

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
Sustaining Member - 1972

North Carolina
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376
119 W. Elwood Avenue
Subscription Rates In Advance

Per Year - \$5.00 6 Months - \$2.75 3 Months - \$1.50

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Second Class Postage Paid at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1972

Opinion and commentary

by Paul Dickson

President Nixon and the administration have carefully refrained from making any headlines in the past few days, leaving the networks, newspapers and columnists free to concentrate on the Democrats. They have done this, and some spectacle the Democrats have afforded the country and the world.

Vice President Agnew has even been keeping quiet, and although Kissinger did slip off to Paris to have a secret word with the Chinese, even that didn't get much notice, as the news media seemed almost to be in a voodoo trance over the Democratic orgy. Poor Bobby Fischer and his capers in Iceland have hardly been noticed.

Back at the Democratic ranch, meanwhile, Sir Galahad McGovern has been getting switched from a knight on a white charger and from the hope and dream of all who want and expect everything for everyone. From a fellow who is pure and idealistic and the answer to the wide-eyed and innocent who believe a pure idealist can ascend to the political heights in this land of the free, he has been turning from all this into a typical, beady-eyed, determined, election year American politician who will deliberately and without a second thought shoot down friends, cohorts, relatives and anyone else who gets in the way.

This is sad, but it is not new. It's just the political game the way we play it here. Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson and Alexander Hamilton and those of that day and others of every day since have played it.

We, the public, were anxious and screaming for McGovern to scalp that young unknown Eagleton from the prairies, and so after several days in order to switch Sir Galahad to Dirty George, George scalped him, and now, surprise of surprises, everybody finds they liked the fellow from Missouri, and many say poor George played the devil by sacking him.

Of course, there are those, more than a few, who think George didn't have far to go to play the devil, that this is the year of the Nixon and the Agnew, whatever he does for a running mate. Well, could be.

Of course, to be fair to McGovern, he has not really done any big switch in the past few days, nor has his character changed. He has been a consummate politician all along, and it's just his image that had to undergo a slight alternation as he did what could really have been expected.

He started off by expressing his faith in his choice and in Senator Eagleton's character and ability and in his determination to stick with him. When he got to thinking it over, though, McGovern realized, as he had to, that Eagleton had really deceived him by not telling of his "nervous" disorders before accepting the vice presidential nomination, and that if Eagleton's judgment was no better than that he had better let him go even if it did amount to changing his mind, deserting a friend, or whatever.

I think that George McGovern did exactly the right thing, and I think all Americans should be glad he did, because, even though his chances at beating Nixon this fall look terribly tiny, they do exist, and in my opinion we can do better than take any chance whatever for the likes of Senator Eagleton to be anywhere down the line of succession to our presidency under any circumstances whatever.

Certainly, having undergone psychiatric treatment is no disgrace, and for certain also, any man or woman we get is going to have the possibility of not being able to bear the strain of the Presidency. For the same reasons the Dallas Cowboys don't pick a person with deformed legs to play football, though, we cannot afford to consider people who have even slightly failed under pressure as possibilities for the land's highest office.

This, in fact, can give one some second thoughts about the dog fight that goes on for a man to reach the White House. The man who gets there is usually the toughest and the smartest among many, and he has gotten stronger by climbing over them all.

And this strength, and smartness, and knowledge of fighting, clean and dirty, makes him better able to lead and protect us than he might have been, perhaps.

So maybe George McGovern has shown more strength than weakness in the past few days?

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, July 31, 1947

As provided in a constitutional amendment passed by the people of North Carolina last year giving women equal rights and duties with men, they are beginning to get some of the duties. In the jury list of 40 drawn for the term of Superior Court to convene August 18 the names of 10 women of the county appeared.

Crawford Thomas is Elected President of Commerce Baby.

Twenty-five farmers visited the Oxford Tobacco Experiment Stations on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Scott Poole will celebrate their birthdays at a party with their children and grandchildren on Saturday night. Mrs. Poole will be 79 years of age on that day and Mr. Poole will be 89 on Sunday. Their 63rd wedding anniversary will be the 28th of September.

