

# VIEWPOINTS

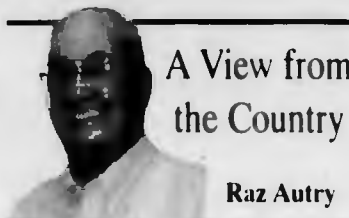
## Ask why he doesn't do windows

Some of the folks who read my column remark to me, "I know you made up that story you used in your column."

No way, they forget I have lived a long time and have seen many things. As an example, every time I see a rescue squad I think of what happened to the Dunn's Rescue Squad many years ago. Unfortunately, some of these fine organizations have a few members who would be more comfortable driving on the Nascar circuit. These boys believe the best way to get to people in trouble is to drive wide open and push everyone else off the road.

Regardless, a call came in to the Dunn squad and they responded at full speed. The fellow in trouble had been in a terrible accident. Arriving with the speed of a dog-chased deer, they picked the fellow up, put him on the stretcher, tossed him in back of the vehicle and raced to the Dunn Hospital. Unfortunately, they forgot to close the doors. As they literally flew down Main Street, the back door came open. The poor fellow on the stretcher sailed out the back, rolled down the street, and went through the window of a furniture store.

The crew arrived at the emergency entrance at the hospital, rushed to the back only to find no man or stretcher was occupying the ambulance. Need-



**A View from the Country**  
Raz Autry

less to say, when the news of that event got to the town board, the rescue squad was disbanded, and it took at least 10 years before any member of the town board would discuss forming another rescue squad.

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The longer I am married the more I am convinced the Lord played a trick on us men. We don't understand women, perhaps He didn't mean for us to understand them. Mel Gibson, as I have mentioned before, is in a movie called "What Women Want." I haven't seen the movie but I would bet the peach orchard that he doesn't know what women want.

Men will look at the total picture, women will take the picture apart and look at each pane. Most men when going some place will take the route they know. Women will figure out a shorter way and try and persuade you to take it.

A woman will ask a husband to do some things which she knows

will irritate him. Washing windows is the shortest route to a divorce. A woman will point every place you have missed and smile when you start cussing — which leads to more cussing.

If a man will stay away from washing windows, painting a house on the outside and inside, and let her do all the driving, he will probably live at least 20 years longer. Never take for granted that you know what she is thinking. If you were smart enough to know such you would probably end up in the nut house. You have got to always be on your guard.

My wife of 53 years gave me this little book called, "To My Very Special Husband." It contains some quotes which are quite interesting.

A husband is the only person whose socks you'd wash without a shudder.

He is a man who stands by you through all the troubles you wouldn't have had if you had stayed single.

A husband is a man who when someone tells him he is hen-pecked, answers, "Yes, but I am pecked by a good hen."

A happy marriage is the best thing life has to offer. It is built up brick by brick over the years and cemented as much by the moments of tenderness as by those of irritation.

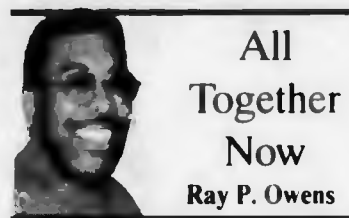
We might as well face it, men, they outsmart us. Hang in there; it is a great life.

## Putting extra starch in education

Tomorrow was to be a very special day for the number one, two, and three children of my family. (I was number three).

So tonight I have to make sure that my shirt is clean, starched, and ironed just right. Of course I have to put extra starch on the creases of my Lee jeans and make sure that the cuffs at the bottom are perfect. Oh, yes, I must make positively sure that my shoes are shining.

All month long our parents let us know that they were coming to my school and sit in class with us, to see what we were learning and doing. Consequently, I was on my P's and Q's the preceding month so that they would receive a good report. This Parent School Day was a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) effort, and, of course, it was successful.



**All Together Now**  
Ray P. Owens

The Hoke County Civic League is initiating a similar agenda for our schools. The League is calling it "Old School" (for now), and, beginning in May, we hope to implement this plan that is still in its infancy stage.

Marian Wright Edelman, a noted educator and advisor to Presidents, said, "We are at risk of letting our children drown in the bathwater of American materialism, greed and violence. We must regain our spiritual bearings and roots and help

America recover hers before millions more children — Black, Brown and White, poor, middle-class, and rich — self-destruct or grow up thinking life is about acquiring rather than sharing, selfishness rather than sacrifice, and material rather than spiritual wealth.

This "Old School" idea or any other idea must be adamant to holding accountable everyone who adheres to the "No Child Left Behind" promise. Of course our first line of offense are the parents, the community. So, here we go.

Now, I don't expect our children to put creases in their Lee jeans or iron a white shirt and wear a tie, this is a new day with new clothing and dress standards, but, I will betcha that they will be on their P's and Q's. And I just believe that the teaching and learning atmosphere will change dramatically.

## There's always a chance for redemption

Sometimes, when I am discouraged about the possibilities of "solving" some of our country's toughest problems, I remember two of my heroes in Charlotte, Mary Carol and George Michie. They taught me that our responsibility to serve others does not end just because we cannot find a quick and simple "solution."

A few months ago, I wrote about them in "Our State Magazine." Just in case you are in need of a little inspiration, I am going to share part of that story with you now.

About the same time that Mary Carol and George, together with their three young children, moved to Charlotte in 1967, Martin Luther King was assassinated. They were anxious about relationships—race relationships. Mary Carol says, "We wanted to do something positive to make a difference."

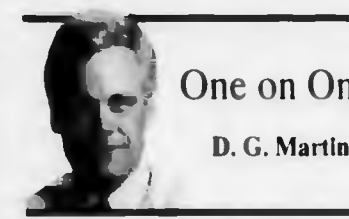
As Presbyterians, they wanted to join an integrated Presbyterian congregation, if they could find one. They found just one in Charlotte—Seigle Avenue Presbyterian.

