

The Recorder
Opinion  Page

MARCH 29, 1996

The Recorder

P.O. Box 10, Monterey, Virginia 24465

The home paper for Highland and Bath
counties since 1877.



Published each Friday by Recorder Publishing of Virginia, Inc. Second class postage paid at Monterey, Va. 24465. Member Virginia Press Association. USPS 244-320. ISSN 0888-9473.

Chris Pugh, Publisher

Margo Oxendine, Bath News and Advertising

Anne Witschey, Director of Operations

P. Lea Campbell Jr., President

STAFF: J. Ralph Hammer, Mechanical Superintendent; Connie Poats, Composing Coordinator; Rebecca Walker and Janet Wimer, Presswomen; Lynn Almond, Editorial Assistant; Heidi Simmons, Business Manager; Rebecca Stump, Darkroom Technician; Tammy Lilly, Typesetter; Mary Sweitzer, Contributing Writer; Evelyn Gwin, Bath County Representative; Mark Griffin, Contributing Writer; John Hutchinson, Contributing Writer; JoAnn Ailstock, Advertising Representative; Willie Smith, Press Assistant.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By mail, \$19 per year in Highland and Bath counties, \$24 per year elsewhere in Virginia; \$26 per year outside Virginia. Senior Citizen rate: \$17 per year in Highland And Bath counties, only for subscribers 60 years of age or older; \$10 for six months in Highland and Bath; \$13 for six months elsewhere. Postmaster send address changes to P.O. Box 10, Monterey, Va. 24465.

DEADLINE for letters, news items and advertising is noon Tuesday.

Telephone (540) 468-2147

Fax (540) 468-2048

Starboard Views



By Al Woodson



Problems of a loose cannon



By Al Woodson

Problems of a loose cannon

Ships log: Friday, March 29. Location: Just off Virginia Capes, 38.1 degrees north, rain and sleet, seas choppy. Situation: Skipper Clinton searching for a photo-op. First Mate Dole wins long-awaited opportunity. Second Mate Buchanan playing a waiting game. Helmsman Newt calls for unity. Crew preparing for port call.

General Quarters: People working together can accomplish almost anything. Their goals range from winning a football game to success in warfare. It takes teamwork and team players. There are limits but, the limits are usually set by the individual spirit involved in the meaning and reality of the goals; only those who press the limits know the reality and few try. In a political party the goal is to win and winning takes all the efforts of well-motivated team players pressing the limits of their ability to perform. Failure is the breakdown in teamwork by one or more individuals who become "loose cannons" and undermine the efforts of the rest.

Having said all that, one loose cannon, Sen. John Warner (R. Va.), a self-styled feudal lord parading as Virginia gentry, gained early fame, according to Rich Lowry in the March issue of "National Review," by marrying the daughter of billionaire Paul Mellon, whose hefty contributions to President Nixon helped Warner land the job as Undersecretary of the Navy in 1969. A 1973 divorce gained Warner his Middleburg estate and substantial cash. Presenting a dashing playboy lifestyle and an unsatisfied ego, Warner succeeded in marrying Elizabeth Taylor in 1976.

With the political stage set, John Warner gained the U.S. Senate seat after the untimely death of the GOP conservative and "front runner" Dick Obenshain. Lowry said Warner's reputation in the Senate was that of "a chronically weak sister on most hard issues ... complains one Senate aid ... and usually he's off somewhere else doing something harmful and at cross-purposes with what he was saying and doing when he was standing at the starting line." In 1987, Warner angered his Re-

Judge Robert Bork. In 1993, Warner opposed the election of Mike Farris, the state GOP nominee for Lt. Gov. and blasted him in public. Farris lost by eight points.

In 1994, the Virginia Republican Party took the fine theory of party unity and transformed it, with the help of some well-meaning people, into the defeat of the party's Senate candidate. The unfortunate result was directly due to Republican Sen. John Warner's opposition to the GOP Senate nominee. Warner recruited and backed two-time loser Marshall Coleman to run against Ollie North as an independent. Coleman captured 11 percent of the vote and caused the re-election of liberal Democrat Chuck Robb. The Virginia Republican leadership and the party's conservative membership were left fuming.

Currently, Warner is being opposed for the Senate Republican nomination by former Reagan Office of Management and Budget Director Jim Miller. Miller lost the nomination to North in 1994 but kept his word to support the party's nominee — "No matter who it turns out to be." Lowry said, "Party activist drip with hatred for Warner — justifiably. The Senator has sabotaged his party consistently, ... Why? A growing party cramps his style. It means women with baby strollers, grimy guys with gunracks on their trucks, those 'born again Christians' — none of whom are likely to appreciate his bi-partisan work in the Senate." Warner just doesn't accept the fact that "Country Club Republicanism" is a thing of the past. It's time for the party to shove this loose cannon over the side before he causes more damage to the ship.

Jim Miller said, "John Warner's disloyalty to the Republican Party and to our nominees must not go unchallenged." Miller pledges to work for the rights of Virginians and for each and every American. He also pledges to vote to: Pass a balanced budget amendment; cut taxes; reduce government regulations; provide parents with greater choice in the education of their children; observe all the amendments to the Constitution

rights of the unborn; enact term limits; end unfunded mandates by the federal government and bring about meaningful welfare reform. Jim Miller's proven he keeps his word.

View from the Crows Nest: Remember all those questions concerning Mena airport in Arkansas, of illegal drugs, off-shore bank accounts and money laundering? Well, they're back — chairman of the House Banking Committee, Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA), according to Wesley Pruden of "The Washington Times," "has been prying into some of the dark and wonderous corners of Arkansas ... to sort through the tales and find a few facts." Former Rep. Bill Alexander (D-Ark.) "has been trying for years to get to the bottom of whatever was going on at Mena." There is a strong connection between arms and drugs (lots of drugs and lots of money). Other names are mentioned: Barry Seal and Vince Foster, both deceased; Gov. Bill Clinton, and Presidents Reagan and Bush.

Pruden asked, "Who was protected and why?" and "Why was a special agent for the IRS directed to lie to Congress about what he had learned in his investigation?"

Home Port Richmond: "The Richmond Times-Dispatch" answered the question: "Is a flat tax fair?" Paraphrasing the Times' editorial, if two of us earn the same pay and pay the same in taxes, once that's done why should the IRS be concerned about the rest of our pay? If one chooses to blow his on wine, women and song and the other chooses to invest his for future income, why should one who plans for the future be taxed two, three or more times? That simply rewards spending and penalizes thrift ... is that fair?

Galley Gossip: Seaman Salty says, "Every child comes into this world endowed with liberty, opportunity and a share of the national debt."

Ships Log: Uncharted straits ahead, check all watertight doors and hatches. Godspeed until next time.

Sources: *Richmond Times*, March 17, 1996; *National Review*, March 1996; *Jim Miller*, March 23, 1995, *Washington*