

Weekly Perspective

Our view

Adults should drive buses

The Perquimans County School system is considering hiring several adult drivers for the coming school year, and we think it's a good idea.

Schools superintendent Pat Harrell told the board of education in a recent meeting that he supported the hiring of teacher aids as school bus drivers because of the difficulty encountered in trying to secure enough good, dependable student drivers.

We hope the board will approve the hiring of teacher aids as bus drivers, and that this will be the first step in the eventual phasing out of student drivers.

As the cost of living continues to increase, more and more families will be looking for ways to supplement their incomes. Driving a bus might be a good way to earn some extra money on a part-time basis.

If, indeed, more adults become available who want to drive the buses, their experience alone will put them ahead of teenage applicants for the driving slots.

A high school-aged driver should not be responsible for the lives of a bus load of students.

Although some students are mature and responsible at age 16, there are certain experiences that naturally do not fall within their range.

It is also difficult for a student driver to appear as an authority figure before his peers.

While driving a bus may be a good way for a young person to learn responsibility, the safety of our children dictates that a driver's capabilities be proven before he slips behind the wheel for the first time.

This can best be accomplished through a good, clean driving record maintained over several years.

We're not saying that the present situation puts our children in grave danger. But we need to be absolutely sure that we've got the best drivers possible for our buses.

Statistics show that we are more likely to have the best drivers if we have adults.



My turn

MIKE McLAUGHLIN



Despite our wholehearted support for free speech, a free press and such and the like, we don't tolerate differences of opinion very well.

That's not just my opinion, either. It's a fact, and if you disagree with me I'm going to get awfully mad at you.

How many times have I listened to the other fellow's opinion, interrupting his every other word with "Yes, but..."

My mind is already set on the matter, and I'm just looking for a way to prove him wrong. But, of course, his mind is already made up too, so we're really just exercising our vocal cords.

And I get so frustrated that he can't see it my way that my face turns red. I'm about to lose my cool.

This intolerance of other opinions, I think, is a trait common to most folks.

The conservative never had the opportunity to expand his horizons, says the smug liberal. Meanwhile, the conservative is thinking that the liberal is living in an ivory tower world. What he needs is a good dose of reality and a diploma from the school of hard knocks to crush his childish ideals.

Some people take differences of opinion too far.

An example is the person or group who wants to "educate" the person or group that doesn't agree with him. He is right, the other is wrong and must be instructed so that he will realize his error.

Equally excessive is the fellow who says that those who don't agree with him are allied with the devil.

But just as dangerous are those who maintain a calm outer appearance and appear to be listening patiently to your view while the wheels are turning in a different direction on the inside. "I always thought this guy was nuts. Now I'm sure of it."

I think when it comes right down to it, fear is what makes us intolerant of the other fellow's viewpoint.

Sure, he's not going to

change our minds, but what about our children, and those in the crowd who are more wishy-washy than the rest of us?

This "other" view might just take hold, and replace the more familiar idea we wear around like a comfortable pair of bedroom slippers. And wouldn't that be tragic?

We get crochety, and set in our notions. I can feel myself becoming more so every day. Maybe I should fight it. In fact, I'm sure I should.

If it weren't for the other idea, which gradually found its way into acceptance, the world would still be flat.

Part of the purpose of a community newspaper is to provide an outlet for ideas and opinions, both from its staff and its readers.

A newspaper should be a place where any citizen, not just the mayor or the local celebrity, can express his views and get an audience that won't interrupt him.

In the interest of encouraging such free expression, we are initiating a full editorial page, beginning with next week's edition of the PERQUIMANS WEEKLY.

We are adding several features, and are committing ourselves to being more vocal about our opinions as a newspaper.

But to really make it work, we need you, the reader.

If you've got an opinion on anything from the county budget to grain prices or the weather, let us hear about it.

Deep down inside, most people value their own opinions more than anyone elses. You can tell by the way they draw themselves up on the street and proclaim, "Well... that's because of so and so," neatly dissecting some social problem that has perplexed scientists for ages with a few pearls of common wisdom.

We're asking you to share that opinion with this newspaper. All of us can gain from knowing what others think.

Looking back

By VIRGINIA WHITE
TRANSEAU
JUNE 1942

COTTON'S BLOOMING: The hot weather of the past week has caused cotton to grow fast, and many fields are now blooming. The first bloom of the year, brought to the office of The Weekly was from the farm of Miss Mae Wood Winslow, and the grower was Claude Williams, of route three.

GASOLINE SHORTAGE CAUSING SERVICE STATIONS TO CLOSE: The shortage and rationing of gasoline has caused a tremendous reduction in revenue for the service stations of the county and several have been reported as having closed their businesses. No doubt many will reopen after the war, but the one distributor, serving a large area, stated that three of the stations served by him had closed due to loss of business. In addition to the motorist being rationed, the stations themselves receive less gasoline than they did for the same period last year, and each receives an allotment at ten-day intervals.

