

Answer to the Cairo lady who wrote Letter to the Editor - see page 7

Why don't I inform the public on how we can make a difference? Can we citizens really make a difference?

The whole purpose of this newspaper is to inform the public. If I did not think you could make a difference, I would not waste my resources trying to enlist your help to make a difference. Read my paper carefully and you will see some of what you can do to help.

Basically, citizens are the only ones that can make a difference. You can make a big difference at election time by enlisting good Republican people to run for office. Get busy now and find those people. Do not reelect anyone without knowing his/her voting record. Read the public record (minutes) of meetings to see how he/she voted.

I realize that people are too busy to spend time researching voting records. That is what my paper does, it informs you about how your representative voted. Send me a request, I'll do it for you. I am retired, and have the time. You must realize that your representative will squeal like a stuck pig if the report is negative. He/she will call me a lying SOB, but the public record will not lie if it was done honestly, which is another story. The District 3 county commission chairman is squealing right now.

You said you were surprised at the school SPOST landslide victory. I was not surprised. Read page 7, SPOST. A Bill should be introduced in the Legislature to require SPOST Referendums to be held during the General Election only. I shall work on that.

You said our school system is a joke. First, you must realize that the entire school systems of America are sub

standard. That it is not the fault of local school personnel; they are simply doing what they must do. The fault lies in the unconstitutional interference by the Federal Government in the nation's schooling. Education is strictly a state function. Here again, the state government has allowed itself to be bribed with grant money, to roll over and lie down on its responsibilities. Just as local governments roll over and lie down for grant monies from the state.

The Federal Government, its agencies, and our educational institutions have been, for years, following the teachings of Antonio Gramsci, a brilliant Communist who loved communism, but felt that the use of violence to attain it was unnecessary. The Clintons and Gores have embraced these teachings with a passion. Especially Miz Clinton. Read the book HELL TO PAY.

What can you do for your children right now? Home school them. Home schooled children are testing 37% above public school children. Many of these parents are only high school graduates. Prepare your children for Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan 1 800 437 2268. I can provide information on home schooling. My grand daughter just turned 5, she can read a newspaper - home schooled.

There is no one that admires intelligence more than I do. But, intelligence alone is not nearly enough. Equally important, are steadfast core traditional American values, Preservation of American Culture, first, last, and always.

Thank you for your letter. The Editor

Go ahead. Try it...



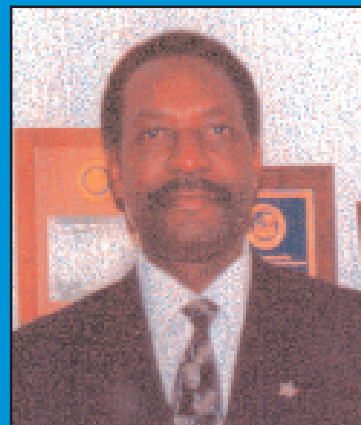
Welcome to the Seventh Grade at Hillsdale Academy.

Hillsdale Academy consistently places in the top four percent of all schools nationwide in standardized testing. Two versions of the Hillsdale Academy Reference Guide—one for Grades K-8 and one for Grades 9-12—offer further guidance and information leading to levels of student achievement accomplished by the test at left. Examine carefully, publisher and reading lists, school culture suggestions, parent and teacher handbooks, a complete bibliography, curriculum outlines (K-8) and an introductory videotape. Each Guide costs \$175 if purchased separately or \$295 for both.

For more information, call 800-969-7323 for the K-8 Guide, 877-222-3309 for the 9-12 Guide, or write to Hillsdale Academy Reference Guide, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI 49742. You'll receive a MasterCard/Discover.



VOTE FOR ODELL JOLLY SHERIFF Grady County - 2000



Experience Counts Metropolitan Police Institute of Dade Co., Fla., the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Jackson State University, Essex County College, Alabama A&M and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. VOTE NOV. 7 2000 FOR ODELL JOLLY! Paid for by Odell Jolly Campaign

Several years ago, I requested that Mr. Allen, head of Roddenbery Memorial Library, get a copy of every school book that is used in our public school system. Parents could then monitor what their children were being taught. My request fell on deaf ears. If I were now a parent of children in our school system, I would insist upon it. Parents need to have a word of prayer with the school board incumbents and candidates, about these school books.

Grady County "Serving Grady County" INQUIRER

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April, 2000 • TIME TO TAKE OUR COUNTY BACK • Issue 3, Volume 1

Social Security Earnings penalty lifted Awaiting President's Signature, Pg. 4

THE STATE OF THE COUNTY

More AL GORE Thrill at his logic! Be amazed at his wisdom! Let the quotes begin....

"I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people." — Vice President Al Gore

With this guy in charge, no wonder the schools have challenges!

