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THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1982

## Question the candidates

The election of three members of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners is more important this year particularly because of the federal government cuts in aid to programs for counties.

All this, as everyone knows, means less money is available, and inflation in effect, even though it's slowed down in recent months, has made money even scarcer.

Consequently, the Hoke County voters should make a strong effort to find out what each candidate for the county board thinks are the most important programs and services the county offers -- that is, what programs do the most good and are most important for most of the people.

At this writing, January 21, six candidates have filed for the three places up for election on the five-member board.

Though the board doesn't administer every service in the county, its primary importance is that it controls the financing of every county service. This is the reason the voters should know what each candidate considers are the most important services, and which of these are more important than the others. The way the candidates feel about county services will decide what financing they'll give them.

The candidates themselves should let the people know, without being asked, how they feel about the values of specific county services.

It also is more important this year than ever that the voters, after getting this information, vote in the May primary and in the November general election.

--BL

## Campaign reform

From The New York Times

Remember the 1980 Presidential campaign? It's hard to forget considering how long it went on. But two years from now, with any sense of decency, we will all look back to what the Democrats did this past weekend with gratitude. The Hunt Commission, their reform panel chaired by Gov. James Hunt of North Carolina, took some serious steps toward taming the Endless Campaign.

Some democracies conduct their entire election campaigns in five weeks. In 1980, the bloated American campaign took 14 months. Consider the effects on democracy. It fatigues the public, inviting cynicism. When a sitting President is involved, it can paralyze Government. And it can eviscerate the electoral process itself; when Iowans begin selecting the candidate in January, there may be nothing left for California to decide in June.

The most essential single reform is to narrow that primary period of nearly six months. The Democrats made a pass at it in 1980 by limiting primaries to a three-month "window," from mid-March to mid-June. But they permitted many exceptions and the cold winds of Iowa (where caucuses came on Jan. 21) and New Hampshire (where the primary was on Feb. 26) blew out the glass.

Now, assuming that the Democratic National Committee approves, the Hunt Commission has almost closed the window. Iowa and New Hampshire are still able to compel special treatment, but the Iowa caucuses would have to be held within 15 days of the window and the New Hampshire primary within seven-cutting five weeks off. The campaign would thus be shorter - and also fairer. The Iowa winter would lose the advantage, available at no other interval, of an uninterrupted month of trumpeted "momentum" before New Hampshire.

The next task for all concerned with the political process is to move on to additional reforms.

An obvious one is to discourage premature political carnivals. The prime example comes from Florida. Its state 1979 Democratic convention included a straw poll. Jimmy Carter and Edward Kennedy felt driven to compete for delegates to that convention, chosen in September 1979. Once the candidates took the field, so did the cameras.

The parties cannot forbid such carnivals but they can discourage them. The Democrats hope to do so at a national committee meeting in March. In the spirit of the Hunt Commission rules, inventing new premature events will look increasingly like trying to crowd into the front of the line.

Congress, also, can act. Under present law, candidates may receive Federal funds to match funds raised privately beginning Jan. 1 of the election year - an obvious incentive to raise money long before. There is nothing magic about Jan. 1, especially if Iowa and New Hampshire vote later.

Even without these additional reforms, however, the Hunt Commission has created a new kind of momentum. If others follow, American Presidential elections may yet focus on candidate appeal instead of voter endurance.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:  
A news report from Poland said many Poles are angered by President Reagan's sanctions on grain supplies to that beleaguered country but "intellectuals believe such moves can bring pressure to bear on martial law authorities."  
This brings up the question, What is an intellectual?  
Well, they come in lots of different varieties. An intellectual economist for example is one who can tell you in four syllable words that the economy today is not what he said yesterday it was going to be.  
An intellectual politician is one



## It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

"Seek, and ye shall find," is ancient advice.

A guy was drafted, and he didn't want to go, but he had to.

But he was a Max Klingler (see "Mash" any time, practically any day, on TV, if you don't know who Max is).

Even before he got into uniform, he started looking in odd places. He'd turn over a rock, then mutter, "That's not it." He'd go through a book and say, "That's not it."

In uniform, he was still preoccupied with his quest. He looked under the barracks, then said, "That's not it." And in the mess hall garbage cans: "That's not it," he'd say.

