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THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1982

Candidates might bone up

Candidates running for election to Hoke County offices, including seats on the Board of Education, might use the time between now and election day to bone up on what they can and can't do as county commissioners or school board members.

The Institute of Government at Chapel Hill has all the information any candidate for any public office -- city, county, state or federal -- needs to know about the office he is shooting for.

--BL

Keep McCain open

From The Pilot of Southern Pines

It appears inevitable that the nearby McCain Hospital will be closed in the near future for the care and treatment of tuberculosis patients, although there are many who believe that the need for such a facility still exists and will exist for a long time.

The disease of tuberculosis is on the decline, but there are still outbreaks and it may not be possible to always treat patients in local hospitals.

McCain Hospital has a long and distinguished record of service, and in recent years it has undertaken the care and treatment of other lung ailments other than tuberculosis. There has been a movement at the state level, with the Legislature and the Department of Human Resources, to close such specialty hospitals, however. The closing of McCain as such a hospital has been delayed by strong public protest, especially from the Sandhills area, but how much longer such protests can prevail is a question.

If such a closing for this specific purpose should come, however, there should be no closing of the excellent facility for other services.

One proposal now under consideration is to use the facility for the care and treatment of the retarded or for general mental health purposes. The facility could be easily adapted for such use. Other uses should also be considered.

McCain offers too much to be abandoned.

Fire over Falklands

From The Christian Science Monitor

Britain is combining resoluteness with carefully measured pressure in its military actions in the Falklands. The world can only feel disappointment that the Falklands crisis has reached the point of shooting. But the military operations at this writing appear to have been precisely calculated and relatively restrained; presumably because Britain seeks at every turn to give Argentina an opportunity to step back from its unlawful course, and because the British are under constraints to minimize casualties. There is no taste for an all-out bash. The question is how far the shooting will go before the realities of the situation sink home in Buenos Aires. The battle is in effect a test of wills.

Reason still lies on the side of a negotiated settlement, and few look upon the British military pressures as other than setting the stage for further diplomacy. Now that the United States has come down squarely on the side of its British ally -- and it could do no less morally or politically -- Washington's role as a mediator seems effectively diminished.

A next logical step is to move the diplomatic focus to the United Nations, as Britain and the United States show some signs of doing. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar already is engaged in a vigorous effort to find a solution that would enable Argentina to withdraw its forces from the Falklands and begin talks without intolerable loss of face. Britain seems lukewarm to another Security Council meeting. But it must weigh the international criticism it would invite if it resisted a UN initiative to bring the crisis to an end -- and the prospect of heavy loss of life if it remained adamant. Inasmuch as Britain is acting under the legal imprimatur of a Security Council resolution and the UN Charter, it could hardly refuse to go along with further council action.

It is Argentina, however, that faces anguishing choices. Pride, honor, prestige -- all these are now bound up with the sorry predicament it has gotten itself into. Can it extricate itself without a change of government, with all the risk and instability this would entail? That is impossible to know. But, if the Argentinians are acting out of true national self-interest rather than jingoistic emotion, they will reflect on the benefits to be gained by swallowing their pride, which is not a good guide to action in any circumstance. There is, after all, no dispute of substance over the Falklands -- which makes full-scale war all the more ridiculous. Britain has long been prepared to give up sovereignty of the islands if the Falklanders can be brought around. With all that has happened in the past month, it is not unlikely that the next effort to persuade the islanders of the reasonableness of some new political arrangement will be more successful.

While search for a diplomatic solution goes on, a British policy of military restraint is to be encouraged. To be sure, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is fighting for a principle -- namely, that aggression not be rewarded. On this score she has the support of most of the international community and rightly so. International law has to be defended and democracies must be willing to take appropriate action to defend it. But largeness of character in a nation -- and political sagacity -- also require knowing the point

'Come on in -- the water's fine!'



beyond which an adversary must not be humiliated if the way to peace is to be opened. It is to be recalled, for instance, that Israel stopped short of inflicting total defeat on the Egyptians in the 1973 war; the eventual outcome of that "stalemate" was the first peace treaty in the Middle East in over 30 years. Moreover, if great numbers of Argentinians are killed -- in a squabble that is not really a squabble -- Britain must reckon with how it might then look in the eyes of the world.

Needed on all sides, in short, is the ability to see the difference between human will and wisdom. If Britain's and Argentina's friends cannot directly affect the sad events unfolding in this remote corner of the globe, they surely can pray that two nations of Christian persuasion will find the moral courage and the insight to settle their differences by peaceful means.

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



TWO YEAR TERMS...From all we can hear, the proposed N.C. Constitutional Amendment which would lengthen the terms of State House and Senate members from two years to four years will be found lacking a majority, when the votes are counted and the polls close June 29, 1982. While the members of the General Assembly gave the proposed Amendment a majority of the votes in the House and Senate, we hear little support from them as primary day approaches.

