

Letter to Editor

Dear Mr. Bivins,

I am enclosing a letter, that I hope you will print to make the citizens of Grady County aware of what is happening to some candidates that are seeking election to certain political offices. Please withhold my name, but contact me if you need to.

What has appalled me is to see that Grady County has citizens who are seeking an office, or their supporters, that stoop so low as to remove their opponents campaign materials. Is this an example of the type of person this candidate would be, if elected? I am a firm believer that actions speak louder than words.

I just could not believe it when I saw someone removing political signs of others. Is this the way politics are done in Grady County? Whether it is the candidate seeking office, or the supporters of that candidate that are committing these acts, this is a reflection of the type of person this candidate truly is. Is this the type of person "we the people" of Grady County want in office?

A concerned Grady County Citizen

Editor's answer:

Thank you for your letter, please rest assured that I will protect your identity.

The problem you have described is an age-old problem in local politics. Political fever runs high right about now. I agree with you, removal of signs from private property is not only illegal, but, more

important, it reflects on the candidate a lack of honesty, fairness, and respect for the law. He/she would not likely change, once in office.

There are better, more acceptable ways to support a candidate. One is what you have done. Write it down and make it public. If I had not been a writer, with determination to take my views directly to the public, bypassing the local press and special interests, I would be sitting on the sidelines today, instead of reporting to the citizens from the inside.

I intend to have honest government in Grady County, if I live, and if I am re-elected.

Editor

Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,
I read issue 3 of your paper. Possibly I mistook earlier issues for mullet wrap or advertising, or didn't receive it. The banner on the top is rather off-putting. My opinion, it is quite self-serving, but that is to be expected as you are paying for it. It does indicate a one-man campaign to bring Grady County out of the dark ages. You have a lot in common with another elected person, blatantly going ahead ignoring any opposition.

I asked another very knowledgeable Grady County native what he thought of Bivins. He said: "He doesn't have an agenda." What he meant was that the ad valorem tax is a big problem to farmers, and disproportionately taxes them.

Editor's Answer

My dear citizen, I am so happy that you have discov-

ered that The Grady County Inquirer is not a mullet wrapper. I am trying very hard to make it meaningful, and to fill the void left by local news media. Unfortunately, I have not learned how to get my message across in a more positive way. I hope you will not "kill the messenger," by failing to vote for me.

• **You say, "the banner on top is quite self-serving."** In fact my whole publication is self-serving in the same way that being a good airline pilot is self-serving. He takes good care of his passengers, in so doing, he takes care of himself.
• **"A one-man campaign to bring Grady County out of the dark ages."** I hope to enlist help from intelligent citizens like you.

• **"Blatantly going ahead ignoring any opposition."** You are certainly misinformed about that; I have written more rebuttal letters than I would care to remember. In fact, I am tired of seeing my name in print because of it. I'm sure citizens are tired of it too. I hope one day to be able to serve quietly, and carry a big stick. The stick of lawful, honest, open government.

• **"He doesn't have an agenda."** **"What he meant was that the ad valorem tax is a big problem to farmers, and disproportionately taxes them."** I have had an agenda of protecting private property rights long before I became a commissioner. In the April issue of Grady County Inquirer in - The State of the County - I am attempting to protect farmers and COUNTY property owners from further taxation. The last time I checked farms were in the COUNTY. Your knowledgeable friend is not well informed, for which he has no excuse, because he

spends about all his time in Grady County. Perhaps he, like many people, read only the Cairo Messenger.

Thank you for this letter, and others. I could not print it exactly as you wrote it. It is my policy to omit names, except when specifically requested to include them.
Editor

Absentee Ballot

A letter of request for an absentee ballot will serve as the application, if proper information is included.

Full name
Date of birth
Reason the absentee Ballot is needed
Telephone number
Mail a separate signed letter for each person
Mail the letter to:

Registrar of Grady County
250 N. Broad St.
P. O. Box 637

Registrar will mail back the official ballot. Follow the instructions to fill it out, sign it, put a stamp on it and mail it back.

Bivins was wrong about Commissioner pay raise. I was sure the Bill would pass, because the Association of County Commissioners supported it. As it turned out, my calculation of the amount of the raise was incorrect also. Sorry.
George Bivins

Grady County "Serving Grady County"

INQUIRER

Intentionally Prophetic & Opinionated

STANDARD MAIL U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO.12 WHIGHAM, GA. 31797

May, 2000 • TIME TO TAKE OUR COUNTY BACK • Issue 4, Volume 1

City of Cairo Budget Crisis - 30% Rate Hike, Business Impact Fees Called For - Page 1

THE STATE OF THE COUNTY

A little more GORE
Thrill at his logic! Be amazed at his wisdom! Let the quotes begin....

