

SPONSORED BY THE EMMITSBURG baseball club of the Frederick County League, the original musical comedy, "No Hits, No Runs, No Errors," will be presented. The show has been arranged by Wayne Chrimer, secretary of the club and contains all local talent. The Elder Orchestra will also appear in the show.

RIDING A HANDMADE bicycle, reputed to be at least 75 years old, J. Paul Delphey, a local businessman, accompanied approximately 175 other Frederick cyclists from the tender age of 6 years to men 55 years old on his annual spring outing. The event, the fifth annual ride of its kind to be held in the spring, began from Mr. Delphey's motorcycle and bicycle establishment on West Patrick Street. After cycling for awhile, lunch was served by Delphey and his assistants, including 110 pounds of wieners, 1,000 fingerrolls and about 75 gallons of lemonade.

ONE OF THE LARGEST indoor jigsaw puzzles ever made, 8 feet high and 16 feet long, will be assembled at the banquet planned for 800 active and alumni Christian Endeavorers of Maryland, to be held during the annual convention of the Maryland Union at Hood College. The immense puzzle was designed and copies are being made by Spencer E. Sisco, Baltimore.

THE NEW STATE LICENSE Appeal Board, of which W. Clinton McSherry, Frederick, is a member, will hold a session at the Frederick County courthouse at which applications for licenses to sell beer in this county, to which objection was raised, will be heard and passed upon. The decision of the appeal body is final.

20 years ago

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Frederick Orchestra was held at the office of Charles J. Warner, musical director. It was reported that the National Ballet, which had performed in the city under sponsorship of the Historical Society of Frederick County, was pleased with the accompanying performance by the Frederick Orchestra. The Ballet may perform again here next season.

A SCHEDULE OF art films to be shown in the area this summer was announced at the second annual dinner meeting of the Arts Council of Frederick County. A second program will feature short comedies starring Charlie Chaplin. Other attractions include "The Gates of Hell" and "The Italian Straw Hat."

PLANS FOR THE second annual antique auction at the Frederick Academy of the Visitation are being discussed by Mrs. J. Tyson Lee and her committee. The sale will be in the wall covenant garden opening on East Church Street. There will be a preview of items for sale the evening before. Refreshments will be served by the mothers of the students attending the Academy both at the preview and the sale.

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Elderly—scam targets

Try as they may to prevent it — police, press, radio, agencies serving the aging — elderly citizens are being ripped off by fast-talking scam artists plying their criminal trade all over the Frederick County area.

Officials have warned and continue to caution the elderly — any resident — not to deal with unknown transient, door-to-door hucksters without first checking on them through police or municipal authorities.

The latest incident involves a 83-year-old Thurmont resident who was bilked out of \$700 in a home improvements scam now being investigated by the Maryland Attorney General, according to Frank E. Edwards of that high office.

Whether it's roof repair, driveway maintenance, landscaping or home improvement, officials caution residents of all ages to deal with people they know and can trust — firms with good standing and proven reliability. Deal with people who stand behind their workmanship and who will still be around tomorrow or weeks later to answer to any dissatisfactions.

The tragic fact about traveling charlatans is that — in the case of the aged Thurmont resident — the appearance at the front door of three fast talking "friendly" scam artists is both overwhelming and intimidating. The innocent home owner has been talked or coerced into buying the worthless offer before he knows what's happened.

And, of course, the crooks always want paid in advance. Without fail, as soon as they get their money — cash or check — they're off to find the next victim. If it's a check, as Mr. Edwards explained in the Thurmont case, the crooks will rush to the nearest bank and have it cashed — usually with false identification — before the ink dries.

Other recent scams under investigation by Frederick City police include an elderly man being ripped off in a mall parking lot gambling scam in which he was allowed to "win." The catch was, he couldn't get his big winnings until he put an equal amount of cash on the barrel head. He rushed to the bank, withdrew the cash, and that's the last he ever saw of the "good ol' boys" who ripped him off.

Three other scams were more spontaneous, and caught the senior citizens victims completely off guard. It happened in supermarkets in Frederick. The women shoppers,

purses in their shopping carts (instead of securely on their person where they belonged) were distracted by another shopper asking help to find something on a shelf.

