

the Southern Libertarian

Messenger

because of the increase in postal monopoly rates since Ground Hog Day, we are havin' to combine mailings.

April is the cruelest month, 1991!

Volume XIX, Number 12



Lawful concealed weapons deter crime

I understand the feelings of local cab drivers, who are calling for stiffer penalties for people who kill cab drivers. Such crimes are terrible, and cab drivers should demand justice and protection.

However, stiffer penalties alone will not solve the problem. We must help cab drivers defend themselves on the spot before a crime is committed. The best deterrent would be for cab drivers to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons, and there is good evidence to support this proposal.

A few months ago, Portland, Ore., started issuing more permits for concealed weapons. Last year, only 17 permits were issued, but this year more than 2,000 have been issued. As a result, the murder rate in Portland has fallen 33 percent this year. By contrast, New York City, which virtually bans handguns, has seen a 45 percent increase in homicide this year.

This goes to prove that guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens are not a cause of crime; they are a deterrent.

Concealed weapon permits have saved lives in Portland. We should make it easier in South Carolina for law-abiding, honest and peaceful persons to get such permits for self-protection.

The Founding Fathers distrusted a standing army, but they saw the need for an armed citizenry. They enshrined this principle in the Second Amendment, which applies to "the whole people," not just those persons who happen to be favored by government officials.

DAVID MORRIS
Treasurer

S.C. Libertarian Party

Lobbyists Greet Class
in Ethics With Yawns

Bypass dispute goes back into past

There is nothing new about the highway plan to have highway 301 bypass Florence.

More than 30 years ago the highway department head was arrested in Florence for drunk driving, and swore he would take the town off the map for doing that. As high lord of the highways, he claimed that he could drive drunk as a lord. For many years, signs would give the distance to any Pee Dee town except Florence.

I think it is a relief to hear that the new highway will not go right through the middle of Freedom Florence, destroying all the athletic fields.

John T. Harlike
Florence

TERM LIMIT LET

c/o Dick Gentry
6151 Tompkins Drive
McLean, Virginia 22101



On Dec. 15, 1791, Virginia became the 11th state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making it law.

Join the
Libertarian
Party

Abraham Lincoln Found
P.O. Box 92660
Washington, D.C. 20077

If usable DNA can be recovered from the bone fragments from Lincoln's skull or blood stains on his doctor's shirt cuffs, which have been preserved in the National Museum of Health and Medicine, it could be cloned to produce enough genetic material for study. It would then be scientifically possible to reconstruct a "library" of the President's genes.

By JOAN BECK
Chicago Tribune

Scientists could learn much in study of Lincoln's genes

Did Abraham Lincoln look the way he did because he had a genetic abnormality?

Do scientists have a right to study bone and blood samples preserved from his body to try to find out? Or should the dead — not only Lincoln but others — be allowed to keep the biological secrets that otherwise died with them?

At issue is whether the great Civil War President indeed had Marfan's syndrome, an inherited disorder that not only affects appearance but usually includes heart, eye and connective-tissue defects as well.

hold on to your wallet

Help a Christian prisoner

In association with CMCW offices around the world we are ceive the chocolates, but im- joining in a campaign to en- courage at least one imprisoned Christian in Cuba. Bro. Ocampo may not re- ceive the chocolates, but im- joining in a campaign to en- courage at least one imprisoned Christian in Cuba. Bro. Ocampo may not re- ceive the chocolates, but im- joining in a campaign to en- courage at least one imprisoned Christian in Cuba.

We invite thousands of people from the four corners of the earth to air mail a small chocolate bar to: hear about it and it will greatly encourage them. We suggest a small chocolate costing only a few cents.

Jose Montero Ocampo
Prison Provincial
Carretera de Luis Lazo 5-1 2km
Pinar Del Rio
CUBA

Applause!

St. Louis Post Dispatch

letter from Jim Higgins.

Another school year has begun and students dutifully march off to attend classes. Some go to new clean buildings, others to buildings in need of repair, but all students will receive at best a mediocre education.

The reasons for this are not the fault of any particular elected official or political party. Nor is it due to lack of funding, but rather is the fault of the system itself. School systems have no real incentives to improve themselves.

Tax money is taken from citizens and given to the public school monopoly unconditionally.

The solution is to let people keep their money to buy education for their children themselves. If parents were allowed to shop for a school the way they shop for a car, a variety of economical, high quality schools would soon abound. Parents should have the freedom to choose the proper education for their own children.

No Thirty-year pins

A recent article in the *Federal Times* lamented that in recent years "threats, assaults and harassment have increased" against IRS employees because "taxpayers have become more openly hostile." "A high degree of burnout among employees" is cutting short careers and is blamed on increased stress levels. "There are very few 30 year retirement luncheons," whined a 20-year plus revenue officer.

The article went on to note that the tax protest movement has grown considerably over the past few years.

