

Editorial

Short Session Should Be A Busy One

With the General Assembly about to meet for the short session, it is time for editorial writers to prepare to 'view with alarm' the latest legislation to emerge from Raleigh. Before we become too alarmed, we would like to offer the legislators some suggestions for making the short session a productive one.

The first priority of the session will be to dole out handsome pay raises to our state's school teachers. The teachers are overdue for a raise and we support increases in their salaries.

We would caution, however, that increasing teacher salaries alone will not improve the quality of education in North Carolina. Giving the teachers more money will quiet the North Carolina Association of Educators, but it won't make our children any smarter or our teachers any more qualified. Teacher salary increases are only a first step toward improving our schools.

The legislators will also be asked to approve a ban on phosphates in household detergents. The detergent industry has launched an expensive campaign to defeat the measure, claiming the ban would be of little use in improving water quality in North Carolina. They may be right. Maybe a ban on phosphates won't dramatically improve water quality, but even if a small improvement results, it is well worth undertaking.

We would also urge our representatives to consider repealing the sales tax placed on food and both the inventory and intangibles taxes, replacing them with an increase in the tax on cigarettes.

Our representatives in Raleigh have the opportunity to make this short session one that will affect the course of North Carolina for years to come. We hope they succeed in their efforts.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



NAME OMITTED

In the writeup in the May 23 issue in this column the name of Ray Renner, of Marshall, was inadvertently omitted in listing the fishermen who enjoyed a trip to Horseshoe Beach, Fla., recently.

Ray tied with another fisherman in catching the largest trout on one of the days during the fishing trip.

AN ANNUAL TREAT

Approximately 40 persons attended the annual picnic dinner held on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Judson Edwards in the Beech Glen community last Sunday. The occasion preceded the decoration of the Edwards Cemetery in the afternoon.

Sunday was a beautiful, sunshiny day and

relatives and friends were treated to another bountiful and delicious meal which was spread under the shade of the trees. I again repeat that those fine ladies of the community know how to prepare a meal "fit for a king."

This was the second consecutive year that "Bill" and I have been invited and we thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

OBSERVATIONS

The older I get the quicker I find myself turning to the obituary columns in the morning newspaper. I guess this is natural because I've heard other people say the same thing.

After glancing at the front page headlines, I used to immediately turn to the sports pages. Now, the obituary page comes first.



Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



Since our back yard is unusually large and has many trees in it, we have an exceptionally difficult time with leaves and pine needles.

There are chestnut oak, red oak, white oak, strap leaf oak, popular, maple, dogwood, and pine trees back there.

We usually do an acceptable job keeping the front of the yard clean in the autumn as the leaves fall, but those in the back sometimes have to wait until school is out in the spring. Such was the case this year.

Last week I had raked and burned, and raked and burned until I felt raked and bushed!

Propping against the locust fence for a little rest as one pile burned low, I began to think...Were it not for the work I do elsewhere, I would have this job done before now; but students do have to be taught, and I have been trying to teach them.

Then I thought about the large number of young people

who left here two weeks ago with bright new bachelor's degrees—and about how I wished them both luck and success. (I never have fully understood the relationship between those two—luck and success. Certainly no person is ever successful as he should be without some measure of luck. Yet, if he depends solely on luck for his success, he is ruined before he begins.)

What are the ingredients of success?

Some will feel that it is too late to talk success to them. I doubt that! However, if you are determined to believe it is too late for you, read on and then pass this column along to your near relative or friend who just graduated from high school or college.

Don't let a young person think that he or she has missed success in the beginning because he has not landed that thirty-thousand-dollar position. She may be a checker or waitress. He may be a clerk or a mere trainee or helper. She

may be a secretary, or he may be earning low wages at a service station or as a stock boy in shipping and receiving.

Never mind that; it is good experience.

Leaning there against the fence with my rake in hand, I decided to give you all of the necessary components of success.

The first one is purpose. One has to know what he wants to do and where he wants to go. Some people might call this a goal, but I call it purpose because all the other components of success begin with the letter "P".

If you don't know where you want to go, you may already be there. Wisdom spoke long ago and said, "No wind can do him good who sails for no port."

The second is plan. This has to do with methodology in working toward your goal. Some plans work; some don't. More than one plan might work, but to flounder your way is not one of them. If Plan A

fails, move on to Plan B; but have a plan—otherwise, you may fail without knowing why.

The third component of success is perseverance. Keep on. Don't stop. Never give up. If you fail, try again; and if you fall, crawl until you get on your feet again. A million times over, the difference between failure and success is simply one more try!

Finally, there is patience. Most people I know are too short on patience. We want what we want, and we want it now. Did you hear of the fellow who prayed, "Lord, I'm short on patience; give me more patience, and give it to me right now!"

Why are we in such hurry for what we want? A little success (progress) at a time is all we need.

I suspect that the most miserable soul who ever lived would be that person who sits on all the success he wants—just waiting for nowhere to go.

Letters to the Editor

Reader Opposes Intangible Tax

Dear Editor; North Carolina is one of the finest states in the country and is a wonderful place to live and work. We are blessed with good people, good climate and good government. We have good highways, good schools, and are considered one of the most progressive states in this country.

We do, however, have one tax that is unfair, capricious in its application and probably the most disliked tax in this state. I am referring to the intangibles tax.

