

## ADDRESSES

## NC SENATE

Erica Smith-Ingram (D)  
919-715-3040  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 1118  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808  
Erica.Smith-Ingram@ncleg.net

## NC HOUSE

Bob Steinburg (R)  
919-733-0010  
NC House of Representatives  
300 N. Salisbury St.,  
Room 306 A2  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
bob.steinburg@ncleg.net

## US HOUSE

G.K. Butterfield (D)  
2305 Rayburn HOB,  
Washington, DC 20515  
202-225-3101  
252-237-9816

## US SENATE

Richard Burr (R)  
202-224-3154  
336-631-5125  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
http://burr.senate.gov/public/

## Thom Tillis (R)

202-224-6342  
655 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



Peter Williams

## Irene made the best of it

In one way or another, we all usually get second chances. What we do with them is what matters.

Irene Bailey Overton, a high school friend, was the recipient of a second chance. Back in 2000 she needed and got a double lung transplant.

I had heard of a double-lung transplant but until Irene, I'd never known anybody who got one. Hearts, livers, kidneys, those are far more common.

It wasn't because she smoked or led a nasty lifestyle; her genes were simply stacked against her. The lungs she was born with weren't doing the job.

I wasn't there when the doctors gave the prognosis, but I'm sure it wasn't 15 years. But that's how much longer she lived. The end came Sept. 29 at Sentara Norfolk Hospital. She was 56-years-old.

What makes Irene's story powerful to me is the way she handled those 15 years. We all know people who suffer the smallest thing and embrace themselves with pity and invite others to do the same.

Irene wasn't wired that way. She suffered, but largely she didn't complain about it. She was too busy trying to lift up everybody else's spirits. She became a gentle, but powerful advocate for organ donation.

"I didn't know Ms. Irene long but felt a long bond nevertheless," wrote one of her friends on Facebook. "She inspired me and gave me hope for my future."

Sadly, I don't have enough newsprint or ink to print all the fond comments about Irene.

Mind you she didn't like be poked and probed in the hospital. One of her last postings on Facebook was of a red pin cushion with pins sticking out of it. She had that's what she felt like at the hospital.

She didn't like spending months away from home when she was in the hospital. She hated the fact she couldn't go fishing with her husband Randy. Yet she asked that donations be made to Free and Open Beaches C/O Red Drum Tackle, Buxton, NC 27920 so others can keep on fishing.

I will remember Irene for both the girl I knew in high school and for the stoic woman she grew up to be. A woman who knew a second chance when she saw it and woman who encouraged all of us to offer someone else that second chance.

I signed up to be an organ donor years and years ago.

When you go to get a driver's license and they ask you if you want to be an organ donor, and you say "yes" and then it goes on your driver's license. No muss, no fuss.

My 86-year-old Mom has kicked that up a notch. As a former nurse she's signed on to donate her entire body to the ECU medical school so students can practice. I'm not ready to sign on for that, but I admire Mom for doing it.

If you believe in God, as I do, you'll understand that when you die God is going to give you a brand new body. The one you are using here on Earth can stay here on Earth and help others.

That's the kind of recycling effort that would make Irene smile.

## Letter to the Editor

# Racist beliefs not backed by any facts

Dear Editor,

I agree with Joseph Hoffer's Sept. 30 letter that the Perquimans Weekly shouldn't be a platform for "racial hatred and negative stereotypes of Blacks," Hispanics, or any group of people. Unfortunately, this paper continues to provide such a platform.

In his Sept. 23 letter, Mr. Warren Boisselle stated categorically that "Blacks boys do not finish school." Did he provide study findings or data from the US Department of Education? No. He drew his conclusion from looking at graduation pictures in his local papers.

In an earlier letter, he compared Southeast Virginia school systems

and blamed the differences on the racial makeup of the schools. I pointed out that he failed to account for the stark difference in the dollars invested in the schools he cited. In other words, the white schools got more money per student than the black schools. Mr. Bob Bose commented in his Sept. 16 letter that there are factors other than funding that contribute to schools failing their students—being the quality of teachers. I agree.

The 2008 study, Given Half a Chance: The Schott 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males, identified both funding and teacher quality as critical factors. The study found that schools with

black majority enrollments often do not have libraries, have inadequate supplies of textbooks and computers, and fail to provide art and music programs and science labs (i.e., they have funding-based resource disparities). But, the report concludes that when black students attend schools with talented, caring teachers, well-trained support staff, and challenging curricula, black males graduate at rates similar to white males.

I'm sure this report will not sway Mr. Boisselle, who continues to believe that "blacks are dysfunctional." Nor will he accept that people of Spanish descent can legitimately identify as white. Maybe he thinks Spain isn't part of the

"white" Europe he wrote about.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Boisselle continues to protest that he is not bigoted; he's just conservative and truthful. Well, here's some truth for you, Mr. Boisselle. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention collect data on unwed mothers by age and race. In 2013, 69 percent of unwed mothers age 19 and younger were white.

Black women represented 27 percent of the unwed mothers age 19 and younger. You may want to consider these facts before you advise young black people to "act white".

Nancy Theodore  
Hertford

# Former NC Governor Martin as a catalyst

I know the kind of candidate the Republicans need to beat Hillary Clinton or any other Democratic candidate in next fall's presidential election.

It is not any of those running now.

That party needs somebody smart who can get along with the far right in the party without frightening the middle-of-the-road voters in the fall. They need someone with proven experience in politics and government who is still not an ordinary politician.

Former North Carolina Governor and former U.S. Representative Jim Martin, if he were 10 years younger, could be that person.

