

Weekly Perspective

Campaign issue?

The only issue that has surfaced thus far in the 1979 Hertford mayoral race is a two sided one.

Candidate Herbert Nixon has suggested that incumbent mayor Bill Cox, who is also town manager, should not be allowed to hold both offices at once.

The question here is not whether the two offices are too much for one man. Cox has proven in the past that he can do both jobs well.

The real question is whether or not Cox exerts too much influence over town government. In presiding over town council meetings and managing the day to day business of town government, Cox has the potential to wield a tremendous amount of influence over town affairs.

Admittedly, it's an unusual situation, probably unique to the town of Hertford. And Nixon may be right in calling attention to it.

But in a small town it's not necessarily a bad situation.

The town manager, professionally immersed in the business of governing, is often better equipped to provide direction for a town than is a mayor who must divide his time with private business.

Cox has no vote in matters pertaining to the town manager's office, and if the council becomes disappointed with his services it can always look for a replacement. This is probably an adequate safeguard against undue muscle-flexing in the manager's office.

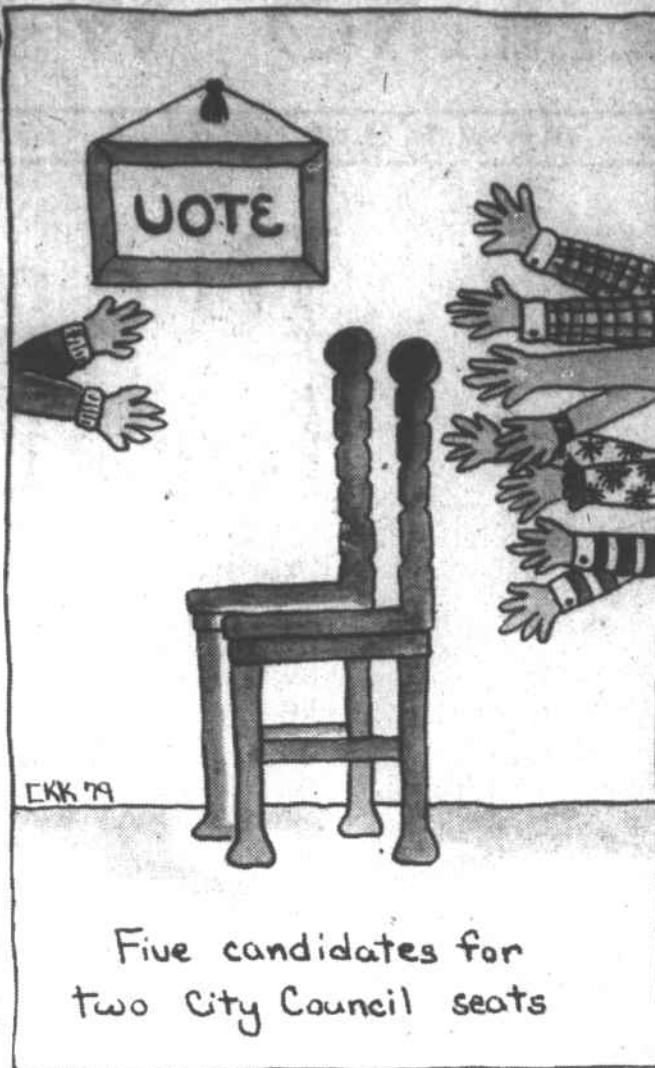
On the other hand, Nixon is retired and would also have plenty of time to stay on top of town affairs.

There are two good candidates in the race.

Ultimately, the voter must make his decision based on which candidate he feels will make a better mayor.

In this particular instance the perils of dual office holding appear to pose no real threat to the well being of the town of Hertford.

We must weigh "too many cooks spoil the broth" against "two heads are better than one" in casting our ballots.



My turn



MIKE McLAUGHLIN

I got my fledgling sea legs cut out from under me twice this past weekend in my efforts to become a genuine coastal dweller.

The first time came when I purchased a rod and reel at an Elizabeth City discount house. I had visions of reeling in a cooler full of Outer Banks blues in my first fishing excursion ever to that Mecca of surf casting.

Never a true sportsman, I wasn't about to lose the big one over a snapped line. I loaded up the reel with 20 lb. test line only to have it spew back out in a tangle not once, but twice.

Surely it was something I was doing wrong, I thought to myself. I loaded up the reel again and again it spit out a tangle of nylon. Muttering more than a few choice expletives I pored over the instruction manual.

Finally, after eliminating every possible and probable mistake I could have made in loading the reel, I noticed a tiny part on the drawing that wasn't showing up on my reel. It seems the Japanese maker of my discount product had left off a piece essential to its proper operation, the anti-reverse lever.

