

# Weekly Perspective

## A voter's choice

On November 6 Hertford residents will get the opportunity to choose between a wide range of candidates in the municipal election.

There are three offices open, and incumbents have filed for re-election to all three offices.

That they are seeking re-election indicates that they, at least, have enjoyed serving the town of Hertford.

The ballot count will indicate whether the town has enjoyed having them serve, and this is how it should be.

The voter should be able to reflect on the record of the incumbent and decide whether or not he has lived up to the duties and responsibilities of public office.

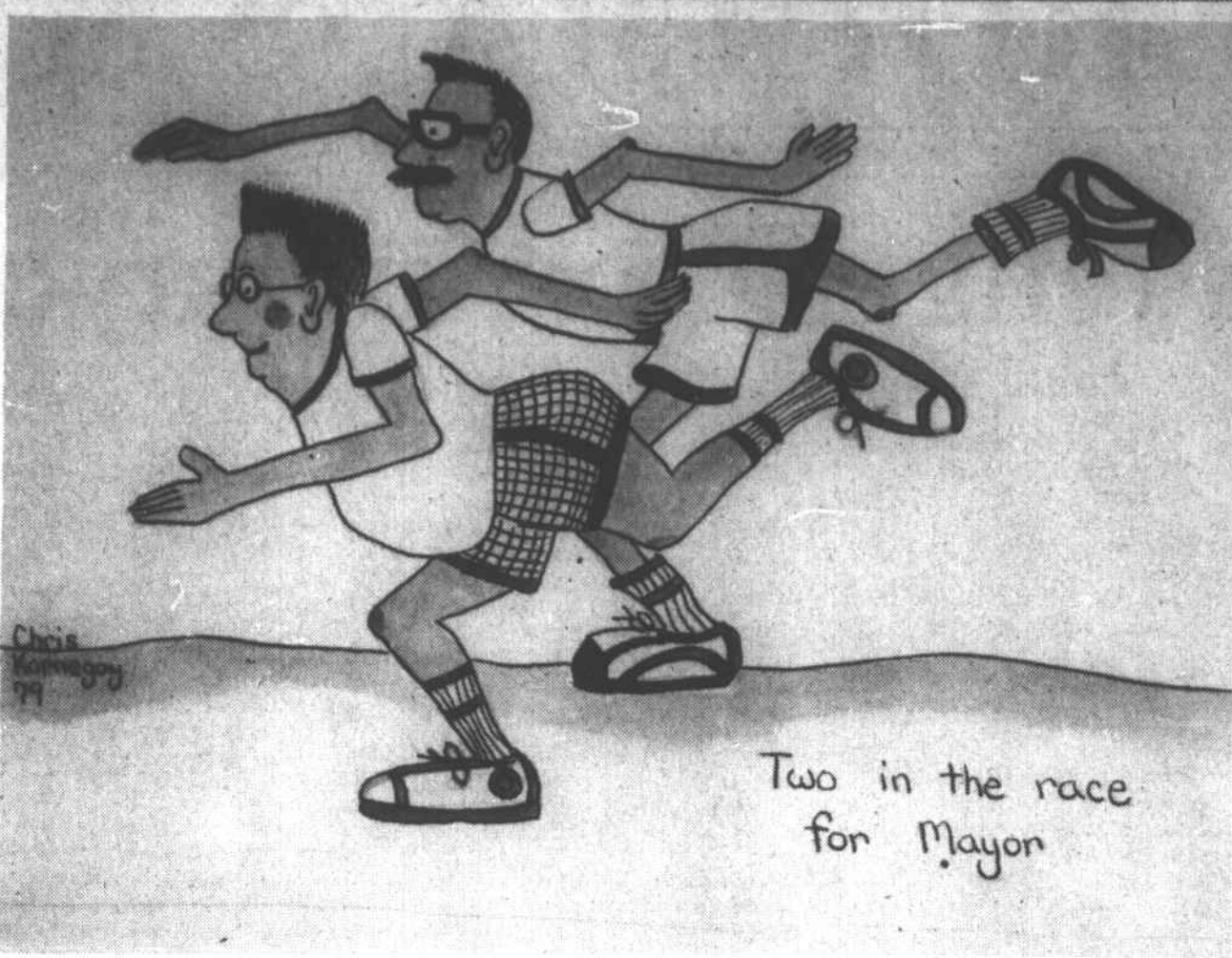
Has he made rational choices? Has he spent the town's money wisely? Has he made every effort to keep the public business before the public?

If the voter cannot answer these questions in the affirmative he should have the option of casting his ballot for a new face.

The wide interest that has been shown in the coming municipal election in Hertford insures that the voter will have that option. Two candidates have filed for the office of mayor, and five have filed for the two seats open on the Hertford Town Council.

We encourage the voters to sift through the campaign promises, the qualifications, and the past records to determine who they would like to have serve them in public office, then take the time and trouble to cast a ballot.

In a small town each vote counts all the more.



## My turn

NOEL TODD-McLAUGHLIN

School lunches have been the butt of much joking since the first cafeteria opened its doors to student stomachs way back when.