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

• "As many of you know, I was very instrumental in the founding of the Internet" Editor's note:

• Word has it that he is now claiming that he invented the dog.

INSIDE

Household Garbage crisis Pg. 7

Road Paving crisis - Pg. 5

Absentee Ballot Instructions - Pg. 8

Consolidation- Thomas County

Consolidation of emergency services in Thomas County possibly can be justified, economically, based on their 40,000-population density. Whereas, Grady County population of 20,000, consolidation of emergency services is unjustified, in my opinion. One reason being, that it would not be cost effective.

The real problem with consolidation of services and the ultimate aim of consolidation of the governments themselves, is that it starts us down the slippery slope of "taxation without representation." When you have a government body that is constitutionally required to set budgets for spending the public's money, who then delegate this authority to a board, giving authority to levy taxes, then, you have "taxation without representation. It matters not whether this new board has only elected officials on it.

The State of Georgia enables independent tax-

ing authority to the cities, counties, and the school boards. Now, this new ESA board would become another legal taxing authority. This means that whatever they levy against your property, you will pay it, or your property will be sold on the courthouse steps. Taxation without proper representation.

Lack of space prevents me from publishing all of the Thomasville Times - Enterprise articles, showing the hassles that Thomas Co. and Thomasville are experiencing. I will simply name the headline articles, and dates, so that you can look them up. I will show a section of one article that proves that the contract creating the ESB or ESA contains, and was meant to contain, this new board's authority to levy taxes. The mere fact that independent taxing authority was even thought of was enough to push my panic button. Even if the present board is against it now, does not mean the next board would be. It is political chi-

canery.
A List of headline articles in Thomasville Times Enterprise:


- * City sets demands for an ESB truce - Pg. 1, March 4, 2000
- * City, County come to terms - Pg. 1, March 24, 2000
- * City may quit on ESB - Pg. 1, March 31, 2000
- * City puts off decision - Pg. 1, April 1, 2000
- * City, county vow to make ESB pact a success - Pg. 1, April 5, 2000
- * City won't budge on some county requests - Pg. 1, April 6, 2000
- * City, county legal council differ on status of ESB fifth member - Pg. 1, April 9
- * City Oks deal to save ESB - Page 1, April 11, 2000
- * Gross quits, Herring elected to ESA Pg. 1, April 13, 2000. This is the article that I will copy from, to prove that some of the ESA members were trying to secure taxing authority for this new board. See Pg. 7 - ESA •

From *The Cairo Messenger* Page 1, April 19, 2000
Headline - City rate hikes of up to 30% needed to balance budget.

The 2000-2001 city of Cairo operating budget that the mayor and council will see for the first time next Monday night that includes recommendations for increased rates, but no increased property taxes.

There comes a time when you have to draw a line in the sand and this is the time. We're going to tell it like it is and be open and honest about why we are doing what we are doing. Well over \$600,000 in additional revenue will be generated by the rate increases in the water and sewer and the new trash fees alone. See Pg. 3 State of County

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

CYAN MAGENTA



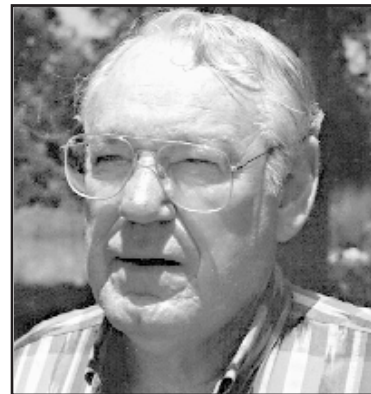
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CYAN MAGENTA

from the desk of **THE EDITOR**



George Bivins

City of Whigham

The camel kept his nose under the tent until someone invited him back in, without benefit of election. Then, once in, efforts were considered to put Joe Camel into the Mayor's chair, again, without being elected. Now, there should not be any doubt what he thinks about the citizen voters.

In the February issue, I wrote the following:

Mayor Czar did not get elected, that's okay, he'll just find a way to run things, innovate, run the city through a puppet, and try again next election. Who is this puppet? Is he or she cunning enough to pull it off, or will the new Mayor and Council stand up, insist upon their authority, and, more important, use it. Head off trouble by firm decisive action to eliminate future trouble.