Police chief snorted the evidence

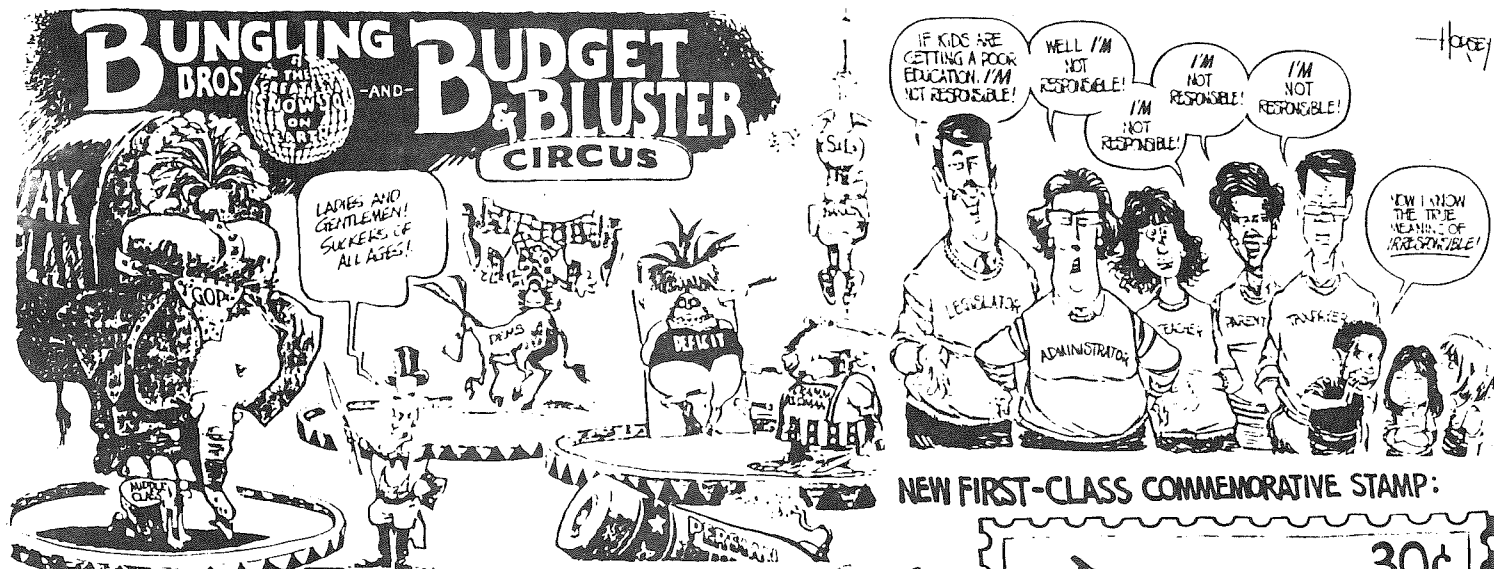
Hundreds of drug cases had to be dismissed because the former police chief of Brockton, Mass., had stolen the evidence to support his cocaine habit. He had got hooked when he tried some of the samples that he took to anti-drug lectures.

Non-compliance among Indianapolis police

A check of the income tax returns of some 214 police officers and sheriff's deputies in the Indianapolis area revealed that 49% had failed to report their moonlighting income. The IRS will consequently review the tax returns of all Indianapolis-area police officers who work off-duty. (Editor: What makes Indianapolis any different from Tulsa, Dallas or San Diego?)

FREEMAN LETTER





Double standard

Walter Williams

Black leaders, white liberals, the news media, and government officials do great damage to racial harmony. Decent people must respond by demanding honesty, morality, and responsibility before we find our reservoir of racial goodwill completely depleted.

Racial double standards are part of the problem. In Bensonhurst, N.Y., last year, white youths set upon Yusef Hawkins, a black 16-year-old, and murdered him. And back in 1986, in Howard Beach, N.Y., white youths attacked Michael Griffiths, who went to his death trying to flee. These despicable racist incidents received nationwide attention and rightful condemnation.

In 1986, in Winder, Georgia, a black student killed a white high school principal. In College Park, Georgia, a gang known as the "Bad Black Boys" shot a white youth to death. Neither of these racial incidents received wide media attention or roused moral outrage from black leaders or white liberals. In the case of the murdered white principal, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) leader, the Rev. Joseph Lowery's main concern was that the black youth receive a fair trial.

What can we say about people who exhibit moral indignation at a racist white attack but remain silent when there is a racist black attack? There is only one answer: hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy. What can we say about newpeople who go to great lengths to publicize white-on-black murders but remain relatively silent about black-on-white crime? Again, nothing less than dishonesty and deception.

Earlier this year, ABC-TV's Ted Koppel provided us with theater by airing a Town Hall meeting on race. A Howard University psychologist announced that drugs in black neighborhoods are part of a white plot to destroy blacks. That's absurd; what's worse, she was applauded and Koppel, out of ignorance or fear of being labeled racist, didn't take her to task. Using her "expert" reasoning, shared by others, fat people can blame supermarkets for plotting their destruction; gamblers can blame casinos for their addiction; and alcoholics can blame distilleries for their plight.

