reason why Marshall should not also benefit from the taxes such sales bring in.

We haven't noticed that the present ban on alcohol sales has stopped many drinkers from imbibing. Legalized sales of alcohol would at least give Marshall the benefit of the tax income which currently goes out of county to help support Buncombe County.

Now that video games are sprouting all over, it may be time to place a hefty tax on each machine as is done in many communities. As any teenager can attest, those blinking, blipping machines eat quarters like there's no tomorrow. Placing a stiff tax on Pac Man would seem to be the only way to beat the little monsters.

A third source of potential revenue can be found along the curbs of Main Street. Parking meters in the business district would generate needed income and provide a traffic turnover beneficial to business on Main Street. It would also help the town fill its lots off Main Street which are currently under utilized.

These suggested sources of income will no doubt provoke criticism from many corners of Marshall. Alcohol sales will be abhorrent to many, while others will condemn a video game tax or metered parking. We hope other suggestions will be forthcoming. The only other suggestion we've heard, increasing the property tax, is no longer a viable solution.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



The new road along the French Broad River from the end of the bridge to the rear of the Marshall Glove Company is a needed improvement. When completed it will offer new dimension to the site of the future Hydroelectric project being initiated by the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation. A new two-flight stairway has been erected which makes it convenient for pedestrians to reach the cotton mill street without having to walk all the way around to the upper end of the street. This improvement should have been made years ago after the bridge across the river at Upper Bridge Street was removed.

What effect a rising river will have on the new road remains to be known.

However, the new road is definitely an improvement, both for pedestrians and vehicles.

FOND MEMORIES

Whenever Vader Shelton and I get together, we usually talk about how things used to be in years past. Naturally, much of the reminiscing is about sports at Marshall High and throughout the county. Vader has a keen memory and can quickly recall the exact dates and circumstances of games, teams and players. A few days ago we talked about the great football teams at Marshall High School including the first Tornado team composed of the backfield of Charles Giezen-

tanner, Rex Cohn, Paul Roberts, Ralph Redmon; and the fine line including Edward "Husky" Rector, Charles Dover, Joe Nix, "Squirrel Burnette, Arthur Ramsey, Herman Bradburn, Otto Henderson and the other outstanding members of the tough and winning team, coached by W.L. Rickard.

Although there have been many outstanding teams at the school on the Island, conversation usually goes back to the first team, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, in the Fall of 1931.

KUDZU — A DELICACY?

Annie Mae Tipton, a friend of long standing, told me via phone Sunday night, something I didn't know.

She said that Kudzu is a "delicacy in Japan" and is a popular and edible food. She added that several of her friends in the States had verified this and she had tasted the prepared dish and found it was delicious — she promised to give me the recipe. She said it only takes a few minutes to prepare and it tastes like potatoe chips and fried chicken. I've forgotten how she said to fix it, but the finished dish contains valuable proteins and minerals. I'll pass along the recipe when I get it.

She said she told Lucille Roberts about it and Lucille suggested that she tell me about it since I've written many times about my "kudzu ranch."

Thanks, Annie Mae, I might just try it if I can get "Bill" to fix it.

Guest Editorial

We Are Free Because . . .

I am an American — a free American. Free to speak without fear. Free to worship God in my own way. Free to stand for what I think right. Free to oppose what I believe wrong. Free to choose those who govern my country.

This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold, for myself and all mankind. There are certain needs common to all men, one of these is freedom.

In the United States, a person may live where he wishes or move to the place of his choice. He may go to whatever church he pleases or attend none at all. Anyone in the United States may work at whatever he chooses. The only limitations are his own abili-

ty and training.

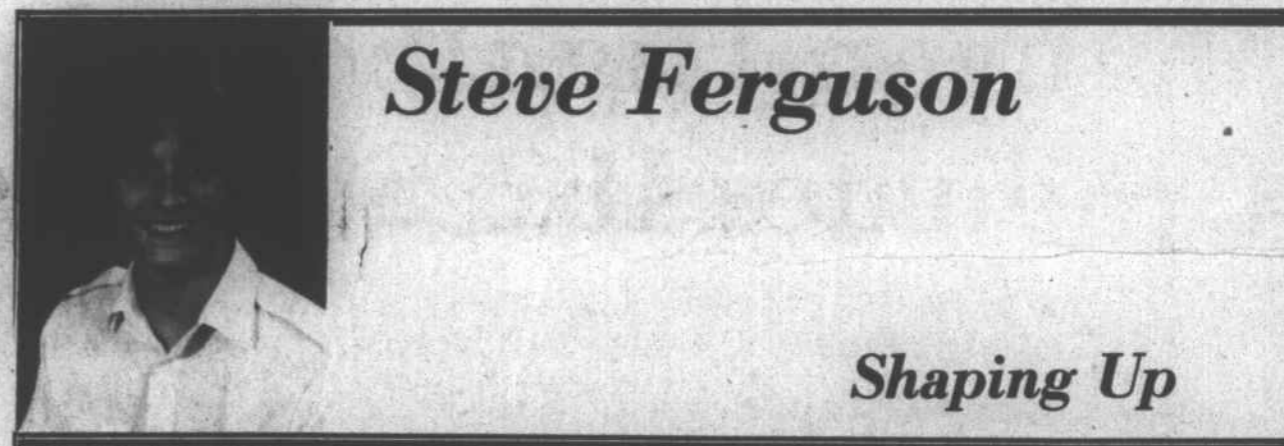
The practice of freedom is based on the idea that every person is different from others.

