

# GAIL WINDS

by: Gail L. Roberson

One article I wrote several years ago, on speculation, was finally accepted for publication three years later... on its 17th submission. As far as I'm concerned, stopping at third base added no more to my score than striking out. I was determined I'd make it to home plate, no matter how high the postage bill. Sometimes, we don't do what we really want to in life because we fear failure. Fear is the most common and the most subtle of all human diseases. We're afraid of the dark, of the unknown, of old age, of poor health, and of change. We fear the past, and we fear the future. Not only are we afraid to fail, but that it appears we've failed... to others. In fact, some people are so afraid to die that they never begin to live. Quite simply, we fear failure, so we don't even try. And, if we do try, and fail, we give it up altogether and never try again.

If Margaret Mitchell had quit so easily, her great novel, "Gone With The Wind," would have died immediately. Instead, it finally caught a publisher's eye... on its 36th submission.

People who are public examples of success usually deserve every bit of glory they receive. They have earned it the hard way, through many failures, until they finally got it right. They didn't give up. They lost some and won some. But they didn't quit.

If you get down and out about your failures, if the fear of failing still haunts you, just remember to dig your heels in and follow such examples as R.H. Macy. Everybody knows about the Macy stores, but few of his customers realize that R.H. Macy failed seven times before his first store ever caught on in New York. The great English novelist, John Creasy, got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times, but he also hit 714 home runs. Don't worry about your failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.

There was a little boy who won a beautiful trophy for swimming. When he came home with his gleaming statuette, his mother looked at it with envious eyes. "I never won a trophy," she said to him. "Were you on any teams, Mom?" the boy asked. "No," she admitted. "Well, that's why you didn't win a trophy," her son replied.

It's nice to win now and then, but the trophies are much sweeter when we've also tasted defeat. Charles Swindoll once said, "We are all faced with magnificent opportunities, brilliantly disguised as impossible situations." I often repeat that to myself, especially when the odds are stacked against me. And then I just dive on in anyhow. I have found that if you want to succeed, do something. If you want to fail, do nothing. As far as I'm concerned, the only thing worse than a quitter is somebody who's afraid to begin.

There will be many who will love to see you fail. They'll tell you that success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure. They'll tell you that. They'll criticize and make fun, and maybe even laugh. You just fill your chest with good, strong air, set your eyes on your goal, and ignore the failures. It's the best apple trees who have the most clubs thrown at them.

Your point of view will determine it all. When Goliath came up against the Israelites, the soldiers all thought, "He's so big we can never kill him." But when David took one look at that same giant, he thought, "He's so big I can't miss."

Somebody once said that because a fellow has failed once or twice, or a dozen times, you don't want to set him down as a failure till he's dead or loses his courage... and that's the same thing.

Nothing ventured... nothing gained. That's my belief. So, look not back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around you in awareness. And stop fearing failure. So you can finally succeed.

## Tulip Festival April 6-9

A performance by members of the Grand Ole Opry and a band competition will highlight the 1989 Tulip Festival scheduled for April 6-9.

The festival is sponsored by the Downtown Washington Association and the Beaufort County Arts Council.



From April 5 through 9 a variety of events will be held along Washington's waterfront celebrating the county's Dutch heritage, according to Betty Robertson, festival chairman.

Mrs. Robertson said this year's festival will be dedicated to Mrs. Virginia Gerard, L.B. "Togo" Wynn and Olive Rumley.

The Elizabeth II, a replica of the ship that brought the first English colonists to the new world, will arrive for the festival on Wednesday, April 5.

Thursday's schedule will begin with all-day, free tours of the ship.

A Tulip Museum featuring memorabilia from previous Tulip Festivals will open at the Washington Civic Center beginning Thursday, Mrs. Robertson said.

Thursday's events will end with three pageants that are part of this year's festival, Mrs. Robertson said. A Little Miss Tulip Princess pageant for girls 3 to 7 years old, a Junior Miss Tulip Queen, for girls 8 to 12 and Miss Tulip Queen, for girls 13 to 18 will be held at the Washington Civic Center at 7 p.m.

Tours of the Elizabeth II as well as the Tulip Museum will continue Friday, April 8. And food and craft booths will be open along Stewart Parkway all day, Mrs. Robertson said.

Friday night will feature two dances — a Tulip Ball at the

Washington Civic Center and a Teen Tulip Ball at the National Guard Armory.

