

"A BIG BIT" A Political Observation — Westside's Style

by Lee Walker

Some are wondering how in the HECK did *Chic Hecht* get the nod from the voters to step into U.S. Senator Howard Cannon's seat. I say he deserved it as much as any other. He has the State at heart, he worked for it (campaigning) and if you knew him, you would find him to be an honorable and caring person.

Harry Reid to U.S. congress (South) to no surprise, will do what he has always done and that is taking care of business (unselfishly).

U.S. Congress (North) *Barbara Vucanovich* fooled some of you — when she "won over" *Mary Gojack*. But, if you take notice — *Barbara* also campaigned more than *Mary*. I guess the voters felt that *Gojack* took them for granted.

Richard Bryan elected Governor! No shock there. He, like *Bob List*, will be a good governor, but will have a different constituency.

Lt. Governor's slot was won months ago by *Bob Cahsell*. He out-classed all his opponents and of course the voters realized it by overwhelmingly electing him.

Will *William Swackhamer* please stand up again! Secretary of State *Swackhamer* won in spite of the belaboring commercials of *Belie Williams*.

Brian McKay might have fooled 45% of you . . . but he did not fool me. Hats off to our new Attorney General. *Mahlon*, better luck and stay in the political arena.

State Controller-elect, *Darrel Daines* hogged the voters and captured his seat resoundingly.

Mike Malone, Assembly District No. 4 did it again. Maybe his district felt a need to keep a nice policeman in office for dual protection (smile).

Gene Collin's Assembly District No. 6 seat was won in the primary — not in the general election. There are some who feel that *Willie Neal* is a nice guy, but must learn to campaign, which is the key to being electable.

Assemblyman *Lonie Chaney* won again. *Lonie*, keep up the good job. Speaking of jobs, Assemblyman *Chaney* is bringing many jobs into the community. He keeps on keeping his promise(s).

Bob Price, you better get yourself together if you plan on a political future in Assembly District No. 17.

Assembly District No. 18 had a good choice in the offering of *Patricia Jarman* as their possible assemblyperson. *Pat*, keep at it. We are very proud of your showing in the race.

County Commissioner *Thalia Dondero* got the OK to continue her caring services to the whole of Clark County as she has done unbiasedly in the past. We have the faith that *Karen Hayes*, County Commissioner-elect will do the same.

I wonder if the community would accept a petition offering the County Clerk office to *Loretta Bowman* permanently. Of course, the same to *Joan Swift* as County Recorder.

Dick Ronzone was fooled by someone to enter the race for County Treasurer. *Keith Latham* fooled nearly half of the voters in Clark County when he was elected County Treasurer.

Jared Shafer was re-elected to the office of Public Administrator for the good he is doing.

Sheriff-elect, *John Moran* served political (poetic) justice to the man who ousted him as under-sheriff a few years ago by beating him harshly at the polls, which proves one should be very careful of the bridge he or she burns.

District Attorney *Bob Miller* and North Las Vegas Constable *Lou Tabat* ran unopposed. A candidates dream, no doubt.

Next week I will attempt to bring you the facts on Black voters' strategy, if any.

Editorial

Now that the elections are over, and we are all back down to earth, it is time for us to reflect on what was done on November 2.

On the national level, the United States Senate will still be controlled by Republicans, while the House of Representatives will be controlled by Democrats. Whether this means that there was a mandate from the people that we wanted the president to "stay the course" is anybody's guess at this time. There was a substantial gain for the Democrats in the House of Representatives, and a small gain for the Republicans in the Senate.

Nevada now has two representatives in Congress. One of these is a Republican and the other is a Democrat. The division may or may not be in the best interest of Nevada.

There was a net gain for the Democrats among the governorships voted on during this off-year election.

On the state level, Nevada's chose a Democratic governor and lieutenant governor, and the Assembly remains relatively the same, with the Democrats controlling both houses, and with the Republicans making slight gains in both houses.

The unexpected happened, as is usual, in Nevada. The Attorney General, the State Treasurer, and the State Controller will be Republicans. This may propose a problems for the otherwise Democratic administration. A wait and see attitude is being proposed by political observers at this time.

Our new Speaker of the House, Assemblyman *John Vergiels*, is a moderate who has had experience as the House Majority Leader. Of course, the Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate. This working team should make for quick movement of bills through both houses.

No one was more surprised than Senator *Howard Cannon* and his campaign staff that he would lose to Senator-elect *Chic Hecht*.

Unemployment, taxes, education, crime, tourism, and industry are all very viable issues that must be dealt with during the upcoming legislative session. Leaders of both houses have promised that the issues will be dealt with during the upcoming legislative session. Leaders of both houses have promised that the issues will be dealt with in a business-like manner. We shall be watching closely.

