

Editorials

A way out

The job isn't finished and success isn't certain, but the people of the Raeford area in particular, and all of Hoke County, considering the implications, should feel a sense of belief that the serious effort is being made to solve the House of Raeford's sewage disposal program.

Until the turkey processing plant's sewage disposal problem is solved to the satisfaction of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and the State, Raeford can't get any new industry nor an expansion of a present one that discharges waste into the city sewer system. This means no hope of providing the jobs the county's unemployed need.

Bringing the waste disposal up to EPA standards won't guarantee that new industry will come in or the present plants will expand, providing those extra needed jobs; but unless that improvement is made, the city has no chance at all of getting that industrial expansion.

Aside from that, if the pollution isn't brought down to the EPA's specified level by November 1, the city will be hit with a penalty of up to \$10,000 a day for every day the system does not comply with the standards. Then, too, the plant will be cut from the system, and the city will pass on to the plant the bill of the penalty. Of the community's other plants Burlington Industries had a complying pre-treatment plant going, and Faberge, Inc., had one in place and ready to run in late summer.

Cutting the House of Raeford off would leave about 900 people unemployed.

However, the indications now are that no such grim possibilities are certain, in fact there is a strong probability they will be eliminated. Marvin Johnson, owner of the House of Raeford, told *The News-Journal* that efforts are being made to correct the plant's discharge problem and meet the EPA guidelines by the deadline.

"We're working to make it better," Johnson said. "We don't know if we will be as low as they want us to go, but it will be a damsite better."

Johnson has said that the plant couldn't stay in business if it had to build a pre-treatment facility, which would cost an estimated \$250,000 to \$400,000, that the State Department of Natural Resources and the Raeford city consulting engineer, Moore-Gardner & Associates, have suggested.

The City Council in August, however, granted Johnson's request to give the plant time to install a less costly method -- a grease trap system. At the same time, Johnson told the Council the city could help the plant solve the problem by using the city sewage drying beds.

At long last, there's strong hope based on realities that the way out of the sewage disposal dilemma is at hand.

--BL

No losers here

So the Hoke High football Bucks were hunting for their second victory in their first five games of the 1982 season Friday night, after this was written.

Tom Jones, in his second season as head coach, is going to guide his teams to winning seasons sooner or later. But more important, winning season or losing season, the athletes will get something of permanent value from it. We disagree often with County Schools Supt. Raz Autry, but this time we'll have to agree with what he said in his column of September 23. From the Superintendent's Desk, about Jones: "...I have also worked with those (coaches) who had visions of making responsible, dedicated, caring men out of boys."

"Two of the latter kind I have worked with; namely, John Pecora (retired Hoke coach and athletics director) and presently Tom Jones."

Jones, incidentally, isn't the kind to make excuses about losing, even by a large margin. He gives explanations based on his analyses of his teams' performances in games; but he doesn't give excuses.

He could have, for one example, point to the fact that Hoke is playing against schools with many more students, and, consequently, with much more talent available. Richmond Senior, for instance, has an enrollment of about 2,000, -- more than double Hoke's. And they're not all girls, either.

Jones also followed in his first season as head coach a coach who had served through a season that ended with one victory and nine losses, and that had been his (Glenn Draughon's) first.

As every experienced coach, and even experienced Monday morning quarterback knows, it takes time for teams to readjust to changes in coaches.