On college campuses, black professors are permitted to refer to whites as "honkies" or genetically inferior, but a white professor, who merely assigns a reading critical of affirmative action, can be censured by his

"There is a level of cowardice lower than that of the conformist: the fashionable non-conformist."
— Ayn Rand

"In the field of politics utopianism is not only useless; it is also dangerous, for it centers attention on what ought to be at the expense of what might be."
— H. L. Mencken

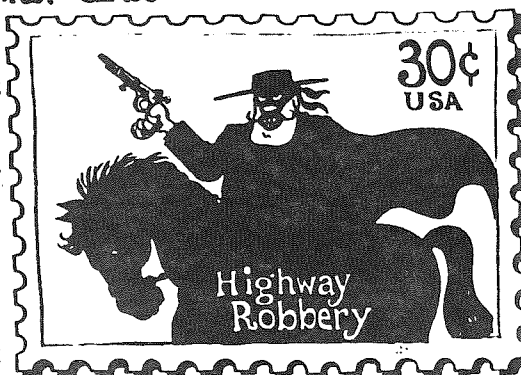
colleagues for being racially insensitive. Some colleges single out black students for cash prizes, as high as \$500, for maintaining C grades. White high school teachers, seeking transfers to better schools, are turned down in favor of black teachers, unless their specialty is math or the sciences, where a shortage exists.

If racial double standards were only despicable, we might breathe a collective sigh of relief. But official double standards produce the equivalent of highly combustible kindling waiting for a racial arsonist to set it afire. White people, who would otherwise ignore racists like the Klan and Skinheads, are now giving them a sympathetic ear. As such we shouldn't be surprised to see more people like David Duke winning political office.

For the most part, Americans are fair-minded people. White people have no problem plunking down hard cash to see basketball games where sometimes 100 percent of both starting team members are black; or football games where 55 percent of the players are black; or boxing matches where the black fighter brains the white fighter every time. None of this unevenness generates the racial resentment of racial quotas and double standards because there is the perception of fair play.

Multi-ethnic societies are inherently fragile. To preserve civility, we condemn those who, through demagoguery, ignorance, and self-serving monetary gain, destroy racial goodwill. We begin with non-negotiable demands for even-handed treatment.

NEW FIRST-CLASS COMMEMORATIVE STAMP:



Redeployment

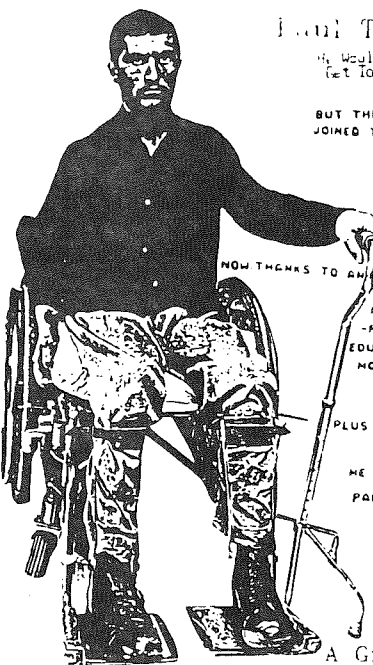
The military thanks the Lord for the drug scourge that funnels money to the Pentagon for interdiction that would have been cut in the budget crunch. Hey, you gotta roll with the times! Don't get the idea I'm a cynic. Just gimme another puff. It's hard to do enough for the good of our fighting forces!

Susan Packie

Paul Thought

He Would Never Get to College

BUT THEN PAUL JOINED THE ARMY.



AND VA DISABILITY - PAUL GETS A FREE EDUCATION AND A BIG MONTHLY CHECK!

PLUS WHEN HE GOES TO THE MALL, HE GETS THE BEST PARKING SPACE.

The Army A Great Place To Start

the Southern Libertarian Messenger

ROUTE 10 BOX 52A
FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

A newspaper is not for just reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it.

— Mark Twain

John T. Harlee Editor
Lob Brakeman Assoc. Editor

\$6. by 3rd class mail, USA
\$8. by 1st class mail & Canada
\$9. by sea mail overseas, batch.



CENSORSHIP-THE NEW ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY TREND?

by Vickie Roberts

Censorship. It's an ugly word conjuring up disturbing images of books consumed in bonfires of flame and smoke and dissidents slaughtered in the streets. But today it's the prevalent trend. Censorship has become the popular method used by such diverse groups as the PMRC, the American Family Association, and skins and punks for their respective causes. What, skins and punks for censorship?! Yes. Consider the three examples below.

1. Arresting Officers, a pro-white band, cancelled a performance in Philadelphia after being threatened with physical harm by anti-racist skinheads.
2. In Philadelphia, a store selling Skrewdriver-t-shirts had its window smashed and then was informed by an anonymous phone caller to quit selling the t-shirts or the window would again be smashed.
3. In Milwaukee, anti-racist skinheads demanded a record store remove from its shelves records by Skrewdriver and other pro-white groups.

But, the skins and punks say, that's not censorship that's fighting racism. Then let's look at some more examples.

