

Weekly Perspective

Other views

Don't forget USA really is number one

By JOHN SLEDGE
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

It is disturbing when people question if the U.S. is slipping in vital areas, as the editors of a national news magazine did recently in an article headlined, "Is The U.S. Really No. 2?"

While that question dealt with U.S. military strength as compared to the Soviet Union, other critics suggest that our political and legal systems are unworkable, that our corporations habitually place profits ahead of people, that only the rich can afford health care, that our industries are outmoded-with non-existent quality control reflected in a continuously declining U.S. productivity.

It is time to call a halt to this foolish denial of American greatness.

Dislike the phone company? Try it in China. Unhappy with mail service? Consider Uruguay where tons of undelivered mail have been routinely burned. Try naming the country with a better judicial system (Iran? Poland? South Africa?). Concerned about money value and national financial stability? Look across our borders in either direction...or to 100 percent annual inflation in Brazil, higher in Argentina.

We are not saying we should be happy to live with American inflation, unemployment or other problems. What we are saying is that our political system has produced a national stability second to none. If you dislike two-party politics, consider Italy with more than two dozen

parties and almost a monthly change in administrations. Compare U.S. health care services and opportunities with the socialized programs of Great Britain and Sweden. One good American supermarket contains more food and consumer goods than the total found in many foreign capital cities-and at a fraction of the price.

Unfortunately, there is just enough truth in most negative statements about the U.S. to convince many people that they represent whole truths, rather than a glimpse of truth surrounded by a very complex issue or abstract problem.

Perhaps a letter-to-the-editor by a Soviet immigrant provides the perspective we need.

He wrote: "If Americans knew what it is like to search for a piece of meat and never find it; how it is not to be able to buy a refrigerator unless you stay on a waiting list for 10 years; what it is like, by mandatory registration, to be committed forever to living in one place; how easily people are put in jail for complaining about it; what it is like to live in constant fear and to struggle for survival every day in a country where courts are designed to protect the government and justice is formulated in one simple concept of guilty unless you can prove otherwise..."

"If they knew all this...they would whisper, as I do: 'God bless this land and its people'."

We ARE number one. Never forget it.

In Perquimans

Baptist Church organizes in 1806

Although Baptist ministers Paul Palmer and Henry Done resided in Perquimans in the eighteenth century, no Baptist church was organized in the county until 1806.

In colonial times the Church of England had established Yeopim Chapel, on Indian Creek, for the people along Yeopim River and down Harveys Neck. Anglican worship declined after the American Revolution, and the people living near the chapel were evangelized by Yeopim Baptist Church in Chowan County.

declared themselves a church and gage each other the right hand of fellowship. The ministers present acknowledged them to be "a regular constituted Church of Christ." Thus Bethel Baptist Church was born.

On April 12, 1806, the new church held the first of those regular monthly meetings at which congregational business would be conducted. The Rev. Martin Ross was called to be pastor.

Through the years these meetings accepted new members into the church and elected church officers. Sinners were admonished and the unrepentant excommunicated. A brother might confess his "intoxication at the last election" and a sister be found guilty of ingratitude to her parents, as the church exercised its Christian discipline.

The church also considered the preaching ability of black brother George Bonner (1808), furnished a suit of clothes for the minister to baptize in (1812), declared going to dances a sin (1814), and planned a school house (1837).

During the pastorates of Martin Ross and his successors Thomas Meredith and Quinton H. Trotman, the membership of Bethel Church grew substantially. The church established meeting houses in Edenton and Hertford which subsequently became independent churches.

By 1837 Bethel had outgrown its old meeting house and in March of that year plans were made for a new building. The church was informed the next November that "the New meeting House...was Completed According to Contract and In A Compleat Workmanlike manner..." This 1837 church still occupies the steep hill above Indian Creek.

Bethel Baptist Church maintains the distinction of being the oldest congregation of its denomination in Perquimans County and of worshipping in the county's oldest Baptist building.



On July 11, 1792, Frederick Luten and Isaac White conveyed Yeopim Chapel to "the Good people of our neighbourhood" because of "Love & good will... for the public, Divine worship of Almighty god." The "Good people" became Baptist, and the site has remained in Baptist possession to this day. (Ownership was confirmed in land deeds of 1809 and 1816.)

The formal constitution of the Yeopim Chapel folk as the first Baptist church in Perquimans County took place in 1806. At a conference on March 21 the name "Bethel Meeting house on Indian Creek" was chosen, and five deacons were elected, namely Job Pettijohn, Joshua Skinner, John Blount, Joseph Benbury and Charles W. Blount. The last named individual was chosen clerk.

The new church has 67 founding members, being 13 men, 44 women and 10 black men and women. They assembled in solemn conference on March 22, 1806. After examination into their faith and fellowship, they

Looking back

20 Years Ago-1963
By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU
TWO LOCAL MEN ATEND N.C. DAY: Two Hertford men, Wm. F. Ainsley and Larry Aydtlett were among the Tar Heels traveling to New York for the "North Carolina Day" in New York City on Tuesday. Aydtlett is manager of the Perquimans County Chamber of

Commerce and Ainsley is chairman of the Merchants Committee. Other men attending from this county were: T.P. Byram and Joel Hollowell, Jr.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Mr. and Mrs. Carson Spivey, Jr., announce the birth of a son, James Carson born Wednesday at the Albemarle Hospital.

"Was this the final play-off?"



