

Letters To The Editor

Another Movie!

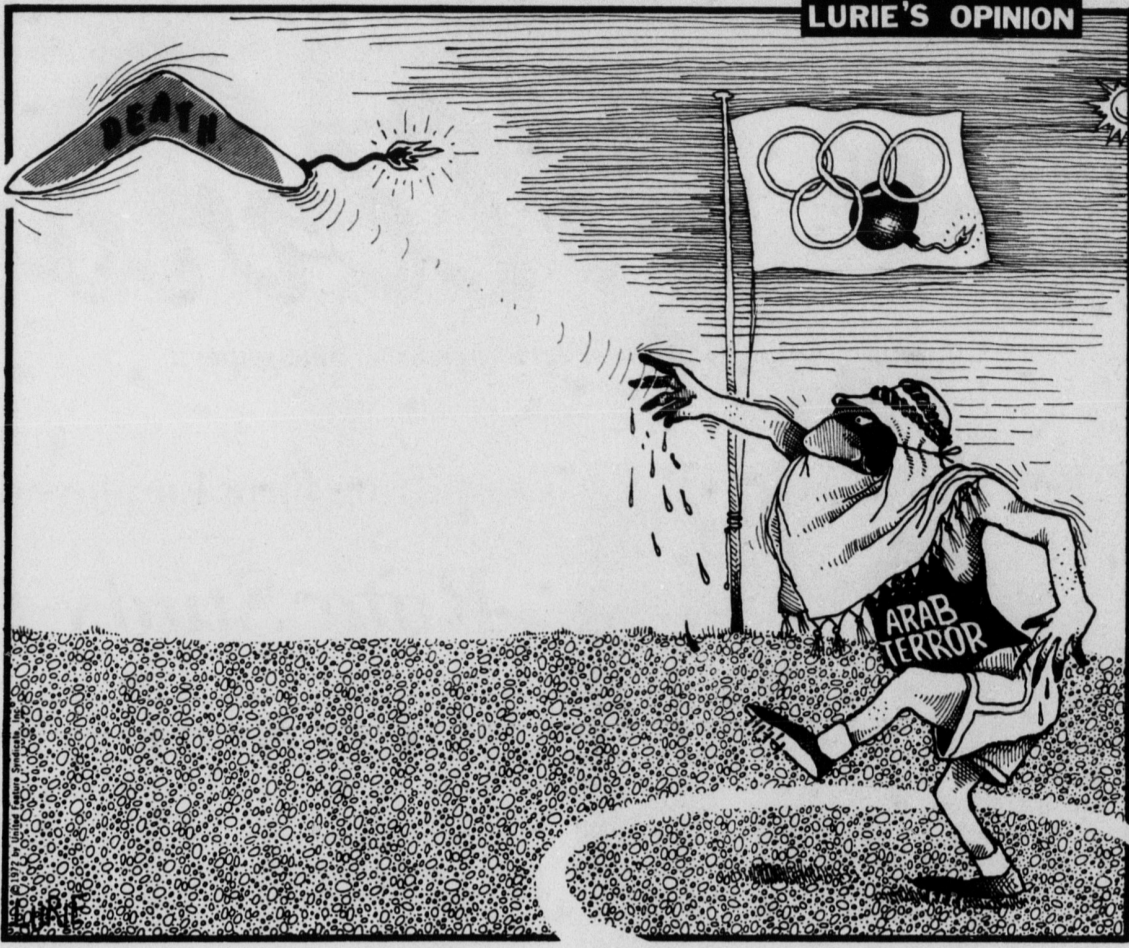
Dear Rodney:

The Fellows Company of Kings Mountain are at it again. After just finishing one movie, four fellows are at work on their next film. Backers are awaiting a glimpse at their next script. They have one in mind now about the first hippie of the U.S. frontier years, dating back to 1834-1837 in the Illinois area. Reb Wiesener will be portraying the lead role again, the script was written by Mr. Pete Floyd, and Mr. Johnnie E. Floyd, all of Kings Mountain. This film is to be directed by Mr. Pete Floyd. Script analysis by Johnnie Floyd, and Co-director Reb Wiesener. At present they are involved with records being handled by Sam Tuttle and Kay Jenkins of four fellows. Jim Arp's records are going so well he has had to change with a bigger label. Carl V. Wiesener is considering pressing some records of his own after he, Jim, and the rest of the members of the company met with Nashville's Cecil Mull, "Wild Wood Angel" at Mr. Jonas Bridges home last Saturday. Also Johnnie Floyd's got a book which will be released with the movie, all handling is being taken care of jointly by the above listed members.

