

# Editorials

## A matter of policy

An ad which appeared in last week's *News-Journal* gave further public airing to a disagreement between two Hoke County School officials which has been smoldering privately for several months.

Much to the credit of the individuals involved, school Superintendent Raz Autry and board Chairman Bill Cameron, the tiff had been kept under wraps and was not vented publicly until the two officials unfortunately exchanged salvos in another newspaper recently.

We felt for the good of the Hoke County School system that the disagreement should have been settled by the officials quietly, however, last week the *The News-Journal* was drawn into the fray because of a standing company policy.

It is our policy that anyone wishing to express an opinion in the newspaper, either in our editorial section or through an advertisement, should be allowed to do so, if the opinion is in good taste and observes all applicable laws.

It is also the belief of this newspaper that persons expressing opinions should have the conviction to stand behind those statements.

Therefore, we do not allow opinion writers the luxury of hiding behind a cloak of anonymity. All letters, ads or columns must bear the name of the author.

The advertisement last week was signed the "Voters". It was rejected for publication, not because we did not agree with its contents, but because the ad was ambiguously signed and did not let readers know who was behind it.

After one member of the sponsoring group agreed to sign his name, the advertisement was run without hesitation.

As to the two squabbling school officials, we hope they will remain tight lipped until after March 17 when Autry retires.

The bickering between these community leaders can do little more than hurt the school system that both of them have sweated to build and endanger the education of Hoke County students that they have fought to preserve.

Time may not heal the wounds between them, but it will certainly render the public question moot.

## Cheers for champs

A tip of the hat should go to Coach Ron Parsons and his Hoke High Bucks for capturing the 4-A Conference Championship.

The Bucks topped Lumberton Friday night 86-71 to clinch the title.

It has been four years since Hoke High has won the crown. That title came in 1979 during Harold Thompson's senior year and Parsons' first year as coach here.

The Bucks are 17-5 overall and 9-3 in the conference, and for a league similar to the ACC, that's not bad.

After receiving a bye in the first round of the state championship tournament, the Bucks will have the home-court advantage Thursday as they start their quest for the crown.

Although they are ranked third in Eastern North Carolina, the state tourney is not going to be easy for the Bucks.

A house packed with pro-Buck fans would mean a true advantage for the home team, and could be the edge Hoke High needs to garner the state crown.

The Bucks are playing good basketball. They deserve all the support we can give them.



## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

### SOCIAL SECURITY FLIGHT!

... We are concerned about Social Security in Washington and how it is being handled.

We feel that Social Security, if handled reasonably, can be of great help to the elder citizens.

As it is now being run, we are afraid that it may become a shambles before the end of the century which is now a little more than 17 1/2 years.

Since this year began less than two months ago, a group working on Social Security came forward with a program which we were told was on solid foundation. President Ford and other distinguished statesmen were in the group that made the recommendation.

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms also brought forward with a program, quite different from the Social Security System under which we now live.

We quote from an article in the Monday, Feb. 21 issue of the *News and Observer* by the New York Times News Service which says:

"A study by the Congressional Budget contains projections that the Medicare trust fund will be depleted in 1987 or 1988."

Congressional leaders were told less than two months ago that a study committee had arrived at an agreement that would put the program on a safe and solid basis.

In a recent statement, Senator Robert J. Dole, R. Kansas, chairman of the finance committee, which has authority over both programs, said:

"If you think we face serious deficit problems with the Social Security cash program, you're in for a big surprise when you look down the road at Medicare's future. Under the current optimistic assumptions, Medicare could literally go broke sometime towards the end of the decade, perhaps as early as 1987 or 1988."

### FORECLOSURES ...

Agriculture Secretary, John Block said recently the farm economy will probably remain depressed enough this year to force the federal government to foreclose on another 800 to 900 producers.

### MILITARY & TRAVEL ...

U.S. News and World Report said the Pentagon provided more than \$2 million in VIP domestic travel service and related entertainment for members of Congress in 1982. During the year, 35 senators and 111 House members took trips aboard planes operated by the Air Force's 89th Military Airlift Wing.

### NATURAL GAS ...

The Natural Gas industry, buoyed by word that President Reagan is leaning towards quicker decontrol of gas prices, intensified its demand recently for an end to federal intervention in the gas market.

### MEMORIAL ...

Forced to decide between warping veterans, the government's Fine Arts Commission voted recently to locate a statue of soldiers and a flag by the side of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial rather than between its black granite walls.

### ABORTIONS ...

The number of legal abortions in the United States has increased steadily since the 1973 supreme court decision legalizing abortion, but the national centers for Disease Control said recently the rate of increase appears to have leveled off.

### BAD YEAR ...

Cramped by high interest rates, U.S. builders started work on barely 1 million new houses last year, the fewest since 1946, the government reported recently. But with a housing revival already underway administration and industry officials agreed 1983 should be much better.

### DONATES ORGANS ...

15 year old Anthony Pennington of Kilgore, Texas was so moved by a television movie that he told his brother he wanted to donate his organs when he died to help others live. Tragically the youth was struck and fatally injured by a pickup truck as he rode his bicycle a week later.

