

The Capital
 ANNAPOLIS, MD.
 PUBLISHED BY THE CAPITAL-GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS
 AMERICA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS
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Our say

10-mile run has outgrown city's streets

THE ANNAPOLIS Ten-Mile Run has gotten out of hand and city officials must do something now to make sure that this race does not isolate the city next year, as it did last Sunday.

Everyone will agree that getting into and around Annapolis is difficult at the best of times. When 3,500 runners are competing in the popular 10-mile run, getting around is a nightmare for local residents and a near-impossibility for tourists.

This city just cannot shut down Rowe Boulevard and the new Route 450 bridge for three hours on a Sunday morning in August and ignore the concerns of residents, especially people trying to get to church. We are amazed that the pastors of the churches affected have not banded together and pleaded with city officials to use some common sense.

Here is the picture:

For 19 years the Annapolis Striders have sponsored the 10-mile run. The number of participants grew steadily over the years and is now capped at 3,500 — the race could easily draw more.

Rowe Boulevard and the new Route 450 bridge, the two principal routes leading into downtown Annapolis, were closed from 8 to 11 a.m. Parking was prohibited on Main Street until the runners had gone by.

It created chaos. Churchgoers coming by way of Rowe Boulevard were rerouted onto Farragut Drive, onto Cedar Park Road, onto Taylor Avenue and then onto West Street leading downtown.

Local people would know the many turns to take, but there were no signs to help visitors get downtown or to the Naval Academy, which is where all of them were headed.

You could not park on Main Street to have breakfast at any of the restaurants.

Once you got into town, it was even more of a nightmare getting out. We tried Rowe Boulevard about 10 a.m. (Yes, we forgot it was closed!) We managed to get across College Creek before we, like hundreds of other drivers, were turned around and told we could not get through.

But we thought we were real smart and would try the new bridge (again forgetting that was closed). We were quickly stopped on King George Street and told we would have to turn around.

We were told to follow West Street to get to Route 50. It is one thing to say that to local residents, but it is another to give those instructions to tourists. They wouldn't even know how to get to West Street, not to mention how to get to Route 50 after they found West Street.

Traffic on the streets leading to West Street, and on West Street itself, was considerably backed up and God only knows (pardon the pun) how long it took people to get to church.

Putting a notice in the newspaper that the streets are going to be closed is not enough. Too many people's lives are being disrupted by the 10-mile run, which has grown too big for Annapolis. Maybe it can be held along Route 450 and at the Naval Academy, but city officials should not allow the two main entrances to the city to be closed for three hours.

Plans should be formulated now to prevent a similar fiasco next year.

GREAT MOMENTS IN HISTORY

I WILL PROMISE ANYTHING TO GET VOTES! ... OOPS!



ABNER WEASEL, A 19TH CENTURY POLITICIAN IN MARYLAND, INADVERTENTLY TOLD THE TRUTH DURING A CAMPAIGN SPEECH — AND WAS ELECTED ANYWAY BECAUSE NOBODY BELIEVED HIM!

This family's saga molded our nation

Six months after William McKinley died of an assassin's bullet, his young successor, Theodore Roosevelt, was put to the test.

Warring railroad magnates E. H. Harriman and James J. Hill had agreed, under the guidance of legendary financier J. P. Morgan, to join forces in a Northern Securities Co., to control all rail traffic from the Pacific Northwest into Chicago.

TR ordered the Justice Department to break up Northern Securities.

Morgan, "known as Jupiter because of his fiery glare and his Olympian financial power," wrote indignantly to TR: "If we have done anything wrong, send your man (meaning Attorney General Philander Knox) to my man and they can fix it up."

"We don't want to 'fix it up,'" retorted TR: we want to "stop it."

America had a new kind of president. When the great trustbuster left office in 1909, for a big game hunt in Africa, J. P. Morgan volunteered:

"We expect every lion to do his duty."

As ex-president, TR campaigned relentlessly to bring the United States into the European war. Woodrow Wilson — "the old grey skunk" in the White House in TR's phrase, a "prize jackass" engaged in "broomstick preparedness" — finally won a declaration of war in April 1917. TR went to see Wilson to seek command of a battalion.

