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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1977

## TV violence takes a dive

Americans concerned about excessive violence and sex on television will have at least one reason to cheer this fall. Network shows for the new season promise to be far less violent than those of previous years, and much of the credit for this turn-around in network programming can go to citizen groups such as Action for Children's Television (ACT) and the national Parent-Teachers Association which are keeping close tabs on TV fare and successfully pressuring sponsors to eliminate violence for violence's sake.

Most encouraging in this welcome down-trend in violence is the indication that Americans appear to be gaining a greater say in determining what type of programming the three commercial networks beam into their living rooms every evening. More public participation in influencing the quality and types of programs is essential if the medium is ever to abandon its pandering to the lowest common denominator of interests for the admittedly more difficult goal of elevating the aspirations and desires of the viewing public to more lasting and redeeming values. After all, the airways do belong to the public. In light of current projections that new uses for television will make it an even bigger and more influential part of people's lives in decades to come, the public has an increasing stake in deciding how its airways are to be used.

Some television producers understandably are concerned that "sanitizing" violence out of TV dramas threatens to deter artistic creativity, present an unrealistic view of society, and lead to "plastic television" and a "plastic society," as one producer remarked. Totally eliminating violence from the screen is not the answer. The key factor is how violence is handled. As an incidental part of a series such as "Roots," for instance, which necessarily portrayed some of the horrors inherent in slavery, a certain amount of violence should be tolerated by a mature audience. But gratuitous gore introduced solely for sensationalism is inexcusable.

Unfortunately sexual innuendos will mark the so-called "mature" shows this season, and network executives should expect to be bombarded with complaints from religious and other groups rightly concerned about such tastelessness.

However, "vigilantism" by special interest groups seeking to impose their own opinions on the viewing public needs to be kept in check. Excessive restrictions however well intentioned will not serve the public nor the medium.

Obviously, setting national standards for television remains a difficult and complex task, one in which the voice -- or voices -- of the public should be predominant. It is encouraging that the networks apparently are starting to listen. *Christian Science Monitor*

### Ehrlichman and other/Watergate profiteers

While the United States continues to ride the post-Watergate wave of reform, Watergate malefactors continue to ride the wave of profits. The pardoned Richard Nixon began with a television series to be followed by a book. Next week the imprisoned John Ehrlichman is following his book with a television series. Meanwhile, the man who discovered the Watergate break-in, Frank Wills, has not always even had a job.

There is something wrong here. While a Watergate-sensitized government investigates questions of South Korean bribery, Bert Lance's banking practices, and other matters, the top participants in the biggest scandal of them all are still raking in money from it.

Mr. Ehrlichman is in the news at the moment, with his White House-CIA novel, "The Company," contributing to a six-part, 12-hour package launching the new TV season for one of the networks. But before long a book by former chief Nixon aide H.R. Haldeman will be getting headlines and royalties. And on it goes.

No one denies that those convicted in Watergate, like any other criminals, should be allowed to rehabilitate themselves and return to gainful employment. But there is something unseemly about the way they are making crime pay. *Christian Science Monitor*

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, September 4, 1952

The high school charges of Coaches Bob Rockholz and Earl Huggins returned from the week of training at Myrtle Beach will advance in their pre-schedule practice.

From Poole's Medley:

In the election of 1910, there were only 10 Republican votes cast in the part of Cumberland that became Hoke.

From Rockfish News:

To say it rained here Sunday would be putting it mild. It literally poured down for hours and Fayetteville Street was almost washed away.

Robert Perry, Jr. received his commission as Second Lt. this week at James Connolly Air Base, Waco, Texas.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, September 6, 1962

Booster Club president Ken McNeill has announced his group with charter buses for the third game of the season at Wilmington the night of September 21.

County Commissioners yawned their way through a routine meeting Tuesday, as the most important item of business was to authorize Home Agent Miss Josephine Hall to purchase a new sewing machine.

White and Negro school enrollment were up slightly over last year, but Indian attendance fell off, the office of School Superintendent W.T. Gibson reported this week.

Services were held Tuesday at Red Springs Funeral Chapel for Ira L. Newton, 76, well known Antioch farmer.

'Stop saying tsk-tsk, and throw me a life preserver'



by Marty Vega

## Big Bonus Coming

The Air Force proposal to use the Raeford area for low-flying jet exercises has caused some concern among folks.

It seems that people don't like the idea of all the noise at all hours of the day and night. The Air Force understands this and we're sure that they don't want to do anything to make folks mad at them.

In fact, our exclusive source, Col. Verry Wurmturnd, disclosed that the Air Force is prepared to make a very generous offer to the city which will be a big bonus.