The reel would spin freely in either direction, a situation not conducive to proper fishing.

Scratch the fishing plans. Knowing my luck I probably wouldn't have caught anything anyway.

The second setback came when my wife and I joined a group of adventuresome town rowdies for a stuffing session at C.&H's Oyster Bar.

When we walked in the door the U-shaped bar was packed with patrons shoveling raw and steamed oysters into their gullets and chasing them down with slightly warm beer.

We squeezed up to one end of the bar beside six loud drunks who were toasting with half-drained liquor bottles. The guy

sitting beside me had a three day beard and pupils that looked like tiny watermelon seeds floating in a red sea.

He must have told me at least four times that he was 51 years old and had never gotten married.

The oysters were great, though. We were a little g'm shy and went for the steamed ones.

I guess I got carried away with the gussling, stuffing, salty mood of the place. I just kept dunking those fresh oysters in butter and cocktail sauce until my belly was about to explode.

By the time I pushed away from the bar I was feeling green around the gills. Upon arrival home I was most definitely seasick. The next morning I woke up with a mule kicking around in my stomach.

The whole point of this is to illustrate the difficulty of getting adjusted to a place where the cows walk around on four legs of equal length.

It's amusing how much of the N.C. State-Carolina rivalry seeps across the state and into Perquimans County. I guarantee you even the East Carolina fans had their eyes glued to the boob tube when the two football teams clashed on Saturday.

It was a rough afternoon for state fans. One disappointed fan came by the house just after halftime to pay off the friendly wager we had on the game. He was more easily discouraged than was the state football team, though, as the red tide surged to two touchdowns before he got up the sidewalk.

The gentleman still wasn't convinced that the 'Pack was really back. He said he'd better not come in and watch the rest of the game because he had a few more bets to pay off about town.

He had a large bag of ice in the back of his pickup, I guess to chill whatever he was going to use to drown his sorrows.

As it was, the Tarheels foiled the 'Pack's comeback efforts with a little help from the zebra squad.

Personally, I wish the officials had not decided to take such an active role in deciding the outcome of the game. I think Carolina would have won it anyway and the poor officiating only served to give all these state fans moping around town a face saving excuse.

Letters to the editor

Bloodmobile to visit

Editors, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Citizens of Perquimans County, we need your help again. On November 14, the Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit our community. The Bloodmobile will be at the Hertford Baptist Church on Market Street in downtown Hertford. The hours of the visit will be from 12 to 6 p.m. Our goal for this visit is 100 pints.

I would like to take this opportunity to express the many thanks you deserve for your time and devotion voluntarily given to one of the most important community programs. Your continuous assistance to the Blood Program is greatly appreciated.

A.L. West
Jaycee Bloodmobile Chairman

coopertaion and alot of enthusiasm, the club continues to be one the most active women's organizations in Perquimans County.

National Business Women's Week is being observed this week, October 21-27. Initiated in 1928 and sponsored by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the purpose of the week is to pay tribute to the achievements of all working women.

The Hertford BPW Club has had some very outstanding projects. Some past projects that are well remembered are the Loan Closet, Candy Strippers class at Perquimans High School, and the Club sponsors a scholarship to the senior who enters a health field.

The Hertford Club with 20 members, and under the leadership of President Linda A. Grieve, continues the following club projects: the Christmas Tree Lighting, Scholarship, Candy Striper Classes, Loan Closet, Young Careerist, Girl Scouts, Ice Cream Social and Meet the Candidates.

The Hertford BPW Club wishes to thank all the people who have supported them during the past years, and who still continue to support them.

Linda Grieve,
BPW President

BPW's rich history

Editors, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The Hertford Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) was organized in 1948 and sponsored by the Rocky Mount BPW Club. Our club is 32 years old. As a result of

Taking a look backward

OCTOBER 1941

By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU

PATROLMAN GASKILL ORDERED TO DUTY IN MANEUVER AREA: State Highway Patrolman Jack Gaskill has been ordered to serve in the maneuver area for an indefinite period. Patroman Gaskill left here for Hoffman, NC, last Friday, where he is expected to be stationed for two weeks and possibly for the remainder of the maneuver period, which ends about the first of December.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Tilley announce the birth of a son, born Saturday October 25th, 1941 at General Hospital in Norfolk, Va.

JOINS NAVY RESERVE: Ambrose B. Long, Hertford, Route One, has joined the U.S. Navy Reserves. Mr. Long reported for duty on October 14th, 1941.

OLD DOCUMENT: According to E. H. Cannon many articles are discovered in clothing sent to his cleaning and pressing establishment; but on Wednesday, he discovered an old clerk of court document issued in 1809, which he believes may be highly valued by its owner, and since he has no way of knowing the rightful owner, the paper may be recovered if the owner will call at the Perquimans Weekly office for it.