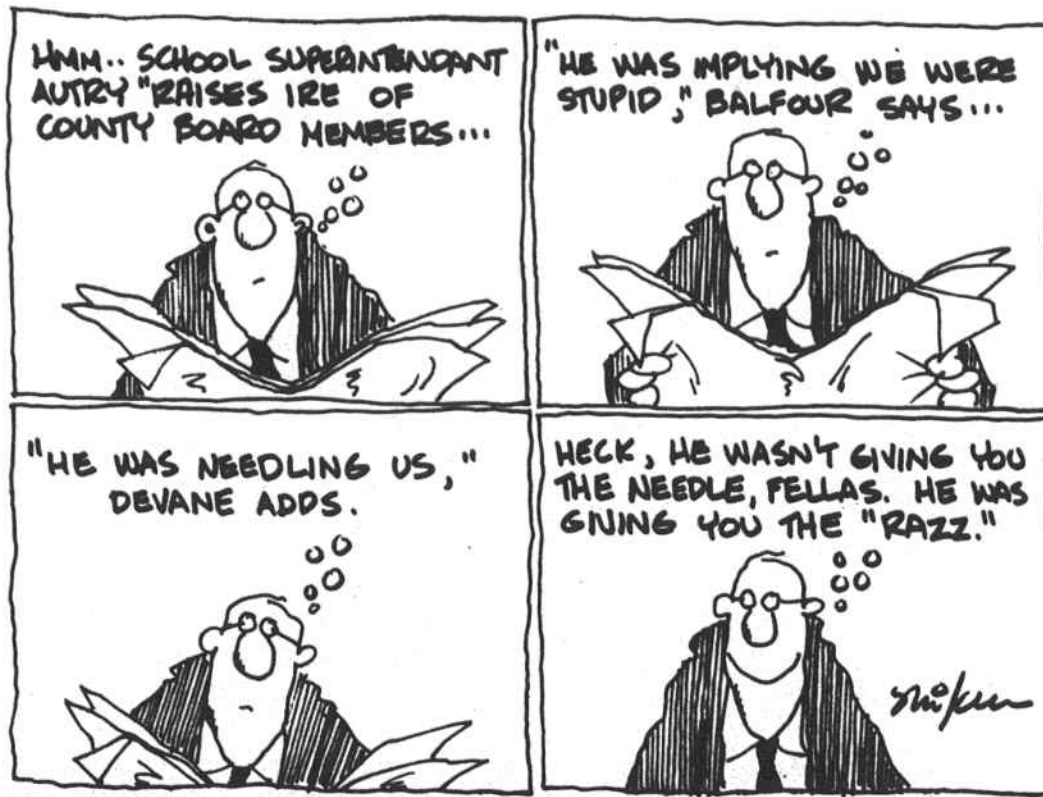
But we'll repeat again: under Jones, the Hoke boys are getting something far more important and permanent than the glory of a winning season.

We'll also say, agreeing again with Autry, that they'll also get, under Jones, besides that, the glory of a winning season and quite a few others -- maybe not this year, but soon.

So let's praise him and his boys for tremendous efforts to win, and give them all far more support than criticism, of which we're sure they give themselves enough of.

Then, too, consider: Jones seems to have his athletes playing by the principle in this old saying: "It's not whether you win or lose; it's the way you play the game."

--BL



Letters To The Editor

Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Johnny Melton and he shared it with The News-Journal.

Dear Mr. Melton:

The children of this state are our greatest resource. Very soon they will become the workers and leaders of our society.

Your organization has been called to my attention as one that has supported your local school system. I firmly believe that community volunteers, working with school administrators and teachers, are a winning team. By working together, we can help children reach their full potential.

Let me personally thank you for caring enough to be involved. Your efforts help make a difference in the lives and destinies of school children.

I look forward to working as a partner with you in the future as we enrich the lives of North Carolina's public school children through school volunteerism.

My warmest personal regards.
James B. Hunt
Governor

To the editor:
Our Hoke County fiasco Tuesday, September 21, in our courtroom shall go down as a day of infamy.

As a teacher of 35 years, I have yet to have taught a 6-year-old child who, in a crowded courtroom, could graphically describe a sexual assault.

Our child abuse laws? What a laugh.

A frightened, shy child with a speech impediment kept on the witness stand for 1 and one half hours was sadistic.

Has Judge Britt never raised a child or even been around a six year old?

Is there no way our judicial system could have protected this child somewhat by clearing the courtroom?

Do victims have no rights?

Finally, where was Social Services (such avid defenders of children from child abuse) from the beginning of this crime perpetuated against this child through HER day in court.

No wonder similar cases are not reported.

What child needs the additional emotional scars brought on by such a performance in court!

Eleanor E. Scull
Raeford

Editor, *The News-Journal*
What can a six-year-old child on a witness stand before a crowded courtroom be expected to say about her own father sexually abusing her?

