

Perspective

Fuss about 'Amerika' premature

It is hard to see what all the fuss was about.

The uproar caused by ABC's "Amerika" threatened to overshadow the ministries, which proved to be a moving and often subtle story of the United States under occupation by the Russians.

The concerns voiced by so many were needless. The outrage exhibited by the Soviets, the hard left, and even the United Nations, was premature. Rather than being propaganda in support of those who expound the dangers of the "evil empire," the series failed to really portray what Soviet occupation of America would really be like.

There were the usual incidents of lost liberties, displays of military might, government control of the economy, and other negative activities that are a part of all countries under Communist control. But there was really very little emphasis very placed on the loss of human liberties so real to those under the oppression of Soviet rule.

The image of despair and loss, etched on actor Kris Kristofferson's face in the opening scene did display some of the agony felt by so many exploited by Soviet domination. As the camera pulls back, we are able to see the cheeks hollowed by hunger and pain; skin pale as death, beard grayed by harsh experience. But an actor's eyes can't reveal the real horror thousands have felt.

And we saw the bitterness of a system that takes what it wants and gives back what it wants. The old farmer Will Milford remained bitter about the expropriation of his land; his once mighty farm was reduced to 50 acres. Part of it was used as a home for "exiles;" city dwellers forcibly moved to the country to reduce the population of urban areas and to control political dissenters.

Acute shortages of day-to-day goods and services were evident by people standing in line to buy tomatoes, and at the local eating establishment, all that was available for breakfast were pancakes made from soybeans.

And of course, there were the usual



sexual scenes, incidents of student unrest, displays of defiance from some, and other features realistic of Russian states.

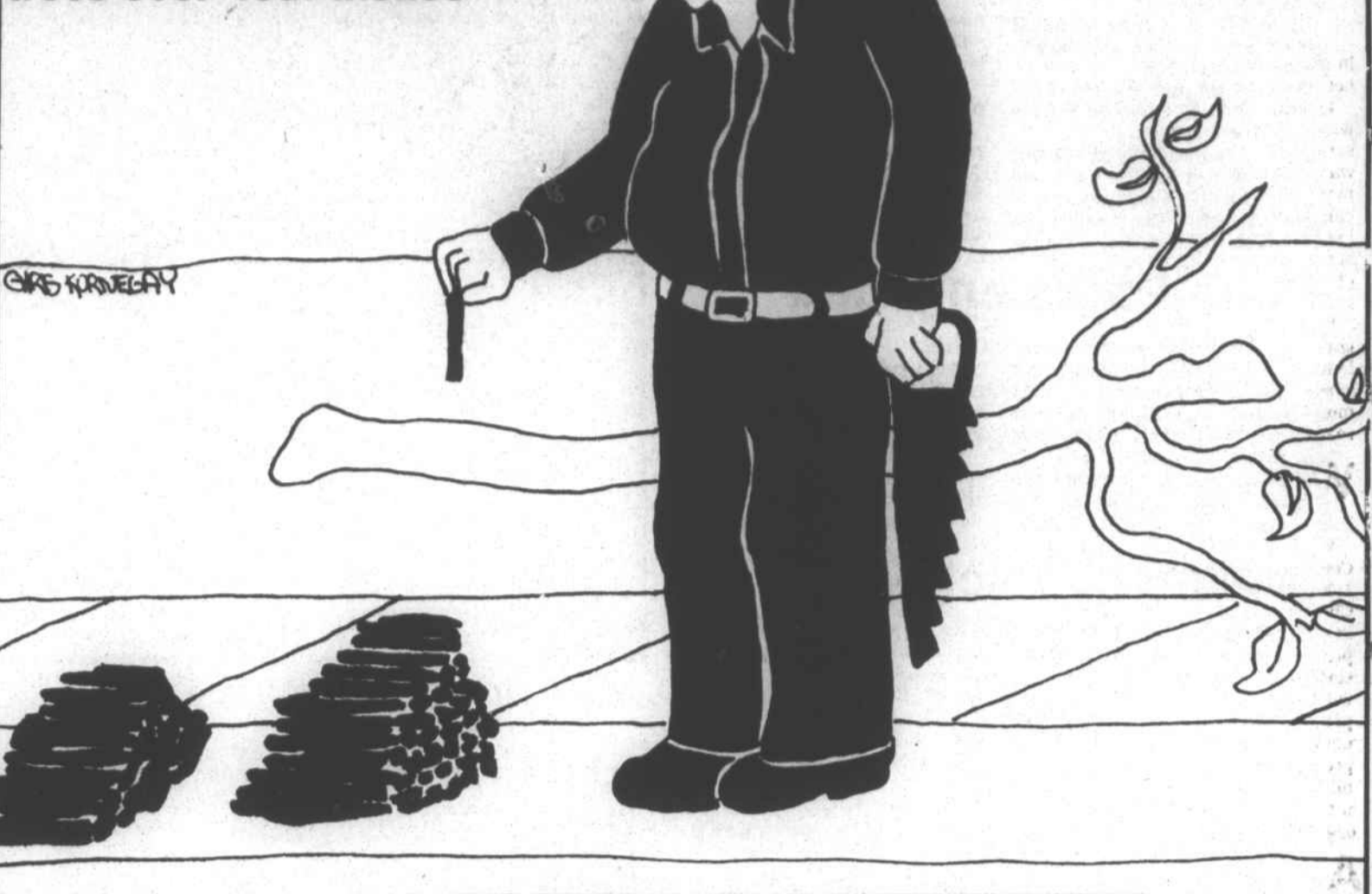
The real power of "Amerika" wasn't the accumulated detail; the deadening look of the buildings and countryside, the political posters, the indoctrination of the children, or the control of the masses. Rather, it was the realism that it could happen to America, and the results would be far more devastating than pictured in the series.

