March 15, 2006

There is a new adventure in my life everyday. My wife called me at the peach Orchard and said, "A lady called from Hardee's and said you had left your teeth there and your cell phone."

Ireplied, "That was nice of her. I haven't been to Hardee's and I have my teeth in my mouth and I am talking to you with my phone. Idon't know whose teeth they are, but I am sure they are missing them. It is possible the teeth could have been left in one of those double burgers." Regardless, those lost teeth are sorta like the man who hated his wife's cat and decided to get rid of it. He drove 20 blocks from home and dropped the cat there. The cat was already walking up the driveway when he approached his home.

The next day he dropped the cat 40 blocks away but the same thing happen. He kept increasing the blocks but the cat beat him back home. At last he decided to drive a few miles away, turn right, then left, past the bridge, then right again and another right and so on until he reached what he thought was a perfect spot and dropped the cat there.



wife at home and asked her, "Lynn, is the cat there?"

"Yes, why do you ask?" Frustrated the man said, "Put that cat on the phone, I am lost and I need directions.

If those teeth are lost, sooner or later they will show up.

The political signs are beginning to appear. Which means the election is only a few weeks away. Everyone running will have a program that is better than the folks in office. If you doubt that is true, just ask them. I have been well pleased with our county commissioners. Their decisions, in my opinion, have been positive and moving the county for-

They have built a new health building and are in the process of building a new jail, which is not a popular decision. Popular or not, it has to be done. The present Hours later the man called his commissioners have stood tall in

facing the issues. If those who are not now in office and think they have the solution to the jail overcrowding problem and it doesn't include a new jail, good

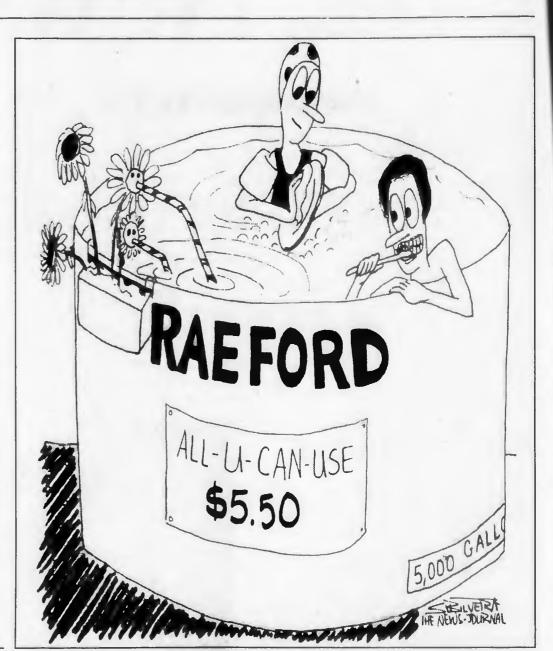
My parting thought. "A preacher one night was traveling alone. Darkness caught him and he found a vacant house and decided to spend the night. He built a fire, and sat in front of it with a new spaper. While reading, he heard a noise and said, "There ain't no such thing as a

A little cat - just a kitten passed by, followed by a big cat three or four feet tall. The cat looked at him and said, "Yes, sir, there is two of us tonight."

Preacher said, "Yeah, in a minute there will only be one," and he streaked out and ran. He got to a log by the creek and sat down to rest. The big cat sidled up and said, "We sure had a good race, didn't we?"

The preacher looked at that monstrous big cat and said, "Yeah, and we damn sure are going to have another one right now."

Enough said.



We Get Letters

Some characters showed up in our town To The Editor:

It was a grand performance with a cast of characters involving a group of very talented people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds who live in and around surrounding areas.

Watch out, candidates, if Billy Bold should ever run for sheriff of Hoke County! If Silas Scavenger ever brought his Medicine Show Hoke Museum and performed on also like to thank the many pato town with his sidekick, Runstage at Turlington School on trons who came to see the drama, ning War and Theodora and her Dance Troupe I'm sure many received support from the North Raeford-Hoke Museum. Dance Troupe, I'm sure many would go and probably end up buying several bottles of snake oil. People would clamor to stay at beautiful Dakota Melody's Hotel,

famous for her hand-made towels, Prairie Rose and her band of out-

received support from the North Carolina Arts Council and the National Endowment of the Arts, which believes that a great state deserves great art.

