

## The Name Is Familiar



## EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinions Of One Man,  
And He May Be Wrong.

## School Bus Malpractices

Nothing to be said in this piece should be construed as any indication that this paper does not 100 per cent support the present laws giving protection to school busses; what we are to attempt to say here is aimed at giving these school busses even more protection.

The terrible tragedy that struck down the two tiny Craven County students last Wednesday highlights the need for a re-examination of some of the present practices.

Of course, the reports state that the two boys were killed as they violated a standing regulation, to wit, always to cross in front of the bus. Reports indicate that they ran from behind the bus and into the path of a Pamlico County woman who was also violating, in spirit if not in letter, the law, by not slowing down. She maintained that the bus was pulling away, and even if she is correct, she should not have been travelling at a rate or speed sufficient to cause skidding of 120 feet and instantly killing these two boys.

Of course, whether punished in the criminal courts or not, this woman will carry to her grave the terrible memory or what she has done, and there is not too much more can be done by the law to add to her punishment.

But a word of criticism to the children who ride these busses and the students who drive them: We have watched for many years the operation of local school busses. The children and

driver too smugly safe behind the law often invite disaster. They become so over-sold on the protection they are given by the law that they fail to exercise due caution themselves. A very small percentage of school children pays any attention to oncoming traffic from either direction but most frequently marches across the road very thinly armored in the protection of the law.

We do not want this law weakened, for even at its strongest it is very small protection as so tragically proven last week between Dover and Cove City, but we would like the children more thoroughly and frequently reminded that they ALSO have some responsibility for their safety.

And quite often the drivers of school busses contribute to this danger by violating a regulation they are supposed to abide by, to wit, stopping too frequently. They are not supposed to stop more frequently than each 300 yards, yet we have inched along behind many who stopped every 50 to 100 feet. This adds to the numbers of crossings by students. The bus driver is in a hurry to get one group out and move on a few dozen feet to permit the next group to dismount and at the same time the drivers behind get anxious to strip their gears and roar by the bus in a cloud of gas fumes and vile language.

School officials, bus drivers and bus riders, give attention to this reminder, for the life you save may be your own.

## An Order L. H. Fountain

It certainly is not customary for bush league newsmen to give orders to Members of Congress, but this situation which causes us to be so brash is so brutally wrong that it needs investigation and since our only direct line to the investigative powers that be lies through L. H. Fountain we direct this order:

Congressman Fountain, as soon after Congress has reconvened as practical and possible please bring motion asking a thorough investigation of the so-called military justice which has resulted in

the following grossly unfair findings by recent court martial boards.

1. A Marine colonel was found guilty of cooperating with the enemy and drew a "stiff" reprimand and a soft job at Camp Lejeune to recuperate from his sore wrist, where he was slapped.

2. An Army colonel has been found guilty of trafficking with the enemy and for his abuse of oath and country he has been "cashiered". In other words, busted to the rank of civilian, which to many of us is more reward than a punishment.

## Short Snorts..

Every newsman we ever knew spends a fraction of his important time belly-aching about the various "weeks" that are foisted off on the unsuspecting public. This, however, is a different kind of week. It is both National Newspaper Week and National Fire Prevention Week. Both of which seem a little stupid to us. We try to sell newspaper every week in the year, and hope that all "right thinking" people try to prevent fires every week in the year. But for what it's worth, this is our reminder of each. Newspapers are good things to build fires with, but everybody has automatic stoves now. They still wrap fish in newspapers, however, so perhaps none of us should argue that newspapers are not good for something.

There are many things about woman that we don't pretend to understand, but perhaps foremost among these mysteries is: Why do woman appear to be offended and often embarrassed when men stare at the bare skin they expose with these plunging-neckline dresses, shorts, halters etc. It seems to us that when a gal equipped like Marilyn Monroe puts on a sweater she does it to advertise and it would be downright mean of us men not to look, Nay, Stare. We do.