Wurmturnd had all the details to this package worked out and was all ready to present it to the city council last Monday night, but the city council didn't meet. Something about a holiday, they said.

The package that the Air Force is prepared to offer in return for the favor is really too good. The airmen will help promote tourism and commerce in a campaign that would cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars if they had to pay for it.

But it will all be free. The jets that will be coming will be from Sumter and Myrtle Beach in South Carolina and they will do constant skywriting all the way. Messages like "SEE RAEFORD, N.C." and "SHOP RAEFORD FIRST" will be seen by multitudes.

### Puppy Creek

## Philosopher

Dear editor:

Because everybody needs something to talk about till the regular football season starts, the month of August was devoted to talking about the Panama Canal. Fans with losing teams will probably continue talking about it all Fall.

The canal is not one of my major worries. I've never been through it and have no plans to. Yet it generates a lot of hot debate.

People in favor of keeping it say we built it, we paid for it and it's ours. Others say so what, if the Panamanians want it, let them have it; our big oil tankers and war ships can't squeeze through it anyway.

But in all the discussion I've not heard anybody get to the main point: is it making any money? Do we charge ship owners enough to pay for the upkeep? How many hot checks are we holding from Russian ships going through it? If there are a good many, have we thought of making it coin-operated?

Just because we bought and paid for the canal is not necessarily an argument for keeping it. There are ranchers in this country who bought and paid for cattle three years ago they wish they could get their money back on now. There are city people who bought certain stocks they'd now like to unload on somebody else.

Before I make up my mind on the Panama Canal I'd like to see an operating statement on it.

But if the Panamanians insist they've got to have the thing, that they're fully capable of operating it, I've figured out a deal. They can have it if they'll take over Amtrak in this country too. If that doesn't seem quite fair, we could maybe throw in the Postal Service also.

What are the prospects for the Bucks this year?

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

Although it will slow the planes down a bit to do all this writing, Wurmturnd believes that it is a small inconvenience, inasmuch as the goodwill and friendship of the folks is the most important consideration.

But that's not all. The Air Force has also promised to provide lots of fun and amusement. Carowinds is so far away, and the water slides in Wilmington and Fayetteville can get tiresome. So, for people of old ages who want a thrilling ride, when the jets go screaming over at 500 feet, folks can grab hold to special ropes and enjoy a thrill-packed ride through the air. Better than Thunder Road or anything Disney World has got.

It'll all be so swell. And the Air Force brass have also promised to help establish a lasting memorial. A Home for the Deaf.

It caused some curiosity that the Board of Education went ahead and conducted their regular meeting Monday night, foregoing the Labor Day holiday that everyone else enjoyed.

These hard-working public servants are to be commended for sacrificing so unselfishly, to be sure.

Besides, they had a very urgent piece of business which made it impossible to delay the meeting. The resignation of the baseball coach last month precipitated a minor crisis--the bases belonged to him since he bought them out of his own money.

Happily, however, it turned out that the school did have a second set of bases, athletic director John Pecora reported, so the 1978 baseball program won't be cancelled after all and the school board members can relax.

## Letter To The Editor

To our friends and gymnasts of Raeford:

This past Tuesday, August 23rd, we had the pleasure of conducting a gymnastics clinic in the Raeford Armory. 35 young gymnasts and potential gymnasts involved in a long, hot, busy but productive day of tumbling, bouncing and somersaulting. Because the clinic and all the arrangements kept us so occupied, we were not able to talk to the gymnasts and everyone else involved as much as we would have liked. So, we wanted to take this opportunity to relay some of the reaction, to the clinic, which we didn't get a chance to express.

First of all, we were extremely impressed with how well-mannered and behaved kids of such varying ages (5-18) could be for 6 hours. They were active, attentive, tried hard and responded well to all the safety precautions which we enforced. Their attitude toward the difficult and specialized sport of gymnastics and the hard physical effort involved and toward us as instructors was very positive and gratifying.

Secondly, there are some very talented, potential gymnasts in your town. There are a number of young gymnasts in your town. There are a number of young gymnasts in Raeford who have high aptitude and interest in the sport such that if a gym, proper equipment, coaching and time were available they might successfully

Now that President Carter has sent his comprehensive welfare reform programs to the Congress, perhaps it is in order to see what changes he is asking. They are, to say the least, sweeping.

The package is a large and complex one that, according to the President, will provide jobs for those who need work, establish fairer and more uniform cash benefits, promote family stability and improve the self-respect of recipients. Of course, many of his proposals may be modified or altered by Congress.

The Carter Plan does away with Supplemental Security Income, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Food Stamps. Instead, the President proposes to give eligible families flat cash payments depending on their needs and circumstances.