"If we don't succeed, we run the risk of failure." — Vice President Al Gore

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history. I mean in this century's history. But we all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century." — Vice President Al Gore, 9/15/95

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy but that could change." — Vice President Al Gore, 5/22/98

"I have made good judgments in the past. I have made good judgments in the future." — Vice President Al Gore

"People that are really very weird can get into sensitive positions and have a tremendous impact on history." —

"A low voter turnout is an indication of fewer people going to the polls." —

"Illegitimacy is something we should talk about in terms of not having it."

INSIDE

Social Security, Good Newspp 4 Letters to EditorPP 7

The cat is out of the bag on consolidation of services and governments. I believe I forced them out of the closet before they were ready.

Remember, in previous issues I stated the reason special interests and businesses want consolidation of city and county governments, so that COUNTY property owners can be stuck with the cost of infrastructure growth in the city of Cairo.

Norton stated in Mar. 1 Messenger: "He would like to see a study of the consolidation issue." I'll bet the Cairo commissioners Copeland and Burns would, also.

There has been for sometime, a revenue crisis in Cairo City Government. City Manager stated in Messenger Mar. 1, 2000: "Right now the only way we can raise revenue is through higher ad valorem taxes." Hey, how about Impact Fees?•

Remember that this paper is a COUNTY paper. In this article I want to show existing conditions which will require that I digress to show you a progression of board action or inaction.

As you can see by the bolded motions below that I have long been concerned that citizens are run out into the hallway to stand, while the commissioners are in executive session. I wanted to leave citizens seated while commissioners go into the office for executive session. This motion passed and is the law.

Norton refuses to comply with this motion (law), he shows no concern for citizens standing in the hallway and sitting on the bare floor.

At the last meeting on March 7, 2000 we concluded a long executive meeting and called the citizens back in. I felt so bad about neglect of citizen's comfort, that I immediately made a motion: Mr. Chairman, I move to provide seating in the hallway for a dozen

people. The motion was seconded, failed 3 - 2, Norton and the Cairo Commissioners voted no.

I'll bet when Norton sees this in print, he will be willing to whittle and carve those chairs.

Notice also, that Norton's first decision after we elected him chairman was that he would not be voting. I was astounded and advised him that county code required him to vote. Can you imagine your elected commissioner giving up his right to represent your interests by not voting?

Notice also that Norton decided not to give up the chairmanship after he agreed to serve only one year. Dishonored his agreement made before we elected him chairman, then dishonored his own unanimous consent motion.

Motions - Public Record Jan. 5, 1999 Regular Meeting

Copeland nominated Norton as Chairman, Prince moved to close Nominations, ballot 4-1 for

Norton. Prince nominated Copeland as Vice-Chairman, Bivins moved to close, Prince sec. - Copeland elected VC.

Mr. Bivins stated that as we begin a New Year, a new board, with a new member, let us resolve to encourage more public participation in county government. Let us resolve to be honest and open with each other, going the extra mile to make sure that each Commissioner is kept informed on county business. Let us resolve to re-establish the "Private Office of The Commissioners," so that Commissioners can quickly meet in executive session while leaving the citizens comfortably seated. Let us resolve that each Commissioner has the absolute and equal right to keys to the courthouse and commission offices and unfettered access to all county commission records.

Bivins moved to re-establish the "private office of the commissioners," See Page 3 State of County

CYAN MAGENTA



YELLOW BLACK

YELLOW BLACK



CYAN MAGENTA

Why be a writer?

Why Write? Why not be like most men, never write anything? Because I want people to understand me, and to understand those I write about. To encourage citizens to read and keep abreast of the important issues that will impact our lives, and yes, to encourage you to trust me. Millions of airline passengers have entrusted their lives to me, and I never hurt one. How many people have entrusted their very lives to the silent commissioners in the majority, who pretend at Democracy? Who never write anything?

At the March 21, 2000 commission meeting the Cairo Messenger, the three wolves, and Chamber of Commerce presented an affidavit for Bivins to sign, swearing that all he publishes in the Grady County Inquirer is true. I stated that what I publish is true. They are attempting to find anything questionable in my publication, then they think they can say that all I publish is trash. Poor try boys and girls, childish. I will publish any corrections, I offered to publish any specific disagreement that Norton and his cronies want to address. Norton will not be specific because he knows that I have the tape recordings and the minutes in my files. You have heard it said, "it is better to keep silent and appear ignorant than to open your mouth and remove

all doubt."

Can you trust a writer? When it comes to the intellect and the measure of a man's core values, I would say that what a man writes is a better measure than a conversation. He boldly holds his whole self out for all to question. You know what he believes in. If he is a politician, just check to see if he voted those beliefs. George Bivins

Déjà vu all over again

It is the political season again in Grady County, and the Socialist Democrat Party Headquarters (Cairo Messenger) has its knives out.

I want to tell you something that you already know, but may have forgotten. The Cairo Messenger kept the Democrat for about 90 years. That is, until Republican George Bivins came along.

