

## Editorial

### Is This The Year Of The Elephant

With Election Day less than six weeks away, Republicans seem to be poised for victory, if the polls are to be believed.

Ronald Reagan is riding the crest of the popularity which accompanies economic recovery and appears unbeatable. Jesse Helms currently holds a comfortable lead in the latest Gallup poll, Jim Martin is gaining on Rufus Edmisten and the local Republican candidates are waging strong campaigns. Even here in Madison County, it appears that Republicans will make a good showing on November 7.

Just last week, the county Republican Party opened a campaign office on Main Street in Marshall for the first time in years. Not only did they open the headquarters, but the opening attracted more of the party faithful than have been seen together in recent memory.

While the Republicans' rosy prospects will have bedrock Democrats despairing, we see the resurgence of the Republican Party as a sign of a healthy political system. In order for democratic government to survive, we must have at least two viable political parties.

One-party rule, as some insist we have here in North Carolina, reduces political conflict to party squabbles. Different philosophies of government have little opportunity to surface under the weight of conformity.

Many of this year's races provide the electorate with concrete, fundamental choices. A vigorous campaign between the two parties provides the voters with genuine options in November.

The recent Republican resurgence isn't politics as usual in Madison County, but it is the sign of a healthy political system.

### 'Debate' Pollutes Air

We'd like to suggest that the Environmental Protection Agency begin monitoring the debates between Sen. Jesse Helms and Gov. Jim Hunt. The two candidates are blowing enough smoke to create a major health hazard for North Carolinians.

On the one hand, we have Sen. Helms blasting his opponent for voting for a "tax increase" at a Washington conference of governors, when Helms and everyone else knows that the vote had all the power of a campaign promise.

Hunt, on the other hand, rebuffs the criticism by telling voters he has submitted a balanced budget for the past eight years as governor. The governor conveniently fails to mention that state law requires a balanced budget.

For the past nine months, both candidates have polluted the airwaves of this state with negative advertising. With less than six weeks left in the campaign, we'd like to see the candidates tell voters what they will do in Washington next year. We've heard enough about both men's past record.

The November election is about the future. Let both men reveal their goals and let the people decide which path to choose.

### Koenig's Corner

### Go, Cubbies, Go

You were warned weeks ago. I told you if I didn't get some mail we could run as letters to the editor that I would present my own unsubstantiated opinions in this space. Here goes.

Our many Michigan readers won't agree, but the Chicago Cubs are going to win the World Series in five games. They'll play the first two games in Detroit as ordained by outgoing baseball czar Bowie Kuhn.

In Detroit, the Cubbies will win the opening game behind Rick Sutcliffe. The Tigers will salvage a win before departing for the unfriendly confines of Wrigley Field.

Upon arrival, the Tigers will be chewed up like a piece of Juicy Fruit. It's only fair. Not only do the Cubbies have the best team in baseball, history is on their side. It was in 1905 when the Cubs last reigned over the baseball world. Back then, Teddy Roosevelt was president, American was at peace and the new century still seemed fraught with potential.

Seventy-nine years later, we have fought four major wars, elected nine presidents and placed men on the moon and the lights still haven't come on in Wrigley Field. Entire generations of Chicagoans have lived and died waiting for the Cubs to win. The graveyards are sure to be hopping later next month when the Cubs put the long wait to an end.

## Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



### NEW NEWS RECORD LOCATION

Although The News Record offices have been moved from the location of Main Street and Upper Bridge Street for three years now, a day seldom goes by that someone doesn't stop in my office on newspaper business.

When I tell them that The News Record is now located between the Shady Side Florist and Bowman's Hardware, some folks look at me like I was crazy. I don't mind folks coming in and I inform them that the former News Record office is now the home of Story Printing Co.

I tell them that I do all kinds of printing, but that I've retired from newspapering, except for writing this column, of course.

The usual comment is that they have been coming here for so many years, they just automatically associate the building with The News Record office. That's understandable, especially for those stopping in from out-of-state. When some residents seem surprised to learn of the location change, it surprises me.

Be that as it may, I welcome all visitors and am glad to direct them to the present location of The News Record.

### PATRIOTS SCORE FIRST TD

Jack and Helen Cole and I sat together on the top of the bleachers at last Friday's game between Madison and Rosman H.S. Jack and I reminisced about the keen rivalries

which existed before the county's high schools were consolidated.

We also agreed that O.E. Roberts Stadium is located on the most beautiful site in WNC. The public and students should be proud of the field and surrounding scenery. We also discussed other things as the night cooled and Rosman pulled in front, finally winning by a score of 34-8.