Saturday, April 9, Elizabeth II tours, the Tulip Museum and food and craft booths will continue all day.

A parade, featuring bands and band boosters from across the state, will begin on Main Street at 9:30 a.m. followed by a statewide band competition at 11 a.m., Mrs. Robertson said.

About 60 bands have been invited to compete and march in the parade, she said.

A bicycle race will begin at 10:30 a.m.

A variety of events including carriage rides, dance recitals and performances by area choirs and bands will be held throughout the day, Mrs. Robertson said.

"A Night at the Opry" featuring George Hamilton IV and other members of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry will be held Sunday, April 9, at 3 p.m. at Washington High School.

Heading this year's Tulip Festival Committee with Mrs. Robertson are Judy Meier, Jennifer Skvrala and Mike Sloan.

### Navy's Blue Angels Planning To Fly At Cherry Point

The United States Navy Blue Angels Demonstration Team will perform at the Marine Corps Air Station Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23.

The air show will be part of a Havelock-Cherry Point festival, Celebrity Sounds of Freedom '89.

Scheduled events include a golf tournament Saturday morning. The air show will begin that afternoon.

A country music concert sponsored by the Havelock Chamber of Commerce will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Havelock High School Football Stadium.

## Our Opinion

### Americans Are Too Smart To Fall For Such Gossip

Do Americans really believe that the defeat of former United States Senator John Tower as Secretary of Defense was a non-partisan action?

Certainly, Americans are smarter than politicians give them credit for being, and when any of us looks at the vote by which he was defeated, we realize and see immediately just how big a part politics played in the story.

The Tower defeat was by a vote of 53-47. Of the 53 voting against Mr. Tower, 52 are Democrats and one Republican, Senator Nancy Kassenbaum, voted with the Democrats.

Of the 47 senators who voted to confirm the nomination of Mr. Tower, 44 are Republicans and three are Democrats.

So the party line played a tremendous part, and the vote is a matter of record now, and when Democrats stand on one side and Republicans stand on the other side, we see party loyalties and political ties painting the real story.

The fight was not really against Mr. Tower, the man. While some serious charges have been brought against him, and while thinking Americans surely have doubts about his abilities to perform capably in the job for which he was nominated, the feeling seems to persist that he was turned back on charges which still remain unproved.

Yet, it seems clear that so many charges of excessive use of alcohol played a big part. After all the defense secretary is next to the president when it comes to hands on the nuclear button. Then he left his Senate seat, was named the chief arms negotiator, left that job to become a defense consultant among the very people with whom he would have to deal as defense secretary. And the reports indicate that he was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars as consultant.

The third charge, that of "womanizing" is a vicious one, but surely it must have impressed a lot of people.

Now we get to the real point. We cannot believe the Democratic senators wanted to hit President George Bush with a stinging defeat. Yet President Bush did name a second-rater, Dan Quayle, as his vice presidential running mate, and there seemed to be many others better qualified. In picking his Texas friend, Mr. Tower, surely the president knew that several charges would be made.

The power man behind the scene is Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia. Yet, it is hard to believe that Senator Nunn was playing politics because in the U.S. Congress today, he knows more than any other elected official about the defense ins and outs. But we suspect Mr. Nunn will have to pay a price for this defeat. He is being blamed as the man who called the signal.

As we see it, this defeat came about when Mr. Tower's personal life became a direct factor, but the real factor narrows down to a struggle between the legislative and executive branches of government. Democrats wanted to show the president and the country just where power lies. Mr. Tower was the pawn in the game, and his several weaknesses were used to play this game of politics. The legislative branch won this battle.

Whether we judge Mr. Tower to be a crucified victim or not remains to be seen. He has been hurt, and we cannot minimize that fact.

But again, all in all, politics played a big part in the political combat which took place.

### Governor's Tax Proposal Has Some Rough Wrinkles

Trying to analyze the depth and the effects to be faced in Governor Jim Martin's proposal to increase the state sales tax by one cent is a job too complicated for country newspaper editors.

First of all, in addition to proposing a one cent increase, the governor also proposes removal of the state sales tax on foods and prescription medicines. Now a bit of pandemonium could reign at a super market if the plan should be accepted as it is presented.