W.F. Yow, license examiner of the Motor Vehicle department has announced the following schedule to be followed on Thursday and Friday.

From Poole's Medley: James L. Currie used to win money running races against horses.

No, Spiro, no . . . this year this is what we call a club!



CLIFF BLUE . . . People & Issues



THE MANSION - Like "Old Main" at Pembroke, the fight to retain the mansion on Blount Street in Raleigh as the "Governor's Mansion" seems to be on.

Skipper Bowles says that he and his wife Jasmine want to live in the old Mansion on Blount Street. Jim Holshouser, the young Republican from Watauga County, and his wife would like very much to spend four years in the old Mansion. Mrs. Mel Broughton, Sr., wife of a former Governor, Mrs. Terry Sanford, wife of a former Governor and Mrs. Dan K. Moore, wife of a former Governor, all say they would prefer that the present Governor's Mansion be kept and renovated.

From what we can hear and read most everybody wants to keep the old mansion in Raleigh except Bob and, maybe, Jesse Ray Scott, and they will be vacating in January.

"Keep the Mansion" seems to be taking up whereas "Save Old Main" is winding down in Pembroke.

AUGUST - August means different things to different people, but to many people in the Southland who are 60 years of age and more, August can be remembered as "fodder pulling" month. Others may remember it as the month when "protracted" revivals were held. August will be remembered by many of the old timers as the month when the family went visiting, maybe, for a whole week with relatives and friends who lived maybe 20 or 30 or 40 miles away. Many of the old timers can also remember August as the month when the "old swimming hole" became the most popular recreation spot in the neighborhood. Yes, August has many rich memories for people 60 years of age and older.

DEMOCRATS - It certainly looks like McGovern and Eagleton are getting off to an uneasy start in their race for President and Vice President. To begin with, they had a long way to go. The polls show them way below Nixon and Agnew. Now, the reports concerning Eagleton's sickness - his shock treatments, etc. - and Jack

Anderson's accusation regarding drunken driving may not affect the campaign very much in the end, but, it cannot help but darken the mood around the McGovern camp as it moves into the Presidential contest. Mood and confidence have right much to do with success.

KEEP THE PRIMARY - Some people do not like the idea of a Presidential primary to select the nominees for President. While the North Carolina presidential primary may be far from perfect, many feel that it is right much better than the old convention system of selecting delegates without any instruction as to how they will vote at the national convention. I feel that the presidential primary in North Carolina could be improved by amending it to make it mandatory that the delegates representing by the candidates for whom the people voted. Without the presidential Primary, Bob Scott, Terry Sanford, and a few of the other party leaders in the state could have had more clout in Miami, but the real purpose of the national political convention should be to represent the people.

HALFWAY HOMES - There are halfway homes for the alcoholics, which are told are rendering a fine service. We have many people today who are mentally deficient, not people for our mental institutions, but people who are unable to make it alone. It seems that if we could have some "halfway homes" for this type of people that it would be serving a wonderful cause. I do not believe that a project of this nature would have a very low priority in comparison with the overall public services being rendered, once given a try.

GOOD TV PROGRAMS - For people interested in politics and government we recommend three TV programs which come on each Sunday afternoon. At 12:30 "Meet The Press" is on. At 1 P.M. "Face The Nation" and at 1:30 "Issues and Answers". These programs constitute an hour and a half of good information following Sunday dinner (or luncheon).

Passing Thoughts

By Elaine Symanski

Star Gazing Craze



The era of peace, flowers, freedom and happiness has come to an official end with the closing of the rock musical "Hair" at Broadway's Biltmore Theater. It was only a few days ago that "The American Tribal - Love Rock Musical" played its 1,758th and last performance, signaling an end to the Age of Aquarius.

Though I may force myself to burn up all my incense and psychedellic posters and be convinced to abandon my love beads and sandals to make way for newer fads, one item the Aquarian Age brought to a new height of popularity will continue to remain with me - my astrology books.

