

# Editorials

## Lost pride

At some time during his term of office, every American president, starting with George Washington, has asked himself: "What am I going to do about the Indians?"

Different presidents, faced with different times and different pressures, found different answers. Andrew Jackson adopted a policy to brutalize them. Herbert Hoover picked an Okla! ma Kaw, Charles Curtis, to be his vice president.

Most presidents in this century have named committees to "study" problems of Indians. Many have resolved to "help" them. A few have truly tried to be sensitive to the plight of native Americans who are caught in a cultural vise of values in conflict. But, finally, almost every administration has given lip service to superficial solutions. And the country has continued to ignore tragic conditions that cause frustration and hopelessness among the majority of its 1.4 million Indians, 735,000 of whom live on reservations.

Tribes and individual Indians own more than 52 million acres held in trust by the U.S. government. But while the land is theirs and they cling to their cultural heritage, there is little in their daily lives to give them pride.

Life on most reservations is hellish. Unemployment has soared above 30 percent and on some reservations actually approaches 80 percent. Housing conditions are often substandard. Health services are inadequate. Lack of opportunity creates a despair that has produced phenomenally high rates of suicide and alcoholism.

Last week it was the Reagan administration's turn to address the question of what to do about the Indians. The president announced he will name a nine-member commission - co-chaired, of course, by a non-Indian and an Indian - to find ways to improve reservation economies.

The commission's charge is to discover how to develop stronger private sector investment in Indian reservation commerce and how to reduce federal funds and the "federal presence" in Indian affairs.

The Reagan answer to the Indian question would have gone virtually unnoticed had not Interior Secretary James Watt selected that moment to issue one of his cryptic assaults on liberalism, declaring that reservations represent "an example of the failures of socialism."

Some Indian leaders criticized the secretary for over-simplifying the historic complexity of Indians' suffering. Still, the timing of the secretary's remarks will force national attention on the tragedy afflicting the first Americans.

That, in and of itself, is a service. But another study group and another try at reservation free enterprise won't cure Indian ills. The cure won't come until all the people of this land share the Indians' sense of lost pride and determine at last and at least to give that back to them.

--From USA Today

## Let Willie stay

Willie Nelson, Bo Derek, Mickey Mouse, Aretha Franklin and hundreds of other performers are prisoners of love.

They come into millions of homes each day through television, radio or recordings. Many times they don't get to leave, and their involuntary servitude has become an issue before the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress.

Most often, the abductors are finger-snapping teenagers who tape record their favorite artists from record albums and radio, and moms and dads who capture TV shows on videotape for personal viewing. The movie and recording industries say the recordings are piracy that usurps the performer's control over his or her artistic product.

In a suit before the Supreme Court, justices are being asked to determine whether making a videotape of a television program violates the copyright law.

The suit dates back to 1976 when Sony Corp. of America, maker of the Betamax video recorder, was sued by Walt Disney Productions and University City Studios because its recorder could be used to tape television programs. If the recorder is to be used, the movie industry wants Congress to require Sony and other manufacturers to pay royalties on both recorders and blank video tapes.

Sony is supported by a record number of friendly legal briefs which argue that Americans have a right to record a TV program for their own use. That "right" already is legally recognized with tape recordings. But since the record industry lost more than \$1 billion in 1981 because of private tapes, it, too, is seeking relief in Congress by asking that a royalty be paid on recorders and blank tapes that are sold.

The piracy concept, while it might not be applicable to home recordings, does have a history that can't be ignored. Performers often have been stung by illegal, mass-produced tapes that are sold well below market prices, which means that the piracy law should be vigorously enforced.

And home recordings should not be abused, whether innocently or by design. It simply isn't right for a teen to tape 20 copies of an album and give them to his classmates, or for an adult to make copies of a TV movie and loan them to friends at work.

It's not at all unreasonable for artists to decry such practices and to seek relief through the courts or through changes in the copyright law.

But, in pursuing that relief, the Supreme Court and Congress must safeguard the right of an individual to use this new technology for his own pleasure within the confines of the home.

