

## Opinion

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

## ONE-ON-ONE

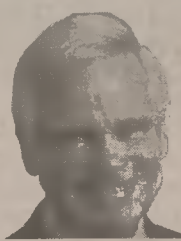
## Blame game dangers...

Reactions to the so-called repeal of HB2 show one reason why Democrats are already in trouble for the 2018 and 2020 elections. They had hoped this year would be a time of unity to mobilize opposition to the "mis-administration" of the other party in Washington and the state legislature.

Instead of strengthening their party and bringing it together for successfully rid-

"But now is not the time to turn on Cooper."

-D.G. MARTIN



ding the state of much of the damage from HB2, the repeal has

brought about more disappointment and disunity. Instead of unifying and celebrating the achievement of their party's leader, Gov. Roy Cooper, Democrats have broken into angry factions.

Many of the state's more important and influential figures have attacked the governor for "selling out" by accepting a compromise, which is, so they say, worse than HB2 itself.

Mark Joseph Stern, writing for Slate, noted, "As soon as the 'compromise' bill was revealed, however, LGBTQ groups lined up against it, arguing, in essence, that the cure would be worse than the disease. They are absolutely correct. The measure, HB142, would be an unmitigated disaster for LGBTQ rights. It substitutes the old anti-trans policy for a new, equally cruel one -and prevents cities from protecting their own LGBTQ residents. This bill is not a compromise. It is a capitulation."

The editorial board of The Charlotte Observer joined the chorus criticizing Cooper, calling his actions "a betrayal of the promises the governor made to the LGBT community."

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, wrote that while Cooper was taking credit for HB2's repeal, "He did no such thing. Instead he signed a new version of HB2 and betrayed [his] campaign promise."

One radio caller, angry with Cooper and the compromise, said she would rather carry the burden of HB2 for a lifetime than accept a compromise or anything other than the law's unconditional repeal.

At least this caller recognized the choices that were then available to Cooper:

1. Negotiate a compromise with the legislators who passed HB2 in the first place, who still supported it, and who still had control of the legislature, or
2. Live with HB2 indefinitely, at least until, when and if, the political situation in North Carolina changes.

Most Republicans were not eager to repeal HB2.

Lt. Gov. Dan Forrest defended it and opposed the compromise: "I'm proud of the stance we've taken. I'm proud of the work we did to protect women and kids in bathrooms. I'm proud of the work we did to uphold the Constitution. I think that the only thing that was wrong with HB2 was the false narrative and the negative narrative from the left, from the media, from the leftist groups out there who were coming against North Carolina and boycotting North Carolina."

Forrest's comments are a reminder that legislative supporters of a full repeal were a minority against a steadfast majority that was unwilling to support and vote for an unconditional appeal.

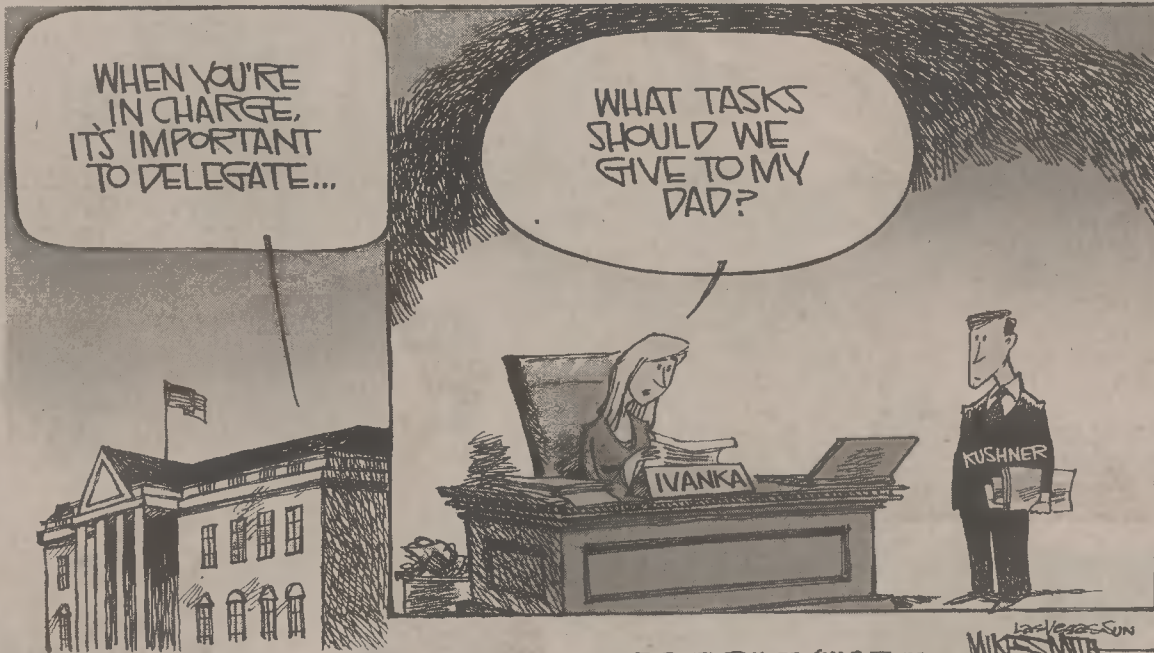
To get HB2 repealed, there had to be a compromise.

