

The News - Journal

NNA
NATIONAL NEWS
ASSOCIATION

North Carolina
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance
Per Year—\$8.00 6 Months—\$4.25 3 Months—\$2.25

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.
(USPS 388-260)

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1982

Fund lower education

With the Reagan government cutting federal funds for elementary and secondary education, among other things, the General Assembly should take up at least some of the slack.

We suggest it use some of the funds which it usually provides for the state-supported colleges, universities and even community colleges for the purpose.

As one citizen suggested, this makes sense in at least two ways: --The state's colleges and universities, generously supported by the Legislature, thanks to the state's taxpayers, are equal by and large to the nation's best.

--Most of the students who benefit from these colleges and universities come from the state's public schools, starting with kindergarten (for many) and going through high school.

These students, however, find the doors of education beyond high school closed to them if they are not prepared by their early schooling for them. Not only does defective early education close the college doors but also the doors to opportunity to get the better jobs.

Federal cuts in the name of reducing government spending are coming to one of the essentials of proper learning, the remedial reading program of Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Many children learn to read well -- well enough to make it through college if they are otherwise qualified -- without the Title I help. Many others, however, would have to forget about education beyond high school without that help. And in either case, defective ability to read makes other qualities necessary for college or for higher-grade employment practically useless.

If it does nothing else to make up the federal loss in primary and secondary education money, the Legislature should put up enough to guarantee continuation of the programs helping students in the essentials.

Of these essentials, the Legislature should guarantee continuation of help in the ancient fundamentals -- readin', writin' and 'rithmetic, since without a good quality of skills in these the students not only can forget about college but about advancing to the higher-paying jobs.

From the practical standpoint, the state legislators should consider this; a well-educated primary and high school student becomes a higher-paid taxpayer, whose income provides the state with more money for higher education, among other services.

--BL

El Salvador parallels

People in and out of Congress opposed to U.S. involvement in El Salvador have been drawing a parallel between any troop commitment in the Central American internal conflict and the American experience in Vietnam.

In view of allegations that Soviet and Cuban elements have been directing operations of the guerrillas in El Salvador, a more accurate parallel of U.S. involvement would be the Spanish civil war of the latter part of the 1930s.

That war aside from the motives of Spaniards of both sides doing the fighting was a test of weapons and techniques of Nazi and Fascist against Communist. One authority in the United States called it years later a rehearsal for World War II.

In El Salvador, American interveners would be opposing Communist interveners. Both sides have been supplying weapons to their allies, but so far, apart from a small force of U.S. military advisers, no foreign troops have been committed to the internal struggle.

On the other hand, Americans can see in the matter of bare manpower assignments a parallel in El Salvador with Vietnam. American military advisers were sent into the South Vietnam conflict in the early 1960s. But in 1965, conventional American military forces (the 173rd Brigade's, based on Okinawa) were sent into the fighting. As everyone of high school age in those years knows, the 173rd was followed by huge forces from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. (This doesn't mean that U.S. military advisers are followed inevitably by conventional American military forces when matters aren't proceeding satisfactorily in the presidential administrator's view. American advisers worked in Laos in the late 1950s, and also have worked in India, Pakistan and other nations throughout the world, but weren't followed by regular Army or Marines.)

On the other hand, however, the difference in geography, the nature of El Salvador and its neighboring Central American nations, and distance from the United States weakens, at the very least, the validity of the comparison of El Salvador with Vietnam.