Under those circumstances, Willie, Bo, Aretha and Mickey would be classified as invited guests who shouldn't mind an extended stay.

--From USA Today



### SCRAM, PEASANT!

## It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

Sometimes an argument runs over a question of fact or not fact.

Other times, though, it's a difference of attitude between the combatants, not over the accuracy of a statement.

Take, for instance, the case of the gentleman who appeared in a psychiatrist's office with an elephant sitting on his head.

"And what seems to be your problem?" the psychiatrist asked the visitor.

"HIS problem!" the elephant screamed in outrage. "How do I get this guy off my tail?"

Then there's the case of dogs Fred and Lulu. The other morning while we were taking our morning walk, Lulu spotted a car and

started chasing it. Then Fred got interested and joined the pursuit.

I tried hard not to notice, as it was too late for me to do anything to stop them, and besides that it was a police cruiser they were chasing.

Later, I had a minor accident, and the investigator, Ken Thornton, was the policeman who works parttime as the town dog warden. I knew him well, as he had spent so much time in our neighborhood answering complaints about "dogs at large" that a lot of people think he lives there.

As it turned out, the cruiser the dogs were pursuing that morning was being driven by -- you guessed it -- the parttime dog warden who

was working regular patrol duty that day.

When he told me that it was his car these two nuts were chasing, I recovered from my shock quickly and said, "They were chasing you because they know you."

Later I thought that was a somewhat ambiguous explanation. It could have been the dogs were chasing him because they were hostile to dog wardens, or because they considered him their friend.

The fact is, they aren't mad at anybody when they chase cars. They do it because it's fun -- something about spinning wheels being fascinating to dogs, I read somewhere.

They didn't know he was the dog warden, either.

# Letters To The Editor

### Lindau thanked

To the editor,

The Advisory Committee of Sandhills Youth Center would like to publicly thank Bill Lindau for the support he has shown SYC during his tenure with *The News-Journal*.

He has been a friend to the institution and to many of the residents.

His stories in the newspaper pointed to good work and enhanced the self-esteem of young men who need pats on the back when they are headed in good directions.

As an individual, he committed himself by providing transportation to men taking part in the SWAP (Sandhills Work Adjustment Program).

We sincerely hope that his retirement days are happy, but we also hope that he will continue caring about folks in Hoke County. They certainly appreciate the concern he has shown for them.

Kay Thomas for SYC Citizens Advisory Committee

### Assistance sought

Dear editor,

Forty four years ago I left Raeford after living there for 14 years. I came to Greenville, S.C. with my family and have lived here ever since.

Some time ago I received a phone call from the former Ruth Matheson's daughter. She had seen my picture in the local paper and read the article "Remember mama." She wanted to know if I was the Mrs. Dow that had lived in Raeford.

She caught me at a time where I didn't have time to talk. I didn't ask her her married name, so I couldn't call her back. I had hoped she'd call back. She lives here in Greenville.

I'm writing to you in the hopes that you or someone that knows her can supply me with her name, maybe her address, so I can look it up (her phone no.) in our directory.

I will appreciate any information I can get.

I left a host of good friends when I came to Greenville. I visited there a few times and was the house guest of Mrs. B.R. Gatlin.

We kept corresponding until her passing.

Sincerely  
Linda Dow

### Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

A popular notion these days is that the future belongs to computer technology, that if you want to be assured of a job you'd better get into that field.

I didn't think one way or the other about this till I read a newspaper article saying the sewer pipes in Cairo, Egypt have sprung a leak, and it'll take \$2.5 billion to fix them. The pipes were laid in 1914 for a city of one million, but now the city's population is 14 million, the pipes are too small and have rusted out anyway, and the whole sewer system has to be replaced.

Lets say 50 years from now everybody is employed in 60-story office buildings with everybody

hard at work sending computer messages back and forth to each other at the rate of 50,000 words a minute, and the water pipes running everywhere inside the buildings begin to leak.

