

# Our Opinion

## Mavretic Does As Expected In His Political Dealings

We believe it was Andrew Jackson who once said "to the victor belongs the spoils."

Democratic Representative Joe Mavretic of Edgecombe County was elected Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives this year. It is true that it took 45 Republican votes and 20 votes from his own party members to defeat former Speaker Liston Ramsey. But the fact remains, whether we like it or not, that Mr. Mavretic was elected and he served in that position during this year's legislative session.

Now from several sides he is being criticized for removing certain Democrats from committees and commissions and naming his own supporters. Is not that exactly what others have been doing in the realm of politics since government started in North Carolina.

We do not like all that we see, but we must admit that had Mr. Mavretic been defeated in his effort to gain the speakership, Mr. Ramsey would be bypassing everyone who supported Mr. Mavretic. That is the way it is in politics.

The issue and the criticism have been rather severe since he failed to reappoint Reps. George Miller of Durham County and Joe Hackney of Orange County to two legislative oversight committees.

Mr. Miller was stripped of his co-chairmanships of the Joint Legislature Utility Review Committee and the Joint Legislative Committee on Low Level Radio-Active Waste. Mr. Hackney has been a leading exponent of environment affairs, and he was removed from the Environmental Review Commission.

We must agree that a lot of ability was lost in taking away their knowledge and understanding of the issues. But again, Mr. Mavretic chose to appoint those who have supported him and on whom he is counting to elect him House speaker again. Mr. Mavretic did say he was not satisfied with the operations of the utility review committee's efforts to bring more natural gas to Eastern North Carolina.

It must be remembered that most of those 45 Republicans who supported Mr. Mavretic and most of those 20 Democrats who did likewise are up for re-election next year. So is Mr. Mavretic both in Edgecombe County and for his position as speaker.

A politician does not appoint his political enemies. He rewards his friends and supporters. So Mr. Mavretic is just doing what scores of other political leaders have done in years gone by. And unless something bizarre happens, we shall expect the system to continue as long as we have both politics and government.

We believe what has happened in many ways has hurt North Carolina. It is strange indeed for a coalition of Democrats and Republicans to elect a speaker. But it happened.

And "to the victor belongs the spoils." At least that's the way it is even if many of us do not like it.

## The Best Answer

Over North Carolina in recent days we have seen many municipal campaigns being waged in towns and cities across the state. In many instances public meetings among the candidates have been held so that voters could ask questions and engage in personal conversations with those seeking office.

In one such encounter, the fellow wishing to ask the question made a speech on the needs of his city such as education, law enforcement, utilities, streets, fire departments, and recreation. He dwelled on each subject, and then he asked his question of the council candidates.

"What do you consider a wise and practical amount our tax rate should be increased to realize these needs?"

If that is not a loaded question, we have never seen or heard of one. But some candidates tried to stumble through with half-hearted answers. But one fellow gave a very simple answer. He said, "I have no idea."

That was the best answer of the evening, and from the applause received, he scored a hit.

## A Problem Is Compounded When Illiteracy Present

When something new is introduced, we like to stand up and listen. At least, when the matter of human justice is involved, it might be a case in which we can learn something.

In Durham County recently a man came before District Court charged with failure to meet his child support payments. That is a familiar charge today in many courts in North Carolina and we suspect in other states as well. We have been told that here in this Pamlico area, we have a goodly number of such cases coming up for trial.

But this case in Durham recently was somewhat different. The defendant could not read and write. He had no job. He could not make child support payments when he was out of work and not making any wages. And so often that is the case among fathers hailed into court for non-support. It is a sad and tragic condition to face, but judges have to face it all the time.

The Durham judge gave the illiterate defendant 90 days in jail. But instead of ordering the standard work release as is done so often, this judge suspended the sentence on condition that the defendant go to school and learn to read and write. The judge learned that Durham Community College offers free literacy classes after the jurist had offered to pay the costs for what he termed as "education release" rather than "work release."