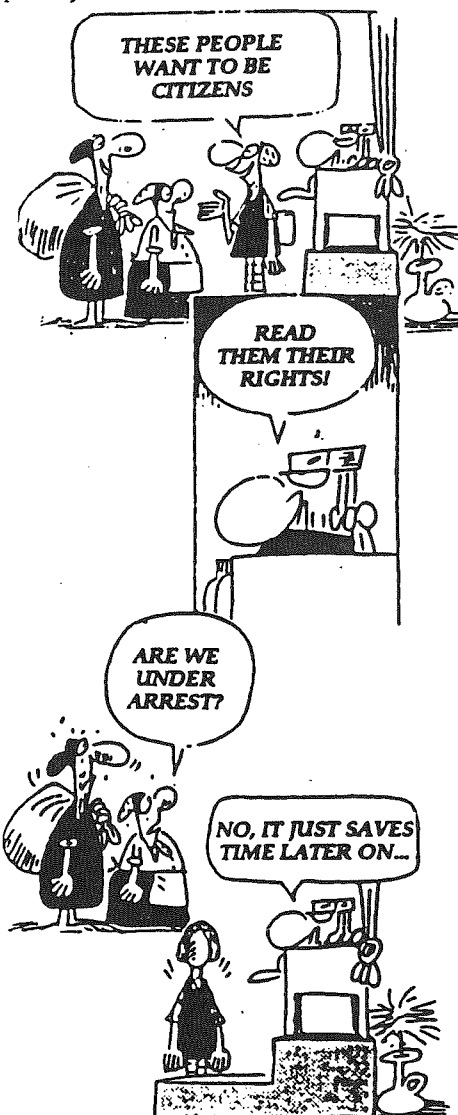
4. In Philadelphia, MDC cancelled a performance after being threatened with physical harm by fundamentalist Christians.
5. In Philadelphia, a store selling Sex Pistols t-shirts had its window smashed and then was informed by an anonymous phone caller to quit selling the t-shirts or the window would again be smashed.
6. In Milwaukee, fundamentalist Christians demanded the removal of records by the Dayglo Abortions and other punk groups from a record store's shelves.

Censorship, the skins and punks scream in unison. But that's not censorship, the christians say, that's fighting Satan.

Look closely at examples 1-3 and examples 4-6. All the incidents are the same except that the names of the bands and the identity of the perpetrators have been changed. Censorship is censorship no matter what cause it's done in.

NO MORE CENSORSHIP!!!

*Examples 1-3 were taken from Maximum RockNRoll



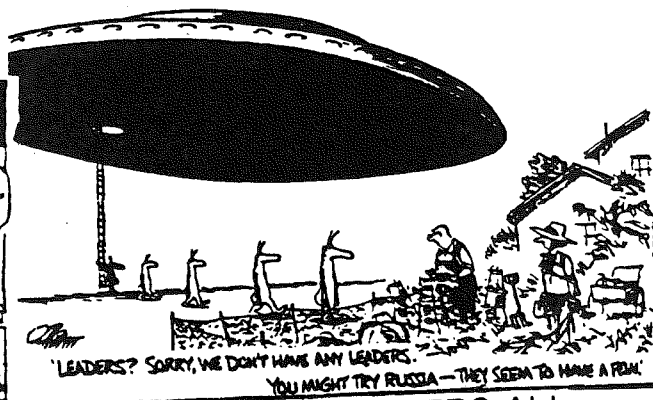
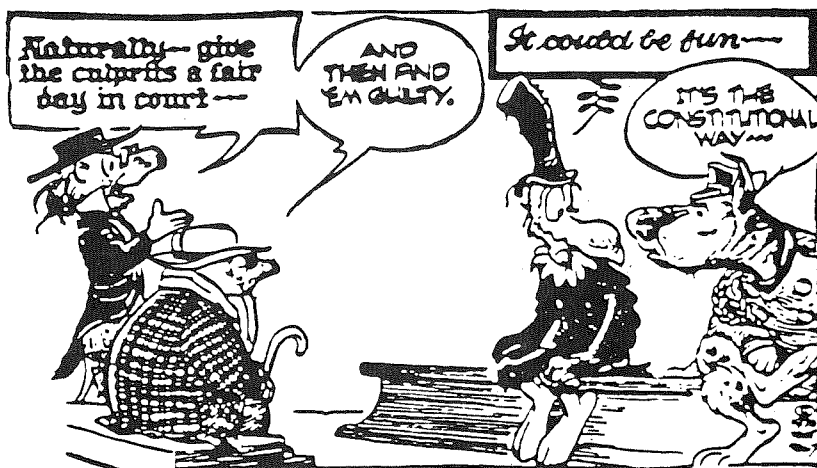
SOUND CHOICE MAGAZINE...

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...IS A PUBLICATION OF THE AUDIO EVOLUTION NETWORK, AN OPEN-MINDED ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE POSITIVE EVOLUTION OF INDEPENDENT MUSIC, AUDIO ART, AND RELATED SUBJECTS. WE ENCOURAGE AN ACTIVE, PARTICIPATORY READERSHIP.