All during my tenure as a commissioner, the Messenger laid the groundwork to help insure that I would not get reelected. In desperation for something to write about, they attacked my motion to provide cell phones for commissioners. Not needed, they said, how about during tornadoes and other emergencies?

All over America, Democrat office holders are bailing out of the

from the desk of THE EDITOR

Democrat Party by the hundreds, and joining the Republican Party.

Why are these elected Democrat Party officials bailing out? They are ashamed of the socialist direction of the Democrat party that is intentionally destroying families, destroying American culture.

The creation of the welfare state, the destruction of our families, of our schools, and of our judicial system, and our military was not by accident. It was intentional by the Socialist Democrat Party and shamelessly accelerated under the Clintons and Gore.

Clinton's first act as president was "gays in the military." The Democrat Party has worked for and encouraged liberal socialist interpretation of the U. S. Constitution by the most liberal judges that they could find and appoint. The Clintons and Gore have welded together the minorities, the gays, the lesbians, the Women's Lib, aliens both legal and illegal, and the news media into one voting block. They keep them together by promising more handouts of the tax dollars produced by productive Americans. Americans are financing their own destruction.

How can you make a difference? Vote Republican in November.

This is the election where you can vote across party lines. Vote Republican anytime you can.

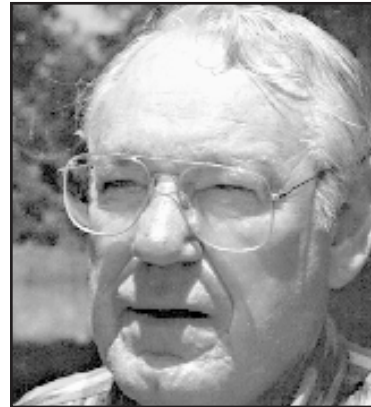
In Grady County, in the 2000 March Presidential Primary, more Grady Countians voted for Republicans than Democrats.

We must have more Republican candidates in Grady County and break this strangle hold that the Cairo Messenger and special interest have established and maintained for over 90 years.

God Bless what remains of America. George Bivins

Georgia Democrats who switched to Republican

- Roy Allen - GA Senator
Sonny Perdue - GA.Sen.
Nathan Deal - U. S. Rep.
Ronnie Culbreth - GA Rep
Kermit Bates - GA Rep.
Dan Ponder - GA Rep.
Scott Tolbert - GA. Rep.
Mike Bowers - Atty. Gen.
Cheryl Custer- D. Atty.
Bob Durden - Chmn. PSC
Franklin Thornton - Sheriff
William Howell - Sheriff
R. Rainwater - Co. Comm.
Rick Holder - Co. Comm.
MarilynFarmer-Co.Comm
Tal Duvall - Co. Comm.
Kathy Kesse - Sup CT. Clk.
Dan Pierce - Chf. Mag.
Greg Adams - Probate Jud.
471 switched nationwide



Rebuttal of Messenger March 29, 2000

Before I begin this article I want to make a confession. I know that I appear and probably am immodest. The reason that I am immodest is that I had that virtue, of necessity, trained out of me, in my aviation profession. There was no time to be modest moving at 600 MPH. The only thing I can say is that I am sorry, and that I will try to do better. Perception, even by the Messenger, is important.

The Cairo Messenger kept Grady County totally Democrat for about 90 years, BG (before George). I intend to continue trying to give citizens another choice, by encouraging good solid Republican candidates. That is all I can do. It is up to the voters to make the difference. To quote Teddy Roosevelt:

"America's success or failure will be conditioned upon the way in which the average man, the average woman, does his or her duty."

See Editor Pg. 3

Editors Note:

I wrote this letter soon after my election in 1997. History is made in Grady County. This victory is the citizen's victory.

For the first time in the history of Grady County, a Republican has been elected to public office. This breaks the strangle hold that has been engendered by 120 continuous years of a Democrat Governor in Georgia. The Liberal Socialist Democrats (LSDs) and the Good Old Boys (GOBs) must now decide "FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS." I say it is tolling for these dear citizen and we must keep it tolling.

When I see an elderly man or woman struggling into the polls to vote, my heart is touched because I know that hope still springs eternal in their hearts. They are still listening for the tolling of the bell. They went to the old school that taught American History. What will become of America

Letters to Editor Mr. Bivins,

I must commend you on a job well done. I just finished reading your very informative newspaper. Your newspaper was not only informative it was down right entertaining to have someone write about what most Grady County citizens think about our local government officials. I'm sorry to say I missed your February edition.

I have one suggestion. Why don't you inform citizens on how we can change our current circumstances? Why don't you inform the public on how we can make a difference? Can we really

when they are gone? When the Veterans are gone?

We won this election by only a 10% margin. I expected 30%. This indicates to me that many people are not listening, reading or voting. Hopefully, their faith in our political process can be restored. Citizen involvement in their government must be restored. They must believe that they can make a difference.

