

Commentary

THE NEWS RECORD

Editorial

Polluters Must Be Identified, Arrested

We must all learn a lesson from the Western Carolina Smelting Company incident if the quality of life in Madison County we all enjoy is to be maintained.

Last week, crews from the Environmental Protection Agency identified 95 drums of cyanide left at an abandoned smelting plant in the Sandy Mush area. The drums containing the deadly poison were left behind when the business was closed. The potentially lethal timebomb was left within 30 feet of Little Sandy Mush Creek.

We can be glad that the EPA stepped in before tragedy struck, but let our joy be brief. We must renew our vigilance in defending our beautiful mountains or the lessons from this potential disaster will be lost.

The people of Madison County must let it be known that other Western Carolina Smelting incidents are intolerable. Our public officials must make it understood, in no uncertain terms, that while we welcome new industries, with the new jobs and opportunities they bring, polluters will be neither welcomed nor condoned.

We must strengthen our determination to guard against fast-buck operators who would jeopardize our health and safety in the name of profit.

This incident in Sandy Mush provides the best argument possible for organizing Streamwatch projects throughout Madison County. Be it cyanide or plastic milk jugs, those who would pollute our mountain streams must be identified and prosecuted.

None of us here in Madison County truly owns the beautiful land we love. We are all merely stewards, safeguarding the land for future generations. If we do not learn from this experience, our children's children will mourn our failure.

Other Opinions

Handicaps Are Not Boundaries

October has been declared Down's Syndrome Awareness Month by the United States Congress. President Reagan signed the declaration in the White House on Sept. 28.

During October, many activities have taken place to create a greater awareness of Down's Syndrome, the most common form of mental retardation.

Although October is the month when parents and groups can join forces to create more awareness, there are many sources of information available all year.

In Madison County, you can contact the Association For Retarded Citizens which holds meetings each second Tuesday in the Marshall Day Care Center; the Madison County support group for family and friends of the handicapped; the Blue Ridge Mental Health Center; Mountains of Madison Enterprises or the Unaka Center.

These groups are involved with many people with different handicaps and have access to a lot of information that may help you.

If there is a handicapped person in your neighborhood or family, you may want to contact these agencies to learn more about what services are available.

It is important to keep in mind that handicaps are not boundaries, they are hurdles.

Koenig's Corner

Is There Life After Nov. 6?

Once upon a time a long, long time ago, there was no Jim Hunt-Jesse Helms race for the U.S. Senate. Way back then, right wingers and left wingers were hockey players instead of politicians. Hence, that time came to be known as the Ice Age.

In those early days before Jim and Jesse began the modern day version of the Hundred Years War, people relied on primitive forms of entertainment for diversion. There were no "Where Do You Stand, Jim?" commercials, no 30-second slide shows of Central American dictators and Ronald Reagan could only be seen Sunday nights on "Death Valley Days." They were dim days, indeed.

Back in those dark days, preachers worked in pulpits, on horseback and in tent revivals. They mostly wore dark, fringed suits and carried a Bible. They could be distinguished by their long hair and sideburns.

In those early days of Christianity, ministers gathered first in dark caves and later in churches and cathedrals. In those early days, preachers' beards and godless language were found in greater abundance. Back then, there was no such thing as a televangelist.

Somehow, humanity survived. In less than one week, my friends, we may see the end of civilization as we know it. Come Nov. 6, the longest campaign since the Crusades will come to an end. North Carolinians who haven't been rendered totally apolitical by the mud-slinging will elect one of these fellows to the U.S. Senate for six years.

There'll be no more 'actual news footage' of Jim Hunt raising his hand for higher taxes. No more 'actual artist's drawings' of Jesse Helms voting to keep cameras out of the U.S. Senate. Television will return to selling whatever it was they sold before Jim and Jesse bought the airwaves.

When Nov. 7 arrives, Hunt and Helms will have spent about \$22,000,000 to get a job that pays about \$45,000 a year. They will have spent that money in order to win the hearts of the ten percent of the voters that hadn't already made up their minds years ago.

