

# Opinions

## Fall colors to be on cue

**By Cliff Blue**  
**FALL FOLIAGE** . . . Howard Parr, chief Blue Ridge Parkway ranger, each year predicts when fall foliage will reach its most colorful time but he hasn't done that yet this year.

"I have heard some people say that this year, fall may not be as good as some but I don't believe that," Parr said, "If it's really hot and dry the leaves can dry up and just get brown. But it's been raining in the mountains. I think we'll have a normal colorful fall."

**PINEHURST** . . . In Pinehurst golfers and shooters will compete. The 32nd annual North and South Senior Men's Golf Tournament is set for October 24-29 while the Annie Oakley Trapshoot Tournament will bring shooters from around the nation for the October 21-23 event named for the woman sharpshooter who once taught marksmanship at Pinehurst.

**NEW CAR SALES** . . . New car sales rose 4.9% in September. Sales for the month totaled 703,507 units, up from 670,352 units sold in Sept. 1982. The increase was accounted for by U.S. made models. A restriction on Japanese imports resulted in a sales decline for imports for the month.

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION** . . . Though many dissatisfied voter groups now feel they'll be able to defeat President Reagan in 1984, a look back at presidential elections indicates this will be a hard task. Since Franklin D. Roosevelt's

### People & Issues

time, the country has elected four Democrats to the White House: they being Harry Truman in 1948; John F. Kennedy in 1960; Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964; and James E. Carter in 1976.

In less than the Republicans have had four Republicans, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1952; Richard M. Nixon, 1962; Gerald Ford succeeded Nixon, August 9, 1974; and Ronald Reagan, 1981.

**WALK FOR THOUGHT** . . . There's new evidence to show that walking can improve the mental ability of the elderly.

Researchers at the Veterans Administration and University of Utah reported the encouraging results on an exercise program of slow to fast walking over a four month period.

University researcher John Martin told the Health Insurance Association of America that this program definitely helped the 200 elderly people who participated.

The walking, he said, "significantly improved their mental functions as shown in tests of reaction time, short-term memory, reasoning power and ability to distinguish subtle changes in flickering light."

**CRAMPED QUARTERS** . . . You think you live in cramped quarters? Cave dwelling bats may roost at densities of up to 300 bats

per square foot, according to International Wildlife magazine. And a single cave may house more than 40 million bats, says National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., Washington, D.C. 20056. Phone 202-797-6850.

### BACKING INCREASED PAY?

While State and Federal employees are paid higher wages than the average private enterprise worker, we note that a couple of Democratic candidates for governor have boosted "merit pay" increases for state workers.

We suspect that most state workers receive "merit pay" now but are not satisfied with the "merit pay" which they are getting.

Every worker would like to receive "merit pay" but what is "merit pay"?

We doubt that "honest merit pay" is what most people want -- public or private!

It's human nature for people to advocate "merit pay" if the government or somebody else is footing the bill.

Lots of private citizens would like to be on the State or Federal payroll but if they were on long, they would not be satisfied with "merit pay." They would be wanting more.

And where does the public payroll come from? You and I as private citizens.

Well, people trying to balance the budget with private pay would like mighty well for a pay increase!



## There's a parallel between killings

**By Lucien Coleman**

News stories focused on two brutal acts of murder last month.

On September 1, newspapers reported that Soviet aircraft had shot down a civilian airliner somewhere over the Sea of Japan.

The next day they reported the execution of convicted murderer Jimmy Lee Gray in Mississippi's gas chamber.

In one respect, the crimes committed by Gray and the Soviet airmen were strikingly similar. Both atrocities were committed against innocent, helpless victims.

### Things That Matter

Gray was convicted for the slaying of 3-year-old Deressa Jean Scales.

According to the court, he had kidnapped the child from her parents apartment, taking her to a remote area on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

There he raped the little girl, then killed her by holding her head in a muddy ditch. Then he threw her body from a bridge into a creek.

What is particularly horrifying about the account of this barbaric

act of violence is the picture of utter helplessness presented by a victim of such tender years.

But this was also true of the 269 people who were aboard the Korean 747 jumbo jetliner when it was attacked by Soviet interceptor pilots. The commercial aircraft was unarmed, completely defenseless against the missiles of military aircraft. As defenseless as a 3-year-old against the assault of a grown man.

The only basic difference in the two acts of murder is that the attack on the passengers of the airliner was more impersonal.

The pilot who launched the missiles never saw his victims. It is entirely possible that he never even saw the aircraft he was shooting down. Killing 269 human beings comes easy when all you have to do is press a button.

In a nuclear age, it's not much more difficult to kill 269-million people, without ever seeing their faces or hearing their cries. It's all very impersonal.

Political and military leaders who would never think of raping and suffocating a little 3-year-old girl can destroy half the human race by giving an order or turning a switch.

## Verbal Completes Basic Training

Pvt. Elvis K. Verbal, son of Elvis L. Verbal of 101 Hatley Ave., Aberdeen has completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

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### YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

**ATTN: All member customers of Lumbee River E.M.C.**  
**Are you getting your money's worth?**

Expense records on file at N.C. Dept. of Commerce show LREMC Board of Directors spent \$140,294.00 in 1982. LREMC board's expenses highest of any co-op in state since at least 1974. Between 1974 and 1982 LREMC board members received \$783,708.00 in expense money.

Directors attended 14 meetings between January - March this year, including 5 days in Las Vegas Jan. 30 - Feb. 3; 4 days in Florida March 21 - 24; and 3 days in Raleigh Mar. 8 - 10, according to manager Ronnie Hunt.

Members are paying the highest electric rate of any co-op in the state. People on fixed and low incomes are struggling to pay ever increasing electric bills . . . and the lists goes on and on and on.

**THIS TREND CANNOT CONTINUE. MEMBERS, THE BUCK STOPS HERE!**

**WE MUST GET INVOLVED IN OUR OWN BUSINESS, THIS YEAR!**  
**WITH SO MUCH AT STAKE, WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO.**

**ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18 - VOTE FOR AND ELECT 4 NEW DIRECTORS**

— VOTE FOR —

**LEON STUART**  
 District 2

**JAMES L. AUTRY**  
 District 8

**BETTY SMITH**  
 District 4

**EUGENE H. SHANNON**  
 At Large

Four people who will work hard, use good common sense and honestly try to help this co-op . . . not just themselves.

SUPPORTED BY THE LREMC ACTION GROUP

**ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTE FOR ALL FOUR**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18th**

on campus at

**PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY, GYMNASIUM**

Registration begins at 6:00 p.m. Bring your registration card

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