

Editorials

Volunteers, Givers Improve Life Here

In the weeks before Christmas, two civic organizations successfully rallied the local citizenry and raised over \$5,000 to help improve the lives of needy Hoke County residents.

Members of the Raeford Woman's Club and the Raeford Kiwanis Club should be commended for their efforts in the pre-Christmas drives.

Kiwanis members raised around \$3,800 through pancake and raffle ticket sales. That money will be pooled with other funds raised during the year and funneled into local charities.

Each year, Kiwanis contributes more than \$9,000 to local causes, and gives additional funds to deserving state and national organizations.

The work of the Kiwanis Club is remarkable, particularly considering that there are only 40 members.

Efforts put forth by the Raeford Woman's Club in the Share Your Christmas drive is equally as notable.

During the drive over \$2,000 was raised, including a \$500 contribution from the Kiwanis Club, as well as piles of clothing and other items.

In the days before Christmas, club members put aside personal holiday duties to organize and distribute food, clothing and money to needy families.

Over 500 needy Hoke residents, of whom more than half were children, had a brighter Christmas because of the Woman's Club drive.

Hoke County has the lowest per capita income in North Carolina, which is a clear signal that some residents are living in extreme poverty.

Woman's Club members had little trouble finding families who needed help, and because of limited resources and personnel, they were unable to assist all who could have qualified.

The volunteers in both these organizations are doing much for the Hoke community, and we hope they will keep it up.

However, there is another group in the county, who perhaps do as much for the community, but who receive little public credit.

Without the assistance of Hoke County merchants and industries, efforts like these two December drives, the United Way and numerous others fundraisers would be doomed.

Although many individuals contributed to Share Your Christmas, a major portion of the donations came from merchants and some of the county's industries.

The Kiwanis raffle also would have been meager, had merchants not contributed to a prize list.

Every year as each of this county's numerous fund drives kick off, volunteers knock first on the doors of the business community, and few of them leave empty-handed.

Both merchants and representatives of industry do a great deal towards improving the quality of life here, and rarely do they seem to grow weary of the constant knocking.

Without the help of business and the work of volunteers, this county would be a much poorer place to live.



Letters To The Editor

Insiders swaying U.S. foreign policy

Dear sir,

The United States Marine is the most professionally trained, most highly motivated fighting man in the world. When assigned a mission and given the tools with which to accomplish that mission the job gets done.

Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful) is more than just a slogan to a marine. It's his code of honor. However there is one enemy he is not equipped to fight. That enemy is betrayal by his own government. As proof there is no better example than our government's activities in Lebanon.

Informed observers certainly are aware that Arafat is the Soviet point man in the Middle East conflict, and his P.L.O. terrorists have murdered hundreds of innocent victims including women and children. It was Yasser Arafat who openly applauded when he learned of the assassination of Anwar Sadat, a man who along with Menachem Begin might have succeeded in bringing peace to their countries.

Current news tells us that service officers may be held accountable for the tragic bombing of the marine barracks in Lebanon. As usual the INSIDERS in our government are shifting the blame for the results of their disastrous policies to the good guys.

It was President Reagan and C.F.R. INSIDERS who rescued Arafat and terrorists after Israeli troops had all but eliminated them as a terrorist threat.

It was Reagan and C.F.R. INSIDERS who sent our Navy and Marines to escort them to safety. And it was Secretary For Defense and C.F.R. INSIDER Caspar Weinberger who sent our marines into combat with unloaded weapons.

Now Review of the News has authoritatively reported that ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE had warned the White House of pending terrorist activity.

This on October 19th just prior to the bombing.

The White House did nothing.

just as Franklin Roosevelt and the same INSIDERS sat on information that could have prevented Pearl Harbor.

Two thousand, three hundred and thirty five American service men died there.

It's time to expose the CONSPIRACY.

Lynn Batson
Wilmington

Letter rebutted

Dear editor:

I wish to thank Ms. Zobel McNeill for her very erudite response to my Hanukkah article. Ms. Zobel McNeill is 100% correct. Hanukkah is not the Jewish Christmas. But I never said it was. What I said was "Often called the Jewish Christmas... (there are) certain similarities" and went on to mention some of today's customs, i.e., songs, games, foods, etc.