I have had my day in the sun. I have watched the sun come up over the Matterhorn many a morning. Now, this job is my "LAST HURRAGH" and I thank God and the citizens for this opportunity not only to be a commissioner, but to try to reestablish government "OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE." George Bivins

make a difference? Is there anything we can do to change the current tide?

Oh, just for your information, I voted against SPLOST and my husband did as well. We were surprised at the landslide victory. I'm afraid to say my children will never see the benefits of what that tax increase was suppose to represent. That leads me to tell you that not only is our local government a sham our school system is a joke as well. Now, this subject could have me on here for hours so I will not go there. A Cairo Housewife and mother. See my answer PG 8

LETTERS TO EDITOR

March 11, 2000 By Ed Komarek

I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation to you for taking the time and money to put out this political paper.

Grady County citizens must be allowed to hear all sides of the political debate because the local mullet wrapper the Cairo Messenger does everything possible to suppress the side of the story they do not agree with or want the public to know about. I do hope that the Inquirer will concentrate on issues and principles important to the citizens of Grady County and not allow itself to become mired in personal vendettas and name calling. Such would only distract and obscure important open honest political debate so essential to this County.

I too share your concerns about Commission Chairman Charles Norton. Charles being a likable person would often rather play ball than change the ball game. There is no place for fence sitters in the political arena. Either one is for reform or one is not!

Norton must learn to fight the allure and corrupting influence of power and the special interest influence of the ruling elite of this County. I do think the time has come for Charles to get off the fence and decide which side he wants to be on. If he is to be on the side of reform he needs to

honor his promises aggressively like kicking out of subdivision regulations and ending other unnecessary bureaucratic meddling and control of citizens lives. I for one believe for instance, that building inspections should be voluntary in rural areas with safety rightly the responsibility of the land owner and not bureaucratic big brother. If somebody is hurt that is what the court system is for!

One thing I do strongly disagree with you on is that Charles or anybody else in this county should be allowed assistance writing down their views for publication if needed. There are not many people who can write well and all people and views deserve to be heard in the Inquirer in a professional presentable fashion.

This said, I have several suggestions for your paper:

Publicly solicit people to volunteer to write, report, and distribute the paper. Give free subscriptions to the paper to whoever wants a issue delivered by mail. Voluntary donations should be accepted. Lets make this a true community political paper where everybody interested in reform can become involved and contribute.

I suggest running a hot button front-page headline to get peoples attention and get them reading in each issue of the Inquirer. •

Election 2000 Info

Table with 2 columns: Date, Event. Includes March 7 Presidential Preference Primary, July 18 Statewide Primary, August 8 Runoff, November 7 General Election.

Qualify to run (sign up) Monday, April 24 until Friday April 28 at noon Editor's note: Both of the SPLOST elections, in 1996 for the County Jail, and the March 2000 Grady County School SPLOST, were held during the March Presidential Preference Primary.

Why were they not held at one of the later elections, say, the General Election? Because the presidential beauties contest, historically is a low voter turnout election. It is much easier to get a measure passed in a low voter turnout election, because a little work by enthusiastic supporters will go a long way.

On average, only 32 % of precinct voters opposed the School SPLOST. Now, you can see how important it is to vote in every election.

You can set your watch by it that if a vote on a prison or zoning referendum comes up, it will not be scheduled in a March, low turnout election.

All the above notwithstanding, I am satisfied that a good enough cross section was represented, that I can accept it. I congratulate the enthusiastic supporters on fighting for what you believe in, although I would have preferred to vote on it in the General Election.

The 2000 Presidential Preference Primary on the national scale was somewhat one-sided in favor of Gore. Thirty Percent of men, 38 % of women, 73 % of blacks, and 55% Hispanics voted for Gore. Gore has promised, and will deliver, more goodies. Will these percentages change in the general election? •Not likely.

YELLOW BLACK CYAN MAGENTA

YELLOW BLACK CYAN MAGENTA

The Riverbank

PHILOSOPHER

Something for nothing

By Walter Lewis

I was raised on certain absolutes, which were accepted as wisdom. On face value There ain't no free lunch, there is no such thing as something for nothing, a penny saved is a penny earned, you get out of anything what you put into it. These phrases along with, honesty is the best policy, are but a few absolutes of yesterday.

Our society languishes in careless character because we have followed political, social, legal, and economic policies, which have undermined our trusted absolutes. Absolutes of wisdom in the society can not be relaxed for social considerations. Absolutes are the bed rock foundation of any institution, system, or value base of any type. What has caused our government, our church, our schools, and the very foundations as a nation to change? How can we understand and restore our absolutes?