Wilson was noncommittal. As the ex-president was walking out with Wilson's aide, Col. Edward House, he said plaintively, "I don't believe he will let me go to France. I don't understand. After all, I'm only asking to be allowed to die."



Patrick J. Buchanan

Col. House stopped, paused, and said: "Oh? Did you make that point quite clear to the president?"

These anecdotes are from "The Roosevelts, An American Saga," the engrossing tale of the bitter rivalry between the two branches of the most famous family of the century: the Roosevelts of Oyster Bay, and the Roosevelts of Hyde Park. And it is about the correlation between family and fate, character and destiny.

Whatever one thinks of Theodore Roosevelt's trustbusting or jingoism, about his character and valor there seems no question. Truly, here was a man's man to whom honor and virtue were all.

He may have beaten the drums for war with Spain, but when war came, Teddy formed his own Rough Rider battalion. As Spanish snipers picked off his men, he mounted his horse and charged Cuba's Kettle Hill, then up San Juan Hill, ahead of his troopers, to win the most celebrated battle of the last major war of the 19th century.

"No one," wrote correspondent Richard Harding Davis, "who saw Roosevelt take that ride expected he would finish it alive."

Not only did the ex-president, at 59, seek combat in France, he wanted all four of his sons to fight. All did. Quentin was shot down and killed. Archie and Teddy Jr. were badly wounded. A quarter of a century later, the three surviving sons volunteered for World War II. Two did not survive. Archie, the last, was the only U.S. soldier to be declared 100 percent disabled from combat wounds — in both wars.

Heroism was in their veins. When, at 57, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. went ashore with his son on D-Day, he was the oldest man in the invasion force. Walking with a cane, Gen. Roosevelt personally led U.S. troops off Utah beach, winning the Medal of Honor posthumously in an action Gen. Omar Bradley called the bravest he ever saw in wartime.

No one can finish this book without seeing, starkly, the impact a great man can have on his offspring, for ill as well as for good. TR was deeply faithful to his wife, adored his children, was always there for them. And they sought all their lives to live up to his example and expectations, to bring honor to the family name.

But Franklin Roosevelt's marriage was loveless. By World War I, as assistant secretary of the Navy, he was having an affair with Lucy Mercer. His daughter Anna wrote, "It was impossible to discount the coldness with which Mother treated us when we were young or to be immune to the animosity we observed between the adults in our family."

FDR was never there for his children. As his brood grew, their lives disintegrated. 19 marriages for four sons and a daughter and the incessant exploitation of his presidency for corrupt ends. Even before Eleanor was dead the children were spilling out sordid family tales — for money.

Yet, reading this book (by Peter Collier with David Horowitz) one comes to understand that TR for all his splendid character belonged to an age that was dying, though he was perhaps its finest expression. And FDR for all his character flaws, was perfectly suited to the new age that had begun.

The jealousies, the animosity of the families, as TR's Oyster Bay clan receded and FDR's Hyde Park branch rose, makes a marvelous read. The book is chock full of wonderful anecdotes. At the White House wedding of TR's daughter Alice to Rep. Nicholas Longworth there was no knife to cut the cake. A dashing military aide stepped forward to offer his sword. It was Douglas MacArthur.

Through the lives of both clans, the hatred-wire wit of Alice who lived into the present era is ever there, ridiculing every rival and antagonist of her branch of the Roosevelt family. The vivacious Alice once said of her homely cousin, the first lady about whom stories were being spread of her lesbian friends, that they ought to get the pants off Eleanor and put them on Franklin.

A first-rate popular history, said one reviewer. Another calls "The Roosevelts" the best read of the summer. Through the lives of the Roosevelts one sees the rise and fall of a great family and the alteration of a nation and its people as the United States traversed the night years from San Juan Hill to the Somme, from imperial Spain as enemy to Hitler and Stalin.

Readers' views

NAFTA, GATT

Please explain how the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or GATT, will improve the competitive advantages of U.S. companies employing U.S. workers in the United States.

I already understand the benefits to importers and consumers and to wealthy investors in the U.S. companies that move their operations outside the United States to take advantage of cheap labor and the lack of restrictions.

