

# Viewpoints

## Women should be tougher

It has been interesting reading about the troubles of the Citadel.

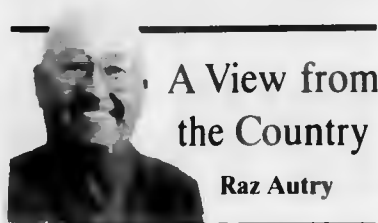
One of the main problems in admitting women is they simply aren't tough enough physically.

Young women in my day worked along with the men. Getting tobacco out of the field, picking cotton and pulling corn were everyday occurrences. Some of those gals were tough.

Sadie Lou was the toughest woman I have ever known. She could pick 200 pounds of cotton in a day and whip three boys if they got cute with her.

One day, my boyhood pal Huckleberry Jones was picking cotton alongside Sadie Lou. Boys in those days didn't sleep with single women — although they thought about it. Huckleberry decided he would get bold; therefore he propositioned her. She slapped him so hard he fell over three rows of cotton and carried two black eyes for a week.

If Sadie Lou was coming along today and she was admitted to the Citadel, the cases would be reversed. It would be the young men — not charging sexual harassment — but physical abuse. Years after we were grown I saw her at a funeral. She introduced me to her husband, who weighed about 140 pounds and was 5 feet, 8 inches tall. After shaking his hand, I thought, "You are tougher than you look. Or else you are the most



A View from the Country

Raz Autry

henpecked man in the world."

Sadie Lou was one tough customer. She was as tough as the ol' country boy, who after summer chores, would hang around town until it was dark. He would walk home the same way every night. One particular night he hung around town until it was so dark, you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. No stars were shining, neither was the moon. He crossed a pasture. Unbeknownst to him, the farmer who owned the pasture got a new bull. When he was about halfway across the pasture, the bull spotted him. The animal hit him in the back and knocked him about 20 feet. He jumped up and found the bull and whipped the tar out of him. The next day, he ran into some of his buddies and they wanted to know why he was all scratched up. He said, "Let me tell you what happened, I was walking home last night when some buy attacked me. We went round and round. I didn't have much trouble whipping him; but I had the hardest time getting him off his bicycle."

Since the legislature passed the

right to carry a pistol law, I have toyed with the idea of getting one, since I work in my back orchard so much. It is lonely back there, surrounded by woods. I don't have a Sadie Lou to keep me company.

In a conversation recently with my spouse of 46 years, I remarked, "I am going to get me a pistol to carry with me in the back orchard."

She replied, "You don't need a pistol. As many people as you have made mad over the years, since you haven't been shot by one of them; nobody is going to shoot you now."

I said, "Hold on just a minute, I am not worried about those I made mad, the ones I haven't are my concern."

I will let you know how this disagreement comes out.

My parting thought — Grandpa had a deep insight to the design of the commandments. He always thought he knew why the Lord had taught that adults must be converted and become as little children — because the child's innocence causes him to put the best construction on everything, even that which seems most unlikely.

