

# COURIER NEWS

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## Opinion

### Your View

# Splitting Ticket Is Self-defeating

To the Editor:  
In the past Arkansas voters have not been hesitant to vote for individ-

uals who seemed to reflect their personal values and priorities. It hasn't been too long since Arkansas voters voted for a Republican Governor, Democratic Senators and Representatives, and a third party candidate for President. However, in the current situation this inconsistent approach to marking one's ballot may be self-defeating.

The American people have the clearest choice in decades in determining the direction our government will take. Democratic Presidential Candidate Mondale advocates raising taxes and opposes a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. President Reagan put into effect a 25% three-year income tax cut in 1981 and is in favor of a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. President Reagan's tax indexing bill to protect taxpayers from being pushed into higher tax brackets by inflation is opposed by Walter Mondale. Candidate Mondale favors a unilateral nuclear freeze. This means the United States dismantles some of its nuclear weapons even if the Soviets don't. President Reagan believes that a mutual and verifiable freeze is the only acceptable approach to take. President Reagan supports a continued buildup in our military strength and holding the line on spending for welfare and social programs. Mr. Mondale favors increased spending on existing social programs and new spending on federal social welfare programs. He believes that this should be done by making deep slashes in our programs to rebuild military strength. Under the current administration, inflation dropped from a high of 17% (left by the previous administration) to a current low of less than 4%. The previous administration ended its term with interest rates of better than 13%. Present interest rates are now 11%.

I believe that it is imperative that the person, who votes for Walter Mondale, also vote for Senators and Representatives who have supported his views with their votes in the past as well as who support his views now. It would make little sense to vote for Walter Mondale and then vote for those who would oppose him on every turn. Likewise, it is just as important for those who vote for President Reagan to also vote for Senators and Representatives who will and have supported him. It might even make good sense to vote for candidates for state offices in a consistent manner.

The important thing is to vote! But send a clear signal by voting your entire ballot consistent with your own values and priorities.

Sincerely,  
Max B. Tarpley  
Blytheville

Your View is composed of letters to the editor, which are welcomed. They must be signed and contain a verifiable address and telephone number. Since grammar and spelling give us many problems, we'll not try to correct that of readers. Names will be withheld on request.

### Their View

# More \$\$\$ For AETN Justified

Transmitter failure took Arkansas's educational television station, KETS, off the air recently. It was no surprise to Executive Director Raymond Ho who has been warning for some time that the system is on the "brink of failure."

Arkansas Educational Television Network is broadcasting with equipment bought long ago, and He has pointed out that the equipment is so old that it had become a "crisis."

Obviously, the state is facing a challenge of replacing the technical equipment which means much to the school rooms of the state, as well as to the 324,000 families in Arkansas who watch educational television programs each week.

Currently, AETN receives \$2.1 million from the state to operate, that's about one third of what Mississippi allots for its educational television.

The instructional value of educational television alone is worth a better investment, and the high calibre of programs offered to the public affords some choice from the sometimes-sorry programming of commercial television.

Funding for better equipment and personnel to operate it for educational televisions should be among the educational priorities of the state. — The Educator Clarion