Astrology is certainly not new - in fact it is termed the "oldest science." But we can't deny that the era of "Hair" brought new interest to the ancient art of the occult.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

Over the years and several times lately I've read about lawyers arguing that their clients couldn't get a fair trial in their home towns because too much publicity had been given their crimes. Too many people know about the matter and a change of venue is required to get a fair and impartial jury, the lawyers say.

What they mean is that justice requires that their client be tried before 12 people who've never heard of the murder or the stealing or the defrauding or whatever it was he did. With or without a change of venue, sometimes it takes two or three months and thousands and thousands of dollars just to pick 12 people considered unformed enough to serve.

I have figured out a way to avoid all this. What we need is a stable of people specially selected and sheltered to serve as jurors. It'd be their lifetime's work.

To make sure they meet the court's requirements, that is, that they are totally ignorant of what's going on, the professional jurors would be prohibited from reading any newspaper that isn't at least five years old. No television of course would be permitted, because even on soap operas or football games the networks have a prejudicial, jury - destroying habit of interrupting a program to report news bulletins. They'd have to get their entertainment from phonograph records, checkers and dominoes. No chess. What sort of juror do you think Bobby Fischer would make? What an affront it'd be to dignity of the court to have each juror hauling in his own chair and adjusting all the lights in the court room.

Under this system, when a trial begins, the judge pushes a button and 12 people come sliding out of a chute, their eyes blinded by the glare but their minds absolutely uncluttered. It would then be up to the lawyers on both sides to unroll the facts and implant whatever prejudices they can manage, ten minutes after the trial starts. No use taking weeks and hunting all over the county to find 12 people who never heard of you when you've got 12 already stored away in the courthouse.

Of course another way to handle the problem would be to abolish all newspapers and radio and television stations, but I won't go into that. I'm probably already in contempt of court as it is.

Yours faithfully,
I A

I hate to admit that I'm even the slightest bit superstitious, but there's no doubt that my interest in horoscopes and study of the sun signs has grown to the point of obsession. For instance, whereas I used to tear apart the morning paper and make a beeline for the comics, and in more recent years for the advice column, now I tear apart the paper in search of the daily horoscope.

Now if you only read one astrologer's advice for the day and stick by that, you have no problem. But if you have gotten to the point, as I have, of reading several horoscopes each day, you can get in a real dilemma.

Jean Dixon's interpretation of the stars never seems to match Carroll Righter's. And to confuse matters worse, "Astro Data," which professes to be a computerized reading of the stars, also differs from the others. And so on.

For example, two opinions on my horoscope the other day were the following: 1. You have new views that can be put to good use. Act now. 2. Distant memories of very old things bring useful information. Don't be too hasty in decisions.

It seems fairly evident that the two astrologers somehow had their telescopes crossed. I suppose it is a matter of how one interprets the planetary signs, but you would suppose they could come closer in their readings than that. You can imagine the state of confusion I was in - should I put my new views to use and make the chicken curry recipe I saw in that magazine, or serve yesterday's leftover beef stew, thus not acting too hastily?

And my study of astrology has at times made life difficult for my friends and family as well. I frequently go around saying things like "How can you make such a reckless statement? Capricorns are supposed to be so conservative."

Of course if anyone would turn the stars against me, and point out that I don't live up to the kind of person a Moon Child in Cancer should be, I would probably be left speechless. But until that day of realization comes, I'll just go on blaming all of my mistakes on the rotten placement of my particular planets.

STORIES BEHIND WORDS

By William S. Penfield
Cardinal

The Latin word "cardo" means a hinge. From "cardo" was formed the adjective "cardinalis" - of, or pertaining to a hinge. A hinge is important, for something depends or turns on it. Therefore, "cardinalis" acquired another meaning - chief or principal.

The chief or highest priests below the Pope in the Roman Catholic Church were called "cardinals." The most striking part of the cardinals' attire was a scarlet hat. Anything of this color, including the redbird, was described as "cardinal."