The judge says he will continue to offer "education release" in cases of a similar nature brought before him. The judge took note of the fact that so many persons are brought to court for failure to pay alimony, child support, and court costs because they are out of work and because they cannot read and write, they are at the very bottom of the totem pole when it comes to getting and holding jobs.

In this particular case, it was learned that the defendant could not even fill out an application for a job because he was so handicapped. It is just common sense to realize that in today's world, an illiterate human being can find but few jobs he can hold. In days gone by he might have been a ditch digger, but we do not dig many ditches today with a plain old shovel. He might have been a farmer's helper, but few farmers use mules and plows today, and farm machinery takes some education when learning to operate.

So really, what is there to do today for a fellow who absolutely cannot read and write and who has never been to school a day in his life? Why we read that by the end of this century 85 percent of all workers must have at least a high school education. The dropouts, all of whom can read and write, will hold the other 15 percent of the jobs.

If this story from the Durham court can be looked upon as an experiment, then over our state it might be wise to follow the progress there on this first "education release" defendant. We might learn something valuable.

## Different Situation

As we follow the emigration of thousands of East Germans to West Germany through Czechoslovakia, we need to realize that this is no comfortable world situation.

It is a very much different story than that which might be told by neighboring countries. Poland, Czechoslovakia, and other European neighbors have a long history and sometimes a distinguished one. East Germany has a very short history. It was formed after World War II, and it is perhaps the most purely communist country today in Europe. At least it adheres more closely to the Stalinist traditions and philosophy than does the Soviet Union or any other communist country there.

With so much movement, the situation is far more explosive than most people realize. If East Germany begins to bear down in terms equal to what China did, then we hesitate to think of the aftermath.

What we really have is a divided Germany. And it appears that many Germans living under Stalinist communism are fed up and want to leave.

## Gail Winds

As I sit on the porch and listen to the birds, a pine-scented harvest breeze slightly stirs my peaceful countryside. These are the moments of life worth savoring. Moments filled with awareness, and with peace and promise...times of thoughtfulness and thankfulness.

As we prepare ourselves for yet another Thanksgiving, perhaps we should spend a little less time searching through the stores for the turkey and more time towards searching through our hearts for Thanksgiving. Like all the holidays in the year, this one, too, has finally lost its meaning. At the end of the day, the women are exhausted from toiling over hot stoves. The men reach for their hunting boots or check their watch not to miss the kickoff. And the children...well, they go on to future Thanksgivings pattered after what they've already seen. We just stuff our bodies with food and our brains with mindless entertainment, and head towards the Christmas holiday to do more of the same.

Well, I've revived Thanksgiving here at my house...the way it was meant to be. And, I try to keep a bit of that special holiday in my life each day the whole year through. I am thankful all the time, for many things. Some of them can be touched with the hand. Some with the eye. And some can only be felt with the heart.

I am thankful for the sense of wonder that survived my childhood, and for the courage to see myself as I really am. Courage to take risks. Courage to live. I am thankful for the mixture of new insights and old wisdoms, and that I'm not one of those poor souls who neither enjoy much nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory or defeat. I am thankful to finally come to understand that being, doing, and having, are like a triangle where each side supports the other. And most of all, I am grateful that I've reached the awareness, at long last, that little things affect little minds.

I'm grateful for friends who drop by unexpectedly, baby bunnies that rush to the cage door each morning, and time to linger now and then. Blessed are the mamas who share and doctors who care, and nephews who run to hug my knees. And teddy bears. And what would I do without my dreams, and those who support them, no matter how crazy they might think I am...

There are so many little things that make my life worthwhile, the kind of things that lift my heart and cause my soul to smile. Like kittens playing in the leaves near sage upon the vine, and harvest tangled in the breeze as combine engines whine. I love the shells that lie in groups upon my kitchen shelf, recalling moments by the sea I gladly gave myself.

