

LETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS

Most people like to "get things off their chest," and under freedom they can do it. That's what free speech and free press are all about.

One of the best ways to get things off your chest is to write a letter to the editor. This time-honored way of giving one's views and ideas is an important part of our free society and free press.

All letters written to editors cannot be printed. Oftentimes space is lacking. Sometimes the words and ideas may be spiteful, abusive or even libelous. But most readers — and writers — have the opportunity to say what they think.

It is important that people read newspapers with understanding, think for themselves, and take responsible action when they believe it necessary, if only to get it off their chest with a letter to the editor.

In this way, free speech and a free press will continue to guarantee a free and open society.

SECURITY AND NEWSPAPERS

Secrecy and newspapers are mortal enemies. When government is conducted in secret, the people have no way of obtaining information about what happened.

Freedom requires that the people be fully informed in order to act in their own best interest. Although freedom of the press and the people's right to know are constitutional guarantees, there is no guarantee that government business will always be conducted in the open.

Historically, it has been the role of newspapers to keep a watch on government and public officials by reporting what happens at public meetings and discussions affecting the public interest. Only when people are fully informed about actions of their public officials can they make sound judgments and cast intelligent votes.

And only in this way can democracy function and people keep themselves free.

Perspective

by Jay Ashley



The air has turned a bit nippy here lately and long sleeve shirts are seen more and more. Every morning I wake up and feel the chilly air it makes me think back a few years when I was still at home. Now I wake up by that blasted electric alarm clock but "way back then" it was quite different. We lived in an old home that celebrated its 100th birthday in 1958. Needless to say it was quite drafty and a glass of water at the head of the bed would freeze overnight. I would be lying there with about three quilts tucked around my body when all of a sudden the air would be split by a booming, "Roust, wache schnell!" My Dad, who had been in "The Big One," WW II, still remembered just enough German to harass me at six o'clock in the morning, displaying his talents. Even as a youth I was instilled with a sympathy for German kids who must have been subjected to the same rude awakening.

times I wish I had about three acres of tobacco and a summer season seven months long to put it in by myself. Tom Wolfe once said, "You can't go home again." He was pretty sharp.

Around Kings Mountain; a couple of months ago, Gene White, director of the Redevelopment Commission ran an ad in the paper. The ad was designed to find a new home for the family poodle. Gene was immediately swapped in a deluge of phone calls from citizens demanding to know why. Many wanted to know what was wrong with the animal. Gene would answer truthfully, "nothing." "We just want to find the dog a new home." Well to make that long story short he finally found the dog a new owner. But it seems the fates do not smile on Gene. He bought the children a cat for a pet. Now just a few days ago a couple drove by his home and dumped a two week old kitten in the yard. The kids immediately became attached and so the little walf was taken in. Gene's little son Neil has taken a special liking to the kitten. Last week he came running into his mother and, as well as a three year old can communicate, let her know that the kitten was in the clothes dryer. After a few questions, Mrs. White decided to follow Neil and found to her dismay that he had shoved the kitten into the dryer vent outside the house. After much work and toil she freed the kitten and returned indoors. No sooner than you can say "scat," Neil was back again with the same story. Seems the kitten enjoyed the warm spot and crawled in himself. Gene says that a solution to the problem has not yet been worked out.

And my gosh was that floor cold!! The only way Dad could tell I was awake (I slept upstairs) was when he heard my feet hit the floor/ceiling. One day I tried to trick him by throwing a book onto the floor but it didn't work, as usual. Once I did hit the floor I'll bet I broke all speed records getting down those stairs. Not because I really enjoyed getting up but rather because my body had a tendency to shun extreme cold. Memories are still clear of me balled up in front of the fan on the antiquated oil stove, fighting my sister for space.

