

Organizational skills go lacking in many rational adults

Someone recently brought up the topic of being organized. They alluded to the fact that I must be very organized in order to get my articles and features prepared for the paper. I laughed out loud. If there is one thing I am not it is organized. I don't have time to be organized.

I gave birth to three, but eventually ended up raising seven children who all lived to become teenagers. I have just enough gray matter left to function successfully on a daily basis. There is no room left to discover the wonderful world of being organized.

My system of organization is simple. If I know where it is,

then I am organized. For instance, we have lived here for six months. My large pantry contains a number of boxes as yet unpacked. The large boxes contain big stuff. The small boxes contain little stuff. The big ones are stacked together, as are the little ones. They are organized, right?

My husband did not see the need to mark the contents on each box. "It's all our stuff," he said. He's real organized too.

Now, moving right along. Let's look at the chest of drawers and bedroom closet. When all else fails stuff those suckers full. The top two drawers of the chest are for

Some passing thoughts

HELEN K. OUTLAND



"under things". One contains what I wear in case I end up in the hospital. (My mother taught me that.) The other contains what I wear when I am giving a 117-pound dog a bath.

The closet has clothes hanging in it. They aren't hanging in order of season,

color, matching, or occasion. For heaven's sake, I don't want to take the fun out of the chaos of getting dressed at the last minute. The bottom of the closet is for shoes. I know they are there. There is a big pile of them. The same search system works for the shoes as it does for the clothes hanging above.

Now, let's explore the kitchen. One cabinet has plates, cereal bowls, saucers, and bread plates in it. That's the way it should be. A cereal bowl can balance two dinner plates very well. I swear. Then there is the cabinet with the canned goods in it.

There are the cans with the

white stuff in them, the ones with the green stuff in them, the cans with the yellow stuff in them, so on and so forth. Grab one of each and you have a balanced meal. Just try not to knock over the paper cup with all the pennies in it. Ignore the fingernail polish remover. It isn't a condiment.

The cabinet under the sink contains the cleaning stuff. There is a can of Pledge and a bottle of Texize. You can pour the Texize on a cloth, give the countertop, chair rails, and the legs of the table a good swipe and "I have worked so hard all day" smells like an honest statement and organization.

Last but not least is my desk. One pile of papers has that stuff in it from the fax. One pile has that stuff in it from my folder down stairs. Another pile has my notes from interviews over the last six months. Let's see. So and so said, "The well being of national security is falling victim to the bickering between congress and the military."

Next page: "However, the eighteen hour girdle has proven to provide the most long term support without causing a stroke." That, by the way, is a complete lie. The lack of blood supply to the legs will make your toenails fall off. I don't have time to be organized.

Community Calendar

Thursday - 8/16

ALBEMARLE ARTIST LEAGUE

The newly formed Albemarle Artist League will hold its sixth meeting Thursday, Aug. 16, from 7-9 p.m. at the Chowan County Agricultural Center, North Granville St., Edenton. Artists with the love of oil, watercolor, pastels and acrylic painting are invited to join the group. For more info, call 482-1759.

Saturday - 8/18

VFW DANCE PLANNED

VFW Post 7312, located three miles west of Sunbury in Gates County, will host a dance featuring the Mallory Buck Band, Aug. 18, 9 p.m. until midnight.

Tuesday - 8/21

REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

The Albemarle Republican Woman's Club will meet at Creekside Restaurant "dutch treat" on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at noon. Guest speaker will be Lynn Hurdle-Winslow, dean of the COA Chowan County Center. Please plan to attend as she will be sharing info about the needs of students at the college.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY GATHERING

The Friends of the Library Book Club will meet at the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton Aug. 21 at 3:30 p.m.

