

# Commentary

# THE NEWS RECORD

## Winning Not The Only Thing

Winning. Now that is a word that has a nice ring to the ear. Success on a field of competition or in anything we do is the ideal, the goal for which we struggle. Man has been struggling to win — against the elements, against other mammals, against his fellow men — since the dawn of time. It has always been so.

But it is not the only thing, despite what some have done to the words of the late coach Vincent Thomas Lombardi, who is often quoted incorrectly as saying, "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing."

Mr. Lombardi said no such thing. Those were not the words, or the philosophy, of the late Green Bay Packers and Washington Redskins coach. What mattered most to Mr. Lombardi was preparing his players to perform their best on the field. Concentrate, do your part for the team and put forth your best effort — winning will follow.

Mr. Lombardi's players would have followed that man into the fires of hell, had he asked them. And they would have burned brighter than any other soul there, we're certain. He was the kind of coach who inspired men of ordinary talents to perform extraordinary feats beyond their abilities.

His teams won six championships, including the first two Super Bowls.

John R. Wooden, another coach who rose to the level of greatness in another sport, basketball, also had that ability to get the most out of his players. His University of California at Los Angeles teams won an unheard of — and probably never to be repeated — nine national championships, seven of which were won consecutively.

To put that magnificent record in perspective, consider that Dean Smith has won only one national championship at the University of North Carolina, although he is regarded among many as the best basketball strategist in the land. Jim Valvano has won the NCAA crown but once. Bobby Knight of Indiana has won the most NCAA championships of active coaches — three.

Mr. Wooden, the Wizard of Westwood, put teams on the floor year after year that devastated the opposition. Not one of the NCAA finals his teams played in was close.

And former players say Mr. Wooden never mentioned the word "winning."

These musings, of course, offer little solace to the players whose team lost on the field of competition last Friday night. Winning a game might not be everything, but losing one leaves a sour taste. Losing is awful.

But if one has worked hard and put forth his best effort, he has nothing of which to be ashamed.

The teams of Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Wooden won with grace. And, on the rare occasions when they lost, they did so with dignity. They were class acts.

A former newspaperman, Rudyard Kipling, perhaps said it best with the words that appear above the entrance to Wimbledon's center court: "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters the same."

To the Madison High Patriots and the North Bumcombe Black Hawks, we say good luck, work hard and remember Kipling's words.

And, for the record, in a 1962 interview Mr. Lombardi said, "Winning isn't everything, but wanting to is."

## Europeans Going Overboard

Some distressing news for sportsmen has arrived on our desk, via the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, and it has nothing at all to do with hunting black bear in the Smokey Mountains.

This missive concerns fishing and it casts a new light on the idea of sport fishing, where the angler releases his catch unharmed into the river or lake. Sportsmen who belong to such groups as B.A.S.S. and Trout Unlimited, organizations dedicated to the conservation and preservation of their quarry, believe in returning most of what they catch, in the name of conservation and sportsmanship.

Such sportsmen, and we've known quite a few, think of their bass and their trout with special affection.

Now, we hear from W.B. Jenkins of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation who says such sportsmen just might be all wet.

A West German judge recently ruled that fish feel pain when hooked and pulled from the water, and he fined a club for holding a fishing contest.

Say what? Not since Jonah — the human fly — got swallowed by a whale have underwater inhabitants scored such a victory over man.

The decision, we are told, came in response to a suit brought by a German animal rights group. Testimony from Wildlife experts said the increased heart rate and labored breathing of fish pulled from water indicated they were in pain.

Even though the fish were released after being weighed, the judge ruled the fishing contest was cruel. He said fishing was OK if the fish were caught for the dinner table and quickly killed.

In Europe, animal rights groups are more advanced, or at least more vocal, than in the United States. Someday, we can probably expect something of this sort to wash up on our own shores.

Animal rights groups who fight against cruelty to animals, but these European groups appear to go overboard, banning everything from commercial fishing to pet ownership.

What about Mr. Jenkins. If the fish has a right not to be hooked, what about the boy who?

## Child Care A Problem

To the editor:  
I would greatly appreciate it if you would help me call attention to a serious problem the parents of Madison County are confronted with — the problem of child care-after school care.

I, alone, cannot bring about changes needed for the children in Madison County, but with public awareness and support, we can make our county a better place in which to live and raise our children.

Madison County has but four day care centers, each governed by the county. This allows a family to enroll a child into the center using a sliding scale based on gross income. While I support the use of the sliding scale, as this enables low income families to better afford child care while seeking gainful employment, the families who do not fall within the scale's guidelines feel forced to subsidize the difference.

I feel that any business should charge according to goods and services it has to offer. I do not feel that Madison County day care facilities have done this.

Effective July 1, 1988, the private paying parents had an increase of \$5.25 per week, per child for full-time children in the center, bringing the weekly charge from \$38 to \$43.25. The after school program had an increase of \$5.50 per week per child enrolled, bringing the weekly charge from \$16.25 to \$21.75. I feel that this is in excess of services provided. While the full-time children receive all-day care, two meals and snack, activities and an occasional outing, the after school children are only present at the day care for a maximum of two and a half hours and receive very little "care."