While the knowledgeable local shopper willingly left her own cart (with the purse in it) to help the con artist, a silent accomplice simply snatched her wallet and money out of her purse and left the store.

The crimes weren't even detected until the victims reached the check-out counter and found their money had been stolen.

These are but a few of the scams being visited upon unsuspecting senior citizens — despite the fact that police are out warning about them every day.

There are outstanding, on-going senior citizen programs in almost every community in Frederick County, and law enforcement officials are only too pleased to speak to the elderly about protecting themselves and their life's savings.

Unfortunately, not all senior citizens take advantage of these programs for the county's aging. It should behoove our seniors — and their families should encourage them — to join with their friends and neighbors where weekly important information is offered to help them with their well earned pursuit of happiness in their golden years.

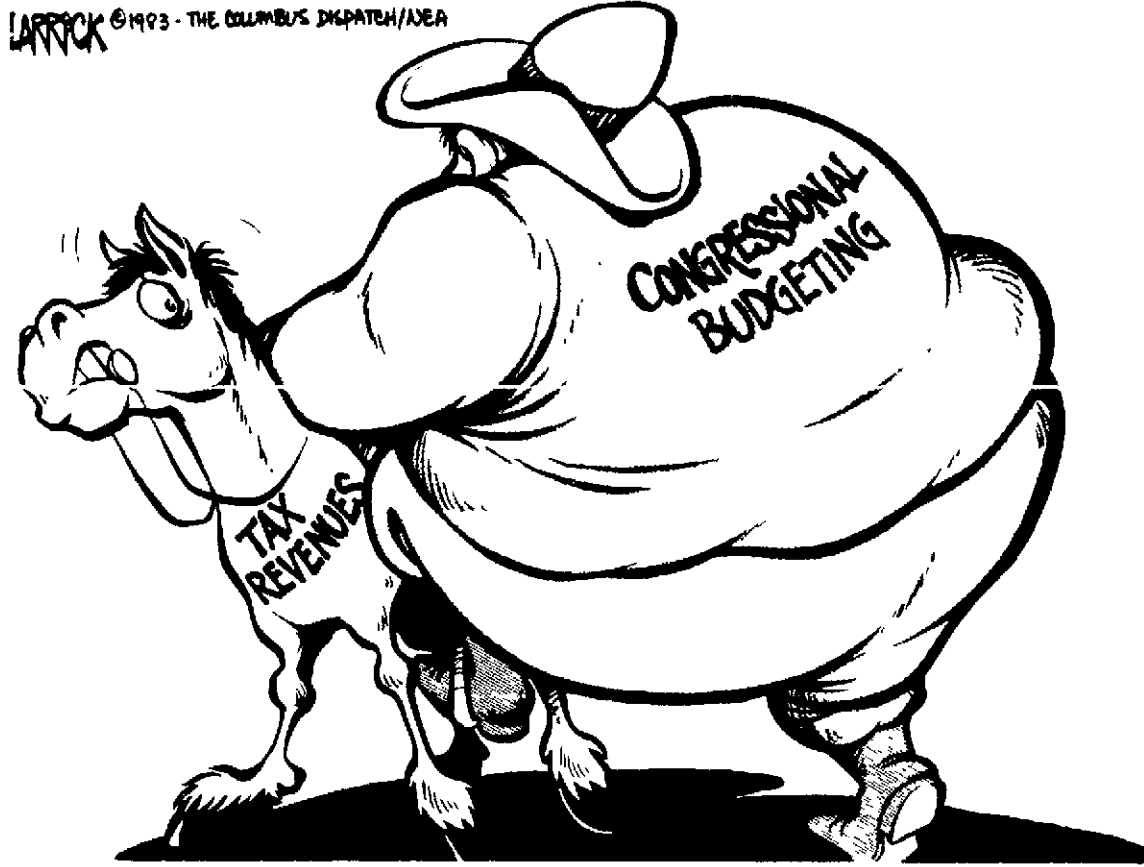
Every week, for example, the Frederick County Commission on Aging carries out one of the most productive programs of its kind for seniors. It is called "Food 'n' Friends" and is held in communities all over the county.