NEW HOPE RESIDENT

BITTEN BY SPIDER: Carson Spivey, of the New Hope community, suffered painful injury on Monday when he was bitten by a black widow spider. Mr. Spivey was quite ill on Monday and Tuesday, but is now reported as being much better. He was treated by Dr. T. P. Brinn.

BOY SCOUT BAND NOW FORMED IN ALBEMARLE: What is the only official Boy Scout Band in this section was organized in Hertford last week, and will comprise Scouts from Edenton, Elizabeth City and Hertford. The band is sponsored by the Boy Scout Troops in the Albemarle area, to be used for special occasions in the section. Those who joined the band at the first meeting are the following Edenton boys: West Byrum, Gordon Huffines, Sonny Stilman, Clarence Leary, Gurnie Hobbs, Lester Stewart, Lloyd Griffin, and Johnny Thigpen. Hertford members are: Bill Burray, Bobby Jordan, Bill Elliott, Broughton Dail, Charles Skinner, Jimmy Felton, Howard Broughton, Reggie Tucker, Wilbur Roberson and Tom Perry.

Year 'round registration set

RALEIGH — North Carolina Transportation Secretary Tom Bradshaw says his department is geared up to implement a new year-round motor vehicle registration system beginning July 1.

The new system for obtaining license plates and validation stickers, called "staggered" registration, will spread vehicle registration renewal over 12 months.

Most North Carolinians will once again obtain their license tags and validation stickers in January and through mid-February of 1981.

At that time, five categories of vehicles will be incorporated into the new staggered registration system: currently registered cars, motorcycles, trailers, 4000-pound private trucks and u-drive-it vehicles.

However, some vehicles will be registered in the new system beginning in July of this year. They include vehicles owned by:

- motorists who have just moved to North Carolina;
- motorists whose vehicle registrations have been re-issued following insurance lapses and revocations; and
- motorists who have acquired new vehicles.

The expiration date for those vehicles registered from July 1, to December 30, 1980, will be June 30, 1981. June will then become the permanent renewal month for these vehicles each year thereafter.

Owners who register their vehicles from July 1 to December 30, 1980, will receive registration renewal cards in May, 1981.

All registrations, other than those issued for the five staggered categories, will

continue to expire on December 31, each year.

"This new system will help eliminate the long lines at the license plate offices and allow us to provide better service to the state's motor vehicle owners," Bradshaw said.

"Approximately 5 million motor vehicles were registered in 1979, and the latest figures indicate that an even greater number of vehicle registrations can be expected this year.

"The number of motor vehicles in our state has grown to the point that the former system is no longer practical. In addition, the new system will mean greater productivity in the department's vehicle services operation."

Under the year-round vehicle registration system, owners of cars, motorcycles, trailers, small pick-up trucks

and u-drive-it vehicles will be issued a "month" and a "year" sticker.

For these categories, the "month" sticker will designate the permanent month in which the owner will re-register his vehicle each year. The "year" sticker will change each time the vehicle owner renews registration.

Registration fees will vary according to the number of months for which the vehicle is registered.

Motor Vehicles Commissioner Elbert L. Peters Jr. said the new system will benefit both the general public and the motor vehicles division.

"Under the present annual renewal system, about 80 percent of all vehicle registrations are processed during the period of Jan. 1, to Feb. 15, each year," said Peters.

Letter

Businesses thanked for help

Editors, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY:

The local businesses that sponsor teams in our Babe Ruth Baseball League deserve a big "thank you" for their support over the years. They are: Brinn Insurance, Jackson Wholesale, Peoples Bank, Swindell Funeral Home, Hertford Hardware, Winslow Oil, Woodard's Pharmacy, Towe Motors and Don Juan, Inc.

Also the coaches that are giving of their time to work with the children deserve a lot of thanks. They are: Gil Underwood, Johnnie Winslow,

Thurman Whedbee, Ben Thach, Gene Appleton, Ronald Boyce, Larry Corpew, Bill Newbern, and Bill Mansfield.

Please tell the above businesses and people that you appreciate their support. Billy Wooten, Director Perquimans County Parks and Recreation Department.

Tax exempt

GREENSBORO — Single persons earning less than \$3,300 may be exempt from Federal income tax withholding, the IRS says. Many students with only summer or part-time employment fall into this category.

There are two requirements for the exemption from income tax withholding. First, there must be no tax liability for 1979. Second, no tax liability must be expected for 1980.

Students who have over \$1,000 in unearned income, such as interest, dividends, or trust fund income, and who are claimed as dependents on their parents' returns, are not exempt from tax withholding on earnings even though their total income is under \$3,300.

