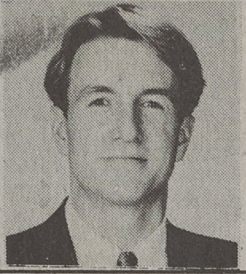


# Opinion

**THOM GOOLSBY**

Syndicated Columnist



## Reverse discrimination

"Martin Luther King had it right," said Jack Daly, conservative UNC law student and Republican candidate for State Auditor, when he recently filed a federal lawsuit against the UNC System.

Daly, along with seven other white students from various universities in the UNC System, are taking their schools to federal court, claiming that they are being discriminated against because of their race.

The lawsuit challenges "minority presence grants" which have been given by the UNC System since the early 1980s. The grants began as part of a court settlement over past discrimination lawsuits. The race-based grants are intended to bring more black students to white UNC campuses and more white students to black UNC campuses.

Daly and fellow conservative students claim that these actions are nothing more than government-sponsored discrimination. He rightfully asks, "Why should the government discriminate based upon race?" Even after a previous court order ended, the state continues the grants, spending over \$1.5 million for the program last year alone.

Besides the racial discrimination claim, Daly is also alleging that UNC Law School is violating his first amendment rights by excluding him from consideration for the Alan Berman Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is limited to homosexuals or those interested in homosexual rights and the fund is administered by the law school. Daly, who is heterosexual and holds traditional Christian beliefs, is rightfully upset that the state is engaged in active discrimination against individuals like himself.

The students' demands are simple, straightforward and completely reasonable. They want the administration of the grants stopped, or opened up to all students, regardless of their race or sexual orientation.

In an interview with the press, Daly claimed, "I am the rightful heir to Martin Luther King's mantle." He was referring to Dr. King's wish that people be judged not by their color, but by their character. Isn't it amazing that our decidedly liberal university system is actively engaged in discrimination against white, black and heterosexual individuals, and that students are required to file lawsuits in order to protect their rights to equal treatment?

The only answer that the university system could offer was a press statement by D.G. Martin at UNC General Administration. "We believe the minority presence program is an important effort on our part to continue efforts to desegregate the University." In other words, "We will stop discrimination by discriminating." And these are the folks charged with educating our young people?

## Your Right To Say It

### Patient appreciates Dr. Everette Thombs

To the editor:

In honor of Doctors Appreciation Day, I would like to mention just a few reasons why a special doctor should be recognized.

Dr. Everette B. Thombs is a very knowledgeable doctor. As well as being far advanced in the field of medicine, his doctoring goes much further, far beyond the call of duty. He is deeply dedicated to his work and patients; one who doesn't live by a time schedule, always being there when needed whether it be day or night.

Among his most outstanding qualities besides his medical knowledge and abilities, is a compassionate and understanding heart. He has time for those who society seems to overlook and exclude. His arms and heart reach out to include them touching their lives with love, and in the process start a healing within them that goes far beyond medicine. There's a simple smile for those who need comfort and an extended hand for those in need. His dedication has no end.

