

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1982

Something for everyone

Hoke County's Arts and Crafts Festival of Celebration of the Arts '82 starting Saturday will offer something for everyone—men, women, boys and girls.

There will be the art and crafts work of Hoke County students and teachers, of visiting professionals, including music and drama, and one visiting experienced artist, Beth Turner Bowers of Southern Pines, will be painting portraits of students three days of the Festival.

The Festival will be going on at three schools simultaneously—Hoke High, Upchurch Junior High, and J.W. Turlington Elementary.

Everyone ought to see the exhibits and the shows, for personal enjoyment, to see what the students are learning in school in the arts, and, by attendance alone, to encourage students to keep going at it.

Holding the Festival and public events like it is obviously worthy of encouragement.

--BL

Hunt is a what?

We see by the papers that the Congressional Club of conservative Republicans and Democrats is putting out bumper stickers reading "Kennedy-Hunt '84".

This, of course, is an effort to link Democrat Jim Hunt, our governor, with liberal Democrat Ted Kennedy, a senator for Massachusetts.

This is about as ridiculous as saying Jesse Helms, the Club's guiding light, is really chairman of the Communist Party in Lower Slobbovia.

Nevertheless, the Club will push the Kennedy-Hunt idea, and, as the North Carolina senatorial campaign of 1980 told us, it will get votes against Hunt, whatever he'll be running for in 1984, if anything.

--BL

Reagan vs. press

From The Christain Science Monitor

President Reagan has usually shown a genial give-and-take with the press that be-speaks confidence both in his own leadership and in the press's democratic role. It is important that this relationship not be lost now that, like so many leaders before him, he has begun to defend his policies by criticizing "slanted" coverage of them.

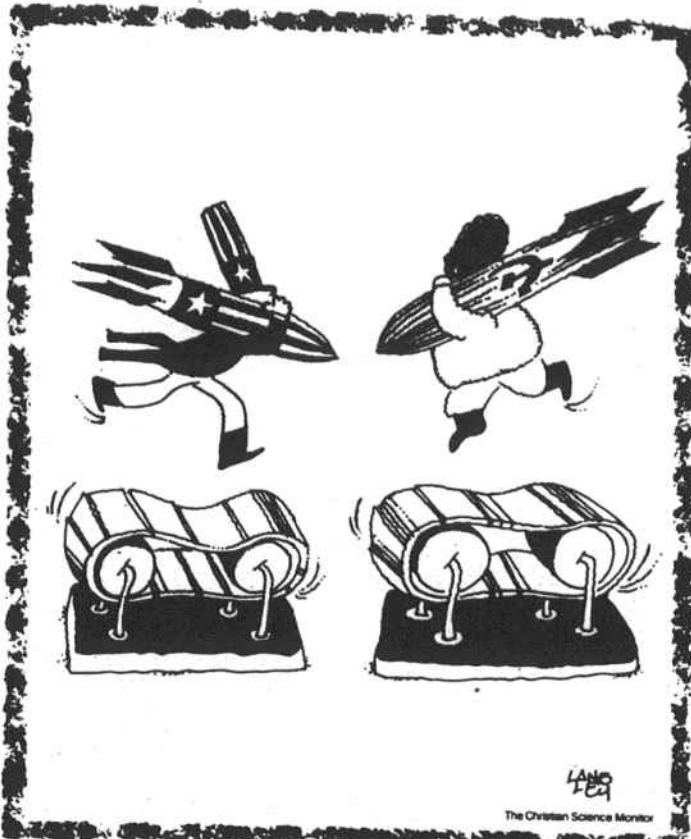
Evidently the United States is again reaching what might be called Churchill-and-Jefferson time. Time to recall Winston Churchill's reference to democracy as the worst form of government except for all the others. And Thomas Jefferson's reference to the opinion of the people as the basis of American government -- so important that he would prefer newspapers without a government to a government without newspapers.

These leaders may have put things boldly. But they knew democracy, for all its untidiness, is better than efficient tyranny. And they knew a free press, for all its flaws, is essential to democracy. The risk of differing slants has to be taken for the full scrutiny of government that should be as much desired by those in power as out. As a third-world fighter for press freedom has noted, a censored or self-censored press places leaders at the great disadvantage of not seeing themselves as their people see them.