Is there life after Jim and Jesse? It won't be easy, but I think we'll survive, no matter who wins.

Besides, the 1986 race for the other Senate seat begins a week from today. I can hardly wait.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



LET'S MAKE HALLOWEEN SAFE

On Wednesday night of this week, Halloween will be observed throughout the country. Thousands of Halloween parties will be held and children will celebrate by wearing costumes and playing 'trick or treat' by visiting friends and neighbors.

It will be an exciting night which children relish and enjoy.

But with all this fun, there will be the dangers of carelessness and costly mistakes which can lead to injury and suffering.

I urge parents to warn their children and advise them to be careful. After all, it is a time for small children.

Often, teenagers overdue their celebration by being destructive and abusive. Their 'pranks' often turn to harmful acts which result in ruining the holiday.

I urge everyone to use common sense tonight.

ELECTION DAY NEARS, THANK GOODNESS

Thank goodness there aren't many more days and nights of listening to the political commercials on television. If we believed all the criticisms and allegations we hear, very few politicians would warrant our vote-but that's politics.

A TERRIBLE DECISION

I was shocked, saddened and surprised to say the least when I read that Bob Terrell's column which has appeared in The Asheville Citizen for the past 17 years has been discontinued, effective last Sunday.

The Citizen announced on Sunday that Terrell would assume a new post as deputy managing editor of news and sports for The Asheville Times.

To me, this 'promotion' in an effort to improve The Times comes at the cost of The Citizen. I can't believe that this is a wise move, by any stretch of the imagination.

Five other Citizen-Times editors are also assuming posts with The Times.

I hope that hundreds of Terrell's regular readers will write to officials of The Citizen protesting the elimination of Terrell's column. Surely the executives of The Citizen will realize the value and popularity of Terrell's column and will reinstate the column.

I have no objection to the plan to improve The Times, but eliminating Terrell's column just doesn't make good sense.

Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



Having decided to use this space for a serious political essay, I was assisted by Andy Rooney before I began to write.

In his slot on "60 Minutes" recently, Andy talked about all the effort that is being put forth to "get out the vote." He discouraged such activity. Viewing voting as a privilege that carries with it the responsibility of knowledgeable preparation, he prefers that those who are ignorant of the issues stay home.

Mr. Rooney does not want his vote cancelled out by one who is ignorant of the issues.

I agree. Rather than not voting, however, I much prefer that we all avail ourselves of all possible knowledge about matters of concern to our state, our nation, and the world.

Washing our hands of politics is folly which we cannot afford.

Since our national elections are no more than a week away, let me share

a few private notions about our political process. In doing so, I am totally serious. Naturally, I hope these ideas may be of help to some.

In this country, our political campaigns are much too long. It does not require four years--nor two years--to get the issues before the people.

The longer a particular campaign runs, the more it tends to cost. It is nothing less than a disgusting spectacle before the nation when the cost of electing a United States senator from North Carolina is more than 20 million dollars.

There should be a statutory limit on the time a campaign can run and some kind of limit on the amount of money that can be spent on the campaign.

Although a senator does--or should--represent his home state, he is a United States senator. He is not worthy of his office if he does not represent his home state. On the other hand, he is no statesman if he places

the state or the interests of any group above the welfare of the nation.

For the level-headed thinker, this dual responsibility poses real and honest questions about financial support from outside the state in which the senator is elected.

I suggest that one should not be influenced at all by the presidential "debates." Having watched both "debates" carefully in their entirety, I have the first and strong, lasting impression that they were not debates at all. They were questions which were, for the most part, ignored. Instead of answers, we were given prepared paragraphs of pet prejudices--all of which we had heard countless times in campaign rhetoric, news conferences, or prepared speeches.

We saw each of the candidates refuse to hear what the other was saying. We saw them try to create issues where there were no issues. We saw reality ignored or denied.

The problems and needs of the

United States cannot be separated from the needs and problems of the rest of the world. We can neither thrive nor live along in disregard to other nations.