That would mean that the local sales taxes for counties and municipalities would still be in effect, thereby meaning a six percent sales tax on non-foods and a two cent sales tax on foods and medicines. Such a picture could well mean confusion and many uncertainties at the cash registers.

However, let us look at just what the extra money might do. The governor says the additional one cent in sales tax would generate a total of \$510 million in fiscal year 1989-1990.

It is estimated that if teachers and state employees are given a six percent raise in salary next year and a five percent raise in the next fiscal year of 1990-1991, the initial money need would be \$307.9 million, thus leaving a sort of surplus there of \$182.1 million. Now if the state sales tax should be taken off food and prescription medicines, we do have a different picture.

What happens to the \$181.1 million? Would it be used for implementation of the teacher career ladder program? Would it be used to reduce other taxes by a like amount? Would that amount be reflected some way in the present budget? From what we have received to date, the point is certainly not clear.

But this very issue is politically explosive. Make no mistake about that fact. The proposed increase in sales tax is regressive in nature and we realize that. We also realize that the age old argument that a sales tax means that everybody pays is true to that extent. The real meat of the coconut there is that the people less able to pay the taxes pay the same share on what they buy as the wealthy people.

So in a real sense, a sales tax hits those hardest who are least able to pay. But if the state tax is taken off food and prescription medicines, that action might well destroy at least part of the argument.

Now if the state takes the sales tax off food and medicines, should not the local government do likewise? This argument is bound to come up, and officials ought to be prepared to answer it one way or the other.

Republicans may line up behind the governor's proposal. Very likely, he will get some Democratic support, but will he get enough?

We can see Democrats being put on a difficult spot. If they defeat the governor's plan without coming up with a better proposal, they will be charged with neglect on the part of the teachers and state employees. Votes mean much to politicians, and the stew is on the stove, and it might boil in any minute.

We doubt very much that the governor's plan will stand as proposed. But the plan is sure to make some real statesmen out of Democrats who realize now the absolute necessity of coming up with a better plan.

The fat is in the fire.

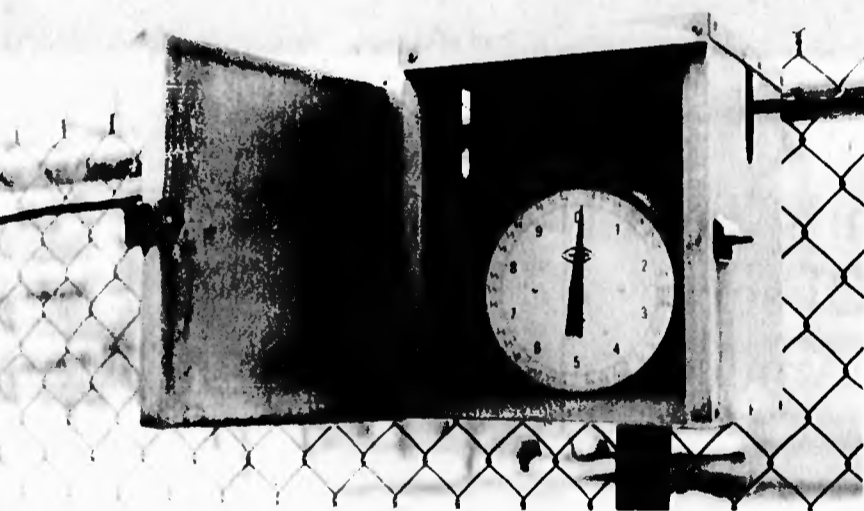
### Tabernacle Holiness Sets Revival Date

Tabernacle Holiness Church of Vanceboro will hold its revival services March 19 through March 26.

The Rev. Williams from Georgia will be the featured speaker.

Services begin at 7:30 each night. Homecoming will be celebrated March 26. The public is invited to attend.

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**West Craven Highlights**

**Craven County's Family Weekly Newspaper**  
 P.O. Box 487  
 Vanceboro, N.C. 28586  
 (Main St. Across From Post Office)  
 Published Each Thursday  
**Ashley B. Futrell, Jr.**  
 Publisher  
**Mike Voss**  
 Editor  
**Terri Jamieson**  
 Advertising Manager  
 And Staff Writer  
**Edith Hodges**  
 Office Manager  
 Office Hours  
 Mon. ....8:30 am - 10:30 am  
 Thurs. & Fri. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
 Telephone 244-0780 or 946-2144

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