

# The Foothills View

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## On Pastries, Police And Local Politics

In last week's View we called for letters to the editor, and in these seven days we've heard from townspeople talking about sausage swirls, rezoning, and police protection. Together these letters are a cross-section of daily life, of matters great and small, among the people of Boiling Springs. We reprint them below.

Dear Sir,

I am a new resident of Boiling Springs. About 10 o'clock last Wednesday night (Nov. 18) I had occasion to call the police. Luckily I wasn't calling to report an assault or rape- but I could have been.

I let the phone ring several times, becoming more impatient and exasperated with each ring. I finally hung up after fifty times. Not living far from the police station, I decided to drive down. You can imagine my surprise and frustration to find the station deserted and locked!

Since that time I have talked to several long-time residents and found that after normal business hours, you call the sheriffs department, not the Boiling Springs Police. But I am not especially angry with the police for I hear that they are pitifully understaffed. The fault seems to lie with the town council.

Since it is obvious that the town council does not want to continue in the police business, maybe they can sell their cars and equipment to the folks that film "The Dukes Of Hazard", or perhaps Earl Owensby would be interested. Not having a police force would cut down immensely on paperwork, and save the taxpayers some money.

More realistically, perhaps someone could be hired to answer the phone at night, or at least invest in callforwarding.

The citizens of Boiling Springs deserve access to adequate police protection 24 hours a day, not just from 9 to 5.

David Hamrick

I have lived in Boiling Springs for sixteen years, and in that time I have come to appreciate the virtues of small-town living. Boiling Springs has what makes so many other small, southern towns havens from the ravages of the modern world, specifically a small, stable, close-knit population; an unhurried pace; scenic, uncluttered land and easily recognizable, readily accepted town characters.

Amidst the insensitivity and absurdity of national, state, and local politics and the bleakness and inhumanity of our technological society, our town remains a reassuring and reaffirming refuge. Unfortunately, Boiling Springs faces a crucial decision: Should the town rush into industrial expansion with its promise of a few menial jobs, overcrowding in housing and schools, a frenzied lifestyle and an influx of northerners and others who do not value our traditions? I say no.

This prostitution, in which a few greedy people sell a small town on its virtues, must not be allowed to happen to Boiling Springs. The shift from an agrarian and small-business economy to even a light-industrial one can only result in the well-known plague of cheap apartments, gaudy fast-food chains, obtrusive buildings, and spoiled landscapes.

More important, however, our town will lose its sense of community. The town's once stable neighborhoods, which had been anchored by longtime residents, will become mere stopovers for a transient, unstable population. We will become strangers within our own neighborhoods.

Boiling Springs has had a serene existence even in the turmoil of recent times, but such serenity is now endangered. Allow the greedy and ambitious among us to have their way, and our town will slowly suffer physical and spiritual decay. Do not allow the prophets of progress to obfuscate their intentions for they intend to steal the soul of our town.

Tom Rash

Dear Editor,

I'm glad to be a resident of Boiling Springs, a clean, quiet, little town. However, it disturbs me that industry is coming to spoil it all. Also, trailer parks and apartment buildings don't make the land value or aesthetic values increase either. I feel Boiling

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## Three From Press To Speak To Town



Jerry Bledsoe, columnist and author, will speak in Boiling Springs on Nov. 30.

Author and columnist Jerry Bledsoe will be among three journalists speaking to townspeople and students at Gardner-Webb College the week of Nov. 23-30.

Preceding Bledsoe on campus will be journalists Eugene Warner and Edward Russell, who will talk Nov. 25. Warner, an officer in the OSS during World War II, directed public relations for TWA Airlines and retired as a senior vice-president of McGraw-Hill in 1960. Russell formerly was managing editor of the London Express.

Bledsoe will speak Nov. 30. A columnist for the Greensboro Daily News, he also is known as a humorist and teller of tall tales.

"Bledsoe keeps up a running commentary," said a friend, "reminiscent of a circular saw cutting through a pine knot."

Bledsoe, 40, has twice won the Ernie Pyle Memorial Award for distinguished journalistic writing, once in 1968 and again in 1970. He is the author of three books: **Just Folks**, published in 1980; **You Can't Live on Radishes**, in 1976; and in 1975 **The World's No. 1 Flat-Out All Time Great Stockcar Racing Book**.

All talks are free to the public and will be held at 2 p.m. in room 104, Church Annex Building, Gardner-Webb College campus.

Editor's note: The View is published a day early this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Board Elects New Officers

A new chairman and a new academic officer were named by the Gardner-Webb board of trustees at their Nov. 20 meeting.

Bernard H. Parker, a native of Elizabeth City and current resident of Raleigh, was elected chairman of the board. Named as Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs was Dr. John Drayer, associate professor of religion at the college.

Parker, vice-president and regional manager of Nationwide Insurance's largest regional operation, serves on the NC Rate Bureau Governing Committee, NC Reinsurance Facility Board of Directors as chairman, NC Insurance News Service Board of Directors, NC Insurance Education Foundation, Inc., executive committee, Life Enrichment Counseling board, and the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce.

He is also a member of the National Association of Life Underwriters, N.C. Citizens Association, N.C. Museum of History Association, Inc., and YMCA.

He serves as deacon, adult Sunday School teacher, a member of the Bold Missions Committee at First Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Parker and his wife, Rose, have three children, Bob, Cindy and Brenda.

Drayer has been a member of the Gardner-Webb faculty since 1973. He previously has served as an instructor in Field Education at the Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Kentucky. In addition he has served pastorates in Tennessee, Indiana and Florida, as well as serving interim pastorates.

Drayer is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Associate of Baptist Professors of Religion. He has served as President of the Boiling Springs Rotary Club and Chairman of the Shelby Human Relations Council.

As Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Drayer will be responsible for the development of educational policies, the administration of the academic program, the coordination and implementation of the curriculum and instructional program.

Drayer holds the BA degree from Belmont College, Nashville, Tennessee, the BD, Th.M., and Ph.D. degrees from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

He and his wife, Evelyn Smith Drayer, a teacher at James Love School, are the parents of two children, Deborah, a Gardner-Webb graduate and Dan, a student at Shelby Junior High School.

Other officers elected were chairman, Executive Committee, and Vice President of the Board, Hobart Smith, Charlotte; Secretary, Joe Mauney, Shelby; and Treasurer of the corporation, Lloyd Bost, Shelby.