

EDITORIALS

Curfew . . .

We have heard some rumblings lately about the possibility of a curfew for our youngsters being promoted for the Village of Lowville and perhaps all of Lewis County.

With the increase in our crime rate, something we happen to share with the entire country, a curfew to restrict the time that our youth can be out at night, without parental guidance, seems to some a solution. Well, in our opinion, it is not. The thought of a curfew for the Village of Lowville or County of Lewis is ridiculous. There are several reasons for this, the most obvious being that it would be nearly impossible to enforce. Other reasons include: (1) Why should all youth be penalized for the thoughtless actions of a few? Certainly there are far more responsible teenagers than those that are irresponsible, just like there are far more responsible adults than irresponsible adults. We have sufficient minority factions in this nation today, which happens to be one of the biggest reasons for the deep divisions among our people. We cannot take it upon ourselves to set our young apart from us; a curfew would do this. (2) Would any sensible adult seriously consider a curfew for adults because of the criminal acts of a few? Of course not! Then why must we establish a double-standard for our youth? (3) It is quite obvious that the responsibility of parents to set guidelines for their children as to what time they should be home at night is not the responsibility of government or police. If parents cannot effectively maintain such guidelines, then it is quite obvious that the problem goes much deeper than one that can be solved by a curfew. (4) There is a growing feeling among our youth that our police in this country are given too much power. We, as responsible adults, have done little to discourage such thinking. We have, in fact, encouraged it by claiming it to be true ourselves when police have found it necessary to curb the acts of our young because we have failed to curb them. We can think of nothing that would promote and encourage this mistrust and dislike of police among our young than a curfew. Place yourself in the position of a 16-year-old youth, as an example. What would be your feelings if you had to be home at night at, say 9:30, or else run the risk of being picked-up by police? You would surely get the feeling we are living in a police state. (5) We know of absolutely no place where a curfew has been effective or enforceable.

In conclusion, any governmental official, any legislator who might be considering the possibility of enacting a curfew and any county police officer who might be in favor of such a restriction would be very well advised to consider the probable harm a curfew would create in relation to the benefits it would provide, if any.

We must agree with Lowville Police Chief Bob McCoe: "It's ridiculous!" — Michael J. Blair

10-Week Testing

In May, eight representatives from the Harrisville Community School Association, on the recommendation of in-coming president Beverly Buckingham, met with Supervising Principal Peter N. Betrus to propose the discontinuance of mandatory and conventional ten-week testing.

Reporting on a survey conducted by the CSA of area schools on their testing procedures, the group presented to Mr. Betrus compiled findings obtained from schools including Carthage, Gouverneur and Lowville; a sizeable percentage of schools contacted have ceased conventional quarterly testing. One prime reason given for the change was the realization that at least eight valuable weeks were taken from each school year's classroom instruction time to prepare for the quarterly tests, give the tests, and to review the tests. The schools now rely on regular class tests and end of unit tests (which Harrisville teachers already employ) to serve as a progress guide for each student.

Mr. Betrus told the CSA delegates that he would support their decision.

In the early part of June, the Harrisville teachers conducted a poll among themselves concerning testing procedures. Most of the teaching body answered the written survey and of those participating in the poll, 100% were in favor of discontinuation of ten and thirty week tests. In their written remarks, many teachers cited the classroom time lost in this repetitive testing of pupils as one-time economy measure to benefit the student. They favored unit testing to determine a student's progress. As in written comment, other teachers pointed out that the quarterly testing often comes at a time conflicting with the state-mandated syllabus, which can prove confusing and inconvenient to both teachers and students. The teachers' recommendations were thus compiled and presented to Mr. Betrus for his consideration and vote by the school board at the June 14 meeting. It was entered in those board meeting minutes that the matter is to be held over until fall for a vote.

The teaching body of HCS strongly hopes the change in testing policy will be instituted for the coming school year. In order to accomplish this, it must be voted into effect by the September school board meeting. We, as parents, should be involved in this decision which has a bearing on our children's education. The present quarterly testing system allows the ten-week finals to count as one-third of a student's average. What if the student is not feeling his usual self on test day, or is one who panics at test time? Is it fair that his test marks could drastically pull down his worked-for-10-week average? Is it fair to our children that they lose precious class time for re-testing of material already covered?

