

Editorials

Commission wins point, but schools lose future

Members of the County Commission played hard ball last week with the Hoke County Board of Education and won. However, the commissioner's victory appears to have cost Hoke High students the opportunity of taking junior Reserve Officers Training next year and may have killed the program here for the next three years. The win also did little to patch up the long-standing differences between the governmental bodies.

The school board had requested a 17.2% hike in local funding this year, but because the commission members drew the line on the school system's spending at a 10% increase, the ROTC program had to be scratched from the operating budget. Failure to fund the training puts Hoke County at the bottom of a three-year waiting list.

In an effort to save the program, the school board attempted to persuade the commission during a joint public session last week that ROTC was worthwhile, and that an additional \$20,000 needed to fund the training was justified.

Unmoved by the presentation, the commissioners suggested "in the spirit of compromise" that the school board do without a new

car planned for the school nurse and without the paving budgeted for the West Hoke School dirt parking lot.

It is easy to understand how the county officials could suggest that the nurse drive her 12-year-old car another year, and that if the teachers, parents and visitors at West Hoke could wade through the mud in the past, they could do it again next year.

But, it is difficult to comprehend how the commissioners believed their suggestions would have been considered a compromise.

It is hardly a compromise, when nothing is sacrificed by one of the agreeing parties and all the giving is done by the other.

Had the commissioners been in a spirit of compromise, they perhaps would have suggested increasing the school budget to cover part of the cost of ROTC or suggested finding alternative financing.

In the so-called "negotiations" last week, the commissioners gave nothing and took away a great deal.

ROTC at Hoke High would have provided a program of leadership, discipline and teamwork for the more than 100 students who have expressed an interest in the training.

Supporters of the program feel that ROTC fills a void for many students, who may not be inclined towards participating in athletics or extra-curricular activities. For some of these students, ROTC could also be the difference that keeps them out of trouble.

With Hoke's proximity to Ft. Bragg, an ROTC unit here could have had access to facilities and experiences not available to other counties in the state, and as a result, the training would have been better than that offered at many other schools.

In addition, 37 members, or 16%, of this year's graduating class went into the military. With high school ROTC training, those enlistees would have been better prepared for the service, and would have had a two pay-grade jump on those who had not taken the course.

The program would have also been beneficial to other graduates who will have an opportunity to take ROTC in college. By going through the junior training, students also stand a better chance of being chosen to receive full military scholarship benefits.

There are many positive reasons for having an ROTC program at Hoke High, and few negative ones.

Hoke County taxpayers have accumulated a surplus reserve fund of close to \$1 million which draws more than \$100,000 in interest each year. In light of that, it is hard to understand the commissioners' staunch objection to funding the \$20,000 needed for an ROTC program.

Although we are generally opposed to hikes in taxes, probably few Hoke County taxpayers would have objected if the commissioners found it necessary to impose the 1% increase needed to fund ROTC. Those additional charges would have meant that a \$40,000 homeowner would pay an extra \$4 per year, or less than an afternoon at the movies.

The commissioner's action last week showed an insensitivity to the needs of the county's educational system and slammed the door on many youths who could have been helped by the training.

ROTC would have been worth the cost, and the program would have meant much to the future of the county.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues

WASHINGTON... From our listening post in Washington comes word that as senators catch subway cars to the Senate chamber, walk the halls to the Senate office buildings and go to committees, reporters and others show intense interest in the four Democratic contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination.

One veteran doorkeeper in the Senate remarked a few days ago: "Senator Glenn, for the first time, is beginning to show strain from the pressure. It's tremendous; polls show he's the most popular Democratic candidate."

A newsman, some hours later saw Glenn and noticed his visible reddened face. Tension is getting him. Others who have been watching him remark on how much his manner and appearance resembles that of the late President Eisenhower.

"There's something about his bearing and manner that reminds one of Ike. He seems to be getting more like him," one reporter who sees him daily said.

SENATORS... Also under pressure are senators who face tough races in 1984. Conservative Jesse Helms of North Carolina knows he's in a race -- facing Governor Jim Hunt next year.

SOUTH CAROLINA... Contrary to the North Carolina situation, President Pro-tem of the Senate, Strom Thurmond of South Carolina seems safe in 1984. There has been talk that the state's Democratic governor, Dick Riley, might run against him. But the consensus is that Thurmond is unbeatable. He has unlimited financial support -- really unlimited.

