

# Editorials

## Bucks are learning the right values

Friday night, the gates on Hoke High Stadium will clank open, peanut and soft drink vendors will assemble, program salesmen will position themselves and loyal fans, who have not left town for the Labor Day weekend, will file in to cheer the opening of another Buck football season.

Prior to the kickoff against South View, anticipation will build. The fans know there have been too few winning teams at Hoke High lately, and this could be the year that changes.

Coach Tom Jones has had one of the best turnouts in recent memory and will dress out more than 40 on the varsity squad including 17 returning starters.

Early press reviews have noted that Jones is changing the offensive tactics by shifting from a veer attack to the Power-I. There are also two good quarterbacks vying for the starting slot, and indications are that this year's team could be explosive.

One thing that has not been changed this year by Jones and his staff is their philosophy of coaching.

Included in the philosophy is the teaching of a healthy desire to win; however, the other lessons being taught by the Buck coaches will stick with team members much longer than the memory of whether this year was a 10-0 season or a repeat of last year's 3-7.

Buck coaches are not only working on developing fundamental skills like blocking and tackling, but staff members are also more importantly stressing that players work together as a unit, and that they play the game cleanly and fairly.

The value of winning can come later. It will be drummed into this year's team members for the rest of their lives, particularly if they pursue a career in athletics.

After high school, the game becomes a multi-million dollar

business. Winning is an economic necessity. Athletes are no longer allowed the luxury of playing for the sport of it, and performances are improved with steroids, stimulants and pain killers.

For those who continue to play football, the principles learned at Hoke High may never be taught again.

For those who never play organized athletics again, the ethics being taught on the Hoke playing fields will be needed in any task they undertake.

Whatever the outcome of this year's Hoke High season, it will be a comfort to know that the coaching staff has put a price limit on winning.

If they succeed in their efforts to instill in the players the values of teamwork and fair play, then the coaches will ensure that the Bucks will have a winning season, no matter what the final tally.

We commend the Hoke High coaches for their approach. It is refreshing to know that Buck players are being taught to love the game for its sport, and not for its financial promise.

## Hopefuls queuing for race debate

By Cliff Blue  
CANDIDATES... Six Democratic candidates for the presidency have agreed to a series of nationwide debates this fall.

The candidates responded to a request from 100 House Democrats. Rep. Charles E. Schumer (D.N.Y.) said he will ask the House Democratic Caucus to sponsor the debates.

We think it is quite fitting that questions be asked the candidates.

ALCOHOLISM... About 20 states have passed laws requiring insurers to offer special coverage for hospital and/or outpatient treatment of alcoholism.

Only seven states mandated such benefits in 1975.

New York's law, signed recently requires outpatient treatment coverage for at least 60 days a year.

Some pending federal bills would force federal workers' health insurance firms to underwrite alcoholics' hospitalization.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association dropped such coverage for U.S. employees last year because other insurers weren't selling it.

However, next year, it plans to offer thousands of its major corporate customers a new "Substance abuse benefit."

Coverage for treatment of drug and alcohol abuse will include stays at residential rehabilitation centers.

The insurer says it was "Able to sell this coverage to cover over 100,000 people in a two year market test in three areas."

MEDICARE... The Medicare system will survive "to meet the needs of the elderly in the future," predicts Health and Human Services Secretary Heckler. She says an agency task force is studying ways to prevent the financially troubled health-care program from going bankrupt.

HEAT WAVE RECORD... In my opinion Fayetteville and the Sandhills walked away with the heat wave record with Fayetteville's 110 degrees and Aberdeen close behind with 108 degrees.

FAIRCLOTH... Lauch Faircloth got state-wide publicity over his plane wreck last year, but we are sure that he had rather do without that kind!

Faircloth and his associates were mightily lucky to escape without serious injury or death when the

### People and Issues

plane in which they were riding went down moments after leaving Spruce Pine in the mountains of North Carolina.

Aboard the plane in addition to Faircloth were Brad Cone; the pilot, Leighton Elliot and co-pilot Manuel Sowers.

Lauch Faircloth is one of several candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1984.

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT... The recent jury decision in Kansas City, awarding half a million dollars to a female journalist who charged she was discriminated against on the basis of sex is understandable in today's reform climate. But it's a precarious precedent.

From what we read, the female commentator was removed from one job and given another by her employer. She then quit and sued for a large sum of money.

A mostly female jury then awarded her half a million dollars. She claimed she also had been treated unfairly. The station denied it, claimed it uses commentators with the greatest appeal to listeners, that she rated poorly in polls.

The exact truth may never be known. A serious question is raised by such a fat verdict, however. Why shouldn't a station or newspaper be able to change employees from one job to another in what they see as the best interest of the business?



## Letters To The Editor

### 70-year-old marches

Dear Editor:  
On Saturday, August 27, my dad, who will be 70 years old in January, joined the quarter million Americans in the "march" on Washington to commemorate Martin Luther King Day.