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STATES TAXPAYERS ALL
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Vienna, Virginia 22180

Pope's Visit to Mexico Violates Separation of Church and State

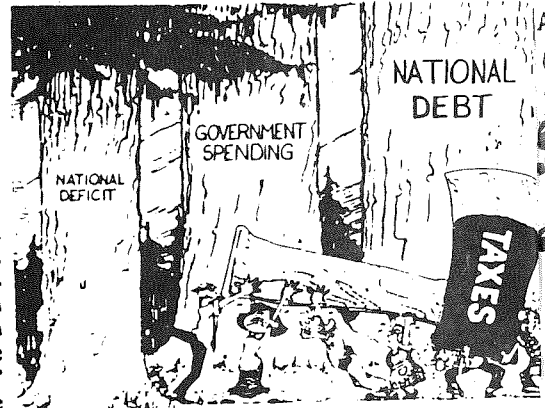
(RNS)—Pope John Paul II broke the law when he arrived in Mexico at the start of a week-long visit.

The law which he broke when he arrived in Mexico City May 6 is a provision of the constitution which forbids the presence of foreign priests and bans the wearing of clerical garb in public. The constitution also forbids the church from operating schools, although more than 3,000 serve nearly 1 million students.

On May 8, John Paul went to the town of San Juan de Los Lagos, where an estimated 1 million people gathered in a meadow called the Rosary to hear him preach. The location was symbolic, since the town of 40,000 people was the site of a massacre of priests and the destruction of churches by the anti-clerical government of Gen. Plutarco Elias Calles in the late 1920s. The anti-clerical campaign set off an upris-

ing by Catholics that came to be known as the Cristero Rebellion.

On May 10, in Chihuahua, the pope called for the abolition of the constitutional ban on Catholic schools. "A person has the right to educate children liberally according to his own religious faith and to create schools to exercise this right," he declared. "The laws of the country must recognize this right explicitly."



Marching Orders

We're leaving tyranny this fine day to enter democracy, and the United States will pay.

Where would we be without the good will of the American people, who always foot the bill?

Soon we'll be on our feet and ready to compete with the country that today feeds us.

For what is free enterprise except victory to the wise and defeat to those who ignore their toes?

Susan Packie

Send to:

Honorable Judge Robert Sweet
United States Courthouse, Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Date: _____

Re: Decriminalization of drugs.

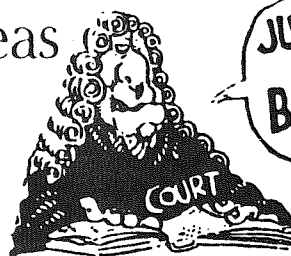
In respect of your position, gratitude is given for your strength to come forward and suggest the decriminalization of drugs as an alternative to the escalating and never ending use, as printed in the December 13, 1989 issue of the Los Angeles Daily Journal and then again on March 13, 1990 in the Los Angeles Times. Your further continuance to support this issue is welcomed.

Petition

REPEAL THE TAX ON WORK INCOME

"From the Lenin School of Political Warfare, Dmitry Z. Manuilsky said: 'War to the hilt between communism and capitalism is inevitable. Today, of course, we are not strong enough to attack. Our time will come in twenty to thirty years. To win, we shall need the element of surprise. The middle class will have to be put to sleep, so we shall begin by launching the most spectacular peace movement on record. There will be electrifying overtures and unheard-of concessions. The capitalist countries, stupid and decadent, will rejoice to co-operate in their own destruction. They will leap at another chance to be friends. As soon as their guard is down we shall smash them with our clenched fist.' That, of course, was twenty to thirty years ago. The PITYSMONT POST

Libertarian slate of fresh ideas



"First off, you have to stop regulating."



"Oh, I'm still opposed to sin - I'm just no longer sure what qualifies."

The things they say. .

The educational voucher scheme, for instance, has been touted during the political summer schools for years—theoretically interesting, practically hopeless. It is about time that it was allowed to crawl off into a corner and pass away in peace and quiet.

—Mr. Christopher Patten, Tory MP for Bath, writing in *The Times*.

I would like to do an experiment on education vouchers.

—Margaret Thatcher, interviewed in the *Daily Express*.

Soviet lesbian charged with male-male sodomy

MOSCOW — Saying they suspect a KGB crackdown, lesbian and gay activists here have reported the murder of a local gay newspaper editor, and the puzzling charge of male-male sodomy against a lesbian activist. According to *Outlines News Service*, Alexander Lukeshev, who edited the independent newspaper *New Life*, was murdered in his Moscow apartment around December 13; Leningrad lesbian activist Olga Zhuk was charged December 17 with violating the USSR's Article 121.1, which forbids sex between men. Ten other gay activists were also charged with violating the article at that time.

L. Taha 1987

'If the United States is so concerned about the human rights and the occupation of land, have them clean up their own back yard first.'

CHARLES WHITE ELK
tribal council member

"GREENHOUSE HOKUM"

A dissenting view on the scare-mongering by sham-environmentalists about the Greenhouse Effect. 32 pages, referenced. \$6 inc. post from: *Dominion DATA*, GPO Box 1467, Brisbane, 4001.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Essex of Chattanooga brought suit for \$450,000 against Star Knitware Inc., its manager, Michael Levy, and male stripper Mark Ingle. Levy, Mrs. Essex alleged, had hired the ecadysiast to put on a special show for her. When she objected, Levy and some of his hangers on prevented her from leaving. While Ingle kept stripping, he kept rubbing his body against her. It was Levy's idea of a practical joke. He knew -- and perhaps resented -- that Mrs. Essex was an evangelical Christian.

