

## NEWS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON

Washington, D.C. -- In recent weeks President Thieu has done much to gain popularity among his people. Ironic as it is, in blocking the settlement agreed upon by U.S. and North Vietnamese negotiators, he has the heavy backing of the population, and of many opposed to his regime.

Thieu's position is, simple, that he wants the invading North Vietnamese out of his country, that one primary point in any settlement must be that Hanoi will withdraw its 140,000 soldiers.

Henry Kissinger had agreed that all troops would be frozen in place, and that a political solution would then be undertaken, perhaps with a coalition government

in Saigon. But Thieu has blocked any settlement allowing North Vietnamese troops to remain in place.

As a result of his stand, when Washington desired a settlement during an election campaign, Thieu is more popular now than he has been in some time. If he manages to win his point and get North Vietnamese troops withdrawn, he will have scored a major public and military triumph.

As a result of Saigon's toughness on this issue, the war may continue for a time. But U.S. troops are not in it and the U.S. Air Force has curtailed its bombing of the far north. A major U.S. escalation is not likely.

## Life Beyond Earth

A panel of four leading scientists and a theologian recently agreed that life in the form of high civilizations on other planets almost certainly existed. But the panelists disagreed sharply whether we should attempt to contact other civilizations.

The degree of certainty expressed by some of the panelists is both surprising and interesting, for man has wondered for centuries whether there could be life on other planets. In the minds of many scientists, it's absurd to think that of all the billions of celestial bodies, only earth would contain civilized beings.

Because the most likely planets containing other civilizations are far away, the first known contact is expected to be through radio telescopes powerful enough to exchange messages with distant solar systems. And something of a radio search of outer space is already underway.

But it would seem premature to accept the suggestions of one panelist, that Congress appropriate money to launch a serious space search. What are we to do when we find life elsewhere? Send military aid? Send real estate developers? Or our modern films? Or should we instead ask for help?

## Perspective

by Jay Ashley



And now gentlemen the discussion of a problem we all are faced with at some point in our lives between the ages of one year and death.

Single, unmatched socks. Without doubt this problem is one of the most frustrating and mysterious that ever confronts us. Just the thought of this situation is enough to make us tremble with anger and glance around at things that go "whump" in the dark in an effort to find the Mysterious Sock Sacker.

Brinnnggg. The alarm goes off early in the morning. Shower, shave and walk to the closet for the day's wardrobe. Yep. Shirts, pants, belt. Now let's get those new blue socks. With childlike innocence you open the dresser drawer and there it is. Staring you in the face is a wormlike tangle of socks. Blue, brown, gray, orange. Orange? Where did they come from? Oh well. Suddenly you are struck by the stark realization that none of these foot covers are in little round balls of pairs but are, instead, separate entities crying out in the dark for the proper mate.

Now you have two choices. You can either try to feel the difference between the blue socks and the brown socks or you can take the whole mass into the living room and have a better light. Choosing the latter alternative does have its requirements. First you need a large neutral colored table and a 4000 watt light bulb. The reason for the high wattage lamp is self explanatory. You're still half asleep and anger has rendered your outlook on life slightly red.

