

Viewpoints

New EMS program worth the costs

Cardiac Tech, which is a new Emergency Medical Service (EMS) being studied in Mecklenburg County, could be the answer to upgrading the training level of Hoke County ambulance personnel for an affordable cost.

Currently Hoke EMS personnel are working at the intermediate level and are limited to only certain types of en route treatment.

Because this county does not have a hospital, it is critically important to have the best EMS service possible. In the past, paramedic was the highest level available and the next step up from intermediate.

When paramedic training was considered in recent years, county officials balked because of the price tag. However, now Cardiac Tech offers much of the same training at a lower cost.

It is hoped that the Hoke County Commissioners will consider

Cardiac Tech when it becomes available for all North Carolina counties.

By offering the best EMT service available, the commissioners will not only improve the quality of life for those already living here, but they will also ease concerns of potential residents over the available medical care.

Residency policy at best premature

Although most of the discussion has been conducted out of the public's view and behind closed doors, members of the Hoke County Board of Education are rumored to be considering a plan which would require employees to reside in the county.

The plan is at best naively premature, and could be considered judicially ludicrous.

Ideally, all local employees on the public payroll, including teachers, should live in Hoke County, but this community has a

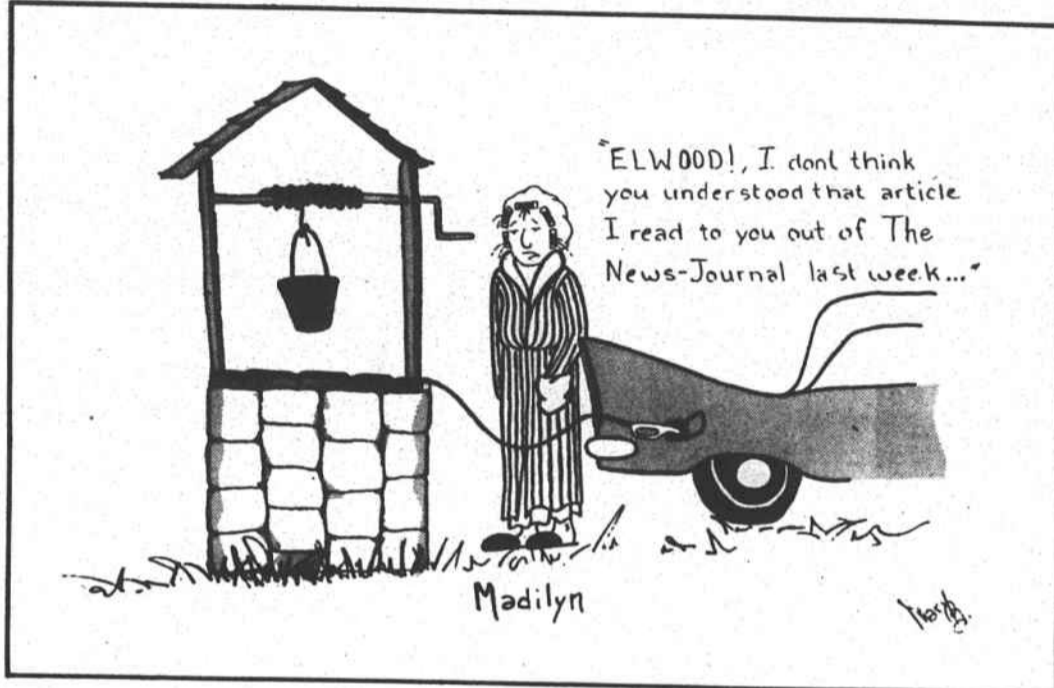
long way to go before it will be possible to legislate such a move. Currently Hoke County is attracting highly qualified employees to work in the school system, but many of them, more than 200, prefer to live other places.

Until this community offers expanded shopping, more restaurants, bowling alleys, movie theatres, a motel, better housing, improved highway access and direct telephone communication with Fayetteville, Hoke County will not be attractive enough to coax employees living in surrounding counties to change their addresses.

We believe school administrators and principals should be required to live in Hoke County, but the line should be drawn there. If the school board chooses to air such a plan outside of a closed door session, we would support it.

