

The News - Journal



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Hope for maturity

Let's hope David Funderburk has matured at least 100 percent since he wrote "If the Blind Lead the Blind: the Scandal Regarding the Mis-Teaching of Communism in American Universities" three years ago.

At this writing, Funderburk was headed for confirmation as U.S. ambassador to Romania.

He told a Senate committee September 28 he wished he hadn't written the book, which alleges the U.S. news media, colleges and Evangelist Billy Graham had participated in a "whitewash" of communism.

In a nutshell, Funderburk's replies to questions put by U.S. Sen. Paul E. Tsongas, a Massachusetts Democrat, indicated Funderburk made allegations which had no support in fact.

One example: "In this work," the book says, "I make the serious charge that many of the American university professors deliberately spread lies about communism for reasons of personal benefit and profit."

But in replying to Tsongas's question: "Who is deliberately spreading lies?" Funderburk said at the hearing, "I don't have a list." When Tsongas persisted, asking, "Name me one," Funderburk told the committee he had not meant to charge any professor with spreading lies. But he said some professors did not tell the students about the harsher side of communism.

The book smacks of a technique used by the late Sen. Joe McCarthy in his communist hunts of the 1950s.

"There may well be," the senator would say when asked whether certain numbers of communists or Communist sympathizers had infiltrated an organization.

There's nothing wrong with hunting Communists and their fellow travelers, especially among public figures, then exposing them publicly. But "it's not what you do, but the way that you do it," as the old saying goes.

The report of Funderburk's replies to questions put at the Senate committee hearing shows the book was not written on the basis of the careful, scholarly research naturally expected particularly of a college professor, which Funderburk is (at Campbell University).

Sen. Charles Percy, an Illinois Republican, praising Funderburk at the hearing, called him a highly qualified expert on Romania, fluent in the country's language. Knowledge of the country and ability to speak its language are obviously valuable assets for anyone considered for assignment to a specific foreign nation. But maturity of judgment is an essential for such a position, as it is for every sensitive position, since the people of a nation judge a country on the character displayed by its ambassador.

Funderburk has expressed regret that he wrote the book and let us hope this is evidence he has gained the maturity the position requires. Maturing doesn't mean a person looks kindlier at Communists and communism; simply, in one respect, that he uses the tools of maturity to educate the uninformed and misinformed about them.

--BL

Sauce for gander

A recent news report says former North Carolina Sen. Robert Morgan has no kind words for North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms but it wasn't always that way.

The report quotes Morgan as saying during Helm's 1976 campaign for reelection to the U.S. Senate that Helms was a man of integrity.

This was part of his reply in reference to statements made during the campaign between Helms and Democrat John Ingram for Helms's seat.

Presumably, Morgan was complying with the Senate tradition that prohibits one Senator from attacking a fellow senator when he paid the compliment. It also may have been Morgan's way of avoiding any suggestion he was supporting Ingram, the state insurance commissioner who has been a controversial figure.

Since the 1980 campaign, however, Morgan, as the recent news report says, would not repeat that 1976 compliment. Thanks to Helms's Congressional Club principally, Morgan lost his Senate seat, though by a narrow margin, to a hitherto unknown Republican. Helms's participation in the campaign wasn't direct, but it was there just the same and consequently can be rated a breaking with the Senate tradition that Morgan and others adhered to.

One consequence is that any member of the Senate can feel free to support actively any opponent campaigning for Helms's seat in 1982.

As the old saying goes, what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

--BL

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
At this time of year a lot of people get interested in which college football team is Number One and others in which TV network is Number One.

With the networks it's not hard to tell, although I can't see what difference it makes as none can come in lower than third. They pretend the rating reflects the number of people tuned in, but a more accurate reflection can be found in what they charge for commercials.

For example, CBS charges \$175,000 for a 30-second commercial, which gives you an idea of how many people there are in this country with false teeth that won't stay in. It has a prime-time ad revenue of \$29.7 million a week. ABC has \$27.7 million a week and NBC \$26 million.

With revenue like that, I'd settle for third any time.

The college football rating system could learn from this. Like it is, ratings are determined by a bunch of coaches who're too busy

worrying about their own team and their job to know much about anybody else's and a bunch of sports writers who didn't play football past the 8th grade.