To deal with a problem you must first be able to see it's effects before, during or after it happens. You can see the results of a problem before it happens, if you can see the mistakes in progress. We all have this ability and it is reflected in the common wisdom of the commonly understood absolutes "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," is an absolute which history

proves every time. If you understand this logical truth, then why would any free people submit their personal freedom to the care of a group or to the state?

The founding fathers were truly wise men, who understood the absolutes of history, and of human behavior. They understood well that the sources of good and responsible freedom, and of freedom absent of the influence of religious values, and of common wisdom.

The Bill of rights was an attempt by our founding fathers to protect liberty for the people of America from the chief enemy of human liberty, the state. It is ironic that our founders knew they had to create a government to function, but at the same time they knew the government, if not held in check by absolute laws, would eventually consume citizen's freedoms.

It was the collective wisdom of responsible society, and the absolute base of law which held in check government power, which is all they could do to preserve the foundation of our Republic. They gave us a system and the weapons we needed to preserve our values as a people.

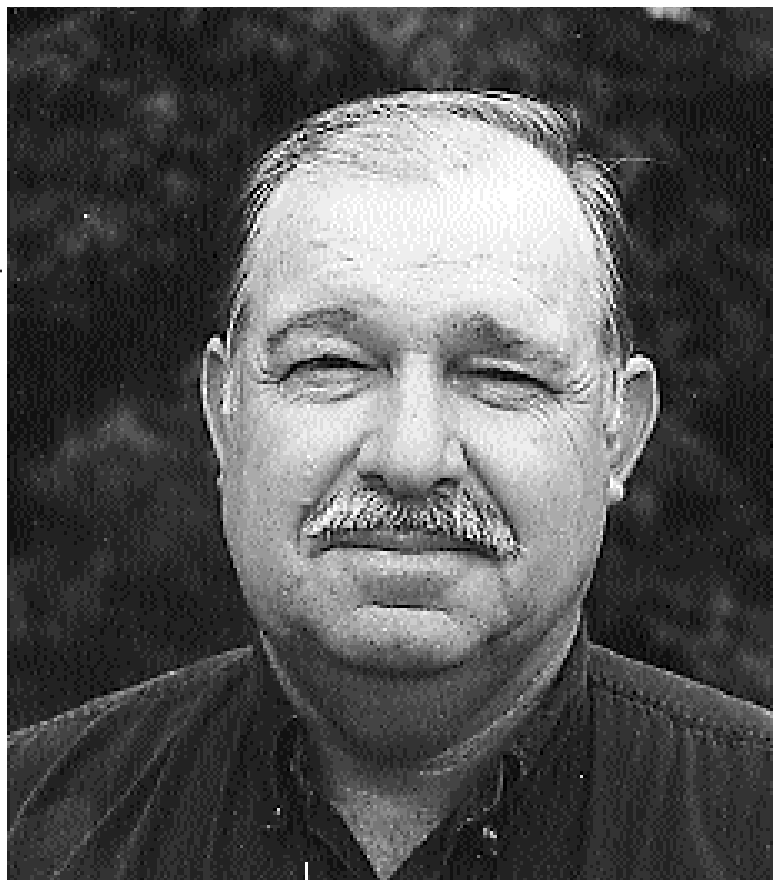
We have surrendered our system and our values into the very hands of government so feared by our founding fathers. We have traded in our foundation of government in America,

which is based on the Constitution and personal liberty, and we have adopted a popular democracy form of government, which obeys the mob. The collective group based on race, ethnic origin, gender, and sexual deviation, are the new liberal foundations of socialism being promoted as change in America.

The War Between the States created our modern state and reduced the power of the people to resist the dominance of collective big government. The War Between the States, in practical application, changed our American form of government. But did not remove the symbols of that old Republic. The Constitution is like the Monarchy in England; it is only used as a convenience to conceal the fundamental changes, which have replaced it.

Judge Robert Bork was denied Supreme Court appointment because he was a strict constitutionalist, which demanded that interpretation be based on the facts contained in the Constitution. Is it not strange that elected representatives of the people would oppose a judge who believed in the law as it was written? Even an elected government will reject it's own foundation if those who are elected see political goals more important than the absolutes

The War Between the States changed America



from a Republic to a popular Democracy. The most recent truth of this fact is how opinion polls are used today to undermine the rule of law. A corrupt President stands or falls today on whether popular polls, which reflect an economic satisfaction, can undermine the duty of elected representatives to honor the law and Constitution. The latter requires a rare, but necessary quality, for modern political types, which is to place something of value to them in jeopardy to do something that is valuable for our Republic.

We need to remember our absolutes in all our institutions, and to remember also that without absolutes of wisdom, the church foundation crumbles. The family crumbles into dysfunction, liberty gives way to regulation, and government of the people becomes government over the people. Wisdom may simply be found not in the intellect of rulers, but in the common respect of the common citizen to know the common absolutes, which represent wisdom. •

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THE EDITOR

The rebuttals to Messenger March 29, 2000 Banter, by Randolph Wind

•**Very little truth or facts in his writings:** If you are going to call a man a liar, at least you should be gentleman enough to be specific.

