

Editorials

Voting important

Everyone in Hoke County who is eligible to vote should vote Tuesday in the general election, because it's important.

The results will be particularly important, from congressional to Hoke County commissioners' to school board members' contests, because of the state of the national economy and its effect on local government services.

In the Eighth District congressional race, Hoke voters will help choose between U.S. Rep. Bill Hefner, a Democrat, and Pinehurst businessman Harris Blake, a Republican. What this gets down to is whether the voter wants a Democrat who will help, maintain the Democratic majority in the House, or at least hold down whatever Republican gains are made in House races across the country; or whether the voter wants stronger Republican representation in the House.

The voter can be assured that Hefner won't vote unanimously against all Republican legislation and that Blake won't vote in favor of all Republican legislation. Both shape up as moderates in their parties.

On the local level, the Hoke voters will choose three county commissioners and three members of the county board of education. Both boards, as they are doing now, must decide where to put what reduced amounts of federal and state money are now available, to go with county property tax and other income. They have to decide what services need the money the worst and whether expensive new construction and/or repairs must be done immediately or can wait, and how the available funds can be used the most effectively.

The voter must decide what three people running for each board are most likely to do the jobs the best, and vote accordingly, on principles, not on personalities or attitudes of favoritism for any particular group or activities.

In regard to the congressional race, it's true that Hoke's voting population is small compared with these of the other counties in the far-flung district, but Hoke's voting is significant.

It goes without saying that Hoke's vote will be especially significant if the contest between Hefner and Blake is close. Since no one can know till hours after the polls close whether the race will be close, it is important to vote.

This is another reason why everyone eligible should get out and vote. Furthermore, no one is too old to vote, if he or she is properly registered.

Furthermore, help at the voting place can be had for the asking by anyone who has a physical handicap which prevents him or her from marking the ballots properly.

--BL

Give courts more for fight against crime

Law enforcement officers probably are weeping and wailing and gnashing their teeth over President Reagan's vow recently to "end the menace and cripple organized crime" with a \$200 million program.

The program will blanket the U.S. with federal narcotics forces. Law enforcement, the experienced officers know, is not the whole solution. The officers can only arrest. They can't convict. Once the drug tycoon gets into court with his lawyers he has the guarantees of the Constitution to lean on, and he may be guilty as sin but if the prosecutor can't come up with the right evidence, legally obtained under the constitutional guarantees, the mobster will get off the hook, and all the money the federal government can throw to the prosecution won't make a bit of difference.

This doesn't mean we ought to junk the constitutional amendments that protect the accused.

What it does mean is the taxpayers' money would be far better spent by putting a large part of it into the offices of the courts across the country, so the courts can hire more prosecutors and give them enough time and money to nail down the evidence.

What it does mean is the taxpayers' money would be far better spent by employing more prosecutors so they will have the proper amount of time and money to nail down the evidence.

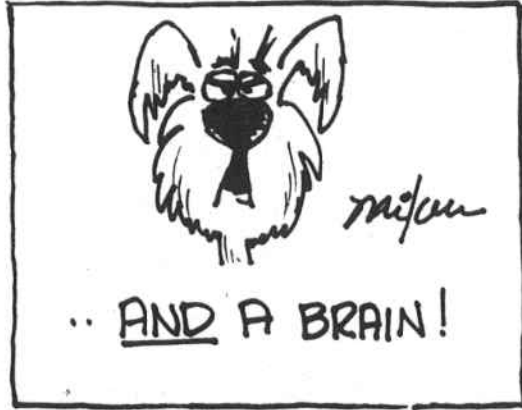
And if more must be given to beef up law enforcement manpower, it also wouldn't hurt to spread some of those millions around local town and city police departments and county sheriff's departments to hire the manpower and equipment for the same purpose. Local police, sheriffs and sheriffs' deputies know the people and the places of their home territories and this gives them a head start that "outside" federal agents don't have, in launching and pushing investigations.

As for the long-range battle against drugs, it wouldn't hurt either, to spend some federal tax money on educating the children, from elementary through high school about abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

Throwing a lot of the taxpayers' money at a problem isn't guaranteed to make the problem go away. It would help, though, to throw the money in the right directions.

Reagan might learn some lessons by studying the history of federal money-throwing in the 1950s and 1960s.