Damson
Many things were named for the places from which they came. In many cases, the names have been so corrupted that the place - name is not recognizable. "Damson," the name of a fruit, is a good example.
During the Middle Ages a small, dark purple plum was introduced into Europe from the Middle East. Travelers had brought the plums from Damascus, a city in Syria.
In England the fruit was called "damascene plum."

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

One of our subscribers sends in this information with the thought that we might like to pass it on to you:
The young of cod or haddock is called a scrod.
The young of a grouse, partridge, quail or pigeon is known as a squaleer.
The young of cattle is called a stirk.
The young of a horse or ox is known as a slot.
The young of a sheep is called a teg.
The young of a herring is known as a brit.
The young of a muskrat or mink is known as a kit.
We don't know what kind of a score you made on these, but we didn't know a single one of them.

Raising Its Tail?"
Quite a coincidence, wasn't it?
Major Charles Busbee used to tell this story:

A park policeman in Washington, D.C. stopped a parkin Potomac Park for exceeding the speed limit. The car contained three officers of the United States Army. Pencil ready to take down the names, book open, the policeman demanded of the officer driving the car: "What is your name?"
"SCHIMMELFENIG," replied the officer, giving his right name.

The policeman started to write, rubbed out the letters, started again, then decided to try an easier one. So he said to the other man on the front seat:

"What's yours?"
"SCHILLERSTROM," that gentlemen answered.
"Oh yeah! Trying to be funny," the cop said and then to the third man, "What's yours?"
"SHEKERJIAN."

The policeman turned red. He was mad. But he had what we would call a saving sense of humor. He said nothing for a moment, and then:
"Oh, it is eh? Well, you all win. Beat it." And he put his book and pencil back in his pocket and stepped back to let them drive away.

A book and a half of Buck, for a buck and a half.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON - Most of those who read the announcement that the Supreme Court had handed down a decision requiring reporters to give confidential information to grand juries probably dismissed the matter as a minor legal point. The truth is that the case of Branzburg v. Hayes which involved this issue constituted a new erosion of the Bill of Rights.

In the years to come, if counter forces do not prevail, the case will undoubtedly affect the public's right to know and have access to news stories about many vital matters affecting our daily lives. For the majority of the justices said in a 5-4 decision is that journalists cannot refuse to tell grand juries about intelligence they have received from their informants. The issue which divided the Court was not whether the government could force newsmen to reveal information on crime for which they may be no compelling need. The majority of the justices were willing to give the government wide latitude to ferret out information of this nature.

It should be pointed out that the newsmen involved, including a New York Times reporter who appeared before the California grand jury investigating the Black Panthers, did not claim as "absolute privilege against official interrogation in all circumstances." Newsmen, like other citizens, have an obligation to protect society against perils which compel ordinary considerations to be cast aside. What seems to have been given too little weight by the Court is that the public and the government both have another stake in this matter. That

stake is simply this. It is better that the nation be well informed about the forces loose in our society than it is for the citizens to remain ignorant, and we risk the later when we dry up the reporter's sources and insist that he tell anything he knows in confidence.

The difficulty is a practical one. It goes beyond the Court's critical reference to some of the news media who apparently adhere to "the theory that it is better to write about crime than to do something about it." I certainly do not condone that attitude, but believe the problem involves the essence of a free society and the particular responsibilities of its members. The rational for protecting newsmen from Government inquiry is not to protect them individually, but to insure that the public and the Government itself has access to that free flow of information so vital to a democracy.

The First Amendment was designed to make Americans politically, intellectually, and spiritually free. Its prohibition against Government suppression and intimidation of the press is couched in sweeping language and for good reasons. The Founding Fathers knew that any narrow construction of the amendment's protection of the press would stifle a free society.

Let no one be deluded into thinking that the Court's opinion will condemn only the criminals. It covers the law abiding, too, who have information about governmental corruption. Who will now give a reporter a tip about some governmental "hanky-panky" if he (See SAM ERVIN, Pg. 11)