I feel that the Department of Social Services is taking advantage of families in need of child care. I also feel that it should be a priority as well as a responsibility of the elected officials in this county to provide quality child care for everyone, at a reasonable cost.

Mars Hill Day Care Program has the only after school program in the Mars Hill School District. This year

the fees for this service went up from \$65 to \$87 a month, an increase of \$22 a month.

I am a resident of Madison County but was forced to send my son to Buncombe County school for two years because there was no after school program open to me. Now, it seems that I will be forced to do so again because of petty politics in this county.

I would like to know why our schools cannot provide an after school program, as I have learned that there are grants available from the state of North Carolina to do so. Does one care how many children in Madison County have to go home alone because of the neglect of our elected officials?

I feel an obligation to bring attention to this urgent matter. I hope you will give this your immediate attention as I feel it is a matter of great urgency.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Silver Stidham,  
Madison County

## Recycle Trash

To the editor:  
As the space in our landfill rapidly disappears and the cost for the purchase and preparation of a new site being estimated somewhere between \$200,000 and \$300,000 PER ACRE, one wonders what we Madison Countians will be doing with our garbage in a couple of years.

While seeking a solution to this oncoming crisis, perhaps we should pay closer attention to just what we are throwing away. If we concentrate more on recycling, whether it be soft drink cans, ketchup bottles or junk mail, we can forestall the saturation point of our landfill.

Meanwhile, let's think about how the things we consume are packaged. We are being brainwashed by multi-billion dollar corporations into believing we need shatter-proof and squeezeable containers in our homes. Think about it. Has a peanut butter jar ever shattered on your kitchen floor?

So far, the only recyclable plastic on the grocery shelves is soft drink bottles. But glass ones can be return-

ed for a deposit or recycled, and won't lie in the landfill leaking toxins into the groundwater for several thousand years.

If plastic is so harmful and permanent, why are we being deluged with it? It's cheap.

Large corporations concentrate on profits; they don't care that plastic mountains are growing in our nation's landfills. That is our problem. So let's do our best to avoid these plastic containers. On some containers' labels there are toll-free numbers. Why not call them to voice concern about the lack of recyclability and biodegradability of their packaging?

Profits will always take precedence over our environment for big business, unless we as consumers exercise our power, proving we're not mere pawns. We are capable, intelligent, independent human beings. Let's take responsibility for ourselves.

On Oct. 22, Madison County will have its first Recycling Day. On that day in the parking lot of Arbee Manufacturing, trucks will be waiting to haul off our trash. We'll have the opportunity to conveniently recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard, paper, newspapers — even junk mail. Working together we can dramatically reduce the amount of waste growing in our landfill. Rather than sitting back and grumbling when our taxes skyrocket to cover the cost of a new landfill, let's see what we can do to extend the life of the one we have.

Suzanne DuVall Gilliam  
Marshall

## Honor Everett

To the editor:

It was with interest that I read Ruth Gregory's letter of appreciation and encouragement to those who had tried to contribute toward making Marshall a more beautiful place. Her inclusion of Everett Barnett's efforts at Ponder's Chapel is to be applauded. Everett is an outstanding example of the difference one person's efforts can make in a community. His devotion to Ponder's Chapel Church and grounds has been an inspiration to all who pass by. We have also been the recipients of his amusing jokes, his expressed interest in the history

of Marshall, his interest in our lives and his sympathy in our trials and losses.

We now have an opportunity to honor Everett. Some of his friends are placing pew cushions on the pews in Ponder's Chapel in his honor. All those who would like to be a part of this may place their contributions in the container in Bouman Funeral Home and sign the donor sheet.

Sincerely,  
Shirley B. Culver  
Marshall

## Say No

To the editor,  
My birthplace is Little Pine Creek. I grew up in the state of North Carolina, graduated from North Buncombe and I have many friends and relatives in Madison County.

Please insist that your commissioners spend enough time doing their jobs that they don't invite another bureaucracy to take over your county. The manager form of government is moving our country away from "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." As long as your commissioners do the job you elected them to do, you do not need a county manager.

There are people and agencies already in place and available to your commissioners for their management needs. I rely very heavily on my state senators and representatives and on the Regional planning office.

It is important that your elected officials take care of your county's business. This keeps the decision closer to home and more cost effective. The \$75,000 grant money is only for start up of the program. After it is established the burden and expense of maintaining that office will fall on the shoulders of the Madison County taxpayers.

Sincerely,  
Alvin R. Henderson  
Presiding Commissioner, Adair County, Missouri  
Kirksville, Missouri



## The News Record Letter Policy

The News Record invites its readers to share their views on subjects of public interest.

Letters, which are subject to editing, should be addressed to The Editor and mailed to The News Record at Post Office Box 363, Marshall, N.C. 28753.

No more than one letter per month from an individual will be published. Letters should be brief and legible.

The deadline for letters is noon Tuesday prior to publication. Items received after noon cannot be accepted for that Thursday's issue. Letters should be typed or printed and submitted in person or by mail.

Letters must include the writer's signature, address and telephone number in order to be published. No unsigned letters will be published.

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