Yes, he is a minority. He is one of those who believes in freedom, equality, and human dignity, and he has been fighting for those rights all his life. He has been scorned, ridiculed, and even ostracized at times, but he continued to fight for his beliefs.

When he told me that he was going to Washington, it made me feel guilty for not going. I warned him about the heat and the crowds. He said he would have water with him and told me not to worry.

It is hard not to worry about a

seventy-year-old man who was not too well only a year ago.

I certainly admire my dad and the quarter million other Americans who went to Washington and hope this march acts as a catalyst in achieving "the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" that the founders of this nation held so dear.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Johnson

### Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:  
A lot has been in the news lately about Col. Kaddafi, the Libyan dictator who has been producing all manner of trouble and misery for years, but he has now gone too far.

Kaddafi was interviewed on television the other day right when his Libyan planes were bombing neighboring defenseless Chad.

When asked why he was bombing Chad he looked straight into the camera and said: "I'm not bombing Chad. Those are not my planes."

Aside from the evil of unprovoked bombing of a defenseless country, Col. Kaddafi is giving political lying a bad name.

A political lie everybody knows is a lie is completely useless and its reckless employment endangers one of the mainstays of politics.

As practically every political campaign since elections were invented has proved, people don't mind being lied to if it's done artfully. But put that tool in the hands of a guy like Col. Kaddafi and all the fun is taken out of it.

An immature politician is one who will tell a lie without first checking up on how many people will believe it. He doesn't last long.

A good politician is one who won't lie unless he figures he has a good chance of getting by with it. He gets re-elected.

A superior politician is one who won't lie unless he knows it'll be at least 50 years before he's found out. He goes down in history.

If you say nobody who occasionally lies should be elected, then where on earth could you find anybody qualified to run? The truth may make you free but it won't keep you in office.

On the other hand, the number of politicians who have lied to voters is offset by the number of voters who've lied to politicians.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

The News-Journal

Published Every Thursday by  
Dickson Press, Inc., Paul Dickson, Pres.  
119 W. Elmwood Avenue, P.O. Box 550  
Rutherford, 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

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2nd Class Postage at Rutherford, N.C.  
(E.P.S. 388-260)

# Cat checks out for cooler temperatures

By Warren Johnston

Our cat was missing for a couple of days last week. We were worried sick.

On the second day of his absence, we frantically re-checked his usual napping spots, and opened all the closed doors, thinking that he may have been inadvertently locked in some rarely used portion of the house. There was no cat.

"I think something has happened to the cat. He never stays gone like this," my wife said.

"He'll show up," I said, exuding confidence. I had just carefully inspected the sides of the nearby roads.

Although we were not sure when he had last been seen, the cat apparently left during the spell of 110-degree weather.

My wife noted that he had been complaining a lot about the heat and had threatened to spend the rest of the summer in Alaska, which seemed to be the only cool spot in the country.

It was a silly statement for a cat to make, and we dismissed it. After all, how could a cat possibly get from North Carolina to Alaska?

"He's been hanging around with some cats from Ft. Bragg," my wife said. "Maybe he's hitched a ride on a military transport."

The assumption was absurd, and we decided that the cat

### The Puppy Papers

had just gone to visit a friend with an air conditioned house.

In the process of remodeling our house, we had not considered air conditioning a priority item, until last week. We had been warned, but we rejected the advice as being tainted by bourgeois comfort seekers.

"You better put in air conditioning. It gets pretty hot in August," they said.

However, we have 12-foot ceilings, and we had installed an attic fan. Surely that would be enough.

"People got along just fine before air conditioning. You never heard them complaining," we had said.

As the temperature soared over 105°, and the air sucked in by our attic fan felt like the breath of a blast furnace, we knew they had been right, and that all those people before air conditioning never complained because they died from heat exhaustion.

As we sat fanning ourselves on the front porch, hoping that a breeze would blow, my wife recalled that the cat had said something about it being a last straw when the water in his drinking bowl began to boil.

Then the weather broke. It rained all night. The thermometer dropped into the 60's.

The next morning the cat arrived for breakfast at his usual time, acting as if he had never been away.

He looked a little rough around the edges, a bit like he had been on a two-day toot.

"Where have you been?" I asked the cat. "We have been worried sick."

The cat only purred and asked for another helping of creamed tuna.

I roused my wife who was still sleeping, and gave her the news that the cat had come home.

"Oh, where has he been?" she asked, wiping the sleep from her eyes.

"He wouldn't say, but he seems to have had a good time."

We knew the cat could not have had that good of time, because he had been the guest of Friends of the Animals two years earlier and was surgically altered.

Days have now passed since his return. The cat still refuses to discuss his absence, but he has asked to have fresh salmon added to his menu, and he has also inquired into the cost of having an igloo built in the yard. He says he wants to sleep in it.