

In Memory of Emily Couric

Region Ten, Western State Exposé

State Senator Emily Couric succumbed to cancer of the pancreas October 18. She will be missed.

I spoke with her on WINA radio talk show Feb. 10. The topic was how to resolve the budget with the car tax cut.

I proposed that agencies violating law should not be funded. Two examples might be Region Ten and Western State Hospital.

A special election to fill the 25th state senate seat will be Dec. 18. I believe the late senator would want the story passed on to her successor, Creigh Deeds (D) or Jane Maddux (R).

The documentation takes the form of letters I wrote on behalf of a close friend.

*Richmond Times Dispatch
August 12, 2000*

The purpose of this letter is to inform the public that a citizen of Virginia is being held in the criminal unit of Western State Hospital without bail, without conviction, indefinitely, in secret, without visitation rights.

Nicholas Shannon is accused of public intoxication and assault on two police officers during his arrest at [Blue Ridge Brewery now Starr Hill on West Main] on November 12 [1999]. The officers suffered no injuries.

This is his first offense. He was held for 12 days after the arrest until I raised 125 dollars to pay a bondsman. He remains in custody since July 7 when he appeared in court for trial. The judge ruled he was incompetent

to stand trial. His family has reappeared to make all his decisions. He is 38 years old.

I wrote a letter to the court and to the Inspector General through Delegate Van Yahres. I called the office of Senator Emily Couric. There has been no response. The patient rights advocates are not helpful.

Will Governor Gilmore reassure Virginians that gays have the same rights as heterosexuals? Will the governor travel to Western State to inspect Mr. Shannon's physical health and safety?

Turns out that two nurses violated state law by restricting a patient's visitors. A patient advocate said my complaint was not reason enough to ask nurse Leslie Gordon her side of the story.

A week after Nicholas was released and sentenced to eleven weeks time served and two years supervised probation, a patient tried to choke nurse Gordon on Sep. 22, 2000 (WKDW AM-900 Staunton).

After seven visits in three weeks Dec. 1999, Region Ten gave Nicholas medication but refused the homeless man admission in a halfway house with a known vacancy. The following month, Region Ten did not know the psychological condition they were medicating.

A UVA graduate, Nicholas now lives in Alexandria. His restrictions of liberty expire September 14, 2002.

— Blair Hawkins, Editor

Before the Court

Charlottesville district judge is asked to dismiss three tickets for same car same spot over eight weeks on grounds the decal ordinance contradicts higher principle.

❶ Inconsistent. Called parking violation but not related to where your car is parked.

❷ Enforces separate law across jurisdictions to pay car tax.

❸ Declares right to administrative review, then infringes upon it after 96 hours. Only right-holder and court can waive a person's right.

Plea bargain offered: \$70 for one count instead of \$160 for three charges of "no city license". Car tax has been paid.

Living Wage Woes

City council voted Nov. 5 to discriminate against service contract workers who obey federal minimum wage law unless the contract is less than 15,000 dollars.

No such boycott of products whose companies pay their workers less than the arbitrary wage. Those motivated to work for less now for experience to command higher pay later need not apply.

The ordinance binds future representatives to the policy unless it is repealed.

Election Results

Mark Warner (D) Governor
Tim Kaine (D) Lt. Governor
Jerry Kilgore (R) Attorney Gen.
Mitch Van Yahres (D) Delegate
(167 write-ins opposed)

Updates...

★ Capitol of Afghanistan falls to Northern Alliance.

★ Still go to install restrooms in rear of Downtown Armory for Fridays After Five while next door city hall Annex is more appropriate public toilet.

THE WITNESS REPORT

Charlottesville, Virginia

Back Page

Monday 19 November 2001

Rising Reservoir Baffles Officials

The water supply has risen from 68.2% to 70.7% of capacity during the past week. But it hasn't rained in 30 days.

Albemarle service authority director Bill Brent theorized that the ground water flow into the reservoir had increased because trees are becoming dormant for winter.

Apparently conservation efforts did not translate to reduced water consumption.

It's hard to believe there is a drought when every podunk stream continues to flow. Farmers just harvested a bumper crop. Not one pond is low.

A stream runs dry when the water table falls below the streambed. Sinkholes occur above underground streams.

Charlottesville's high ground runs from north downtown along West Main to the Rotunda and Rugby road. Runoff and ground

water flow downhill in all directions.

→ **Meadow** creek – Memorial Gym along Emmett under US250 to end of Locust to Rivanna.

→ **Shenks** branch – Vinegar Hill along McIntire to Meadow creek.

→ **Pollocks** branch – Water st. along 6th SE to Moore's creek.

→ **Belmont** – basin outline Avon st, Monticello ave. east of Avon.

→ **Moore's** creek – Taylor's mountain north along US29 then east along interstate 64.

→ **South Rivanna** river – Confluence near Free Union of Buck Mountain creek (proposed reservoir), Moormans (Sugar Hollow res.) and Mechums river. S. Rivanna res. from Ivy Creek to north of Walmart. North Fork from Nortonsville feeds Chris Greene Lake, joins S. Fork 2 miles north of Darden Towe Park. Rivanna through Palmyra joins the James at Columbia.

Global Cold Spell Ending?

The last 3 million years have been about 20° Fahrenheit colder than the last billion years. The last such geologic cool spell was 280 million years ago (*Weather in the West, Bette Roda Anderson, 1975*).

Even years of dark winter following the asteroid impact extinction of the dinosaurs were only a blip in climate history.

As in the stock market, there are two possible forecast options: trend will continue or it won't, persistence or pattern change.

If averages mean anything, normally the planet is much warmer. Solar activity has been increasing since we began measuring. Nuclear winter might not stop global warming.

Save the Water!

What You Can Do

During this dry spell, you can save the water by dredging while water is low.

You will need:

- ① Shovel, shoes, sunglasses
- ② Five-gallon bucket
- ③ Transportation

Stay out of the mud. Recycle the erosion back to your property.

If 80,000 customers remove five gallons of sediment each, water capacity will increase by 400,000 gallons when the rains return.

Four buckets each would mean 1.6 million gallons added storage capacity to our municipal water supply.

Think local. Act local.



Funnel cloud Esmont, Va. Looking west October 23.

This newspaper is supported by reader contributions of money, stamps, essays, political cartoons, and true stories. Here you report the news. Next issue December 20.

Copyright © 2001 Blair Hawkins