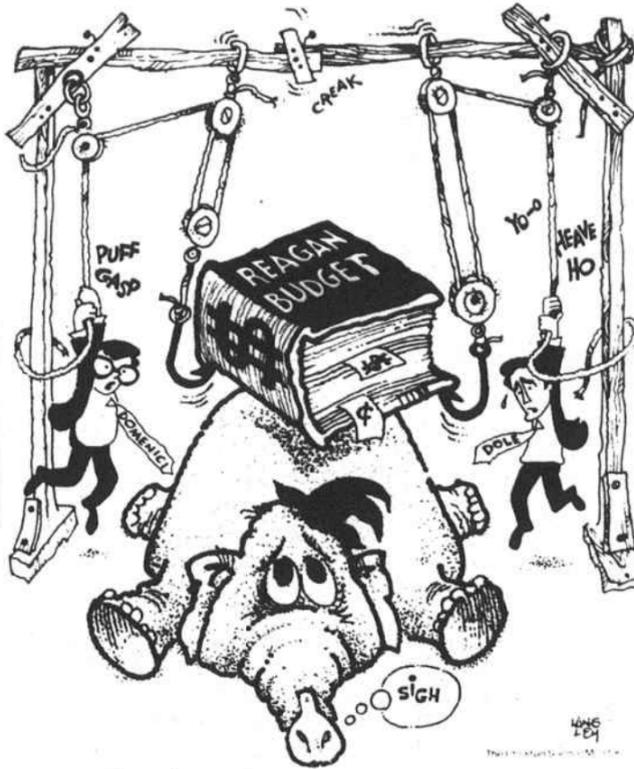
On the other hand, once again, we hope both Communist and American leaders are considering the longrange effects of even this limited (so far) confrontation in El Salvador between Communist and American.

Such consideration should have both sides persuading their El Salvadoran friends to go to the peace table.

--BL

VITA—Volunteer Income Tax Assistance—can help you complete your tax return. Call your local IRS office for details.

A public service message from the Internal Revenue Service



It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

The judges who suspended jail sentences on conditions the culprits leave town, violated the law themselves.

District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree after reading our editorial on the subject, told us that the U.S. Supreme Court quite a while ago issued a ruling that prohibits judges from compelling a defendant to move from one court jurisdiction to another, as a condition of a suspension of a prison sentence.

The cases we referred to involved a man in Texas convicted of possessing a gun at a rock concert, and a woman in Florida, on her most recent vice conviction. The man in Texas had moved to that state from Michigan, and the woman had been living in Florida.

The judge said, however, there is one legal way of getting an undesirable out of the community if he or she is convicted, especially if the culprit had come to the area from another state. The judge can give an active sentence, but then allow the defendant 24 hours to get personal matters in order before reporting to the sheriff to start the jail term.

That gives the defendant a choice of going to jail or of becoming a fugitive. Of course this type may be undesirable but he probably isn't stupid, so he'll take the opportunity to get his affairs in order, but about a thousand miles away, and he's got 24 hours to get there.

The chances also are that no one will bother pursuing the fugitives to bring him back. People convicted and sentenced for more serious things, of course, wouldn't be given 24 hours to get squared away, unless it was known he had too much to lose by getting lost as rapidly as possible.

A couple of Gastonia boys

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, March 14, 1957

County commissioners of Hoke and Moore Counties held a joint meeting at the Hoke County courthouse Tuesday night and discussed the problems of transferring Little River Township from Hoke to Moore from every angle they could think of, and reached agreement in all areas on the matter.

Carl Morris, resident of Raeford for the past 46 years and mayor during World War II, died in Moore County Hospital shortly after 6:00 o'clock Monday morning.

Raeford Chamber of Commerce directors and several guests Monday night discussed ways and means of making Raeford Chamber of Commerce an effective instrument, and adopted a program of education and participation to "Keep Raeford Ahead."

Mayor Alfred Cole received word this week that the motorcade from the Wilmington Azalea Festival will arrive in Raeford at 4:45 o'clock next Tuesday afternoon.

playing for different teams have been named to the national sports-writers' basketball All America first team and could meet sometime in the NCAA tournament -- James Worthy of North Carolina, and Eric Floyd of Georgetown.

But either or both also could meet another North Carolina-bred basketball player in the tournament -- Lucious Hailey, a senior star for Middle Tennessee State U. at Murfreesboro. Hailey's home is Wadesboro, and he starred for the Bowman Senior High basketball team before going to college. Hailey went to Brewton-Parker Junior College at Mt. Vernon, Ga., before transferring to Middle Tennessee. Before leaving Georgia, however, he was named the 1979-80 Georgia Junior College Player of the Year.