•**Bivins has resumed what he calls a newspaper:** I have not resumed. It is my first effort (although I borrowed some templates from Mr. Komarek's tabloid.) I produced my tabloid on my own computers, then sent it out for printing. I detect in your journalistic demeanor a tetch of professional jealousy.

•**Randolph Wind would sign affidavit swearing that he prints the truth:** You did not volunteer to sign at the meeting when Mr. Norton foolishly presented the affidavit. Besides, you are the Messenger Editor, you would have to certify that all writing at the Messenger is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

•**Consolidation study proposed by Jack Allbright.** The Messenger first proposed consolidation and zoning regulations of Grady County land. Read Jan. 5, 2000 Banter by Randolph Wind. You see I am specific. You deceive your readers by attempting to make them believe that consolidation study was the idea of Jack Allbright. You insult citizen's intelligence. I admit, up front, on page 1 that I am opinionated. You do not. You are not honest, you are subtle, Clintonian, deceptive.

•**Leave it to Commissioner Bivins to squelch opportunity to display leadership.** It is not your job to define leadership. Turn your talents to reporting the news, improving your paper; you know

you need a new press, with color. Leave government to the officeholders and the voters.

•**Full Fledged, comprehensive study to consolidation.** How can you study anything without some data? The book has not been written yet. Go back and read my position on the subject in the Inquirer March, 2000 edition page 4 City of Whigham, wherein I say: I am not stupid. I can see the inevitability that these planned actions will happen. But, my position is that we should delay the inevitable as long as possible. We would then be able to observe the mistakes that occur in other counties, such as Thomas, Mitchell, Decatur, and wind up with a more refined product for Grady County. Don't you think that makes sense? Thomas County is now wrestling with consolidation of emergency services. Already this ESB is crying for more money, and they are only three months into the budget year. You need to do some critical thinking my boy. My systemic opposition to consolidation is that it reduces citizen representation, and builds a bigger trough, making room for more snouts, inviting more corruption.

•**Some hidden nefarious agenda.** I see the consolidation agenda plainly, to stick C O U N T Y property owners with the cost of the continued growth of the City of Cairo.

•**Messenger Encouraging Commissioner Bivins to utilize his vast knowledge.** I must have missed that one. I remember you throwing me one bone about road petitions. All the rest appeared to infer that I was a stupid moron. A temperamental loose cannon

shooting from the hip, or just a typical Republican. Forgive me if I am wrong. Send me a copy where you referred to "my vast knowledge."

If I could give you some advice Randy, I would say to buckle down and improve the newspaper. You have chosen a profession, follow it. You are much too nice a guy to be put in charge of controlling politicians. It is a dirty business. For a while you can justify it, but eventually it will drive you to drink. Oh, you will be popular at the country club, until you are used up by business and others with an axe to grind.

State of the County

so that commissioners can quickly meet in executive session while leaving the citizens comfortably seatæd. Copeland second, 3-1 Burns no. This motion passed and is law.

Bivins moved that commissioners have the absolute and equal right to keys to the court house and commission offices and unfettered access to all county records. Prince seconded, 3-1 Burns no, Norton illegally (county code) had declared that he would only vote to break a tie,

Jan. 19, 1999 regular meeting Mr. Norton informed the press that he will be voting on all issues per the code of ordinances.

Norton made a unanimous consent motion for the chairmanship to rotate annually. unanimous per Georgia law OCGA 50-14-1(e). •

“Newspaper editor” Commissioner Bivins won't swear to publishing the truth

Monday, March 27, 2000

District 1 County

Commissioner George Bivins has been a part-time newspaper publisher and has been the editor of the newspaper in this county.

The Grady Inquirer is being published monthly by Bivins, who is the paper's editor. The monthly tabloid has published two issues this year, and following the printing of another issue on the occasion of the county commission meeting on Monday, 7, 2000, Bivins was seen at the county commission meeting, Grady County Board of Commissioners, being asked to sign the affidavit.

Norton's affidavit, typed on a letter size sheet of white paper, which was presented to the county commission by Bivins, stated: "I, George Bivins, of the City of Whigham, Georgia, do hereby certify that the information I publish in my newspaper, Grady County Inquirer, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief."

Commissioner Bivins signed the affidavit. "You won't sign the truth," said Jack Allbright to Jack Allbright, Bivins' messenger.

"Well that's the end of the matter and that is my response to your paper," Norton said. Bivins turned Norton to respond to anything he published.

"While no one here and I will point them, I just want to make sure the letters are written by you and not someone else," Bivins said.

In other county news Thursday night, the commission approved LARP paving contracts for a portion of Peach Chapel Road and Second Street, and the sheriff's Department.