NAACP PLANS MEETING

The Chowan County Branch of the NAACP will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at the Providence Missionary Baptist Church. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

SAILING LESSONS OFFERED

Sailing lessons will be offered by the Edenton Sailing Club beginning Tuesday, Aug. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Classes are open to high school students through senior citizens and will be held at the Edenton Municipal Bldg. Questions? Call Gil Burroughs at 482-2624.

Upcoming Events

BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

The Chowan Middle School PTA will host a BBQ Chicken Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 25, from 4-6:30 p.m. (see banner on page 1-A)

CIVIC LEAGUE TO MEET

The Edenton-Chowan Civic League will meet at the Fannie A. Parker Woman's Club on Monday, Aug. 27, at 6:30 p.m.

ALBEMARLE CHORALE

A pre-season meeting of the Albemarle Chorale will be held Monday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Parish House of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 101 Gale St., Edenton. New, old and prospective members are invited to attend. Plans for the coming season will be presented. If you cannot make the planning meeting, please join us on Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish House as we begin our regular Monday evening rehearsal schedule.



Ballantine is certainly no JFK

RALEIGH - This week's winner of the Profile in Courage Award goes to Sen. Patrick Ballantine, the Senate minority leader from Wilmington.

Ballantine, like Republicans in both the House and Senate, is opposed to the Democrats' package of tax hikes to balance the budget.

To his credit, Ballantine, unlike House Republicans, has a list of proposed cuts that would close the budget deficit. To his discredit, the list is weak, vague and simplistic.

Ballantine proposes, for example, to save \$48.2 million by cutting 10 percent of the state's payments to private agencies. He also proposes to cut 25 percent of the administrators in local schools who are paid by the state. That would save \$25 million.

That may sound great, but isn't it a bit simplistic to say that he'd cut 25 percent without listing who would be axed?

It would be, but Ballantine names positions. He says he'd cut assistant and deputy assistants, and that would equal \$25 million.

This would be a fairly serious proposal if accompanied with a statement from the Fiscal Research Division with regard to the potential savings and with a study saying that these jobs are not needed. He presents only an alternative Iredell County newsletter to support his pitch that the jobs are not needed.

When it comes to the private agencies, that \$48.2 million looks tempting.

It's only 10 percent of the total aid.

But what is that 10 percent? What programs? What services? Ask Ballantine, and he sounds as if he doesn't know. And if he does, he isn't telling.

This money to private agencies could be

the funds given to the Public School Forum to run the Teaching Fellows program, or to a Smart Start agency, or to a volunteer fire department or a community charity. Lord knows, it could even be a Bush-like grant to a faith-based agency. In many of these cases, this money is probably spent on public work that is performed by the private sector. Sounds pretty Republican to me.

Will Ballantine please stand up and tell us which private agencies he would cut so we can decide if we want to back his proposal?

"No. That's ridiculous," he said at a press conference in which he criticized — heck, he blasted — Gov. Mike Easley for a lack of leadership. "Why should we hang ourselves out and say we're going to cut this and this and this... And they'll (the groups' leaders) be calling us... It's ridiculous for us to name individual programs. We know we can find 10 percent but the Democrats refuse to listen."

Now, that's real courage! The kind that Harvard's John F. Kennedy School seeks when it presents the Profiles in Courage awards.

Blast the Democrats for proposing to raise taxes. Blast Easley for proposing to raise taxes without saying which taxes. Then suggest that money can be saved by cutting programs that you won't even name.

That's not only cowardly, it's hypocritical. Democrats have done a lousy job of leading this year, but at least they named the taxes they want to raise. Ballantine doesn't want a tax increase, but he won't name the programs he would cut to spare us that tax increase.

To quote former Texas Sen. Lloyd Benson: "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

Today in North Carolina

PAUL O'CONNOR



One on One

Have you been following the travels of the "Great Leader" of North Korea, Kim Jong-il, as he made his way by train from his homeland to Moscow and back again?



D.G. MARTIN

The "Great Leader" is afraid to travel by air. So a special armor-clad train carried him and his party over the Trans-Siberian railroad line.