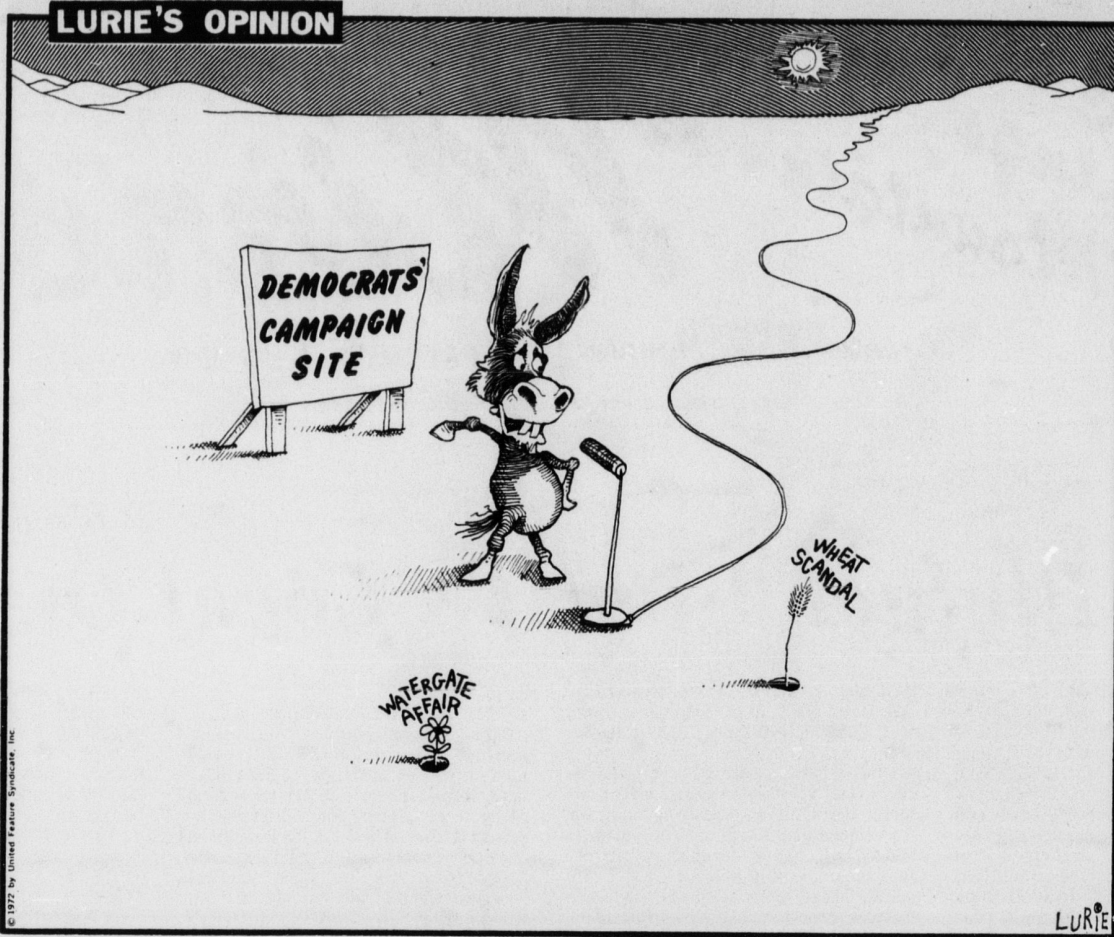
My sister and I would stumble to the table for breakfast and immediately come face to face with our smiling faced nemesis. Imagine the nerve! Waking us up out of a warm sleep and then grinning about it!

Those September and October days bring back the memories of work. The whole family would be in the "pack house" sorting and tying up tobacco to take to market. Daddy was well known for his beautiful wrapping ability and I remember watching in amazement as the stack beside him grew higher with rich yellow leaves. I would try to tie the "trash leaves" but I never got the hang of it.

Even this late in the year, sometimes there would be more tobacco to pull in the field. What man who has ever been there can forget that cold, wet, soggy mess at 6 a.m.? Walking down the row all humped over, with eyes stinging and being flapped in the face with wet tobacco leaves is enough to make anyone wish he were somewhere else, preferable back in bed.