"Food 'n' Friends" brings seniors together for good wholesome nutrition and the equally important nurturing of mind and body called fellowship.

It's not a "charity" program. On the contrary, the participants pay, but the amount for a lunch or dinner is nominal so everyone can enjoy the non-profit program.

The Senior Fellowship Centers at Frederick, Emmitsburg, Thurmont, Taneytown, Mount Airy, Point of Rocks, Brunswick, Middletown, Woodsboro and Wolfsville welcome you. (For details contact the Commission on Aging, 694-1605.)

Getting involved in senior citizen programs is one way to keep abreast of some of the dangers lurking out there — such as these heinous con games. It's also a way to meet new friends and find lost horizons.



"My problem is obvious — I need a bigger horse!"

Letters to the editor

Waitress to Reagan

President Reagan, We are waitresses in a small restaurant in Frederick, Maryland. We make \$2.01 an hour. We don't get any benefits. If we have to give up 8 percent of our tips, then we will have to find other jobs and jobs are hard to find!

We don't get raises like they do in factories and other places of employment — or benefits. This one waitress I know has been doing waitress work for 17 years and is still making \$2.25 an hour.

Some big restaurants in big cities might make a lot of money but we waitresses in small towns don't. A lot of people don't even leave tips.

Why pick on waitresses? We don't make as much as other people do. There's no sign in our restaurant telling people that they have to tip us.

President Reagan, you must think that waitresses are the only people who get tips. What about beauticians, barbers, busboys, etc., and these people make a lot more an hour than we do and still have benefits.

We have families to take care of. You know tips are the main thing you have, we'll all be on welfare.

I think it's pretty bad when they have to take from the poor. Instead of looking in our pockets they ought to look into yours. President Reagan, did you take a cut in your pay?

GAIL SUMMERS  
PAMELA VIERS  
JOANNE BARE  
PAULINE CASTLE  
DENISE KEENEY  
SHIRLEY YOE

'Lusitania'

I have just finished reading the novel "Lusitania" by David Butler, an incredible, beautiful, moving and eloquent book, especially as one reads it there is the constant subconscious knowledge of the moral abyss that the worlds politicians have poised us on in their unappeasable search for the ultimate world control.

This book should be required reading for EVERYBODY over the age of 15, most importantly those elected officials with grim determination to continue to build and explore for even more efficient methods of destruction, all those persons responsible for having handed them the power to do so. Also for corporate executives whose major purpose is a healthy profit margin and the even larger group — those of us determined to close their eyes and ears as they open their mouths to tell that God is on their side, regardless of their personal responsibility in promoting the annihilation of others while refusing to acknowledge the love and compassion that is the basis of most religions.

This book is based on the true story of the sinking of the Lusitania in World War I. It is one in which only 1200 or so die but the sheer horror, the scenes of fruitless heroism, the reasoning behind ideologies, the errant blindness and unforgivable desire to win whatever acts necessary, are a terrifying reminder as we sit on the edge of committing worse atrocities, not out of a desire for free thought but out of the ignoble one of control.

When the president of one of the most powerful countries says "first strike capabilities" he is using a euphemism for genocide. It is no longer a question of win or lose, it is a fact of annihilation. I have no particular wish to die and I have no particular desire to be prevented from speaking out, but I am not prepared to be responsible for persons with beliefs, both political and religious, different from mine, being obliterated.

No one anywhere has the right to put my name behind the finger on the proverbial button. Does any one have yours?

A.J. HARTUNG  
P.O. Box 427, Burkittsville

Salute to volunteers

Volunteer recognition month is an appropriate time for the administration of Pleasant View Nursing Home of Mt. Airy Inc. to recognize the many volunteers who tirelessly give of their

time to share with our residents. We are fortunate to have those individuals, groups, organizations and churches who come and brighten the lives of our residents.

This type of caring, sharing and helping is the core to which President Reagan has alluded to many times as the American Spirit. We honor you publicly during this month as a show of our appreciation for the great work and many hours devoted to our residents.