If you really believe an occupied America would be allowed to continue to enjoy much of our accepted way of life, you are living in a dream world. While the series did give some indication of what life is like in Soviet society, it didn't come close to showing the severe pain and suffering so many have known over the years, and so many still feel. Hollywood can't begin to really make us realize the horror of Soviet domination.

There is a lesson to be learned from "Amerika." As we move closer to a society without moorings, as we forget what it really means to be free, as we become fatter and more selfish, we face a real danger of losing what we so often take for granted.

The real treat to America isn't the "Evil Empire" touted by Ronald Reagan. Rather, it is the "malaise" former President Jimmy Carter spoke of in his most notorious presidential message to the people of America. If the Russians do "bury us" as Nikita Krushchev once promised it will be because we provided the shovels. And the America we will know then will be much worse than anything portrayed in "Amerika."

A Hertford ordinance states that the town shall not be responsible for 'pick up' of limbs or any other debris from trees over 'four inches'



She is packing a loaded purse once again

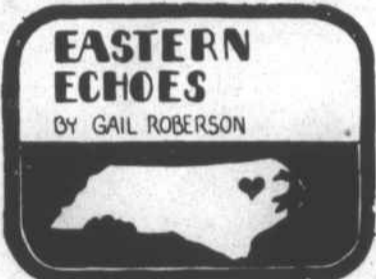
The other night, my husband apparently needed something he thought was in my purse. He returned to the den with my shoulder slung across his shoulder like a tow sack, stooped over so far that his nose was practically dragging the floor, moaning and groaning all the while like he was burdened down with the rock of Gibraltar.

A woman is generally thought to be the weaker sex, but you'd be surprised at just how much weight she can lug around in her pocketbook.

Bags come in various colors, shapes, and sizes, and they're made of everything from snakeskin to silk. You can hang them from the shoulder, grip them with the fingers, hug them under the arm and dangle them from the wrist. They zip, button, snap, tie and just hang there, and can be purchased in a variety of prices ranging from the cost of a candy bar to a condominium.

He dumped the contents on the sofa and began shuffling through my stuff, much to my horror.

"Stay out of there!" I hollered. "I've got everything packed just the



way I want it, and now you're messing it all up!"

"What is the hammer doing in here?" he questioned with a strange look on his face.

"Oh, That," I answered a bit hesitantly. "Well, for self-protection, what else," I lied, afraid he'd discover my latest project in the house.

"Why not just him 'em with your purse instead?" he responded. "It would nail 'em graveyard dead with the first swing."

And then he discovered the pliers. "For zipping up my jeans," I immediately volunteered. He simply shook his head and continued with his prowl, carelessly scattering makeup,

pen and notebooks, perfume, keys, scissors, tape, nail polish, mints, earrings, business cards, film, hand cream, push pins, glasses, stamps and paper clips all across the sofa.

He stopped his prowling when the screwdriver fell on his foot. "I know it's a bit strange," I quickly explained, "but it's the perfect size to unstick that little 'butterfly thing in the carburetor that closes up and causes my engine to flood sometimes." What could the man say. It works. I know how to do it, so I don't have to send for him, and it fits rather nicely in my purse right alongside the box of raisins I carry in case of snack attacks. And besides, it's My screwdriver.

There is a fine art to packing a purse so that you can get all the things you need in there, as well as being able to retrieve each one as you need it without taking everything back out again.

Any woman can tell you that. But no man understands exactly how it's

done.

I once watched a man on bended knee trying to help a woman place the contents of her purse back inside after she accidentally spilled everything out on the sidewalk. He packed it as full as he could, but only managed to get one-third of her stuff back in it. She merely dumped it all out again and quite expertly repacked it with enough room left over for the fire hydrant nearby.

My husband said that if he was as efficient at storing his grain as I am at packaging my purse, he could get his entire corn crop in a five-gallon bucket. He also adds that if he had the money in the bank that I've spent on pocketbooks through the years, he could retire from grain altogether.

