

# GAIL WINDS

by: Gail L. Roberson

There has never been a nose so pretty that it looked good in somebody else's business. There is an extremely fine line between being concerned and just being plain nosy. I have been painfully enlightened to the fact that some folks never get interested in anything until it's none of their business. Then, they grab hold of it like a puppy with a throw rug and shake the living daylight out of it.

Maybe we don't intentionally set out to do it, but sooner or later each one of us steps across that invisible boundary that separates our business from our neighbors. We tell ourselves we're concerned when, in actuality, we're nosy. It's generally far too easy for concern to turn into curiosity.

There is abundant evidence that we are more likely to fan the flames of our neighbor's embers than try to keep our own home fires burning. One man recently said that he had no reason to get up in the morning because his wife spent all his money and his neighbors tended to his business.

Sometimes, the same traits that make a small town such a wonderful place are the identical ones that tear it apart. In a small area or neighborhood, people will sympathize with your troubles, and if you don't have any troubles, they will hunt some up for you, and then tell you how to tend to it.

There comes a time in life when we need to shift into neutral, and, while our engine idles, lift the hood and take a long hard look at what makes us operate. If you look under your hood you'll recognize many big things that contribute to getting you where you need to go. But, hiding under some of those larger parts of life beneath your hood are the tiny nuts and bolts that keep even the big engine strong. And that's what we need to fine tune. Not the engine. We know when the engine needs some work. But it's when the little things get out of control that we least recognize some fault with ourselves, and next thing we know, we've swerved out of control and done a great deal of damage to whoever's in the way. That's how it is when you get too involved in somebody else's business.

If we spent as much time tending to our own affairs as we do tending to those of others, our lives would be pristine clean and pure forever. Giving advice is like breathing fresh mountain air. It smells good and comes easy. But taking advice is like swallowing a softball. It goes down slowly, and it's mighty hard to keep down.

If your neighbor doesn't plant his peanuts early enough to suit you... that's none of your business. If your child, now thirty years old, stays out past midnight... that's none of your business. And if your best friend decides to stray from normality as you know it... that's none of your business either. The best cure for nosiness is hard work. You can't have your nose in somebody's business if it's stuck fast to the grindstone.

So remember that the best thing we can do in this life is to tend to our own and leave the rest alone. When necessary, offer your advice and assistance. When it's not necessary, don't. And never forget to ask yourself, when the urge hits strong to meddle and intrude... "now, am I concerned, or just plain nosy?"

## Our Opinion

### Such A Poll Is Subject To Very Close Scrutiny

When a legislator is part owner of a polling system and has his company make a poll of North Carolina sentiment regarding the ouster of former House Speaker Liston Ramsey and the election of Speaker Joe Mavretic, then we want to scrutinize the results ever so carefully.

First of all, the legislator in question is Sam Hunt, Democrat, of Alamance County. Mr. Hunt was one of the dissident Democrats who joined with 19 other dissidents plus 44 Republicans to oust Mr. Ramsey and elect Mr. Mavretic.

The results of this poll, according to the story, say that 56 percent of the public surveyed holds a favorable reaction to the change. It says that 19 percent gave an unfavorable reply and 25 percent had no feeling either way.

This poll might be giving an accurate reflection of opinion over North Carolina. We read that 612 adults were polled over the state. However, the very fact that Mr. Hunt was among the group of 20 Democratic dissidents supporting Mr. Mavretic's bid causes us to feel that we'd like a second opinion.

It could be that a new poll might well reflect a far different reaction. In addition to questions regarding the Ramsey-Mavretic story, the poll also went into several other matters. The poll indicates that 27.7 percent said the Democratic party is on the right track, while 57.9 percent said the party needs a new direction. We are inclined to believe this part of the poll.

The poll says that 45 percent of the 612 adults think of themselves as Democrats, 33 percent think of themselves as Republican, and 21 percent are Independents. We would dispute the percentages here.

So often when a person goes out to gather information, he finds what he is seeking. He does not want to find anything on the other side. While we have every confidence that Mr. Hunt sought a good reliable poll, we tend to believe that another poll would show far different results.

The poll also asked about possible gubernatorial candidates for 1992. However, the results of this survey will be made public at a later date. Just why this information has been withheld, we do not know. Included in the survey among possible candidates for governor in 1992 is Mr. Mavretic.

The Ramsey-Mavretic story is by no means finished at this time. The real story is being written every day in the General Assembly in Raleigh. And as of this date the general public does not have sufficient information about everyday workings in the legislature to say just how the picture really is at this moment.

Polls so often are taken to justify a stated position someone wishes to prove. And a friendly poll might do just that. We do not say that this poll recently taken is wrong or that it has gathered incorrect information.

We do say that we'd like to see another poll or get a second opinion.

### Much Advice Received On Abortion Decision

Either the great majority of American people are against abortion or those against it are so loud with their opposition that it appears that way.

We read that the United States Supreme Court is receiving a great deal of advice as it begins study of the Missouri case in which that state along with the Bush administration and countless agencies and organizations in the country are advising the high court on its decision.

Actually, many individuals are also in the advice giving business to the high court as we read the story. The fact is that the Bush administration is so strongly opposed to abortion that it is urging the court to reverse a decision made in 1973 which legalized abortion.