If you agree with the elimination of 10 and 30-week tests, back up your opinion and help make this proposal a school policy. Well in advance of the September school board meeting (in fact, why not today?), write letters to both Mr. Betrus and the school board, stating your opinion. As a concerned parent, show your care! — Sue Burgess

A Farmer's View

Comments by Otis Munn

How would you like to have one hundred and five dollars per week deducted from your take-home pay? That is exactly what is happening to me as a dairy farmer. I feed three tons of dairy ration every week and it is costing me about thirty-five dollars per ton more than a year ago. This adds up to about fifty-five hundred dollars per year, while at the same time the State Legislature are voting themselves an increase of eighty-five hundred per year. This increases the spread between our incomes for the year by about fourteen thousand dollars. And they call this a free economy — that supply and demand must determine the cost — and if this is the case the State Legislature should be lowering their wages because, in my opinion, we have a lot more of them than we need and they are not in short supply. In fact, many taxpayers would be glad to take on the job for a lot less money.

There was a lot of publicity in the news and on television about the cutting of the Governor's proposed budget by one hundred and twenty million dollars by a group of economy-minded legislators, who had the interests of the taxpayer in mind, and then a short time later passed a supplementary budget of one hundred and twenty four million, with very little publicity, which amounted to a loss of four million.

Like Now

by Terry Gakes



"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall be issued but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." (Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution) "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States . . . nor deny to any person within the jurisdiction of the United States the equal protection of the laws." (Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution)

On July 23, 1970, President Nixon approved and authorized a large scale domestic intelligence plan which included wiretapping, burglaries, and interception of mail to gather information on radical activist groups and various political figures in this country. The spy scheme was to employ members of the F.B.I., C.I.A., Justice Department, Secret Service, and Treasury Department in the implementation. Although the President claims to have rescinded the order five days later after strong objections to the plan by then FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, the Senate Select Intelligence Committee has heard testimony to the contrary. Former White House counsel, John W. Dean, has testified under oath that he has no knowledge of any written documents which showed that the President had indeed rescinded the intelligence plan and that in September of the same year (two months after the President said that he disapproved the plan), Dean was told to see what he could do to get the first step implemented.

If Mr. Dean's testimony is true and can be corroborated by other witnesses, then President Nixon will be guilty of gross violations of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. By authorizing a plan which called for illegal bugging, burglaries, and interception of mail to gain intelligence on individuals or groups of individuals, the President infringed upon the rights of citizens which are protected by these Amendments. But what is even more sickening is that the domestic spy plan contained no rules for selecting the victims of the illegal surveillance. According to Dean, "It was left up to the imagination or interpretation of the people engaged in the intelligence work." And we can just imagine who they might be. The Watergate Committee has made public a list of people whom the White House had categorized as "enemies." Those on the so-called Dean's list include politicians, Senators, Representatives, newsmen, businessmen, entertainers, and members of the sports profession. These individuals are not members of a radical group of subversives. Their only crime (if that's the word to use) was to voice dissent from the policies of the President, a right guaranteed to every American by the First Amendment.

Is Richard Milhaus Nixon in trouble? Are his decisions and policies beyond criticism? Apparently the President seems to think so. Allegedly, he set up a government spy system to illegally gather information on leading figures who would dare challenge the wisdom of his policies. It is both horrifying and disgusting to learn that in a free nation, with written guarantees of free speech and press, the President would go to such lengths to breach these liberties.

And this is not the only case of alleged Presidential misconduct. Even if President Nixon had no knowledge of the Watergate cover-up (which we think he did know about), he apparently took no action to make all the available facts known. If he did not participate directly in the hush-up attempt, Mr. Nixon at least sought to protect those in the White House by an ill-considered attempt at invoking executive privilege by doing so, and by briefing his former aides on how to deal with the Senate Watergate Committee, the President may very well be guilty of obstructing Senate Committee business, a crime which carries a penalty of five years in prison or a \$5,000 fine.

Unquestionably, we have reached a terribly important moment in the history of this country. The President of the United States has been charged with illegal and unconstitutional conduct while in office. What happens if these allegations can be supported with factual evidence? Again, let us revert back to the Constitution. Article II, Section 4 states that the President of the United States "shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

If in the future the President still refused to answer questions about his conduct in the Watergate and related affairs, impeachment proceedings should be begun and his innocence or guilt determined at such hearing.