Thurmond has voted for extension of the civil rights act and moved to increase his popularity among blacks. Though in advanced age, he's healthy and active. One of his staffers remarked, laughing: "He's more active than most members, goes sixteen hours a day. I bet he'll write a book one of these days about his first hundred years in public service!"

The other three presidential contenders, Hollings of South Carolina, Hart of Colorado and Cranston of California, stir excitement, but not as much as Glenn.

MONDALE... Mondale is still regarded as the front runner. Reuben Askew of Florida is a long shot candidate. Hart and Cranston are popular among leftwing groups.

Lots can happen in presidential sweepstakes between now and convention time a year from now!

CALCIUM... Sufficient calcium consumption may help to prevent high blood pressure, according to a study at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Jose Villar of the universities School of Hygiene and Public Health told the Health Insurance Association that: "High calcium intake, which is associated with lower blood pressure may produce a protective effect hypertension." He cautioned, however, that no single dietary factor can prevent high blood pressure. Its control is a combination of several factors, he said, and until we have more conclusive data, people should make sure they get the regular daily requirements of all nutrients, including calcium."



Letters To The Editor

Cherokees will fight

To the Editor:
This is to every person who reads this paper, to every government official, especially to the Administration of Hoke County, the Department of Social Services of Hoke County, Chief Wiggins of the Raeford Police Department, David Barrington, Sheriff, the so called North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, Bruce Jones Director, the Lumbee Regional Development Association of Non Indians and all people made in the likeness and image of God.

We, the Cherokee Indians of Hoke County Inc. are sick and tired of being discriminated against by you, and this means you.

We are Cherokee Indians born under the 1885, 1911 and the 1913 Cherokee Indians of Robeson and adjoining counties acts as passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina in those years and rereaffirmed by the General Assembly of North Carolina of 1977.

We are not Lumbee, but the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs is trying to make us Lumbees.

We are not Lumbees. We do not claim descent from early white settlers and certain unknown tribes of Indians.

We can trace our ancestry back as Indians just as far as you want, and it is Cherokee all the way.

Yet, the state is using the 1953 and 1956 Lumbee bills and using it as an instrument of attainer, to deny us our rights and benefits as Cherokee Indians by allowing the Lumbee Regional Development Association and the Lumbee tribe to claim dominion over our ancient land and over us.

We intend to march for our rights in Raeford, whether or not we get a permit. We intend to be at the meeting of the Indian Commission in September of 1983.

We intend to have our rights. The non Indian Lumbees have taken over much of the ancient Cherokee Indian lands, but they can't win. They can't fight God.

We started out not to fight the Lumbee non Indians and LRDA, but now the race is on, and we intend to win in the name of Jesus.

We are born Cherokee. We live Cherokee and we will die Cherokee. Amen.
We mean what we say.

The Cherokee Indians of Hoke County, Inc.
Rev. Edgar Bryant,
Chief Exec. Dir.
Rev. Douglas W. Maynor,
Tribal spokesman

DSS doing good job

To the Editor:
As an out-of-town subscriber and a former employee of the Hoke County Department of Social Services, I have followed the reports of the Food Stamps Monthly Reporting issue with interest.

Hoke County's early involvement in the procedure has provided valuable insight to the State regarding the impact of this move.

The fact that the agency agreed to serve as a pilot county in the endeavor is an indication of the administrative spirit and enthusiasm of the Hoke County DSS. The same holds true of the agency's candid appraisal of the results of the pilot effort.

During my four-and-a-half years as an Eligibility Supervisor with Hoke DSS, members of the staff were often called upon to serve on various state committees and task forces. We were one of the few counties who were a part of the "walk-through" of Eligibility Redesign Phase II as the state prepared for the changeover. We were one of the early small counties to "go live" as terminals were located in the agencies last year.

The agency's continued conscientious involvement in current and upcoming issues has evidenced the dedication of the staff.

In a profession where rewards are usually limited to the satisfaction of a job well done, such involvement is to be commended.

As a long-time employee of Social Services in North Carolina, I have worked in three different county agencies under the direction of five different county directors.

May I take this opportunity to say that Director Ken Witherspoon

and the Hoke DSS Staff are among the finest!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky B. Britt
Lumberton

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
One trouble with politicians these days is they have no imagination.

Take the case of the stolen briefing papers, a copy of which, prepared for Mr. Carter in his debate with Mr. Reagan, turned up in Mr. Reagan's camp.