EUGENE JACKSON  
Administrator

Literacy Council

I just wanted to thank you for the fine treatment you gave our series about education in jails. You might be interested to know that while I was preparing the series, I corresponded with Mrs. Bush who is quite a supporter of Literacy Councils around the country, and she asked me to send a copy of the series to the Vice President after it appeared in The News-Post.

Literacy Council of Frederick County  
103 E. Patrick St., Frederick

Defends hazing

It seems that every time I read an article in the News-Post about college fraternities or sororities, the tone of the article is decidedly negative. "Frat member floats kitten in punch" (April 15, 1983) continues that unfortunate tradition.

As a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, one of our nation's oldest and most

prestigious college sororities, I am continually dismayed by attempts of the media and other outsiders to disparage the Greek System. I am especially incensed at vitriolic attacks on our practices of "hazing," which non-Greeks fail to realize serve numerous valuable functions that I would like to briefly enumerate.

First of all, hazing strengthens the mettle of pledges by preparing them for the many trials they will surely face in later life. Secondly, hazing builds loyalty to the pledge class and to the overall organization. Last but not least, hazing is the final stage of the all-important weeding-out process.

Charges that activities are to blame for accidental injuries which sometimes occur during pledge hazing are totally without foundation. No active ever forces any pledge or initiate to do anything in a sorority or fraternity — an individual is free to, depledge at any time.

Charges that hazing and other related activities are detrimental to the academic performance of pledges obviously come from individuals who don't realize that the primary education in a college or university environment doesn't come from reading a book or sitting in a classroom, but rather from dynamically interacting with one's peers.

No one ever hears non-Greeks laud the accomplishments of those within their ranks, yet the proud Halls of American History are lined with men and women who were members of college fraternities and sororities. No matter what the press may say about us, I'm still proud to be in a sorority, proud to be counted among our country's very best.

NANCY L. HAIGWOOD  
10265 Ridgeline Drive, Gaithersburg



JACK ANDERSON The Washington Merry-go-round

Post office seeks to replace home delivery with 'clusterboxes'

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service has mounted a sneak attack on your legal right to have mail delivered to your home.

Without consulting Congress, the Postal Rate Commission or — least of all — the public, the post office poobahs in Washington have been quietly promoting and installing "clusterboxes" — eight or more individual mailboxes grouped together at convenient neighborhood locations.

The convenience, of course, is all on the Postal Service's side. Customers, including the elderly and the handicapped, can no longer pick up their mail at the front door or the curb, but must trudge out in snow, rain, heat or gloom of night to the communal clusterbox, which may be a block away.

Obviously, the clusterbox caper is saving the Postal Service money. But the way the authorities are going about it can be best described as highbanded — or underhanded. Here's how the postal Pearl Harbor works:

By law, all new homeowners are entitled to choose either curbside service or the clusterbox plan. But in new developments, they are rarely given this choice.

Under postal regulations, new housing developments aren't eligible for mail service until at least half the lots are "improved" — an ambiguous term that can mean anything from ground being broken to actual occupancy of the completed house.

But the requirement is waived if developers agree to install clusterboxes throughout the development. To ensure that the first home buyers can have mail delivery, the developers usually agree.

My associates Donald Goldberg and Indy Badhwar have uncovered some outrageous examples of the way the Postal Service's strongarm strategy has been implemented around the country:

In Dickinson, N.D., clusterbox customers were given a snow job in the form of a congratulatory notice: "Your Postal Service is upgrading the mail delivery in your area . . . (which) is privileged to be one of the first in the upper Midwest to receive this service."

Postmasters in East St. Louis, Ill.,

were exhorted: "NOW . . . you're asked to go out and SELL clusterboxes . . . That's right . . . SELL!!! Very seldom will a customer come into your 'store' to buy a clusterbox. Furthermore, you are asked to do it now!"

New Jersey postmasters were urged to get developers' cooperation for clusterboxes with this revealing explanation: "The possibility for individual customer complaints about centralization is removed if the centralized delivery mode is in place when the first occupants of a new development move in."

