

# Opinions

Cliff Blue . . .

## People & Issues

**DEBATE.** . . N.C. Labor Commissioner John Brooks is calling the N.C. Dept. of Administration "a cancer on the governorship" in a dispute with department Secretary Jane Patterson over her efforts to consolidate most of the state's computers under a central authority.

Other members of the Council of State, notably Brooks, Auditor Ed Renfro and Treasurer Harlan Boyles, say they don't want to use computers controlled by the Dept. of Administration.

**BORROWS AGAIN.** . . The ailing Social Security old age fund was forced to borrow \$3.4 billion recently to cover its December checks. The Treasury Department says the old-age fund will have to borrow again on December 31!

**MERGER.** . . R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc. said it has merged the food and beverage activities of its Del Monte Corp. unit and its new Heublein Inc. unit into a new food and beverage group comprising three companies: Heublein Spirits & Wine Co., Del Monte Corp and Kentucky Fried Chicken Corp.

Seems like the RJR form is straying pretty far from its beginnings.

**PAY RAISE.** . . Members of a congressional conference committee agreed Sunday to a dual system for members of Congress -- with the House members making \$69,800 and senators holding to their salary of \$60,800. In return, senators will be permitted to earn an unlimited amount of outside income.

This agreement would also provide increases for thousands of senior federal employees whose salaries have been frozen at \$57,500.

The congressional debate on pay was triggered by an automatic 27% increase that technically went into effect last Friday, December 17.

**COLLEGE HEADS.** . . Dr. Larry Blake, president of the N.C. Department of Community Colleges announced Monday that he had accepted a position as President of a similar institution in Oregon.

The previous week Dr. Samuel Spencer, president of Davidson College, announced that he would be leaving July 1 after 14 years to become President of Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

**WOMEN.** . . Women see physicians and dentists more frequently than men, according to government statistics reviewed by the Health Association of America. In fact, women made an average of 5.6 trips to a physician in 1981, while men saw their doctors an average of 3.8 times. Women also see their dentists more often each year than men -- an average of 1.9 visits for women, and 1.5 for men.

**DIET COKE.** . . According to the *Wall Street Journal* Diet Coke appears well on its way to becoming the second most popular soft drink in the history of the Coca-Cola family. "Any target we have set for diet Coke has been surpassed in every instance," says Roberto Goizueta, chairman and chief

executive officer of the world's largest soft-drink company.

**SENATOR EAST.** . . U.S. Senator East of North Carolina became the prime attraction and well known in Washington, D.C., last week when he took to the floor for a near six-hour filibuster in an attempt to kill the 5-cents tax bill on gasoline.

Until last week Senator East was one of the hundred U.S. Senators in Washington. East was a member of the East Carolina University faculty before his surprise election to the U.S. Senate on November 2, 1982.

His election was due in large part to the support of his friend, U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. Since his election he had been pretty quiet, like a typical freshman in his first year. Now almost everyone in North Carolina knows who the "other" Senator is.

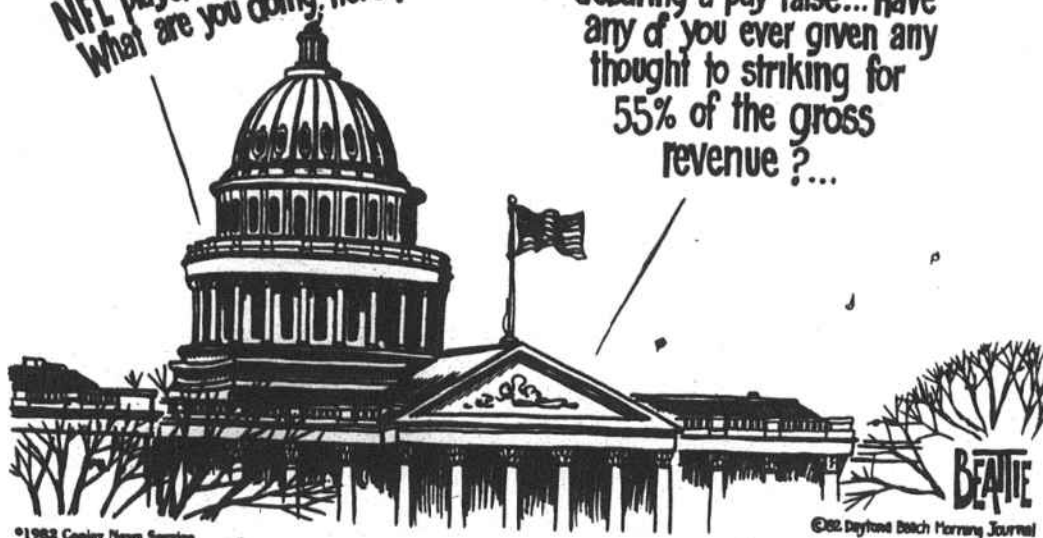
East, a 51-year old former East Carolina University political science professor, crippled by polio as a young man, is said to be the first person who uses a wheel chair to be elected a United States Senator.

