

VIEWPOINTS

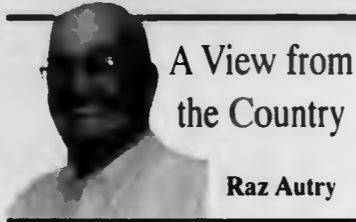
Battle with a computer, you lose

The people in my generation are supposed to belong to the greatest generation in history. True or not is beside the point.

The one thing I wish had not been invented was the computer. Things invented are supposed to improve your life, not make it miserable. Cussing doesn't improve your life. Show me one individual who operates a computer who hasn't used words that aren't acceptable in Sunday school and I will show you a non-bearer of the truth.

I use the computer to write my articles. It is a simple process to send them to *The News-Journal* through the use of the computer. One hitch, at times it decides it doesn't want to cooperate. Now don't get me wrong, human operators — so say those who invented them — cause the mishaps of the computer. However, they need to explain to me why all of a sudden without any interference from me it refuses to do what I ask. If it were a student, I would send him or her home to be with their parents.

Last week I wrote my article for the coming week, right on time. Did it go through? No way; instead it sent another article that was in last week's paper. In fact, everything I tried to do in straightening it out, didn't work. The same article came up regardless of the name I used. If this confuses you, the readers, don't come in sight of my house, because smoke will be coming out of the roof. Not from a fire, but my anger at this contraption.



A View from the Country

Raz Autry

Compounded with the mishap I had last week with the riding lawn mower, I chose not to fight with the computer. My lawn mower needed a mulching blade. My questionable friend, Howard McDougald, (when I get through you will understand the "questionable" part) was to put it on for me. Arriving at the appointed time to pick it up was no problem. Howard works fast and always does an excellent job. I dropped the tailgate on my trailer and prepared to load the fixed lawn mower. Unfortunately, I didn't move it fast enough in the trailer and it started slipping backward and then it decided to turn over. I had a vision of the tractor turning over on me years ago, but that is another story.

Just as the mower headed for my face and chest, Howard caught it. Now picture this — here I am lying flat on my back with the steering wheel waiting to ruin my elderly face and crush my chest. Howard said in a calm manner, "Would you mind getting up from there and helping me turn this mower over?"

We turned it back over and his only comment was, "It took you long enough, I was getting tired.

Now tell the preacher I saved your life."

Spoken like a true friend. He wasn't through yet; when he arrived at Sunday school I told not only the preacher about the incident but other members of the church as well, I further stated, "Howard, I am going to put in my will."

He replied, "When I am sure I am in your will, and this happens again, I will not be so quick to rush over and catch that lawn mower."

You have got to admit he is a truthful man. All kidding aside, Howard, you are one of my best friends and the only thing I can leave you in my will are these pine trees in my front yard. I know how you love pine trees.

My parting thought — For some reason I always thought that Methodist preachers were moved every four or five years, no more than six. However, this belief was shattered when our present minister came to us from Chapel Hill after nine years. It took us four years to get the blue out of his ears. We wouldn't have gotten it out in that time but Debbie helped us.

Now he is going to the coast to preach and fish. Those folks will enjoy him. I was discussing the length of service with him the other Sunday, and he informed me that a Methodist preacher has been in Chapel Hill for 24 years.

That preacher might as well stay until retirement; after being in Chapel Hill for 24 years, no one else will have him.



The heroes of 9/11 still serve

Stay at home in North Carolina this summer

"If I tell you this, you will have to promise not to tell," a fellow loyal Davidson College alumnus said to me the other day before he confessed, "I like the Carolina campus better than Davidson's."

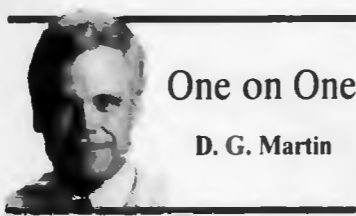
The Carolina campus is lovely and, especially at its core, is as beautiful as any university campus in the country. But, loyal to my alma mater, I protested, Davidson's campus is so pleasant. And the buildings fit together and complement each other so well."

"What I like about Carolina," my friend continued, "is its variety of styles. Too much of the same can be boring. I even like the so-called ugly buildings at Carolina because they help the campus as a whole as a part of a rich and diverse tapestry."

We had been looking at the plans for a new Carolina building, one whose nontraditional architecture had already provoked a vigorous discussion. Everybody seems to have a different idea about how important it is for new buildings to look something like the older ones that surround them.

Provisionally, perhaps, a book about North Carolina architecture hits the bookstores this week. A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina by Catherine Bisher and Michael Southern will enrich our discussions of architecture on the Carolina and Davidson campuses.