Remember when Argyle socks were the rage? They were

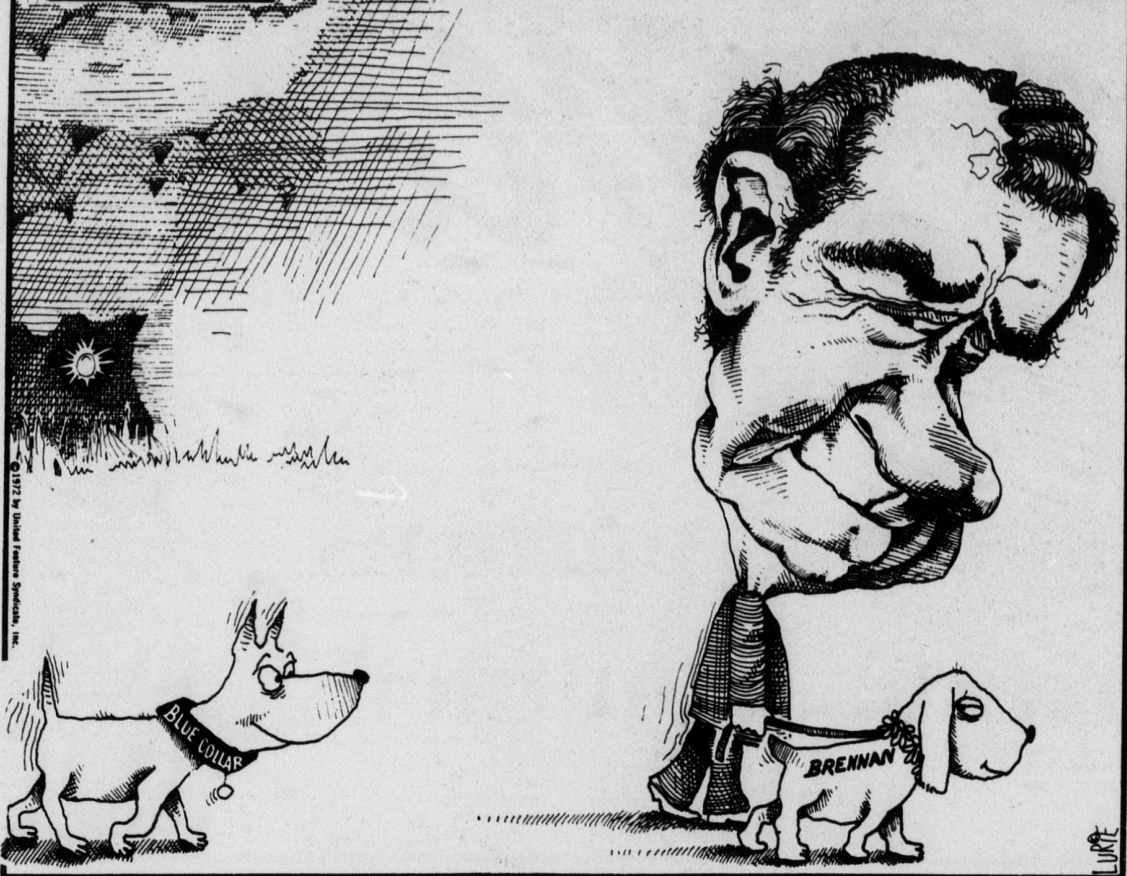
easy to pair, right? I mean, like nothing can be paired with a purple, yellow and green tinted sock except another purple, yellow and green tinted sock. White socks are easy to pair too. But then again white socks aren't worn that much anymore. What's that you say? Brown socks should be easy to pair also? Nope. That's a fallacy. If you look close enough at the labels when you buy socks you will find them manufactured in "Autumn Brown," "Indian Summer Brown," "Brick Brown," "Burnt Brown" and "Mud Brown" and none of those listed are the same shade. A "Burnt Brown" is definitely a no-no with "Autumn Brown."

Since modern day socks lack appropriate designs, the job of sorting and pairing becomes virtually impossible. As the early morning hours become the late morning hours you might soon realize that the 26 socks in front of you have one thing in common. None of them will mate with the others.

Where those other 26 matching socks went will always remain a mystery. You might have the wit and wisdom of a Banacek but you will never figure out where the missing 26 have gone.

Through experience with this type of problem I have calculated that the married life of a new pair of socks is approximately four washings. Then either the male or female of the species leaves for something better and you or rather your feet are left high and dry. The problem can be resolved however and is as simple as falling off a loom. Throw the whole tangled mess away, wrap your feet with hand towels and wear a pair of boots.

## LURIE'S OPINION



## What's Ahead For Morgan-Folks Still Guessing About Skipper

By JOHN KILGO

Complications keep popping up for Attorney General Robert Morgan, as he ponders his political future.

We wrote here the week after the election that Jim Holshouser's victory had complicated matters for Morgan, as far as his hopes of running for the U.S. Senate in '74 were concerned.

If Morgan ran for that office, he'd have to resign as attorney general and Holshouser would be free to name a Republican to that important post.

A veteran Democrat here pointed out something else to us the other day.

"A Republican attorney general would also gain control of the State Bureau of Investigation," the Democrat said, "and of course could enforce the Corrupt Practices Act as he would see fit. A lot of politicians

could be embarrassed."

Morgan isn't talking about the situation for public consumption. But in the state capital, the subject of the general's future seems to slip into every conversation.

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Skipper Bowles had to figure it would happen. He is being second-guessed more than a football quarterback for the campaign he ran for Governor.

Sen. Sam Ervin has allowed that maybe Bowles went too much on his own, and by doing so hurt not only his campaign but that of Nick Galifianakis.

Pollster Walter DeVries contends that Bowles was hurt because Galifianakis lost about five percentage points a week to Jesse Helms during the closing weeks of that campaign.

And now a Bowles aide, Thad Woodard, says heavy spending and overexposure might have cost Bowles the election. Woodard says the Bowles campaign lost touch with the little people and became big time.

Of course, Gov. Bob Scott has hinted that Bowles didn't help his cause by being overly critical of the Scott administration. One thing's for sure, Bowles was crushed in Scott's home county of Alamance. Sen. Ralph Scott, the Governor's uncle, told me a month before the election that Bowles hadn't asked for his help.

"It seems Skipper wants to give Bob more hell than he does Holshouser," Sen. Scott told me at the time. Bowles apparently isn't letting the criticism worry him. He staked his campaign on a carefully-laid-

out game plan, followed it almost to the letter and lost.