However, unless the quality of life is improved in Hoke County, board members are kidding themselves to think they can hire top-notch teachers, coaches and other non-management personnel and require all of them to live here.

We believe the board of education should be spending less time secretly discussing residency rules, and putting more of an effort into letting the public know what they are doing to improve the quality of the school system and to make Hoke County a better place to live.



Mrs. Gore kept Latin alive

If you were "headed somewhere" you took Latin. If you took Latin at Hoke High, Mrs. Gore taught it. Somehow, one understood that educated people knew Latin verbs and were all well-mannered people like Mrs. Gore.

I've read that there is now a return-to-Latin movement in education. Latin seemed to disappear from curricula for several years. The sliding SAT scores were blamed on the lack of Latin in public schools.

My theory was that schools not only lacked Latin, they lacked teachers like Mrs. Gore. Women these days do not have her dignity and the very proper way she had. I do not believe her attributes came with age. She seemed to be of a time when nice manners and the classics were essential for ladies and gentlemen.



Kay Thomas Looking On

not a spell-bound scholar in Latin class. I sat near the back, and near a window. I think I passed notes around and probably never applied myself completely to my studies. I did learn a great deal that I value today.

Studying Latin taught me how to see sentence structure, as well as the roots of words in several languages. As I grow older, I see more clearly how influential Latin has been in the logical thinking for languages, math and other disciplines.

Reading the classics "in the original" has never been one of my goals. I had no doubt that some special teachers could do that and did. I was certain that they were wonderfully smart women, the products of Education. I do hope Hoke High has teachers today who inspire students as Mrs. Gore did.

I certainly am not insinuating that schools don't have fine teachers or that only Latin teachers were prim and proper. I believe I am saying that women have changed and that's not at all bad.

Everywhere there are older women mowing their grass, playing golf and stopping by Hardee's for a snack. It is just more difficult to feel such awe when one "knew" that Mrs. Gore spent her spare moments studying dusty tomes of Julius Caesar.

I must also confess that I was

Letters To The Editor

Illiteracy must be eradicated in Hoke

To the Editor:
One in five adults in Hoke County can not read. One in three reads some but not well enough to function in today's society. They can not read the Bible, newspaper, medicine labels, mail or anything else that is required of today's adult.

Yet, literacy for adults has not become a popular cause. Why? Is

it because 52.5% of Hoke County's adults don't have a high school diploma, therefore we feel that we don't need adult education? Are we unaware that those unemployable due to illiteracy increase welfare budgets and decrease tax bases? Or, are we so naive in our caring that we don't realize that to keep the masses ignorant is harmful to them, their off-springs and society?

While being a small county comes with many blessings, an

uneducated majority imposes a curse. The under-educated is also under-informed. This leads not to a free society but to a dictatorship. The help my neighbor attitude in Hoke County is applaudable, but how long can we afford to be our brothers' keeper?

There may be those among us who view education as change and change as destroying our tranquil way of life. Yet, tranquility is foreign to most illiterates. Even the packaging of products we use daily are frequently changing. To many illiterates this causes insecurity and frustration which often bring about hostility and violence. Change will come. The literacy level of our adult citizenry will determine how the change is met.

Adult literacy must become a priority, not just for funding sources, but for every informed adult. We must eradicate illiteracy because we care. Equally as important, we must eradicate it because illiteracy makes us all losers.

Yours truly,
Barbara J. Buie
875-2145

1985 predictions made

Dear editor:
At the start of a new year it's customary to predict what the next 12 months will produce.

This is a difficult task as most of us haven't found out what happened last year. I predict most of us never will.

However, whatever it was, we got through it.

In 1985, I predict that Congress will meet. Any prediction beyond that is foolhardy.

I predict that economists will look at the economy and predict, but the economy will do whatever it's going to do, and the economists will be off predicting something else. Few of them will bet their money on their predictions.

I have no prediction on interest rates, although I predict they'll continue to be charged.

I predict that Russia and the United States will meet to discuss arms control, and the results will be as exciting as arms-wrestling.