Dear Uncle Elmer: Has Watergate taught the politicians any lessons? Benny
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Dear Uncle Elmer: What are our governmental leaders doing to help relieve the gas shortage?
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THE WOMEN'S SIDE

BY ANN BLAIR

In time of need or emergency, as well as every woman I know, have an inner strength to cope with and pull through this perilous time. We have always been told that men are superior and more intelligent and indeed they are in many ways. And we probably couldn't manage as well without our men! However, I have found that no matter how large or small the problem, the woman seems to cope extremely well.

Every day it seems that some problem arises from the clothes dryer breaking down when Sandy notices that particular dress for a date is less than an hour, to Bobbie falling out of the tree house and possibly breaking his arm, to having company arrive at supper-time and trying to stretch what you have in the house to feed four more — the modern woman seems to rise above all and conquer again and again anything that comes to pass. She very rarely fails, but seems to always come through with flying colors.

Surprisingly enough, I don't believe we even realize the enormity of the situation, before we are pitched right in and solving the mess as well as picking up the pieces. After it is all over and we have accomplished the impossible then and only then do we realize how much we have done in such a short time. This goes on day to day with many a woman on our part, but with an unconscious inner strength.

Others see us doing the impossible tasks and as time progresses realize the "staying power" we have. The "husband, children, friends" appreciate what we do more than we know, even though we sometimes think we are taken for granted. All of a sudden we find a private note tucked in our pocket, or are surprised to find a hand full of wilting flowers before a beaming child (probably dirty) face, or a thank you smothered in between a "please" and a "see ya." These little things, really wonderful things in our life, make everything else that has happened fade into nonexistence temporarily. Then we give a long, deep sigh, turn around, and get busy again, never forgetting the well earned moments of love.

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Journal and Republican

7666 STATE STREET, LOWVILLE, N.Y. 13467

Journal Established 1838 Republican Established 1830

Merged 1860



MEMBER
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION - Founded 1868

Published weekly by the owners and publishers
Lowville Printing and Publishing Co., Inc.
Richard E. Smith, President - Publisher
Michael J. Blair, Editor
Carol Smith, Advertising Manager
Carol Dyeckman, Office Manager
Tony Urbanik, Staff Photographer
National Advertising Representative
INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER MARKETS, INC.

New York - Chicago - Detroit - Dallas - San Francisco - Atlanta

Entered at Post Office, Lowville, N.Y., as second-class matter

SUBSCRIPTION - PAYMENT IN ADVANCE
\$6.00 Year New York State - \$7.00 Year Elsewhere in Continental United States - \$9.00 Year Alaska, Hawaii, Foreign Countries

Wednesday, July 11, 1973

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"What's the use of laying down . . . when we can sprightly walk . . . for in a larger sense we know . . . when someone says what's true . . . the Master of all mankind . . . smiles from out of the blue . . . God knows that truth is everything . . . in this borrowed life . . . and in the end it will prevail . . . though interim may mean strife . . . so many folks ignore the truth . . . unless it fits their way . . . God knows this and in the end . . . they will have to pay . . . so we'll use the freedom . . . God meant for us all . . . we'll write and say what's in our hearts . . . though it will not please all."

A CLOSER LOOK

Michael J. Blair . . .



It was with considerable satisfaction that we were able to wrap-up last week a most successful "Help Terry Fund." As this article was being written the fund contained about \$1,300, donated by a wide range of thoughtful people from Lewis and Jefferson counties and as far away as New York City.

Terry Moshier, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Moshier, Lowville Star Route, left July 4 for an appointment to be admitted to Boston General Hospital on July 5 to undergo various tests and treatment and a possible kidney transplant operation. Terry, for those who are not already familiar with him, was born with only one kidney, which malfunctioned, necessitating his trip to the Boston hospital.

Terry left for Boston with his parents July 4, he was aided on his way by the check for \$500 from the "Help Terry Fund" which we started for him two weeks earlier. At the time he was given the check, the fund was at \$338. The remainder is being sent to his parents.

It is a good feeling for us at the JOURNAL to have been able to successfully help this lad and his financially hard-pressed parents. This is one type of public service that newspapers and their editors are always seeking to perform — an opportunity to really do something meaningful and to be able to witness the positive results that can be achieved by the news media in such an endeavor.

It was also most gratifying that we were joined by other news media of the area in promoting the "Help Terry Fund." We are grateful to WOTV and WNY radio and television of Watertown and particularly to Bob Strom of the POST STANDARD, whose efforts were instrumental in getting the aid of the Watertown based news media.

Terry, his parents and everyone who knows him are deeply appreciative of all who donated or contributed in any way to the success of the fund drive.

considerable thought must be extended to both management and union officials who did their utmost to settle the wage dispute in an amiable way — before any bitterness was allowed to become acute.