Well, he pulled it off and darn near all the way. He seems intent on running the city, or to prevent anyone else from running it.

What is the attraction to be Mayor? Could it be the cookie jar?

Allowing those with bad character to govern

The day after the state of the union speech my newspaper ran color pictures of three psychopaths - O. J. Simpson, Newt Gingrich, and Bill Clinton. You don't find one conscience among the three of them.

It says a lot about the bankruptcy of the American culture that is obsessed by three individuals who in a normal society would be hardly worthy of notice. But as polls have confirmed, character counts for nothing these days. Just fame, money, and position.

There was a time in America when even a divorce could damage or end a public career. Today, almost nothing can damage one. Edwin Edwards, a colorful former governor of Louisiana, once quipped to the press, "The only thing that would hurt me politically would be to get caught in bed with a dead girl or live boy."

In Massachusetts, even that probably wouldn't matter. Rep. Gerry Studds got caught in bed with a live boy and was handily re-elected. Rep. Barney Frank fell in love with a mail-order male prostitute and got re-elected. Sen. Edward



OPINION

Charley Reese

Kennedy would have gotten caught with a dead girl, but he left her to drown and then lied about it. He's considered the state's most distinguished son.

Well, liberals who wanted to convince Americans that tolerance was the only virtue required of postmodern man ought to be happy. Americans are about the most tolerant people since the Romans of the fifth century.

It doesn't strike me as virtuous, however, to be tolerant of incompetence, stupidity, greed, vice, lying, irresponsibility and the breaking of oaths and vows. But, what do I know? I'm well outside the mainstream, and considering what's floating in that mainstream, I'm darn glad I am.

It does kind of puzzle me, though, why

folks think that they can be well-governed by liars, cheats, thieves and profligates. It may sound revolutionary in these dumbing-down days, but there is a connection between the quality of government and the quality of the governors.

The system of government is just a mechanism. Whether the mechanism of the Justice Department, for example, is used to pursue justice or commit injustice depends on the character of its commanders.

The bureaucracy of the Third Reich was not evil. It was just a bureaucracy. It was used to commit evil acts. The government apparatus in any country, including ours, can also be used to commit evil if evil people command it. Character doesn't matter? Great God, what a stupid belief that is.

Better take a tour of the killing fields and bone yards in Europe and the former Soviet Union, in Cambodia, in Africa and in Asia. Do you think Fidel Castro's character doesn't matter? Hitler's? Stalin's? Pol Pot's? There you can see just what an evil government can do when men of bad character are in charge of it.

What makes Americans think they alone are immune to the consequences of allowing people of bad character to occupy the seats of government power? Do they think we can't lose our liberty? Do they think our economy cannot be

looted and our families bankrupted? Do they think our children cannot be reduced to serfs? Do they think we can never know the firing squad and labor camp?

Wake up, brothers and sisters. Happiness and good government are the exceptions of human history, not the rule.

We have been a lucky people and blessed surely beyond what we merit. Millions have died in our own century because of the evil character of men who ran their governments.

This nonchalant, flippant, cynical attitude that character doesn't matter can land us in a hellish situation if we don't wake up and attend to our civic responsibilities. Self-government means just that - that we have to attend to public business, and we do that by putting not the worst or most mediocre but the best and most outstanding people we can find in public office.

Remember, even God's patience has its limits, and luck changes.

Charley Reese is a columnist with the Orlando Sentinel.

Republican Clarion Call

We are engaged here in a great battle to save America, to save Grady County from the Democratic Party's

See Republican Pg. 3

Continued from page 1A

ESA

Gross discussed his reasons for resigning from the emergency services panel.

"It's just extremely hard to try to sit down and conduct business and make rational decisions when the city keeps telling you it's our way or no way," Gross said.

He supports the panel. "It's just too much of a hassle," the commissioner said.

Herring said he has no problem with a fifth member on the ESA board, as called for in local legislation establishing the panel, but has not been elected.

He said he does not agree with two previous city requests in the emergency services consolidation: switching emergency medical service (EMS) licensing from the county to the ESA and giving the ESA the authority to levy taxes.

For the ESA to hold the EMS license would bring about the possibility of privatization of ambulance services, Herring said. A private company, he explained, could "zone out" areas where a lot of indigent residents live.