Which thought leads us to repeat: Fle, on Thee, Monsieur Dior.

And while on the subject of clothing. For many anxious years we studied, from a scientific point of view, that phenomenon: What holds a strapless evening gown up? Now, another less interesting but equally puzzling clothing mystery is with us, to wit: What holds the pants up that these high school boys slink around in?

It may be old age creeping up on us-- or running up on us, or it may just be the miserable, sticky, sweaty, stinky hot weather that this first week in October has brought; but at any rate, something seems to have caught us with just about the amount of space that these words fill short of enough to fill up this page. And these words are being put down, not to educate, amuse, or antagonize, but merely to fill up this hole so we can get out of the office and away from these blankety-blank gnats. Maybe it'll cool off next week and we'll have something better in this hole.

3. A Crackerneck, Va. corporal was convicted of trafficking with the enemy and he drew 10 years at hard labor in a federal prison.

4. Most recently a Texas corporal has been convicted of a similar charge and has been giving LIFE AT HARD LABOR in federal prison.

In conducting, or causing to be conducted an investigation into these gross instances of military injustice, Congressman Fountain you may lose a few friends in the armed forces but you will endear yourself to millions of us plain citizens who KNOW that justice was, indeed, blindfolded when these crimes were committed by military courts.

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## PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

State Senator Pilston Godwin of Gatesville recently made a speech before the Ahoskie Rotary Club that certainly was not calculated to win friends in the North Carolina Education Association; for Godwin has said in a very public manner some things that have been whispered around for a good many years now. Most of it was not flattering to the present educational set-up in the state, and nation.

Godwin, among other things, accused the present school system of "putting more emphasis now on quantity rather than quality". Godwin asserted that "in North Carolina a high school diploma means only one certain meaning—that a student has been enrolled for at least 12 years". Godwin reminded that he had "personal knowledge of several students graduated from high school under the progressive plan of operation who are hardly above the grade of moron". And Godwin wound up by saying that he does not "believe that North Carolina taxpayers are getting their money's worth in education and that the taxpayers should demand the reestablishment of a school system which would provide at least the fundamental elements of a liberal arts high school education".

As Harry Sutton says, "Everytime you make one mad, you please one", speaking of the public, and it would seem fairly certain that Senator Godwin has grabbed himself a crowd of friends and enemies with this Ahoskie speech.

Some might say that Godwin is just another headline hunter and a rabble rouser, but I happen to know the fellow. He is an arch conservative of the Gates County variety. I used to edit the Gates County Index, and our office was just across the street from Godwin's father's bank. Senator Godwin is a mature, intelligent man. He made this speech in Ahoskie, perhaps, with the idea of causing a few raised eyebrows in educational circles, but knowing him the little that I do, I also believe that he was doing his best point up what many consider a pressing and dangerous situation of our times.

Collier's Magazine, one of the giants in circulation, has been running a series of articles on the overall educational system in the United States, and it has reached some conclusions and found some facts that are as unhappy to read as Senator Godwin's speech.

I recently had a matter in this vein called to my attention in Kinston. The son of a friend had failed to be promoted from the fourth to the fifth grade last spring. His mother said that she had made so many complaint-trips to the school house that she finally got ashamed to go. But all of her worried trips over her backward son did not seem to concern his teachers, and each year he made his grade; that is until this year.

Then his mother did become most concerned. She had felt in the past that maybe the problems and methods of present day schooling were beyond her understanding and since her boy made his grade each year, she felt that he must be about the average student. But this spring she sat down and tried to find out what had happened. She found that her son, after four years of school could not read! So she spent several dollars this past summer having him attend private classes and learn to read. But still he is having to repeat the grade that he failed last year.

Several teachers had been guilty of "just getting rid of this boy", passing him on up to the next teacher to worry about. Finally when he reached a little more conscientious teacher, she said, (Continued on page 5)