

# The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1981

## Dismissal appeal

Regardless of the outcome of William Hales' efforts to get his Hoke County dog warden job back, it's reassuring for the general public and, of course, county employees particularly, that county grievance policy protects the county's employees from arbitrary, baseless dismissal.

Hales was fired November 23 from his job for a reason or reasons that have not been made public by county officials, for the protection of Hales' rights. He requested a hearing by the County Advisory Personnel Board to get his job back. He has been represented by an attorney in the hearing, which at this writing, has taken parts of December 17 and 21 and was going into another session December 23.

The board of five members, none of them county employees, has been hearing testimony given by witnesses for the county and for Hales.

When the board felt it had all the information it needs to reach a conclusion it would come to a conclusion and send Hales and the county manager its recommendation and a record of the hearing proceedings in writing. The recommendation, expected to be reached between Christmas and New Year's Day, would say whether the findings justify Hales' dismissal or his reinstatement. Then it is up to the county manager to approve or reject the recommendation.

In brief, the county employee has been given as fair a chance as possible to state his case.

Still, he has still another chance if his firing stands: he can take his complaint to court if he wants to continue the fight as far as he can.

The county's grievance procedure is the kind of security every employee, public or private, should have in all fairness.

—BL

## No defense needed

To call Green Berets in general "trained killers" in the worst sense of the words because some have taken jobs training Libyan terrorists and attempting an assassination after they returned to civilian life makes as much sense as saying all doctors are quacks and all lawyers are shysters just because some have been and are.

Special Forces men, active and retired, and their families and friends have expressed outrage at an editorial cartoon parodying the popular song "Ballad of the Green Berets" of the 1960s. The cartoon in essence depicted former Green Berets selling their service-acquired skills for profit to undesirable "customers," such as Libya's Kadhafi.

The long record of honorable service earned by Green Berets since Special Forces was established in the 1950s requires no defense from the veterans of the special organization. The standards soldiers must meet to earn the right to wear the Green Beret are very high, physically and mentally. It's not fool-proof, of course, but the chances of a heartless, "beady-eyed killer" of the Mafia hit-man mentality qualifying for membership in the elite organization are about as good as Libyan dictator Khadafy's winning a Nobel peace prize.

One commander explained that a volunteer must be in superior physical condition to qualify for regular paratrooper duty; but to qualify for Special Forces takes not only superior physical condition but something beyond that, a special dedication to his service. A line of ex-Special Forces Sgt. Barry Sadler's ballad goes: "...100 men will test today. Three will win the Green Beret," a statement based on experience.

Even soldiers toughened by hard duty in regular airborne outfits have flunked the Special Forces gruelling test, and they've had no reason for feeling discredited.

The mission of the Special Forces has been misunderstood by much of the public ever since the Green Berets were established. The misunderstanding has come from news feature writers and abetted by movies like the late John Wayne's "Green Berets," with which Special Forces men at Ft. Bragg expressed disgust and disappointment. The misconception is the Green Berets are a sort of fighting force that slips behind enemy lines, blowing up bridges and generally wreaking havoc on the enemy on his home ground.

The historical fact is the Green Berets' mission is to teach natives how to fight guerrilla style against an oppressive government, and native troops how to deal with guerrillas trying to overthrow their government for an enemy power.

Officially and historically, the Green Berets' job, fundamentally, is to teach natives how to fight guerrilla style effectively and how to defend their country against enemy guerrilla operations.

Apart from this primary mission, Special Forces men at times have gotten information in peacetime in foreign countries for the U.S. government.

Aside from these warfare duties, the Special Forces also have a distinguished but little-publicized record of work in underdeveloped countries, showing natives how to make life better for themselves -- improving sanitation, building better houses, schools, and roads. Some in the back country of Laos even taught people it is safer for an expectant mother to lie down instead of stand up when she is about to give birth and that it is unhealthy to allow cattle to wallow in a stream upstream from the source of the village's drinking water.

To teach, the Special Forces soldier, like the familiar school teacher, learns what to teach.

Their education and training, however, includes a working knowledge of the language of the country to which he is assigned, and a basic knowledge of native customs, traditions, taboos and

'Do not open 'til Election Day 1982'



prejudices. Each member of the Special Forces' basic field unit, the 15-member "A" Team, is trained and cross-trained, in use of native as well as American weapons, making explosives in communications, and emergency medical treatment, so that when one member of the team is disabled, any other member can take over his duties.

The Special Forces team has worked with and works with native groups, not independently. In combat, the members have served as military advisors to native troops. In fighting in which the United States has no regular troops committed, the advisors are under orders in effect to not shoot unless shot at.

Judging the group by the actions of a few villages the thousands who are helping in private life to make living a little better not only for their families but for everyone else in their communities, after serving with dedication and courage in uniform, living the Special Forces' motto: "To free the oppressed."