I have been waiting for this book,



One on One

D. G. Martin

which is the third and final in a series of historic North Carolina architecture written by these authors and published by the UNC Press. The first two volumes covered the coastal plains and mountain regions. They have been among my favorite North Carolina books since their publication a few years ago. Their county by county descriptions of our treasured buildings in those sections of North Carolina always made my travel to other places a little more rewarding — and fun. Instead of just passing through North Carolina towns in the East and in the mountains, I have always had something more to look for, to look at, and to appreciate — thanks to those two books.

The new book is, if anything, but even better than its predecessors. Maybe it is because the Piedmont is my home. Every page of its descriptions of buildings and its many pictures and maps bring back a recollection of some place that I have seen before, but both passed by without appreciating its history or importance.

Flipping through its pages, I realize that, although I live in the Pied-

mont, it is a home that I do not know as well as I should. And I want to get into my car and rush to see those places and buildings again — with the greater knowledge that the new guide gives me.

The Piedmont may not have as many old buildings as can be found on the coastal plains or the rustic styles of the mountains. However, the explosive growth that took place in that region in the 1800's and 1900's produced what the authors call an "extraordinary, but dwindling architectural heritage."

The new guide helps put my friend's and my discussion of the Davidson and Carolina campuses in context. By describing the important buildings on each campus, and telling us how those buildings happened to be placed there, it gives our impressions of the beauty of those campuses some substance.

This new book, together with its predecessors, gives so much more than a simple catalog of buildings in North Carolina. Its introductory history of the region puts the architecture in context. Together with the hundreds of photographs, maps, and charts, the authors' narrative gives us a new way to view North Carolina history as a whole.

If you are not able to take a trip to some foreign land this summer, buy this new book and its two companion volumes. Put them in the front seat of your car. Take off and see North Carolina this summer and I bet you'll be glad you stayed at home.

We Get Letters — Honor war dead

Dear Editor: Memorial Day will be observed in a ceremony on Monday, May 26 at 11 a.m. in front of the Hoke County Courthouse or in City Hall if it is raining.

Each year it is my duty to read out the names of Hoke County veterans who have passed away since Memorial Day of the year before. We want to honor the memory and the sacrifices of these men and women and their families.

Last year we had 23 names, and three more were added at the ceremony. This year we have 50 names already.

If anyone would like to make certain that no veteran is left out, please call 875-2147 or 281-4732. And please, citizens, come out and honor our veterans' memory.

Most of our county and city leaders take time to come out for about an hour each year and we appreciate this.

Thomas K. Squier
Hoke County
Veterans Service Officer

Athlete has wings

To the Editor: Hat's off to Darryl Barnett for winning the State 4 Long Jump Championship with a jump of 23 ft. 5.5 inches. This kid's got wings!

Hoke, if you don't know it by now, I'll tell you we have some gifted kids and they need all the support we can give them.

So pick a school, pick a sport, because we have nothing to lose when it comes to Supporting our School system and Our KIDS!

Proud of Them Fighting Bucks
Jerry Chavis & Crew

Raining cats and dogs

To the Editor: The current crisis of animals being abandoned has our shelter (The Haven No Kill Animal Shelter) overfull. Last week alone The Haven took in over 100 kittens, 14 were left in a plastic box in front of the shelter, six were left in a box at Petsmart — one of those in critical condition.

Boxes of puppies are being found on the sides of the road.

We need help! We need volunteers to work at the shelter. We need donations of food, donations of chain link kennels, donations of money, people to adopt animals, foster homes for the animals. Contact The Haven at (910)875-6768 or www.thehaven-nc.org

Linden Spear,
Executive Director
The Haven No Kill Animal Shelter

Here's how to contact lawmakers...

This information on state and national elected officials is printed at the request of our readers:

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(919)-733-5166

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(910)-276-1727

Citizens interested in the who, what, when, where and why of the N.C. General Assembly can now find out information online at "www.ncga.state.nc.us." Information about pending or past legislation; the partial schedules, committee assignments and district information for all senators and representatives throughout the year can be obtained; calendars indicating when certain legislation will be debated and voted upon; and research topics among the General Statutes.

Worth Repeating

"The burden for (military) expansion and growth is falling squarely on Hoke County citizens... All we're asking is an opportunity to sit at the table

as a stakeholder." — Steve Connell, head of Raeford's Downtown Revitalizing Commission, addressing the city council on the Pope Air Force

Base/Fort Bragg land use study that calls for limited development in much of Hoke County.

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