--BL



Letters To The Editor

Businesses Thanked

Editor, *The News-Journal*

I attended the 30th annual Register of Deeds Convention in Wilmington in September. Hoke County is in District V which consists of 13 counties which hosted the Convention. Mrs. Rebecca Tucker, Register of Deeds of New Hanover County did a great job as hostess. There were 64 Register of Deeds and a host of assistance, deputies, spouses and vendors who attended the convention.

I worked hard helping organize the convention to make it informative and enjoyable. Our slogan for this year was "Progress is Our Gold." I attended several workshops and did learn a great deal. I always try to keep up with the changes my office has through the legislature.

Some of our guest speakers were the Hon. James B. Hunt, Governor, James C. Green, Lt. Governor, Rufus Edmisten, Attorney General, and Mr. Thad Eure, Secretary of State. We all enjoyed these and others as they made our convention one of the best ever.

I would like to thank Burlington Menswear, Michael's Men Shop, Faberge Inc., Pauline Fashions, Howard's Clothiers, Enviro-Chem Exterminating Co., and Leo's Wig Fashion for their door prizes and contributions to make this convention successful.

Again I would like to say thank you to the above. I really appreciate you helping me represent Hoke County. I know all the door prizes were appreciated and enjoyed and all those who received them sends their THANKS.

Della Maynor
Register of Deeds

City Workers Helped

Editor's note: The News-Journal was sent a copy of this letter and asked to publish it by the writer.

Ronald Matthews
City Manager
Raeford, N.C. 28376

Dear Sir:

On October 16 I had the misfortune of having mechanical failure with my vehicle in the Raeford area.

It was late in the evening, and it would appear that my chances of obtaining assistance would be very remote.

However, I was eventually greeted by several of your city employees.

A police officer with the rank of major and a detective.

Both were not only courteous and friendly but to my amazement offered their assistance by locating a mechanic who could assist me.

Within approximately 10 minutes a mechanic by the name of Charles Phillips arrived, who I was told was also a city employee. He offered his assistance immediately with the same cordial approach given to me by the other two gentlemen.

I should mention that the repairs involved (replacement of a water pump) are not what would be considered minor repairs.

Fortunately for me, Mr. Phillips proved to be a highly skilled mechanic who completed the task without any problem, with no complaints and in a minimum amount of time.

I was also impressed by his

favorable comments about his job and employer.

In closing, I hope you will express my appreciation for assistance given me by these city employees who definitely went beyond the call of duty. If these gentlemen are indicative of the employees of the City of Raeford, indeed, you have a community to be proud of.

Sincerely,
Ed Campbell
High Point, N.C.

Position Defended

To the editor:

We would like an opportunity to respond to Mrs. Jessie McNeill's letter of October 21.

First of all thank you Mrs. McNeill. At last we have a dialogue and if we don't hear from educators publicly, nothing will ever be solved.

We would, however, like to make certain clarifications:

— We stated that there were several excellent teachers, and some otherwise. We never singled any teacher out for praise or condemnation. I don't believe that anyone would be naive enough to suggest that all teachers are of the same academic excellence.

— It was implied that our criticism was voiced without our having any first hand knowledge of the school system.

I (Brad Turley) worked in the Hoke County system for nearly five years.

I was also the Chairman of the Scurlock Elementary Parent Advisory Council for two years as well as district representative.

My wife and I personally know some 30 or more teachers and most all of the administrators.

We have no personal animosity towards any of them. We firmly believe that you can separate constructive criticism and bile.

— It was implied that we too may have ambitions. Guilty as charged!

However, we do not covet position or elevation for ourselves.

We have five children in Hoke County Schools and we wish only the very best for them and their peers.

Finally, we hope that all five of our children are fortunate enough to pass through and be influenced by Mrs. McNeill.

It is obvious that she is a dedicated professional teacher.

It is not our intent to give up on the system but to stimulate a genuine desire to continually improve our schools and hence the future of our children.

Brad & Shirley Turley
Raeford

Challenge Offered

To the editor:

I was so pleased to read Mr. Lindau's column the other week concerning the Sandhill's Youth Center's "I Can" organization.

As the young men are trying to reshape their lifestyles before they become productive members of society, contact with service organization individuals can hasten the process.

The staff of Hoke County Children's Center was graciously welcomed to tour the facility at Sandhills Friday afternoon, October 22.