Child abuse

(Continued from page one)

Mrs. Mitchell, "because child abuse is usually a symptom of something else."

Most reports of child abuse or neglect are made by professionals, according to Mrs. Mitchell. "I'd say 60 to 75 percent of our reports come from doctors, health departments, and teachers — we don't get many calls from concerned citizens."

Citizens are often reluctant to report cases of child abuse or neglect because they don't want their identity disclosed, or they feel they can't prove an instance of possible child abuse or neglect.

But such reasoning is unfounded, according to Mrs. Mitchell. "People don't have to be able to prove what they suspect to report, nor do we have to name a reporter unless they are a professional or a spouse."

In fact, Mrs. Mitchell said she preferred not to divulge the source. "If we identify the reporter, it takes the family's attention away from our reason for being there — they want to dwell on who made the report."

refuse social services and the case necessitates court action, a reporter's identity may need to be disclosed as evidence, or he may be asked to serve as a witness.

Many citizens do not report possible cases of child abuse or neglect because they don't know what to look for. Mrs. Mitchell mentioned several possible signs of an abused or neglected child, among those:

- a role reversal — which may involve the child taking on the traditional role of a caretaker, becoming responsible for the parent;
- the withdrawal of a normally outgoing, active child;

Boat ramps

(Continued from page one)

Under the contractors' recommendations, the areas would be divided into four contracts and advertised as separate bids including: site grading and preparation under one contract; walkways, picnic shelters and restrooms under another;

- overly-aggressive play;
- cruelty to animals;
- scars or injuries in unusual places, such as the back of the legs;

A possible sign of emotional abuse, which Mrs. Mitchell described as "the hardest to track down and substantiate, is child with a negative self-concept.

Recalling a case of emotional abuse she had dealt with, Mrs. Mitchell described a boy of about six or seven years old who could not tie his shoes.

"The boy had no confidence because his father always told him he was stupid, that he couldn't do anything right," she added.

Although child abuse often

occurs in lower income families, all parents are potential child abusers.

"It is not just restricted to lower income families," said Mrs. Mitchell, "in fact, nationwide, the average abuser is a middle class white woman."

It is also not unusual in large families for one of the several children to be neglected, said Mrs. Mitchell. "Often that child reflects something to the parent that makes the parent feel bad about themselves," she added.

And abused children are potential child abusers. "It's like they say on TV — it becomes a family tradition," said Mrs. Mitchell.

Construction set for new shop

Construction will soon be getting underway on a metal building to house the Perquimans High School auto mechanics program.

The board of education approved a contract with Revel Builders to construct the building at a cost of \$28,000 in a meeting last Thursday night.

The building is part of efforts to expand vocational facilities at the high school and make way for a brand new construction program to be initiated this fall.

Revel builders will put down a concrete slab floor, and the building shell. The school system expects to do much of the remaining work with its own employees, including electrical, plumbing and heating, Harrell said. Local contractors are also expected to be utilized to some degree.

Harrell said he expects the building to be constructed for less than \$50,000.

In other action, it was an-

nounced that training had been scheduled for adult bus drivers, and that upon completion of training, the adult applicants would be given equal consideration with student applicants.

The board also approved the hiring of two new employees. Brenda Singletary of Hertford was employed as Title I reading instructor at Perquimans High School in the coming year, and Frans Van Baars was employed as artist in the schools.

Currently residing in New Bern, Van Baars is a native of the Netherlands, and has previously worked as an artist in residence in the public schools.

Finally, the board instructed that a letter be written to the board architect expressing concern over delays in completion of the high school addition.

The letter was to state that continual delays are making it difficult to get the building ready for use in the fall, said Harrell.

Vepco sees rate drop

Virginia Electric and Power Company has projected another reduction in North Carolina customers' bills because of lower than expected fuel expenses in April and May.

But because the North Carolina Utilities Commission requires that the fuel reduction request, reflecting actual fuel expenses for the months of May through August, be filed in September, reduction will not actually be felt until the December

through March billing months. A Vepco spokesman said that only the actual fuel expenses for May are known, so the amount of the reduction cannot be determined until expenses for the months of June, July, and August are received.

The town of Hertford was one of Vepco's 13 North Carolina municipalities that benefited from a fuel charge reduction of some 43 percent in May.

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
COURTHOUSE SQUARE, HERTFORD, N.C. 27944
MIKE McLAUGHLIN
NOEL TODD McLAUGHLIN
CO-EDITORS
PAT MANSFIELD
CIRCULATION MANAGER
News and Advertising
Deadlines
5 P.M. MONDAY
Subscriptions only:
One Year \$7.50 in County,
\$8.50 Outside County.
PUBLISHED BY
ADVANCE PUBLICATIONS
ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.