Additional gumption was displayed in another part of Texas when the city council of Connell stonewalled the NAACP and refused to review a 4-0 vote last May to designate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, "Civil Liberties Day."

at Mt. Holyoke, the man who integrated Mississippi condemns lesbianism

Opposes separate or equal rights for any whites or females or celibates.

South Carolina Association of Taxpayers "the voice of the taxpayer in South Carolina ..."

Post Office Box 50799 / Columbia, South Carolina 29250 / (803) 782 6913

SCAT is an educational, non-partisan, and non-profit organization



Foo! I said bring me my concubine!

SEVEN Army bullies who assaulted recruits have been fined up to £400.

An officer and six NCOs were found guilty of the attacks after a probe by the Special Investigation Branch.

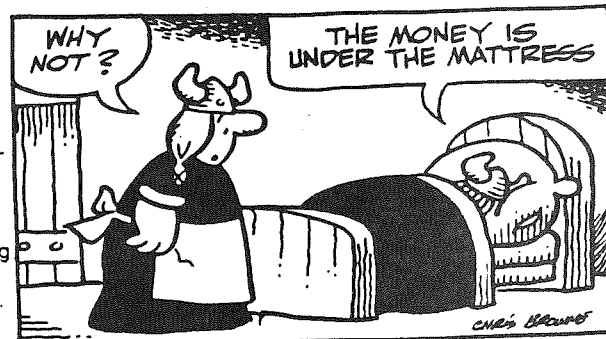
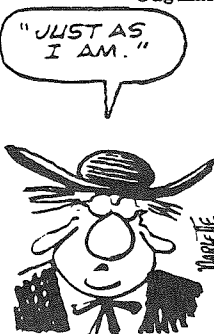
This followed complaints that ten

rookies were beaten and ill-treated at Whittington Barracks, near Lichfield, Staffs.

One of them, Les Banner, claimed yesterday he was given a "JVJ"—a bite on the neck known as a Jugular Vein Job.

He also alleged he was beaten, kicked and made to kiss an officer's boots.

The seven were found guilty of attacks on the recruits after a hearing at the barracks, but the Army refused to name them.



Girl in bed put the bite on a Pc

By STEPHEN WHITE

THE day a policeman came face to face with a near-naked brunette in bed—he ended up in hospital.

For Lynn Connan, 18, leapt up and bit him on the thumb, a court heard yesterday.

And Pc Don Thomson had to go to hospital for an anti-tetanus injection.

Rough

He had gone with a policewoman to Lynn's flat in Inchaffray Street, Perth, to arrest her on a warrant from a court in Portsmouth. Perth Sheriff Court was told.

Campbell Watson, derailing, said: "She was awoken in a fairly rough manner and that is why she reacted the way she did."

Lynn, who admitted assault, was remanded on bail, but was ordered to be kept in custody on the Portsmouth warrant.

victory for black parents

A few weeks ago, this column discussed Wisconsin State Rep. Annette "Polly" Williams' heroic success at getting the Wisconsin legislature to pass a one-year experimental school-choice program. The program will permit 1,000 of Milwaukee's minority children to receive up to \$2,500, budgeted for public schools, to attend private non-sectarian schools.

Predictably, the public education establishment was up in arms. They saw it as a blow to their monopoly to give children of poor parents real education alternatives. The

Wisconsin Association of District Administrators, along with the Education Association Council, brought suit to block the plan.

On Aug. 7, Judge Susan R. Steingass ruled the Milwaukee school-choice program constitutional. She added, "If giving parents and students choices in the manner of their education increases the quality of that education, the benefit inures not only to a few students in Milwaukee but to our educational system as a whole, both by the lessons learned and the education improved." Her decision made my day, but more impor-

tant, it may make the lives, careers and aspirations of black parents and children languishing in a cesspool of educational mediocrity and callousness.

Callousness, with a side dish of gall, is the right description. Herbert Grover, superintendent of public instruction, said of the plan, "This represents the abandonment of the common school, the institution best able and most likely to provide an equal opportunity for success for all children." He went on to lament, "We're going to have two school systems ... both paid for by public money. One will have accountability, and one won't."

There is no greater crime to children, particularly black children, than that perpetrated by public schools in most big cities. Grover's public schools have little or no accountability standards when many kids graduate from high school and cannot perform at an eighth grade level.

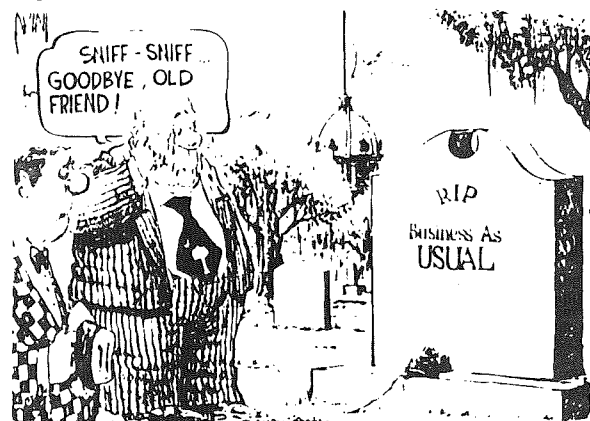
To add insult to injury, the Milwaukee branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), joined with the school bureaucrats and the teacher's union in the suit against the choice plan. Felmers O. Chaney, its president, said, "We can't figure out how the choice plan is going to help blacks."