A tour maybe set soon for the two girls in the lead roles of the past film along with Reb Wiesener, starting at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. That's it at present, it seems what was a dream, is becoming the biggest reality, and much bigger than thought. Hollywood here we come.

Many thanks to The Kings Mountain MIRROR for their co-operation from beginning to end.

Sincerely yours,
Reb Wiesener
President of Four Fellows, Inc.



Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



Well we're getting right in the middle now of the fall election campaign. I saw my first TV ad of the presidential campaign Monday night. It was a McGovern commercial. It showed the candidate presumably in a veterans hospital talking with disabled veterans of the Vietnam War. It was a cut above some of the campaign ads I've seen in recent presidential elections which insulted the intelligence of anyone old enough to vote. I hope all the campaign advertising can remain on a high level, but you can expect some pretty wild charges as the panic of election eve rolls around.

I had the pleasure of meeting Republican candidate for Governor Jim Holshouser Monday. Holshouser was in Shelby briefly to talk with newsmen and do a little on the street campaigning. I've now met both of the nominees for Governor, having talked with Skipper Bowles here last Spring. Both men are personable, energetic campaigners, and I believe either would do a fine job for our state during the next four years. Yes, I do have a preference, but it wouldn't serve any purpose to state it. I think the candidates can present their individual cases far better than I can.

Everyone's usually waiting on the photographer at those picture taking functions, but Monday night was an exception. Bill Bates, Marvin Teer and myself decided at Friday's United Fund meeting to set up a picture for Monday night of the UF making a presentation to Jim Yarbro for the Boy Scouts. Well I just happened to be talking with Bill Monday afternoon. He asked when the picture was, and I just happened to remember. Luckily they were coming to the MIRROR to make it because I forgot again till I saw Bill walk in the front door at 7 p.m. Well Marvin wasn't there, and a phone call confirmed that he was in Charlotte but might return. After awhile Jim came in with his Smokey the Bear Scout-masters hat on dressed for

photos. They decided to wait 30 minutes. I asked Jim about the new scouting handbook, and somehow we got off on a discussion about snake bites, rat bites, and bee stings, and even Poison Ivy. I learned that snake bites are not so bad after all if you stay calm and get bit in a hospital, so it wasn't a wasted 30 minutes after all. About 10 minutes after they left, Marvin came rushing through the door....I'm ready anytime you fellows are.

My experiences with visiting Charlotte are usually anything but pleasant. I'm afraid I wouldn't be a credit to their chamber of commerce. Everytime I go there's a new road or a new detour through town, and by the time I get where I'm going the entire trip's usually a disaster. Well last Thursday was almost pleasant. I had to carry my new electric shaver I got for Christmas last year, the one that broke a month later to get repaired. I thought service was a thing of the past, but when I carried it in to Carolina Shaver Service, the man said pick it up in 45 minutes. I decided to spend the time browsing around and watching the people. I drove down Tryon where I had to pay 50 cents to park my car, and walked in the noonday sun past the decorated windows. People walk faster, dress more daintily. Some of the women on the street sported new fall attire. I got engrossed in some books and records, got turned off by so much cheap, useless, mass produced articles of clothing in the stores. A construction crew was erecting concrete forms and steel on a vacant lot in the heart of town and I wondered what it would look like in a year, and I thought of the investment such a structure must represent. I tried to drink in enough of the bigness of Charlotte to last me for awhile, and went back to the shaver shop. "No charge" the man said, "it's guaranteed," strange words for sure, coming from a stranger.

Charlotte's sort of ambiguous, it doesn't belong in North Carolina, but there it is, 30 minutes away from Kings Mountain.

Washington Report

by Congressman James T. Brohill

The Metric System

Today, Americans measure length in inches and feet, weight in ounces and pounds, and volume in quarts, gallons and bushels. These units of measurement stem from the English system which was developed during the Middle Ages. Within a few years, under pending recommendations by the U.S. government, our measurement system may be changed to one of meters, liters, and grams—the metric system. This system of measurement is based on the decimal system and is in use throughout most of the world.

