



john-a-dreams

by John Andrist

Four measures will face voters at the November election, and following tradition this Dreamer will attempt to explain them and make personal recommendations in this second issue before election.

Then there is still time for readers to respond and present their views in the final pre-election issue.

The first measure is a proposal to eliminate the office of state treasurer. It has been studied in detail by the legislative research committee, and approved by both houses of the state legislature.

Under the proposal the normal duties of the treasurer would be transferred to other departments, primarily the Department of Accounts and Purchases.

This dreamer has always believed we would streamline state government, and even county government, if we made a practice of electing administrators (ie: governors or county commissioners) and then letting them hire the people they need to do the work.

It is the way we run our federal government, our cities, and our schools. But we have always chosen to do it differently in county and state government. And voters have historically said they don't want to give up the right to elect state and county officials.

Vote yes to eliminate the elective office of treasurer, vote no to keep it like it is.

The second measure, also approved by both houses of the legislature, is one which is generally called a housekeeping measure. I have read it thru and it seems to me that it does nothing other than to make the day to day work of the legislature more streamlined.

Furthermore, I have not heard one dissenting voice from anywhere. So we should all be able to vote yes on this one.

The third measure is brief and simple. It has been initiated by those who want a constitutional guarantee of the right to bear arms, and to own guns for lawful purposes for defending person, family, property, the state, and for lawful hunting and recreational activity.

Those rights are generally protected right now by the United States constitution, as near as I can tell. So it would seem from here as though it would change nothing in our lives, whether or not we approve it.

The point of controversy on gun control in America today is whether or not we should require registration of handguns, or to establish some ground rules for their purchase and ownership.

I'm neither a lawyer nor a judge but as near as I can tell this measure would not prevent subsequent legislation which might someday modify types of guns which we could own. So it all seems like a waste of time and money to have initiated this measure in the first place.

In any event, a yes vote will add the right to bear arms to our state constitution.

Measure four is kind of tricky. It is ostensibly a measure to return control of state junior colleges to local school boards. But what it really is seeking is to wipe out state financial support for UND Williston, Bismarck Junior College and Lake Region

Junior College at Devils Lake. Those are the only three affected schools.

Make sure that you understand a yes vote will deny future state funding help for these schools; a no vote will continue to maintain them as a part of the state system.

In the case of Williston and Devils Lake it would probably lead to their closing, but that is speculation on my part.

I'm a solid no voter on this one. Sure, we have too many colleges in North Dakota and we spend too much on higher education. But we will not ultimately save any tax money by passing this measure.

We generally spend far less money on students attending junior colleges than we do on freshmen and sophomore students at our larger schools.

Moreover, lots of kids are drawn into higher education because these small junior colleges are nearby... partly because they are less costly to the family and partly because many young people are better able to make the adjustment to a small nearby school, who would otherwise not go to a university.

Moreover, I think the advocates of this initiative are not motivated by the potential for saving money nearly as much as by the desire to build bigger empires for the universities and other four year schools.

I expect to see a big vote in favor of this measure to be coming out of the Red River Valley. And that alone is enough reason to vote no.

If we want to start cutting back on higher education it would make more sense to close Mayville, right in the shadow of the universities, or to reduce Mayville and Valley City to junior college status.

And finally there should be a substantial self-interest for Divide County in wanting to preserve UND Williston. A no vote will do it.

John-a-Dreams

The mail must go through. It use to be a battle cry, but it's not much more than a loud whisper, ~~that~~ exists at all these days.

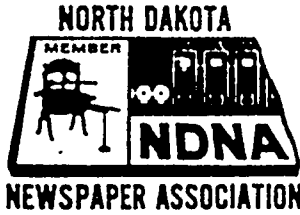
We've tried twice to mail a jacket to a son in Portland, and both times the postal service has returned it as undeliverable. The address is correct and clearly written.

What happens, I think, is that when it arrives they put a note in the boy's mailbox announcing the arrival. Since they have no Saturday postoffice hours at that end of the world, and since he goes to work at 7 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m., he can't get to the postoffice to claim it.