After a week of this, his drill sergeant sensed that all was not regular with the recruit, especially after he raised the sergeant's hat, looked at something in the band inside, then grunted, "That's not it," and put it back on the sergeant. So Sarge took him to the company commander. But in the orderly room, even while the captain was trying to question him, the recruit was looking under everything in sight, and after each section he'd mutter, "That's not it."

So the captain gave up and had him taken to the post psychiatrist. In the shrink's office, however, the recruit kept doing what he had been doing: look in a file drawer, mutter, "That's not it," then in a book on the psychiatrist's desk, and even dig his finger into a sink, and make the same statement.

After getting nowhere in his effort to question the recruit, the psychiatrist finally sighed in resignation, took up a blank form, and filled it out, then handed it to the recruit.

The recruit, frowning, looked at it. Then his face broke into a big grin and his eyes glistened with a happy light:

"That's it!" he hollered.  
"It" was a Section 8, a medical discharge.

And you know how enlisted men in World War II used to describe the Army's method of selecting men for officers? At the physical exam, the doc looks in one ear. If he sees daylight, the guy is sent to Officer Candidate School.

"The Born Loser" comic strip in the January 17 edition of the Fayetteville newspaper reminds me of another animal story.

A man was showing off his new horse to a friend, and his dog was near him.

"Sure he can run," the proud owner said. "But even better than that, he can talk."

The friend expressed disbelief, so the owner said, "Ok, I'll prove it."

Turning to the horse, he said "Recite something from a Rudyard Kipling poem!"

The horse thought a minute, then said, "A woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke."

The friend was shocked. "Maybe that was just luck," the horseman, encouraged to show off some more, said. "Let's try again."

Turning to the horse, he said, "Now, what's a journalist?"

The horse whinnied and shook his head, then said, "An unemployed newspaperman."

"Gadzooks!" the friend exclaimed, or word to that effect.

"He can do better than that, though," the horseman declared. "Now, quote a little bit from the Gettysburg address." The horse paused, took a dignified stance, and proceeded to recite, not a little bit of it, but the entire thing.

"Amazing," the friend said, dumbfounded.

"Well," the horseman said, puffed with pride, "I'd like him to give you more, but we want to have a little run before lunch," and he mounted the horse and the horse galloped off across the field.

The friend turned away and headed for his car when the farm manager who had witnessed the whole scene stopped him.

"Don't let him fool ya," the manager confided. "That horse can't talk."

"He can't?" the other said in surprise, "but I just heard him." The manager smiled knowingly and shook his head.

"That horse can't talk," he said. "The dog is a ventriloquist."

The comic strip had the dog reciting but the ending was different and maybe funnier: The dumbfounded spectator said, "That dog is great. He ought to be in show business." But along came a bigger dog and, growling, carried off the talking dog by the neck in her jaws.

"Who's that?" the spectator asked the dog owner.

"That's his mother," the owner replied. "She wants him to be a doctor."

A typing error (mine) messed up a note about a flub made by an actor speaking lines from a Eugene O'Neill play. The flub went: "How like a serpent's thank is a toothless child."

But "thank" came out "think" in print.

The way O'Neill wrote the line was: "How like a serpent's tooth is a thankless child." But on the other hand, maybe "thinkless" would be proper, too.

He keeps his mouth shut. If he lives in this country he can say what he pleases but his books don't sell very well.

The world needs more genuine intellectuals but they're hard to produce. Most of those calling themselves intellectuals are like politicians calling themselves statesmen.

If one ever shows up but here we'll try to capture him and bring him to town, if you can find somebody there who can identify the species.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



**CUSTODY OF DIVORCED ...**  
A few days ago I was reading in the AP newspapers about a set of divorced parents who were caring for their three children in what I thought was a very fine and unusual manner.

We don't encourage divorce, believing that what has been joined together in holy matrimony, "let not man put asunder."

Those unable to live together as man and wife, might well consider this Michigan couple's plan which might possibly bring them back together again as man and wife. Here is the AP release out of Traverse City, Michigan:

"A judge citing the court's responsibility to children of divorced parents, gave three Interlochen boys custody of their parent's house."

"Grand Traverse County Circuit Judge Charles M. Forster granted a divorce to Allen and Cheryl Church on Jan. 5, and ordered that each live with the children on alternate months."

