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Our say Chesapeake Bay National Park is good idea

COUNTY EXECUTIVE O. James Lighthizer has been fiddling around with an idea that appeals to us.

The idea is for a Chesapeake Bay National Park to be formed out of many of the bits and pieces of county, state and federal land along the bay in all the states that share the bay — principally Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Under the Lighthizer administration, Anne Arundel County, with help from federal and state sources, has picked up substantial pieces of bayfront land, including Beverly-Triton Beach in Mayo and a scenic piece of waterfront land on the South River.

When one adds up the wildlife refuges, the Smithsonian land, the land owned by the Army, Navy and Air Force, the various state parks, and then include as well the land granted to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other conservation groups, one can total up a lot of territory. And even that does not include places such as the St. Michaels Maritime Museum, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, and Ft. McHenry or the Yorktown battlefield (which are already federal property).

The point is that a Chesapeake Bay National Park is no more far-fetched than the Cape Cod National Seashore, or Acadia National Park in Maine, or the Smoky Mountains National Park along the Blue Ridge.

All of these and other national parks are not necessarily completely contiguous. All provide for multiple uses; that is, they have hotels, camp sites, wilderness areas, wildlife protection, hiking trails and roads. They also provide for continued private uses within and alongside of park property.

We think a Chesapeake Bay National Park is an excellent idea. It would bring access and use of the bay under one of the best federal agencies in the country, the National Park Service. Most readers know that we have been critical of the management of the Maryland Marine Police for being too focused on police work and insufficiently focused on what might be called a park ranger orientation.

No one — except maybe Mayor William Donald Schaefer if he becomes governor — is likely to reshape the attitude of the state bureaucracy. But maybe the way around that is to bring in the National Park Service to do what it already knows how to do.

In any event, we can see a day when a Chesapeake Bay National Park stretching from the Susquehanna to Yorktown is a viable entity. We suspect a good many citizens with large pieces of waterfront land might be willing to make bequests to a national park, which they would never do for a state or local government.

Now, we don't have any fixed ideas on how to do this. It would be a whole of an exit present for Sen. Mathias. On the other hand, it would probably take years to implement.

The purpose of this editorial is to see whether any of the candidates for senator or governor might pick up this idea and run with it. We will be happy — and so will Lighthizer — to give the credit to anyone who can make something happen.

Any thoughts out there? Any citizens have comments? Any politicians want publicity? This is a trial balloon.

A defenseless gunslinger in Paris

PARIS — You would think that after all the United States has done for Europe, the least the Europeans could do is make it easy for an American to buy a gun. But such is not the case and, in spite of their great claims to be civilized, the Europeans are still living in the dark ages when it comes to making firearms available to the public.

I discovered this accidentally when I was overcharged by a waiter in a Left Bank cafe. He claimed that it was an accident, but I knew he did it on purpose.

I told my wife I was getting sick and tired of being pushed around, and the only thing to do was buy a gun and carry it with me at all times. Then if someone tried to overcharge me, I'd let him have it.

"Isn't that a bit strong?" my wife asked. "Can you think of a better reason for using a gun than when you get the business from a surly waiter?"

"The next day I went to a gun store near the Paris Opera and told them I wanted a revolver. 'What do you want it for?' the dealer asked.

"I am an American citizen," I said, "and according to our Constitution, I am allowed to bear arms, any place, any time, anywhere. Now be a good man and give me a gun."

"We cannot sell a gun just like that, Monsieur," the dealer said. "We have regulations in France concerning guns."

"Regulations?" I said incredulously. "What on earth for?"

"The French government does not want



Art Buchwald

5,000 people killed by firearms alone?"

"Alas," said the dealer sadly. "We only had 12. The rules here are too strict."

"Don't you have a National Rifle Association?"

"We have something like it, but Parliament tells them what they can or cannot do."

"In my country," I boasted, "the National Rifle Association tells Congress what it can or cannot do."

"Quelle chance," the dealer said. "Please, sir, what can I do for you?"

"I want a gun to shoot surly cafe waiters."

"Tres bien, fill out these papers. Then go to your local police station with all your identification, and explain to them why you want a gun."

