

Founded 1865 by Charles and M.M. de Young
George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925-55
Charles de Young, Publisher 1955-77

Richard T. Thieriet
Editor and Publisher

William Germon
Managing Editor
Templeton Pack
Editorial Page Editor

THE CARTOONISTS



BOB GORRELL/Charlotte News



MIKE KEEFE/Denver Post

Editorial

Resolving the Alaska Issue

THE LONG CONTROVERSY over Alaska lands — a dispute that pitted conservationists against those who desired latitude to develop the state's abundant resources — has been resolved with remarkable swiftness and lack of fireworks.

Approved was a compromise Senate measure designating more than 104 million acres of the state as national parks, wildlife refuges and national conservation areas.

BUT THE "POLITICAL realities" of this month's national election obviously loomed large in the conservationists' acceptance of a bill they had once spurned.

"We can read the handwriting on the wall as well as anyone else," said a spokesman for the Alaska Coalition, an alliance of environmental groups that had strongly favored the broader House legislation.

The bill imposes development restrictions on lands that represent 28 percent of the state. But this is done in balanced fashion.

ALASKA'S GOVERNOR, Jay S. Hammond, termed the compromise "not perfect," but added that it met 80 percent of a series of "consensus points" drawn up by the state.

The Senate compromise, in its awareness of the needs and desires of those who live in the state, seems to us the best outcome possible for such a bitterly disputed issue.

LETTERS

Wrong Target

Editor — The earthquake in the Eureka area sent a freeway overpass tumbling to the ground, injuring six people, while the Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant remained undamaged.

BRUCE PATTON Lafayette

A Vote for Checks

Editor — Though it would seem to be a good idea having John Molinari as president of the Board of Supervisors in the interest of harmony with the office of the mayor, wouldn't it be a better idea to have Quentin Kopp as president in the interest of checks and balances?

VICTOR A. MALIK San Francisco



Things Suddenly Turned Deadly

By Frederic Morton

CROSSING FROM the park to the buildings side of Riverside Drive, they staggered through the traffic, a woman steadying herself with wild swings of her handbag; a chunky man, cowboy hat askew, clutching a beer can; a tall man teetering, his shoelaces trailing.

I was on my way to buy rolls for my 4 o'clock coffee.

"Creep! Pushin' my girl!" Sudden obscenities rang down the street.

The chunky man had slapped the tall man who in turn knocked off Chunky's cowboy hat.

"All right!" Chunky's mouth outgrewed the No. 5 bus. "You're dead!"

A freckled boy kept air-pumping his bike.

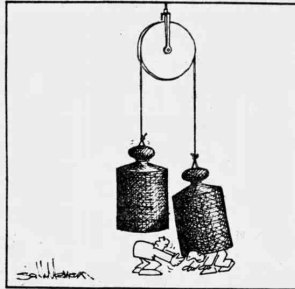
"Good boy, Mr. Wonderful!" the dog owner's voice sounded from up the block — Mr. Wonderful had caught the Frisbee on his snout.

I would have kept walking, except for a problem.

Chunky had smashed his beer can to the ground and then, with a savage punch, sent the tall man flying. My problem was that he flew in my direction. He sprawled a foot away from me. Within a second, Chunky was on top of him, hands sinking into his neck.

"Goin' kill yah, creep!" Cake Masters, I was thinking, runs out of poppyseed rolls very early in the afternoon. It was just a commotion among drunk buddies. But the commotion thudded only inches away. A little farther off, and I could have walked on without being blatantly oblivious. But it was too close.

I stopped. The man's thumbs were digging deeply into the other's Adam's apple. The woman, whimpering, tried to appease him by offering him his cowboy hat. He went on throttling.



"Dead!" he said.

From a window a voice shrieked about 911. Everybody on the sidewalk had come to a halt.

"Dead! ... Dead!"

Inside the man's T-shirt, thick moist muscles twitched and moved the legend on the shirt that said I SLEEP ONLY WITH THE BEST.

"Stop it!" I said.