But now I don't have to be at work 'til 9. My apartment is warm, I have an alarm clock, I have a great wife and I'm pretty much my own boss. My work is not extremely hard physically and I get off at 5 most nights. But sometimes in the morning I listen for that "Roust Wache schnell." And sometimes I throw the cover back, just to feel cold as ice. And some-

It seems someone else had a bit of trouble in KM last week. Dorothy Spivey, an employee of KM Drug Store went outside to go home Thursday and found that her car was gone. Yep! Right on downtown Battleground. A quick call to the Police Department ensued. Reports were taken and she was escorted home in the Patrol Car. A couple hours later the Patrolmen came up her walk grinning. The story came out that a man working for a local concern had been employed to wash and wax a Chevrolet owned by another woman. By a quirk of fate the keys fit both ignitions and he took the wrong one. She was happy in more ways than one. She had her car and on top of that, it was one of the cleanest in town! Even her daughter was happy. Why?...She got to ride in a Police car. Something she had never before done.



"ONLY 2 MONTHS AGO IT WAS ALL DESERT!..."

On Polls And The Numbers Racket

By JOHN KILGO

As Will Rogers once said, "All I know is what I read in the papers," but if the pollsters are right, what's the use of going to the voting booths in November?

A friend of mine took his wife to the doctor the other day and he got a diagnosis. Said the physician: "My staff was polled and 55 per cent say its going to be a girl, 33 per cent say a boy and 12 percent can't confirm the pregnancy."

The television weatherman smiles and predicts, "There is a 20 per cent chance of rain today and a 15 per cent chance tonight." Not even Albert Einstein could figure out that formula.

The baseball season is a month from starting and the bookies say Pittsburgh is a 3-1 choice to win the National League pennant and the Texas Rangers are a 100-1 selection to take first in the American League. The Rangers were closer to 1,000,000 to one.

Long before a football game is played one team is established as a 14-point favorite. Many people attend the game to watch the performance a-

gainst the spread and care little about the natural rivalry of the teams.

There are polls everywhere. In commercial advertising one product pronounces its success is 30 per cent more effective than Brand "X." Brand X might be a dog food.

Radio stations survive on numbers taken by concerns whose employees knock on doors and ring telephones to ask questions about an individual's favorite performer. Excellent television shows are cancelled because their ratings dip. The product is not nearly as important as the viewing audience.

Public schools are divided by percentage of blacks against whites but the schools will teach there is no such thing as discrimination.

Banks survive on the percentage of interest on a loan. Theirs is a numbers game with the odds always in favor of the house.

In the history of man, numbers have played a more important role than names. No. 13 is unlucky and many architects refuse to construct a 13th floor in an office building. It will reach the 12th floor, then jump to the 14th.

If we are killed in a traffic accident, we become a number for a AAA release.

That's modern America, a bigger numbers racket than butter 'n eggs.

Attorney General Robert Morgan, recently returned from a trip to Vietnam, says he's in basic agreement with President Nixon's policy there. "I keep hoping that McGovern will moderate his stand on the war issue," Morgan says.

Have you noticed Jim Holshouser, the Republican candidate for Governor, putting on a little weight around the mid-section?

Holshouser told one of our reporters that the weight gain is planned to help him lose some of that youthful image. Never helped meany, Mr. Holshouser.

Skipper Bowles says if he's elected Governor he'll hit the deck running.

"We have a full crew working on state government reorganization," Bowles says. "We're going to make sure