The educational, recreational

and counseling staff at the minimal custody prison offer a well rounded exposure to new life experiences for each young man; a concentrated effort is being made to build self-esteem.

Our center was pleased to receive a \$50 donation from Joe Nash, president of the I CAN club, as proceeds from a car wash benefiting the Children's Center. The guys want to care and share to prove they CAN make a difference in the quality of other person's lives.

I challenge other clubs and organizations to follow the Hoke County Children's Center's lead.

Call J.P. Smith (944-3250) and arrange a tour for your group. You will be enlightened and may discover a way you can help yourself and the young men to grow.

Sincerely,
Anne H. Johnson, Director
Hoke County Children's Center

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

In depressed economic times some people who still have money to invest pay more attention to the business news in newspapers and magazines, seeing what the stock market is doing, which stocks are bringing the best returns, what the prime rate is, what the money market interest rate is, what bonds are bringing the best returns, etc.

But there's one investment business editors have completely overlooked.

What is the rate of return on investments in politicians? How safe is that type of investment?

The best I can figure, around \$35 million is being invested in politicians this year alone. Maybe more. Special interest groups, called PACs, have contributed \$250 million to Congressional candidates who see things their way or at least will close their eyes and vote that way.

On top of that, candidates raise a lot of money on their own. In one state a candidate for the U.S. Senate has raised \$2 million. In another a candidate for Governor raised \$10 million for his race. A Congressional candidate who can't raise at least \$200,000 is considered an odd-ball not worth investing in.

When you remember that most candidates have opponents who're also raising money, and you calculate the number of races there are this year, from Congress to Governors to State Legislators to big city mayors and on down to county offices, you can see that at least \$350 million is being invested in politicians.

I have some questions: Why don't business editors figure up what the rate of return is on an investment in a candidate? How does buying a politician compare with buying a money market CD? Which earns the most for you, a municipal bond or a Congressman? Moreover, if you invest in a candidate and he loses or he wins and then double-crosses you, will the IRS allow you to write it off as a legitimate business loss?

It seems to me the financial editors of big city newspapers ought to dig up this sort of financial information for the benefit of the investing public.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

It's a Small World

by Bill Lindau

The gate at the dog pound in Raeford is locked to keep people out.

But it didn't stop somebody from getting in.

The fence was torn open by the unidentified stranger apparently so he (or she) could get his (or her) dog (or cat) back without paying the \$10 pickup charge or the \$2.50 a day boarding charge.

He (or she) may have gotten his (or her) dog (or cat) back.

But in the process, about 25 cats escaped.

Nothing about dogs escaping was reported, though.

Speaking of dogs and cats, we've got a cat neighbor named Blue (though she's solid, long-haired black). Blue isn't scared of dogs. She treats them according to their individual dispositions.

If one particular dog approaches, she'll slip under a car. But when Lulu started picking at her, she just remained lounging in her yard and put up with it for a while. Then, probably getting tired of it, she suddenly attacked the dog. The dog immediately backed off and left, probably more confused than scared. I did see another attack a dog, though. The dog got too close to her newborn kittens. So she ran it off.

The Special Olympics won't be held till next March or April.

But the members of Den 8, Cub Pack 404, were getting an early start raising money. They were downtown October 15 after school selling candy to help raise money for the games, which the students in the classes for the handicapped compete in.

Couple of bees were flying south for the winter when they got low on fuel. One said to the other, "Look, there's a Gulf station down there. Let's fill up."

"I can't," the other said.

"Why not?" his buddy asked.

"Because I'm an Esso bee," he replied. I know it was changed to "Exxon" a long time ago, but "Exxon" doesn't work in the little joke, which was invented some time before "Esso" was replaced by "Exxon."

A student at Salem College, awoke in her dormitory room one night to find a strange man rummaging around. On seeing the student had awakened, the man headed for an open window. The student didn't try to stop him. She reached over and took his wallet out of his pocket as he was going out the window.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by the *News-Journal* by 5 p.m. on the Monday of the publication week.

Sleep Late Sunday Morning

Time goes backward at 2 a.m. Sunday, back to Eastern Standard Time.

People should set their clocks back an hour by then to get them off Eastern Daylight Time.

Otherwise they'll find themselves all alone in church with Sunday School still going on.

Smokey Says:



... and always a fire hazard!

The News - Journal

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