What kind of prompting did she have before she even got on the stand?

Will this sort of abuse happen to another child?

The injustice done here was unbelievable. This child involved will have to live with this the rest of her life. She will always be reminded of the incident with questions of why? How?

If it's true that the N.C. law states that a rape victim has to testify no matter what age he or she is then I feel sorry for a person too young to speak for himself.

A concerned citizen,
D.B. Scarborough

To the Editor:
Just how much abuse are the parents of Hoke County expected to take from our Board of Education? Insult after insult is constantly being hurled at each and everyone of us.

In a previous letter to this paper, I stated my position on the school fee issue. It hasn't changed!

I addressed the issue of priority funding on a nonspecific basis.

However, the general public needs to know just how liberal our L.E.A. is with our tax monies.

As reported in this paper, the Superintendent cited a \$20,000 plus shortfall in needed funding as the reason for implementation of school fees. This shortfall, whether real or imagined was self induced by our elected board.

Example I: Supt. Raz Autry receives \$32,000 state salary, \$6,000 local supplement and \$5,000 expense account. More than 7 times what the average citizens of Hoke County makes.

II. On a similar, although declining scale, this extravagance is practiced down through the administrative ranks including department heads, principals, coaches and others.

Of course this largess is not available to teachers, the ones with the greatest responsibility for educating our children!

III. While our children and teachers try to function in hot classrooms in spring and fall, cold ones in winter, our Board of Education office building received several new ceiling fans this summer.

IV. School system received a 12.49% increase in local funding when compared to last years budget. This was well above the rate of inflation.

The list could go on and on. These few examples alone attest to a lack of fiscal responsibilities.

While the "executive club" maintained financial security, our teachers were even denied a cost of living raise!

Of course I am aware that salaries are determined by the state, but supplements and capital outlays, such as ceiling fans, are funded locally.

I am also aware that attractive salaries are necessary to attract the quality of leaders essential to good administration. But if that is so, wouldn't the same principal apply to attracting good teachers?

Of course the ultimate insult, the one that is the hardest to take, is when we evaluate the one and only product that our schools turn out - our children.

The average graduating student in North Carolina when faced with the Scholastic Aptitude Test finds his or herself scoring poorly when compared to students of other states. Only Georgia and South Carolina students score lower.

Eleven states have a lower per capita income than North Carolina and at least 9 of which managed to better educate their children.

This data could be interpreted in many different ways, or course.

I doubt though that any thinking person would deny that these competitor states must have at least had a greater commitment to their schools, unless we are willing to admit intellectual inferiority.

I want to make it clear that I do not advocate reduced funding for education.

I think that the time has come to apply available funds where they can be most beneficial to our children.

Schools are not a jobs program. Their only function is to educate our young people - tomorrows leaders.

It is also important that fault is placed at "faults feet."

Although I have criticized the Board of Education as a single entity, in reality my ire is more properly directed at three of the five members.

Unfortunately two of three will

not have to face the voters in November.

The future of our children depends upon responsible people making the right decisions at the proper time.

I urge every good citizen to go to the polls and vote for candidates who are dedicated to all the children in our county.

The worst insult of all would be if the citizens of Hoke County just didn't care!

Brad Turley
Raeford

Editor, *The News-Journal*

It appears that the 1982-83 school year is going to be another year of harassment for some of Hoke County's teachers (and an administrator). I lived through this type of intimidation last year, and, after two transfers of teaching assignments in the same number of years, I had hoped the "two men of education" involved would ease up a bit.

It seems, however, that once our esteemed superintendent has singled out a victim, he does not give up until he saps every last ounce of strength.

On September 21, 1982, Mr. Edwards, principal of Upchurch Junior High School, gave me permission to go to the high school during my planning period for the expressed purpose of going over some North Carolina Association of Educators' (NCAE's) business with a typing instructor. We could not handle this business on the phone, and, because my transfer to Upchurch, it has been difficult to get together after school.

Mr. Simpson, principal of Hoke High School, accused me of being "on campus without first checking by this (his) office" and "disrupting one of (the) classes for the purpose of investigating class assignments for NCAE."