U.S. companies in the United States must contend with expensive burdens imposed by federal, state and local governments, and, in some cases, union contracts. Just consider the costs of the minimum wage; Social Security; withholding employee taxes; unemployment compensation; affirmative action; screening out illegal immigrants; environmental protection; health and safety regulations; insurance; sexual harassment; federal, state and local taxes; transportation regulations; reporting to government agencies; health care; and the attendant administrative duties.

With NAFTA and GATT, areas outside the United States can be found which have few of the burdensome costs listed above. Assume that each of the above burdens adds \$1 to the cost of an item made in the United States, for a total of \$15. If all the other costs are the same except that the burdens to produce the item outside the United States are only \$5 or \$6, how can the company in the United States compete?

With NAFTA and GATT, the federal government cannot protect U.S. industries and their workers with tariffs — a key loss of sovereignty.

With NAFTA and GATT, tariff income is lost — a further burden on the U.S. economy and a benefit to the foreign-based companies.

With NAFTA and GATT, U.S. workers by the thousands become idle thanks to the one-world-oriented politicians in Washington.

Beware of the government when it sets out to "help" you!

GEORGE W. BAUCERNSCHMIDT, JR.
Severna Park

Right with God

I recently saw a bumper sticker that said "The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth." I realize this was a statement being made by the environmentalists. However, the saying is in direct opposition to what God says in the Bible. Psalm 115:16 says "The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's, but the earth hath he given to the

children of men."

In Psalm 8 we learn that God made man to have dominion over all of the creatures he created. Certainly we should not abuse God's creation, but he gave us all things to enjoy and to use to meet our basic needs. He made both the plant kingdom and the animal kingdom for man's use.

It is God's desire that we should worship him, love people and use the things that he has created. But instead we find many people worship self, ignore God, love things and use people. Is it any wonder our nation is in the terrible condition it is in? We are drowning in information, much of it misinformation, but starved for the true knowledge of God which can only be found in the Bible.

God laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of his fingers. The things God created shall grow old and perish, but the one who created them shall have no end. Seeing that all of God's creation is going to be destroyed, what should we be most concerned about? Our major concern should not be the environment, but our soul's relationship to the creator.

The soul is eternal while everything else is temporary. Is your soul right with God? The world and all that is in it will perish, but if your soul is right with God you will live forever (John 14:1-6).

TOM HAWKINS
Crownsville

Carr's statements

We question the qualifications of Steve Carr to serve our community in the legislature. He says he is an environmental advocate, but recently, at a meeting before the Annapolis Planning and Zoning Commission, he spoke in glowing terms of a building project at the headwaters of Church Creek, which is located in the Fairfax development. As we understand it, the drainage would be into the headwaters of Church Creek.

Furthermore, the entrance into the proposed development ignores the covenants of property owners on Fairfax Road.

We also question whether he was a paid consultant for the developer or was speaking from an environmental conviction.

WILLIAM J. MARTIN SR.
RUTH ANN MARTIN
Annapolis

District 30

The Severn River Association has for years remained an apolitical organization. We endorse no candidates, although many candidates and elected officials join the SRA.

Except for Steve Carr, there is no

present candidate for the House of Delegates in District 30 who has volunteered and actually worked for the SRA.

Regrettably, another District 30 delegate candidate's campaign literature claims considerable effort as an SRA volunteer. To the best of my knowledge that is just not so.

I feel uncomfortable to have to set this matter straight. But, don't you agree, campaign literature should tell the truth?

STODDARD H. KNOWLES
Vice President-Treasurer
Severn River Association
Annapolis

Please vote

This letter is to encourage your readers to tell their family and friends that the primary election is the most important election this year. There will be many opportunities to elect new voices to represent all the citizens in Anne Arundel County.

It is imperative that each of us learn all we can of the many new names that will be on our ballots. To vote wisely, voters need to know what motivates these candidates and what they bring to the table.

Remember, on Tuesday, Sept. 13 — primary day — go to the polls and vote.
SHIRLEY A. PERRY
Annapolis

Fund-raiser

The Committee to Elect Ted Sophocleus for county executive would like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of supporters and friends of Ted Sophocleus for attending his fund-raiser on Aug. 7 at Kurtz Beach. The support extended to Ted was most gratifying. The committee would also like to thank the many volunteers who contributed their time and effort to make the day a most enjoyable and successful one.