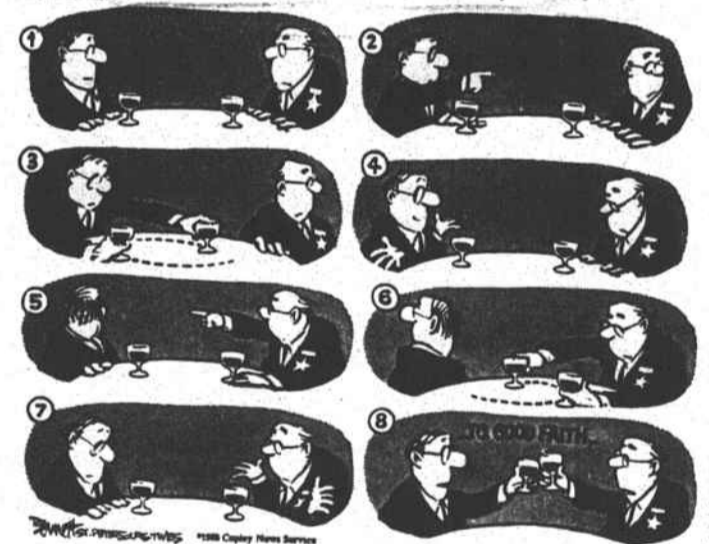
I predict the United Nations will vote on grave issues, with as little effect as a resolution by the P-T.A.

I predict that the deficit will be whittled on one end and enlarged on the other.

I predict that most predictions, like these, aren't to be relied on.

Despite these off-brand predictions, I don't know of anybody around here who'd swap this country for any other on earth.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.



Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

Hoke County looked good in state parade

"Well, it's been a long time since Hoke County has looked this good," Somebody said over coffee the other day.

Somebody had been drinking coffee for several hours, and many at the table thought he might be hallucinating.

"What do you mean? It looks about like it always has this time of year. The fields are plowed. The trees have no leaves, and the weeds are brown.

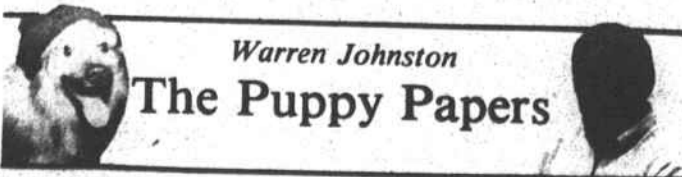
"I think you've been putting something in that cup other than coffee," one member of the regular morning group said.

Somebody quickly explained he was referring to the new statewide image the county was acquiring.

"I was proud to be from Hoke County Saturday," he said, noting that he had watched the entire gubernatorial inauguration on television.

"We had hometown people up there on the stage with the Governor, and the high school band was marching in the street," he said.

The others had not bothered to watch the television and had forgotten that former Raeford Mayor and Mrs. Alfred Cole's



Warren Johnston The Puppy Papers

daughter, Sarah, had grown up and married the new Lt. Governor of the state, Bob Jordan.

"It made me almost burst to know she grew up right here in town and was up there with all those important people," Somebody crooned.

"She's the Second First Lady of the state, and that's something Hoke Countians can hang their hats on," he added.

About the time his heart had slowed from seeing Sarah Jordan on the reviewing stand, along came the Hoke High School band.

"People on TV said they were the largest band in the whole parade," Somebody chortled, hardly able to contain his emotions.

The band had done a good job representing their community, and as the marchers passed, the commentators talked about the quality of their performance, the location of the county and how much of it was taken up by Ft. Bragg.

"I could always remember Hoke County in school because it only had four letters," one of the narrators said.

"You know. A lot of people in Hoke County helped to get that band to Raleigh. If it hadn't been for Danny DeVane, Ken and Betsy Ann McNeill and all those Republicans, they might not have made the trip," someone else at the table said.

Everyone there that morning was glad Somebody had told them about watching the Hoke County people on statewide television.

Even though they had not watched, each one of them took a little pride in knowing that we were well represented at the inaugural ceremonies.

As they left the table and coffee cups behind, they all agreed that Hoke County was looking pretty good these days.