The boys -- David, 15, Donald, 13 and Dale, 11 -- will remain in the home in their small community just west of Traverse City, while their parents move in and out and pay the bills.

"It's a natural situation," Forster said Monday. "Both parents testified that the other was a good parent. And they said the children loved each other. The only dispute was between the two of them."

"This wouldn't work all the time, but in this case, it's ideal because his parents live virtually next door and her parents are only a mile or two away," Forster said.

"The kids love it," said Church, a 42 year old electrician, who is spending this month at his parents home after 17 years of marriage. "They don't have to change schools or change friends, and they can come home and visit me after school."

"Mrs. Church, a 37 year old secretary, said the judge's intent was to award the children custody of the parents, and it's the best thing that could have happened."

"The three children all say they are happy about the decision."

"When my dad told me about it, I couldn't believe it," Donald said, "I'm glad one of the parents

wasn't left out."  
The above seems to be just about the best way, if a couple has to part, to do so. We would like a report on the family a year from now.

**SOLOMON AND THE CHILD...** The above story reminds me of Solomon in the Bible, Chapter I Kings, 21 through 28: "When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, it was dead; but when I looked at it closely in the morning, behold, it was not the child that I had borne." But the other woman said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king.

Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead,' and the other says, 'No, but your son is dead and my son is the living.'" "And the king said, 'Bring me a sword.' So a sword was brought before the king. And the king said, 'Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.'"

Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means slay it." But the other said, "It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it." Then the king announced and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means slay it; she is the mother."

All Israel heard of the judgment which the king had reached; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to render justice."

**FRANCIS MANNING...** North Carolina journalism lost a dedicated newspaperman when Francis M. Manning of Robersonville died after a brief illness last week at the age of 78. He was editor of *The Williamston Enterprise* and *The Weekly Herald of Robersonville*.

Francis Manning was a man of wit and wisdom, he was active in the N.C. Press Association, serving as vice president, and also served as director of the Eastern N.C. Press Association. Eastern North Carolina lost a friend in Francis' passing, and so did I.

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 24, 1957

While not agreeing to the calling it "flu" in the strict sense of the word, Raeford doctors said today that the community is certainly going through an epidemic of whatever it is.

Hoke County Civil Defense Director Alfred Cole announced this week that the county is now eligible to request surplus items of civil defense and fire fighting equipment from government stocks of surplus property for use by the community civil defense groups in the county.

Hoke County's allocation of 1957 acreage reserve or soil bank funds for cotton and tobacco were announced this week by Miss Louise Blue of the Hoke County Stabilization and Conservation office.

R.B. Lewis, executive vice president of The Bank of Raeford, said today he had been notified by the chairman of the state division of U.S. Savings bonds that Hoke County had placed third in North Carolina in 1956 in total sale of bonds, based on percentage quotas attained.

Raeford and Rockingham boys and girls split a double-header here Friday as the Hoke girls won their encounter, 66-44 and the Rockingham boys, won, 77-55. The victory was the sixth in conference play for the Hoke girls to no defeats.

Two homes, only two or three hundred yards apart on the Rockfish Road about two miles east of Raeford, were destroyed by fire this week, one Monday and the other Wednesday.

15 years ago

Thursday, January 26, 1967

Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce announced this week it will build an office building on Harris Avenue to house the chamber, Hoke County Planning and Development Commission, and the automobile license bureau.

Raeford Jayettes have established a \$300 scholarship to be awarded to a "deserving" Hoke High School girl in May.

The *News-Journal*, winner of numerous state and national press awards, added two others to its collection last week when Gov. Dan K. Moore passed out plaques in the annual better newspaper contests of the N.C. Press Association.

The Town of Raeford now owns the cemetery, three persons who own the newer cemetery sections adjoining and on the south side of Raeford Cemetery have decided to turn the two pieces of property over to the town.

Hoke High's Bucks ran their winning streak to five straight here Tuesday night, downing Sanford, 64-49.

Charles Luther (Luke) McFadyen, 73, died early Saturday morning in Duke Hospital in Durham.

A Fayetteville man was killed Sunday, when his car collided with a tractor-trailer heavily loaded with tobacco and the rig dumped a 15-ton load of hogsheads on top of the car.