How the papers got in the wrong camp, whether by theft or betrayal or accident, and how nobody on the Reagan side can remember on Monday how they got there but on Tuesday can have some faint recollection, more or less, possibly or perhaps...these things are being investigated by the FBI, the Justice Department, a Congressional Committee, and every reporter in Washington hungry to make a name for himself.

Personally I have no opinion on the matter, other than I hope the networks don't dig up their tapes of the debate and run them again to let the public decide if any cheating took place.

But back to the politicians' lack of imagination. What the Carter people should have done, if they'd had a merry turn of mind, is prepare a phony briefing book and let it fall into the hands of the Reagan people. Then sit back and grin.

There's fun to be had in politics if the whole kit'n-kaboodle didn't take themselves so seriously.

The country needs more individuals who, on being asked by a "scientific opinion pollster" what they think on some burning issue, tell him just the opposite of what they really think.

I don't know who stole those briefing papers but whoever did ought to be brought to trial. There should be no place in this government for petty theft.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Lawn mowing beats shelling those peas

By Warren Johnston
It was one of those hot muggy Hoke County Saturdays when the sun burned, and the 98° temperatures hung like a wet army blanket a few inches above the ground.

The birds didn't fly. The crickets didn't chirp, and the rabbits did not hop. Nothing moved.

It was too hot.

The Bermuda grass in our yard was in a growing race with the weeds to see which one could reach the eight-and-a-half foot mark first. They both needed mowing.

The last time I mowed the grass, I kicked up so much dust that the Raeford Fire Department stopped by to see if the north end of town was ablaze.

It was 9 a.m. My wife and I sat in front of the oscillating fan, drank our morning coffee and sweated.

"What am I going to do today?" I asked.

"You could mow the grass," she said quietly, as she picked up a colander full of unshelled field peas.

"It's too hot," I replied, watching a fly do the back stroke in my coffee cup.

"You could help me shell these peas," she insisted.

Shelling peas was one of the last things that I wanted to do. I gave her one of my best lines about how I didn't do windows, floors or shell peas.

She didn't go for it. "You bought these things without asking me, and you are going to help shell them," she said.

I knew that I had to stall for time. The longer I waited, the fewer peas there would be to shell.

"How was I to know they would be so much trouble. My mother was a debutante. She never told me about shelling peas," I quipped.

It all started when this traveling pea salesman came by the office.

"How 'bout some fresh peas," he had said. "Sevin dollar a bushel, and I'll bring 'em right in

The Puppy Papers

here and set them down in front of you."

It sounded like a deal. We had a freezer. My wife could shell them. We could eat peas all winter.

As my wife handed me a lap full of peas to shell, I knew that I had been suckered again.

The last time it happened was with the crabs.

I had just wanted "a few" crabs to steam for dinner.

The man at the wholesale seafood house knew an uplander when he saw one. He had just been in contact with one of his shrimp boats by radio, he assured me. They would bring my crabs in with them.

When I returned an hour later, two large garbage cans were there, brimming with blue crabs.

"Here's your crabs. They're \$7," the seafood man had said.

I had begged him to take the \$7 and keep all but three or four of the crabs. He wouldn't hear of it.

By midnight the crabs were boiled. The bathtub, which had been teaming with clawed creatures all day, was emptied. All that remained was a smell. It lingered for days.

Crabs had once been one of my wife's favorite foods. Now, she has had dreams about them.

The peas were beginning to look the same to me.

After an hour, my thumbs ached, and I was bored.

"How many are left?" I asked.

"We have shelled a tenth of them," she said, not looking up from her colander.

"I think I'll mow the grass."

It was nice to be out under the hot baking sun, the roar of the lawn mower in my ears, dust filling my nostrils and clumps of new mown grass swirling about my feet.

Pea shelling was woman's work, and besides, mowing the grass on a 98° day was a lot easier.

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 noon on the Monday of the publication week.

The News - Journal

MEMBER
NNA
NATIONAL NEWS-PAPER
ASSOCIATION

North Carolina
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday by
Dickson Press, Inc., Paul Dickson, Pres.
119 W. Elwood Avenue, P.O. Box 550
Raeford, N.C. 28376

Subscription Rates In Advance
In County Per Year—\$10.00 6 Months—\$5.00
Out of County Per Year—\$12.00 6 Months—\$6.00

LOUIS H. FOGLEMAN, JR. Publisher
WARREN N. JOHNSTON Editor
HENRY L. BLUE Production Supervisor
MRS. PAUL DICKSON Society Editor
SAM C. MORRIS Contributing Editor
ANN WEBB Advertising Representative

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.
(USPS 388-240)