Chairing the hearing himself, East didn't like it when six abortion rights demonstrators jumped on their chairs in the marble Senate ante-room and disrupted the testimony. The six women were fined \$100 each.

**DOWN?** . . For the first time in nearly two decades, first-year enrollments are down this fall at the nation's medical schools, a college association reported recently.

Ed Garvey, the NFL players' representative? What are you doing here?

I heard you guys were debating a pay raise... Have any of you ever given any thought to striking for 55% of the gross revenue?...



From the

## Superintendent's Desk

By Raz Autry

No individual has tried harder than I have in the last six months to avoid controversy.

I have tried to avoid it not because I have mellowed a great deal; it was simply that I wanted to leave the school system with a good taste in my mouth.

I also wanted the great majority of the people in Hoke County to look over my 16 years' record with an open and clear mind; then, judge whether I've done a creditable job.

After having said all of the above about controversy, even with a short time left as Superintendent, I can't possibly let Sam Morris' column "Around Town" on December 22, go unchallenged.

Mr. Morris stated and I quote as follows:

"A bulletin published December 14, 1982, that I believe came from the Board of Education Office had the following item in it: Any newspaper articles or releases to the press in any manner should be approved by this Office and Glenn Langdon's office before publication. This will only be a formality to follow. This has been requested by *The News-Journal*."

If any member of the press makes a statement without checking his facts, it is totally irresponsi-

ble journalism.

I will invite any true journalist to challenge that statement.

Mr. Morris did not call me or my secretary to verify if that memo came from my office.

Even the least knowledgeable citizen in Hoke County will tell you that when you say the Board of Education Office, you are talking about the Superintendent. He is responsible for what comes out of the Board of Education Office when it deals with administration.

I dealt with this distortion just as I have always dealt with any distortion that has been attributed to me. I went to the source.

The memo quoted in Mr. Morris' column "Around Town" came from Allen Edwards' office, the Principal of Upchurch Junior High School, not the Board of Education Office.

When I inquired at *The News Journal* where the idea came from that the memo was sent from the Board of Education Office, I was informed that Mr. Edwards, the Principal of Upchurch Junior High School, told them it came from the Board of Education Office. I in turn asked Mr. Edwards why he told *The News Journal* that the memo came from the Board of Education Office.

Mr. Edwards assured me that he did not make that statement.

Warren Johnston, the news editor of *The News Journal*, told me by telephone on Thursday, December 23, 1982, that Mr. Edwards told him point blank that the memo came from the Board of Education Office.

Those who are interested in this controversy can draw their own conclusions.

The memo I did send to the principals, which is a private matter and not intended to be distributed to everyone is as follows:

November 23, 1982

To: Principals  
From: Raz Autry

Please make the announcement to your staff that Glenn Langdon has been appointed Public Information Officer for the Hoke County school system. All of you know Glenn. I think he will make an excellent PIO.

I ask that all of you cooperate with Glenn. You will agree that this is one area that we need to constantly work on.

The memo is with the principals. I am sure our principals will be more than happy for any citizen to see it.

