

The News - Journal



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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

'Stop standing there saying tsk tsk tsk ...'



by Marty Vega

Frank Talk On TV

Never again will fans switch off the set and skip the "post-game wrapups" which the baseball commentators put on after Mark Fidrych's frank remarks following Saturday's Detroit - Cleveland game. How many of you missed it? Too bad. (Actually, strong language was certainly in order in view of Horton being thrown out by the shameless bum who calls himself an umpire, but that's another story)

For those of us who did hear the Bird's honest explanation of how he psychologically prepares himself for a game, we couldn't agree more. It was indeed refreshing to hear some plain talk from a national celebrity on nationwide television. Let us hope that this remarkable young man has started a trend which other national figures can follow, rather than have criticism heaped upon him for fouling the airwaves with foul language.

Entertainers are expected to come out with strong language now and then on television and this provides jobs for censors and tape splicers, which are important jobs to the economy. But imagine how refreshing it would be if public figures could speak with candor. President Ford, when asked just how many delegates he had, could say "I don't think the delegates are-----me or the American people". Ronald Reagan, after losing the nomination to Ford, could go on TV and say, "I came to the convention-----myself that I had the delegates."

David Brinkley even could benefit from this new freedom and say "Good evening, I don't want to-----you, there wasn't much news today."

The astronauts, along with the scientists at the spacecraft centers, could beam back pictures of Mars and tell the viewing public, "we're not-----, the surface of Mars looks just like Arizona."

Just think, if a certain ex-President who went on TV and said "I am not a crook", had instead declared "I am not a-----", his fortune and the destiny of the country might have been far different as the American people would certainly have supported such naked honesty and dedication to the truth.

Think about it. ITEM-- Local Democrats apparently aren't aware of it yet, but there's a movement afoot that will

catch them by surprise. The Ford people have been studying the various welcome signs leading into the city with a view to making some improvements, namely making the last four letters all in capital letters to spell RaeFORD HmMMM. Too bad, the Dems won't have anything to use to cover over the new paint except peanut oil.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor: People are always saying the world has become too commercial, that television shows are written to capture the biggest audience strictly in order to sell more tooth paste, that politicians are out to make money, that schools are far more concerned with buildings than teaching, etc.

Why, they say, look at the Olympics. The games have become commercial. A man wins a bunch of gold medals and what happens? He shows up doing commercials on television at \$50,000 a year.

The people of course are mistaken. The world hasn't suddenly become commercial. It's always been that way.

For instance, I was watching the Olympics on television and just to be doing I looked up the history of the games in an encyclopedia. In those days in ancient Greece a winner was awarded a garland of wild olives at the stadium. I don't know how he preserved it to show his grandchildren, but when he got home poets started writing poems about him, people gave him a parade, and his emperor gave him free groceries for the rest of his life and 500 drachmae for pocket change.

Now a drachma, which I learned just now by looking it up in the dictionary and won't remember tomorrow, was a gold coin worth various amounts, depending on the rate of inflation. I don't know how much inflation they had, but I'm sure whatever emperor was running for office was against it, the same as he was against big government spending, high taxes, unemployment, and the charring of pupils to school. Of course the main platform of any candidate in those days was let's get the country moving again. Ancient Greece moved so far it disappeared.

Furthermore, there was the same complaint back then over the idolizing of athletes and the ignoring of the intellectuals. One writer whose name I can't spell, let along pronounce -- it began with an "X" and nobody has ever been able to handle that letter at the beginning of a word without calling it something else -- was bitter about the habit of the people's showering gifts on runners and ignoring philosophers.

Times haven't changed. How many philosophers do you see giving commercials on TV? None, of course. What do you expect? How many of them can run a mile in less than four minutes?

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

**SUPPORT YOUR
HOKE COUNTY
RESCUE SQUAD**
Community Service Since 1962

Letter To Editor

Niblock Retorts

Editor's note: The above letter is printed as it was addressed. Reporter Marty Vega wrote the news article and made no contentions. The editorial, written by the editor, did contend that Federal and State money is not free just because it is not collected locally. We stick by this contention, as well as the "amusing" one that public employees are generally paid more than those in the private sector. We also fail to find either assertion or implication that Jimmy Carter's campaign is the only one receiving Federal money. We invite readers to re-read the news article and editorial in last week's paper and reach their own conclusions.

Dear Mrs. Vega:

Your article and editorial concerning travel by county employees in the July 22nd edition of The News-Journal contains a number of errors, which I shall enumerate in the following paragraphs.

The increase in the Social Services Travel budget was not due to inflation, but because of an increased number of employees, and the urgent need to attend vitally important meetings not attended prior to this fiscal year. Our mileage reimbursement (12 cents per mile) nor our per diem allowance has been increased for two years. I am sure you are aware that 15 cents per mile is what the state recommends that counties pay and, of course, any thinking person knows that at today's prices for fuel and other vehicle maintenance costs; you are losing considerable money if you are only reimbursed at 12 cents per mile.