So it is probably a vain hope for Mr. Reagan to say in an interview that he wishes reporters would "trust us, put themselves in our hands," when dealing with sensitive information. It is no reflection on him or his administration to say that the press's trust in a government's integrity has to be combined with alertness to the possibility of mistakes, inaccuracies, or deliberate deception by officials. The Watergate years alone would be sufficient to warn that the press could not fulfill its duty to the public without constant testing of government information from the various points of view represented in the public.

In other remarks, Mr. Reagan complained of "downbeat" economic coverage: "Is it news that some fellow out in South Succotash someplace has just been laid off, that he should be interviewed nationwide?" Apart from the unintended callousness of such an example, it seems to fly in the face of Mr. Reagan's repeated concern for all the nation's South Succotashes as opposed to big bad Washington. If some fellow someplace were singing the praises of present employment policy wouldn't Mr. Reagan be the first to want the media there?

With a free press, everybody has to take the bitter with the better. Mr. Reagan knows this as well as anyone, and we can imagine him coming up with a quip at his next news conference to show that he's not staying mad.



It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

I heard one of the Raeford bowlers the other night in Fayetteville turned the ball loose and it went rolling away -- behind her.

That's embarrassing. Reminds me of the poor kid in the backfield of Bethel High School's team in Haywood County playing its first game after being organized that fall.

It was third down, and the kid dropped back to punt.

He punted. The ball sailed straight up, like a balloon, then sailed backwards. One of the opposing players recovered it, about 15 yards behind the punter.

Speaking of football, the new television series, "Q.E.D." had some words which are modern but were not used till some time after the 1930s. The action takes place in the year 1912, but one of the characters mentions that he played tailback for Harvard. Us old geezers know that the tailback wasn't invented till the 1940s.

Then in one of the last scenes, the bad guy mutters terrible vengeance against the professor and his friends, as they float away in a balloon, escaping his grasp. The professor has snookered him into making a change in the bad guy's muttering grimly: "That's the worst mistake you've made in your life," and vows he'll make Prof and his friends pay for it if it takes the rest of his life.

All this terrible threat comes a few scenes after the bad guy has tried to have the Prof and his buddies executed by a firing squad (a friend posing as one of the soldiers sneaked around before the time of execution and loaded the firing squad's rifles with blanks.)

Here's the nasty villain making a pronouncement of murderous intent that not only the good guys but the audience as well knows about in advance.

There were no car chases in that episode. There was a variation on that action, though: the carload of good guys being chased by a squadron of horse-riding lancers. And that was another thing: one of these horsemen, supposedly an experienced rider, goes riding through the woods and gets knocked off his horse because he didn't think to duck when horse was heading for a low-lying tree limb. Still another manages to hold his lance slanting downward as horse takes a brush jump. The lance head goes into the ground with rider still holding it, causing the trooper to go tail over tea kettle to a forced landing on the old sod.

Still, the show was different and it's got some humor that was intended to be humor.

With all this scandalous stuff coming out about "unethical" recruiting and "benefits" for athletes going on, why don't we just drop the hypocrisy, flat out hire the athletes to go to school and play whatever it is they're talented at, for pay, and offer 'em an education. But let's not hold them to the rules used for the other students. Let 'em just go to whatever classes they want to go to and when they want to go to them, study whatever they want to, and don't make them maintain minimum grade to keep on playing. After all, they're here to play football, or basketball, or whatever.

The athletes ambitious to get a

good education in a specific field, be it physical education, chemistry, or English literature, will work conscientiously to get it, and the others who just want to play ball will get some education rubbed off on them, and there won't be any nonsense about a code of ethics to worry the schools.

And why is it that so many of the top-ranking college wrestlers become physicians and surgeons?

At times, though not many, during my 100 or so years in the news business, I get nagged to get a story into the paper (and sometimes it's already been in but the nagger didn't read the paper).

When nagging gets extreme, however, I have this method I borrowed from a low-income, struggling writer with nagging creditors.