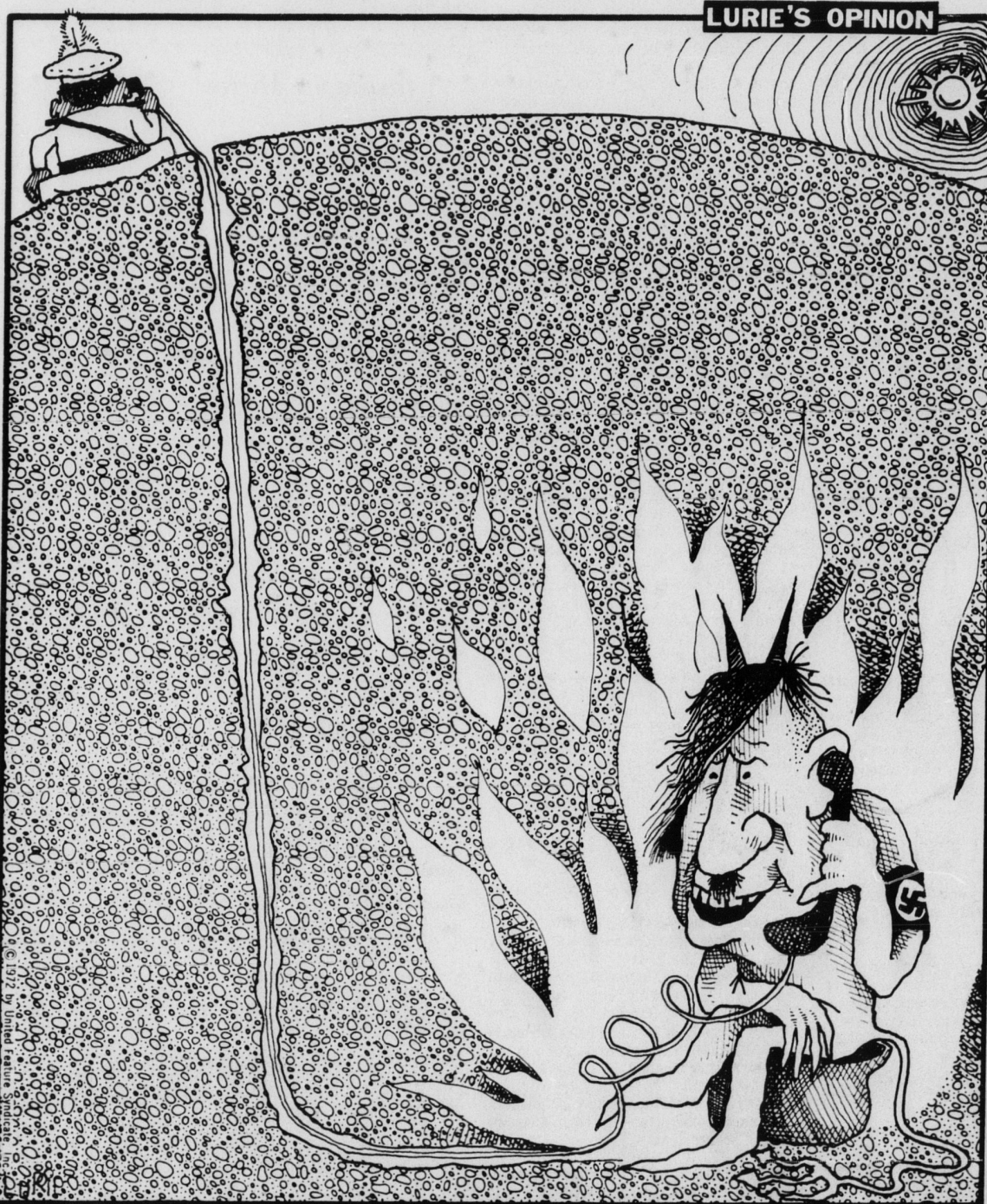
that the Governor's program is ready for General Assembly consideration when the legislature arrives in Raleigh."

A Walter DeVries poll, taken for the state Democratic Party, shows the state Democratic ticket in good shape and the national ticket sagging in North Carolina.

DeVries shows President Nixon with 65 per cent of the Tar Heel vote, George McGovern with 24 per cent and about 11 per cent undecided.

On the other hand, reliable sources say the poll shows Bowles well ahead of Holshouser in the race for Governor, Nick Gaillfianakis about 25 percentage points ahead of Jesse Helms in the Senate race and Jim Hunt running well ahead of Johnny Walker in the campaign for lieutenant governor.

The poll was taken late in July. DeVries will be polling constantly for Bowles during the remainder of the campaign. His polls in the primary were among the most accurate conducted in the state.



"VELL DONE, AMIN. NOW INVADE POLAND"

Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



I think its fall fever! It affects me like Spring fever, and I think I've got a worse case of it this year. Its been a busy summer, and those hot muggy days are giving way to crisper brighter ones. It would be a perfect time for a vacation, a chance to get away and clear your head, and give yourself a chance to evaluate where you've been and concentrate on where you're going. Don't be surprised if you sometimes find yourself answering nowhere to both.