When the residents of Greece, N.Y., a Rochester suburb, voted to restrict clusterboxes to groups of four instead of eight, regional postal officials in Philadelphia slapped them down with the "supremacy clause" of the Constitution, and told the impertinent citizens that "the type and location of mail boxes is controlled solely by the Postal Service."

Rep. Glenn English, D-Okla., chairman of a House subcommittee on government information, said he has received complaints about the communal mailboxes from across the country. "The Postal Service has spent substantial sums of money to advertise its new services," he said. "But I'll bet you'll never see an ad telling you the Postal Service has unilaterally decided to reduce the level of home service whenever and wherever it can."

Footnote: Assistant Postmaster General Eugene Hagburg insisted that clusterboxes do not constitute a reduction in service, and promised that steps would be taken to ensure that customers actually retain their legal right to choice of service.

MISLEADING MAILING: In his zeal to repeal the law requiring savings institutions to withhold 10 percent of their customers' interest earnings for the income tax collectors, Sen. Robert Kasten, R-Wis., sent out thousands of inaccurate letters to his constituents.

On the back of the envelope was written in bold type: "Savers' alert" and "How to stop the new tax on your savings." The letter itself neglected to point out that it was not actually a new tax,

Journal du jour . . .

Bob Reid's latest from Annapolis

Tom McMillan, the former All-America basketball star from Maryland and Rhodes scholar, wants to be a Congressman representing Maryland's 4th District comprised mostly of Anne Arundel County.

This comes as no surprise, since the Atlanta Hawks star in the National Basketball Association has been used mostly as a reserve the past two years, and at 31, is not sure another year in the NBA is his smartest move.

Millionaire Ted Turner, who owns not only the Hawks but all those cable television interests, is throwing a \$50,000 wing-ding fund-raiser to help Tom get his start in politics. McMillan, whose digs are in Crofton, has been, pardon the pun, highly visible in Democratic politics the past year as a fund-raiser and party supporter.

His major roadblock to the House of Representatives seems to be the incumbent, now in her seventh term, Republican Marjorie Holt, who stands in at about 5-4.

One might say to unseat her represents a tall order for the seven-foot McMillan.

Governor Harry Hughes, 6'4", invited Maryland Attorney General Stephen Sachs, about 5'5", to join him at the rather tall podium to the Statehouse reception room during a recent news conference.

Sachs, like a little lady sunken behind the wheel of a huge Continental, could barely be seen peering, tippy-toed, over the dais.

Steve explained the difference logically, "the Governor," he said, "is tall and handsome.

"I'm just tall." Sachs, who aspires to replace Hughes when his term runs out in 1986, may have to take a lesson from former governor Marvin Mandel, who is also in the same height range as the Attorney General.

Marvin used to stand atop a six- or eight-inch platform secreted on

the floor behind the podium during press confabs.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Tip O'Neil is back from a trip to China financed by the taxpayers, a journey ostensibly to assuage the feelings of the Chinese over the U.S. granting political asylum to their swell female tennis star, Hu Na.

Tip was told that the Red Chinese were so upset they would teach us a lesson by not allowing Americans to visit their factories until the end of the year. So there!

They also gave him a stern lecture on our friendship with Taiwan, prompting O'Neil to confess, on his knowledge of foreign affairs "to be quite truthful, is extremely limited."

One suggested counter to the Chinese slamming shut their factory doors came from a reporter who said maybe we could show them a thing or two by appointing an ambassador to Taiwan.

So there, too!

Although they are 100 percent federal dollars, Maryland is handling the purse strings for the overhaul of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge over the Potomac, which connects Maryland and Virginia.

Gov. Harry Hughes had a ready answer to why there was a 350 percent cost increase in redecking one section of the bridge, from \$288,000 to \$1,200,000. He said the remediation ran into problems when the prefabricated concrete slabs failed to fit between the bridge supports, "but only by an inch or two."

In such matters, an inch or two is little different from a yard or two.

The governor added, free of charge and unsolicited, the fact that the WW Bridge is the only one in the entire Federal Interstate Highway network that is federally owned.

Which is one way to divert attention from a 350 percent overrun.

— Robert C. Reid