After getting the fifth dunning notice in five weeks from the same creditor, he wrote the following to him:

"I want to explain the system I have for paying certain debts each month with what funds I have available.

"I put the names of all my creditors in a hat, shake up the hat, then drew a name out of the hat till the total amounts of the bills equals the total amount of the funds I have available to pay them at that time.

"Now, I have just received from you the fifth letter you have sent in a very short time demanding payment of your bill.

"I am hereby warning you that if I receive another such letter I shall leave your name out of the hat next month."

I never did find out whether the letter worked or not, but it was a good try.



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom.

—Isaiah 35:1 (RSV)

When we first came to Arizona, we were homesick for the lush, soft earth of Pennsylvania's mountains. How unforgetting the desert seemed! Pulverized stone underfoot; hot, bleached sky overhead. Trees? Plant life? Only creosote bushes, cactus, and gnarled mesquite trees.

I remember that bleak wilderness set the scene for the ministry of Jesus. He waited and prayed there. Freed from searing temptation, He emerged confident of His mission as the Christ.

Walking in the Arizona desert, I began to understand. Beneath these hard exteriors life is at work, waiting, waiting. After just one spring rain the desert begins to bloom. Touched from above, each plant yields something of its hard exterior to beauty and grace.

Lent is the Christian's wilderness. Now it is time for waiting, for cleansing, for letting go of all that threatens the core of our lives. We wait with our Lord. And if we wait with Christ, our deserts will bloom; our lives will come to know the joy that resurrection brings.

PRAYER: Christ, my Lord, grant me faith to wait patiently for Your touch to bring my life to fulfillment in Your kingdom. Amen.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



NEW MAIL SERVICE... Several days ago I read in *The Charlotte Observer* that private mail surface is growing fast in Charlotte.

Government mail service has been with us since George Washington's administration. From the way First Class Mail and lower class mail costs have skyrocketed in recent years, we are surprised that Private Mail Service has not burgeoned out before now.

To quote the *Observer*: "Duke Power decided even earlier, in 1979 when first-class postage reached 15 cents a letter, to avoid Uncle Sam's service. Duke now hand-delivers monthly bills in seven Carolina cities. Greensboro and Winston-Salem were added in September."

To continue Peter W. Barnes' *Observer* article: "By using 27 workers to drop off bills to 101,000 homes and apartments -- that's about 8 percent of the company's customers -- Duke Power says it shaved mailing costs by \$56,000 last year. At the outset, the company found that in densely populated areas it could deliver bills about 3 cents under the price of a postage stamp. Costs have increased, but not as fast as postage, and Duke circulates billing today at about seven cents a letter."

With government leading the way in inflation, it wouldn't surprise us to see other citizens follow in the Charlotte citizens foot tracks.

DOCTORS...We note that an evenly divided Supreme Court in Washington has freed doctors from the American Medical Association's restrictions on advertising and fees.

HOSTAGES...It's a tense situation when hardened criminals in prison take prison employees as hostages and hold them without reason while attempting to bargain for freedom. N.C. Prison guards handled themselves well when eight prison guards and employees were held as hostages last Wednesday. The people of North Carolina can be thankful for the manner in which the prison and officials handled the delicate and dangerous situation.

CARTER & REAGAN...In a way, President Reagan appears to be starting out about like his

predecessor -- Jimmy Carter. When Carter was running for president he promised to balance the Federal budget in the fourth year of his administration. He failed, and now it appears that Reagan will fail also. President Reagan was going to balance the budget in the second year of his administration, but it now appears that he will increase the debt balance faster, and in a larger way, than did Carter. His spokesman indicates some 90 -- odd million his second year. We hope that Congress will hold it down to the extent that Carter did in his fourth year, some \$40 odd billion!

JAY HUSKINS...I was talking with Jay Huskins of Statesville an evening last week at the N.C. State University dinner honoring T. Clyde Auman, Miss Mary Elizabeth Poole and Wilburn Clyde Calton. Rep. Huskins seemed to think that the courts in Washington would take several weeks in making a decision on the North Carolina redistricting situation.