## Letters To The Editor

### Cameron defended

To The Editor:

When Bill Cameron expressed his opinion on February 15, he may not have been speaking for ALL of the citizens of Hoke County, but he darn sure was speaking for SEVEN-EIGHTS of the citizens of Hoke County.

Since the country believes in FREEDOM OF SPEECH, I think it fair for Mr. Cameron to speak his personal opinion.

After all Raz has spoke his personal opinion since day one.

Hazel McNeill  
Raeford

mankind's preservation, I urge them to do so.

Sincerely,  
Sam Ragan  
Southern Pines

### Cat rescued

To The Editor:

Please let me use a little space in your paper to say a big thanks to the men from Carolina Telephone and Telegraph for rescuing the little kitten from the tree at the post office.

I don't know any of their names, but their help is very much appreciated.

It's sad to say the fire department and city Animal Warden refused to help, but they did.

When an animal lover from Raeford sees a man for C.T. & T. Co., let's always say "thanks for caring."

Margaret Thaggard

### Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

As everybody knows, the courts are so clogged with cases these days it takes almost forever to get a case tried, and even the Supreme Court is suggesting a sort of Semi-Supreme Court to take some of the load off it.

I'll tackle only one part of the problem -- the time it takes to get a jury.

It's not easy to find 12 people who don't read the newspapers or listen to the news on TV or even

listen to gossip, or, if they've heard about the case, don't have an opinion on a man who has admitted butchering and burying 15 or 20 people in his spare time.

What we need are Professional Jurors, people who do nothing but try cases and are ready to be sworn in the minute the judge takes his seat.

All crime news would be cut out of their newspapers and their television programs would be taped re-runs. We couldn't have them listening to a regular program where some announcer might break in with a news bulletin announcing the outbreak of nuclear war right while they were deliberating on the guilt or innocence of a Congressman photographed in a hotel room taking a bribe.

You might think it would be hard to find a group of people so open-minded, opinion-less and uniformed and willing to spend their lives as Professional Jurors, but if the pay is adequate they could be found.

I don't know how justice would be served under this system, but maybe it could come up to the kind where the man who discovered the burglary that produced Watergate has now been sent to the pen for a year for shoplifting a pair of \$12 tennis shoes and the top man in the Watergate scandal was given a pardon without even being tried.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

### Freeze backed

To Editor:

It is my belief that there is no issue facing North Carolina, the nation and the world today greater than the threat of nuclear war.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons pushes us closer and closer to such a war in which there would be no winners and which could mean the end of civilization and Earth itself.

We know that nuclear freeze is not the total answer, but it is the first step, the most necessary step, toward easing that threat which hangs over all of us. It will help restore some sanity in an insane arms race.

I know of no greater service to mankind that the North Carolina Legislature can perform at this session than to adopt a resolution calling for a freeze in nuclear weapons. In the name of

## Autos make barbarians out of reasonable humans

by Lucien Coleman

Have you ever noticed how reasonably decent human beings can turn into uncivilized barbarians the moment they get behind the wheel of a motorized vehicle?

Not long ago I drove into a suburb of Atlanta late at night. It was raining steadily and visibility was poor.

As I groped my way through unfamiliar streets, I had to slow down at intersections, trying to make out the street signs.

Suddenly, a pair of headlights glared in my rear-view mirror as a car came up behind me at full throttle. The driver could have gone around, but, instead, he pounced on his horn and brakes at the same time.

Then, to make sure I got the message, he rolled down his window and shouted an obscenity as he roared away.

I wouldn't have given it a second thought had it happened only once. But two other drivers repeated the same borris behavior within the next 10 minutes.

Can you imagine someone running up behind you as you move down the aisle of your grocery market and shouting, "Hey, you idiot! Get out of my way!"

No, most of us retain at least a thin veneer of civility when we're on foot, but cars and trucks tend to bring out our more primitive instincts.

Some folks will do anything to keep from walking 50 feet in a parking lot.

### Things That Matter

As one little white-haired lady waited for another car to pull out of a space in our neighborhood shopping center the other day, a brash young man, who looked to be in his early 20's, came racing up in his customized van and wheeled into the space from the other direction.

Being the straightforward type, my wife called his attention to the fact that he had run in front of that elderly lady.

"Well, now," he smirked, "ain't that sweet of you."

Some drivers just plain don't give a rip about the other inhabitants of their planet. I'm referring to the characters who park their cars diagonally across two spaces, use spaces reserved for the

handicapped for their own convenience, and scrape the doors of nearby cars as they back out without any thought of paying for the damages.

Maybe prospective drivers ought to be required to take lessons in courtesy before being awarded licenses.

Some old-fashioned good manners would make driving more pleasant for all of us. And I suspect it would do a lot to reduce accidents, if we could exercise a little more chivalry on the roadways.

I won't pretend that I am without sin. As my wife can tell you, I've done my share of horn-blowing. But it struck me, not long ago, that we tell the people around us an awful lot about our personal maturity by what we do behind the wheel of a car.



### 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.



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