If Mr. Simpson had checked with the secretary, he would have learned that I did indeed check by the office. I took care of the NCAE business and had a few minutes left before my planning period was over.

Yes, I suppose I "disrupted" the said teacher's class for about five minutes but only to see the ESEA Title I manual which she had lent me last year while I was in that program. I had been in her room numerous times last year during class and she was always helpful and receptive.

Mr. Autry stated in his letter that Mr. Simpson's "domain (had) been invaded without his fellow principal getting his permission." I ask you, Mr. Autry, have the various schools in Hoke County declared war upon each other? And it is now considered an invasion for a teacher from one school to visit the campus of another? Also since when is public property anyone's "domain"?

One item on next week's school board agenda is an example of just such harassment of another teacher. The public might find it enlightening to attend.

What really puzzles me is why Mr. Autry is so against anyone wanting to find out what is really public information like the number of students the federal government permits a teacher to have under Title I or to see the school budget.

Last year Mr. Simpson informed me at an inquisition-like "Conference" with him and his two assistant principals (I was not permitted to have a witness) that "we no longer believe in Jeffersonian democracy." I believe it.

Sincerely,
Naomi Johnson

It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

A news story published last week says a group of parents, teachers and ministers say the popularity of designer emblems on clothes may be hazardous to a child's well being.

Members of a group in Cincinnati called "I Am Somebody, Period" are fighting the proliferation of designer labels on clothes, which they believe can damage a child's sense of self worth.

The group may have a point there, but clothing label worship among youngsters isn't anything new. Back in the early 1960s when our boy was in school in Winston-Salem, girl students used to sneak up behind other girls and turn back their collars to see what kind of quality they were wearing. The London Fog rain coat-top coat was upper crust in those days, for instance.

Some kids even would get the "high rank" labels off somebody else's clothes, rip out the "middle class" department store or other labels, and sew the upper crust labels on.

Ironically, about the same time all this concern about "status" labels was going on, I was informed that Sears, Roebuck was the place where Charles Watlington bought his suits (\$45 at the time). Watlington was chairman of the board of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.

For an easy way out, maybe the Cincinnati group ought to buy a case of labels from I. Magnin, Montaldo's, and stores of similar rank and have them distributed to all the school kids in town so the kids can sew them on their clothes, to eliminate these "hazards to their well-being."

Then, too, maybe they ought to get Congress to enact a law requiring all those designers to print on their labels, "Warning: this label may be hazardous to your well-being."

"O, tempus, O, morons," as my old math teacher, Archibald Henderson, Sr., probably would say, if he were alive today.

Or maybe the Cincinnati group ought to start a campaign to get kids to live North Carolina's state motto: "Esse quam videri."

...

Sheriff David Barrington told us this story about a Marine who was haled into court on an assortment of traffic charges and found guilty of all of them -- speeding over 100 miles an hour, careless and reckless driving, hit-and-run driving (several counts, from ramming several cars), and failing to heed a police blue light and siren, during a chase. The chase ended when the Marine's car ran into a chain-link fence and damaged a house beyond it.

The judge asked the Marine if he had anything to say before he was sentenced, and the Marine said he didn't.

But then the judge told him he could get two years for every offense, and if the judge made them consecutive, he could get about 40 years in prison.

Then the judge asked the Marine if he had anything to say.

The Marine said "yes." Then he cupped his hands in front of his mouth and called, "Kirk, Enterprise! Kirk, Enterprise! Beam me up. I'm in the soup!"

This sent the courtroom spectators into roars of laughter.

Whether the judge was among those amused the sheriff didn't say. We didn't hear what kind of sentence the judge gave the Marine.

Some out-space stuff occurred in Watauga County back in the 1950s. Ruby Ellis, the Watauga County correspondent for *The Asheville Citizen* sent this story in one day.

A Boone policeman caught a man on the roof of a store downtown early one morning and questioned him, suspecting a planned break-in. The quick-thinking roof man promptly explained he was from outer space and just arrived in a flying saucer, which, presumably, returned to home base immediately.

Miss Ellis ended her story with: "He's now orbiting around a cell in the Watauga County Jail."



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