What politicians aren't saying is that Holshouser was a much stronger candidate than any of them cared to admit. He surprised most of us by beating Gardner, and kept right on by winning over Bowles.

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Some politicians seem to feel there will be an attempt made in the Legislature to do away with the soft-drink tax, but the feeling seems to be that the tobacco tax will hang in there.

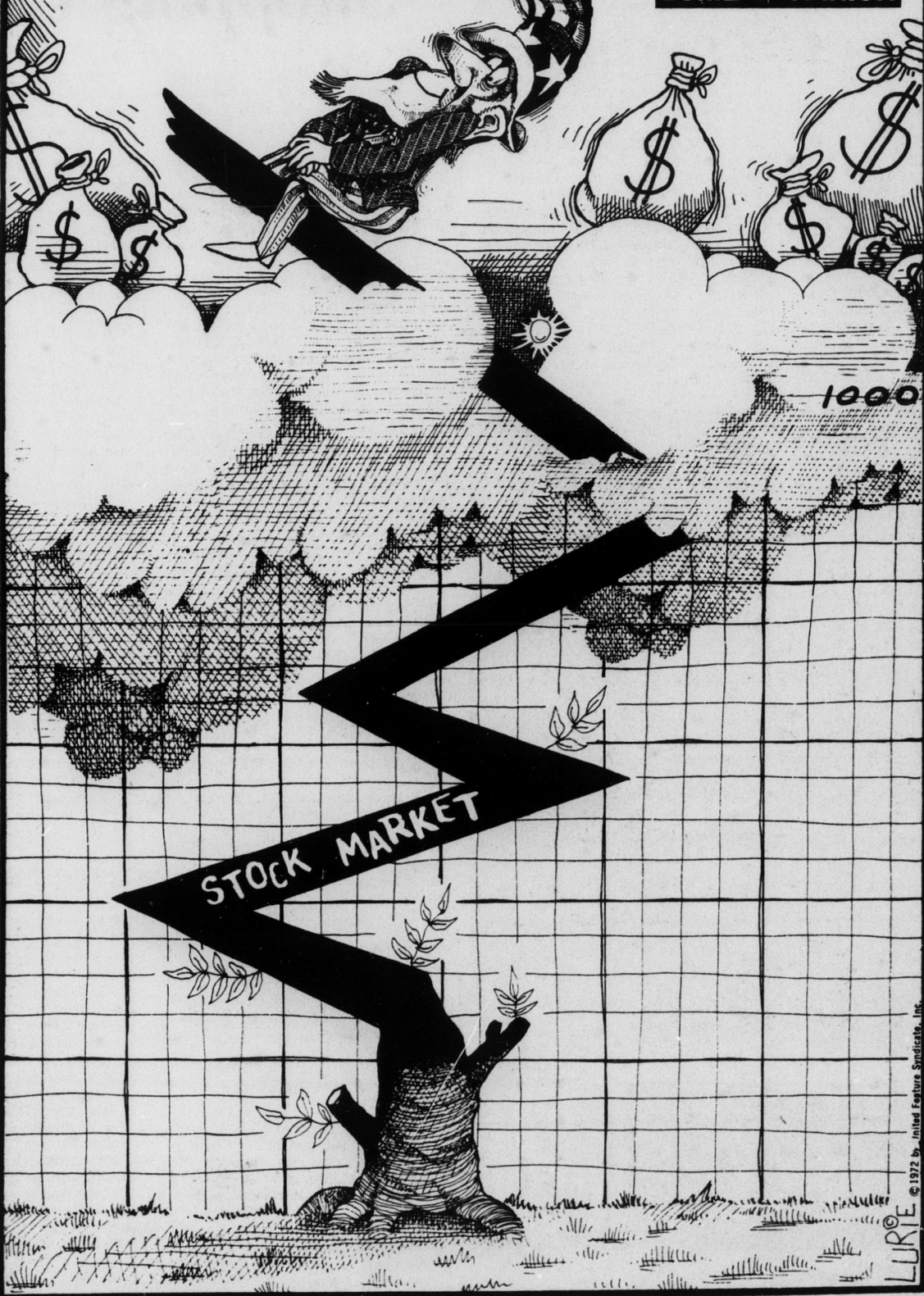
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### Wise Words

Don't believe all you hear, unless it's a police car or fire truck siren or a train.

-Courier, Ottomwa, Ia.

## LURIE'S OPINION



SAM AND THE BEANSTALK

## Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



Back in our carefree childless days, Sue and I would occasionally venture over to Charlotte to take in a rock concert at the Coliseum or some such place. They were less frequent in this area then.

I was amused to almost always find an ever-present handful of freeloaders outside the show asking people as they entered for "spare change" presumably to buy a ticket. For the person who paid say \$8-10 for a couple of tickets to a show, the idea of peeling off spare change to some freeloader doesn't set too well.