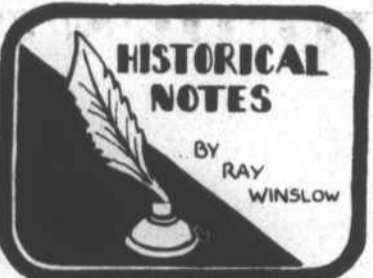
I suppose I should admit that if I was stranded on a desert island with nothing but my pocketbook, I could easily survive...for months. But then, so could any woman with a loaded purse.



In ancient times, people made bracelets of malachite, a green copper ore, because they thought it provided protection against disease, lightning and witchcraft.

Nicholson family role comes to an end in county

On January 12, 1988, Josiah Nicholson lost his second wife, who was only in her fiftieth year. Her will reflected the new post bellum status of women in Perquimans, for she owned much property in her own right, some of which she allowed Josiah to use for the rest of his life. She had conducted business without being compelled by law to yield to a husband's wishes or commands.



Friends at the Five Years Meeting in 1912. The week before his death he attended a meeting of the Perquimans and Chowan Total Abstinence Society.

After a brief illness, he died on March 30, 1913, and was buried in the White cemetery. He was mourned by the whole of Perquimans County.

Josiah's death brought to an end the role the Nicholson family had played in Perquimans River about 1669, the family had produced leaders in government and church.

Josiah's surviving children, however, would all remove to Guilford County. Many of the earlier Nicholsons had scattered from central North Carolina to Maryland to Indiana, but the male line of the family would disappear from Perquimans. Although there are numerous Nicholson descendants still in the county, none bear the ancient name. Few families have ever done more for the county.

Not one to remain alone, Josiah married a third time, taking Elizabeth Ann White to wife on June 11, 1890 at her house. Elizabeth's father, Jephtha White, had been a County Commissioner and a leader among Friends. Elizabeth herself became an overseer and an elder of Piney Woods Monthly Meeting. She would outlive Josiah, dying on November 11, 1920.

By 1900 Josiah saw most of his children well-established and his household as enumerated for the census included his wife; his granddaughter Sibyl; his wife's sisters Mary J. and Adelaide E. White, both of whom were teachers at Belvidere's Academy; and blacks Daisy Jordan (servant) and Hezekiah White (farm laborer).

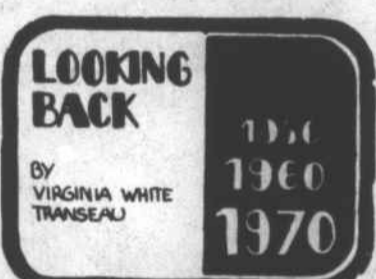
Josiah Nicholson continued his service to community and church to the end of his days. He represented North Carolina Yearly Meeting of

American Legion celebrates

20 YEARS AGO

California Cuties Coming To Perquimans: The California Cuties, a novelty basketball team, will visit the Perquimans High School Gym on Thursday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the Perquimans Monogram Club and the Perquimans Chowan basketball 11 team (Herman's Hermits). Participating in the game will be such local men as Sheriff Julian Broughton, Willie Ainsley, Panky Nixon, Joe Nowell, Joe Rogerson, Pete Hunter, Pete Raul, Bill Herman, Charlie Fowler, Carl Gerber (Finance and medical officer at Harvey Point) and members of the Monogram Club. Tickets for the even may be purchased from any Monogram Club student, or at the Perquimans High School athletic office.

Archie T. Lane of Hertford Is Right Man At Session: Perquimans County native, Archie T. Lane, is one of the elected officers of the 1969 session of the General Assembly, in Raleigh. Mr. Lane, who has represented Perquimans in three legislatures, was



sworn in Wednesday, January 15, as House Sergeant-At-Arms. He was elected to that position by the House membership without opposition.

To Celebrate 50th Anniversary: The American Legion and Auxiliary of Wm Paul Stallings Post 126 will celebrate its 50th year veterans, past commanders and past presidents are cordially invited to come and help to celebrate this anniversary.

Announcement: The Hertford Farmers' Exchange will move to their new location on Route 2, one mile from Hertford, Tuesday, March 5, 1989.

A note from Gina

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for a mistake that was made in last week's paper. The mistake occurred on the front page, and concerned a story about the upcoming corn referendum, and the 50th anniversary of Perquimans Central School in Winfall. The composing room mistakenly got parts of each of the stories mixed up, and under the

wrong headlines. I hope that this did not cause anyone a problem. We regret the error, and will do our best to prevent such things from happening in the future.

I would also like to thank everyone at the Open Door for all their help with this week's feature story. I really learned a great deal about how caring the citizens of this county are.

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Just clip and fill out this coupon. Include as many details as possible (Names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc.)

It may not be possible for us to use some of the stories suggested but we are always looking for new ideas.

So, next time you think of something you feel would make a good story, send it to: News Coupon, Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

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