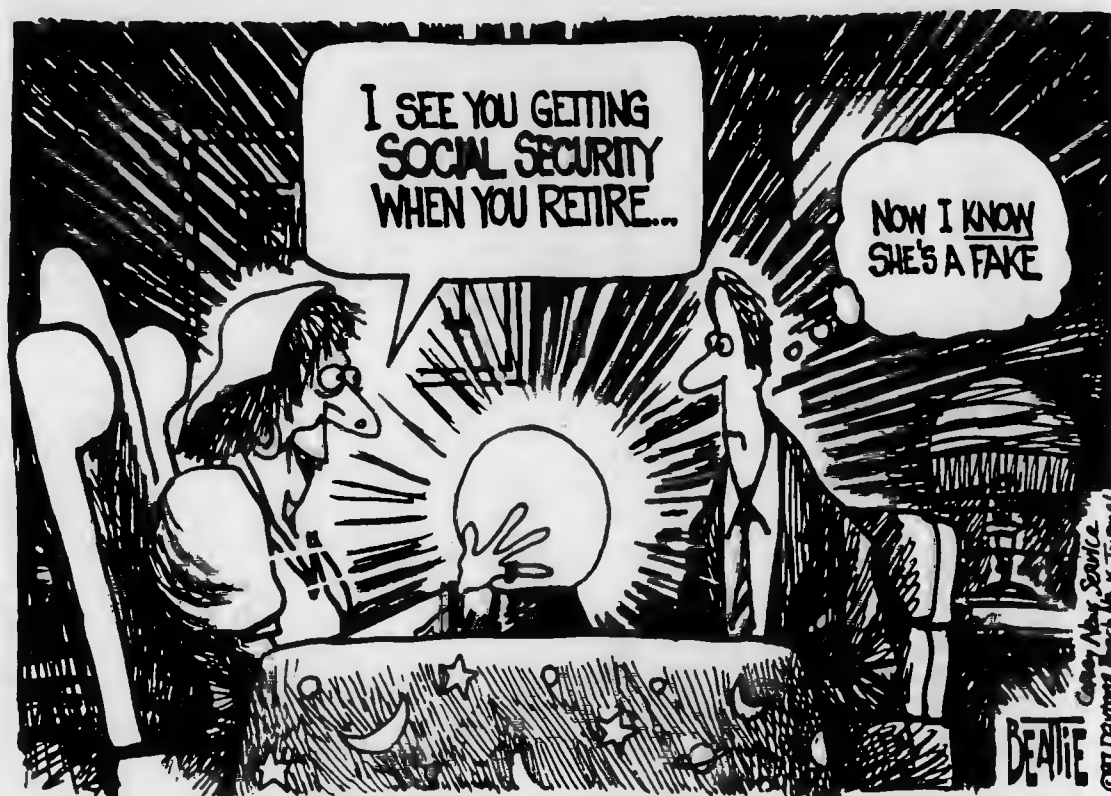
He said that as he was walking to town, a little girl ran out and told him about her father. "You ought to be proud of my papa. I bet he's the religionist man in the church. This morning when he hit his thumb with the hammer, he jumped up and down and talked about God for 15 minutes."

told him to go to the clerk to reschedule the case and advise me.

The hearing was rescheduled for the next week and that magistrate and all parties visited my home and found that the porch had a definite slant the wrong way and needed to be removed and redone. The magistrate ruled in my favor.

The magistrate advised me that because of the appeal the case would go to district court and that I would be notified of a trial date. After a couple of weeks of hearing nothing, I called the clerk of court to find out the date in District Court. I was told that there were two appeals from magistrate's court, but they couldn't tell me if my case was one of them. I was told I would be sent a notice. Then, a week later, again advised by a "layman" that there were a limited number of days to officially file and pay for an appeal application, I called back to the Clerk of Court and was advised that no appeal had been filed.

I was told I would have to file a "notice of rights," that he would be served the papers and be given time to respond, and that this possibly could still go to District Court. (See LETTERS, page 3A)



## Looking for the next speaker

RALEIGH — The race for North Carolina House speaker has devolved into what one staff person has appropriately called the "rumor of the minute."

"I just heard that the Charlotte banks have jumped into it, trying to get their man, Jim Black."

"I heard the Republicans turned Jim Crawford and Edd Nye."

"I heard Don Mattingly is coming back to play for the Rangers. Oops, wrong sport."

With a Republican-to-Democrat split of 61 - 59, the race for speaker is as close as can be. Speaker Harold Brubaker can hold power if he can hold his 61 Republican votes. But the Democrats, who have chosen Rep. Jim Black of Charlotte as their nominee, say they have at least two Republicans willing to switch, and that those switches will get them to 61 votes.

"I heard that the Democrats are really working the governor to get into it. That they want him to offer a few of these Republicans who are really stapped for cash a good job somewhere in the bureaucracy."

All of the talk, of course, is just rumor, but the rumors make enough sense to excite even seasoned political watchers. According to sources close to Brubaker, it's been enough to make him a little nervous.