So he puts a note in the box, asking the postman to drop the package inside his door. (It weighs two pounds and is no more than 6x8x12 inches). That is too tough on an assignment for an Oregon postman, I guess.

Sorry son, you'll just have to shiver.

Aside from their low commitment to service, I can't imagine why any college town postoffice is permitted to offer no Saturday service, just like I can't imagine why our local postoffice refuses to stagger schedules so they can provide window service during the noon hour.



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Peter's Perspective

By Peter Johnson

Education seems to be on everyone's mind these days. Certainly the award ceremony yesterday recognizing Divide County High School as one of the top schools in the country has something to do with that. The DCHS school board, administration, faculty and students deserve a lot of credit for achieving the recognition.

The award marks DCHS as a model school for the state and the area, and that is indeed an honor, and not one easily earned. Nor kept. As Ron Stammen has stated, the high school must now dig into the task of maintaining that level of excellence.

I haven't had a lot of experience with the school system in Divide County yet, but I'm happy with what I've seen. I congratulate the entire school system on a job well done.

But the success of DCHS isn't the only reason people are thinking about education these days. There is an initiated measure on the November 6 general election ballot that, if passed, would take UND-Williston, Lake Region Community College and Bismarck Junior College out from under the umbrella of state funding for education.

That bothers me.

I don't generally jump on political issues, but this is one that I feel strongly about. I was writing for the Devils Lake Daily Journal when the three junior colleges were first admitted under the state umbrella. I was responsible at that time for covering the regular meetings of the Lake Region Community College Board of Trustees, and therefore I became very familiar with the operations of the college.

It was very apparent to me that LRCC desperately needed more state funding. The college was already receiving some state funding, but by definition the junior college belonged to the people of the Devils Lake area, and they were responsible for keeping the school running. But the growing junior college was becoming much too large for the local citizens to handle.

Representatives from the three junior colleges organized a force in the legislature which, after great difficulty, managed to get a bill passed which brought the three schools under the state supported education system. The measure on the November 6 ballot, however, could kill all that work.

As the root of all evil is money (to quote a common misquotation), so the root of the problem here is money. North Dakota seems to be continually divided between the eastern and western parts of the state, and generally over money. The oil production tax business demonstrates that, and

so does this education issue.

While I don't want to contribute to the division of the state, the fact is that those behind the measure are primarily interested in the eastern edge of the state. Their point is simple and selfish: more money for junior colleges means less money for UND and NDSU (as well as Mayville College, NDSSS in Whapeton, Minot State College, and so on).

After all, there is only so much money to go around. If junior colleges are going to be fully supported by the state, the money for that support must come from somewhere. And where do you draw the funds from — the small, floundering school systems such as Epping? The more solid school systems like Divide County, that also are hurting for funds? or the larger universities that draw the lion's share of school money?

That's not to say that the universities aren't hurting, too. The last legislative session hurt all the schools in the state.

There are other alternatives to the funding problem — such as shutting down Mayville College (only 40 miles from both UND and NDSU) or setting up a formula for all higher education schools whereby the local citizens must be responsible for ten percent of the funding — but right now it is important to make sure that the three junior colleges are brought under the state umbrella.

The three junior colleges offer North Dakotans, particularly those near the schools, an alternative to the major universities and colleges in the state. The schools offer their students something beyond the high school level, while allowing them to remain in or near their communities. For some, the schools represent their only shot at higher education.

UND-Williston, for example, has allowed a number of people from Divide County to attend a higher education institution. Some have gone on to other schools, such as UND, NDSU or MSC. Some came back to this area and put their knowledge to use. Some attended and quit because they didn't like it. But at least the opportunity was there for them.

The most precious raw material we have in this country is people. And education is the best process we have for turning that raw material into finished products. It is a shame that not everyone has the opportunity for higher education. But it is more of a shame when some lose their only opportunity for a better education.

I urge you on November 6 to vote no to Measure 4. These schools need to have state funding if they are going to continue. We should see that they get it.

School Scratchpad

Ron Stammen, Superintendent of Schools

We invite parents to visit our classes. Some do, especially in the first few grades, but beyond that not many parents visit. Children in the fourth grade and beyond tell their parents they would be embarrassed if Mom or Dad showed up for a visit. That's too bad. It would take a lot of parents to break that spell.