Who among us cannot remember the clever little ditties sung extolling the short comings of cafeteria food, or has not witnessed at least one, if not several, mock deaths staged as the result of alleged school food poisoning?

But it seems, in Perquimans County anyway, that school lunches have been victim of some erroneous publicity.

I decided to take a look into the school lunch room scene in honor of National School Lunch Week, October 14-20.

As indicated in last week's paper, area schools have extended an invitation for everyone to come out and sample their cuisine. (All they ask is a day's notice.)

And let me make a suggestion. Go. You won't find a better meal in town for 85 cents.

We chose to sample Perquimans Union School's lunch, and were not disappointed. We had a barbeque on homemade bun, slaw, french fries, a peanut butter cookie, and choice of milk or tea prepared by the cooks, Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. White, Mrs. Stallings, Mrs. Fordhand, and under the directorship of Mrs. Lula Newby.

Cafeteria food has definitely taken a turn for the better since I was in school.

But the quality of the food isn't the only change I noted.

Perquimans Union houses kids between the grades of fifth and eighth. Any recollections I have of cafeteria dining at that age fall just short of feeding time at the zoo. Shades of comedian George Carlin's reminiscent sketch about the time Dickie Watson passed an entire cheese sandwich through his nose.

Lunch period at Perquimans Union featured none of the anticipated side shows like flying food, screaming marathons, or spitting contests.

Principal Gary Stubbins must have something to do with the subdued but, relaxed atmosphere surrounding Union's lunch room. His watchful eye pervades all three lunch periods, not only keeping horse play in check, but also giving teachers a much needed free period. I don't recall ever seeing my elementary school principal anywhere close to the lunch room.

Some things never change, however. Cutting in line is still considered a cardinal sin. I realized this after 12 pairs of glaring little eyes followed by trek to the front of the line and then back to my table while their progress remained stationary.

Seat-saving still identifies the loved ones.

And remember that kid who took forever to finish eating his lunch? He's still there at Perquimans Union, playing and picking away at his food, well past the bell.

## Strike enters third week

TARBORO - The strike by the Communications Workers of America (CWA) against Carolina Telephone and Norfolk Telephone companies, which began Oct. 1, is in its third week with no change in either side's bargaining position.

T. P. Williamson, vice president-administration with the two telephone companies, said the companies have not changed their offer of pay and benefits packages worth \$15 million for some 3,100 Carolina Telephone bargaining employees and \$1 million for about 255 Norfolk Carolina bargaining employees. The CWA continues to demand a cost of living wage adjustment provision.

Carolina Telephone is managing Norfolk Carolina, which will merge into Carolina Telephone. Both are members of the United Telephone System.

Williamson said, "Despite the strike, both local and long distance service remain good companywide and repair service is adequate. However, somewhat limited installation service is being provided.

"So that we do not fall too far behind in installations, and to be sure that we continue to meet the public's service needs, the company will today begin hiring to fill vacancies created by the strike.

"Customers can help ensure the best service by dialing their own long distance calls direct, avoiding operator assistance, and by calling at nonbusy hours - after 5 p.m. weekdays and anytime on weekends. Also, rates are lower at these times.

"Customers can further help by mailing their payments to the company, or by paying at collection agencies which are located in many towns served by the company."

## Letters to the editor

### Chamber supports marching unit

Editors, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The Members of the Board of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce are very concerned about the future of the students participating in the Perquimans County Marching Unit.

Seventeen years ago the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce formed and sponsored this unit. We have been very proud to have been represented by this group during the past years. During these years, many students, parents, and other community organizations have worked and supported this group. The Perquimans Marching Unit is and has been a part of the activities in Perquimans County.

We would like to encourage the Perquimans County Board of Education to explore every avenue possible in consolidating the existing Marching Unit into a High School Marching Band. We realize that many obstacles would have to be confronted, but we feel that a satisfactory program for all concerned could be accomplished with the strong support of our Board of Education, if they so desire.

We support and encourage a combined effort by the High School Band and the Perquimans County Marching Unit.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ruth Smith, President  
Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce

Thomas Reid, the medical technician in charge, was very knowledgeable and concise.

The youth group and I were very appreciative of the fact that here in Perquimans County, we have one of the finest Rescue Squad Operation Centers in our area.

I left the center feeling much more aware of the tremendous and delicate task of the Rescue Squad's job - saving lives!

I can not impress upon those people in our area enough to become more involved in supporting our Rescue Squad.

The entire staff of the Squad needs and deserves the full support of all the people in our area.

Carolyn Williams  
Belvidere, NC 27919

### Thank you extended to Jaycettes

Editors, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY,

Let me express my thanks to the Perquimans County Jaycettes for the activity, "Rock for Rec", held in September as a benefit for the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department.

Thanks also go out to the people who participated in the rocking and the events, and to the local businesses and groups who donated prizes.

I am very grateful for this fine show of support by all who were involved.

Billy Wooten  
Recreation Director

### Editor's Note

Letters to the editor are welcome. Each must be signed and include complete address.

The subject matter should be of interest to the community, not a personal gripe. Letters may be edited for clarity and space limitations.