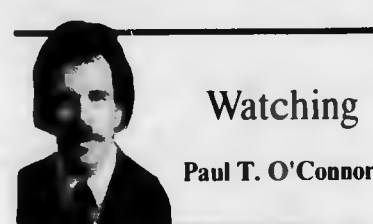
It would make sense, for example, for Gov. Jim Hunt to get involved in the search for a Republican vote or two. Hunt has a big agenda for the next budget, while Brubaker expects little to happen. Hunt's agenda would have a much better chance of passage if Brubaker were sitting in the back row rather than presiding.

It also makes sense that some Republicans would want to desert Brubaker, not because of his behavior but because of Rep. Richard Morgan, R-Moore, who is Brubaker's enforcer. Morgan is strongly disliked for his disciplinary role, a role that he can be legitimately accused of enjoying too much. Morgan also has ambitions to control the redistricting process, a desire that conflicts with the aspirations of several other Republicans.

Does this make any difference to the citizenry? Yes, although they're likely to follow the Carolina Panthers' free agent maneuvering more closely.

Brubaker's strategy has been to hold his 61 and win. He has made individual overtures to individual Democrats to strengthen that margin. That's his mistake, and it promises to deny North Carolina of a rare opportunity this year.

Brubaker should be seeking a broad coalition with moderate and conservative Democrats, one that would put some seasoned Democrats in second-tier chairmanships and which would guarantee that Democratic lawmakers are accorded respect during the session. Rather than look for 61 votes, he should be looking for 90. He should tell the crazy right in his party, and the crazy left in the Democratic Party, that he is putting together a



Watching

Paul T. O'Connor

center coalition that represents most North Carolinians. B

elieve me, there's little philosophical difference between

Brubaker, Black, most of the House leadership and about 30 Democrats. So we'll probably have a speaker — my guess Brubaker — elected with 61 votes and North Carolinians can look forward to another session of partisan bickering where the politicians take care of their own childish and petty differences rather than working to help our schools and business climate.

## Letters

### Court system gives run-around

To The Editor:

I want to share with the Raeford community one of my recent experiences as a "victim," and a letter to the editor is the only way I know at this time to do that.

If you want small jobs or repair and improvement done in your home, BEWARE! In September 1996 I contracted with a small and relatively new contractor in Raeford to replace a wood front porch with a cement and brick front porch. I contracted with him primarily because I had not been able to get any of the better known contractors in Raeford to even give me a bid on such a "small" job.

Within three days after the company had poured the cement porch, it stormed during the night. Thunder woke me up at 4 a.m. and for some reason I got up and went into the living room and, with a shock, stepped on soaked carpet! The rain had funnelled on the front porch towards the front door and into the living room. I called the next morning and many more times during the next month, leaving messages on his answering machine.

He never returned my calls. Only once did he actually answer the phone late one night and at that time he acknowledged that there was a problem and that he would be there to fix it. Well, those were only empty promises when he already had more than \$2,000 of my money.

I advised him that if he didn't correct the problem that I would take him to court. When he didn't show, I contacted two different lawyers here in Raeford to represent me in this case. . . . neither would take the case. However, there are some good Samaritans here in Raeford who know a little about the system and advised me that I should go to the court house and take out papers for a judgement against the company. I did that, but got no "victim's rights" advice from anyone in the court house.

A hearing was scheduled in the magistrate's office in mid-December.