Current interest in U.S. conversion to the metric system was stimulated by a three-year study conducted by the Department of Commerce. The findings, issued in July, 1971, recommended adoption of the metric system over a ten-year period. Last month, the Senate passed a bill providing that the international metric system should be "the predominant but not exclusive system of measurement in the United States" and specified a ten-year conversion period. The bill would create an eleven-member National Metric Conversion Board to accomplish this purpose.

Because Senate passage has occurred so near the end of the Congressional session, it is doubtful that final action will take place this year. However, I anticipate that the House of Representatives will consider this legislation in the next session of the Congress.

There are many arguments advanced for U.S. conversion to the metric system. One of the major points is the expansion of trade with metric nations. With Great Britain and Canada in the process of metric conversion, the United States is the only major nation of the world not using the metric system. With conversion, American-produced machine tools and parts would have much greater advantage in international markets. The Commerce Department has estimated that, under the metric system, U.S.

exports would increase by \$600 million a year. This would greatly improve our balance of trade, which has lagged in recent years. Metric conversion would also enhance the U.S. position in international standards-making deliberations, an important trade factor.

Approximately eleven percent of U.S. manufacturers are already using the metric system. The pharmaceutical industry, photography, medicine and scientific work have converted, as well as some military weapons programs and parts of the domestic automobile industry. Representatives of these industries have indicated that metric conversion was easier than initially expected.

The Commerce Department metric study found that the inherent advantages of the metric system and the flow of world trade will eventually bring about its adoption by gradual evolution in the U.S. The findings were that a planned conversion would be far less costly, more efficient and would minimize economic dislocation.

There are, of course, some objections to metric conversion, most of which stem from two basic arguments: cost factors and the inconvenience resulting from changing to an unfamiliar system. During the conversion period, double inventories of products, parts, etc. would be required, and many machines and other equipment would become obsolete in a short time. This cost and inconvenience would be temporary, however, and advocates of the metric system feel that they would be minimal compared to the advantages of the more widely used metric system.

It is interesting to look at the history of U.S. consideration of the international metric system. The Congress, which under the Constitution is assigned the power "to fix the standard of weights and measures," first considered the metric system in 1970. At that time, however, the sys-

Perspective

by Jay Ashley



Charles Richards, special agent from the Charlotte office of the FBI was an impressive figure in his Thursday speech to the Rotary Club. Just the idea of seeing an agent with this branch of the Justice Department is enough to make a strong man feel weak. We all know the stereotypical "G-Man." He is the firm jawed hulk of solid muscle, who never smiles and can shout "halt" in such a tone as to freeze the loosest of fugitives. Most of us equate the agent with Efram Zimbalist Jr. or Jimmy Stewart, according to which medium we happen to be viewing at the time. Jack Webb would make a good FBI man too. Those steely eyes peering into your very soul could really shake you up. James Cagney tried to be an agent once in a film, but he is strictly the opposite of goodguy.

So with those preconceived notions in mind the Rotarians, visitors and newsmen were on hand to hear and see and FBI agent. By the time the meeting was over, the atmosphere could be likened to a bunch of Walter Mitty types who have just been granted a permanent parole.

Charles Richards (or as a few brave souls dared call "Chuck") was neither Efram Zimbalist, Jimmy Stewart or Jack Webb. Instead he was quite a personable fellow, one who enjoyed telling a joke as much as hearing one. A short person like myself often finds it difficult to judge people who are very tall but to me he seemed about 7' 5". In real-

ity he may have been closer to 6' 7" but one can never be sure.

Nevertheless, Richards dispelled as many stereotypes about FBI agents as he did about crime. Like the true after dinner speaker he started his speech off with a humorous anecdote. "G-Men" he called most after dinner speakers he delivered an interesting and wide awake presentation. Of course if you kept in mind his profession you would realize you might better stay awake.

Seriously, he kept the audience at ease and totally involved in his account of the many facets of the FBI. He was loose, yet poised; fun loving, yet firmly in control. Not once did he talk while staring at the floor but kept his eyes on the audience as if making an impromptu surveillance. Richards was also a man proud of his work and the bureau's record and rightly so.

As he recounted requirements for the bureau you could see him take great pride and the audience show greater respect, knowing Richards had actually been through it all, and survived that final cut of able men.