No more than one letter per person, concerning the same subject, will be published each month.

## Auto crashes mar weekend

(Continued from page 1)

The rear, owned and operated by Julius Leon Hughes of Farmville, sustained some \$3,000 in damages.

Overton's car was crushed to the rear window, and suffered some \$3,000 in damages.

Another auto accident occurred on Friday night when

James Lloyd of Market St., Hertford, turned his 1970 Buick in front of a south-bound 1978 Cadillac four miles north of Hertford.

Both cars were damaged at approximately \$1,200 and Lloyd was charged with failure to yield right of way.

## Unruly juveniles a serious problem

Editors, PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A front page story in this newspaper highlighted a problem that seems to be all too prevalent in this country, "unsupervised juveniles."

The story concerned the problem of some youths in Hertford. Malicious damage to public property, public consumption of alcoholic beverages, giving beer to minors, disorderly conduct, and urinating in public were among the infractions listed.

These things have been happening at night, often late at night. One wonders why these teenagers weren't at home instead of out carousing around? Yes, I know that this is the "permissive society" we're living in where kids are left to make their own decisions.

But isn't it time that our society becomes less permissive and parents become more responsible for the actions of their off-spring? I have felt for a long time that parents of young troublemakers should be held accountable for the transgressions of their kids, especially in the early stages of bad behavior before kids get into more serious trouble.

The Town Council seems reluctant to enact a curfew for minors in Hertford. One councilman felt that a small group was causing the trouble in town. "It would penalize kids that are not part of this group by placing too many restrictions on them."

I would ask that councilman why he feels kids need to be roaming the streets late at night. Those "good" kids can get into trouble just as fast as those "bad" kids on the spur of the moment out of sheer boredom and someone's crazy idea for some "fun."

I don't like curfews. Curfews are only necessary in a community where there is too little parental restraint in regulating the night-time activities of their children. Many towns and cities have curfews because they are necessary. It seems to me that a reasonable curfew is necessary in Hertford.

I was startled to learn that urinating in public is unlawful only if observed by a member of the opposite sex. Also, it seems to be legal to walk down the street with an open can of beer in your hand as long as you are not seen drinking it.

I applaud the Town Council in taking quick action to draw up two new ordinances closing these loop-holes in the law.

Jack Grove  
Box 52  
Hertford

## Fire week coverage, support appreciated

Editors, the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY,

We, the members of the Hertford Fire Department, appreciate the fine coverage in your Oct. 11 edition of the Fire Prevention Week Parade. We also appreciate the individual businesses that sponsored the full page ad in the same edition promoting fire prevention week (Oct. 7-13).

I am sure I speak for all the fire fighters in Perquimans County when we say "thank you" to all the individual citizens that try to make fire prevention a way of life.

Sincerely,  
Chas. T. Skinner, Jr.  
Chief Hertford Fire Department

## Billups to stand trial on charges

Waymar Billups, 29, a Franklin's Grocery on King Street and a break-in and shooting that occurred at the home of Isaac Wood Lowe in February. Lowe was shot three times in the head and neck by his assailant.

In a related matter, Billups has been charged with an armed robbery that occurred in Edenton in December of 1978.

Billups is currently being held under \$25,000 bond in connection with the armed robbery of LaDall Distributor on North Oakum Street.

Billups was found against the charges was found against Billups in a pre-trial hearing last week.

Billups, who resided at 415 East King Street before leaving the state, is charged with the armed robbery of

## County seeks money

(Continued from page 1)

Reid noted, however, that the only way to instill internal controls would be to separate the departments, a move that would require the hiring of extra personnel.

Commissioner Marshall Caddy sought a special motion of support from the board for the Perquimans County Marching Unit.

Caddy said that school officials have already taken the first steps in forcing the unit to dissolve, and argued that the unit should get as much halftime performance time at high school football games as will the new county band.

Commissioner Walter Winslow said that the commissioners had never formally supported the marching band, and for that reason they should not do so for the marching unit.

The commissioners declined to take action on the matter.

Finally, a special meeting was scheduled for Monday night at 8 p.m. to discuss business with the county recreation department and to meet with state agricultural extension officials.

## Funding search

(Continued from page 1)

sparsely populated areas," Stallings said.

He said that another factor in the project's favor is its innovative nature. The combination of resources among small counties has never before been tried in North Carolina.

We've received a lot of support from different corners of the state because of its potential," Stallings said. "When small counties cannot afford to hire somebody to do a job for them there's no reason they can't jointly hire somebody," he said.

## A fine rescue squad

Letter: Editor of Perquimans Weekly

A couple of weeks ago, I had the unique experience of accompanying a youth group to the Rescue Squad Center in Hertford.

The reason for this event was to give this youth group the first hand experience in learning basic "first aid" procedure.



Davis fish fry

Harris Sprill, Sr. and Maynard Fleetwood cook fish during the Richard Davis Fish Fry. Some 2,000 persons were served during the fish fry, with proceeds going toward bills incurred

while Davis was hospitalized with a serious stroke. (Photo by Noel Todd-McLaughlin)

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