Anyway the phrase "spare change" has become hip lingo for a handout around such places.

Well, I was hiking along toward Griffin's Drug Store Monday morning, and as I approached the "Central park" of downtown KM, I noticed three youngsters grinning sheepishly. As I approached them, a young man piped up "Excuse me sir, Do you have any spare change?" I couldn't help but almost laugh as the phrase rang true, when he continued- "I'm hitchhiking to Washington tonight, and I need some money to eat on. Intrigued by the request, I replied, "What's going on in Washington?" "Oh, nothing special...I just need a vacation!"

As I looked back over my shoulder, I saw the young

trio turn the corner down Mountain Street. I wonder where they are now!

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Again folks, we love to print those kids birthdays, and engagements, etc., but bringing them in on Tuesday afternoons wrecks havoc with our deadline schedules. Deadlines are made to break, but we would appreciate getting these items into our office before 10 a. m. Tuesday, so we can get them prepared.

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Are we having more Christmas and enjoying it less? I seem to be anyway. This is not another attack on the commercialism of Christmas, but maybe it comes with getting older- but it just seems harder for me to get into the spirit of the season. Our tree stands in the middle of the living-room all nicely decorated, but instead of being the focalpoint of the Christmas holidays, it just stands there in all its artificiality, overshadowed by the TV. We went about decorating the tree in a big way this year for the benefit of little Holly, but she was more intrigued by the pattern of the chair fabric than the tree lights. Oh, well- It's not Christmas yet.

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## Is Legislature On Verge Of Annual Sessions?

KQ SYNDICATE  
By JOHN KILGO

It appears the North Carolina Legislature is on the verge of becoming a body politic that meets annually, rather than once every two years.

The leadership of the General Assembly has indicated without question that it wants the Legislature to go to annual sessions, and they appear ready to fight for it.

And Governor-elect Jim Holshouser says he will not fight such a move, even indicating that it might be the wise course to follow.

The clue to how close the Legislature is of adopting annual sessions can be seen in the stance of Rep. James Ramsey of Roxboro, who will be the next Speaker of the House.

Not long ago, Ramsey told us that annual sessions would come eventually, but he wasn't sure they should be started at this time. He says now he feels the time has come to go to annual sessions.

Ramsey says the legislature could provide for annual sessions without legislation, by adopting a "gentlemen's agreement" and adopting an annual budget, rather than a two-year budget, which is customary.

Lt. Gov-elect Jim Hunt campaigned on the issue, saying North Carolina government had grown to the point that annual sessions are needed.

One of the prime obstacles to annual sessions in the past is the threat that the Legislature would stay in session for about six months each year. Opponents of the move contend there's no way a person serving in Raleigh could take that much time away from his business every year.

"The sessions must be business-like and observe some kind of a time-limit," Hunt says. "It must be made certain that they don't drag on and on."

Those who will push for annual sessions will do so on the grounds that it ought to be easier for a representative or a senator to take three months away from his business each year, as opposed to having to take six or seven months every other year.

Veteran Sen. Herman Moore of Mecklenburg tells me: "Annual sessions will pass this time without question. I've talked to enough people to know. I think we'll limit the sessions in even-numbered years to 60 or 90 days, and in odd-numbered years it'll probably run five or six months."

Moore says he's in favor of annual sessions, but wants to keep a bi-annual budget. "If we change to an annual budget," Moore said, "we'll be in Raleigh about five months every year."

One veteran legislator from the East, who asked not to be named, told me annual sessions would be a matter "discussed probably on the first or second day we're in Raleigh."

"It doesn't even look like a horse ranch anymore," the representative said. "The leadership is committed to annual sessions and they've been working. The votes will be in the bag to go to annual sessions before any of us get there for the session."

It appears the big debate this year will be whether to adopt rules that would allow annual or bi-annual budgets. But from my survey of the men and women who'll make up the 1973 Legislature, I'd have to say annual sessions for the Tar Heel General Assembly are just around the corner.

## Grover Plans Yule Parade

The town of Grover is swinging into the holiday season with a clean-up week December 10-16, and their own Christmas parade, featuring Santa Claus, on the 15th at 5 p.m. Grover residents are planning an all out holiday effort and urge everyone in the community to bring out their prettiest Christmas decorations for their front doors, and to clean up and spruce up yards and vacant lots.

Any group, church, or other organization who wants to join the parade may call Mrs. J. C. Scruggs.

## Wright On S&L Board

Fred Wright, Jr., a former block manufacturer in Kings Mountain has been elected to the board of directors of

Home Savings and Loan. Wright was elected to the board of directors at its meeting of November 21, 1972.

RODNEY DODSON- Editor & Co-Publisher

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