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THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1982

Unusual achievement

Thomas Gilchrist, Jr., of Hoke County rates special attention for his academic achievement.

Appointments to the U.S. Military Academy or the Naval Academy are hard to come by. So are scholarships to institutions of high prestige, such as Duke University, Davidson College and Howard University.

Any one of the five awards would warrant giving a student special recognition.

Gilchrist was awarded all five, finally choosing the Military Academy appointment.

He's been a student at the North Carolina School of Mathematics and Science at Durham for the past two years. He will graduate Saturday. Appointment to this school alone is a high honor for a North Carolina high school student, since only the student are above average is considered. The same is true of the Governor's School, which Gilchrist also attended by appointment.

His achievements do him great credit.

They also do great credit to the Hoke County schools, where he received his grounding for those achievements in the grades through Hoke High School sophomore.

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Why vote for ERA?

Editor's note: the following was written before the North Carolina Senate majority killed the ERA ratification bill Friday.

From The News & Observer, Raleigh

The General Assembly reconvenes this week with a chance to make history. North Carolina has a rare opportunity, under the gaze of a watchful nation, to take a stand for the high ideals of justice and equality among Americans.

A majority vote in this state's Legislature is essential to getting the noble concept of equality of rights for women written into the U.S. Constitution. Legislators can turn their 1982 session into a historic occasion by voting, as they should, to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

The language of the proposed amendment — "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex" — expresses such a fundamental principle that it ought to be self-evident that ratification is right. But because ERA has become the center of an intensely emotional debate, certain points must be reemphasized to make clear why the amendment should be ratified:

•Historically, American women have encountered barriers, not faced by men, in credit, in property, in insurance and in the conduct of business. Similarly, certain government actions, in the field of taxes and Social Security, for example, have treated men and women differently.

Remedial legislation has gone a long way toward lowering these barriers and removing unnecessary distinctions in business and government programs. But the ERA is needed not only to remove the remaining barriers but also, most importantly to ensure that more obstacles and distinctions are not raised in the future.

•It is undeniable that an economic gap exists between men and women. In North Carolina, women on the average are paid 61 cents for every dollar paid to men. Studies have shown that, even in the same jobs, women frequently are paid less than men.

The ERA is needed to redress the unjust disparities in the economic status of men and women. This is especially crucial in North Carolina where 55 percent of all women work outside the home.

ERA, in sum, is a matter of economic justice.

•Despite fears fostered by the distortions of opponents, ERA does nothing to threaten families. Indeed, ERA may strengthen families. Discrimination against any member of a family is discrimination against the whole. To deny a woman of a chance to earn more and to gain access to legal equality may mean denying her children a chance for a better education and a better life.

•Again contrary to some fears, the ERA does not repeal common sense. It does not do away with privacy, does not tell a platoon sergeant that either a man or woman who cannot pick up a bazooka must do so and does not instruct a baseball manager to send in a woman as a catcher.

ERA is needed simply to ensure that discrimination under the law may not take place on the basis of sex.

•Section 2 of the ERA makes a pro-forma statement that Congress can enforce the amendment through appropriate legislation. This makes explicit what would be implicit anyway. Any portion of the Constitution gets its meaning over time through legislation and court rulings.

To oppose ERA on the ground that it invests the federal government with new, awesome power is to show remarkably little faith in American democracy. The Constitution is the document for enunciating fundamental rights. It is a document that lives and evolves as it is adapted to contemporary conditions. The ERA extends the work of the Founding Fathers.

•A majority of the people of North Carolina favor the amendment.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch



The reliable Harris poll has shown it with an April survey finding a 60-31 margin for ERA. Further, women are getting increasingly active politically. A vote for ERA is not a political millstone.

•A refusal to ratify ERA would carry an incredible implication — that women should not get and do not deserve equal rights under the law. Surely it isn't possible that North Carolina legislators want the United States to assert that equality of rights under the law can be denied arbitrarily to some of its citizens.

Through ratification of the ERA, North Carolina can recapture its progressive image as a leader in the South and the nation. When history judges this General Assembly, let history write that North Carolina legislators voted to uphold with confidence the American ideal of equality under the law.

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Nick Chaltas went back to the Old Country of his family -- Greece -- for a visit several weeks ago and came back with a great load of enthusiasm.

Listen to him talk about Greece generally and the Greek islands of the Aegean particularly, and you feel you won't have had much of a life if you don't save up your nickels and dimes and go there.

After Nick talked to me at a motel Appreciation Dinner the other night, a drawing was held for a free trip to Hawaii. I wasn't the least bit interested.

He also got into some of the rough parts though. The traffic in the city, I think he meant Athens, is terrible, he said.

"Are the drivers as bad as they are over here?" I asked.

"Worse," he said. The drivers in Greece make the American driver look like a kid at a Sunday school picnic, he remarked, or words to that effect.

One of the small good things he mentioned was the restaurant. You can order a cup of coffee and sit at a table all day with it if you want to he said.