Senior reporter Paul Wood can be reached at (912) 228-3400, ext. 222.

Paragraph 5: and giving the ESA the authority to levy taxes. Proves, contractually, this board can vote itself authority to levy taxes. Murphy's law says "if it can happen, it will happen." Note also, that in the first part of the article, after nominations, the vote was taken by paper ballot. That is the normal way to vote for officers. Grady County Commission however, threw out that tradition when Norton was elected chairman, Jan. 2000. Shame. •

George Bivins - Editor
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SPLOST SPLOST SPLOST Remember that in the March issue of the Inquirer, I asked you to remember what SPLOST means? That you would be hearing it a lot? It means Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax. It is the fairest tax of all. Yes, but the problem is that it is another tax. The question is, do we want another tax? If governing authorities can rely on SPLOST, why bother about managing

and planning for future needs? Budgeting will just become a meaningless exercise. Grady County has stopped planning for road paving. I feel another SPLOST coming on.

Do you think governing authorities won't put two SPLOSTS out there at the same time? Think again, Thomas County and City of Thomasville are floating one for schools and one for ESA - Emergency Services (Volunteer Fire,

911, and EMS). Totaling around \$28,000,000 and some change, maybe more. A two - percent tax increase in one whack. Talk about unmitigated gall.

You have heard over and over again in Grady County: "we must vote for sales tax or we'll have to raise property taxes." Hey, it all comes out of the same pocket. A tax is a tax, and by any other name it will still smell like a tax.

Republican from Pg. 6

why would anyone want to destroy a wonderful country that America had become from its creation up to about 1933. For several months, I have pondered that question, read many books, portrait of Lenin, Karl Marx, Prison Letters of Antonio Gramsci, etc.

I am a Republican because it is the only chance we have to reestablish our American Culture. The Republican Party is not perfect, but it is conservative, religious, and respects our history. You will not see a Republican crack jokes on TV about what he was able to get away with, as Clinton recently did.

My father was a Democrat, he had to be a Democrat in the small rural area of Georgia, if he wanted to survive and prosper. Perhaps your dad was up against the same situation in Grady County. Perhaps he had to be a Democrat and drive a Ford, since the bank president owned the Ford Dealership.

I want the Republican Party to grow in Grady County. To grow, we must have Republican Candidates. Please, come on out and run for office. Call me, 762 3200, ladies are welcome. You can still qualify as an Independent, just be Republican in your heart.

Soon, I hope to write and publish a story on how and why America got from Teddy Roosevelt to William Jefferson Clinton, Hilary & Gore. The journey will take us to London, Moscow, Frankfurt, New York - Columbia University, and the American academic institutions.

George Bivins



This solid waste cartoon is presented to emphasize that household garbage disposal has gotten out of hand. About 1 1/2 % of unincorporated county citizens are abusing state and county laws. We must all become sanitation police, if we are to have a clean decent place to live. If we do not police ourselves, then severe steps will have to be taken that will cost C O U N T Y citizens another \$600,000 per year in private garbage pickup fees. I do not want this to happen.

The Board of Commissioners have held a public meeting. Attendance was poor. Prior to, and during this meeting, I suggested a solution, and presented it in writing. No consideration of my suggestion, as yet, by the chairman. It appears that some commissioners favor consolidation of dumpster sites from about 80 down to four with compactors. This would force citizens to drive several miles, resulting in dumping anywhere, in protest.

I have requested another look at county household garbage regulations, and compare them to state regulations. With the goal of rewriting county laws, and putting teeth in them. This would direct the Sheriff to write citations against violators, and would empower commissioners and citizens to bring action against violators. The first result of my action you will see is the words "household garbage only," stenciled on each container.

What household garbage only means is - no dead animals, no farm buckets, tires or wire, and no tree limbs or grass, no refrigerators dryers, washers, or furniture shall be put in the dumpsters. It means just exactly what it says "household garbage only." Non household garbage items must be taken (at no charge) to the Cairo city dump. Hours are 7 - 12 Saturdays, 7 - 4 weekdays. Directions: go East on Collins Rd./MLK Blvd. left turn 10th St. SW - Go to 6th Ave. NW, left turn. The dump is at the dead end.

Please encourage everyone to respect these laws. We'll save \$600,000 year.