With about five minutes left, however, Madison scored their first touchdown of the season and on the ensuing conversion, giving the fans something to cheer about.

Now that the Patriots have 'broken the ice', maybe they will have more confidence and improve their offense. Here's hoping.

### EVERETTE'S LATEST RIB-TICKLER

An old Chinese servant of a San Francisco family was proudly displaying a picture of a beautiful woman and two handsome teenage boys.

"That's my wife and two sons back in the old country," the servant told his employer.

"How could that be?" the employer asked. "You've been with us for at least 20 years. How do you account for the boys?"

"Oh, well," said the servant, "I've got friends over there."

## Living And Growing

By CARL MUMPOWER  
The Asheville Counseling Center

Do you recall a western with Lee Marvin and Jack Palance called "Monte Walsh"? It was one of my all-time favorites.

In a nutshell, it was a story about the end of the cowboy era in the west. It was a sad movie, full of touching loneliness. The movie's theme song was 'The Good Times Are Coming.' The message speaks to the hope that the heyday of the cowboys would return.

It doesn't, and the experience of those who lost that life is very moving.

You and I are not unlike those cowboys. When the good times are with us, we tend to take them for granted. When the good times are gone, we mourn the loss. It's a sad cycle of unfulfillment.

This past weekend was a celebration for my wife and I. We intended to do something special for her birthday. The day before, however, she fell and broke her shoulder. Surgery, a week in the hospital and weeks of recovery are the consequences of her fall.

Having a new baby around the house will further complicate life.

Just the day before the accident, we were talking about how hard things have been lately. With more work than we can both keep up with, a full-time school schedule and the other things that tend to keep us against the ropes, we didn't really believe things could get more hectic. The very next day, they did.

Friends, we make a common mistake in living through yesterdays and tomorrows. The good times may have been here yesterday, and they may come again, but what about today? Should we ignore today?

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## Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN

I have respect and admiration for the intelligence of the American people. This intelligence would be noticeably improved, however, except for three or four conspicuous faults in some of our otherwise fine people.

There are those who act and react on emotional impulse rather than on factually based logic or reason. Consider the hundreds of thousands of pieces of mail in useless "protest" which were mailed to the Federal Communications Commission because the senders had "heard" that the FCC was planning to ban religious broadcasts. Any thoughtful American should have known that with our freedom of religion and freedom of speech such action on the part of the FCC would have been impossible. The FCC would never think of such folly.

Some people see only momentary circumstances and are blind to trends. In the long hard progress toward economic recovery, what difference does it make if the stock markets close lower on a given Friday? Or, if we have fewer automobile sales or fewer building permits during one particular month, does that forecast the end of the world? In our national affairs, as in our personal lives, it is the trend over the long haul that counts.

A third flaw in our national intelligence is based upon the part of well-meaning people. This flawed vision shows itself in two detrimental ways: seeing only single issues and seeing only selfish concerns.

In the fall of 1984, some single issues are the passage of ERA, anti-abortion legislation, and prayer in the public schools.

Not one of them is a significant or worthy national issue. The legitimate intent of the ERA is already met by constitutional amendment and federal legislation. The Supreme Court has decided the abortion issue.

way the American people will accept. Any congressional action that flies into the face of that decision will most likely be promptly declared unconstitutional.

Prayer, in my judgment, is extremely important. However, prayer in public school is not nearly so important as learning how to read, write, and compute, and how to respect the person and the rights of others.

If there is anything more out of place than a politician running a church, it is a religious crusader in public office. The latter is far more dangerous.

I am a religious man, but I believe that a person's religion is as private as the heart that beats within his breast. One who would use his own conscience to force guidance on another, by that act, parts company with the Christ who commanded, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

What is more, he who is most certain that he has the mind of Christ is most advanced in paranoia and toward a break with reality.

Although I have not yet arrived in my growth toward spiritual maturity, I do want to share with you a status report.

I believe that the Christian religion is a religion of belief, not of knowledge.

I believe that the proper method of evangelization is persuasion, not legislation or intimidation.

I believe that the best method of persuasion is personal example, not rhetoric.

I believe that the motive for all that we do should be love, not selfish gain or personal power.

There is nothing basically wrong with American religion, but we need a new, more meaningful religion.

## The News Record

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## Laurel VFD

### Says Thanks

Dear Sir:  
The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department wishes to express its deep appreciation to the following people for helping make our Fall Festival a success.

Many thanks to The Bounty Hunters Band, the Terrell Ridgegovernance Band, the Walnut Ridgegovernance Band, Mrs. Geraldine Smucker, the Marshall High School Chorus, Mrs. Jewel Rice, individual singers and many others.

Lawrence C. Calkins