The Board Members and Comand people would line up to eat at mittee of The Raeford-Hoke Muthe restaurant run by the Harvey seum want to thank Jane Sellars, Girls which is right across from director of the drama, all the volthe statue of Captain Muttonchop. unteers, all those who played an There would be deputized farm- important part in the production ers, who keep peace in the town, of the drama, and last, but not always on the lookout for sassy least, the talented cast members. We thank all of you for your participation, dedication (and the The drama, "Tied to the many long hours you spent away Tracks," written by Tim Kelly, from your families) that made the was presented by The Raeford- drama a huge success. We would

> Jeni Smith, Vice Chairman Raeford-Hoke Museum

What does 'terrorism' mean these days? Was it terrorism?

This question became, for a moment, an important subject of debate last week in Chapel Hill as students, faculty, and townspeople struggled to find a proper response to a frightening event in the center of the campus.

A recent Carolina graduate drove a rented Jeep Cherokee into the crowd of students that gathers at lunch time near the Lenoir Dining Hall. The car struck nine students and six were injured, none authorities what he had done and where they could find and arrest

Reportedly, Taheri-azar asserted that he had intended to kill students in an effort to call attention to American treatment of Muslims. On his 911 call, he said: won't. "It really is to punish the government of the United States for their actions around the world."

Police found evidence that Taheri-azar had been planning his action for months, but they found no indication that any other per-

son was involved. Taheri-azar is now in jail. At a preliminary hearing he told the judge that he elected to represent himself. According to a report in the student newspaper, The Daily Tar Heel, District Attorney Jim Woodall said that Taheri-azar was going to use the court proceedings to "explain the law of Allah."

In the days following the incident a group of students organized a rally to urge that the incident be labeled "terrorism" on the grounds that it was a violent act aimed at non-combatants. One of their signs read: "Terrorism: Violence directed at noncombatants for an ideology."

Other students objected to the rally and the use of the "terrorism" label because it would be divisive at a time when campus unity and

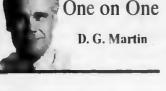
calm should be a primary goal. Some of us jumped to conclusions. Mine was different from most others. I thought Taheri-azar was mentally unstable and a victim of religious fanaticism. Of course, he had shown himself to be dangerous, but he was, in my mind, definitely not the kind of terrorist pulled of the events of September 11, 2001. Compared to 9/11 the incident at UNC-Chapel

Hill seems minor. An online poll conducted by The Daily Tar Heel showed that I

was in a minority. The poll asked

Not necessarily so! Opinions expressed by guest columnists on this page and elsewhere in this newspaper are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of The News-Jour-

Readers are invited to write in with their own opinions. Be sure to include your name and a phone number so you can be contacted for verification.



if Taheri-azar should be considered a terrorist? Three quarters of the respondents said, Yes.

I wonder if the term "terrorism" would have stuck so well if the driver of the Jeep Cherokee seriously. Shortly afterwards, the had been named John Smith and are free to worship as they please. driver, Mohammed Taheri-azar, he had claimed that he wanted to Alcohol is available, and few called 911 and calmly advised the secure a platform to speak against pornography.

Or has terrorism in our minds come to mean only "Islamic terrorism," and underneath all our protestations to the contrary, do we equate the terms?

I hope we don't. And I hope we

But I worry.

In a column recently reprinted in the Raleigh News and Observer, Los Angles Times columnist Max year, I was amazed at this general Boot urged us to learn about the wide varieties of Islam as it is to a healthy and competitive ecopracticed by different peoples and nomic climate. in different countries.

Boot recently returned from travels in two predominantly Mus-tendency to make terrorism a code lim counties, Malaysia and Qutar. word for all things Islamic.

These countries, he writes, while not perfect democracies, have developed accommodations between Islamic values, religious freedom, and representative government that are the antithesis of terrorism.

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Malaysia, Boot writes, is "a bastion of religious liberty. Although the majority Muslim population is forced to follow the dictates of religious Sharia courts in family law, Malaysia has substantial minorities of Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Confucians who women are veiled, at least in Kuala Lumpur. Some Muslim extremists who have formed vigilante squads to crack down on "sins, like teenagers necking in public have been arrested by police. Although tensions exist among different ethnic and religious groups, Malaysia has for the most part been a showcase of ethnic and religious toleration.