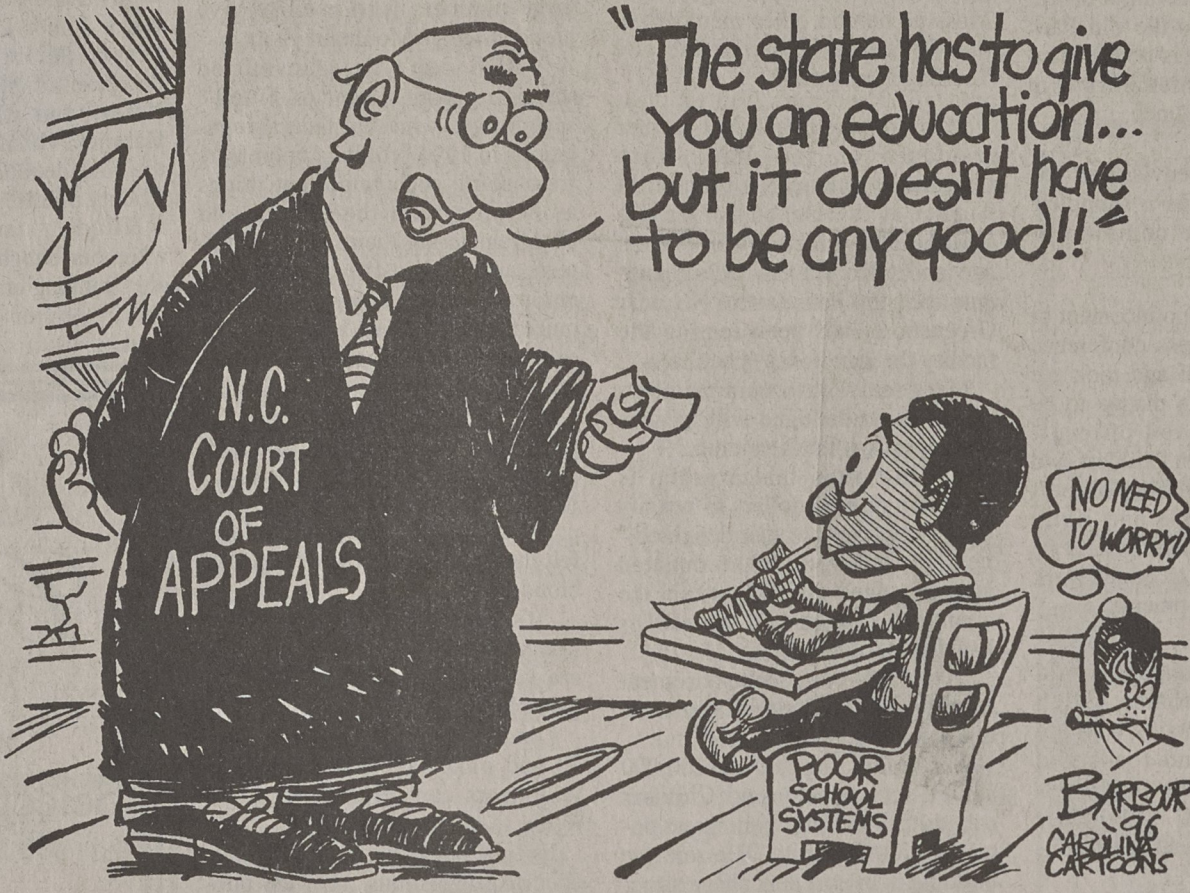
In our lives we meet many people. Some are forgotten; some remembered for awhile. Then there are those who will always hold a special place in our heart. The kind of person you will be thankful to God for allowing your paths to cross. Someone you will have no reason not to appreciate.

He is a man who loves God, his patients and his family.

Why do I appreciate my doctor? Dr. Everette B. Thombs, M.D. is all this and much more.

Ruth Navy

## Cartoonitorial



## Voters should elect commissioners

(Ed. Note - Rep. John Weatherly (R-Cleveland) introduced House Bill 827 to prohibit limited voting and extension of terms for county commissioners and it was co-signed by other Representatives including Jack Hunt and Debbie Clary of Cleveland County and referred to a study committee. Senator Dennis Davis (R Cleveland) introduced a companion bill in the Senate. During a short session of the General Assembly recently Weatherly made a presentation to the 14-member elections law reform study committee. The bill was referred to a four-member subcommittee for further study and the committee next meets April 3. Here are excerpts from Weatherly's presentation.)

Until last year the Board of County Commissioners was composed of five members elected at large. No black had ever been elected, in fact no Republican had been elected until 1988 and only the second Republican was elected in 1994. No Republican had been elected in the N. C. General Assembly from this county until 1988.

The minority party and others indicated district representation might be the better solution and in 1992 the board set up a study committee. Each commissioner appointed one member. Five members representing the black community were appointed by the NAACP. Facilitator was Ted Arrington. He composed several districts but no real consideration was given to any other arrangement than districts because the black population was dispersed over the county.

After six months the study committee voted unanimously to suggest five districts plus two at large and the plan was endorsed by all parties. County commissioners passed the plan 5-0.

Prior to the 1992 election three new commissioners were elected in 1991 and at first did not object. Then they realized two of them were in the same district. The board rescinded the previous action 3-2.

The NAACP brought suit and it was referred to Federal Judge Sporkin in Washington, DC. He devised a plan to have a seven member at-large board with two minority members. After much hassle over the selection, the minority members were appointed in 1995 which meant they were not subject to the 1996 election and would serve until 1998 when all seven seats would be up, not staggered terms, all seven could be new. There was no consideration given for continuity. Voters would be limited to four votes. If a satisfactory number of minority members were not elected or re-elected, in 2002 voters would have 3 votes.