The Milwaukee NAACP remained steadfast despite the wishes of black parents who supported the plan. One parent, Freda Curry, said after the court's ruling, "I'm extremely happy to see justice served." This is not the first time the NAACP has taken sides with the establishment against poor blacks on school issues. The NAACP is quick to indict school pro-choice advocates as racists. We wonder whether they'll pin the racist label on Polly Williams and all those black parents who support her plan.

Anybody with good sense might ask: In whose names does the NAACP speak and act? Part of the answer can be found in its declining membership, which is reported to have fallen by 100,000 in recent years. Another part can be found in its funding sources, the bulk of which does not come from black people. But not to worry. When the news media needs answers to a racist question like, "What do black people think about this or that?", five will get you 10 they'll still parade NAACP National President Benjamin Hooks before the cameras.

The larger lesson from all this is that the way to help the poor, who want to help themselves, is to expand their choices. Establish vouchers for housing, school, health care, and other needs. The political problem is: Those who speak for the poor are against vouchers. They think the way to feed sparrows is to feed the horses. If you're a horse, that might make sense.

Walter Williams is a nationally syndicated columnist.



Voters should throw the bums out

I find it impossible to understand why the president of the United States, and Congress would knowingly and deliberately refuse to consider the most obvious and painless way to reduce the federal deficit, and instead spend weeks and months trying to find additional income by creating new taxes, or by increasing existing tax rates.

I have contributed to an organization known as "Citizens Against Government Waste" for two or more years, co-chaired by Jack Anderson and J. Peter Grace, which focuses attention on wasteful practices of the federal government that Congress and the President should eliminate, which they have deliberately failed and refused to do.

As shown by the enclosed report from J. Peter Grace, the General Accounting Office, which was created by Congress, has confirmed a report of the Citizens Against Government Waste, that there is now at least \$180 billion in the present federal government budget. All Congress and the president needs to do to eliminate the deficit in the 1991 Federal budget is decrease the spending of the Defense Department, and other agencies of the Federal government, and eliminate the waste in the budget.

Congress and the president seemingly want additional taxes, so the federal government can not only continue its wasteful practices, but waste more public funds, than they ever have.

I also can't understand why the media has not publicized the wasteful practices of the federal government, seemingly condoned by Congress and the president, that the media has.

The only way to stop the wasteful practices of the federal government, obviously is to refuse to vote for those members of Congress now in office, who ignore the taxpayers and turn their heads so they can't see the corruption, craft, embezzlement and larceny.

Instead of more money, Congress should demand better accountability for the money the federal government has been spending. Instead of voting for the incumbents, let's take appropriate action to throw the scoundrels out.

South Carolina Hugo Relief Fund c/o The Governor's Office



The Constitution does not mention pornography or obscenity. Article I, Section 8 grants no power to Congress to legislate in this area. The ninth and tenth amendments prohibit federal censorship by implication, and the first amendment explicitly prevents any and all federal laws against pornography or obscenity, however defined. What laws, if any, are justified at the state or local level in a free society? Rape and molestation of women and children are crimes. Any photographic evidence of such activities, including "snuff films" or child pornography, should rightfully be banned on the basis of invasion of privacy, as well as prevention of profit from a crime.

Even the question of child pornography must be handled very carefully. There have been instances of fathers being harassed for taking pictures of their children in bathtubs, and a crusader against infant circumcision was robbed of his life savings and harassed by the federal government through the postal service a few years ago because he sent pictures of the results of that operation through the federal mails.

Local communities have the right to bar anyone under the age of 18 from purchasing obscene or pornographic material. Such laws reinforce the authority of parents or guardians and are not serious infringements on liberty. However, in a free society, adults should not be prevented from reading or looking at whatever they wish in private, and no adult (woman), unless she is married or engaged, should be prevented from displaying herself as she wishes. If you as an individual have no right to force adults not to perform such activities, then government has no such right either in a free society.

Certainly, citizens have the right to express their opposition to pictures of naked (women). However, since my time, energy, and finances are limited, I choose to devote them to helping restore the right to life, the right to keep and bear arms, our national sovereignty, an honest money system, and our liberties in general, rather than devoting time to strengthening the power of government over my life and further shredding the Constitution.