Middle Tennessee made the NCAA tournament by winning the Ohio Valley Tournament March 6. It was the first time the school's basketball team was to play in the NCAA event but had a tough assignment in the first round, facing Kentucky. (This was written the day before the tournament opened Thursday.)

I got all this information about Hailey from the *Anson Record* of Wadesboro, the only newspaper in which I saw the reference to Hailey's scheduled tournament appearance in, though it might have been in other newspapers in the state.

Hailey's high school coach was Bill Thacker.

Hailey may have saved Middle Tennessee at the least trouble of having to go through overtimeplay to win the Ohio tournament.

Hailey says in the *Record* that he "saved the day with a block shot in the last three seconds" of the championship game with Western Kentucky. When the game ended, Middle T. had onw, 54-52.

15 years ago

Thursday, March 16, 1967

Raeford Town Board has agreed to allow contractors hook onto water and sewer lines the new elementary school now under construction off Bethel Road.

Sergeant Major Jesse Gullede retires after 40 years with North Carolina National Guard last week.

Two young brothers, Michael Anthony Blue, 10, and Earnest Emmett Blue, 11, drowned last Saturday afternoon in a farm pond on the Crawford Thomas place after the younger had fallen into the water and his brother attempted to rescue him.

The Hoke High Band uniforms drive soared far above its \$6,000 goal this week when several major contributions arrived after the drive was unofficially concluded.

The Hoke High School Bucks were knocked from the State Tournament last Thursday night by Northwest Guilford, 84-56.

Letters To The Editor

Editor,
The News-Journal

As a resident of Raeford, I am extremely interested in the whole community's progressive growth. That's why I was so elated this week when I was privileged to hear the details of a proposed apartment complex.

It is no secret that moderately priced rental housing is hard to find in Raeford. That's why so many of our teachers and professional people are living in other towns and commuting to work. Not only is it a shame that these people have to be so inconvenienced, but it is also a shame that they earn their money here and spend it elsewhere. The City's businesses can certainly stand additional income. And the City itself would benefit from an increase in its tax base. What's more, from what I have heard, this apartment complex would be an aesthetic asset to the community.

I have seen nothing in the newspaper about this proposed project, and I suspect very few other residents have heard anything about it. That is why I took very careful notes when the complex was described to me. I would like to pass on the details, as I know them, to your other readers.

This new complex would be called Lantern Lane Apartments. It would be built on a 6-acre tract off Highway 211, adjacent to the City Line. There would be a total of 48 one bedroom and two bedroom apartments, probably four to a single story building, and designed in brick and wood. Approximately 50% of the complex would be designed for the elderly and handicapped. That's why the particular location was chosen near medical facilities and shopping.

This apartment complex is intended for moderate income tenants (\$12 - 22,000). Rents would be in the neighborhood of \$175 for single and \$195 for two bedroom units. There will be no Section 8 or rental assistance involved. And the project will be financed by an already approved Farmers Home loan. This also provides concrete assurance that the complex will be a visual asset to the community because the loan agreement requires it.

Off-street parking will be provided close to the buildings. The streets will have curbing, gutters and sidewalks. The buildings will be nicely landscaped by the builders, but the tenants will have the right to add their own gardening touches to individualize their front and back yards. The builders will also be totally responsible for maintenance, outside as well as inside, thus assuring the long term good looks of the complex. Besides the housing area, two recreation areas are to be developed on the 6-acre tract.

It will take about six to eight months to complete the project, but if construction is begun in June, some units will be ready for occupancy in September.

To my personal knowledge, there is no apartment zoning in Raeford, but I feel we should not let this become an obstacle to acquiring such a totally rewarding asset for the community.

Sincerely yours,
Jean Hodges

Editor, The News-Journal

We have noticed many "Letters to the Editor" recently on the subject of potholes. Your own newspaper has probably printed some of these as well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share with your readers some information about the condition of our highway system, how it got that way and what we're doing about it. As your readers can tell, we are experiencing pavement failures (i.e., "potholes") across a large segment of our highway system.