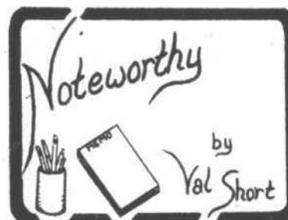
Reason behind State's ACC victory

I would just like to let all of you Wolfpack fans out there know why N.C. State won the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament last week end.

It's really very simple. My husband changed teams... a former dyed in the wool, red through and through State fan, he is now a true blue Tar Heel supporter. (Although, I'm still not convinced of his loyalty!)

The history behind this amazing transformation goes way back. Historically, my husband has always pulled for the losing team. Whether it was the Orioles, the Hawks, the Falcons, the Dolphins, the Celtics or the Wolfpack — more times than not, they have been on the losing side.

These losses have resulted in



many an object being thrown at the television (as well as threats to shoot the t.v.) and also quite a few angry exchanges of words between us both. My answer to all of his protests is always, "You just don't pull for the right team!"

I think he finally became convinced.

Following one recent Carolina

victory, I heard my husband muttering under his breath something about "Carolina luck" and there being "no justice in the world" and suddenly his sour expression changed to a bright smile and he announced the big decision.

"I'm going to start pulling for Carolina... if that doesn't put a hex on them, I don't know what will," he said.

I told him I was glad my advice had finally begun to sink in and welcomed him to the "winning team," beaming triumphantly.

Somehow I think it all backfired, however.

Remember when Carolina lost three in a row? That was after my husband's so-called mutiny and I started becoming a bit suspicious.

I really began to smell a rat on Sunday when he quietly and distractedly watched the final ACC championship game, in between trips to the tennis court. (This type of behavior is very unlike the true Tar Heel enthusiasts I know! I think he was silently rooting for the Cavaliers during the final game.)

But my suspicions were confirmed when I noticed a Mona Lisa-like, Cheshire cat-type grin on his face for the remainder of the day. He told me "it worked!"

I'm sure Jim Valvano would appreciate my husband's defensive tactics, but I know Dean Smith and Terry Holland would agree with me — with fans like that, who needs foes!

Facing South

a syndicated column: voices of tradition in a changing region

A college education for working people



HANCOCK COUNTY, Tn. — Orban Horton shyly received the applause of his classmates at the conclusion of his "Philosophy of Community Development" course. The course marked his final credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree. In this achievement Horton overcame a set of challenges shared by millions of other Americans: a full-time job, working class income, family responsibilities and isolation from four-year colleges and universities.

In fact, Horton's diploma was awarded by Lincoln Memorial University, a private liberal arts college 90 minutes away. But what made the completion of his studies possible was an organization formed by the aspiring students themselves, the Hancock County Education Cooperative.

Rural, isolated Hancock County has a per capita income ranking sixth lowest in the nation. But many residents have made conscious decisions to stay here, determined to surmount such obstacles as limited access to college education. The county's Education Cooperative was started by adult students who wanted to go beyond the extension offerings and two-year program of a nearby community college. Most were interested in the liberal arts rather

than in the vocational programs usually earmarked for economically depressed areas. These students already had jobs. They were anxious to develop leadership skills in analyzing and speaking out on matters of economic, social and philosophical concern to their community.

The Cooperative began in the fall of 1981 as a group of citizens started a door-to-door campaign to ascertain the amount of interest in such a venture. Over 70 county residents then met to elect a board, which contacted five area colleges with a proposition: in exchange for reduced fees and greater control over course offerings and class location, the Cooperative would offer one college an exclusive contract to provide education for the Cooperative's members.

Negotiations led to a short-term contract with Lincoln Memorial University in early 1982; the board is now working out a long-term, contract with Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City. At a time when many small colleges are experiencing declining enrollment and financial woes, the Education Cooperative offers an attractive alternative. With little overhead other than added administrative costs (no expansion of dining, dormitory or classroom resources), the contracted college receives income from five to seven additional courses each term.

Meanwhile, the Cooperative's success provides incentive for continued community involvement. Because actual enrollment in many courses has exceeded the projections agreed upon with the college, the Cooperative has amassed nearly \$2,900 in surplus tuition fees. This money has been used to hire a registrar and to fund community projects growing out of some of the courses.

The Cooperative also provides opportunities for qualified instructors in the community to teach accredited courses in the humanities, education and business. This has enabled the membership to focus the curriculum more directly on problems of local concern. One example is the "Philosophy of Community Development" course, aimed at integrating theoretical studies of development and community economics with actual community projects such as a small business loan fund (which came from the surplus tuition money) and a massive trash clean-up. Students from this course also formed an organization called Citizens for a Better Community which is committed to ongoing community development.

Cooperative members are now at work developing a complete college curriculum, ranging from basic skills courses to classes on topics such as energy use and alternatives-classes which will give these adult

citizens the tools they want to shape their community's future. Although the Cooperative's members come from varied backgrounds and cherish diverse personal goals, they share a common interest in promoting "community-controlled" development in Hancock County-development whose shape they themselves can direct, at least to some degree, rather than surrender it completely to outside interests.

Today, the Cooperative has about 80 members. Orban Horton, who's worked as a farmer and a miner and now manages the local TVA office, serves as the chairperson of the board. He brings with him the negotiating skills he gained years before as president of a union local. As they honored him for completing the credits for his B.A. degree, Horton reminded his classmates of the central purpose of the Education Cooperative: to give working adults the opportunity to direct their education toward a better Hancock County.

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