One of the reasons this train trip made news is that very few people use trains anymore for business travel. They surely don't in North Carolina.

It has been a long time since most of us have found it convenient to use the railroad to get us around in North Carolina.

In fact, most North Carolinians have never ridden on a regular passenger train.

Passenger trains seldom provide us with a realistic travel option.

But things changed for me last week when I found I needed to travel from the Durham-Chapel Hill area to Charlotte. I make the trip a lot — usually by driving by myself down I-85, making it in about two and one-half hours if the traffic isn't too bad and I don't make any stops.

It isn't a bad trip. I can listen to the radio. Or, if I have some extra time, I can stop at one of the great "home cooking" places to eat that I have discovered working on a series of magazine articles for "Our State Magazine."

But last week I needed some free time to look over some papers to prepare me for my first day on a new job with the Trust for Public Land in Charlotte. Of course, I couldn't review the papers and drive at the same time. Conveniently, a morning passenger train between Raleigh and Charlotte leaves Durham about 7:30 a.m. and arrives in Charlotte a little more than three hours later.

I arrived at the Durham Station just as the train was pulling up. The conductor motioned me on. I asked him if I could buy a ticket on board.

"Sure," he said, "but it will cost you a little extra."

"A little extra" meant about twice as much as the \$19 regular one-way ticket. But I paid cheerfully, glad to have barely made the train. And I was even happier when I took a seat and found it bigger than a regular airline seat, much bigger, in fact, with lots of leg-room. I spread out my papers and reviewed

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THE CHOWAN HERALD

(USPS 106-380)

Telephone: (252) 482-4418

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

By Cox North Carolina Publications, Inc.

Entered as a second-class matter August 30, 1934 at the Post Office of Edenton, North Carolina, under Act of March 3, 1879.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 Year \$21.95
6 Months \$11.95
Edenton / Tyner \$21.95
Anywhere Else in NC \$26.95
Outside NC \$28.95
Zone 8 \$32.95
\$17.95

Subscription Breakdowns Available Upon Request

10% Discount Available To Senior Citizens

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
The Chowan Herald • P.O. Box 207 • Edenton, NC 27932

What can new census tell us about NC?

BY DR. MIKE WALDEN

Periodically, it's worthwhile to make an assessment of one's situation. Businesses do this all the time, and many households do the same when they apply for a loan or pay taxes.

We can make a similar assessment of our state from the new data recently released from the 2000 Census. We can then decide what kind of picture of North Carolina the numbers paint.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

If you have something you would like to get off your chest, take the time to write the The Chowan Herald. All letters must include your current address, telephone number and signature of the writer. Deadline for the letters is 12 noon Friday prior to each week's publication.

You DECIDE

There are two ways to use the Census data. One way compares North Carolina's numbers to the national numbers.

The second way studies trends in North Carolina's numbers from previous years. Let's first compare North

Carolina to the nation. On one of the most important numbers, the average income of households, it appears North Carolina falls short. Average income in North

Carolina is 8% lower than the national average.

Yet there are two caveats to this comparison. First, the cost-of-living has been measured to be 5% to 10% lower in North Carolina, so if this is accurate, a household doesn't require as much income in North Carolina to achieve the same standard of living as in the nation. Second, North Carolina's ratio has been rising. In 1990, household income in North Carolina was 11% lower than in the nation, and in 1980 it was 14% less.

North Carolinians also work in different industries than

national workers. Percentage-wise, more North Carolinians work in agriculture, construction, and manufacturing and fewer work in trade and services. There are also more Tarheels, relatively speaking, changing jobs than in the nation. This lively reflects the dynamic nature of North Carolina's economy.

A higher percentage of North Carolina families have both parents working in the labor force compared to the nation. The North Carolina poverty rate is also higher than the national poverty rate. But, North Carolina workers spend less time commuting to work than the average national worker.

So, these are some key numbers from the 2000 Census of

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