

# Opinions

## North Carolina has many 'firsts'

North Carolina had its beginning some 400 years ago with the first English Exploration of the New World.

1--The First English Exploration of the New World. On July 13, 1584, explorers from England under a commission by Sir Walter Raleigh began the first exploration of North America on Roanoke Island.

2--1585--The First English Colony. On June 26, 1585, the first English colony was planted on the Outer Banks. Under the auspices of Sir Richard Grenville, 107 men were left on Roanoke Island as the first English colonists in the New World.

3--1587--The First English Child in America. Virginia Dare was born of English parents in North America. She was born on Roanoke Island on August 18, 1587 only a few months after the second English colony arrived.

4--The First Declaration of Independence was passed on May 20, 1775, in Mecklenburg County declaring the people of Mecklenburg "a free and independent people."

5--1775--First Town Named for President Washington was Washington in Beaufort County in 1775.

6--1776--First State Declaration of Independence Day. April 12, 1776.

7--First Official Celebration of Independence Day on July 4, 1783, the citizens of Salem (now part of Winston-Salem) marched through the town's streets, singing and carrying torches of the first official celebration of Independence Day in America.

8--1795--The First Public University, on January 15, 1795,



Cliff Blue

### People and Issues

the University of North Carolina became the first state university to open its doors to students.

9--1799--First Gold Nugget discovered in Cabarrus County in 1799.

10--1833--First Interstate Railroad, 59 miles along the north bank of the Roanoke River.

11--1903--First Airplane on Dec. 17, 1903 by Wilbur and Orville Wright, piloted by a mechanically driven heavier than air machine, 120 feet across a stretch of level sand at Kitty Hawk.

12--1946--First State Supported Symphony orchestra in 1946.

13--1980--First Science and Math School located in Durham.

We North Carolina "Tar Heels" feel mighty proud of what has been accomplished during the past four hundred years. In fact we are way ahead of the old world in progress in many ways.

NOW . . . Now let's turn to the "now" in progress and what's going on.

The recent General Assembly passed legislation to abolish mandatory retirement at the age of 70. The new legislation which becomes law October 1, 1984, will effect 170,000 state, county and municipal employees. However, over 67,000 employees of the

university system and public education are still subject to compulsory retirement at the age of 70.

North Carolina is now one of nine states that has passed legislation abolishing mandatory retirement. The federal government has removed age as a basis of retirement, but 51% of older American workers not employed by government still face a mandatory retirement when they reach age 70. These workers cannot be forced to retire earlier than age 70 because they are protected by the Age Discrimination in Employment Act.

As the population ages there will be a shortage of younger workers in the future. In light of this, most employers believe that company policies will have to be restructured in the future to abolish mandatory retirement and retain rather than retire older workers.

Eliminating mandatory retirement throughout the nation would result in an increase of 185,000 older adults in the labor force by the year 2000. Some companies are already changing their retirement policies. IBM, one of the nation's largest employers, has abolished a mandatory retirement age as have more than one-third of the Fortune 500 companies.

Representative Claude Pepper cited a retirement study that showed that while nine out of 10 Americans oppose any form of mandatory retirement, most workers still retire before the age of 70. Among those aged 65 and over, only 19% of the men and 8% of the women are still in the labor force.

Sensing an imminent threat to the President, Secret Service agents wrestle the assailant to the ground...



## ... Cole Porter

(Continued from page 2A) been astounding audiences for a great many years with his operatic style and a voice so powerful that he may not even need a microphone.

There is a lesson to be learned here.

There can really be no comparison between today's singers and yesterday's.

Each have their own styles and abilities, but I cannot let the pure talent of people like Dio, Coverdale and Gillan be stepped on by anyone.

Generalizations, if worthy of being drawn upon at all, can only be drawn by informed people who have carefully studied and weighed all the sides of a topic.

And with that, I rest my case.

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## Letters To The Editor

### Literacy meeting

#### a big success

To the Editor:  
Hoke Reading/Literacy Council would like to express sincere thanks to the citizens of Hoke County who helped to make our hosting of the North Carolina Literacy Association meeting a success.

We extend special thanks to Hoke Public Library. The Committee to Elect Bob Jordan, The Hoke County Democratic Party and The Hoke County Republican Party.

Thanks are also extended to Rep. Danny DeVane and Mayor J. K. McNeil, Jr. Other political personalities presented were Sen. Bob Jordon, Dan Grimes for Attorney

General, Rufus Edmeston, and Scotland County Commissioner Richard Connelly.

North Carolina Literacy Association is a "non-political" organization consisting of nearly 40 local councils from the mountains to the coast.

Yours truly,  
Barbara J. Buie  
Project Director

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