The man on the ground moaned, tugged in vain at the implacable wrists. I was amazed how fast the color of his cheeks deepened; amazed that a drunk could choke a man with such coordination, that a crowd should surround not only them but me, surround us with a silence that let me hear sparrows chirp in the trees; amazed that nothing — nothing whatever — was happening to prevent this from going on.

"Hey, stop it, you're going to kill him!" I said.

"Betha gonna kill him creep."

The choked man's tongue was swelling out. The woman, helpless, began to lace the choked man's unlaced boots. A car honked because some of the crowd had spilled into the gutter, inconveniencing traffic.

"Let him go!" I said.

SACRAMENTO SCENE/Cornerstones Is a New Magazine for Self-Promotion

Another Image for Jerry Brown

By John Balsar Chronicle Correspondent

Sacramento

SEE Governor Brown in the cockpit of a Boeing 747. See him shake hands with Jimmy Carter. See him at an outdoor podium with wind-blown hair, delivering the truth to his followers.

In fact, you can see his picture no fewer than 14 times in 16 short pages of his new bi-monthly self-promotional magazine/newsletter, called Cornerstones.

As he promised last August when the Democrats nominated someone for president other than himself, Jerry Brown is not going to repeat past mistakes and forget those who helped his candidacy and who might help again in future presidential election years.

"I'm going to try to communicate my ideas in a more consistent way and reach a broader constituency," Brown said then in describing his motives for entering the political newsletter business.

After a delay of almost three months, the premiere issue of Cornerstones was published just before the elections and was mailed to 50,000 of the Brown faithful.

"The key word is involvement. The governor learned in the 1980 campaign that success is not a solitary venture," said chief of staff Gray Davis.

Printed in two colors — orange and black — on slick paper, Corner-



stones opens with a reprint of Brown's look-to-the-future speech delivered at the Democratic National Convention. It also contains a short political biography, a long account of what Brown views as his accomplishments as governor, and a promise that future editions will allow supporters with "creative daring" to contribute to a dialogue of ideas.

Also in the newsletter is an article promoting "our muddly heroes," the youthful members of Brown's California Conservation Corps who fought this year's floods.

One article explains how California is learning about small-scale hydroelectric power plants from China, and another reprinted from the Los Angeles Times warns that the Soviet Union is surpassing the U.S. in space technology.

Sprinkled here and there are snippets of press commentary favorable to Brown. Among these is the

governor's favorite, a piece by Chicago columnist Mike Royko, who once dismissed Brown as "Governor Moonbeam" but then apologized and concluded, "I hope Brown is still around in 1994. I think the moonbeam has landed with his feet on the ground."

Brown also devoted space to urge support for Carter and U.S. Senate candidates in 35 states.

The governor's campaign committee, Californians for Brown, is responsible for the newsletter. The committee is composed of Jodie Kravetski, a long-time aide, a secretary, and a staff of volunteers. The committee had a budget of \$96,000 as of last month. The money was raised by the committee, which continued to gather funds for Brown even after the governor had paid off his presidential campaign debt.

Since Cornerstones began publica-

tion, requests for copies have been coming in at the rate of 100 a day, says Kravetski. The press run for the next edition, to be published in two months, will be expanded to 75,000 to 100,000 copies.

Brown's newsletter is only part of a new campaign to get greater numbers of voters, special interests organizations and elected officials involved with him in politics — to have them invest, as it were, in Jerry Brown and his deeds.

Toward his new goal, Brown has opened his doors to nearly 70 "constituent groups" in countless meetings since he pulled out of the presidential race on April 1. He wrote thank-you letters to political supporters as well.

He also pitched in with \$65,000 for Democratic candidates and issues in California elections this year — funds that he raised or that he directed into certain campaigns on request from the donors.

In the end he backed more losing candidates than winners, but he was praised for joining the Democratic team and helping in some close contests.

Further evidence of the transformation of Brown is yet to come. His office says that during the next month legislators will be asked to help formulate the administration's budget and legislative proposals for the coming year. In the past, Brown took these as personal responsibilities and shared them with no outsiders.

Davis also says the governor will busy himself between now and the end of the year in trying to "rebuild" the state Democratic party, an organization he ridiculed for years.

Frederic Morton is author, most recently, of "A Nervous Splendor: Vienna 1888-1889."