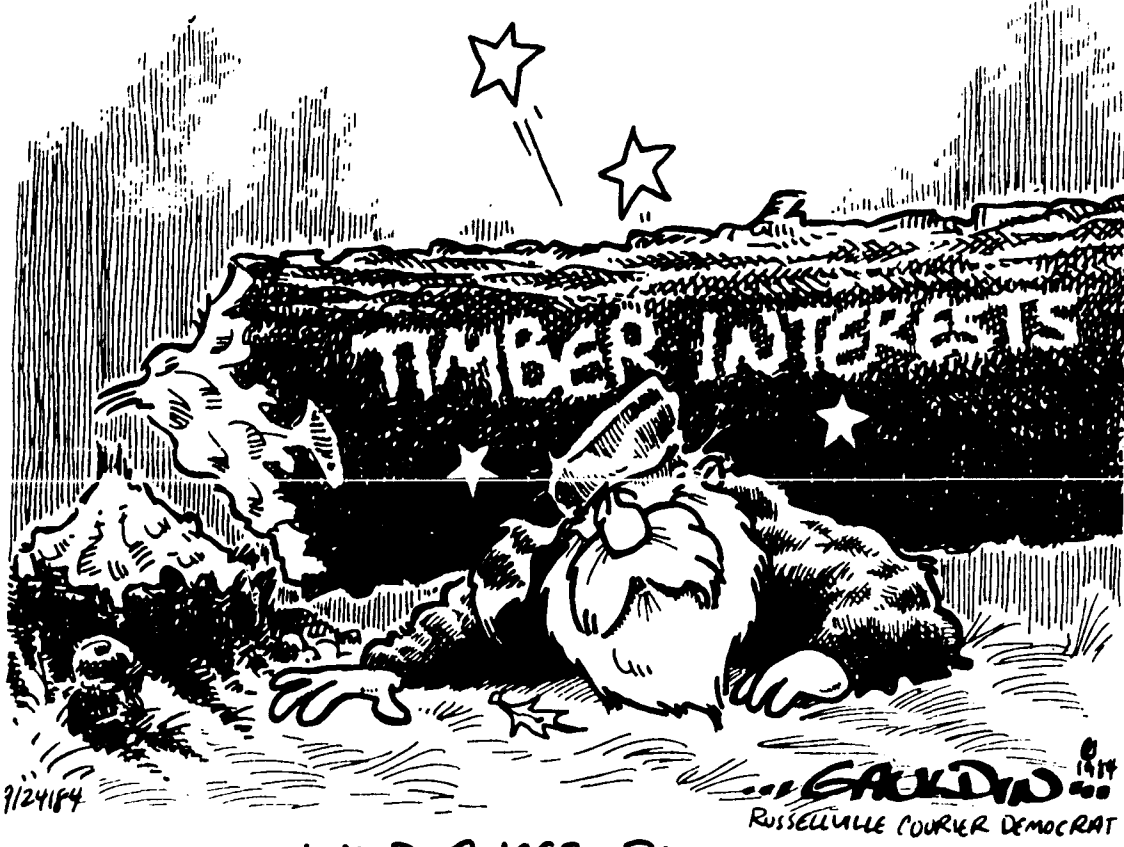
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WILDERNESS BILL

# Keep Wallet Light If Drinking Heavily

You've probably seen the public service commercials on TV that urge heavy drinkers to go on the wagon.

They usually show people talking about how miserable their lives were until they quit and how happy they are now. And they give a phone number you can call for help.

Maybe these commercials lead a few people to reform. But I'm certain that they'd have far more impact if they would just bring on an unrepentant drinker like Jim Locke and let him tell the viewers about his latest booze-inspired adventure, just as he told it to me.

"Well, it started when I was on my way home," said Locke, 41, a credit manager.

On your way home from where? "Uh, kiddo, I can't answer that. I'd been in a lot of joints up around Broadway and Diversey. I don't know which one I left last."

You were driving? "Sure. And that's where my trouble began. I'm on Irving Park Road, at this stoplight. I guess my car must have crept on something because I kind of tapped the car in front of me. I didn't do any damage. But the people inside fell out of the car."

You must have hit them hard if they fell out.

"Nah. They just want to sue me and get damages. There are people who do things like that, you know. Anyway, that kind of caught the attention of a couple of cops in a squad car that happened to be parked there."

You banged into another car with a police car right there?

"I guess I'm unlucky. So they start asking me questions and I guess they noticed I had been drinking."

Did you appear drunk?

"Oh, yeah. I was drunk. I mean, I

took the breath test and I really flunked it. I got a very high score so they took me to the police station."

What about the people who fell out of their car?

"I don't know. It was all kind of hazy, see. I'll probably find out what happened to them when they sue. But that's not what this story is about."

"My thousand bucks. I got clipped for a thousand bucks by the cops." You were carrying \$1,000 with you?

"Oh, more than that. I had about four grand on me. Why would you go bar-hopping with \$4,000."

"I had more than that. I had about \$20,000."

You spent \$16,000 in those bars? "No, no. It took about a year. I started with about \$20,000. Then I was down to about \$4,000. Let me explain. I inherited this money from my mother's insurance. So that's why I always have a lot of money on me."

But why don't you put it in the bank?

"I can't. I'm having some problems with Internal Revenue, so anytime I put money in a bank, the IRS attaches. So I never put money in my bank account."

You mean you've been walking around with thousands of dollars in your wallet? You could get mugged and lose it all.

"No, I hide it in different places, like in my shoes and in my socks."

Very prudent. So what happened? "Anyway, I get to the police station and before they lock me up they inventory my possessions. They were very surprised that I had four grand on me. They asked me what I was doing with that kind of dough and I explained it to them."