SUSAN MARCH
Linthicum

Sophocleus, pensions

Why hasn't your newspaper focused any specific attention on Theodore J. Sophocleus and his wife in the pension rip-off? You are aware that Mr. Sophocleus profited double from his yes vote.

Does your silence say that the voters should trust this man again?

BURTON W. PHELPS
Pasadena

'Gump' draws flak for pro-American message

Drawing social conclusions from summer movies probably is a mistake, but the summer's fare — starting with Forrest Gump — is so encouraging that the risk is worth taking.

A surprising number of this summer's big movies are not just filled with sex and violence and feature stories in which good guys win and bourgeois values — loyalty, honesty, courage — are upheld.

Besides Gump, we have Clear and Present Danger, in which Harrison Ford, a CIA man, no less, battles both American and Latin American bad guys. The Client, in which a woman lawyer played by Susan Sarandon honorably and courageously risks all to save the endangered kid who hires her, and It Could Happen to You, the ultimate virtue-is-rewarded romantic comedy.

But Gump tops them all not only at the box office, but in being taken seriously as social comment.

Most of the people who've written about the movie hated it, variously because it allegedly glorifies stupidity, because the character Forrest Gump succeeds without effort, pain or reflection, or because the America portrayed in the movie is too well nice.

The most furious single critique I've seen was written in The Washington Post by Michael Lerner, editor of the liberal magazine Tikkun, who excoriated the fact that Gump's America has no class divisions, no intractable



Morton Kondracke

history of racism, no genocide of Indians or fundamental alienation.

We have here a modern and compelling civil religion that has served as the spiritual backdrop of much of 20th-century American economic and political rapaciousness. Like Gump, many Americans have gone through the experience of the 20th century without ever comprehending how their good fortune was connected to the oppression of others.

As for The Washington Post's Mr. Lerner, Gump, the David Scott of movie heroes, stands for nothing.

For those whose spent the summer in outer space, here's a fast summary of Gump. The hero played brilliantly by Tom Hanks is the son of a poor, one-eyed single mother in Alabama who, in various ways, may be the dumbest of men, but he repeats like mantras

Forrest is not bright, but he can run. He becomes a football All-American. Then he goes to Vietnam where he wins a Congressional Medal of Honor. By sheer luck, he and the captain he saved in Nam get rich in the shrimp business. He marries a girl he has known since childhood after she's wasted her youth as a flower child and druggie.

Along the way, Gump stumbles into many of the biggest events in American history — the racial integration of the University of Alabama, the Watergate burglary, pingpong diplomacy in China and White House ceremonies with Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon.

Now it's true that Gump is a sort of idiot savant who does not really work his way into much of the good fortune that occurs to him.

And yet he is a decent person. Though a poor Alabama boy in the 1950s, he is without racial prejudice. In Vietnam, when the bombs burst around him, he does not run to save himself, but returns to danger again and again to save his mates. He protects his girl, Jenny, when a male chauvinist anti-war leader hits her, and he marries her when she's dying of AIDS.

He isn't a smart man, he says, but I sense that he is. He does it in many ways, including his willingness to do down his life for his fellow man.

Besides upholding personal virtues, it's

main characters, the movie itself conveys values and portrays history in a way one usually doesn't expect of Hollywood.

The Vietnam conflict is not portrayed either as one long imperialistic U.S. war crime, but as a bloody struggle, neither moral nor immoral, in which Americans are shown as brave fighters capable of great self-sacrifice.

Meantime, the anti-war movement is denied the moral high ground usually accorded by the mass media, but is portrayed as capable of great cynicism. The 1960s-1970s counterculture comes off as foul and mean.

Also, getting rich is OK. Love and loyalty produce good results. And the great American middle class survives war, assassinations, tumult and scandal, continuing in its basic sturdy course.

Michael Lerner is right about this: The America portrayed in Forrest Gump does not wallow in what's worse about America. It does encourage Americans to think that in spite of our problems, we are a decent and meaningful country.

It would be great if a movie like Forrest Gump were not only a popular hit, but could win an Oscar as Best Picture. Don't be too tough in Hollywood, thinking well of America is politically incorrect. The winner probably will be something depressing like Oliver Stone's transparent Natural Born Killers.