Our first concern as voters is what is best for our state, nation, and the world. Then--only then--should we be concerned about the specifics of our elected officials.

It seems to me that our chief areas of concern are world peace, economic security, civil justice and universal opportunity, environmental protection, population control, personal safety through civil obedience, and personal responsibility and moral decency.

To be effective in these areas, our President should be strong, courageous, and wise. And we must not forget that when we elect a vice-president, we are expressing our second choice for President.

May we have the wisdom, courage, and willingness to elect the right person.

Letters To The Editor

Vote Your Conscience

Dear Editor:

We are about to make some terribly important decisions at the polls on Nov. 6. Most politicians would have you believe that these are races between the Democrats and Republicans, but I don't believe it. In the top level races, both state and national, this election is a decision between liberal and conservative thought.

In general, the liberals are pushing for higher taxes as a way to reduce deficits, more centralized government controls, and more promises of government giveaway programs that cost a lot of taxpayers money but don't ever seem to accomplish what they're supposed to.

On the other hand, in general, the conservatives want less spending as a way to reduce deficits, smaller government, lower taxes, less in-

terference in the lives of people and greater emphasis on self-reliance. These are the constitutional principles which made our country great and are, I believe, the only principles that will keep us great.

Which set of principles do you choose? The choice has never been so clear. These issues are so crucial to the future of our great nation and to succeeding generations of our children that I believe our choice should override all party considerations. Our choice needs to be on the basis of which set of principles is right and best.

We shouldn't hand on a party label. We should now, of all times, vote our consciences!

Sincerely,
W.D. Stedman
Asheboro, N.C.

Write Your Congressman

Dear Mr. Koenig,

Several months ago, The News Record published letters from people puzzled about why Buncombe and Madison Counties were off-limits to Russian officials.

I finally wrote to James McClure Clarke, our representative, and received a prompt reply.

Mr. Clarke is also investigating a question I had about Russian com-

puters at the Defense Dept. (making a nuclear war by accident more probable.)

I was impressed that he would take the time to answer (not in a firm letter) a very ordinary citizen, when he must be very busy with the upcoming election. I would encourage others with questions to write to him.

Willy Owen
Marshall, N.C.

Slide Show Offered

Dear Mr. Koenig:

We wish to inform readers of The News Record that we have an interesting and informative 25-minute color slide presentation on the wonders of Alaska, our former home.

We will come to any church in the area without charge and show our

slides, with commentary, closing with a brief expansion of our Eskimo relics. Those interested may contact us at 21 Glenview Rd., Asheville or call 253-7079.

Rev. and Mrs. A.E. Purviance

Helms Deserves Vote

Dear Editor:

I thought I would drop you a line or two about Mr. Hunt's remarks about right wing radicals.

On the ABC Evening News on Oct. 16, Mr. Hunt said that Senator Jesse Helms and other conservative people are right wing radicals. Mr. Hunt evidently doesn't know the difference between right wing, left wing, or government control.

The forefathers wanted a government that was not total government (left wing). They also did not want no

government at all. That is anarchy (right wing.)

They wanted government by law. That is what we conservatives want. We are constitutionalist, not right wing or left wing.

Jesse Helms is a fine Senator. He is a constitutionalist. He believes in our Republic. The country needs more like him. He deserves the people's vote.

A believer in the Constitution,
Roy Casady
Gillette, Wyoming

Greater Ivy Says Thanks

To the editor:

On behalf of the Greater Ivy Community Citizens Association, Inc., I would like to express our appreciation for the excellent job the News Record did in printing our quarterly NEWSLETTER and for mailing a copy to every resident in Greater Ivy. It was a monumental -- and expensive -- undertaking. We are grateful.

We would also like to thank you for the very good coverage of the dedication of the new athletic facilities at the Greater Ivy Community Center.

The News Record is an informative and interesting newspaper, and is a definite asset to Madison County.

Sincerely,
Irene B. Carroll, Editor
GREATER IVY NEWSLETTER