

Weekly Perspective

Our view

Firing criticism ranges too far

Perquimans County Board of Education members have probably caught a little more flack than they deserve over the replacement of Calvin Webster as coach of the high school football team.

Recent news accounts have lent the impression that board members failed to do their homework properly before taking action on the matter.

But by law the replacement of a coach is the responsibility of the principal of the school involved, rather than of the school board.

In light of this fact, we wonder why the board took any action at all.

And we can understand the no comment answers given to questions from the press and the public. A detailed public explanation could be an embarrassment to the coach and could interfere with the performance of his remaining duties at the high school.

Those who wish to criticize should stick to defenses of Webster's coaching record and leadership qualities and leave personal barbs out of it.

Looking back

FEB. 1942
by VIRGINIA WHITE
TRANSEAU

NEXT WINTER'S FUEL WOOD SHOULD BE CUT RIGHT NOW: Transportation is going to be one of the bottlenecks of the war program of the United Nations. R. W. Graeber, Extension Forester of N. C. State College says, and farmers can help to solve the problem by cutting their next winter's fuel wood right now. "You will be saving wood and work by cutting your fuel supply now," Graeber declared. "Tests reveal that green wood has from 10 to 35 percent less heating value than wood cured nine months to a year. Even wood seasoned under favorable conditions for only six months has an advantage over wood freshly cut." The forester said that tie-up of railroads and other forms of transportation in hauling war materials may mean difficulties in obtaining coal and other types of fuel. Therefore, he said, the local market for fuel wood should experience a "boom". In general, a cord of Hickory, oak, beech, birch, hard maple, ash, elm, locust, longleaf pine, or cherry is equal in heat value to a ton of coal. Species such as shortleaf pine,

western hemlock, red gum, sycamore, and soft maple require about one and a half cords to equal a ton of coal in fuel value. Two cords of cedar, poplar, cypress, basswood, spruce and white pine are required to equal a ton of coal. Graeber said that farmers can cut fuel wood by thinning their forests. He warned against sacrificing potential saw timber to meet the rising demand for stove and furnace wood, and said that county farm agents of the Extension Service will be glad to help landowners select the trees to be cut for fuel wood.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Stallings, of Route 3, Hertford, are receiving congratulations on the birth of twin sons, born Monday, January 26, 1942.

SARAH BRINN NAMED SUPERVISOR COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT: Miss Sarah Brinn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Brinn, of Hertford, has been appointed by the County Welfare Board to fill the position as Supervisor of County Welfare, left vacant by the resignation of Mrs. Ruth Blanchard. For the past two years Miss Brinn has been employed as a case worker in the Welfare Dept. of Northampton County.

Women's caucus presentation set

The first general meeting of the recently organized Northeastern North Carolina Women's Political Caucus will be held Thursday, February 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pasquotank-Camden Library in Elizabeth City. The library is located on Main Street across from the courthouse.

Candidates for governor, Lt. governor, the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate and the United States House of Representatives have been invited to send a woman to speak briefly and informally in behalf of each candidate.

Lucille Winslow of Hertford will speak for Rep. Charles Evans.

Elaine Williams, of Elizabeth City, will represent Gov. James Hunt.

Other candidates and their representatives are: Pat James, a teacher in the Elizabeth City school system,

speaking for Rep. Vernon James; Annette Gregory of Elizabeth City will speak for Bob Scott, a candidate for governor; Patricia Dorsey of New Bern will represent I. Beverly Lake, also a gubernatorial hopeful; Adna A. Sawyer of Elizabeth City will speak for Rep. Walter B. Jones, incumbent for the U.S. House; Lois Jordan of Edenton will speak for Joe Hollowell, also a candidate for the U.S. House; and Beverly of Elizabeth City will represent Winnie Wood, a candidate for the N.C. Senate.

The public is invited to attend.

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County gets bus money

Perquimans County will receive an additional \$8,200 from the state to operate its 33 school buses during the school year, far short of the \$18,300 in additional funds requested by the county school board.

Schools superintendent Pat Harrell said the money would not be enough to operate the buses during the remainder of the school year, but was op-

timistic—that more money would be forthcoming from the state.

"The \$8,000 we received will be used for gas and maintenance," Harrell said. The money will be added to an original allocation of \$32,597.

"The monies were allocated on a past formula that is no longer adequate," Harrell said.

NRHDA will appeal

(Continued from page one) ford Mayor Bill Cox, and also from "nearly every company and business in Perquimans County."

Perquimans County Commissioner Chairman Joe Nowell did not dispute that the board had agreed to lease property to NRHDA in early

summer, and said that any indication of a change in this stance had not arisen.

Nor did Cox dispute that he had written a letter in support of NRHDA.

White said an appeal would be submitted again to Atlanta, and if refused, that NRHDA would seek funding on the

Washington, D.C. level.

White also said that there was some hope for alternative sources of funding.

"We did not want to go that direction until this (HEW's) grant was exhausted because we feel it is a better grant," said White.

Letters... The other side of Webster's firing

Editors, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY,

I'm tired of hearing people who really do not have all the facts discuss the why's and where for's of the recent release of Calvin Webster as football coach at Perquimans County High School. There are usually two sides to every coin and I think it's time someone stood ground in favor of the action!

To begin with, neither THE DAILY ADVANCE nor their Sports Editor have ever been so gracious to the Perquimans County High School teams (in any sport) as to give them such coverage on anything until now...they get front page stories, editorial comments, and complete follow-up (on one side of the issue.)