"In my country," I boasted, "the National Rifle Association tells

ONE SMALL STEP FOR A MAN,
ONE GIANT LEAP BACKWARD FOR MANKIND.



Readers' views

Breathing easier

ly ambitious life of Brad Davidson?

I prefer the legitimate effort and responsible personal commitment of Maureen Lamb, who has consistently demonstrated dependability and sincere interest in her constituents and the county as a whole.

STEPHAN W. SPELL
Annapolis

Baker's concern

Sir:

(The following letter was written to County Councilwoman Carole Baker.)

The Cape St. Claire Elementary School PTA extends to you our gratitude for making a reality our request to county government for playground funds. We are aware that your placing of our request on your "dead list" to County Executive James Lighthizer and your discussion of our needs with the County Council led to the approval of \$10,000 for our playground/recreational project.

Rarely is a community's call for help and an elected official's prompt response so clearly visible as in this instance. Carole, you are undoubtedly one elected official with a deep concern for the needs of your constituents. Just as important, you have the ability to move that complex machinery of government to meet those needs. Those of us in this district are most fortunate to have you on the County Council.

SHARON S. BIONDI,
President
Cape St. Claire PTA

Jail complainers

Sir:

Regarding air conditioning at the county Detention Center: I don't recall having air conditioning in school at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Bragg, Ga., or on the troop ship to Japan.

I don't recall any GIs complaining about being too hot. Why do you waste your reporters' time on such immature juvenile matters?

PHILIP P. GERRIOR SR.
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AIDS drug in demand

It buys time, not cure

In a desperate race against time, doctors and scientists are trying to find a cure for AIDS, the virus-borne disease that destroys its victims' immune systems with fatal results. So far, one of the brightest hopes for AIDS patients is an experimental drug that has — temporarily at least — held the crippling virus at bay in limited tests.

The drug is azidothymidine, or AZT. It is manufactured by Burroughs Wellcome Co. at Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. "AZT is an experimental drug first identified as possibly being effective in the treatment of AIDS in the spring of last year," explained Tom Kennedy, a vice president of Burroughs Wellcome.

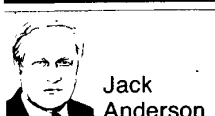
Following this tentative discovery, the first scientific testing began last fall on 19 patients at several different institutions, including the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Fifteen of the patients given AZT showed increases in the number of cells that are part of the human body's natural immune system.

Word of that success, though hardly a cure, spread throughout the medical community with predictable results: Demand for the drug became enormous.

"Thousands of people are asking for the drug," Kennedy told us. "It's a whole, big, complex issue of attempting to determine whether or not these things work, against a desire to get the drugs, period."

The company has received hundreds of calls from AIDS patients and their families. Some fatally stricken patients have even walked into the company headquarters building lobby to beg for the drug. "It's a very difficult, emotional issue with all of us in the short right now because it is a life-and-death matter," Kennedy said.

The latest statistics show that 10,475 men, women and children are now dying of AIDS. From all these thousands, just 28 have had the privilege of being AZT guinea pigs at the National Institutes of Health. One of these, as we reported, was the recently deceased Roy Cohn, the New York celebrity attorney who cut his professional teeth on suspected subversives in the 1950s as chief red-hunter for the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis.



Jack Anderson

A spokesman for the government hospital vehemently denied that anyone could use political connections to get admitted to the AZT program. She explained that the extremely selective process requires potential patients to fit Burroughs' exacting "protocol" or criteria for the clinical testing. Applicants are usually referred by physicians across the country, and are subject to review by at least one professional committee.

An NIH nurse who has dealt with AIDS patients told us the new drug has demonstrated an ability to "kick up the immune system enough . . . so they don't get pneumocystis (pneumonia), which is the biggest killer."

One of Cohn's doctors, Robert Yarchoan, has emphasized that "although patients receiving azidothymidine showed some improvements, they still have AIDS." He added: "We do not know if the drug will be useful for patients in the long run. We have no evidence that AZT is a cure for AIDS."

Footnote: Because the drug testing program will be expanded by the end of the year, AIDS patients interested in treatment may have their physicians contact the Medical Department of Burroughs Wellcome at 919-248-3000.