## 'Things That Matter'

by Lucien Coleman

Thank goodness for an abundance of cheap paper. The small wastebasket beside my desk usually overflows with crumpled wads of the stuff. I don't think I could get anything written if I didn't have the luxury of starting over again, on a clean new sheet of paper, when my prose gets tangled. (It often does.)

New Year's is a bit like that. It's a time for starting over. Never mind how last year's resolutions fell victim to the foibles of the flesh and weaknesses of the spirit. Last year doesn't count anymore. On the first day of the year, we get a clean sheet of paper.

Deeply implanted in human nature is the need for new beginnings. That's why so many people move from one part of the country to the other, change jobs, go back to school, take up new hobbies, start dieting, give up smoking, go on the wagon, or grow beards.

The ancient Hebrews went in for this sort of thing in a big way. For example, every 50 years they celebrated a "year of jubilee."

At this time, all property would be returned to the original owners, every family would return to live on the old home place, and any Hebrew who had the misfortune to be a slave was set free. Talk about

new beginnings!

Have too many pounds accumulated as a result of all the lavish holiday eating? Treat yourself to a new body and better health with the turn of the year. Been a bit backward about improving the mind? Start a good book on the first day of the year.

During the next few days most of us will be dismantling Christmas decorations and packing them away, discarding trees whose boughs are now dry and brittle, throwing away boxes and wrappings that held mysterious gifts not long ago.

## BURGLAR ALARM — Luxury or Necessity?

### YOU DECIDE

The Next Time You Leave Home

CALL

## Prevention, Inc.

Mike Steadman

at 864-5330

SALE or LEASE

"STOP CRIME BEFORE IT HAPPENS"

•Licensed •Bonded



## • NOTICE • ALL HOKE COUNTY RESIDENTS

PROPERTY TAX LISTING

N.C. State Law Requires That You

List Property For Tax Purposes As

Shown Below:

### WHEN TO LIST

Beginning at 8:00 A.M. January 2, 1981 through 12:00 Noon Jan. 31, 1981 at the locations noted below.

- Extensions of time to list may be granted upon written request and for valid reason.

### WHO MUST LIST

All Residents: Military and Civilian.

- All persons owning Real or Personal Property in Hoke County must appear before the tax listers for their township during the period of Jan. 2, through Jan. 31, 1981 to list their property for tax purposes.

- FAILURE TO LIST will subject taxpayer to a fine of \$500.00 or Imprisonment not to exceed six months.

- All mobile home owners must list and obtain a registration decal.

- All mobile home park and aircraft storage facility operators, must furnish to the tax Supervisor the name of the owner of each aircraft or mobile home and a description of each by Jan. 15, 1981.

- NOTE: Military personnel may be exempt from personal property tax if they submit proof that their "Home of Record" is other than North Carolina.

### WHAT TO LIST

All Real and Personal Property.

- All property owned as of Jan. 1, 1981 must be listed.

- All real property including buildings and improvements, and machinery permanently affixed.

- Household furniture, appliances, T.V.'s, air conditioners, fans, diamonds, and jewelry, typewriters, boats and motors, trailers, etc.

- Farm equipment, livestock, poultry, supplies and products in storage, etc.

- Motor vehicles; all automobiles, trucks, airplanes, motorcycles, campers, etc.

- Business Personal Property: merchandise, finished goods, equipment, furniture and fixtures, goods in process, raw materials, samples, etc.

- Inventories are reported as of the latest completed fiscal year if the business years ends on a date other than Dec. 31.

- ALL OTHER TANGIBLE PROPERTY NOT SPECIFIED

### WHERE TO LIST

By Township

Allendale - At the home of Miss Willa McLaughlin Monday through Friday, Jan. 2-30, 1981, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Raeftord - Courthouse Annex - Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Jan. 2-31, 1981, and Saturdays - 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

Antioch, Blue Springs, McLaughlin, Stonewall and Quewhistle - in the Hoke County Library, Main St., Raeftord, N.C. Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Saturdays 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon Jan. 2-31, 1981.

For further information call: 875-5031

L.G. Simpson  
Tax Supervisor