How do you get at a water pipe buried in a concrete floor or threaded up through concrete walls in a 60-story building? How do you replace the whole plumbing system?

And have you ever thought what water pouring down out of a rusted-out pipe on to a computer would do to computer technology?

There must be hundreds of thousands of miles of water and sewer pipe in the buildings of all the cities in this country, and if somewhere down the road they begin to rust or clog up... well, you can see that a good part of the future belongs not to computer technology but to plumbers.

Is Congress looking into this?  
Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

### Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed; however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by 5 p.m. on the Monday of the publication week.



"I think I've got enough nuts stored for the winter: 6 acorns, 3 pecans, and an interior secretary who says environmentalists are Nazis..."

## CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues

**JOBLESS RATE?... Treasury Secretary, Donald T. Regan, in testimony before the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, says the White House expects the unemployment rate, now at a postwar high of 10.8%, will fall to 10.4% by the end of the year and a 9.5% in the fourth quarter of 1984, a presidential election year.**

**ELIZABETH DOLE ... Elizabeth H. Dole of North Carolina, President Reagan's nominee for transportation secretary, before the confirmation hearing of the Senate Commerce Committee last week, said she strongly supports efforts to deregulate the airline, trucking, rail and bus industries.**

Mrs. Dole appears to be a popular selection for the transportation secretary.

**\$700 MILLION SURPLUS ... Postmaster General, William F. Bolger, head of the Postal Service, reported a surplus of at least \$700 million for his agency recently, which should help delay increases in postage rates.**

**PRESS TALKS... President Reagan has ordered his staff not to talk to reporters without approval of his official spokesman.**

A page-long set of 10-guidelines for "press-coordination" was issued by James A. Baker III, White House chief of staff.

**BAIL-OUT-PLAN... The \$169 billion bailout plan designed to keep Social Security solvent through 1990 was endorsed recently by President Reagan, congressional leaders and a majority of a special commission.**

Sometimes endorsements fall apart!

**SMALLPOX ... Sales of smallpox vaccine in the U.S. should be stopped because too many Americans are risking their health taking it for other ailments, a Center for Disease Control panel said.**

Researchers said the vaccine is erroneously used to treat herpes. About 50,000 doses of the vaccine were given to Americans last year.

**CYANIDE... Traces of cyanide were found in the Hammond, La., water supply, while more threats prompted officials to close the taps in four other towns. Water for at least 220,000 residents was disrupted.**

**STATES AND MONEY ... States will receive an average of 43% boost in highway construction money because of the nickel increase in the gasoline tax, some faring much better than others, according to Transportation Department estimates.**

**SENATOR BAKER... Senator Baker appears to be an early GOP candidate for President in 1984. Any politician will realize that Senator Baker's announced retirement from the United States Senate in 1984 must also realize that the Kentucky solon has his eyes on the 1984 Republican presidential nomination.**

He says he wants to make some money, and maybe run for President, should Reagan not run in 1984.

We question whether the GOP will want to nominate a person who has piled up a \$200 billion deficit in two years. Senator Baker, no doubt, wants to be ready to move towards the nomination at the proper time.

**WORK ON THE ELIZABETH II continues on the Waterfront in Manteo. The sailing ship, being built as part of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Roanoke Voyages, is taking shape piece by piece under the skilled hands of boatbuilders using largely traditional methods and old tools.**

The building site in Manteo is open to the public.

**CHAPEL HILL... Last Thursday evening and through Friday at Chapel Hill, and Duke Friday evening, newspaper people from the mountains to the sea were meeting at the above named universities to "shop talk" and carry the business of the North Carolina Press Association. James E. Milligan, publisher of the *Laurinburg Exchange*, is serving as President of the Association this year.**

**HELMS PLAN... U.S. Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina has come forward with a plan to rescue the Social Security Program. We have heard Senator Helms' plan, but it is quite complicated. We would want a solid plan, that would be sound and not back again after six years and find like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard -- dry!**

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