"So I gave them everything and

they give me a receipt for it and put my stuff in a safe and me in a cell and I go to sleep. They wake me up at about 5:30 in the morning to make bond. They come out with my personal property and I count it and I'm \$1,000 short. So I start complaining.

"The guy who receipted me comes into the cell and searches me and the cell and he has to admit that I had a thousand less than when I came in. So a lieutenant comes in and he says that they will have some kind of investigation."

"By the time we got done with talking, it must have been 9 o'clock when I finally got out on bond. It cost me \$700. When I said that was kind of high, especially after I lose a grand, the cop told me to shut up or he'd make real trouble for me. Huh! How much more trouble could I have?"

And nobody explained the disappearance of your thousand?

"Not yet. They just said they're investigating." (This was confirmed by a police department spokesman, who said: "His complaint is valid enough to initiate an investigation.")

Locke concluded: "It was some night. I might get sued by those people in the other car. I'll probably be found guilty in court and maybe lose my license, they hit me for \$700 for bond, and somebody lifts another thousand. And I had a bad hangover."

Have you given any thought to going on the wagon?

"I don't know about that, but I think I ought to find a different place to stash my money."

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Mike Royko is a columnist for The Chicago Tribune. The Pulitzer Prize winner is noted for taking humorous jibes at the establishment and bureaucracy. His column is syndicated nationally.



Mike Royko



Don Graff

# Three Views Of The News In Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (NEA) — It's no problem keeping up with the press here. For all practical purposes, it consists of just three daily newspapers — La Prensa, El Nuevo Diario and Barricada.

La Prensa you've probably heard about. It's the feisty independent that talks back to the Sandinista government, as it did to Anastasio Somoza's.

Both Diario and Barricada support the government. The latter is the official Sandinista newspaper and prints precisely what the comandantes want printed.

Diario is a private operation and free, its editors say, to exercise its own news judgment within the limits of censorship. (More about censorship later.)

What makes the differences especially interesting is that all three papers are run by members of the same family.

Pedro Jr. — son of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, whose assassination in January 1978 accelerated the fall of Somoza — and Pedro Jr.'s uncle, Jaime, control the family's 60-year-old La Prensa.

Another uncle, Xavier, who was forced out as editor of La Prensa because of his favorable attitude toward the Sandinistas, founded and continues to direct Diario.

Over at Barricada, the editor is Pedro Jr.'s younger brother, Carlos Fernando.

Prensa has acquired an image abroad as a voice for truth and justice, courageously standing up to the Sandinistas despite constant harassment.

The reality differs somewhat from the reputation. Prensa comes across as more polemical than principled. The major consideration in news play appears to be how damaging a given story is to the government.

For example, a couple of conservative West German politicians were in town recently looking into preparations for the upcoming elections here. They found nothing good in the Sandinista-written rules.

Prensa played the story as if the entire Common Market was on the verge of severing diplomatic relations. Diario noted the Germans' arrival and departure in a few paragraphs. For Barricada, they were a non-story.

Journalism here is a different game than in the United States, and all the papers play by essentially the same rules.

The most tempered of the papers is Diario, which at least acknowledges the opposition. Being pro-government, its editors say, provides no exemption from the censor's scissors if a story is deemed sensitive for national security reasons. In such cases Diario faces the same deadline make-over problems that Prensa more frequently does.

Where the two differ, the Diario people say, is that they, unlike Prensa's staff, do not deliberately provoke the censor into action.

Provocation or whatever, Prensa is doing something right. It holds the readership lead with sales of 60,000 plus daily, although Diario claims to be gaining with a current print run of more than 50,000.

But the advertising pages suggest that Prensa has no immediate cause for concern. Prensa has all of it from the private sector, plus a healthy classified section.

Other than a few ads for movie theaters and restaurants, Diario's and Barricada's space is filled with notices of state agencies — the Interior Ministry, the Social Security and Welfare Institute, labor organizations and the like.

Both newspapers are, in effect, subsidized operations.

Keeping up with the Nicaraguan press may be easy enough, but there's still the problem of determining which of the usually contradictory accounts is the accurate one. The best advice may be to read the versions in all three papers.

But don't necessarily believe any of it.

(NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.)

## Looking Back

### 50 Years Ago

September 27, 1934  
The Red Pepper club of the city high school will have a rousing pep rally at the assembly period Friday morning in preparation for the football game that night.