I think grandparents, also, would really be in for a surprise if they were to visit an elementary class in progress, especially during times when teachers are having the Spalding Phonetic Writing Road to Reading lessons.

Now that sounds like a mouthful, and it is. It is almost unbelievable how those little tots can recite the phonetic rules, use the knowledge for spelling and transfer it to their reading skills. Our elementary teachers really deserve a pat on the back for doing all the extra work it took to adopt this program in all three of our elementary schools the past three years.

Spalding is the name of the publishing company. The rest of the name is self-explanatory—phonetic writing and reading. English is broken down into 70 combinations of letters which this program calls phonograms. One phonogram may have one sound, whereas another phonogram might have five sounds.

The younger students can recite the rules and exceptions to these phonograms. All of the elementary teachers have taken one or two week long courses to become proficient with the system. They all knew phonics, since we have never gone away

from the phonics approach. But never before have the teachers used a system which attacks the sounding process in the manner the Spalding method does. I am sure it would be a treat if you would stop by school, visit a class and see for yourself.

Speaking of grandparents reminds me of a comment I overheard during a convention talk a couple of weeks ago. The speaker quoted results from a research study which found that children who were given extra help by volunteer grandparents in one school district did as well as children who used microcomputers for extra practice in the same subject in the same district.

Activities for the Week Ahead

Thursday: (CE—hamburger stew, NE—chili, FE—fish, DC—hot dish) GBB—District tourney at Columbus.

Friday: (CE—chicken nuggets, NE—hot dish, FE—barbecue, DC—pizza) District tourney at Columbus.

Saturday: Farmers Union Annual Meeting, DCHS, 2 p.m.

Monday: (FE, CE—tuna sandwich and soup, NE—pizza, DC—barbecue) FHA District 3 rally at Crosby, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday: (CE—spaghetti, NE—barbecue, FE—cheeseburger, DC—smoked sausage) BBB—UND Tetons intersquad scrimmage at DCHS, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by Letterman's Club.

Wednesday: (All schools—chicken fried steak).



Wayne Lubenow

When I was a kid my parents never had to tell me to drink my milk. Oh, I had to be ordered to eat my spinach and my oatmeal, but never to drink my milk.

That's because I dearly liked milk and I still do. As a kid, I was given to understand that if I drank a lot of milk I would have the greatest bones in the Western Hemisphere.

I don't know if that's true because I never get to see my bones although they must be pretty good because they've been holding me up for 58 years. (The few times I have fallen certainly can't be blamed on milk.)

In the past few years I have switched to skim milk which, to me, tastes as good as regular milk.

In fact, I have become a connoisseur of milk. On a hot day the best way to drink milk is to pour a glassful and set it in the freezer for exactly six minutes. That's when a thin layer of ice is just beginning to form over the top.

Then you drink it, man, and you're ready to tackle the world.

Being the milk-lover that I am, I was astounded the other day to learn how many kids don't like milk. There's a whole bunch of them, so many, in fact, that it's got some creameries worried.

One creamery, Cass-Clay in Fargo, is striking back and attempting to make milk more palatable for kids.

Anyway, Cass-Clay Creamery is test-marketing flavored milk all over the Red River Valley.

Flavored milk, can you imagine?

Oh, I can understand chocolate milk which has been with us for years and which ain't bad. I don't drink it because I like my milk straight, but I can tolerate people who drink chocolate milk.

But Cass-Clay has come out with (hold your stomachs) banana milk, strawberry milk and (gasp) root beer milk.

Root beer milk? That's gotta be the worst thing they've done since they began making lime vodka and orange gin.

I just knew something foolish like this was gonna happen when they started putting honey and nuts and chocolate and strawberry stuff into our cereal when there was nothing wrong with good old plain corn flakes.

If this catches on, I imagine the creameries will come out with milk in dozens of flavors.

I can just hear my son, Chris, now. "Hey, pops, run out to the store and get a couple quarts of milk."

"What kind?" I ask.

"Oh," he says, "Make it a quart of pizza-flavored and a quart of french fry-flavored."