YELLOW
BLACK



YELLOW
BLACK



CYAN
MAGENTA



The Citizen's Oversight READER'S PAGE

Grady County Political Commentary By that illustrious man of letters: Mark Swain

The political season is upon us. We can all expect to be on our worst behavior for the next several months. Many of us look forward with much anticipation as riverbank philosopher and steadfast Oversight Group member Walter Lewis runs against that turncoat ex-Oversight Group Commissioner and chief wolf Charles Norton.

Of course, there will always be those that say there is really no such Oversight Group in Grady County. This false charge, of course, is undoubtedly fomented by political adversaries and special interests most likely headquartered out of the Cairo Messenger offices.

Likewise, these same political scoundrels will surely claim that Mark Swain is simply a fictitious character created out of the fertile mind of some nonexistent Oversight Group member.

Oh well, whatever the case, the Oversight Group like that legendary mythological phoenix of old seems to once again be rising up from the ashes this political season. This of course is sure to send shudders of fear and trepidation amongst Grady County special interests and political operatives

throughout the County and beyond.

We already see the intrepid Republican Oversight Group Commissioner George Bivins, with a political personality that would make a crocodile proud, furiously working to cut Turncoat Charlie's feet right out from under him.

Interestingly I am told the Messenger seems to have taken a change of heart on Commissioner Benny Prince. For two years now the Messenger has done all it could to ignore Commissioner Prince with about the best it could say about him in the past was that he liked to fish. Now wonder of wonders after Walter Lewis declared to run against Charles Norton the Messenger decides to give Benny Prince some good publicity.

I take great interest and pride in deciphering the Messengers real sinister agenda from reading between the lines. What I read is that the Messenger has decided to hedge its bets a bit just in case George and Walter both win in the upcoming election. The messenger and its special interest friends, flush from the victory of causing Charles Norton to roll over and go against the people that put him into office, figure maybe they will have a chance to turn Benny Prince as well.

This way special interests could still maintain their three-vote majority even if they lose Turncoat Charlie. I for one think it would be a hard sell and am told that Benny is already aware of the scheme.

Commissioner Norton is going to be pretty sore like Jack Drew, John Harrell, and Ronnie Johnson before him, with the turning of the nonexistent Oversight Group against him. But, even though many of us nonexistent members are finding it hard to turn against one that we thought was one of us, we must do so. We figure Commissioner Norton has it coming being that he turned his back on his supporters once he came into office and joined the ranks of the enemy. As one ex-supporter confided, Charlie joked about being a tobacco chewing red neck commissioner but once in office he dons a suit and tie and joins the elite of the County.

Editor's Note: I do not know the identity of this person. I received the letter anonymously.

I would like to know him/her because he/she sure can write well. I could use some writing lessons. This person must be a member of the nonexistent Oversight Group.



The moral of the cartoon above is:

"A Democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy collapses over loose fiscal policy always followed by a dictatorship." Alexis De Tocqueville - 1839

Republican From Pg. 3 from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy collapses over loose fiscal policy... always followed by a dictatorship." ~ Alexis de Tocqueville

Have we not seen very recently Al Gore, Bill Bradley, and Hilary at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, with Al Sharpton, promising to double Title 1 Federal Funds to inner city schools? Schools that are little more than baby-sitting services. Title 1 has cost Americans 120 Billion dollars over 35 years.

Continued this Page

Republican - Continued

Alexis de Tocqueville knew what he was talking about. Yes, I know that Bill, Al, and Hilary mean well, but consider this: "The problem with well-meaning rulers is that they mean well, but they mean to rule." Friedrich A. von Hayek

With all the common sense and information that exists on the subject of Democracy, and on the destructive effects of a welfare state, one can only conclude that nobody is stupid enough not to know, so the destruction must be intentional. It is intentional. It is a kinder, gentler, fuzziy form of communism, called socialism. Please remember, I have lived among Communist, Fascists, and fuzzy socialists. You would not believe the unhappiness on the faces of people on the streets of Moscow, Budapest, Prague, or Belgrade in the 1970s. You could drive through East Germany in the springtime and see no flowers in the window containers, so common in West Germany.

What has me totally baffled is

See Republican Pg. 7

The Rights of

Say You Saw It In The Buyer's GuidePage

LAND OWNERS

GRADY COUNTY

5/3/2000

Yesterday, when I got back from the grocery store, I glanced over the cash register printout and discovered that one bell pepper cost \$1.67 cents. One yellow ordinary onion cost \$1.06. I assume it was imported, or was it? Have you noticed that even when sweet corn is in season in Grady County, the store prices stay about where they were? What gives here? Are our farmers profiting from these high prices? No, they are not and that is a shame. I'll tell you how farmers and citizens in Europe handle this problem.