Everyone in a free country has a right to decide for himself how his life is to be spent without government interference. A free society also allows everyone the right to change his mind. A man can change his job, his church, or his address without permission from any agency or government.

Our American people of the past have given us their lives for the freedoms we now have. We should never forget how they have sacrificed so we can live as we do.

By Jamey Parks, Grade 6
Hot Springs Elementary School

LORD... THE COURT HAS TAKEN AWAY OUR ALL-WHITE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S TAX EXEMPT STATUS... WHAT SHOULD WE DO ??



Steve Ferguson

Shaping Up

The exercise craze is sweeping the nation. From "macho studs" like Richard Simmons to small, wimpy health fanatics like Arnold Schwarzenegger everyone is getting to be fit and trim.

If you're as busy as I, you don't have a lot of time to set aside for exercise. If you're as lazy as I am, you probably don't want to exercise anyway. I have the solution.

The key to getting exercise is to incorporate it into other things. Setting time aside is difficult, but if you can get in a little activity while doing something else, it's much less painful. For instance, while shopping, there are several things you can do to exercise.

There's the price jaw drop which happens every time you see a price that is bigger than you ever imagined. The "price tag jaw drop" is excellent for working the mouth muscles and helps get more oxygen to

the brain to keep you from passing out after reading the price.

The "shopping cart hurdle" is another useful maneuver when you are being run down by someone going for the bluelight special. This move has been known to save lives. Better to break your shins trying to cart hurdle than to be found on the floor with tread marks across your body.

The "50 Yard Grocery Push" is what happens when you suddenly realize that everyone in the store has finished their shopping at the same time and is making a mad dash for the cash register. This tests your acceleration ability as well as your ability to dodge small children and animals.

Since summer is here, if you enjoy swimming, that's exercise enough. If you prefer to take it a step farther, you can do other spectacular maneuvers while enjoying

your swim. You may want to try the "three gallon water drink" which is what happens when you get pushed into the pool unexpectedly. This exercise tests just how fast you can drink three gallons of pool water, and also gives you a chance to compare tastes among other pools you've been pushed into. The "Head and Ear crunch" is a maneuver you can try when swimming to the bottom of the pool to impress someone. This tests your body's pain response and is the equivalent of lying down and having a horse stand on your head.

The local bank can be an excellent spot in which to get some exercise. There's the "Get to the teller window marathon" in which you run through a series of ropes and a maze of posts and directional signs until you finally make it to the teller window. It's not advisable to do this with a lot of people in line. Another exer-

cise, the "Red Face" maneuver, is what happens when the teller sees just how little you really have in your account yet you still want to withdraw money. This tests your body's ability to rush blood to your face and tests your ability to lie out of a tricky situation.

I have a few that I use in writing my column. There's the "Get To Marshall Before Deadline" road race, in which I test my car's ability to get my column down to the News-Record before it's too late. I do the "Panic Column" method when I get one together at the last minute. And finally, I do the "Beg The Editor" exercise when I beg Mr. Bob not to slice my column to ribbons.

You see, getting a little exercise every once in a while can be an exciting experience. Why waste all your money at a spa when you can go to the bank and get all the exercise you need?

Living And Growing

By CARL MUMPOWER
M.S.W.
Asheville Counseling Center
"It All Balances Out"

Try as I may, I can't come up with much that was put on earth that's all bad. Some things may seem that way sometimes, but seldom do mother nature's goodies have a totally negative function. Yes, folks, that includes rich foods, alcohol, guns, money, politicians, bad weather, war, and other frequent targets of criticism. Believe it or not, in spite of some of our prejudices, even the things in this list have some redeeming qualities. That doesn't mean

that we necessarily should seek them out, only that their

painted picture is not totally dark.

So, how is it that so often too many people are destroyed by some of the traditionally viewed negative things of life? Well, here I guess we are talking about the word extreme.

Anything, when used, pursued, or weighted to an extreme, has the power to undermine us. One good rich desert every few days isn't a big deal for most healthy folks. Eating one or two a day, however, can cause problems. A glass of wine a day isn't going to kill anyone, either spiritually or physically, but a bottle a day

will most assuredly do so. A gun in a locked cabinet is a source of security and

pleasurable possession. A loaded gun under the bed is a potentially lethal toy for a child. Money buys us food, clothing, shelter, and comfort. Obsession with money can buy us blindness, selfishness, and emptiness. Politicians who treat their responsibilities with integrity and maturity are blessings to us all. Those who use their position selfishly or manipulatively are curses. Rain and snow prepares our land for nature's beauty. In its most extreme forms it curtails that same beauty. War, when fought for the protection of liberty and personhood bears acceptance. War for power, wealth, or destruction bears avoidance.

You can handle a great deal

of what life has to offer if you remember that word balance. For example work is fine, if it is balanced out with intimate time with family and friends. Sitting in an easy chair with a good book is nice time, if we also make it a point to exercise our body with some regularity. Time away from others is a pleasure that should be cherished by all.

But, so too, is time with others an important part of the human experience. Goals, from my own perspective, are mandatory in life. They can become traps, however, unless we also make it a point to enjoy the process of reaching these goals. Self-criticism of a constructive

nature, is the mark of a mature person. Self-support, of a positive nature, is another part of that same type of person.

Glance briefly at your own life. Are there certain aspects of it that are aimed toward extremes that might be harming you? Obviously there are a lot of things in life that are condemned by one group or the other. It's a key part of being a person to make your own decisions and that is that word balance. Keep him in mind as a friend. Build him into all that you do. For he is the equalizer that protects us from some of the extremes that our life offers.



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