Nick was in Army Intelligence in World War II. That sounds grim but it had its light moments.

Those were the days when Humphrey Bogart made the trench coat fashionable for roles of private investigator, spy, and similar types.

One day the men in Nick's unit had a training session. Practicing for the real thing, they were to arrive separately at a rendezvous, an upstairs room over a restaurant.

All went well for awhile. Each did furtively well getting to the room. That was a bit tricky, because nobody but the intelligence men had been told officially where it was.

But then one agent got confused. He found the building, all right, and went in. But then he forgot where he was to go from there.

A restaurant worker saw him looking lost, and guessed, "Oh, you must be looking for the spy meeting," he said. "Go upstairs, and it's the second door to your left."

Then there was another meeting (getting back to Bogart and the

trench coat uniform).

One by one they came to the rendezvous.

Then their commanding officer took a look at them and groaned, "Oh, no."

Each of them was wearing a trench coat.

"That's okay for anybody else," the CO said. "But not for you guys."

"Follow that car," and "Follow that cab" were melodramatic orders that could be heard at least once in practically every spy or private-eye movie in the old days.

Nick always yearned for the day when he could say that.

Finally his moment came. A man in a sensitive defense job had been acting strange lately. Sneaking about, hanging up his phone quickly when someone entered his office suddenly without notice, creeping away before quitting time and taking a cab to heaven knows what sinister rendezvous, leaving his car in the office parking lot.

So Nick was assigned to find out what he was up to, or down to.

Nick observed him discreetly for several days.

Then one day he saw the man slip out of his office, walk carefully down the stairs, then into the street. There the man hailed a cab, and got in, and the cab drew slowly away.

That was Nick's great opportunity. He quickly hailed another cab, and when it pulled up to the curb, he gave the driver those tremendous words: Pointing a finger in the direction of the suspect's cab had gone, Nick said tersely, "Follow that cab!" Then he got in, and his cab went off on its discreet pursuit.

After that, the assignment should have had a brilliant, glamorous finish.

But it didn't.

To make a long story short, Nick found that the suspect, rather than being a traitor or a hostile spy passing secrets to an enemy government, was just a married man with a secret girl friend tucked away in the apartments his cab took him to that day and other days.

Nick did get to say, though, "Follow that cab!"

They can never take that away from him.

This Is The Law

WHOSE SHOES?

Adams operated a shoe store. Baker bought a truck load of shoes at a factory liquidation sale. Baker took the shoes to Adams' store and arranged for Adams to sell them for him, agreeing to split the proceeds.

Before Adams sold the shoes, his business went bankrupt. Baker claimed that he should be allowed to reclaim the shoes, for he had neither given nor sold them to Adams. The trustee in bankruptcy contended that the shoes should be

sold to pay off the creditors to the bankrupt store.

Who should prevail?

The law says that the shoes could be reclaimed by Baker if it was generally known by Adams' creditors that Adams was substantially engaged in selling shoes that belonged to someone else. But if the creditors did not know this, and assumed that Baker's shoes belonged to the shoe store, the trustee in bankruptcy could take the shoes, sell them and pay the money to Adams' creditors.

Letters To The Editor

Editor, The News-Journal

School will close this week, and instead of the usual thoughts of a relaxing two months ahead, hundreds of school employees across the state - and thousands across the nation - are wondering whether we'll have jobs to return to in the fall. And if so, what kind of jobs? If we're still teaching, will they be in our fields? Will we be doing what we were trained to do? Will the Legislature see fit to make further cut backs? Will the salary and increment freeze pass? Will they continue to lessen hospital benefits while raising premiums? What have we as school employees done to become the target of the government's vengeance?

One of Governor Hunt's major campaign issues was to improve education in North Carolina schools. Teachers and school personnel across the state were told to vote for Jim Hunt because of his dedication to the education of your young people. He still appears regularly on television, book in hand, surrounded by a group of bright-eyed youngsters, advocating the necessity of reading. He and Mrs. Hunt let it be known that they were volunteer tutors in the reading program in Raleigh's elementary schools. Yet he wants to cut funding to schools and RIF (Reduce in Force) educators and school personnel.

According to Glenn Keever, advertising manager of North Carolina Education, "...the State of North Carolina has not reached anything approaching the Depression - level poverty that would justify cutting salaries of teachers and state employees (one suggestion) or freezing them out of the salary increment they have already earned (another suggestion)." ERA has again failed, so we know how progressive and fair our state government is.

I won't bother to mention President Reagan's programs except that he has all but phased education out of the federal government and sent it back to the states "where it belongs." Now the buck stops at the state level.

Working down from the state level to the local school boards, we once again reach a personality struggle. Those who perform their tasks according to what their superiors call professional behavior (ie. accepting school or board policy unquestioningly, accepting a disappearing supplement, and being moved about "arbitrarily and capriciously") are given a pat on the head and told they are doing a fine job. They are no longer even thrown a bone. But God help those who ask questions; and I mistakenly thought that teaching students to ask questions was part of the teaching process.