I often sit and wonder just how blind some folks can be, to the marvels of the universe that mean so much to me. For each passing of the twilight has made me more aware, of the tiny treasures in my life I should more often share. Like the little white haired grandmas and honeysuckle days, pastures, ponds, and clover fields and time for carefree ways. Tiny birds upon a limb and butterflies and bees, provide a sense of wonderment like do shady big oak trees, So why not stop your rushing, and pause along the way, to make time every morning for another thank-filled day. Don't wait until Thanksgiving to be thankful. Don't wait until then to celebrate. Go out and find Thanksgiving everywhere, every way, in your heart. And you'll find yourself plenty of reason to be grateful at any time for another thank-filled day.

When you party remember to... **PARTY Smart**

Don't get wrecked if you're not sober - or you're not sure - let someone else do the driving.

**BEER DRINKERS OF AMERICA**

Member of the American Beverage Association

2011 Roadside, Suite 201  
1000 West 10th St.  
Tulsa, OK 74107  
1-800-451-2447

## Soil & Water

By Michael Harriett  
Soil Conservation Technician

Most people take soil for granted and think of it as the "dirt" that we walk, play work and build on.

But soil and soil conservation is much more than that. In fact, it is a matter of life and death.

Stop and think about it — everything we have comes from the soil, directly or indirectly.

The blue jeans you wear are made of cotton, which comes from a plant that grows in the soil. The egg you ate for breakfast came from a chicken which ate corn that grew in the soil.

The house you live in is made of wood or has wood in it. Wood comes from trees which grow in the ground. Without the soil to grow crops and trees we could not survive. This is why it is important for us to conserve our soil.

By conserving our soil, we ensure it will continue to support us and future generations.

If you look at the soil closely, you will find it is much more than just dirt.

It is composed many things — bits of rock, mineral crystals, plant roots, decayed roots and leaves, living and dead animals and plants, water and air.

Most soil is formed from various types of rocks. Water action, air, temperature, plants, animals and chemical actions all work together to create new soil.

To get some idea of the physical force and length of time it takes nature to produce topsoil, take two

rough rocks and rub them together. It takes a long time just to produce a spoonful of mineral from which soil develops. This simple experiment explains why it takes nature about 500 to 1000 years to produce one inch of topsoil.

All soil is composed of sand, silt and clay. The various combinations of sand, silt and clay is what makes our soils suitable or unsuitable for the various uses. Some examples of the various uses are farming, building houses or for septic tank systems.

Soil scientists have identified more than 70,000 kinds of soil in the United States. These soils are usually named for the town or locality in which they are first defined. Some examples of soil names in this area are Pantego, Arnpahoe, Craven and Lenoir.

Our soil is composed of different layers. These layers are known as horizons. The three main layers are known as topsoil, subsoil and bedrock. These layers vary in thickness and color. Even if soils look alike on the surface, they may be very different below the surface. The thickness of the layers and their structure make a big difference in the suitability of the soil for various uses.

To manage soils properly and use them to their utmost capability, we must know something about their characteristics. This information is available in the form of a published soil survey.

Soil surveys are composed of aerial photographs that show the various boundaries of the different soils

and all technical data. This information is very valuable to landowners, engineers, farmers and others.

It will help describe the limitations of the different soils for such purposes as cropland, ponds, building sites, septic tanks and other things.

**West Craven Highlights**

Craven County's Family Weekly Newspaper  
P.O. Box 487  
Vanceboro, N.C. 28586  
(Main St. Across From Post Office)  
Published Each Thursday  
Ashley B. Futrell, Jr.  
Publisher  
Mike Voss  
Editor

Postmaster: Send address changes to:  
West Craven Highlights  
P.O. Box 487  
Vanceboro, N.C. 28586-0487

Edith Hodges  
Office Manager

Office Hours  
Mon. .... 8:30 am - 10:30 am  
Thurs. & Fri. 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Telephone 244-0780 or 946-2144

IN-COUNTY RATES  
Single Copy 25¢  
1 Year \*7.35  
2 Years \*11.55  
3 Years \*15.75

