

point of view

BY BILL NIXON

Editor's note: Nixon, an Edenton native, is vice-president of *Parkier Brothers Newspaper of Albemarle*. His column appears weekly in a number of that group's publications.

Satchel Paige, the great black athlete, is often regarded by many as baseball's all-time greatest pitcher. His fans were always amazed that Satchel pitched until he was in his 60s. His strength and skill at that age prompted the fans to ask him frequently how old he was.

Satchel was reported to have answered with this simple question, "How ol's would ya be if ya didn't know how ol's va are?"

Upon hearing this question for the first time, your curiosity is aroused and you find yourself thinking about what was said. Most of us never stop to think how much society has predetermined the way a person is supposed to behave at a given age. Most of us are guilty of categorizing people into age groups and then expecting them to "act their age." Often, due to the expectations of society, people will act according to how they think they are expected to.

We've been programmed into believing, for instance, that a 60 year old person is at retiring age and should be winding down his or her pace in life. We think they are used up whether they are or not. Because of our beliefs in "acting your age", we actually

encourage people to live a certain way. We all know how teenagers are, and when they don't act like we expect them, we label them as being different or radicals. We have been led to believe that if someone doesn't conform to society's guidelines, he or she is abnormal or strange.

The more we think about this concept, the more we come to realize how wrong we really are. It isn't the years that make the person, but how he feels about himself and his fellow man that tells his true age and maturity.

Once we contemplate this idea, we can usually develop a simple scale to determine a person's true age. Just by talking with someone, it is possible to tell how old he is. The scale works like this:

If a person speaks mainly of the past, then he is old, regardless of his age. If he talks of today, he is middle-aged. But if he is always talking about the future, then he is young no matter what the calendar may indicate.

Your can take this scale a step further. Our concept of time affects not only the individual but the country as well. If we dwell on America's past and focus only on our past achievements, then we have become an old, tired nation. If we live for the moment, we are dangerously middle-aged. But, if America, as a nation, talks of the future

and plans for the future, then we are young and exciting.

It doesn't take long to realize that Satchel had the answer when he said, "How ol's would ya be if ya didn't know how ol's va are?" Attitudes and ideas are a surer test of our vitality than any number of calendars and customs.

Thinking about this reminds me of a framed saying that appeared on the wall of the first floor of John A. Holmes High School in Edenton. Thousands of young minds must have read the words, "Intelligence is not inherited. It is obtained by hard work and diligent study." Those words have remained with me all these years.

Like intelligence, ignorance is not inherited either. It also is obtained through hard work and lot's of practice. Many of us prove this daily when we expect others to react to society in a manner that is "normal." Classification of society by age is one of the more apparent ways we do so. It was said best thousands of years ago by Confucius: "The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it; but not having it, to confess your ignorance."



An infant oel is known as an olver.

Health Dept. Schedule

The Chowan County Health Department is holding the following clinics in May:

MAY	CLINICS
3	Prenatal Check
4	Eye Clinic AM; Family Planning PM
5	Multiphasic Clinic All Day
6	Teen Clinic AM; General Clinic PM
9	Child Health Clinic All Day
10	Maternity Clinic PM
11	Family Planning Clinic PM
12	Multiphasic Clinic All Day
13	General Clinic PM; WIC All Day
17	Pediatric Clinic PM; Prenatal Check
18	Child Safety Seat Program
20	General Clinic PM
23	Child Health All Day
24	Orthopedic Clinic AM; Maternity Clinic PM
25	Family Planning All Day
27	General Clinic PM; WIC All Day
30	HOLIDAY
31	Prenatal Check

Swain Dress Up Day

E.A. Swain is continuing its Beautification Program. On April 15th we had a dress up day. Students and teachers came dressed in their Sunday best. Mr. Underwood said, he felt he was at a convention instead of an elementary school. About 98% of the students participated. At 11:00 the winners from each homeroom were to be judged. The entire school body came to the assembly to clap for their favorite "Lookers". The stage was decorated by Mrs. Swanner. She was in charge of this program. The students and judges narrowed it down to 12 students, 4 from each grade. They were:

4th grade—Clay Rouson, Allen Lawrence, Kendra Bailey, Tonya Bass, and Lori Lichtenwalner.

5th grade—John Mizzelle, Wallace Holly, Jewel Shivers, and Monica Sharpe.

6th grade—Brian Jordan, Brian Rascoe, Anissa Brickhouse, and Susan Jones.

While the judges were tallying these 13, most of the teachers left. They came back parading down the aisle wearing Easter bonnets. They then modelled on the stage. The students were hysterical.

The final voting followed

after the teachers walk.

The results: 1st — Kendra Bailey and Wallace Holly; 2nd — Tonya Bass and Brian Jordan; 3rd — Susan Jones and John Mizzelle.

The best results came from all the students that came to Mrs. Swanner to tell her it was the best day in school they ever had.