Travel can do wonders for a weary mind and body. I'm getting ready for a couple of days of relaxation and I hope adventure on the Outer Banks in about a week with Stanley Green, author of Kinnakeet Adventure, and Cleveland County native. He spent about 13 of the best years of his life there, and says there's no place like it on earth, not the way he knows it anyway, from having lived with and become a native. Having read his book I'm really looking forward to the trip.

For those of you who are about to pack the camper a-

way for the Winter months, it seems like a shame. Of course school back and vacations are mostly used up, but there's a lot of opportunity on weekends for camping and enjoying the fall colors during this quiet and serene time of the year. The mountains in their fall colors are usually associated with outings this time of year, but I've always preferred the coast-anytime of year. That Atlantic Ocean never looks the same to me. This time of year most of the resort motels along Myrtle Beach are closed for the winter, the traffic looks like downtown KM at 1 a.m., and the sidewalks aren't lined with tourists, and it does seem strange to look as far as the eye can see down the Grand Strand and see only an occasional couple walking, or a surfer. It's the kind of pace this weather sets the mood for, and it gives me a very free feeling of being unaffected by everyone else's routine.

But I'm not there, there's not enough time. There's never enough time. There's just today!

Washington Report

By Congressman James T. Broyhill

Consumer Protection Safety

In the past few years, many laws have been passed which are designed to protect the consumer and provide him with additional information about the goods and services he purchases. One consumer interest which has come to the forefront is the safety of products used in everyday life. In legislation passed by the House of Representatives last week, a new Federal regulatory agency would be established to set up safety standards for a wide variety of consumer products and to enforce safety regulations.

The National Center for Health Statistics has estimated that each year 20 million Americans are injured in and around the home. More than 100,000 of these injuries result in permanent disability and 30,000 result in death. The death toll from home accidents is especially high for children under age 15. While many of these home accidents are the result of individual carelessness, a large number could be prevented by requiring products used in the home, especially those with moving parts or electrical components, to meet safety standards.

1967 to study the overall problem of protecting the public from unsafe products. The bill would establish an independent Consumer Product Safety Commission which would be charged with the responsibility of assuring that safe products are available to the consuming public. The Commission would have the authority to establish mandatory safety standards where necessary to prevent or reduce unreasonable product hazards. If the Commission determined that such standards were not feasible, it could request a court order to ban the product from the marketplace. The Commission would also collect and disseminate information on consumer product-related injuries. Research and investigation into the causes and prevention of product-related deaths, illnesses and injuries would be promoted.

The legislation provides that authority over existing safety laws such as toy safety and flammable fabrics would be transferred to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. This transfer of authority would coordinate the administration of these laws which are now under the jurisdiction of a variety of Federal agencies. However, the Commission would not have jurisdiction over tobacco products, motor vehicles and equipment, firearms, and foods, drugs, or cosmetics, all of which are covered under other laws.

So far, the Congress has responded to the concern about product safety by passing a series of laws designed to protect consumers from specific hazards. Under these laws, Federal standards have been established to protect the public from flammable fabrics, unsafe toys, and hazardous household substances. Because of requirements for tire and automobile safety, many car owners have had their automobiles recalled for replacement of defective parts. However, this patchwork approach to safety covers only a small portion of the products available to the American consumer today. Technological advancements and growing public demand for new products have increased the need for overall safety requirements.

The legislation passed by the House grew out of the recommendations of the National Commission on Product Safety, which was created in

This legislation was considered and written in the House Commerce and Finance Subcommittee, on which I am a ranking member. In its original form, it was, in my opinion, an unworkable piece of legislation which provided far too much authority to the Federal government and too little participation for private industry in the standard-setting procedure. Through a great deal of study and hard work, it was transformed into a strong bill which I feel will serve both industry and consumer interests. It provides a balanced approach to consumer safety and creates an atmosphere in which business and consumer interests can work together.

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