—BL

## It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

A man wrote columnist Miss Manners (Judith Martin) that his wife had noticed the bottom button of his vest was unbuttoned and remarked, "Hey, hubby, getting fat you can't button all your buttons?"

The man's letter asked Miss Manners, "Please inform her that buttoning all the buttons on a man's vest is as much a breach of sartorial protocol as her tucking the back of her dress into her panty hose."

The first few lines of Miss Manners' reply read: "... Dear, dear, what an unpleasantly graphic comparison that is. Miss Manners would prefer not to know its provenance...." She did, however, add that the man's wife was both right and wrong. She explains the custom of a man leaving the bottom button of his vest unbuttoned originated from courtesy to the Prince of Wales, who became King Edward VII. "His girth," Miss Manners explains, "made buttoning the bottom button impossible. His subjects showed tact by refraining from buttoning theirs, thereby making his difficulty less conspicuous."

This sort of tact, I have been told, also accounts for the lisp in the Castilian Spanish language. One of Spain's King Philips had a natural lisp; so, out of respect, his subjects started speaking with a lisp. The Spanish spoken in the Spanish-speaking countries of the

western world, however, doesn't have this lisp.

So if you're ever in Spain and you hear someone speaking Spanish without lisping, you can show your esoteric knowledge by exclaiming, "Ha! You're from South or Central America. You don't lisp."

Of course, if he does lisp in speaking Spanish you could be wrong if you exclaim, "Ha! You're from Spain. You lisp when you talk." It could be he lisps for the same reason old King Philip did: he was born that way, and he may really be a prominent taco and tamale salesman from Tenochtitlan.

More information -- a lot more -- about Tenochtitlan, the Aztecs, Mexacatl, the Yaki, and other similar people and places can be found in Gary Jennings' historical novel, "Aztec," published in the past year. Jennings goes into the details of the nations and their people who lived in the countries now making up Mexico and Central America shortly before and during the Spanish conquest of the early 1500s.

It's only fair, however, to warn you that sections of the book take a strong stomach to read: specifically, the descriptions of the forms of punishment both Spanish and natives inflicted on offenders; and details of the religious rites practiced by the natives at special religious celebrations.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

At the suggestion from a school teacher who claims too much TV watching makes poor readers out of kids, 50 families shut their sets off for a month to see what would happen. If I were connected with a school system that's failing to teach kids to read, I'd blame it on television or anything else I could get my hands on.

The 50 families survived all right but have now gone back to watching TV. Some of the families read more than usual during the experiment but it wasn't reported what they read. And as for reading for reading's sake, unless you're a book seller, what difference does it make whether you're reading a murder mystery or seeing one on TV? Time passes about the same and it takes as much electricity for a reading lamp as it does for a TV set.

Arguing that more reading would be done if there were no television is like arguing the world would be safer if there were no nuclear bombs. It's true but pointless, as television and nuclear bombs are here to stay. At least till some nut starts firing the latter, in which case very few TV sets will be working.

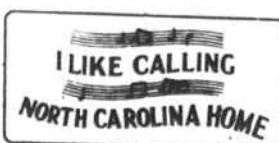
Back to the subject. Television

does interfere with some activities. For example, it's true kids can't read and crack walnuts at the same time, but on the other hand they can't watch TV and listen to records turned up loud at the same time. This is equalized by the fact they can eat potato chips and drink sodawater while doing either or both.

It's my guess you can teach a kid to read but you can't force him to keep on, and there are kids you can't stop from reading, even way past bedtime. This was going on long before television.

Come to think of it, television and nuclear bombs probably were invented by people who read a lot. On the other hand, cars and light bulbs were invented by people who read scarcely at all.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.



## CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



OMINOUS -- We are living in an ominous period. The situation in Poland just might bring about a serious confrontation between nations, that no one really wants.

When you have two powerful nations with different ideologies, they have to be very careful, lest something flare up accidentally that would bring the roar of bombers into play.

People of good will hope that Poland will be spared such a tragedy.

AMERICA -- With America having just gone through the tidings of great joy over Christmas and what it means to millions of people, we hope that we may continue to be guided by the spirit of freedom and love, without wrecking this great nation between Scylla and Charybdis, -- two dangers, either of which is difficult to avoid without encountering the other.

Our nation is a strong nation, can stand strongly for what is right, and will come out well, we believe.

We realize that it is impossible to remain aloof from warring nations when "Pearl Harbor" takes place out of a clear sky. We hope that the world learned a lesson by what happened to the Japanese leaders who instigated "Pearl Harbor".

POLITICAL OUTLOOK -- 1982 is a political year despite the fact that the elections between presidential elections every four years are often referred to as "off year" elections.