GENERAL FACTS ON SMOKING AND HEALTH

Seventy percent of the population believes that smoking should be restricted to fewer places. More than half of all smokers agree to this as well.

A leading life insurance company report shows that the average life expectancy for a 32-year-old man who did not smoke cigarettes was 79 years, compared with 72 years for a 32-year-old smoker.

Blacks are lighter smokers than whites. Eighty-two percent of black smokers go through a pack or less a day, compared to 66% of whites. Thirty-four percent of white smokers though, consume more than one pack of cigarettes per day, compared to 18% of all black smokers.

of others. Also ask others who are nearby whether it is agreeable for you to smoke. To ever offer anything less than this basic gesture of respect for others may reasonably be seen as rude.

3. *Filter the Air!* Smoke-filled air is neither necessary for nor conducive to smoking enjoyment. Indeed, it curtails the rewards of smoking. A simple and economic electronic air filter might be plugged in whenever we have chosen to smoke. Short of this, we may turn on an exhaust fan or burn a candle. We should always clean the

4. *Be A Winner!* Thoughtful people who are always considerate of and winsome toward others are always winners.

This age-old rule or attitude toward others—which has its basis in the Scriptures—will help smokers to win and secure their right to smoke. But perhaps of far greater and more enduring importance, it will make that very special breed among us who choose to smoke into peerless and persistent winners in a host of other ways as well.

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TOWARD EMPOWERMENT

Rights And Responsibilities Of Those Who Smoke

Among the growing numbers of "social rejects"—or of the nation's and the "world's oppressed people"—are unhappily and tragically the special breed of "we-do-our-own-thing" people who prefer either regularly or occasionally to smoke.

Smoking, in our American culture especially, has been seen by many people through the years as a kind of "ancient and honorable art." It has been practiced by the daring and by the avant garde among us for centuries now. Smoking has been cultivated by some among us as a sign of sophistication and of good taste. It has been pictured as the "reward of achievement" and as an appropriate respite from the wear (or wearisomeness) of an all-too-impersonal and far-too stress-filled world.

Then, all of a sudden—thanks to what have been called by some the "joy killers" of an environmentalist bent, in cooperation with the "consumerists" and a select group of government bureaucrats—we are told as a nation that the "fine and famous art" and the "vener-

able pursuit" of smoking is, of all things, "an anti-social act!"

Despite no less than heroic efforts on the part of the nation's presently beleaguered tobacco industry, federal regulations have taken effect requiring signs on tobacco goods warning that the Surgeon General of the United States notes that smoking may be hazardous to your health.

The American public, however, represents a most peculiar breed. After years of dire warnings and conjectures regarding the potential hazards to one's health from smoking, the number of smokers nationwide remains relatively unchanged. What seems to emerge clearly is the feeling—and possibly the fact—that in our perilously stress-filled world, smoking may play in some ways an unparalleled and priceless life-enhancing role.

Smoking unmistakably has a uniquely calmative (and perhaps also a mental health preserving) effect upon many or most of its devotees who are its arch-defenders. The wholly rational argument or plea of

this tremendously courageous and seemingly intractable group comes at us in a double-barrelled fashion. It suggests that we should all have a free choice as to the quality of our own lives, as—for example—the extent to which the remainder of our days will be spent either in a state of stress or in a condition of inner quiet.

The smokers have apparently made their own heroic choice. They have decided that life's qualities of quietness and peace (which they seem to derive from smoking) may be better than some conjecturally extended life span which is diminished daily by unrelieved anxiety and by unbridled stress.

Few there are among us who can effectively counter an argument like that! In a democratic and pluralistic world, all must be as free as possible to choose the patterns of our lives, at least to the extent that our choices do not infringe upon the capacity of others to choose freely for their own lives. It is at this crucial point that those who would defend to the very end their right to smoke must take on a crucial res-

ponsibility which they have not thus far assumed.

If smokers want to enjoy their fullest freedom, then they must take the initiative in preserving or securing the fullest possible freedom for those who do not smoke. The alternative is to remain—as smokers have been of late—the subject of a public assault themselves.

What is it, then, that those among us who would enjoy their smoking in the fullest or most unfettered ways must do? Here are several suggestions as to how they might begin.

1. *Stake Out a Claim!* Choose one basic place to smoke—your own "special sanctuary" at home and at work—where you may smoke at your own pace and to your heart's content, without ever possibly interfering in the slightest degree with the rights of others.

2. *Be Courteous!* According to well-publicized government reports—whether these reports are accurate or not—whenever we smoke, we may be greatly inconveniencing and possibly doing irreparable injury to the health