We feel that the vote on a proposed Amendment to the State Constitution should be in the General Election in November rather than in a primary when not as many people vote. That was a reason for the Primary vote as its promoters realize that fewer votes are cast in the primaries than in the General Election, and the Assembly members evidently felt that a smaller vote in the primary would be a better chance to win than with a larger vote in the General Election.

DRINKING...We hear much about our young people drinking too much and causing wrecks and deaths on the highways. This appears to be true, but we doubt that raising the drinking age will have much to do with highway wrecks and fatalities. We are not against the proposal to raise the age limit at which one can buy intoxicating beverages. It might help a little, but what we believe would help much more would be stiffer and stricter laws on the matter. Mandatory jail sentences for driving under a certain amount of alcohol would be far more effective. Such a revision of the law would probably be much harder to pass than increasing the age of drinking.

According to the Wall Street Journal, "Half of the traffic fatalities in the U.S. each year are caused by alcohol related crashes, in which approximately 70 persons are killed each day."

BALANCING THE BUDGET! ... We have said before and we say again: The United States should balance its budget, not later but now! The longer we wait, the harder it will be.

The deeper Uncle Sam goes into debt, the more it looks as if it can't balance the budget, but it consistently keeps on raising the Federal debt. I thought Carter was bad enough, but Ronald Reagan is running rings around the Carter Administration in piling debt upon debt!

While I didn't vote for Reagan, I had hoped that he would try to balance the budget as he pledged in his campaign.

He was citing Carter's inability to govern, by piling another \$40,000,000 upon the tremendous debt in 1980!

Reagan is going to make a "piker" out of Carter.

Temporarily, I am talking against my own pocketbook. Pretty soon I am going to apply for Social Security, but the government should not raise Social Security payments and salaries when the nest egg is getting smaller and smaller each year.

I have paid Social Security since it started back in the 1930's and had it been continued and carried out according to Franklin D. Roosevelt's philosophy, it would be great, but it has grown big and fat, spending much more than is coming in!

Our congressman, our U.S. Senators, and Presidents are responsible for the weak and insecure situation which we find our country in today, and these people in charge don't seem to have the courage to stop, look, and do something about it before the well runs dry!

NOT EASY...We know it will not be easy to balance the budget which has been done only a few times since World War II. It will take statesmanship and courage. A leader who will not be thinking about the next election but the next generation.

In almost every department or division, we believe that nine out of ten people could do the same job in government. If the government would attempt to get along with one less, and if one could not be decreased, then cut the budget down to nine and pay the ten what nine would get.

Dear editor:
More and more people are becoming alarmed over the worldwide catastrophe that'd result from an all-out nuclear war.
I guess catastrophe is the right word to use when you're talking about the elimination of human life on earth, along with a lot of other creatures including cats whose nine lives won't be enough if it's true there are enough warheads on hand now to kill everybody ten times over.
If total destruction isn't enough of an argument against the use of the things, there's another argument that ought to be put forward: the protection of our investment.
It's impossible to get an accurate

Puppy Creek Philosopher

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Now they've done it. Chewing gum for the rich. It's Stimorol, put out by a Danish company, the New York Times tells us.

The Danes regard the product as a fine breath freshener and know it sells in Europe, the report continues.

For Americans, it says, the Danes are changing the gum's color from blue to pure white, packaging it in silvery paper with a Gucci stripe and charging 35 or 30 cents for 12 pieces.

The Times observes that the idea sounds plausible, pointing out that there is bubble gum for kids, sugar-free gum for mothers and dentists, anti-smoking gum, liquor-flavored gum. Why not go up and down the gum scale? the report asks; if monograms and stripes sell tennis shirts and loafers, why not gum?

The paper says it wishes the Danes well but adds it worries that it may not be easy. "Our concern," the report says, "is not with the quality, the price of the packaging but with the intrinsic idea: Do rich people chew gum?"

Its favorite authority on the rich says, with cool confidence: "Certainly not in Newport or Palm Beach, and where else matters?"

"Just as we thought," The Times declares. "We suspect that packaging chewing gum for the rich is like packaging polyester slacks for the rich, or U-Haul trailers for the

rich, or TV dinners for the rich. The problem isn't flavor but taste."

...

The producers of television programs could capitalize on boycotts by the Coalition for Better Television and other would be censors the same way some producers of stage plays and movies did with Boston censorship of several years ago.

When the Boston censors prevented a play from being shown, the producer would run the line "Banned in Boston" on his advertising. That, of course, perked up the interest of a lot of people who wouldn't have paid any attention to the production normally.

The TV people could spread the word in their ads similarly: "This program boycotted by CBT." People would get curious about why the boycott was put on and watch the program, thus boosting the Nielsen rating substantially.

Seriously, though, the NBC chairman, Grant Tinker, has a better response to such boycotts: "If we did better programs -- just higher quality television -- the questions about content would go away."