It used to be that the "off year" elections were pretty quiet in North Carolina as compared to the Presidential and governor elections.

But, "politics" has now gotten to be pretty much of a yearly play. Gubernatorial talk got underway almost before Reagan and Hunt were inaugurated in 1981.

We will go over a few situations alphabetically:

Attorney General Rufus Edmisten seems to be one of the front runners for governor. He is almost certain to run and has been

building a pretty good money chest to run with. As of now he might be called the "man to beat."

Lanch Faircloth of Clinton is another man who has been mentioned. Faircloth may prefer to be in the "kingmaking" class rather than try for the top spot.

President William Friday, of the University of North Carolina, eventually plans to retire next year when he will be 64 years old -- just about right to run for governor. Not too young and not too old. Reagan is beyond 70 now. If we were to bet, it would be that Bill Friday will be in the race and if so he will likely be the man to beat.

Lt. Governor Jim Green is not out of the race by any means.

Insurance Commissioner John Ingram may well be in the Governor's race. Despite the fact that he has had right much publicity about his "vacationing" in Myrtle Beach, I would not count him out. Remember a few years ago when Ingram ran for the U.S. Senate and won out for the nomination over Luther Hodges, Jr., in the Second Primary, but lost out to Helms in the fall election.

Congressman Charlie Rose of the Seventh District has come to the front recently. He, no doubt, would like to be governor and may possibly conclude 1984 is the proper time. Don't be surprised if he takes the leap -- just two years hence.

Eddie Knox, Charlotte Mayor has been mentioned, but Charlotte, the city with the largest municipality in the state, seems a little distant from other municipalities.

President Wiggins, of Campbell University of Buies Creek, has also been mentioned as a candidate for governor. Wiggins has not said whether he would run as a Democrat or a Republican. He is a registered Democrat. However, Helms changed from a Democrat to Republican to run for the Senate. People do not seem to be too much concerned about changing party labels now, as heretofore.

## Letter To The Editor

Editor, *The News-Journal*.

The 1981 holiday season may remind many of us that some things haven't changed. This year, once again, we feasted upon a traditional (and probably lavish) turkey dinner, watched spectacular holiday parades, gathered around the television set to watch myriad football games and fought crowds in search of the perfect gift.

Some things haven't changed in other parts of the world either. This year, as in years past, people have been forced to flee their homelands, find shelter in crowded and unsanitary refugee camps and suffer the debilitating effects of malnutrition and disease.

In the Northeast African nation of Somalia, close to a million people are living in these camps. They are alive today because international relief agencies are providing them with the food, water and medical care they need to survive. But I am concerned about the dependency this assistance tends to create.

The 1981 holiday season should

remind many of us that it is time for some things to change. It is time to put an end to widespread hunger and to dependence upon daily shipments of food. Some voluntary agencies, such as Save the Children, have taken a giant step in this direction by providing the Somali refugees with the skills and resources they need and want to provide for themselves. Instead of just handing out food, Save the Children is handing out techniques for growing food and for planting seeds, trees and small-plot family gardens.

The holiday season encourages us to share our love with family and friends. This season let's share our love caring and concern with members of the human family by helping the Somali refugees regain self-sufficiency. Any contribution, no matter how small, can help. Please mail your check today to: Save the Children, Somalia Relief Fund, Westport, CT. 06880, attention Valerie Harper.

Sincerely,  
Valerie Harper

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 27, 1952

A strong vote of confidence in the textile industry's ability to make favorable gains over the next decade was voiced Monday by Herman D. Ruhm, Jr., President of Burlington Industries, Inc.

John B. Cameron, Saturday, was presented a television set by Arthur D. Gore, dean of the Hoke County Bar, on behalf of the lawyers, county officials and associates and friends of Cameron. The occasion was Cameron's retirement from the office of Clerk of the Hoke County Superior Court after 14 years in office.

Stabilization of the textile industry for Raeford highlighted the news events of 1956 as Burlington Mills and its subsidiary, Pacific Mills, assumed control and operation of the local mill in the first week of June.

Billy Lester, Gerald Wright and Miss Peggy Parks of East Carolina spent the Christmas holidays at home.

15 years ago

Thursday, December 29, 1966

Only a "trickle" of contributor had been received as of Wednesday by the "Fund For Five" young victims involved in a tragic camping accident in November.

Student Recognition Day will be observed Sunday at Raeford Methodist Church, with high school and college students taking part in the morning worship service.

Capt. Edward H. Langston, Jr. of 313 S. Main St. was congratulated by his commander in Vietnam shortly after being awarded the Army Commendation Medal for performance of "exceptionally meritorious service" prior to his coming to Vietnam.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at Philippi Presbyterian Church for Henry Madison Gillis, 75, well-known Hoke County farmer who died Monday at his home on Raeford, Rt. 2.