



# SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

County commissioner Chairman Allen Nethercutt at the board's meeting Monday would not allow a "non-vote." By this I mean that when an item was voted on and a commissioner did not vote against the item, Nethercutt said that is a "yes-vote." . . . To this I say, Hooray. . . And I hope he will continue to enforce the vote to be either yes or no. . . or cause those wanting to abstain to say so in the beginning and not take part in the discussion. If an item is too hot for a commissioner to handle, then he or she has no business discussing it. . . If they do not have the guts to vote no or yes, then keep their opinions to themselves. This talking one way and voting another, or talking and then not voting, kinda reminds me of executive sessions. If you are ashamed of it and have to hide to do it, how can it be in the public interest. . . I quite frankly, don't think it is. I think it is in the interest of those who hide. This old story from those sneaking off behind closed doors is that the employee's interest is the concern. This is a bunch of balogna. If there is anyone who gets ripped off behind these closed doors, it is the employee. . . I am about to get off my subject here, so back to the required voting. On two occasions Monday, Chairman Nethercutt called for a vote and one to two commissioners did not raise their hands for yes or no. . . So, Nethercutt said to mark everyone yes. . . A non-vote is a yes-vote. . . So, once again, let me say hooray for the chairman. I may not have agreed with the vote, but I sure did agree with the method.

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Several years ago — and I do mean several — I followed this fellow from Lenoir County around Duplin County from pig-picking to pig-picking, from large crowds to gatherings of just a few. I listened as he made his spiel. I asked him leading questions in front of many, and in the corner with just a couple around. I just couldn't believe a man from Lenoir County could have the same concern for the people of Duplin as he did for his home county. I picked, I probed, and asked the same questions in different areas, and got the same answers. . . Well, this man won my vote — this man from Deep Run, North Carolina, this man named Harold Hardison. Of all the votes I have ever cast, I am more pleased with the ones I have cast for Harold Hardison, even when he has had no opposition. If you are a regular reader of Son-of-a-Gun, I am sure you know my deep respect for Senator Harold Hardison. . . I know of few people who have done the good in Raleigh for Duplin County as Senator Harold Hardison has done. I feel he and Representative Wendell Murphy will do much good for our county in Raleigh. . . And, now for the punch line. . . When I need shoes, I see a person who knows about shoes. When I need my auto repaired, I see a man who knows autos. . . And if Senator Harold Hardison and Representative Wendell Murphy say Bob Jordan is the best man for the job of Lt. Governor, then I need to know no more.

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I was at several meetings last week and therefore was in several Duplin towns, and in towns I went in, with no exception, I saw Earl Hatcher out telling his tale about the bandage on his head. . . I know he must have taken time off from his work to go around and tell everyone about raising up under a counter and bumping his head. . . I, of course, heard other tales as well. . . One was, as he put it, he had always been called addle-brained, so now he has a reason. Someone said he was just determined to be different and, like a unicorn, he was growing a single horn. Another said that after watching a Three Stooges movie, he tried to nail a wig on his bald head. Someone else said he put his glasses on upside down and thought he was shaving under his nose and cut himself. Someone else said he was in a restaurant and asked for the A-1 Steak Sauce to put on his hamburger and the waitress threw it, he didn't see it coming, and just stood there and smiled. It didn't break the bottle, though. It bounced off. . . Probably the only person who really knows what really happened is his wife — and she ain't telling. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

## Congressman Charlie Whitley

Reports  
from Washington

### Moving Out of Lebanon

I am gratified that the President has made the decision to remove our Marines from their position inside Lebanon and station them aboard ships. I personally recommended this action months ago right after the terrorist bombing of the barracks at the Beirut airport.

While I opposed precipitous withdrawal that would give the impression that we were yielding to terrorism, a full-scale civil war goes far beyond terrorism. We should be extremely cautious about the extent of our stepped-up naval and air attacks against rebel forces.

### Change in Posture

It is pertinent to remember that our initial entry into Lebanon was reported to us by the President as being part of a neutral, multi-national peacekeeping force whose mission was to oversee the peaceful withdrawal of foreign forces. Obviously, that posture has changed, and we are now there as an avowed participant in a civil war between rival forces within Lebanon.

Admittedly, Syria and other outside forces are supporting the rebels, but it is equally true that the Gemayel government does not have sufficient popular support to survive, and instead of making progress toward consolidating the rival factions there, has seen its position steadily deteriorate.

We are left to wonder just what justification there is for any continued American effort to prop up a government and a leader who cannot sustain themselves by the will of their citizenry.


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