The old document is well preserved and is issued to one Joseph Albertson for service as a witness in the Albertson vs. John B. Blount case heard at the March Term of Superior Court, 1809. According to the order, Albertson was entitled to six shillings a day for three days' service, or a total of 18 shillings. He was also paid 3.2 shillings for traveling a distance of 12 miles at 8 shillings per 30 miles. The order was signed by a Robt. W. Friaton, Clerk.

Town officials will attend league session

RALEIGH - The challenges facing municipal governments in the next decade will be the focus of the 70th Annual Convention of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, which convenes in Winston-Salem, October 28-30.

The two and one-half day convention is expected to attract 1,500 mayors, governing board members, administrators and state and federal officials. Headquarters for the convention will be the M. C. Benton Convention Center in downtown Winston-Salem.

Mayor Bill Cox and council members John Beers and Pete Broughton will attend from Hertford.

"Challenge of the 1980's" is the theme for the annual meeting, with a series of speeches, workshops and concurrent group sessions scheduled. The delegates will be involved in discussions including energy, state and federal assistance programs, the 1980 census, wage and price guidelines, downtown revitalization, balanced growth, and the Reenactment of General Revenue Sharing. Concurrent sessions on Tuesday, October 29, will allow municipal officials to choose from topics of interest to both administrators and elected leaders.

N. C. Secretary of Transportation, Tom Bradshaw, will deliver a key address on Tuesday, highlighting the role of the state and local government in dealing with the State's transportation needs. Neil Peirce, a nationally prominent columnist, is slated to give the delegates on Monday a candid view of the challenges facing the nation's

cities and towns.

Greensboro Mayor Jim Melvin, League President, will open the Convention Sunday night. New officers of the League President will be elected Monday afternoon and installed at the closing luncheon on Tuesday.

In addition to the series of workshops and general sessions, a large exhibit of municipal equipment and services will be open during the Convention. The delegates also will view a new television documentary portraying city

life in North Carolina, be entertained by a "mock" city council meeting, and spouses of the delegates will be given tours and their own workshops by the host city of Winston-Salem.

The league is a federation of 438 towns and cities in North Carolina, which serves as the voice of municipal interests in legislation and governmental research. Its professional staff is headquartered in Raleigh, in the just-completed Albert Coates Local Government Center.

Arrest made on break-in at school

Victor Whitehurst, 18, of 312 Stokes Drive, Hertford, is expected to face charges this week in connection with several breaking and enterings occurring between Oct. 9 and Oct. 14 in Hertford.

Whitehurst is charged with a break-in at Hertford Grammar School that occurred after school hours on Oct. 9, according to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt.

Upon entering the building, Whitehurst allegedly broke into a candy machine in the teacher's lounge and removed \$1.50 in change, Merritt said.

Whitehurst is also charged with breaking into the principal's office by removing the windowpane from the door. Taken from the principal's desk were 72 15 cent stamps, two mechanical pencils, and four batteries, Merritt said.

In addition, Whitehurst has been charged with breaking

into a motor vehicle. A 1968 Ford Galaxy owned by James Manley White of 306 King Street was broken into on Oct. 13 at the owner's residence. Nothing was taken from the automobile, Merritt said.



Young hunter

Young Tom Sawyer, B-B gun shouldered, goes after the big game near Belvidere. Before you ask, his name really is Tom Sawyer. (Photo by NOEL TODD-McLAUGHLIN).

Nuclear abandonment no surprise

Washington, N.C. — Last Monday's announcement by Virginia Electric and Power Company that it was abandoning its two nuclear reactors under construction at its North Anna nuclear plant site in Virginia due to national unrest and uncertainty over nuclear power came as no

surprise to operation overcharge. J. Larkin Little, chairman of the consumer group battling VEPCO over exorbitant electric rates, however, said the timing was surprising.

"Actually, VEPCO stopped construction on the two reactors quite some time ago,

and obviously, Monday's story was an effort by their public relations department to make the most of a bad situation," Little said.

VEPCO's announcement would be almost laughable if it didn't concern such a serious subject, Little said. "There are not many power com-

panies in the nuclear generating business as responsible for the national unrest over nuclear electric power generation as VEPCO," Little contended.

"VEPCO has had so many avoidable accidents in the nuclear generation area that it is the most fined power

company in the country by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission," Little pointed out.

Meanwhile, commenting on VEPCO's statement that it might convert the two new sites at North Anna to coal producing power plants, Little said some experts find this difficult to accept.

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
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HERTFORD, N.C.
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CIRCULATION MANAGER
News and Advertising
Deadline
5 P.M. MONDAY
PUBLISHED BY
ANNANCE PUBLICATIONS
HERTFORD, N.C.