One of your most amusing statements was that public employees are paid, more than those in the private sector, this is certainly not the case in North Carolina, neither is it true in most of our sister states.

Your contention that Federal and State participation in the county Social Services budget does not provide fiscal relief for the citizens of Hoke County is completely contrary to the facts. The total Social Services budget is \$1,646,944 and the county's share is only \$22,950, so you or anyone else can readily see that if Federal and State funds were not paying 86.46% of the total cost, the county tax rate would have to be increased by at least \$1.02. Yes, those filthy Federal and State dollars really can be used to pay bills, and to purchase goods, believe it or not.

I do find it very interesting though, that state dollars at least are clean and valuable, as long as they are used to pay travel costs for the Extension Service Office.

It was also interesting for me to discover that apparently various foundations, corporations and wealthy individuals are funding President Ford's election campaign, as well as Governor Rea-

gan's. I am sure these same groups also funded all of the previous democratic candidates campaigns; and that they are funding the bloated military budgets as well as our local school travel budget. How sweet it is to know that only Jimmy Carter's Presidential campaign was the recipient of any of our hard earned tax dollars.

The Social Service travel budget will cost the Hoke county taxpayers an absolute maximum of \$3,090, and not \$11,475, as you stated in your article last week, and I am sure this will come as a great shock to you; but I am a taxpayer and so are all of my employees.

Sincerely,

Ben Niblock, Director
Hoke Co. Dept. of Social Services

As a supporter of Little League baseball, I was sadly disappointed at the lack of fair play shown in the championship game played by the Hoke Little Tar Heels on July 23 at the National Guard Armory.

Despite objections from their coach, the Rescue Squad team was required to play the championship match after having just played a complete game in rain-showers. They had not been prepared for a double-header and were given only a ten minute break in between games. They went into the all important contest wet, tired and hungry. The contender, North Raeford Fire Department, had not played a previous game that day. Naturally, they were better prepared for this championship match. Regardless of these circumstances and still more showers, they played on till the end.

In my opinion, those individuals with authority over such matters should be required to consider both participating teams on an equal basis.

The Rescue Squad team and their coaches had worked hard all summer for a fair chance at the championship. They did not receive that fair chance.

These little leaguers surely are to be commended for the outstanding effort and sportsmanship displayed when confronted with this unfortunate situation.

Sincerely,
H.P. Beavers

On Monday night, I was defogging my shed and greenhouse when a passerby noticed a white smoke and called the fire department. In less than five minutes the police department and fire department were on the scene. Although this was not an emergency, it provides a great sense of security to know that these departments react in this manner. This is written so others can appreciate what we maybe take for granted.

Clyde F. Knox
309 W. Edinborough



CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

CRIME REDUCTION ... I was very much interested in reading a report in The Franklin Times of Louisburg which showed crime had decreased 40% over the same period last year.

According to Sheriff William Dement of Franklin County a program was started a year ago with Astor Bowden being hired as Crime Prevention Officer. Bowden estimated that it took about six months to set up the program, and for him to finish his training in the area. The comparative records were kept from January of this year. Now to quote from The Franklin Times: "Comparing the first six months of 1976 against the first six months of 1975 when no crime prevention program existed, Sheriff Dement found a 40.35% decrease in the total number of offenses."

"A total of 160 warrants were taken out in 1975 from January through June. The total dropped to 114 this year with the crime prevention program. "Dement offered two sets of figures on property loss totals and both showed significant improvement. This year property loss has totaled \$44,025.75. Last year through June the total was \$117,515.04. This is a reduction of over 166%."

"Bowden pointed out that the figure might be deceptive since over half of the property loss last year came from one \$60,000 robbery. However, even when this is deducted from the total a reduction of 30.63% has still occurred. One comparative figure did increase. Despite the lower property loss figures, stolen property recovered by the department rose over 50%. \$11,135 in stolen property was recovered in 1975 while \$18,940.50

has been recovered so far this year.

"Bowden also pointed out that he had attended some thirty-five meetings of church, civic, and school groups to answer questions and speak on crime. Dement noted also that analyzing crime and crime patterns was another part of the prevention program. Studies of types and movement of crime are constantly made so the sheriff can better deploy his men to prevent offenses. Bowden also said he felt that citizens were protecting themselves against crime better."

RANDOLPH COUNTY ... Randolph County is situated in just about the center of North Carolina -- one reason the N.C. Zoo has been located there. Last week The Randolph Guide, small weekly newspaper with an average of about 12 pages really out-did itself with one of the best Bicentennial issues of any Tar Heel weekly. With color used throughout -- red, blue and black, The Guide came forth in its July 21, 1976 issue with 96 pages, which the publisher, L. Barren Mills, Jr., termed, "The most complete history of Randolph County ever published."