Actually Seigle Avenue was a white church that had served Piedmont Courts, a white public housing project. But civil rights laws had forced Piedmont Courts to integrate. When the church opened its doors to blacks, many of its white members left.

When the Michies visited the church, Mary Carol sat beside one of the few blacks attending the service. "I remember taking communion with her and thinking that this is the way it ought to be."

Within a few months, the Michies were mainstays of the struggling church. Their first project, and the one that Mary Carol treasures the most, was a program for the teenagers who lived in Piedmont Courts and the nearby neighborhoods.

First, George and Mary Carol took charge of the "Noble Knights," a group of teenage boys. Then they took on the "Cloud 9" girls club. Each group had about 10 regular members, and soon they were a part of the extended



**One on One**  
D. G. Martin

Michie family. They were taking camping trips, organizing sports teams, cooking meals, doing service projects — and making waves.

Mary Carol and George Michie are not the only people to volunteer to mentor a group of teenagers in a poor neighborhood. Teenagers in public housing projects may be our country's toughest challenge — theirs may be the hardest broken lives to mend. So everyone who takes on such an assignment deserves our thanks and praise.

What may set the Michies apart is their willingness to stay on task for so long. They have never stopped their work with the members of the Noble Knights and Cloud 9.

More than 30 years after they were teenagers, the club members are still in touch with each other and the Michies.

"At weddings and funerals," Mary Carol says, "they will all be there, sitting together on the front row."

Most of these club members have built good lives — with families and solid jobs. Some have struggled. Some are still struggling. But Mary Carol and George never give up on any of them.

Almost 20 years ago, a man, who had been a favorite of Mary Carol's when he was a child, broke her heart when she learned that he had been arrested for murder.

As Mary Carol left the jail after her first painful visit she remembers thinking, "Is this the same child who came to church early on Saturday morning to help me clean? The same child who quietly came into worship the Sunday before Christmas to give me a gift? The same young man, who as a youth, spoke so eloquently about the meaning of

Christmas? Who once talked about his own far away dream to be a youth worker? I remember his occasional temper and moodiness and his difficulty in completing tasks, but my mind cannot fathom his getting a gun and blowing someone away."

This tragedy led to another avenue of service. Still deeply disappointed, Mary Carol continued to visit him regularly. She went to his trial and after his sentencing kept in touch. This experience prompted Mary Carol and another church member, Ann Bradley, to organize a church group to correspond with prisoners. The members of the prison mission group meet once a month. The members agree only to do two things: write a prisoner regularly, and pray for that prisoner regularly.

At meetings, the groups spends about half the time in Bible study and prayer. Then they report to each other about "their prisoners." The outward journey of reaching out to the prisoners, gives the participants an inner spiritual underpinning.

The "success" with prisoners is hard to measure. Some will never leave prison. Not all who do gain freedom will be able to keep their lives turned around.

But the prisoner who broke Mary Carol's heart was released from prison. Surrounded by the love and prayers of the prison mission group, he found a job, built a family, and has now started his own prison mission group.

"Why don't you ever give up?" I asked Mary Carol. "Why can't you just say that you have done what you can and take a rest?"

She told me that, whenever she thinks about quitting, she remembers "something Martin Luther King said about keeping on loving people until you find the God that you know is within everyone. I just think there is always a chance for redemption."

D.G. Martin hosts North Carolina Bookwatch, which will return to the air later this year.

## We Get Letters

They were nice

Monday night of last week, my family needed assistance. We called 911 and Hoke County Rescue and a FirstHealth ambulance crew responded and provided needed assistance. They were very nice.

I thank them for being there when I needed them. Raeford is a beautiful place to live and, I might add, if everybody had Jesus what a beautiful world this would be.

I will continue praying for them that they will be safe as they go in and out of homes and up and down dangerous highways.

Jeannie Allen

## Consider property rights when elections come

To The Editor:  
Subject: Property Rights Form Foundation of Freedom

"A man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights. Where an excess of power prevails, property of no sort is duly respected. No man is safe in his opinions, his person, his faculties, or his possessions." — James Madison on property, (1792).

I believe that all of us should stop and think very long and hard about the above statement and look at what is happening to U. S. Citizens almost daily by our governments (elected officials at the federal, state, county, and city levels), companies, and various groups who are removing our property rights.

This year is election year; as you know, persons seeking election to offices will tell us many things. The news media will push their favorite individuals. The only way to protect our property rights is to elect individuals dedicated to preserving them.

Below is an example of what is happening across our country today.

Many non-smokers believe that they shouldn't be subjected to the secondhand health effects caused by smokers. Many believe that it is their right to expect business owners to ban smoking for all persons to suit their ideas.

Well, here's why:

Someone put up a good deal of his own money to open that business. That, or he risked his reputation and financial status to take out a loan. Someone took great care to set the atmosphere of that business. Someone did all the appropriate paperwork, applied for all of the appropriate licenses, and took care to hire people, and managers. Someone worries about that business's financial success. Someone assumes the risk and liabilities that go with operating a business.

The non-smokers took none of those risks. They put up none of their own money. They have no stake in

(See BROCK LETTER, page 3A)

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Home Page: [www.thenews-journal.com](http://www.thenews-journal.com)

Robert Dickson (robert@thenews-journal.com)	Publisher
Ken MacDonald (ken@thenews-journal.com)	General Manager
Pat Allen Wilson (pat@thenews-journal.com)	Editor
Victoriana Summers (vicky@thenews-journal.com)	Reporter
Hal Nunn (hal@thenews-journal.com)	Sports Writer
Hal Nunn (hal@thenews-journal.com)	Sales Representative
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