ROY PARK...Roy Park, a native of Surry County in North Carolina, is fast becoming the owner of an ever-increasing number of newspapers in North Carolina and the nation. Last week he consummated the purchase of two additional newspapers, *The Robesonian*, a daily in Lumberton, which goes back more than 110 years, and the *Bladen Journal* in Elizabethtown. Park purchased the newspapers from the three descendants of the long time publisher of the newspaper, J.A. Sharpe, Sr., who served the *Robesonian* as editor and publisher from 1907 to 1947. The owners were J.S. Sharpe, Jr., Alfred M. Sharpe and Mrs. Courtney S. Ward, all of whom agreed to remain with the publication for a transition period.

The purchase of *The Robesonian* brings to 20 the number of daily newspapers owned by Park and a total of eleven publications in North Carolina, six dailies, three weeklies and two shoppers. In the United States his recent purchase makes a total of 53, 20 daily and 33 weekly or semi-weekly publications. His communication also include seven television 14 radio stations.

Letter To The Editor

Editor, *The News-Journal*.

This letter is in response to the superintendent's recent column concerning the issues that he has had to fight throughout his career as an administrator. I do agree with his statement that bad news has a tendency to make the headlines while positive news is generally found several pages later. Like him, I am not sure whether this is because of sensationalism on the part of the news media or just public taste. The reason is relatively unimportant. That's just the way it is.

I empathize with anyone who has had to fight for his beliefs as our superintendent says he has because I've also spent much of my lifetime doing just that. However, I'm quite sure that the financial reimbursement for administrators in some way compensates for the aggravation and sleepless nights that are commensurate with the positions.

It really hurts to think that the Commission for Public School Employees is pushing for large raises for administrators, up to \$12,500 for superintendents, \$14,000 for assistant superintendents, and \$5,800 for secondary school principals, while teachers, the very core of education, are being completely omitted. \$12,500 is more than the starting salary for teachers in N.C.

Recently the NCAE published a bulletin pertaining to the local supplements received by school employees throughout the state. It is hard to believe that some superintendents are paid over \$20,600 in local supplements alone -- more than the maximum teacher's salary in N.C. In Hoke County the superintendent's local supplement is \$6,000. Hoke was one of three counties in the state that killed the teachers' supplement. The "generous" \$100.00 the teachers received up to last year was done away with because of "lack of funds."

Teachers who have tried to speak up for their rights have been labeled "militant," "demanding," and/or "concerned about their welfare." Many excellent teachers have left the profession because of what is now being called "teacher burn out." Others are leaving because they are genuinely "concerned about their financial welfare," sanity, and self-esteem. Perhaps at salaries and supplements similar to those of our "superiors", teachers will also be able to compromise their objectives

towards education and justify these compromises in the name of what's best for students.

Sincerely,
Naomi Johnson

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
As everybody knows, the airlines are in financial trouble. One company lost \$140 million last year, another \$160 million, and one even \$400 million.

As a result airline officials are tossing in their sleep worrying about how to avoid bankruptcy.

That's because they haven't had proper training. Had they farmed for a while before going into the airline business they'd have found out how to operate at a loss year after year and still keep going.

The airlines aren't the only outfits in financial trouble. The Communist government of Poland owes \$28 billion, much of it to United States banks, and can't pay it back. Russia is way short of cash and is selling gold and diamonds at marked-down prices in order to keep supporting Cuba. England is head over heels in debt. France's answer to its financial problems is to drink more wine. Israel couldn't get along without help from the U.S. Italy needs help. El Salvador shouldn't even be mentioned. The United States is facing a \$100 billion deficit. All three major American car companies are losing big money. Savings and loans companies are shuddering at their plight. Some 100-year-old big city newspapers have closed down. Prince Charles needs more money now that a baby is on the way. The housing industry is in deep trouble due to high interest rates. Unemployment all around the world is up. You can't get waited on in a store. Repairmen don't know how to repair. American trains haven't run on time in years. Appliances break down a week after the warranty runs out. Congress doesn't know which way to turn.

Do you sometimes get the feeling that nobody knows how to run anything any more? Can you send somebody out here to help me change the ribbon on my typewriter?

Yours faithful,
J.A.



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