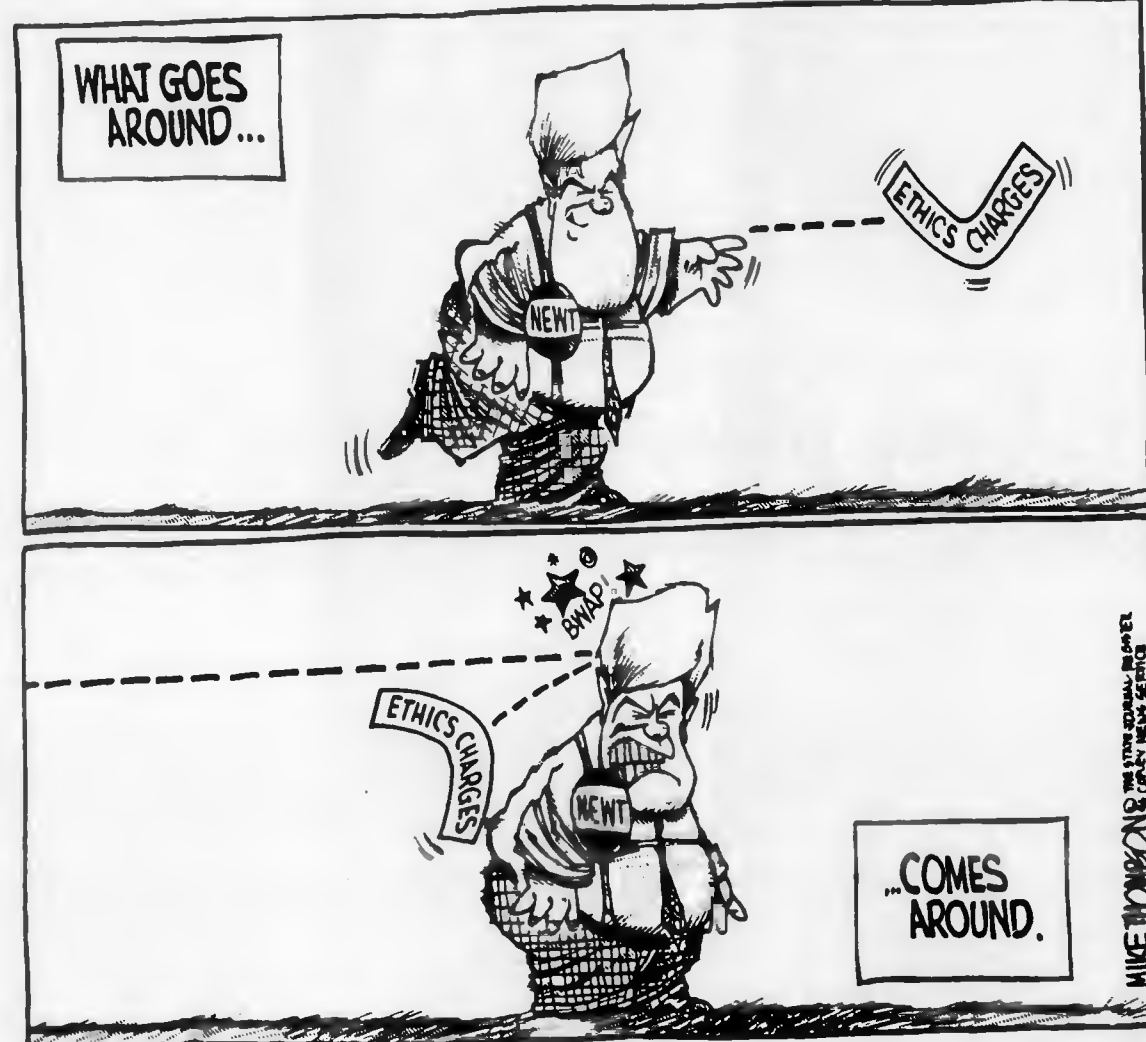
When I got to the hearing I was advised by the magistrate that she had previously discussed the case with the defendant and that she could not "hear" the case; that she had earlier advised him of this and

told him to go to the clerk to reschedule the case and advise me.

The hearing was rescheduled for the next week and that magistrate and all parties visited my home and found that the porch had a definite slant the wrong way and needed to be removed and redone. The magistrate ruled in my favor.

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## The News-Journal

Published every Wednesday by  
Dickson Press, Inc., Paul Dickson Pres.

119 W. Elwood Avenue

Raeford, North Carolina 28376

(910) 875-2121

Call for fax number

Home Page: <http://www3.coastalnet.com/cnmedia/fbpost/dpress.html>

e-mail: [njournal@coastalnet.com](mailto:njournal@coastalnet.com)

[njournal@aol.com](mailto:njournal@aol.com)

Subscription Rates in Advance

In Hoke County: \$14 — one year \$8 — six months

Out of county: \$17 — one year \$9.50 — six months

Out of state: \$20 — one year \$11 — six months

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Postmaster:  
Send address changes to: Periodical Postage at Raeford, N.C.  
P.O. Box 550 (USPS 388-260)  
Raeford, N.C. 28376

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