The meeting will be in the form of a play, "Victory Will Find A Way," with the characters: Polly Ann Buck as Victory, Rouse Harp as Chickasaw, Lloyd Wise as Seminole, Mary Virginia Cutler as Defeat, Ralph Farrar as Victory's cruel father, Doraine Coulter as the maid.

The committee for the Football-Red Pepper Get Together: Emma Jo Hess, chairman; Evelyn Smart, Mary Virginia Cutler, Frances Holland. New pledges for the year are: Evelyn Smart, Virginia Little, Elizabeth Ann Wilson, Nancy Kirschner, Jane McAdams, Betty Lee McCutcheon, Mary Josephine Hall, Helen Harwell and Doris Wilson.

# Paul Greenberg Civil Rights Gets New Perspective

Editors, bureaucrats, professors and other habitués of government mailing lists may vaguely recall the little magazine that the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights used to send out, mainly because that was how it was generally written — vaguely. The analyses routinely begged the more important questions, the solutions proposed weren't, and the publication usually wound up in the round file with the stuff from the South African Embassy. If anything summed up the futility of the old liberalism, this well-meaning but same old magazine did. It arrived straight from the liberals' last, shaky citadel of ideas to proclaim nothing much new.

Now the magazine, like the commission itself, has received not only a facelift but an idealift. It's called New Perspectives.

The first article in this issue is "The Ambiguous Legacy of Brown vs. Board of Education" by Diane Ravitch of Columbia Teachers College. It's a cool, scholarly examination of how the old ideal of a colorblind constitution, inherited from the great dissent of John Marshall Harlan in Plessy v. Ferguson back in 1896, gave way to color-consciousness. The happy surprise is that the author — despite the stereotype of this new, Reaganized liberalism — doesn't simply want to go back to the standards of Brown v. Board of Education.

Revealing the pragmatic streak that lies at the core of the American political genius, Professor Ravitch points a course between and beyond the two swings of the pendulum, recognizing that neither represents a solution and offering examples of programs that do: "Strict neutrality in admissions and hiring, with no effort to remedy the effects of past discrimination, will leave many blacks right where they are, at the bottom. The alternative to racial quotas is the kind of program that prepares blacks to succeed without racial preferences, such as special tutoring for college admission or for union apprenticeship tests."

Diane Ravitch concludes with an eloquent appeal that is not conservative in today's capital-C style — the kind of Conservatism that runs through the Republican platform like a fault line and attempts to make reality conform to its brittle pattern. Instead, hers brings to mind the conservatism of Edmund Burke, who was suspicious of all theories of government.

"Whether it is possible to treat people as individuals rather than as group members is as uncertain today as it was in 1954. And whether it is possible to achieve an integrated society without distributing jobs and school places on the basis of group identity is equally uncertain. What does seem likely, though, is that the trend towards formalizing group distinctions in public policy has contributed to a sharpening of group consciousness and group conflict. As a people, we are still far from that sense of common humanity to which the civil rights movement appealed; still not a community in which everyone feels responsibility for the well-being of his fellow citizen; still unpersuaded that our many separate islands are part of the same mainland. We may yet find that just such a spirit is required to advance a generous and broad sense of the needs and purposes of American society as a whole."

The magazine is ornamented by articles like that of Glenn C. Loury of Harvard University, where he is a professor of economics and Afro-American Studies. What, something good out of Harvard? In this case, it's a persuasive appeal against the informal but powerful censorship in the black community that rules out self-criticism and equates it with disloyalty to the group. Professor Loury quotes some seldom quoted words on that important subject:

"It is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of high maturity, to rise to the level of self-criticism. Through group unity we must convey to one another that our women must be respected, and that life is too precious to be destroyed in a Saturday night brawl, or a gang execution. Through community agencies and religious institutions we must develop a positive program through which Negro youth can become adjusted to urban living and improve their general level of behavior."

"The author of these words is Martin Luther King Jr. He wrote them in his last book, *Where Do We Go From Here*, in 1968. Dr. King still points the way — to auto-emancipation, the only kind that can endure. As he well knew, in the end people can not be freed by others but only by themselves, and the process may involve the kind of self-criticism we do not welcome but always require. The sign of a free, confident people is not the ability to shout down critics, but to consider what they are saying."

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Paul Greenberg, editor of the Pine Bluff, Ark., Commercial, is a Pulitzer Prize winner whose column is circulated nationally.

## Berry's World

"Oh, for heaven's sakes! You're not going to shed your defensive layers AGAIN, are you?"

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