This editorial slander leaves me cold. And seemingly, Webster has become some "glorified hero" almost overnight.

I question that if Perquimans County has had such good sports programs and such good coaching all these years, why haven't they had the coverage of large headlines, multiple pictures, games on the radio, and front page sports stories that so many of the area schools have had?

Also, Webster's record is 36-30-6 or 36 wins and 36 losses (you may as well say). What's so great about a 50-50 record? The old law of averages predicts that!

Another thing, Mr. Williams keeps harping about the losses of previous years at Perquimans County, before Webster. Webster came in 1971. To the best of my memory, six years previous would have been back to 1965,

BEFORE consolidation. And before consolidation, there were TWO high schools in Perquimans County! Don't you think you should have recorded both the schools' records and not just the worst record, Mr. Williams? Or was that just another "editorial oversight"?

In regard to the "worst conditions possible", I encourage any of you readers to visit the high school and see for yourselves. The field DOES have adequate lighting, progress IS being made on the bleachers, and the field does NOT look like a WWI battlefield (which I doubt few people in this generation would know about, thank goodness!).

As for Webster's "hardships" in coaching, he knew what he was stepping into when he came seven years ago, plus he was being paid for his time and efforts. If that didn't suffice, he should have stepped down long ago!

It has been mentioned that Preston Stevenson had not talked to Webster in the seven years he has been coaching. Why should Stevenson have talked to Webster? Neither of his sons played football and anyway, Stevenson hasn't been on the board seven years! I believe any of us could call around Perquimans County and find many people (including teachers) who have not talked to Webster in his seven years as coach! I would like to ask how many school board members has Webster talked with? If he had legitimate gripes and talking was the all-important issue that it seems, Webster definitely should have sought the school board himself. This



My turn

MIKE McLAUGHLIN



Women's basketball.
When you think of errant passes rolling out of bounds, poorly selected shots missing rim, backboard and all, and basketballs bouncing off knees and feet as hands made for slicing and dicing attempt to dribble.

Well, not exactly. We took a road trip to Norfolk to see the opening round of the Optimist-ODU Classic women's basketball tournament.

It was the first time I had witnessed women's basketball on the collegiate level, and what I saw was a vision of what women's sports can become when they get the same kind of emphasis the men's teams get.

Nearly every seat was taken in ODU Field House (It would fill up on Saturday for the finals) and the crowd was not restive. These were true fans, as in fanatic. The officials came in for abuse just like in any men's game, and when things were going right, the crowd was roaring.

The first game pitted ODU's Lady Monarchs against Valdosta State of Georgia. Each time 6'8" Monarch center Ann Donovan got the ball inside the crowd would yell, "Skyhook! Skyhook!" and often Ms. Donovan would oblige, gracefully sending the ball swishing through the nets.

Though they did not run as fast or jump as high as the boys do, the girls were just as fundamentally sound. Shot selection was good, passes were well executed and usually found their targets, and shooting percentages were high.

Of course, we're talking about the best. ODU puts women's basketball on equal footing with the men, and it shows. The team is as exciting and competitive as any team I've seen.

The Lady Monarchs are proving that, given the opportunity, women can carry their own weight in the traditionally male dominated world of college basketball.

Control sought

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox told the town council last Monday night that the Hertford Housing Authority had chosen to apply for management of 16 of 32 subsidized housing units included in Hertford's housing assistance application.

Rev. Ben Wolverton, Housing director, told Cox that the Authority was considering the Wynne Fork area as a possible location for the 16 units planned for low income families.

Cox said that a private developer has also applied for management and ownership of the 16 units.

The 32 units fall under Section 8 of the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and are part of Hertford's housing assistance application which would also include rent subsidization of 40 existing structures in Perquimans County.

The remaining sixteen units would provide housing for the elderly. And because of elderly inhabitants, HUD would require the structures to be within walking distance of banking, shopping etc.

In another matter, Cox informed the board of a citizen's request to change Hertford's firearm ordinance.

George Bullock, proprietor of Hertford Fire Extinguisher, said that someone had fired a shot into his home. According to Cox, Bullock said that the shooting was the second such occurrence, and although he

didn't believe the shots were intentional, he felt the ordinance should be changed.

William Bentley, town attorney, said the present ordinance allows the shooting of firearms only within a licensed shooting gallery or for the shooting of obnoxious birds or animals upon one's own property.

Bentley also added that it would be an infringement of constitutional rights if a person were limited the right to protect his or her own property, noting that the way the law stands now, one could be held criminally liable if a firearm's bullet inadvertently hits a person or goes into a building.

The council agreed that to change the gun ordinance would infringe upon constitutional rights and moved to retain the present law.

Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt said that his force had developed some possible suspects in the shooting incident.

Merritt also reported that because Patrolman James Carlton Boyce had put in for retirement, there was an opening on the force.

Boyce, 44, of Church St., Hertford, suffered a heart attack last Dec. and was admitted to the Chowan Hospital. He was transferred last week to Norfolk General Hospital.

Boyce served the Hertford Police Department for almost 15 years.



Digging it

Last week's snow meant a day off for some folks, but overtime for Department of Transportation employees. All

available equipment was used to clear county roads, beginning with primary

routes, then progressing to secondary, and finally unpaved secondary routes. This

plow was busy clearing HWY 17. (Photo by NOEL TODD-McLAUGHLIN)