OUT-OF-COUNTY RATES  
1 Year ..... \*8.40  
2 Years ..... \*12.60  
3 Years ..... \*16.80

Above includes N.C. Tax.  
Payable in advance. Subscribers desiring their Highlights terminated at expiration should notify us of this intention, otherwise we will consider it their wish to continue to receive the paper and they will be charged for it.  
U.S.P.S. 412-110  
Second Class Postage Paid  
Vanceboro, N.C.  
Member: N.C. Press Association

**GRAVEN COUNTY BUSINESS & SERVICES**

<p><b>PAY CASH</b> and save 20% and more. 90 days-same as cash. Come on down. <b>Pat's Furniture Co. Inc.</b> 244-1828</p>	<p><b>SUPER SAVERS</b> 244-2444 GAZEBO STYLE BIRD FEEDER 10 1/2" DIA. HIGH <b>\$5.99</b> VANCEBORO HARDWARE Limit 1 of Each Per Customer. While Quantities Last!</p>	<p><b>Timmy Ray Hawks Painting Co.</b> Interior-Exterior-Painting Roof Coating 244-2626 After 6 P.M.</p>
<p><b>Toler &amp; Son Garage</b> Owner &amp; Operator Louis Toler Custom Exhaust &amp; Mufflers Tune-up - Transmission &amp; Motor Service Nwy 17, 3 miles North of Vanceboro <b>24 Hour Wrecker Service</b> 244-1253</p>	<p><b>Hearne's Jewelers</b> 200 MIDDLE ST. NEW BERN, N.C. 28560 TELEPHONE 637-4800 Your Diamond Store</p>	<p><b>244-1381 H. M. B.</b> Morris Plaza Vanceboro Complete Family Insurance Coverage</p>
<p><b>Farm Life Florist</b> OFFICE 244-2519 After Hours Call: Eiva.....244-1036 Jean.....244-0847 Eve Ann.....637-4437</p>	<p><b>"Stop &amp; Look"</b> HWY. 17 POTTERY OVER 100 ITEMS <b>244-9060</b></p>	<p><b>Hardware &amp; Plumbing</b> Movie Rentals Timex Watches Groceries *All kinds of Frozen Food &amp; Film &amp; Flash Bulbs Hwy. 17 N. Vanceboro 244-1451 Open 6:00-11:00 Every Day</p>
<p><b>NEW RINSE-N-VAC</b> steam cleans carpets cleaner and keeps them cleaner longer. Rent At <b>Pat's Furniture Co.</b> 244-1828</p>	<p><b>Edward's Small Engine &amp; Pet Shop</b> NEW &amp; USED LAWN MOWERS SALES &amp; REPAIR EXOTIC BIRDS &amp; TROPICAL FISH PET SUPPLIES See our toy selection 244-2208 VANCEBORO</p>	<p><b>WATT'S UP? SAVE WITH PROPANE</b> ECONOMICAL EFFICIENT CONVENIENT <b>244-0320</b></p>
<p><b>Down East Restaurant</b> NOW OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT MEET TOMMY &amp; SHIRLEY MORRIS LEON THOMPSON Come See What Everyone's Raving About! plates &amp; sandwiches all varieties</p>	<p><b>Faye's Stop &amp; Shop</b> VIDEO RENTALS (all the new releases) ERNUL CROSSROADS Hwy 17 &amp; WEYERHAEUSER R ERNUL 244-1116</p>	<p><b>The Clothes Box</b> Sizes 1-20 PETITE AVERAGE &amp; TALL Layaways Available Ernul Crossroads 10-5 Mon. Thru Sat. 244-0463</p>

**Wurlitzer Pianos & Organs**  
**Selmer Band Instruments**  
**Guitar & Accessories**

Affordable Rental Programs Available on Pianos & Band Instruments, Excellent Service

**Fuller's Music House, Inc.**  
Low interest in-store financing available  
216 Middle Street 638-2811 New Bern