Martin's successful campaigns for Congress and governor paralleled the rise of the Republican power in North Carolina, a state traditionally dominated by Democrats.

What were the ingredients of his political success? How much did he ride the rising tide of the Republican Party in the South? How much did his special and unique campaigns and character contribute to that rising tide?

John Hood's new book, "Catalyst: Jim Martin and the Rise of North Carolina Republicans," ex-

amines these questions. Hood, former president and current board chair of the John Locke Foundation, combines a traditional biography of Martin with the political history of the rise of the Republican Party in North Carolina.

The book's title, "Catalyst," gives a clue to Hood's idea of Martin's place in the growth of Republican political power. One definition of that word, according to Merriam-Webster, is "an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action."

Hood's recounting of how Martin's successful political campaigns for Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and U.S. Congress and, especially, his two terms as governor, show how he played an important role in speeding the change from Democratic to Republican control of our state.

Martin might be more comfortable with another definition of catalyst, also from Merriam-Webster: "A substance that enables a chemical reaction to proceed at a usually faster rate or under dif-

## COLUMNIST



D.G.  
MARTIN

ferent conditions (as at a lower temperature) than otherwise possible."

As Hood reminds his readers, Martin was a chemistry professor long before he became a political catalyst. It was in this role that I first came to know him.

He was the lab instructor in the chemistry class I took at Davidson College in 1962. Although we are not related, our families have been close. I sat beside Jim's brother, Joe, in David-

son's chapel services three times a week for four years. We were good friends until his death from ALS in 2006. Our fathers were loyal Davidson graduates and long-time friends.

Hood credits my father for opening the door for Jim to run for county commissioner. My father, Grier Martin, was Davidson's president. When Republican leaders approached Jim about a county commissioner candidacy, he knew he needed approval of the college leadership.

According to Hood, textile magnate Charles Cannon and other

Davidson donors "had expressed unease about what was perceived as the increasingly leftward tilt of the faculty."

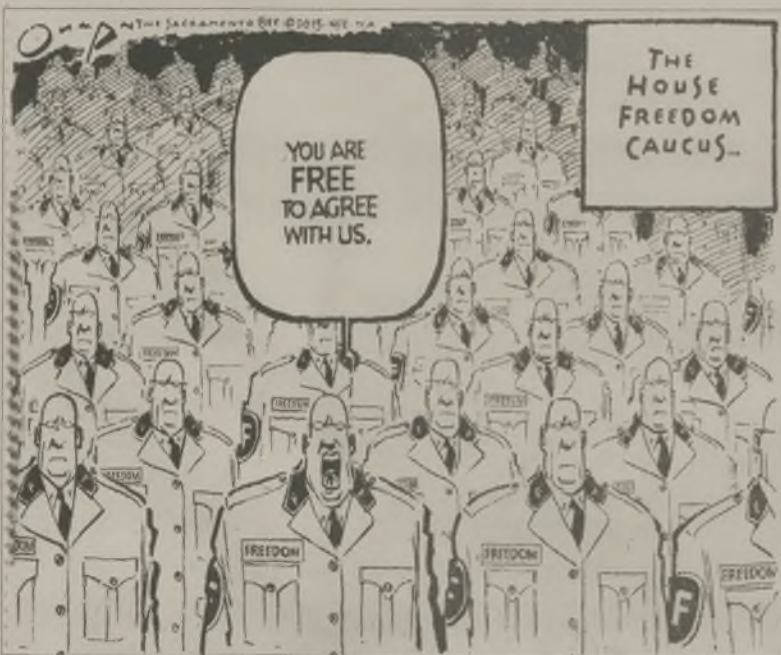
Thus, my father and Faculty Dean Frontis Johnston saw the prospective candidacy "as a great opportunity to mollify the critics."

Hood continues, "The way President Martin and Dean Johnston saw it, even if Martin didn't win the election, his candidacy would serve to showcase the college's ideological diversity. And if he did end up on the county commission, so much the better for Davidson. The two gave Martin their full support."

Could he really beat Clinton or Bernie Sanders if Martin were the Republican candidate next year? Following the reasoning of my father and Dean Johnston, in the face of the increasingly rightward tilt of the Republican Party, his candidacy would showcase the party's ideological diversity. If he won, they might say again, "so much the better for Davidson."

Too old to run? Maybe not. Martin is only five years older than Sanders.

D.G. Martin hosts "North Carolina Book-watch," which airs Sundays at noon and Thursdays at 5 p.m. on UNC-TV



## THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A PUBLICATION OF COOKE COMMUNICATIONS NORTH CAROLINA, LLC

ESTABLISHED 1934

111 W. MARKET ST.

HERTFORD, N.C. 27944 252-426-5728

PERQUIMANSWEEKLY@NCWEEKLIES.COM

VOLUME 83 NO. 40

MIKE GOODMAN, PUBLISHER/EDITOR  
BEV ALEXANDER, ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE  
PETER WILLIAMS, NEWS EDITOR

CIRCULATION DELIVERY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, SUBSCRIPTIONS,  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: 426-1757

The Perquimans Weekly (USPS 428-080) is published each Wednesday by The Daily Advance, 215 S. Water St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

Subscription rates are \$27.00 per year plus sales tax in Perquimans, Chowan, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and parts of Gates counties, and \$31.50 per year mailed to all other addresses in the continental U.S. Sales tax is required for delivery to all North Carolina counties at the sales tax rate in that county. Single copy newspapers are 50 cents plus sales tax where applicable.

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The Perquimans Weekly, 111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944.