We found ourselves on the receiving end of a bitter and hostile attitude on the part of what appears to have been a few agitators. We were advised a few days after our initial editorial appeared, by an irate area bar owner, that there was a movement about to have "warred and feathered," because our efforts to promote an atmosphere of understanding between management and union was misinterpreted as a "sell-out" to management, something which is difficult to understand in view of the fact that management was seeking to discuss with us any other media the details of the settlement. In any case, after reporting the strike was concluded in last Tuesday's edition, the same bar owner calls again — at 1:20 a.m. — with further threats and bitterness.

All we can say is that we are glad that this sort of thing did not have time to spread and that the overwhelming majority of the striking Laster workers conducted themselves in a most responsible manner and that the 66 to 6 settlement vote certainly indicates that our bar owner call really did something meaningful and to be able to witness the positive results that can be achieved by the news media in such an endeavor.

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And speaking of littering, the overall effect of the Green-up campaign we undertook in Lewis County (the first county-wide clean-up campaign in the state and one now being copied in various areas) is quite apparent. As we all drive about the county, it becomes obvious that our littering in the environment and halt littering, and being within reach of becoming No. 1 should give us all the incentive to dig even deeper into the mess we have created around us.

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loyalty and cooperation of Turin residents in making Snow Ridge successful over the past 27 years. As we said, it was a wonderful gesture — a gesture made by two couples who had already done much to contribute to the well-being of the Turin area, as well as boosting the economy of Snow Ridge by making the economy of the entire county.

Now that we have witnessed the cleaning-up of one of the county's major automobile junkyards — "cat-bunches" — we are anxiously awaiting the next step in the junkyard elimination effort. We certainly hope that the effort does not "die on the vine" and that it will be continued. Quite obviously, with some concerted effort we could easily see the elimination of most of the eyesores before this summer draws to a close. We are sure that you could all enjoy a truly "Green-up" county. We have already achieved the distinction of being among the top ten counties in the state in terms of littering in the environment and halt littering, and being within reach of becoming No. 1 should give us all the incentive to dig even deeper into the mess we have created around us.

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Analysis and Comment

A 25-year police veteran of the Watertown Police Department is retiring because he says he is "fed up with the justice system."

Detective John S. Richardson concluded 25 years and 4 months of service as a police officer. At age 50, Richardson said "I really don't want to retire, but I'm retiring because I'm fed up with the justice system today. It stinks, it's rotten."

Richardson continued, "I love police work, even though I worked long hours, some on my own time. The pay is good. But the work is to no avail, it accomplishes nothing."

Richardson, a World War II U.S. Army Air Force veteran, was assigned a patrolman in March, 1948, and walked a police beat his first year and a half. He then served on a motorcycle patrol for nine and a half years before being appointed a plainclothes detective, a capacity he has continued in for 14 years and four months.

"I've talked to other retired cops," Richardson said, "and that is the same reason they're leaving. It's bad losing good, experienced cops."

The court system has been "dropping off" since about 1967 or 1968, he said, referring to the situation state and nationwide, not just locally.

"The guys that we have arrested have been put back on the streets by either some stupid technicality, or if we're lucky, have been given reduced charges and put on probation. And a good many of them are the repeaters," he explained.

One such technicality is search and seizure. "In order to conduct a car search, they want us to go get a warrant, giving the crook time to dump the goods."

"They are getting carried away with amending charges, especially with the repeaters," he said. "Once or twice is enough. Let's open our eyes. If he's a repeater, amending is not doing any good — he's got to learn something."

"They talk about 'equal rights,'" he continued, "Who's got rights, not the good people. They're

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JABBERWOCK

by Jay Addison
A New York Press Association Service

removing parking places. They're even experimenting with a one-way street plan that only goes in a three-block square, once you get into it, you can't get out.

HYPOTHESIS: Stop the former; the latter ceases. OBSERVATION: Almost every traffic light in the state is timed to nearly prevent the movement of traffic.

Water-soluble sand and rocks are used for those pot-holes that do get filled. Four lanes are pinched into one during rush hours while a back-hoe, two trucks, and 14 men wait.

EXPERIMENT: New York City got rid of horses years ago simply by removing the hitching posts and carriage steps. Now they're getting rid of cars by closing streets and

removing parking places. They're even experimenting with a one-way street plan that only goes in a three-block square, once you get into it, you can't get out.

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