Perhaps one of the most important parts of the plan is the one to help people go to work -- the Jobs Program. The President wants to create up to 1.4 million jobs and job training slots. Of these, 300,000 would be part-time and it is hoped many unemployed people could be placed in private sector jobs. The new jobs would be for low income families with children, not just for people receiving welfare under the present system. The public sector jobs would pay the minimum wage, except in states where the minimum is higher than the federal. All of the jobs will be created training for skills useful in the private sector. Jobs with flexible hours, including part-time jobs, would be included to meet the needs of parents with young children.

As proposed, the Carter plan is projected to cost \$30.7 billion in 1978; the Administration has calculated that \$27.9 billion of that

### CLIFF BLUE ...

## People & Issues

OPINION POLL...I attended a social gathering a few evenings ago at which about 100 citizens were present including judges, legislators, party chairmen and just ordinary tax-paying citizens. I passed out an Opinion Poll Ballot and here are the results:

Question 1: "Do you favor the proposed revision of the Treaty between the United States and Panama in which the Panama Canal would be given back to Panama with some safeguards for the United States?" Answers: Yes 32. No 42.

Question 2: How do you feel President Carter is doing? Answers: Good 51. Average 30. Below Average 2.

Question 3: Do you favor succession for North Carolina governors? Answers: Yes 50. No 32.

Question 4: What kind of job do you feel Governor Hunt is doing? Answers: Good 42. Average 29. Below Average 5.

## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan



amount would come from existing programs or savings and \$2.8 billion would be additional cost. Not included in that cost estimate, however, was \$3.4 billion in expanded earned income tax credits for middle-income persons who would not receive income supplements.

Originally, President Carter had said that the Administration's welfare revisions would have "no higher initial cost than the present system." That "no higher initial cost" statement drew a great deal of fire, especially from financially pressed state and local governments looking to Washington for relief. On August 6th, when the President made his formal proposals, he said that his decision to add more money came after very careful consultation with state and local leaders, and he stated that the additional funds would provide more than \$2.1 billion in fiscal relief to the states, particularly those which had borne the heaviest burdens.

The President itemized the cost of the proposed program as follows: Employment and Training Programs: \$8.8 billion; Cash Assistance: \$19.2 billion; Earned Income Tax Credit: \$1.5 billion; Emergency Assistance Block Grant: \$.6 billion; Child Care Deduction: \$.6 billion.

All of these figures are in 1978 dollars, so inflation will push the actual numbers up by the time the program goes into effect.

Any welfare bill is controversial, and this one will be no different. It will be studied and re-studied in committee and I want to see just what changes are proposed. But I can generally support the idea of giving work to those who can work instead of furnishing them food and money.



Question 5: Do you like rigid enforcement of the 55 mile per hour law? Answers: Yes 69. No 15.

Question 6: What kind of a job do you feel Jimmy Green is doing as Lieutenant governor? Answers: Good 48. Average 30. Below Average 3.

Question 7: What kind of a job do you feel John Ingram is doing as Commissioner of Insurance? Answers: Good 52. Average 20. Below Average 9.

PANAMA CANAL...Speaking of the Panama Canal, we venture the opinion that the issue will "make or break" quite a few Washington legislators before the issue is finally settled, in both the House and Senate. Yes, we say "House and Senate" because the House will likely have to vote on certain issues growing out of the proposed treaty before it is put into effect. With the "drop of the hat," you can get a lively discussion underway at most any crossroads service station or country store when the subject is mentioned.

Among the several Democrats expected to seek the Democratic nomination to the U.S. Senate in North Carolina come voting time in May, you can expect both sides to be represented by candidates.

COURT CANDIDATES...Tar Heel voters will have two seats on the State Supreme Court to fill come primary and election time in 1978. Justices Dan K. Moore and I. Beverly Lake will be retiring due to the mandatory age retirement law for judges. State Court of Appeal Judge David M. Britt has been telling friends that he will definitely be a candidate for the seat now held by Justice Lake.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE...The writer was a member of the N.C. General Assembly which enacted its first minimum wage law in 1957 and was one of its supporters. Yes, we need a minimum wage law, but it should not be unreasonable for beginning workers and for workers unable to produce sufficiently to justify the required wage. Only last week we noticed that the unemployment figures had risen from 6.9 in July to 7.1 in August.

BANK OFFICIALS...Wonder how many bank executives in North Carolina and elsewhere follow the same practices as did Budget Director Lance while he was chief executive of a couple of Georgia banks? The revealing of Lance's practices may in the long run lead to the out-lawing of practices which should have long ago been stopped for the good of depositors, stockholders and bank executives!

Gymnastically yours,  
John H. Row and Tim Rand