DAVID MACRO

C.R. Parrott
Darlington

Leave it to the Locals

THE NEW AMERICAN

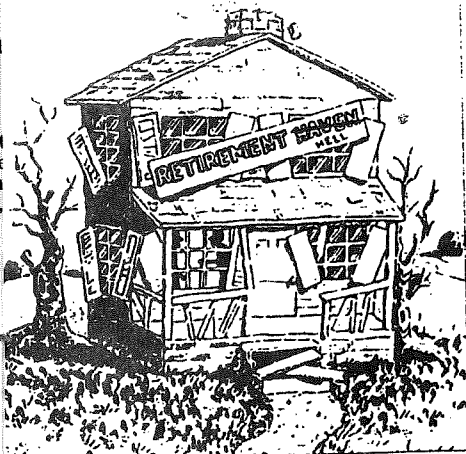
There were no anti-pornography laws in the United States until Vermont imposed one on its citizens in 1816, when the generation of the Founding Fathers was passing away. The first federal anti-pornography law was imposed in 1873, when the generation of the sons of the Founding Fathers was fading into oblivion. The Comstock Act, which was based on the federal government's mail monopoly, was strongly promoted by J.P. Morgan of the House of Morgan, an agent of the Rothschilds, who later helped foist the funny money Federal Reserve System upon the American people.

FLORENCE MORNING NEWS
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Box F-11
FLORENCE, S.C. 29501

Letters from our readers

ts The Social Security Lie

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age that 74% of all taxpayers now pay more in Social Security taxes (including their employer's share) than in income taxes!

Of course, it would be nice to think that all the money you're dutifully paying in is being prudently set aside on your behalf, so you can be sure it will be there when you need it.

But that's not the case at all! Your Social Security taxes are being spent as fast as the government collects them from you—to help pay for the government's avalanching budget deficits!

By the time you retire, the politicians in power will probably invent

Privatization long espoused by Libertarians

I commend Columbia for considering privatizing some of its municipal services. In your May 26 article, you correctly pointed out that privatization is not common in South Carolina, but it is a trend that is catching on throughout the United States and the world. Even Poland is planning to privatize some services.

Libertarians have been calling for privatization for many years, as I pointed out in a letter to *The State* in 1985. In that letter, I mentioned the Reason Foundation, which for years has been showing how the private sector can save the taxpayers millions of dollars while providing better services than the government ever could.

These are not new ideas. Private prisons already exist. Private mail works where it is allowed, such as parcel and express services. Some communities even have competing

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some excuse why you shouldn't get all the money you've paid in. They'll probably say something like, "the poor need it more and you're too rich already."

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private electric companies. Private schools in big city slums give hope to "difficult" children by teaching them to read and write after the public schools have given up on them. They do this without one cent of the taxpayers' money.

As taxpayers become less willing to pay higher taxes for wasteful government programs, Libertarian ideas will become a reality no matter who has political power. It's very interesting to watch Democrats and Republicans criticize Libertarians as being too "radical" and then later adopt Libertarian ideas as their own. I could list numerous examples, such as the reform of the blue laws, but instead, I'll just wait and see which Libertarian ideas become fashionable next.

DAVID MORRIS
Treasurer

S. C. Libertarian Party

Letters to the editor

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Benjamin Franklin

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UNITED KINGDOM

Unfair trials, ill-treatment and disputed killing

ON 11 June A1 published *United Kingdom: Human rights concerns*. The document outlines long-standing concerns about human rights abuses in the United Kingdom, including the ill-treatment of detainees, unfair trials, killings by security forces in disputed circumstances in Northern Ireland, and the detention of non-British nationals on national security grounds.

Since 1980 hundreds of detainees in Northern Ireland have alleged that they were ill-treated in police custody. Existing procedures and safeguards continue to be inadequate to prevent such ill-treatment. In some trials confessions have been excluded on the basis of allegations of ill-treatment; in civil proceedings former detainees have been

awarded compensation for their treatment. However, very few criminal or disciplinary proceedings have been initiated as a result of such cases against the police officers involved. Similar complaints have been made in Great Britain.

In May a former appeal court judge said: "Police standards of behaviour will never improve as long as officers think that those responsible for discipline look the other way when there are accusations of malpractice. The successful prosecution and imprisonment of police officers who are proved to have perverted the course of justice may encourage others not to do likewise."

Alternative teacher certification proposed

I have proposed an alternative teacher certification route to Dr. Barbara Nielsen, to Governor Campbell and Mr. Joe Delaney (a Spartanburg superintendent). As yet, I have not received any signs of a pro-active approach to the problem of our abysmally low academic standards and scores.

My proposal is simple: Let those who prepare themselves for a career in education in a more rigorous way than by regular certification — namely, by pursuing a graduate degree in a curricular subject (e.g., M.A.-English; M.S.-

biology; PH.D.-history), plus teaching assistantship — into our public school classrooms.

Teacher certification has not exactly produced the scholar-educators that our public schools crave. Enough of teaching our children so-called "social skills." As human beings living in the community of mankind, they are, necessarily, already "socialized" — brought into society. It is time to require our children to know historical facts, to be well-read, to understand theorems of math and science and yes, to know things by rote.

Recently, the Governor's School for Science and Math advertised for an instructor of English explicitly stating that "teacher certification is not required. (M.A./Ph.D. preferred)" Here in our state's finest, most elite college-prep public school, we are asking regularly certified teachers not to apply. Why? Because the GSSM wants the most qualified teachers to apply — those with graduate degrees in a curricular subject. Why can't all our public high schools follow the lead of this "choice" school?

ELIZABETH F. CASEY

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