If the big companies really want to do something for us consumers, how about putting a little chicken in the chicken soup and some clams in the clam chowder?

Letter to the Editor

Exercise your right to vote

TO THE EDITOR: Once every four years, Americans are given the opportunity to determine their destiny in a way that exists in no other country on earth.

Through our unique system of primary and general elections, we exercise a precious right that was fought for and won by patriots who jealously coveted the blessings of freedom. They believed in a basic right without which all others are meaningless—the honest and independent exercise of our own franchise — a trust confided to us and not for private gain, but for the public good. In short, the right to vote.

The ballot has been described as the rightful and peaceful successor of bullets. Those of us who have fought for the right to continue to cast our ballots cherish our public trust. We meet the first duty of democracy. We cast our votes and, since our founding following World War I, the American Legion has encouraged each American to do the same.

This year, as in years past, The American Legion is sponsoring its "Get Out the Vote" campaign. Legion Posts across the nation are distributing registration information and offering assistance in an effort to encourage voter turnout. This patriotic gesture is not in support of any particular candidate, but an effort to remind Americans that in order for our democracy to work and for our Republic to remain strong, its citizens must voice their opinions through the device designed for maintaining in perpetuity the rights of the people—the ballot box.

We urge you to support this endeavor by registering for and voting in the primary and general elections this year. And we would remind you that just because this is a presidential election year, it does not detract from the importance of all other elections. It merely emphasizes them.

Freeman Pascal III
Commander
American Legions Post #75

Oil drilling incentives needed

TO THE EDITOR: It's easy to get complacent about the condition of the North Dakota oil industry because it appears to be having a pretty good year for production and new wells drilled. But if you look at things a little closer, you can see some warning signs.

For example, better than two out of three of the wells being drilled this year are development wells, to fill in fields that were discovered several years earlier. We're sort of living off of our successes of two or three years ago. We need new-field discoveries to keep our production up in the years ahead.

Also, the wildcats that are being drilled this year are not as successful as in the past. Back in 1982 the success ratio for exploratory wells was nearly 41 percent. So far this year it's been about 24 percent.

A reason that operators have chosen to concentrate on the safer development wells instead of exploring for new fields is that it's become harder to justify the economic risk of wildcatting in North

Dakota. Many factors go into calculating that risk—crude prices, drilling costs, lease costs and taxes.

North Dakota's costs of finding and producing oil are close to being the nation's highest. The one factor the state can do something about is its oil tax rate, which is also close to being the nation's highest.

As a North Dakotan making my living in the oil business, I've noticed that candidates from both political parties this fall have been talking about the need for oil tax incentives. I'm glad to see that, but it's a little ironic because some of these same people turned down a chance to stimulate the oil sector of our economy in the 1983 legislature, when they killed a measure that would have provided for drilling incentives.

In fact, Democratic gubernatorial candidate George Sinner voted against the measure.

Lynn Moser
Box 1313
Bismarck, ND 58501

Correction please

TO THE EDITOR: I have just read your front page story appearing in the October 10, 1984, edition of The Journal, in which you outlined the major issues discussed at the public meeting recently held at Ambrose.

Although your article generally reflected the comments of the principal speakers, as they related to the hours of operation at the Ambrose port-of-entry, I would like to bring one unfortunate misquote or oversight to your attention.

When explaining the recent history of the Ambrose port-of-entry, I stated to those in attendance that, some 18 months ago, the administration proposed to close Ambrose and seven other land ports in North Dakota.

I also stated that, had it not been for the concerted efforts of Senators Mark Andrews, Quentin Burdick and Congressman Byron Dorgan, the administration may well have closed these ports over the objections of those North Dakotans whose personal lives would have been so affected. Your article fails to acknowledge the supportive role played by Senator Andrews and his staff.

While we take a nonpartisan position on the Ambrose port-of-entry, we do feel that credit should be given where credit is due.

To that end, I encourage you to publish a public correction in your next edition so that your readers can better appreciate the respective roles (and efforts) expended by their elected representatives.

David V. Beebe
Acting District Director
United States Immigration Service
St. Paul, Minn. 55101

Why destroy a child's snowman?