Bivins addressed notice, per Robert's Rule of Order, from Commissioner Bivins that at the next meeting, "I shall enter a motion to revise Section 2-21 of the county code by the addition of election of chairman and vice chairman shall be by secret ballot. This will resubmit legaly Section of GA Highway 89 but the long custom in Grady County of secret ballot for three or more candidates. This is an American an apple pie," Bivins wrote in a prepared statement.

Approved a new cycle for the Sheriff's Department.

Head addressed notice, per Robert's Rule of Order, from Commissioner Bivins that at the

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CYAN MAGENTA

YELLOW BLACK



CYAN MAGENTA

Since the affidavit form was probably produced by the Messenger for Commissioner Norton, I guess Messenger Editor forgot to sign it. He did not volunteer to sign it at the commissioner meeting either. This was a childish attempt to question my integrity. If you want to question my truths, be specific. I'll eat your lunch.

The Citizen's Oversight READER'S PAGE

Social Security

The Republican controlled U. S. House of Representatives just passed a Bill to repeal Social Security earnings penalty. The vote was unanimous.

This is a great victory for America's senior citizens. I believe this Bill will pass unchanged in the U. S. Senate and will become law.

Did you listen to your old dad?

Save a few dollars did you?
Auto Tag - by 5 PM on your birthday
Late payment penalty is 10% of car taxes, plus 25% of the tag, plus \$1.

MH on rented lot, pay by May 1
Late payment penalty is 10% of the bill

MH on your lot, payment is due Dec 20,
the MH tax is included in with the property tax bill.

Property Tax Bill Pay by Dec. 20
Late payment penalty is 1% per month until paid
Plus after 90 days extra 10% plus \$20 levy.
Please, do yourself a favor, clip the above cutoff dates, and tape to your fridge.

More Gore

From pg. 1
• "It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our

Citizen Control of County Government

EFFINGHAM Election of chairman may fall to voters

Pending legislation by the Georgia General Assembly, Effingham County citizens, starting in November 2000, may be charged with the responsibility of electing an at-large county commission chairman. Currently, the five Effingham County commissioners elect the chair and vice-chair from amongst themselves by secret ballot.

The proposed legislation would create a sixth commissioner, who would be elected by county-wide, rather than district, vote. He or she would assume the responsibilities of the chairman under the current structure, albeit with limited voting power.

Current chairman Philip King thinks leaving the decision to the taxpayers is "the right thing for the county," and that it will "take politics out of (the election) up front."

You will recall in previous issues, wherein I stated that Norton had dishonored his promise and his unanimous consent motion to serve only one year as chairman of Grady County Commission. Special interest got to him.

In all previous elections for officers that I attended, the vote was taken by secret



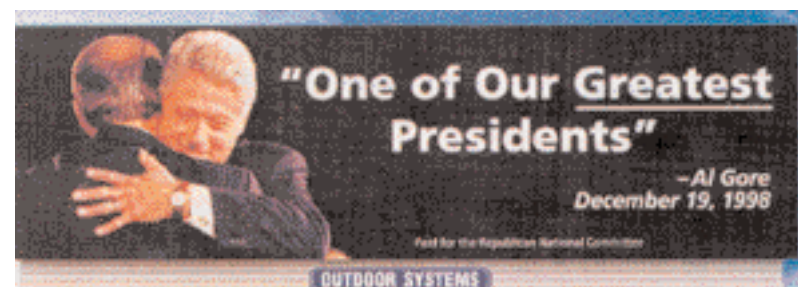
Charley Rosen
Counsellor

Unfortunately, the modern politician is missing two key ingredients of statesmanship: knowledge of his or her country's own history and a backbone.

Charley Rosen is with the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

ballot. But, not this time. Burns brought a motion to vote in public. He knew that Copeland would not vote for Bivins if it was a public vote.

The example above demonstrates the method Effingham County will use to limit special interest control. This is a serious problem, dear citizens. Contact Senator Ragan and Representative Sholar. Ask them to introduce legislation to elect Grady County Commission Chairman by county wide vote.



Sometimes the Craziest Thing One Can Do Is Quote Someone Accurately. It was almost the billboard that wasn't.

air and water that are doing it."
• "As many of you know, I was very instrumental in the founding of the Internet"

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\$4,000.00 firm -7624783, trade up or down on Antique Ford 32 to 48, or ultra lite airplane.



The Rights of LAND OWNERS

GRADY COUNTY

4/15/97

I believe it is now time to begin going public with the Public's Business:

On March 18, 1997 the county commissioners were petitioned by a local physician to reopen County Road 343 to serve his intended home-sight. CR343 is located on the West side of Pierce Chapel Road between Highway 84 and the Dollar road. His letter was included in commissioner briefing material but, his map showing the old roadbed was not included. The board voted unanimously to reopen this road without knowing all the facts. I shall not make that mistake again.