Most food in Europe, in the stores, is imported and very expensive. Farmers peddle their production directly to the citizens. Local governments make it easy by not regulating the process. Local governments block off certain streets to traffic during market days.

I would support farmers building little stands on wheels all over the county, no licenses, and no regulations. I would encourage, in every way possible, citizens to buy directly from the farmer.

Something has got to be done to provide a steady

cash flow for our farmers. His previous cash flow was hogs. When the hog market dropped to as low as 8 cents per pound on the hoof, the hog industry was killed in Grady County. If and when hog prices recover, it will take years to rebuild the herds.

Government farm programs are not working enough to stem the tide. Threats to cut farm supports are constant, causing insecurity throughout the farming industry. This is no way for our farmers to have to live. His return on investment is as low as I've ever seen it. One day in America, we will kiss the feet of our farmers, if only he will crank up his tractor and go to work. But for what, \$2 corn that cost him \$2.50 to grow? Instead we regulate his land, tax his land for what he would sell it for, if he were to sell it, and if he decides to sell his land, subdivision regulations prevent him from fully profiting from the sale.

Now plans are afoot by special interests to consolidate services and governments, so they can get at the farmland for even more taxes.

Citizens should contact their representatives and convince them to tax farm land based on its productive capacity. Several states have done this, Florida for one. It would take a groundswell of citizen effort to get this done. I will help get it started by providing addresses and names of Senators and Representatives. I will use this newspaper to help get it organized. Something has got to be done specifically for our farmers. I will run free advertisements for farmers U - Pick, etc. Call me well ahead of picking date. citizens lets not wait until we are hungry to do something.

The General Assembly tries to resolve economic conditions in rural areas by generally encouraging business development. This does not help the farmer directly and specifically. Indeed, if anything, it causes his property taxes to increase.

Farmers, talk to your neighbors, create a little informal co-op. Your neighbors will help you, I will help you, and the Grady County Commission will help you.

State of the County - from Pg. 1

The proposed budget includes very little in the way of capital and infrastructure improvements.

Inquirer Editor's comments:

You notice on page 1, in the Inquirer masthead: Intentionally Prophetic & Opinionated.

For over three years I have said that city of Cairo was in a budget crisis. That it has taxed city property owners about as much as it can.

That it needs to consider "Impact Fees," on business and future growth. That business is only paying taxes, and for services just like ordinary people, but business is profiting.

Now, with this increase in utility fees, they might as well have raised property taxes. The money is coming out of the same pocket.

Now, citizens can see business special interest influence on the city council.

I have also been saying for well over a year that what is behind this consolidation mania that is pushed by the Cairo Messenger, for consolidation of services and consolidation of governments themselves, is so that, C O U N T Y property owners can be stuck with the infrastructure cost for the continued growth of the city of Cairo. That the Messenger and other

special interests have conditioned city people to believe they are being double taxed, by city and county. No, city government is overtaxing them. Business should pay more, because they are profiting. Get busy fellas, ask the Chamber if business wouldn't like to divvy up a little extra, because, after all, the Chamber members are profiting. •

Republican from Pg. 2

shameless intention to create a socialist state. You have seen the intentional creation and expansion of the welfare state, the destruction of our school system, the breaking apart of our families.

Let us see what Alexis de Tocqueville said about Democracy in America 1831 to 1835:

I confess that in America I saw more than America; I sought the image of democracy itself, with its inclinations, its character, its prejudices, and its passions, in order to learn what we have to fear or hope from its progress. ~ Alexis de Tocqueville

His conclusion from his book Democracy in America 1835:

"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess

See Republican Pg. 6

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The Riverbank PHILOSOPHER

Do yourself a favor

We are now in a political season in which the people must speak at its conclusion. There is time now, for you who vote, to listen and learn from the potential leaders of our community for the next 4 years. The Primary Election will be in mid-summer and the General Election will be in early November. There is time now to take in the ideas, hopes, and intentions of all those who would represent you for the next few years at the local level.

