

Editorial

Coke Cash Can Plan Is A Fine Idea

Improving the quality of public education and recycling our natural resources are two unrelated themes we have often supported in this column.

Through a project called "The Coca-Cola Cash Can Plan," schools in Western North Carolina can obtain funds by recycling aluminum soft drink cans.

While this innovative program won't help Madison County to replace many of our old school buildings, it will furnish money to purchase new library books, software for com-

puters or basketballs for recreation. Each school taking part in the program can use the money it raises as it sees fit.

Perhaps even more important than the dollars and cents this project will raise is the habit of recycling it will instill in our young people.

The News Record will help Madison County schools that take part in this project. Each month, we will name one school to receive our aluminum cans.

"The Coca-Cola Cash Can Plan" may only be a small step toward improving the quality of our schools, but it is a step well worth taking.

Off Limits?

News that Madison County has been placed off limits to Soviet government personnel brought some head scratching around the office this week.

If the decision is causing head scratching here in Madison County, it must be causing some serious puzzlement in the Kremlin.

Mountain for some clue. It's doubtful that the Washington bureaucrat who declared Madison County off limits has ever set foot in our county.

A few massive doses of Southern cooking, long walks through the countryside and hours spent just settin' might do more to ease international tensions than a hundred batteries of State Department diplomats.

Letters to the Editor

Reader Criticizes Invasion Of Grenada

Dear Editor: Thank you for printing Danny Wyatt's letter regarding the invasion of Grenada.

Geneva (at this point, they are not) when they made no attempt to solve the problem with Grenada through diplomatic channels?

In Latin America, in particular, it is essential that we recognize revolutionary movements as legitimate attempts to change long histories of extreme economic inequality and social injustice.

American foreign policy in Latin America reflects a lack both of historical perspective and of informed opinion in the government as well as in the public.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Last Thursday, Thanksgiving, was a quiet day in Marshall with practically all businesses closed here and very few people were in town.

Sure, we have had many disappointments but the "good things" have far outweighed the "bad things."

As I start writing this week's column, my mind recalls the timely and appropriate sermon delivered by the Rev. "Buddy" Freeman, pastor of the First Baptist Church here, on Sunday, Nov. 20, when he stressed the importance of "the attitude of gratitude."

It was a fine sermon which made me conscious of expressing my gratitude to those who have made my life more pleasant.

With this in mind, I want to say "Thank you" for your many acts of friendship.

This "attitude of gratitude" is not only for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, but for the entire year.

CONGRATULATIONS, PEGGY

Peggy Sexton of Alexander, has been named a national 4-H winner for her plant and soil science project, according to the National 4-H Congress which convened Sunday in Chicago.

This honor is no new experience for Peggy. She has been active in 4-H projects for years and has frequently been cited for her outstanding accomplishments, in local, district, state, and now national competition.

I've known Peggy since childhood and have admired her for her many abilities.

Peggy is also a cat-lover and whenever I talked with her, I would ask about her feline pets.

Congratulations, Peggy, on your latest achievement.

CHRISTMAS NEAR

When you read this week's column it will be less than a month before Christmas. You don't have too long to do your shopping. Just a reminder.

Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



I was sitting on the bench in front of the bookstore at the mall while my wife did her shopping. On my right and left, people would sit and rest awhile; then within a few minutes they would suddenly leave — only to be replaced immediately by others with painful feet or other tired bones.

Suddenly, in this constant exchange, Mr. I. B. Savant perched next to me on my left. He announced his presence by saying, "They shore are a lot of people here today, ain't they?"

I allowed as how it's about the most people I've ever seen here this early in the Christmas shopping season.

"It's foolish," he exclaimed, "to spend as much money for Christmas as most people spend. They ain't no use in it — buyin' on time and then takin' half the year to pay it out."

"My birthday is Christmas day — that's cause I was born on Christmas, you see — and it's just like any other day with me."

"I can't walk too much all over this here place. I was in World War II and got my feet froze in Germany. I've been in

and out of that VA hospital since 1965. First it was my feet. I was with General Patton till they took me out just before they crossed the Rhine.