A young black woman who has been a secretary in the county for nine years received a letter in March stating that because of "reorganization" she would no longer be needed as a secretary. She had the option (in the letter) to accept a position as an aide, a job she never held, at the same salary. She had tried to come before the board at the regular May 4th meeting but was not placed on the agenda. However, she received notice of her "hearing" May 27th, the day she went to the hospital to have a baby, to appear May 31st at 8:30 p.m.

She arrived shortly before her designated time, but the board had already gone into executive session. The superintendent appeared at about 9:00 and acknowledged the fact that she was there. The board finally opened its meeting again at 10:00. I could not believe that people could be so inconsiderate and inhumane, but "They are all honorable men." Her replacement is white.

As I indicated before, I had never received any prior or official notification of my change in assignment last August or any notification that my name was on the original May agenda to be RIFed and transferred, but it mysteriously vanished from the May 31st agenda (which turned out to be the regular June meeting). Would they go to the trouble to have a special meeting in my honor while I'm out of town? No, that would be ludicrous, and besides they're honorable men. "So are they all, all honorable men (and women)."

I keep wondering if the fact that I'm a Yankee has something to do with the way I've been treated. It never crossed my mind until an administrator made a snide remark to me concerning my husband's marrying a Jew. At the time I didn't believe that anything like anti-Semitism might exist in Hoke County, but these days I feel like Harold Abrahams in *Chariots of Fire*. "Semi-deprived ... they lead you to water but won't let you drink."

Teaching is not really a list of complaints. As I hope you've noticed, my complaints have little to do with the students themselves. When a teacher reads a letter from a student like the one in last week's *News-Journal*, all the aggravation which has become synonymous

with teaching becomes insignificant. That's why we teach. Thanks Daphne.

Oh yes, Vickie Wiles wanted me to make it clear to the readers that she is certified in Spanish. She said everyone knew to whom I was referring in my last letter since she was the only teacher uncertified in English who has a class originally assigned to me.

Summer's almost here. I intend to enjoy it. Have a nice summer.

Sincerely,
Naomi Johnson

Editor, The News-Journal,

To the editor and citizens of Hoke County:

At the present time, Hoke Co. has one of the finest school systems in the state. Not because of its beautiful schools, but in my opinion, because of the efforts that Raz Autry, as superintendent has put forth. I'm sure there are other people who deserve credit for their effort. But even with the strict discipline that Mr. Autry maintained as principal of Hoke High, he was respected by students & parents alike. And still is.

To Mr. Autry, everyone is equal, and hard-core as he is, I think he still has a friendship with the students. Not someone to fear, rather a consort in rough water.

If Hoke Co. loses Raz Autry, the loss will be long remembered. Every concerned parent should feel it his or her duty to know what is happening in their child's school & who is responsible. If you don't like what's going on, let the Board of Education know. Nothing is ever accomplished by sitting home grumbling to the neighbor. If you find things running smoothly, let them know that too.

Raz Autry is & has been an excellent educator, simply because he cares about every student he has. His interest in your child is not superficial, rather honest & "sincere."

Raz Autry is one of a kind.
Cheryl Driggers

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear Editor:

Being a Congressman isn't easy. For example, how do you explain to the voters back home that you voted for a \$19,000 tax break for yourself without knowing about it?

Somebody around midnight -- Congressman claim they don't know who it was -- slipped a rider on a bill designed to aid coal miners with black lung disease. The aid bill passed overwhelmingly, but next morning Congressmen discovered they'd passed the rider too, giving them \$19,000 apiece in tax deductions. It was like a dream come true.

That created the soul-searching problem of explaining their carelessness to the voters back home, few of whom ever have the opportunity of being so careless.

But that's just half the problem a Congressman faces. The other half is Should I take the tax break?

Here I am, a Congressman tells himself, the beneficiary of a bill I'm opposed to, didn't know I was voting for, but \$19,000 is \$19,000, even in these inflationary times. Should I take it?

With a problem like that, no wonder Congress can't take time to pass a budget. First things first.

Now as to how many Congressmen will take the money, how many will refuse...that's a matter hard to get at. Some, who must have had at least one eye open when the bill was passed, are taking only two-thirds of the money, this leaving one-third of yourself intact. Others are taking all of it, betting voters will forget about it before the next election. Some are refusing all of it, although there's a loophole available if they want to use it; they can turn it down on this year's income tax report, then next year amend that report and take it retroactively. Others won't say whether they're taking the money or not, saying a tax return is confidential and it un-American to be asking a Congressman such an impertinent question.

You may think I'm poking fun at Congress, but look at it this way. We've got to ease the cruel effects of inflation. Right? And we've got to start somewhere, right? So, if you're a Congressman, why not start with yourself?

Yours faithfully
J.A.

MONEY GROWS



IN U.S. SAVINGS BONDS