Perhaps I should have inserted the words "by those unfamiliar with Jewish observances" after "often called the Jewish Christmas," and the paper could have avoided such an angry letter; however, I thought my explanation of the Maccabean victory over the Syrian army sufficed to show that the similarities ended with today's customs.

I don't think most Christians or Jews, for that matter, are under the assumption that Christmas trees were decorated or Santa and his reindeer appeared at that stable in Bethlehem nineteen hundred and eighty-four years ago anymore than the victorious Jewish army lit menorahs or sent greeting cards 165 years before the birth of Christ.

Ms. Zobel McNeill was again correct. Hanukkah falls on the 25th of Kislev... but how many people in Hoke County have ever heard of Kislev? I said it could fall very early in December or very late depending on how the Jewish calendar coincides with the Christian calendar. I stand corrected here. Occasionally it occurs as early as Thanksgiving.

As for the picture and date of

printing, I'll let *The News-Journal* stand in its own defense. I found nothing objectionable about the picture, but I, too, would have preferred a picture of a menorah.

Sincerely,
Naomi Goldstein Johnson

Mayor who refused pay deserves public view

Dear editor:

My filing system, which consists of dropping newspaper and magazine clippings into a cardboard box for future use, works satisfactorily most of the time. But this time it has failed me.

The other day I tore out an item from a newspaper and, I thought, dropped it into the box. But now I can't find it.

It was about a mayor in some state -- if I had the clipping I could say where -- who has thrown a monkey-wrench into the whole political set up. City council members, elected at one salary, decided it wasn't enough and voted themselves a raise. Congress does it all the time. Then they voted to raise the mayor's salary from \$28,000 a year to \$34,000.

You're not going to believe this, but he turned it down. Said "I'm

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Ruling favors 'money man'

By Cliff Blue

JUDGE BAILEY...Superior Court James H. Pou Bailey ruled recently that a state campaign-expenditure ceiling is unconstitutional. Judge Bailey is a lawyer and ye columnist is just a plain citizen.

The reason we are against his ruling is that \$440,000 gives the rich person or the plain citizen almost no chance at a state-wide office, when \$440,000 is plenty if spent in a rational manner. We can't understand Judge Bailey's thinking by opening the field wide to win because "money talks" and the person with little money can't get his message across to match that of the "money man." D.M. "Lauch" Faircloth is an able man, and we don't think that he would like to see money running free in a campaign. Judge Bailey was quoted as saying, "we're liable to have money running in the streets," but he said the law was clear. We believe the public is against "slush funds" and if that be the case why can't a legislature set the rules against "slush funds?"

STEERING COMMITTEE ... Attorney General Rufus L. Edmisten has named three Tar Heel

People and Issues

Democrats to chair his steering committee for his 1984 gubernatorial campaign. They are: Bruce Elmore, Asheville attorney, and former member of the General Assembly; Frank Turner of Raleigh, a block leader in eastern North Carolina; and Mrs. Seroba Aiken of Greene County, a longtime party leader and Director of the N.C. School for the Deaf.

HOSPITAL ROOM RATES ... The average cost of a semi-private hospital room in the United States has climbed to more than \$194 a day, reports the Health Insurance Association of America. Health spending last year -- amounted to \$1,365 for every U.S. man, woman and child says the Health Insurance Association.

BENEFITS...While Americans are living longer than ever, they are also receiving more money than ever in life insurance death benefits. During 1982, beneficiaries of policyholders were paid \$15.1 billion in death benefits -- nearly twice as much as 10 years earlier (\$8 billion in 1972). At the same time, the average American's

life expectancy at birth was about 71 years 10 years ago. By 1982, it was more than 74 years.

RURAL TOWNS...It isn't easy to find something that real estate developers and historic preservationists, government agencies and taxpayers agree on, but we read that such governments exist on a growing number of America's Main Streets.

Main Street is an innovative program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation which stresses renewal of delapidated downtown areas for both economic and historic reasons, using minimal government funds to attract substantial private investment.