It is certainly fair to criticize the compromise and work for an expansion of protections for gay and transgender rights.

But now is not the time to turn on Cooper just because he did not get it all.

There will be other chances, after elections in coming years. But Democrats who are trashing Cooper and those who supported the compromise are jeopardizing their party's unity and its chances to do well in those upcoming elections.

D.G. Martin hosts "North Carolina Bookwatch."



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MIKE SMITA

## SMALL TOWN GIRL

## Too many miles between us...

Approximately 200 miles separate me from my sister Lisa.

It has been that way all of our lives.

She is almost 19 years older than I, so by the time I was born she had already started a life of her own.

She settled down around Charlottesville, Va., got married, had children and has been there throughout all of my North Carolina childhood and adult years.

I remember when I was growing up I would always look forward to her visits, and especially when she brought my niece Casey and nephew Brandon.

Casey, Brandon and I were so close in age that they seemed more like my brother and sister than Lisa did.

The three of us were always getting into mischief and at those times Lisa seemed more like a mother figure than my sister.

As a child I never understood what all the excitement was about when she came. But as I grew older I understood that the 24 to 36 hours were so important because you never knew when she would come again.

Now as an adult, I long to hear the words, "Lisa is coming."

"With each trip the goodbyes never get easier."

LESLIE BEACHBOARD



We are both adults now with hectic schedules, and when I know she is coming to visit, I will all but stop time to be with her.

This past weekend I had the pleasure of spending time with Lisa, her husband Dale, my nephew Brandon, his partner Brittney and their son Trenton.

During the same weekend, my mother's family had a family reunion, and they all decided to visit our house.

Over the course of the weekend, several people told us how much Lisa and I looked alike or acted alike.

I couldn't help but smile because usually I am only lucky enough to see her twice a year and people said we are so much alike.

It just made me realize how much I am missing not having this part of my family closer to me.

## AROUND HERE

## Turn signals are great inventions...

I want to make an announcement.

There is a wonderful invention on the market today.

Actually, it has been around for decades and decades, and is used on all automobiles, regardless of make, model or year.

What is this wonderful piece of technology, you ask? The thing that can help make all drivers' lives easier, and definitely less stressful?

It's called a turn signal.

Maybe many of you drivers have never heard of turn signals, since you never use them.

In all likelihood, these same drivers never adhere to the speed limit either - hey, 55 mph is the limit, not a suggestion - but that's another topic for another time.

Back to turn signals.

These things are so simple to use. All you have to do is flip the bar up when you want to turn right, and down when you want to go left. You should signal a few hundred feet before you turn or change lanes.

See? Couldn't be easier. It's painfully obvious (I learned it in Driver's Ed).

Some of you still look confused,

"I believe we take our turn signals for granted."

- JIM GREEN



almost as if you didn't know they were there, or why they are there in the first place.

I realize that the way some people change lanes these days, using turn signals may be a moot idea. If they did what they were supposed to, those turn signals would be going off all over the place.

On a recent trip to Raleigh, I was in a 70 mph zone on a six-lane road going west in the middle lane, actually going about 72, when the vehicle behind me decided I wasn't going fast enough.

This person decided he would pull a Fast and the Furious move - he pulled within about two car lengths behind me (which is tailgating), steered to the right and moved into the lane beside me.

This driver then sped up and darted across the two lanes of traffic just so he could be ahead

of me and the car in the lane beside me.

Did this person signal? No. However, being the clairvoyant person I am, I knew where he was going even without his turn signal.

(Insert heavy sarcasm here).

My concern was not just for me, but for the person behind me and to my left. Those cars easily could have collided because one driver wasn't using common sense.

I believe we take our turn signals for granted.

I use my turn signal anytime there is traffic behind me because I like my vehicle and would like to avoid an accident.

Some people are just so in a hurry that they don't have much respect for others on the road.

My point is, driving is a privilege, not a right. We should all use common sense on the road - especially when other drivers make us mad.

Anger and arrogance when driving serves no useful purpose.

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