Randolph County was formed three years after the Declaration of Independence -- in 1779 from Guilford and was named in honor of Peyton Randolph, of Virginia, the President of the first Continental Congress.

Now for a few facts about this central North Carolina county with a population of 76,358.

Trinity College, now Duke University, was founded in Randolph County in 1859. Years later it moved to Durham, and still later

See CLIFF BLUE, page 15

Thanks, Kathy

Kathy McMillan has made us happy, and proud, and grateful, and together. It's quite the nicest 200th birthday present any community could have received, and it will certainly be remembered and talked about at least another 200 years, and then some.

Her performance in the field, the silver medal, and the recognition she has brought her community in the press and television all over the world make us happy and proud, but the icing on the cake is the way she has done it ... Style, class, call it what you will, it's the fact that this young lady is one who would be a credit to any community with her show of politeness, courage, determination, and great dignity.

That may really be the word: dignity. We've come a long way, baby, and this high school girl has made us know it. A generation older than she knows what it has taken, as her generation will never know from their own experience. As tears of pride and community affection dot some older cheeks, we can take stock in this 200th anniversary year and know that we are really on the way to the greatness of our destiny, here in Raeford and Hoke County particularly, one people, working together and living together for the common good. We can face the future, with the many and great problems it must hold, with a confidence and determination which has been shown us by this young woman. She dignifies us all.

To this slip of a girl, this great lady, whom we will always honor, we extend the sincere and humble gratitude of us all. The magnitude of her achievements will become even more apparent as time passes, and she will have an honored place in our hearts for at least another 200 years.

Thanks, Kathy. Congratulations on a job well done.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, July 26, 1951

Someone drunk or crazy or badly fooled broke the plate glass window into the box office at the Raeford Theatre early Sunday morning and went in and tore the money changer loose and made away with it.

Members, friends and descendants of members of Bethel Presbyterian Church are looking forward to a big day next Sunday, July 29, when the homecoming and dedication of the new educational building will be held.

A severe hailstorm hit Mrs. J.S. Johnson's farm north of Raeford at about four - thirty o'clock Tuesday afternoon and severely damaged about 20 acres of tobacco, as well as right much cotton.

From Poole's Medley: During the Civil War, and for some years afterwards, tallow candles were the only source of light in our homes. When people had a chance to go to Fayetteville they could get sperm candles, which gave a better light than tallow candles.

Stocking has been completed in the big new Cooper's Super Market on Main street here next to the courthouse and the doors will open for business at nine o'clock this morning.

The weekly Cotton Insect survey of July 23 showed 17 percent infestation in treated fields and 65% in untreated fields.

15 years ago

Thursday, July 27, 1976

Farm and business leaders of Hoke County meeting in the aftermath of last week's million dollar storm, have requested that the hard - hit acreage be declared an Emergency Area.

Stray dogs have been rounded up and destroyed at the rate of almost four a day according to a quarterly report issued by the County Health

Director, Dr. Clifton Davenport.

Two Hoke County natives, active in the newspaper business for many years, have been elected to high office in the N.C. Press Association. They are Cliff Blue, now of Aberdeen, and Paul Dickson of Raeford.

Word has been received here of the death Tuesday of the first pastor of Raeford Presbyterian Church, Dr. Lauchlin Alexander McLaurin, 90, passed away at Presbyterian Home in High Point.

From Rockfish News: This hot weather reminds me of the old man who looked up at the sun in midsummer and said, "Where was you last January"?

The J.H. (Halley) Blythe family of Raeford, Rt. 1, has been selected as the Hoke County ASCS Farm Family of the Year.

The Raeford Jaycees have awarded a one week vacation at Myrtle Beach, with \$100 expense money to Miss Christine Dautry of Dunn.

This Is The Law

By Robert E. Lee
Sponsored by The Lawyers
of North Carolina

SPITE FENCES

A spite fence has been defined by the Supreme Court of North Carolina as "one which is of no beneficial use to the owner and which is erected and maintained solely for the purpose of annoying a neighbor." Such fences are usually erected when neighbors are unfriendly, and for no other than the malicious motive of cutting off the view, air and light of the other.

In a large number of states a person may build a fence upon his own land as high as he pleases, even if he does so only to annoy his neighbor.

Other states, including North Carolina, have held that a fence erected maliciously is a private nuisance, and therefore, the in-

jured neighbor may sue for damages or obtain an injunction prohibiting the erection or maintenance of a spite fence.

The law regarding spite fences in North Carolina was pounded and hammered out in a 1909 North Carolina Supreme Court decision, which said: "No one ought to have the legal right to make a malicious use of his property for no benefit to himself, but merely to injure his fellow-man. To hold otherwise makes the law an engine of oppression with which to destroy the peace and comfort of neighbor, as well as to damage his property for no useful purpose, but solely to gratify a wicked and debasing passion."