TO THE EDITOR: Each year when the first snow comes wet enough to stick together the kids go out and make a snowman and every year some stupid person or persons come through our front yard and knock him over.

What's the point? Do they get a big kick out of destroying something someone else has created? The kids put so much work and pride into making something of their own. One year someone ran into it. They

Rebuilding our lady

TO THE EDITOR: Miss Liberty is celebrating her 96th birthday on Sunday, October 28, at her home on Liberty Island in the New York Harbor.

Festive patriotic programs on Miss Liberty's anniversary, along with gifts, have been sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1936. This year the auxiliary contributed two barrier-free water fountains which provide access for the handicapped and a lighting system for the outdoor flag pole.

In preparation for her centennial birthday in 1986, a two-year refurbishing project is underway. Private donations, including \$69,413 from auxiliary members nationally, have been contributed toward the restoration cost which is estimated at \$30 million. But contributions are still needed.

The VFW Auxiliary No. 8940, Crosby, urges Divide County citizens to fly a flag at home and/or business on October 28, Miss Liberty's special day. If interested in making a contribution through our auxiliary, you may do so by sending check or money order to our treasurer, Eris Moe, Crosby. Be sure to write "Miss Liberty Fund" on your check or enclose a note to specify the fund.

The 700,413 VFW Auxiliary members have pledged to serve as Guardians of Liberty for America, so Miss Liberty can light the way to a free world forever.

Audrey Faldalen
President, #8940
VFW Auxiliary, Crosby

Abolish the Federal Reserve Board

TO THE EDITOR: Three hundred years ago, King Louis XIV of France said, "I am the government."

Today we have many people, both elected and appointed within our government, that dare not voice this sentiment but show it in their actions.

One of the more outstanding examples is the nine sitting on the Federal Reserve Board. These are bankers appointed by our president for a period of 14 years. They set interest rates for the nation as well as amount of credit available. They are so powerful that both our present President Reagan and former President Carter made the statement, "I give them a free hand in money matters."

Most of their meetings are behind closed doors. This last July they met for two days and the news media did not report what took place. The Federal Reserve Board have set interest rates since 1913, and to my knowledge not one member has been removed for improper conduct.

High interest rates are one of the greatest reasons for failure of beginning farmers, small businesses, and homeowners. It is one reason for the large federal deficit. To my knowledge, high interest is the greatest cause of inflation. If interest is 40 percent of a business budget that business cannot sell goods as cheaply if it is only 10 percent of the budget.

If the Federal Government collected all but three percent of all interest, in only a few years the budget would be balanced. This would not break contracts in force.

Many of the richest people would become taxpayers again. Some will say this is a meat axe method of taxing. When a farmer, businessman or homeowner is foreclosed on, it is a far worse experience. Low interest across the board would end all this distress.

No Republican or Democrat politician has even suggested doing away with the Federal Reserve Board so Congress can take over its duty of setting interest rates. We sure need someone to dare to do so.

President Washington understood cash flow better than the leaders in our nation's capitol today. He called out the Army to

collect taxes from the Pennsylvania distillers. He knew they could and would pay up. Not a shot was fired. We need a president to suggest rules that would collect from those well able to pay. Congress would surely accommodate.

Ardale Wagner
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Epping, ND 58843

Free speech is a priceless right

TO THE EDITOR: May we take this means to thank the editor and staff of the Divide County Journal for bringing the local news into our homes on a weekly basis, and also for providing this means of free speech and expression to local citizens through letters to the editor.

In lieu of the present effort to petition city government and threats that have been leveled at certain individuals, perhaps it is well and fitting, timely too, to remind ourselves and one another of the guarantee provided by the United States Constitution of the right of each citizen to petition our government for a redress of grievances. This right extends to local, state, and federal government.

Ours being a representative system of government, carried on by duly elected representatives, it "derives its just powers from the consent of the governed."

A representative form of government, ours being a republic, has a democratic spirit of "government by the people, of the people, and for the people."

Therefore it follows that we have these rights guaranteed to us as a people, including the right to petition our government, whether it be local, state or federal. This is granted to each without fear of reprisal, coercion, intimidation or threats by government, its elected or appointed officials, or by any other persons.

Name withheld upon request