As a result, one team turns up Number One this week, another next week, although neither has played the other.

There's a better, more accurate way. Like the networks, it should be based on the amount of revenue pulled in.

If a Notre Dame game takes in \$800,000 Saturday afternoon

and a Michigan game takes in only \$750,000, Notre Dame is Number One. At the end of the season the team that grossed the most is Number one, even if it's on probation.

There may be something unreliable about this, but if you've spent the whole week trying to figure out where to cut the national budget in some place where it doesn't hurt you, your thinking naturally becomes a little fuzzy.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

'Are you coming to bed, or are you going to read all night?'



It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

I have a favor to ask of sports writers: please give complete identification.

There are these pictures in the September 30 Fayetteville Times, on the front page of the sports section.

That's what inspired me to write about incomplete reports. One picture shows Alfredo Griffin and Mike Heath in a scuffle. Alfredo Griffin is landing a glove on Mike Heath (it says so in the caption.) The other one shows "Peacemaker" Bill Haller "breaking up the fracas."

I know it's something that happened in a baseball game because the two opponents are wearing baseball uniforms. I had to assume that they were in major league games as newspapers just don't fool with fracas in minor league games.

Since I am not familiar with everybody who is playing major league baseball, I did not know who Alfredo Griffin and Mike Heath are playing for. Furthermore, the captions didn't let me know.

I read the major league games' stories close to the pictures to find out what game the fracas erupted in. But none of the reports said a dadgum thing about a fracas. I just read the stories about the other games on Page 6-D. None of them mentioned a fracas, either. In fact, none mentioned either player. All this means, though, is neither did anything terrific in the ball game. Besides this, neither caption gave any idea what the fracas was about. Since the guy identified as Mike Heath is wearing a Gattler's helmet and the person identified as Alfredo is not, I assume it has something to do with the pitching or with Heath trying to make a base.

Excuse me, I just took the trouble to read the box scores on page 6-D, risking damage to my eyesight from trying to make out that teentise weentise print, and found out what game and what teams the participants were involved with. Heath is listed as the catcher for Oakland, and Griffin the shortstop for Toronto.

The box score and summary shows Heath got one hit in for times at bat and Griffin was charged with one error.

The score by innings shows Oakland won, 5-1.

Daily newspapers get the information about high school games from school correspondents, when staff writers aren't assigned to cover the contests. Each correspondent covers his or her home game.

This arrangement generally is satisfactory but not every time. For examples, some high school correspondents, most of whom are students, reports the lineups and box scores only of their teams. Then once in a while a correspon-

dent won't report the game at all if his or her team loses.

This, of course, is the way sports editors earn their pay. It also is one of the major causes of premature aging of sports editors.

The New York Times is strict about the information that news reports, including reports of high school games, should contain. The form for basketball game, for example, has a blank space for the name of the referee. That the management expected as a matter of course to be filled in along with other miscellaneous information, such as the final score.

High school correspondents, however, generally speaking, do not place the same importance, as the management of a newspaper does, on letting the readers of the sports pages know who refereed the game. So at times callers reporting basketball games, when asked by the sports writer who the "ref" was, would say they didn't find out. One sports writer didn't see the point of calling back to the schools or having the correspondents find out from coaches who the refs were.

He simply wrote "Ignoto," in the space reserved for the ref's name.

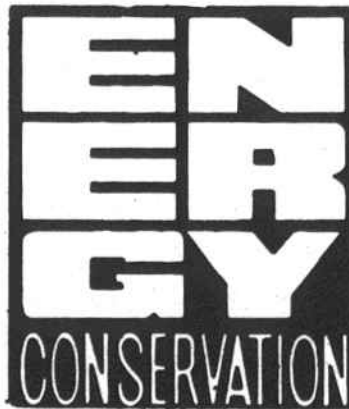
"Ignoto" is Italian for "I don't know."

"Ignoto," however, caught the attention of a Times executive, who didn't know Italian but observed that "Ignoto" was awfully busy with high school basketball games. In fact, he even "officiated" in two games in a single night, according to the box scores.

So the exec. suggested that a sports writer be assigned to interview Ignoto and do a good story on him.

The result, of course, was Ignoto retired immediately thereafter from officiating and was never heard of again.