He says it's not the level of sex or violence that is the "big sin," if one is being committed, but the TV program producers' aiming for the viewing of the "lowest common denominator" of taste in viewers.

Letters To The Editor

Editor, The News-Journal

As an employee at McCain Hospital, I am concerned, quite naturally, with the threatened closing of McCain Hospital. Finding work elsewhere for those of us who are medical professionals won't be particularly difficult, but it will be for many others who are non-professional.

The greatest, most frightening, aspect of closing McCain is what will happen to our patients, tubercular and non-tubercular. The tubercular patient especially will be suffering from the callous, political, inhumane decision to close the last TB hospital in North Carolina.

Contrary to the claims from Raleigh, TB is not under complete control and it has been on the increase according to a Fall report from the Disease Control Center in Atlanta, Georgia. It is very unfortunate, even calamitous, that the average TB patient is not politically oriented or popular.

When someone in Raleigh who is wrapped tightly in a bureaucratic cocoon decides to cut off a portion of North Carolina because the numbers are small or it has no clout economically, it isn't too surprising with the current administration.

What angers and puzzles me most is best illustrated by two events:

1) Why were we informed by the Department of Human Resources in March, 1981, that we were to close, and we were presented with a phasing out schedule - yet this was months in advance of a legislative vote? If local efforts had not been made to reverse this edict, we would have been closed last year.

2) Why did a hospital administrator from a general hospital north of Fayetteville tell me this past week that his medical staff had been told that McCain is closed and not accepting TB patients? Who gave these doctors that inaccurate information? What is the source of this falsehood? The legislature voted we were to be funded through June, 1983.

If someone, presumably in Raleigh, supplies incorrect statements about McCain which is detrimental to public health, well, that's dirty pool and, indirectly, a death blow to many TB patients. Such an attitude is disastrous, insensitive and adverse for TB patients and the general public.

Abuse of power in this problem certainly takes the word Human from the Department of Human Resources and leaves the word Resources e.g. MONEY, POLITICAL INFLUENCE and FAVORITISM.

Most sincerely,
Catherine D. McLean, R.N.

figure, but a rough estimate is that the world, including the underdeveloped countries who stand to get vaporized scot-free, has about \$400 billion invested in nuclear arms already stockpiled, with more being produced regardless of how far it extends the world's deficits.

So look at it from a financial standpoint. We've got all that money invested and who wants to risk losing it in an all-out battle? There's nothing more wasteful of weapons that getting them involved in a war.

Properly stored and kept out of the rain and out of the reach of children and mad men, the world's present stock of nuclear bombs ought to last for generations. Oh,

Dear editor:

The Board of Education is a body of officials elected for four year terms. The members are public servants elected to serve for the betterment of our educational system and schools. In Hoke County there is a five-member board made up of two farmers, a physician's wife, a pharmacist, and a director of nurses, just "everyday folks" with various lifestyles, each elected to serve the public, except for one appointee who is filling out Dr. Riley Jordan's term. Each member receives a stipend for his/her services, in '81-'82 \$7,300.00 (about \$1,460 each), which will be raised to \$12,100 in '82-'83 if the proposed budget passes plus travel expenses. In addition, the school superintendent (appointed by the board), the assistant superintendent, the budget director and legal counsel attend most meetings.

The Board meets the first Tuesday of each school month at 7:30 E.D.T. (7:00 E.S.T.). All meetings are open to the public and the members welcome public assistance to provide input to assist them in decision making. Since this body is elected it only makes sense that they would welcome opinions from those who put them in office because if they were to make decisions with which the public disagreed, they would not be reelected.

The only reasons for closed meeting (i.e. executive sessions) are for personnel matters, land purchases, and labor relations. Lately Hoke County's Board of Education seems to have its share of these issues to take care of because its members spend anywhere from one and a half to three hours per meeting in executive session. It seems that they have time to discuss other matters, but that wouldn't be legal so they obviously wouldn't do that.

Mina Townsend was extremely cordial to me at the first meeting I attended. She asked me how I enjoyed the meeting and whether I learned anything then added, "Feel free to come anytime you want."

Sometimes it seems that the board members don't realize that the teachers are not always in agreement with their decisions. That isn't surprising since they hardly ever hear anything contrary to their decisions from the faculty. It's almost as though the faculty is intimidated by them and the superintendent.

Why should anyone who is not doing anything illegal or immoral be afraid of elected officials in a democracy?

Sincerely,
Naomi Johnson

somebody may come out with new models now and then, probably call them designer bombs, but the basic product will remain unchanged and sensible people shouldn't be swayed by every new fashion whim that comes along. I wouldn't give a penny more for a nuclear bomb just because it has some movie star's name on the hip pocket or wherever it goes on a warhead.

I'll say it again, the world's got too much money invested in nuclear bombs to risk losing all of it in a war. Be the dumbest financial move mankind could make.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.