You as a voter owe to yourself and to the community in which you live, to study in good time, and in good order, the values of all the candidates, before you commit to any of them prematurely. It is an old political trick to get voters to commit early, so that the honor of the committed voter will hold them to a commitment, even if the voter later sees the error. So, don't commit early no matter what a political candidate wants you to do. There is time and plenty of it to listen and to learn before you must tell any candidate anything. This is the season to listen before you vote. This is not the season to vote through commitment to any particular candidate and later to regret it.

Most people are honorable about how they communicate with candidates, I believe. It is time for the next few months to weigh those who would represent you, and to evaluate the character, qualities and core values of those who ask you to trust them with your offices.

All public offices are such that most people can fulfill the basic duties of them with little or no special training. Running the courthouse and the government locally is not brain surgery or rocket science, but require only common sense and desire. Those who would tell you that government service is overly complicated are either overly lazy or are under qualified intellectually.

The real test of the quality of the government we have, and how it operates, rests not on the political person at all but rather on who puts them where they are. I didn't support Bill Clinton and I'm glad I didn't. Many who did now say they made a mistake. There are some who supported Bill Clinton and say that they are glad they did. It is you who must read, listen, evaluate the people who would be your political leaders as best you can, in a way that does not leave you with politi-

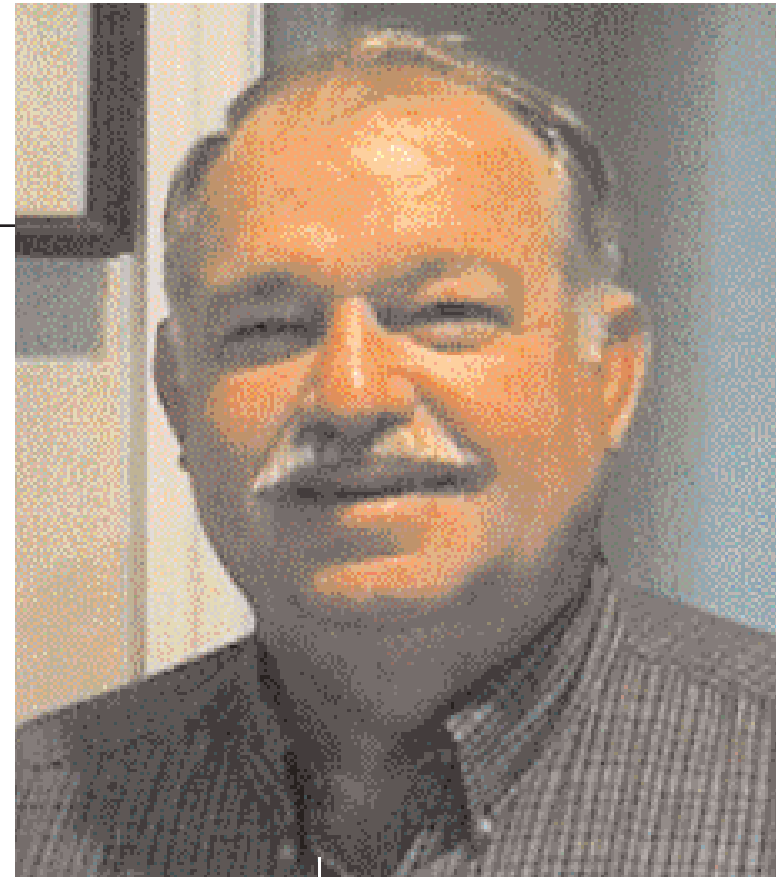
cal regrets because you committed to a candidate before you examined your options.

You don't do yourself any favor when you remove yourself from the uncommitted to the committed too early, and in some ways may even undermine your value as a voter to all the candidates, even the one you committed to. I hope you can see the value about being a committed citizen before you are a committed supporter of any political hopeful.

We citizens here in America get the government we deserve because we put political types into public office. If the choice of politicians is poor indeed, then it is not their fault, as much as it is our fault, that we in our own choice have come to such poor results.

I think most people with a few exceptions, enter into politics for the right reasons, but that most people in politics don't remain true to the right reasons. Many people in politics are under pressure of special interests, and at some point lean to that interest, because the ordinary citizen is not looking and has no voice except the office holder that is committed to them and their values at such times.

Promises don't count



when they are not kept. The lie becomes the truth when you believe it, and you and the liar both become corrupted. Him or her for having told it, and you by following in ignorance, a false word. Do yourself a favor and let your vote be your best friend in the type of government you seek for yourself, your folks, and the whole community. I will over the next few months do my best to communicate to you in plain voice and word the

things that are important to me for the management of our county government. It is for you, the voter, to evaluate me, my intelligence, and most of all my heart in the things I will speak on. Allow all others your attention as well, and at that appointed time and without any reservation, vote for yourself, your folks, and the community as you freely choose.