What happened to the sports writer who created the referee I don't know. I do know that the Times has a reputation for being very sticky about reporting fiction, even so small a one as a referee of a high school basketball game.



Letter To The Editor

Editor, The News-Journal
A Tribute to Jason

As many of you know, the Hoke Co. Children's Center was going to close in September (last month) if we didn't come up with some children. There were none in this county eligible to be enrolled, so since we're not county funded I started looking in Cumberland Co. for children that might not have a program. Thanks to many people we located some children, all in dire need of a program; consequently, the Center was able to stay open. We are Title XX - funded (federal money) -- they didn't care if the children were from another County and we certainly didn't care; after all, all children are God's children, and if they need us, we're going to be here to help them!

One of the children who came into our program was a beautiful child named Jason. He was 2½ years old, blond-haired, blue-eyed, and severely handicapped, he couldn't see very well either, yet those big blue eyes constantly wandered, trying to see whatever of his world he could see. He cried alot; was it because he was in pain, or felt discomfort and couldn't tell anyone? He began progressing to where he didn't cry as much, he started smiling more often. He seemed more at ease. What happened then? You see, Jason died.

Did he just get tired? Could his body not fight the obstacles placed in front of him anymore? I watched him fight for his life for 2 days, attached to a respirator, until he couldn't fight anymore. Not only did I watch him go through this terrible ordeal, I watched the pain in his parents' eyes as they saw what their son was going through. How many of us can really imagine how it feels to bear a severely handicapped child, watch him suffer through life, having to deal with hospitals, clinics, expensive equipment, physical therapy, hours and hours spent in special feeding techniques, etc., to have it all end in this way? Anytime a child dies, it is a tragedy, but a child who wasn't given much to begin with really is the worst of tragedies; the one thing given to him was a set of parents who cared so much for him and devoted so much of their life to him. My sadness and pain was almost as great for them as it was, and still is for Jason. To tell you what kind of people they were is to tell you that Jason's mom, Sharon, stated she had some physical therapy equipment to donate to our center and that later on she'd like to do volunteer work with us, so that she may help other children. Jason's father called me Friday afternoon after Jason had died and

told me they wanted no flowers, etc., that they would like for all monetary donations to be sent to the Center. He and Sharon informed their relatives and friends of this.

I would like to set up the "Jason Beers Memorial Fund" so that Jason's spirit will live on forever. He was a child, a very, very precious child to his family and to those of us who were fortunate to work with him and help him, even in the smallest way. Our hearts are very saddened by his death, but with a memorial fund, the parents feel other children can be helped through whatever amount of money may come in. This money will be used for other children who have needs for equipment, medical attention and services that are more expensive to families than you could ever imagine.

I cannot express my respect and admiration for Sharon and James, who, in all of their pain, just want to help other children who need help. They are so saddened, yet so giving and unselfish; they've been there and know what other parents go through. What breaks my heart is thinking of talking to Sharon last Thursday on the phone; she wanted to plan a get-together for all of the parents of children at the Center for Thanksgiving, because we're one family. We stick together in times of a crisis, and the other parents have been supportive; one mother came up to the hospital with us because she knew the fear the parents were facing. I guess we've all been strengthened by this and have become even more aware of how lucky we all are in so many ways.

I wish I could take all of Jason's saddest pain away. This is the saddest thing I've ever encountered. Please find it in your heart to reach out to this family, even if you don't know them. I'm sure a card or letter would be appreciated, coming from Hoke County. You don't have to know someone to show them that you care. Any donations to Jason's memorial fund will help the parents feel a little better about what has happened, especially if they know other children will be helped. You may contact me at 875-5074 for a donation and/or the address of the family. Please, please reach out to them. I'm sorry many of you never met Jason. Hoke Co. has always been very supportive of our Center, and I'm counting on you now.

Jason, you may not be here anymore, but we'll love you and miss you forever. You'll never leave our hearts...

Judy C. Hendrix & Staff
Hoke Co. Children's Center

Wisdom

We must be silent before we can listen;
We must listen before we can learn;
We must learn before we can prepare;
We must prepare before we can serve;
We must serve before we can lead.

--William A. Ward

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Sam C. Morris, General Manager