UNDER THE DOME: Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is more like Caspar the Unfriendly Ghost to some members of Congress. A study made for Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., showed that in the 20-year period ending in 1984, defense secretaries averaged 70 hours of testimony before Congress. Weinberger's average is 26 hours. The Pentagon official who was seen most often on Capitol Hill last year was former assistant secretary Lawrence Korb — who recently was fired from his job with a defense contractor after Navy officials complained about his heretical views on the Pentagon budget.

Back to the draft?

Smarts needed in military

Stick with the following few sentences for just a moment, if you will, because they provide a starting point for discussion.

"To prevent damage to the helix structure, if the helix interception becomes excessive, the intercept protection circuitry must react and reduce the intercept current to an acceptable level within a few microseconds. This is done by interrupting the TWT beam with the control anode." The anode modulator must then switch the anode from ground to cathode potential . . .

That passage comes from an instruction manual for an electronic warfare radar jammer. Arthur Hadley quotes it in his stunning new book, "The Straw Giant," in making a case in favor of universal military training.

Let's think about this. The arguments against a peacetime draft are to this effect: To compel an 18-year-old man or woman to serve for some specified time in the armed forces is a gross intrusion by government upon the life of a free citizen. No matter how sincere an effort might be made to conduct a "fair" draft, there always would be unjust exceptions. Besides, the argument goes, the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines are getting along just fine with volunteers.

This is the other side: If free citizens are to remain free citizens, they should recognize some obligation to defend their freedom. If all 18-year-olds were required to serve for two or three years, the intrusion upon their lives would fall equally upon everyone. West Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands — and perhaps most to the point, the Soviet Union — all rely upon compulsory military service. Many of their recruits can understand control anodes and intercept circuitry. Though educational levels have improved among our own volunteers, one-fifth of the army remains in category IV, not much beyond functional illiteracy.

The nature of weaponry has changed more radically in the past 50 years than at any time in the history of warfare. Once upon a time it was enough to master the club, the spear, the sword, the longbow. Later we trained soldiers in the rifle and the cannon. As recently as 1940, Midwestern college students did their reserve training at Fort Riley, Kans. in the horse-drawn field artillery. The cadets hauled French 75mm piecemeal up a hill and there used visual range finders to bracket their target. The exercise took 12 hours; and then the horses had to be groomed and fed.

Those were days of innocence. Today's sailors, airmen and soldiers deal not in hours but in microseconds. They do not pick targets in yards but in miles — in the case of ballistic missiles, in thousands of miles. Navy captains no longer fight their ships from the bridge, but from a darkened war room down below. Their weapons are marvels of



James Kilpatrick

are to work in a crunch.

This further argument is advanced: The present all-volunteer force is expensive in all kinds of ways. The armed services pay hefty bonuses on enlistment and re-enlistment. Many recruits must be intensively schooled, first in basic skills of reading and computation, then in the mastery of the intricate weapons. Today's jet fighters don't run on rubber bands. Skilled mechanics must be carefully trained, and this takes time. The ratio of students to instructors, Hadley reports, averages a costly 1.5 to 1.

Intangible considerations affect the debate. The all-volunteer system tends to draw largely from lower income groups. The middle class, says Hadley, is "conspicuously absent." So are the sons and daughters of the rich. A moral question will not go away: "Should a great nation lay so much of the burden of defending itself upon the poor and the outcast?"

For my own part, I am not quite so ready to opt for universal compulsory military service. Other measures could well be taken first. Hadley himself suggests a far greater use of women in the armed forces. He urges colleges and universities to offer majors in arms just as they offer majors in economics. In some fashion it must be made socially acceptable for young men and young women to undertake a career in the uniform of their country. But if half-measures fail, a draft may yet be required. Someone has to run the radar jammers, and the job can't well be left to some kid who can't even read the manual.



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everyone in the country to have a gun There is too much chance of accidents.
"That doesn't bother us in the United States," I said, with a certain amount of pride. "Do you know last year we had over

Congress what it can or cannot do."

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electronic wizardry Proponents of universal military service argue persuasively that we must have a constant stream of educated — or at least educable — recruits if these weapons

FRIENDS BY SHOWING HIS TITANIC PICTURES ALL 57,000 OF THEM!