When I visited Malaysia last tolerance and how it contributes

My experience is certainly one reason I hope we can resist any

A free press

"An able, disinterested, public-spirited press, with trained intelligence to know the right and courage to do it, can preserve that public virtue without which popular government is a sham and a mockery. A cynical, mercenary, demagogic press will produce in time a people as base as itself." - Joseph Pulitzer, 1904

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In this vear's State of the Union address, President Bush chal-

It's not easy being easy when it comes to oil

Dr. Mike Walden

diction to oil, particularly foreign oil. Oil supplies 40 percent of the nation's energy needs, and foreign oil accounts for 60 percent of all our oil usage, up from 33 percent 20 years ago. are under-priced on two counts.

A significant part of foreignsupplied oil is from regions with political and security issues.

lenged the country to end its ad-

phrase, 'If it was so easy, it would improved, some air pollution is already have happened." Unfortunately, this comment applies directly to our oil usage. There are of this pollution is not reflected in no other fuels readily available today that provide the versatility and cost advantages of oil. Simply put, oil and its derivatives have no

immediate viable alternatives. But wait, wait: What about fuels like ethanol, battery packs and solar power? It's technically possible to power a significant part of our economy with these sources. So why can't we begin to move several important assumptions away from oil and gasoline toward these homegrown fuels?

We probably will, in small steps. But don't look for the alter- to \$1.50 per gallon. In other natives to supplant a major share of the petroleum market for one including both pollution and na- Oil, including supplies from forbasic reason: Economics. Even tional security issues, would to- eign producers, will likely be with with hefty public subsidies and day be between \$3.25 and \$3.75 a us for a long while. Reducing our today's oil and gas prices, when gallon! we consider up-front as well as operating costs, the alternatives tently priced between \$3.25 and kind. still aren't cheaper for the large \$3.75 a gallon, energy alternamajority of consumers. One study tives would look very appealing. estimated that ethanol only be- Drivers wouldn't have to be encomes competitive when gas hits couraged by public service an- tension economist in the Depart-\$3.50 a

gallon and stays there.

tives Gon't take this analysis lying things naturally to save money. ture and Life Sciences. He teaches down. They say alternatives do However, research shows these and writes on personal finance, measure up, in "dollars and sense," changes would result in only a 15 economic outlook and public when we consider oil's full costs. percent oil-use reduction. Specifically, they make the force-

N.C. Cooperative Extension

ful argument that oil and gasoline

First is the cost associated with pollution. For example, although Yet ternember the well-used vehicle emission standards have created every time a gas-powered car or truck is driven, and the cost

gasoline prices. of the country's military and foreign aid expenditures are directly related to ensuring foreign oil supplies from unstable regions, and these costs are also not included in

the price of oil-based products. When these two costs are estimated – and, I must quickly add, make the calculations open to debate — they suggest gasoline may be under-priced by as much as \$1

words, the full cost of gasoline, -

nouncements to use mass transit, ment of Agricultural and Resource purchase hybrids or consider al- Economics of N.C. State Advocates of energy alternative fuels; they'd do these University's College of Agricul-

ization. Barring some technologi cal breakthrough, we will not achieve independence from foreign oil quickly and without cost. We can tax gasoline substantially more to motivate people to use non-oil alternatives, but in the interim this would significantly increase the cost of gas and create

stress on family budgets. Or, we can heavily subsidize energy alternatives through government grants and programs so that the price consumers pay for the alternatives is in line with the price of oil-based fuels. However, the costs of these government efforts are ultimately borne by ei-Second is the claim that some ther today's or tomorrow's tax-

> There is a happier third option that I hinted at: Technology. Somewhere, someday in a remote laboratory, a scientist may develop a new engine or new fuel that is cheap and doesn't use oil. To

> dream further, let's say ily adapted to accommodate the

Dr. Mike Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Professor and ex-

This leaves an unpleasant real-

existing engines could be easnew product. This would be the end of our energy worries.

But until that happy day comes if ever — we have to face facts. dependence on oil will mean costs. Obviously, if gas were consis- We'll just have to decide what

Letter to Editor Deadline, Monday Noon