Thank you,
Walter Lewis

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Tiddley winks

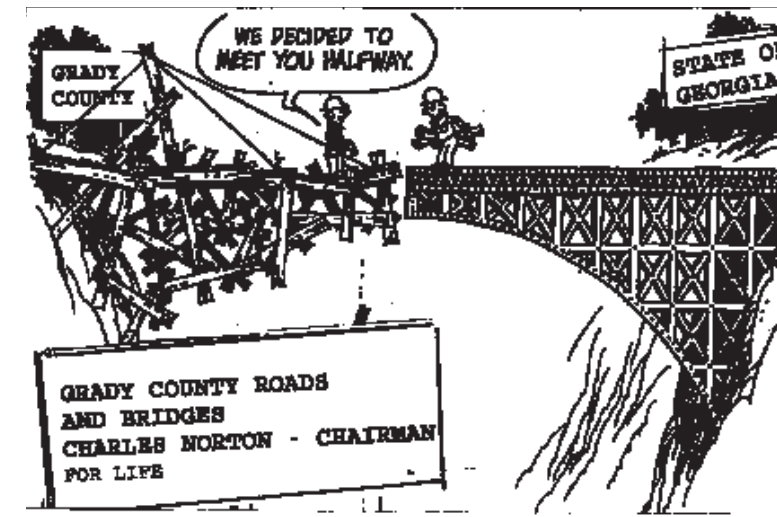
As I have said in the past, the Cairo Messenger has kept Grady County firmly in the Democrat Party for over 90 years, BG (before George). Many years ago I visited the late Mr. Wind at the Messenger. I looked at all the pictures and awards on the wall, when I came across a letter signed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I was impressed, and proud. This letter was congratulating the publisher. I wondered just what he was congratulated for. Later, I concluded that it was not for playing tiddley winks.

As the years went by, I observed the misery of people in Central and South America, Russia, East Europe, Asia, and Africa. All the misery was the result of controlling elements within and without governments at various levels, fighting for control of the people and the purse strings. They kept score by counting the bodies of innocent, unarmed people. I comforted myself by thinking that this is not the way we do it in America, thank God.

Now, I realize that I was in a state of denial. We are not perfect. We all love our country, but we are not perfect.

If we love God, country, and each other, let us at least try to make America perfect. Don't give up - don't give in to people who seek to control our lives.

George Bivins



I have brought you this comic strip only to emphasize the sorry state of road paving management. Hundreds of thousands of state DOT dollars have been lost over the last two or three years. Several roads have been approved for grading and drainage by DOT, but the first thing that must be done is surveying these roads.

I had \$25,000 put in last years budget for surveying. Norton and the city commissioners took it out. Now, the personnel and expensive equipment will not be put to work. Another dry summer will go by.

Unincorporated Grady County has 615 miles of roads, 262 miles unpaved. Commissioners need to realize that our primary duty is roads and bridges. However, you can understand why the city commissioners are not too supportive of paving county roads. Virtually all their voters are in the city of Cairo. The only road that has been paved as a result of mine and Norton's term is one city of Cairo street.

I have done what I could to keep road paving moving along, to take politics out of road paving, to put the worst roads first. I developed a published road priority list, a road inventory list, and a data base plan. Now, the only thing left to do is for COUNTY voters to let commissioners know what their priority is during the November Election.

Editor



**Vote Derrick Vickers
Sheriff
Grady County**

Vote Derrick Vickers for Sheriff on the Republican Ticket July the 18th.

I have over thirty five years experience in Management, Supervision, Administrative and Budget Areas. This fully qualifies me in running the Sheriff's Department as a Business, because it is a business.

By having this type of Expertise and Experience, as Sheriff of Grady County, I will be Committed and Dedicated to Leading and Developing the Sheriff's Department in such ways that will meet the challenges of the present and future by reducing costs, drugs/alcohol abuse, excelling in Department and job performance, implementation of policies and procedures, prompt execution of the duties and orders of the courts, wages, training, accountability, efficiency, high standards, no favoritism or partiality, ensuring the safety, service and protection for ALL citizens of Grady County.

Paid for by Derrick Vickers Republican Campaign Committee, Larry Laster - Chairman.

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