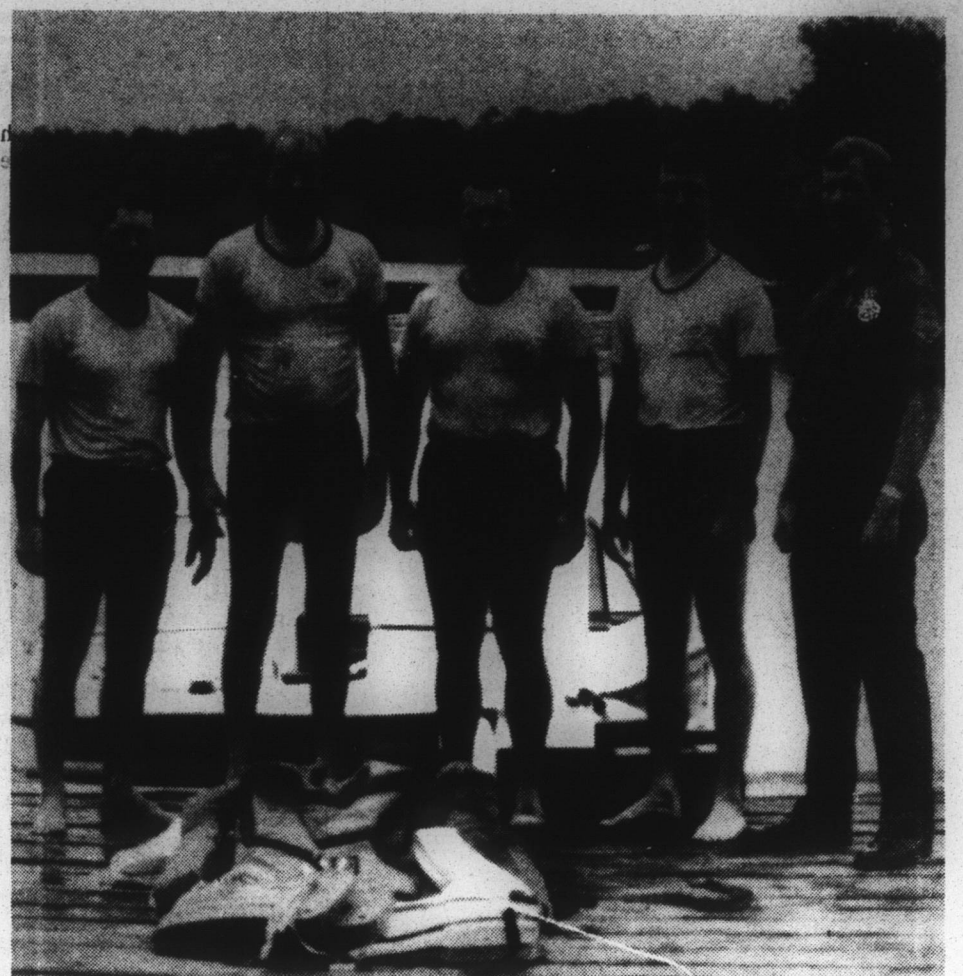
Peggy Boyce, Lorraine Bass, Loretta Guard and Mr. Underwood were judges. Mr. Bradford logged the event by taking pictures. Mr. Kinion, assistant superintendent, came to show his support.

Receives Letter Of Appreciation

Marine Sgt. Kenneth E. Leigh, son of Buster L. and Geneva Leigh, of Route 1, Tyner, has received a Letter of Appreciation.

He received the letter for superior performance of duty while serving with 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

A Letter of Appreciation is official recognition of an individual's outstanding accomplishments, and is presented during formal ceremonies.



N.C. WILDLIFE WATER SAFETY TEAM—Members of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Water Safety Team for District - One are: (left to right) Kelly Dilday, Terry Waterfield, Calvin Barnes, Ron Mason and Ken Craft. (Photo By Mike Overton)

Wildlife Team Demonstrates Safety

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Water Safety Team for District - One main purpose will be to demonstrate how lives are needlessly lost each year in water related accidents and how many of these accidents could be avoided. Topics included in the demonstration are: the correct use of personal flotation devices, danger situa-

tions, the use of clothing to stay afloat, loading equipment and people into a boat, unsafe movement in a boat, the checking of safety equipment, boats underway, how to approach docks, towing, skiving, and the loading of the boat on the trailer.

Wildlife Enforcement Officers, Terry Waterfield stationed in Elizabeth City, Calvin Barnes stationed in Gatesville, Ron Mason stationed in Plymouth, Kelly Dilday stationed in Windsor and Ken Craft stationed in Lewiston are the members of the Water Safety Team.

The Water Safety Team is available for demonstrations

upon request. If a person or persons would like to have the team give a demonstration for a group or groups they should call the toll free number 1-800-662-7137 in Raleigh. Please give notice two weeks before schedule demonstration.

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MEETING OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHOWAN COUNTY WILL SIT AS A BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Commissioners Room - New Courthouse
Monday, May 2, 1983
11:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF ANY CHANGE OF ADJOURNMENT DATE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE PAPER

For the purpose of examining and reviewing the 1983 tax list of each township and shall hear any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in the county with respect to the valuation of such property or the property of others and shall equalize the valuation of such property and correct any errors appearing on the abstracts and for the transaction of any other business which may come before the board in compliance with the Machinery Act of the year 1939, revised through Session Laws of 1979.

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CLERK TO THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

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