This tax was instituted in 1968 at a time when capital was not as important and when the economy was more labor-intensive. It is a tax which discriminates against capital and is out of step in the computer age. It is a tax that discourages investments and savings.

Because of changing tax laws, tax shelters, thrift plans and other investment vehicles, as well as computerized transfer of funds, it no longer efficiently collects the revenue it was intended to. Its peculiar application hits hard at retirees and new businesses and discourages people from moving to North Carolina. Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and North Carolina have both intangibles taxes and income tax. Ohio will eliminate its intangible tax on Dec. 31, 1984. Indiana is phasing out its intangibles tax. Both Georgia and Kentucky have a lower rate of intangibles tax and income tax than North Carolina.

The General Fund is the State of North Carolina has an

estimated surplus of \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 this year. It is only fair that the taxpayers share in this excess revenue, particularly since their taxes were raised by \$219,000,000 in 1983.

When the General Assembly meets on June 7, they will have an opportunity to review again the state tax program. It is an ideal time for the legislature to start directing some of the revenue back to the taxpayers.

However, the legislators need to know how the citizenry feels. I would encourage every taxpayer to contact their representatives to encourage them to repeal this most unpopular tax. It can only be done if the taxpayers let the legislators know how we feel. Let's take another step to make North Carolina the best state in the Union.

Very truly yours,
James M. Culbertson, Jr.
Asheboro, N.C.

Dear Editor: This is an open letter of thanks to Carolina Wilderness ADventures for their participation in the Clean Streams celebration on the French Broad River. The Hayes' Run, Sandy Mush and Laurel 4-H Clubs participated in the annual cleanup effort and got to enjoy a day of rafting the river at no charge.

The five rafts full of 4-H'ers and guides Kathy Blossfield, Ernie Melin and Kurt Crowhurst "bagged" another two rafts full of trash washed down by the recent rains.

Carolina Wilderness' sense of community service is matched by their obvious experience and style. On behalf of the 4-H Clubs of Madison County, I wish to thank them.

Lou Zeller
Rt. 3, Marshall

Dear Editor: I recently had the opportunity, frightening as it was, to watch the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department in action.

On Sunday night, May 27, they answered a call about a burning car in the Shelton Laurel section of Madison County. I was with my brother, Gerry Cook, who is an active member of the fire department, when he received a call on his "beeper" about "a car on fire near Dr. Jones' house on the mountain". He immediately took off for the scene of the fire. He had his fire-fighting coat and helmet in his truck near at hand and was ready for his duties upon arrival at the burning car. The fire truck was not far behind as well as many of the

volunteer fire fighting crew. They quickly extinguished the flames.

Luckily, there was no one in the car and it was not close to any homes which could have been affected by the flames.

I was very impressed by their quickness and efficiency in handling the situation. I feel the Laurel Fire Department is an asset to Madison County and their community. They, the other established fire departments, and those who are in the process of getting started here in Madison County need all the support and encouragement we as residents of Madison County can give them.

Sincerely,
Brenda Cook Parker
Marshall

Parker Praises Laurel Firemen

Dear Editor: I recently had the opportunity, frightening as it was, to watch the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department in action.

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Sincerely,
Brenda Cook Parker
Marshall



Steve Ferguson

Politics, politics, politics. That's all you've been hearing on TV and radio and seeing in the papers lately. And you'll keep on hearing it until November.

Politicians call each other dishonest, unsure, sneaky — it's hard to keep the TV screen clean with all the mudslinging going on. You don't know who to choose. Did you ever wish there was a candidate who was perfect in every way, a clear choice?

Well, there is one. His name is Bill Smiley, and I'm his campaign manager. Bill has just the right stand on everything. And best of all, he's imaginary.

CRIME: Bill believes that crime is not good. He has a simple remedy to help the population explosion and deter

criminals. Simple: death penalty for parking violations.

Bill is so clean he won't drive for fear of violating the speed limit laws. He takes a taxi everywhere, and feels everyone else should do the same.

PORNOGRAPHY: Bill is sick of all the smut he sees on TV and in magazines. He wants to clean up America, to make it like it once was, as pure and free as it was when dinosaurs roamed the earth.

Bill knows the programs that kids watch with Mom and Dad may be harming their little minds. They've taught adultery, how to curse, and how to cheat from their fellow man. He wonders how much longer we can show children these warped views of reality?

Shows that will immediately be taken off the air include "Captain Kangaroo," "He-Man" and "Fishin' with Orlando Wilson."

EDUCATION: Our schools are doing good, but they need to be much stricter in teaching our children, according to Bill. His education package contains several steps:

Do away with recess and P.E., instead using that time to encourage kids to read the Wall Street Journal.

Encourage first-grade students to work harder, so they'll develop good habits later on. Bill would require a 20-page typed research paper from each first-grader before they could advance to the second grade.

Also encourage high school students to work, so they'll

develop good habits later on in life. Bill is strict in this area and demands that all high school seniors be given a strict test, which would require that they be able to spell their name, say their ABCs and count to ten. Bill feels this is at least a good start.

Doesn't Bill Smiley sound like the kind of man you want in office? He's knows what you want, he'll work hard to get it, as long as you want the same things he does.

Oh, and I almost forgot. Like everybody else, he has a catchy slogan: "Bill, Bill, he's gonna be big, if you don't like him you're a gravy-sucking pig."

(Paid for by the Bill Smiley for detator committee. Steve Ferguson, treasurer.)

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