The Supreme Court will formally take on the case as of April 26 when it will hear arguments for and against. We read that the high court has received 47 "friend of the court" briefs, including one from the administration, asking for a reversal of the 1973 decision or at least a decision limiting the right to an abortion.

In 1973 the Roe versus Wade decision declared that abortion is legal in this country. That decision has stood for 16 years now, but it is being attacked from many sides. And of course it does have support also. The high court has received seven briefs in support of abortion rights. One brief comes from women who actually have had abortions. One brief supporting abortion is signed by 3,500 women.

So either way there will be a lot of moaning and groaning. The high court is expected to hand down its decision sometime in July.

If we take a look at one position, it says that abortion is a matter to be determined by the woman and her doctor. The opposite view is that abortion is taking a life and should be outlawed altogether.

There is the view generally taken in many parts of this nation including here in North Carolina which says that abortion is wrong and illegal except in cases of rape, incest, or where the mother's health is endangered. The fact remains that even that view is contrary to the beliefs of those who oppose abortion for any reason.

If we say that abortion is a moral question, then we need also to say that it is an emotional issue also. When humanity connects murder with abortion, it ought to cause all of us to stop and think.

We are of the opinion that the average person just does not realize how rampant are abortions today. There are several hundred thousand per year performed in our country, we are told.

We give both sides credit for being sincere in their views. We are opposed to abortion on a wholesale basis. We prefer to stick by what we have in North Carolina with abortions only in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's health is endangered.

When anyone says he or she is absolutely sure of the right, the wisdom, and the morality of any position, we must stand in silence.

## Bassin' with the pros

If you're a bass fisherman, chances are you've traveled across the lake to your favorite fishing spot only to find it already being worked over by two or three other boats.

Do you fall in line and try to catch bass behind those anglers, or do you look for a new spot?

"Either way, you're probably in for some tough fishing," says Johnson Outboards Pro Staff member Charlie Reed, "but if you're positive there are bass in your first spot, I would advise staying there, even though others have already been casting to it."

What will be required, explains Reed, who encounters this situation frequently in national tournament competition, is a slightly different approach because the bass become more and more wary as each boat passes by them.

"The first option I consider," says Reed, "is trying to finesse the bass into hitting. I switch to a smaller lure and slow down my retrieve. In many instances I will switch lures entirely, such as changing from a spinnerbait to a small plastic worm."

"Another key to remember about fishing in crowded water," emphasizes the Johnson pro, "is to fish closer to the available cover. As the bass become more wary, they move tighter and tighter into that cover. They

don't chase lures as actively, so you have to put your line right in front of them.

"Instead of casting, you may have to try pitching. Don't crowd the cover, or you'll only spook the fish even more. Try to make you lures land without making a splash, and then move them very deliberately."

Reed also suggests fishing more thoroughly. Work each piece of cover with several different casts before moving to something else. Because bass will be losing their aggressiveness, the fish often have to be coaxed into hitting.

"Still another tactic I try is to change lures completely. If I know all the anglers ahead of me fished spinnerbaits, I may try a slow topwater lure, a worm or a jig. Conversely, if I know they used worms, I may try a fast-retrieve lure, just to show the bass something else. If I can't finesse the bass, I may try to excite them."

Moving to slightly deeper water is also worth considering, especially if cover is available.

"Simply turn your boat around and ease out a short distance until you find a drop into deeper water, or locate additional cover. Very often, bass will move away from the shallow water to the first available cover in deeper water if they're receiving hard fishing pressure."

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## Soil & Water

By TIM ETHERIDGE  
SCS Conservationist

During the last three years, about many different landowners have participated in the cost share program and thousands of dollars have been obligated to them for conservation work on their farms.

The N.C. Agricultural Cost Share Program, aimed at improving water quality, was available to landowners in Craven County for the first time a few years ago. While helping these landowners with conservation work, the program also helped improve the water quality of our creeks and rivers.

Improving off-site water quality is the goal of the NCACSP.

The costs of conservation practices with known water quality benefits are shared with landowners.

Up to 75 percent of the costs are available for installation of water control structures, waste management systems and erosion control practices.

Incentive payments are available on land application of animal wastes, sod-based rotations and no-till planting.

Each of these conservation practices has its own way of improving the quality of water leaving the field where used.

Craven County was not eligible for the program before 1987, but through the support of many landowners, environmentalists,

farmers and conservationists, the NCACSP was passed by the state legislature.

Continued support for the program is needed to help expand the program to other counties.

Orderly expansion of the NCASP is the recommendation of the N.C. Agricultural Task Force and the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Expanding of financial support is also needed along with expansion of the program to other counties.

The program will eventually operate statewide and all Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be involved.

The Soil and Water Conserva-

tion Districts make the decisions on priorities for spending this money in each county.

This decision-making board is made up of three elected and two appointed supervisors in Craven County.

Each cost share agreement is reviewed by the supervisors and then approved or denied.

When the allocation of one year's money is spent, applications are kept on hand until the following year.

This program is available to anyone who owns or farms agricultural land.

For more information or to sign up for the N.C. Cost Share Program, contact your local Soil Conservation Service or Soil and Water Conservation District office.

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