"Then I had a stroke up and down my left side, but I finally got over that. You see, I can use my left hand and leg now. Then I had a heart attack. I have to go back for a check-up every month. They give me a prescription and I mail it in and they fill it and mail the pills back to me from the VA."

"I'm 70 years old. I ain't much fer politics. You know, they ain't no tellin' what things will be like by 1990."

I replied that I'm not sure I want to know. "Well," he continued, "at least me and you won't have to worry about that. We ain't gonna be around then nohow."

"At least," I said, "a whole lot of Democrats want to be President."

"Yeah," he said suspiciously, "they ain't none of the whole bunch worth nothin'! You take that Mondale. It won't do to get him in there. He was Carter's vice president, and them two very near ruin this country."

myself, but that don't mean a thing. I always vote for the best man and it don't make no difference to me if he's a Democrat or Republican.

"I think Reagan has been a pretty good President myself. Some people didn't like it when he tuck that little island over there. I think he done what he ort to. Cuba wanted that island and Russia wanted it too so they could take over the world. Well, Reagan, he just beat them to it. I kinda like that!"

"You know the biggest thing wrong with this here country right now? I'll tell you. We are gettin' too durn many furniners in here — all kinds of them. Mexicans, Cubans, Jews, and all kinds of other people!"

"I'll tell you what you will see happen — it's happenin' already. All these here kinds of people will end up in the Congress and in the Senate — and, brother, we're gonna be in a mess. That bunch we got up there now has got little enough sense, but you jest wait awhile till all these others git in there."

"Besides all that — gittin' elected to offices and all —

they will git up here in these here mountains and we will have our own gang of guerrillas.

"You take that there Jackson that's running. He's already got FBI protection. I guarantee somebody will kill him."

I volunteered my earnest hope to the contrary, stating that we can use our votes to take a person out of office or to keep one out in the first place. However, killing a politician is just not our American way.

Almost before I knew it, Mr. Savant stood up saying, "I enjoyed talkin' to ye." He never looked back but disappeared into the unusually heavy early Christmas crowd.

For a while, my head seemed to spin as I tried to absorb all he had "taught" me. What I learned from what he said was really not difficult to sort out: There are at least two ways one can get his information. He can sit on the bench in front of the bookstore and listen to Mr. Savant — or, he can go inside the bookstore and read some of those 50,000 books.

I know some other people who would profit greatly from learning the same thing.

Living And Growing



By CARL MUMPOWER, MSW, The Asheville Counseling Center

It seems like a crazy mess. Wars going on all over the place. Famine, disease, and genocide are an active part of the lives of many.

There are a few keys to the world situation that can help us put our globe in perspective. We can start by comparing our world to ourselves.

these different parts break down. Some seem to stay broken most of the time. Other parts work beautifully and quietly go about their function. You will notice that when one of our parts breaks down, it seems to take over. Bad backs, sick stomachs and aching heads dominate our attention through the pain they cause.

level of intrigue, power struggle, and the like that we see on a world scale. There will be good guys, bad guys, quite guys, and loud guys. You'll find saddening and moving humanness. You'll find all of the characters, just on a smaller scale. If you can understand the driving motivations behind the operation of your work place or family, then you can also understand a good bit of what makes our world tick.

It is also comforting to remember that the principals that apply to individuals, also apply to groups and even worlds. For example, if a long term deficit budget won't work for you, it probably won't work for your country. If selfishness and hostility

tend to leave you isolated, unhappy and rejected, then you can bet the same will apply to a country that pursues the same course. If being paranoid, destructive, and dishonest undermines a persons, then how would you assess the longterm potential of Mother Russia?

Sometimes we are led to believe that the world scheme is an intricate maze of complexity that defies understanding. Don't buy it. It's no more complicated than you are. Now you've got it. It's life itself that is complicated. None of it's easy to understand. Except that now we might realize that the more we understand ourselves, the more we can understand the world around us.

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Students Seek Jobs

Madison County high school students need help finding jobs in their communities. Students from each community in the county have experience in all types of farm and home related work.

Residents needing help with cutting, hauling, and stacking wood, tobacco, house cleaning, yard work, farm chores, child care, senior citizens' sitting, and other similar jobs should contact the Job Placement Office at Madison High School, 649-2288, and ask for Mrs. Gillespie.