The potholes of today were really "born" several winters ago as tiny cracks in the surface of the highway pavement. Over the years they have now reached "maturity" as a full-blown potholes due to moisture seeping into those ever-growing cracks.

When this moisture freezes between layers of pavement, the ice expands and exerts heavy pressure on the pavement, causing it to break up. Traffic on top of this weakened pavement accelerates the damage to the roads.

The way to prevent the initial pavement cracks which result in potholes is to protect the road surface with a timely resurfacing or sealing program such that moisture can't get down through the pavement in the first place.

In the past, we have not had the funds to really do an adequate job of resurfacing. Last fiscal year (July 1, 1980 - June 30, 1981) we could only resurface about 380 miles of our 56,000-mile paved-road system. We ought to be resurfacing about 2,600 miles a year to keep up with it.

Thanks to legislative approval of the "Governor's Good Roads Program", we'll have \$80 million to resurface about 2,900 miles this current fiscal year. By the end of this month, our Department will

have let to contract approximately 2,875 miles of resurfacing at an estimated cost of \$78.3 million.

That resurfacing, over and above the 2,600 miles, will help us cut into the existing backlog of resurfacing needs and subsequently reduce future winter damage.

Right now our patch crews are making repairs to the roads as fast as possible. Because of the cold weather, some of these repairs are temporary and permanent repairs will be made as soon as the weather warms up.

Hot asphalt, required for making permanent repairs, is not available during the cold winter months. The permanent repair process also requires that damaged road surfaces be prepared by some excavation prior to the use of the hot asphalt. The temporary "cold patch" technique is being used now so we can quickly insure the safety of motorists.

Resurfacing work to protect our roads in the future will begin again in the spring as the temperatures permit this work to be done.

We in the Department of Transportation appreciate the concern, interest and patience by the motoring public regarding their highway system as we work to take care of existing damage as well as protect the system from future damage with our resurfacing program.

Regards,
W.R. "Bill" Roberson, Jr.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to an article I read in a newspaper last night, lawyers getting ready to handle the trial of a mass murderer estimated the trial would last about eight months. They said it as though it's routine procedure.

I guess it is. It's nothing these days for a trial to last six weeks, two months, six months or whatever. One civil suit ran thirteen years before everybody got tired and called the thing off.

I got to thinking about this. If it's taking longer and longer to try a criminal and at the same time more and more criminals are being produced, won't that result in longer and longer waits for a man to get tried?

Say an 18-year-old is charged with stealing a car. He might be middle aged or older before he's tried and found guilty or innocent, depending on what price range lawyer he can hire.

A man shouldn't have to go through life with a thing like that hanging over him, so I've figured out a solution.

Some men, say an alumnus of Harvard, when they have a son born, immediately apply for his entrance to that school 18 years hence. This assures that the boy, when he finishes high school, can go right into the college of his father's choice without waiting.

Shouldn't a father be equally concerned about getting his son a speedy trial if he runs afoul of the law? Shouldn't he apply for a time slot on the court docket as soon as the boy is born, to be utilized if the necessity arises? Forethoughtfulness is what gives some people an edge over others. Getting a son a speedy trial ought to be as important as getting him into Harvard.

It's something that's worth thinking about, but not for long.
Yours faithfully,
J.A.



Read Romans 14: 7-9
If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.
—Romans 14:8 (RSV)

I received word that a very dear friend of mine had just died. Many thoughts came to me. I wondered whether her daughter, who was about to graduate from high school, should participate in the senior class festivities. I answered my own question: Of course she should. Her mother would have wanted it that way.

Suddenly came the overwhelming thought: "Would have wanted?" Why the past tense? She doesn't want! Her disease-ridden body is dead, but all that made her the dear person she was, is alive forever!

I realized then, like never before that our loved ones in Christ are not dead; they are truly alive and eagerly wait for us to know the eternal joy which they now experience.

PRAYER: O God, make us experience the comfort that comes from knowing that those whom we mourn now enjoy being in Your presence. Give us courage to persevere so that we may someday be with them and You. Amen.