The main thing that impressed me was the dedication he showed in his work and even in his manner. He has been around and he knows what to do and from the way he talks and acts, he is going to do it. I don't know about the other men in attendance but with guys like Chuck Richards around, I feel I can breathe a little easier at night.

Crime Up; Increase Rate Down

There is only slight justification for encouragement in FBI crime figures for 1971, released at the end of August. The rate of increase was seven per cent last year, compared to an eleven per cent rise in 1970 and a twelve per cent increase in 1969. This was the lowest increase since 1965; the Nixon Administration has thus reduced the rate of increase, which is welcome news.

However, one must hope the crime rate can eventually be reduced; last year there was a total of 5,995,200 serious crimes in the United States, including 810,000 crimes of violence!

As long as such a shameful rate of crime and violence continues, Americans have a man-sized job facing them, to seek to reduce the U.S. crime rate to something like that in other less-violent, free societies.

Highway Commission Politics Could Become Big Campaign Issue

by JOHN KILGO

The highly political nature of the State Highway Commission and the allocating of money for road building will soon boil over and become the number one issue of the gubernatorial campaign.

That's the opinion of veteran Tar Heel politicians—and evidence continues to stack up to indicate they're right.

Charles R. Dawkins of Fayetteville, a member of the 23-man Highway Commission told me in an interview:

"I have a story to tell but I'm not ready to tell it. Yes, there is too much politics involved in the Commission. I've opposed them several times in private. I've come close to blows with the chairman."

Another commissioner, who insisted that he not be named, told me: "It's a good thing the public doesn't know how much politics is involved in determining where money goes for roads. It's a mess."

Commissioner Cliff Benson of Raleigh recently ordered an underpass for golf carts be constructed at a Zebulon country club. The \$7,300 cost of the project was approved by the Commission last week, but not before Dawkins kick-

ed up a fuss in public and private.

"That item should have never been on our agenda," Dawkins told me. "That's why I didn't vote for it."

Benson was one of only two men on the Highway Commission who supported Skipper Bowles for Governor in the Democratic primary. Most of the commissioners actively supported Pat Taylor.

Reports leaked out from some sources that Bowles was planning to name Benson chairman of the next Highway Commission. But then word of the golf cart underpass got out and Bowles' office issued a statement saying Bowles had never considered naming Benson chairman of the commission.

Republican Jim Holshouser has criss-crossed the state, retelling the golf cart story and charging that Bowles and Benson are long-time close friends.

Says Commissioner Dawkins: "Some changes must be made in the next Highway Commission and the way it's set up. I've talked to Bowles about this. As a whole, this Highway Commission is a good one. But the system doesn't work. One man decides where the roads go."

Dawkins obviously has serious differences with Commission Chairman Lauch Faircloth but he absolutely refused to discuss them in public. However, when he says "one man decides where the roads go," he has to be talking about Faircloth. And he did say, as we quoted earlier, that he had almost come to blows with the chairman in private meetings of the Highway Commission.

Bowles said last week that the Highway Commission Chairman in his administration would be responsible to the secretary of transportation.

Says Commissioner Dawkins about that proposal: "That's the way it ought to be, if you put a man in who isn't getting a political payoff. Otherwise, the road money will still be decided by politics."

Dawkins says he would not consider being a Highway Commissioner again under the present set-up.

"My God," he said, "when it gets so bad you can't sleep at night, it's too much." Coming on top of this controversy was a Raleigh News & Observer story saying Gov. Bob Scott had paved more than 100 miles of roads in his home county of Alamance. The

newspaper said Scott had used the Highway Commission's unappropriated surplus to give Alamance County \$4.3 million for that purpose, while Forsythe County didn't get any of the money.

A high-up in Republican Holshouser's campaign told me: "We'll see if Bowles can defend the actions of the Highway Commission. It'll be one of the big issues from now on."

It's not likely that Bowles will go to sleep about this issue. He's been as critical of the Highway Commission as Holshouser.

Nick Galifianakis, Helms' opponent in the Senate race, plans to quote extensively from Helms' past editorial aired over Raleigh's WRAL-TV. Galifianakis has already begun to mail out Helms editorials that might tend to embarrass the Raleigh broadcaster in a political campaign such as this. One Galifianakis supporter tells me: "Jesse has had some very unkind things to say about President Nixon in the past. We want to let the public know what Jesse really feels about Nixon, since he's trying to run on the President's coattails."



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