The facts: This physician recently bought landlocked land served only by an undeeded driveway. This driveway passes several hundred feet through another citizen's property, purchased in 1989.

This driveway is the old roadbed of CR343. The owners were never advised that this undeeded driveway was ever a road. The owners were never advised

by county manager that a decision was about to be made concerning their property.

The county manager and county attorney did not provide information to the county commissioners so they could make a rational decision. If they had, the commissioners would have known that more than one property owner was involved.

Question: Was failure to provide information to the board and failure to notify the owners intentional? Yes, I believe it was. Later at the April 15, 1997 meeting, I attempted to correct our mistake by entering a motion to rescind vote of March 18, 1997. I could not get a second. I was the only commissioner who came down on the side of the property owner.

Question: Was the board of commissioners deceived? I cannot speak for the others, but I feel deceived. I moved again on May 6 to rescind - No second. Again, I was the only commissioner who took the side of the property owner. It appears that most commissioners misunderstand

seconding. To second a motion does not mean you are for the motion. It means you are only willing to discuss. In the same meeting I moved to close CR343, got a second. The vote deadlocked 2 to 2 with 1 abstention. The Chairman left the chair and moved to open CR343, got a second. The vote again deadlocked 2 to 2 with 1 abstention. The original motion stands essentially rescinded. Democracy has been served.

Norton never supported the property owner, and would not support my criticism of a administrator. Principle was compromised again. George Bivins

Citizens are encouraged to send me E Mail messages at gbivins@rose.net, or call me at 762 3200.

The communications that I have received thus far, regarding this paper is overwhelmingly positive. What do you think? Do you appreciate being kept informed about county business?



has dollar goes for its estimated purpose. Commissioners told L.M. Taylor, Perry mayor and Perry volunteer fire chief, SPLOST would fund 12 new fire trucks - three for Thomasville and nine for volunteer departments. Taylor described some volunteer department trucks as "falling apart." For volunteers of Thomas County to respond and do what we need to do, we need some help - from somebody," he told commissioners. Taylor said the county's 130 volunteer firefighters would get behind the tax if commissioners can promise them better equipment. "We're in a mess with these fire trucks, and we know that," Commissioner Josh Herthing told Taylor. Mayor Wayne Nesmith said he heard the "best call" supports what commissioners are trying to do with the proposed tax. Senior reporter Paul Ward may be reached at (912) 226-2400, ext. 220.

As Thomas County Goes, So Goes Grady County
The purpose of these Thomas County articles my friends, is to give you fair warning of what to expect in Grady County.
Remember Thomas County Commission Chairman Tim Sherrod said: It's been talked about for a couple of years. I guarantee you they did not talk to the citizens about it for 2 years. Two months is more like it.
SPLOST has been talked about for only one month, \$41/2 million for county and city Fire, 911, and EMS. Now the SPLOST has grown to \$14 million.

This action effectively consolidates volunteer fire, city fire, 911, and EMS.

The only real benefit I see, as a county commissioner, is \$4 million for paving county roads. You can expect an attempt to create an Emergency Services Board in Grady County, soon.

County pushes on with tax

If approved in July, new sales tax would take effect next January

By PAUL WARD
Specialists

THOMASVILLE — Thomas County commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to put in motion a schedule leading to a July vote on a special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST). Commission Chairman Tim

Sherrrod said the Tuesday vote was not to call a SPLOST referendum, but to put in motion steps that must be taken before a referendum can be called. Commissioners must meet with members of the county's municipalities, call the referendum in June and convene the referendum four times before the proposed July 18 vote.

If approved, the tax would go into effect Jan. 1, 2001, with the first revenue to be received in March 2001.

The tax - proposed for 2 1/2 years - would raise about \$10 million, with \$8 million to go for road and bridge improvements and \$2 million for improvements in emergency services.

The money would fund new pumps for the Thomasville fire department and all active volunteer departments, park Thomasville, Boston and

Coalfield fire stations, a headquarters station and a community building.

Commissioner Jim Miller said \$11 million should be included in the commitments structure.

The proposed tax would fund renovation and upgrades of some fire-park facilities.

A revenue breakdown shows:

- New construction - \$2 million
- Renovation - \$900,000
- Equipment/vehicle purchases - \$1.5 million

In road improvements, roads in unincorporated Thomas County would receive \$4 million, as would roads and streets in the county's municipalities.

The sales tax has been a discussion subject for about two years, Sherrrod said. Speaking for myself, I think it's time to put it before the citizens and let them decide," he added.

To gain some taxpayers' comments, Miller said, local governments must ensure county sales

Paul Ward, 912/226-2400

At least this SPLOST Referendum in Thomas County will be held during the July 18 election which will have a normal turnout.

Please begin to think about what your position will be on these consolidation issues in Grady County. •

YELLOW
BLACK



CYAN
MAGENTA



YELLOW
BLACK



CYAN
MAGENTA