In the past three years, the program has helped revitalize more than 30 communities in six states, generating 355 new business ventures and millions in private investment.

INCENTIVE PAY...The North Carolina Incentive Pay Program had a holiday gift for \$1.5 million for the state from the departments of Natural Resources and Community Development Labor Justice and Transportation Departments.

Official's Memo Pad Could Haunt 1984.

By Warren Johnston

I had a dream the other night that I was a Hoke County official. I wasn't any particular official. The dream wasn't that specific. I had a desk and one of those memo pads which was titled "Hoke County Official's Memo Pad."

The pad was a lot like the ones that can be seen around town in a few offices. They usually include pre-printed humorous suggestions of "things to do today."

For example, there is the Lawyer's Memo Pad, which includes such objectives as: "Insult the following:", "Overcharge the following:", "Be late for the following:" and "Intimidate the following:"

Although some find it a little offensive, the lawyer's pad has been a big hit with the barristers, and in some cities it has rivaled litigations as the most given Christmas gift among bar members.

The Secretary's Memo Pad, on the other hand, suggests that the day's duties should be: "Make weak coffee", "Gossip about boss's personal problems" and "Jam copy machine;" and on the Parent's Memo Pad, the first goal is to "tell stories about how hard things were when I was a kid."

The county official's pad on the desk in my dream was similar to the other ones, but instead of printed daily items, it had a written list of things "to do" during 1984. Just like the others, there were little boxes which could be checked when the job was completed.

First on the list was "Sell Hoke County to:"

The suggestion that Hoke County should be sold was baffling. I knew that there were several likely prospects around who might be interested in buying the county, but of course, some of them already thought they owned it and probably would not pay much.

"Who am I supposed to sell Hoke County to?" I asked my

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secretary, who was busily adding more items to the long string of goals scheduled for 1984 on the pad.

"I messed up that one. It should read 'Promote Hoke County,'" she said. "You must have forgotten."

I had forgotten. We had big plans to make Hoke the best known county in the state.

Someone, but I couldn't remember who, was going to put billboards on each of the four major highway entrances welcoming travelers, wandering industrialists and potential residents to the county.

The signs would say something like: "Welcome to Hoke County. A home for fine industries and good people."

There was also the dog and pony show, which would use slides to show interested new industries that Hoke County was a great place to live and work.

I had forgotten about promoting Hoke County. I made a mental note to try to remember during 1984.

The second item on my list was: "Crank up pressure on highway department to get U.S. 401 four-laned to Fayetteville."

"Why didn't I do that last year?" I asked my secretary.

"Why didn't you do anything last year?" she answered rhetorically, reminding me that it had been almost two years since I had even thought about improving the highway.

"I did think about establishing a countywide zoning ordinance," I said curtly, noting that it was the third item on my list of things to do.

My secretary reminded me that I had only given countywide plan-

ning a passing thought, and that I had suggested not bringing it up again until the year 2000.

"Well, pig farmers and trailer park developers have rights too," I said, getting a little miffed by her attitude.

"How come this dog pound thing is on the list again? I thought construction was supposed to start on that months ago."

"Don't feel like the Lone Ranger. A lot of people in this county got fooled by that one," my secretary said.

"What does 'stop kidding the taxpayers of Hoke County about industrial development' mean?" I asked.

"That's the one where you stop telling everybody that you are for industrial development," she said.

"But, I am for industrial development," I insisted.

"Counties that are serious about attracting industries, construct industrial parks with all utilities, rail service and paved roads.

"They set up development boards with dedicated members who are not only knowledgeable about available sites, but who also how to attract prospective clients. They hire fulltime directors to spearhead the industry searches.

"All you've done is talk about how bad we need industry," my secretary said.

"We're going to get around to all these things sooner or later," I told her, looking at the dozen or more goals still left on the list.

"You know, I've got a fulltime job. I can't devote every minute to this county. I have to make a living."

"Look at goal number five," she said.

"Stop using 'have to make a living excuse,' and appoint volunteers to help. Be a leader," the pad note said.

"It might make your year a little easier," my secretary said.

In my dream, I promised to consider the suggestions.

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