Blacks served on Shelby City council a number of years and on the school board. First element of ap-

**GUEST COLUMN**

John Weatherly  
NC House of Representatives



pointment was not that objectionable but to go past the next election that is November 1996 was. Some thought limited voting illegal.

People were not involved in the process, a drastic change, and they feel disfranchised, a disregard of the principle of one man, one vote.

The black community has not expressed enthusiasm for the plan. The white population has been disturbed.

A citizens group called Cleveland County Association for Government by the People brought a counter suit based primarily on violation of Article 14 and Article 15 of the U. S. Constitution. When I make my formal presentation in the N. C. House an explanation will be made that essentially the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged.

The Sporkin consent decree was agreed on by the new county board by a vote of 3-2. Only one of the three new members who voted for it has now filed for reelection.

Based on the 1965 voting rights act the minority factor may be considered but not sole or the only factor. The court is expected to soon rule whether two Congressional districts drawn to improve the election chances of N. C. minorities violates the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

This appointive factor is objectionable but not so much that the appointment method was used to get the process started. Most unreasonable feature is that appointees will go past the election they should be subjected to. We have not researched the time limit for appointments not subject to election.

The two new commissioners represent me but I have had no part in their selection or non election. I might add both appointed members Mary Accor and Bobby Malloy are capable and doing a good job.

A counter suit was brought 13 months ago. A decision is expected anytime by District Judge Voorhees of Charlotte on whether the county board's consent agreement with the NAACP violates local voters Constitutional rights.

I will still carry forward with my proposal although I'm not advancing the bill on a fast track because so much depends on Judge Voorhees' ruling.

**JIM HEFFNER**

Columnist



## They're off and running

It appears the Republican Party is going to give us Robert Dull to run against Fuzzy Clinton. Throw in a possible candidacy by the Texas pipsqueak, Ross Perot, and what do you have?

I'll tell you what you have, the same thing you had in 1992, and that's a presidential election with nobody to vote for.

This country is in bad shape when we have national elections and all the candidates are the same, or nearly the same. I guess you'd have to say Perot is different. He's a human comedy that is happening now. That anyone could even think of voting for that arrogant loud-mouth is beyond me.

Put Bob Dull in jogging shorts with a hamburger in his hand and you have Bill Clinton. As old George Wallace used to say, there's not a dime's worth of difference between them. Fuzzy is a liberal and so is Dull. Oh, he claims to be a conservative, but I'll never believe it. He's just another George (RML) Bush.

Here's what's going to happen. The Texas terrier will siphon off enough votes from the Republicans to give President Fuzzy a second term. Remember where you heard it first, and if Dull gets elected forget I said anything about it.

**The Celestine Prophecy** - This book has been in the top ten on the bestseller list for about 110 weeks in succession. The author is John Redfield.

For several months I've wondered what the book was all about. Surely, I thought, it must be a wonderful book to remain a big seller for that long. Boy, was I ever disappointed.

I finally got a copy at the library last week and jumped right in. It is my habit to stop reading after the first 64 pages if the book doesn't catch my interest. I almost put this one down after page 64, but there was something which caught my attention.

I began to realize the book was trying to get across the same messages the new age people were talking about. I remembered seeing a piece on one of the TV magazine shows about the new age group that settled in a California town. They are given to hugging trees, seeing auras, becoming as one with the earth, as they say.

The book is written as a novel, and before a major publisher picked it up, it was a cult novel which was passed from hand to hand among college students.

The Celestine Prophecy gives you all the same messages you can get from many organizations such as the Sierra Club, which is save the rain forests, don't eat meat, talking to flowers and plants will make them grow stronger and healthier, everyone has an aura surrounding the body, and they are of different colors depending on your mood, astrology and sun signs.

The basic message from the book is the theory of evolution. Those who don't believe man evolved from animals will be irked by the book. The book is all about people chasing bits and pieces of an ancient manuscript which was uncovered in Peru. Some priests in the church try to suppress the manuscript and some try to make it public, thus the conflict necessary for any work of fiction.

I'm glad I read the Celestine Prophecy, but I wouldn't buy it. When I read a novel I do so for the entertainment value. I don't want to be preached to.

It's remarkable that a book like this one can sell as well as it has. I guess it doesn't take much to amuse some people.

## HERALD LETTER POLICY

The Kings Mountain Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. We ask that you use these guidelines.

Keep letters brief and to the point. Letters in excess of 600 words will not be published. Letters should be typed and double-spaced, if possible.

Letters may be edited for length, spelling, libelous and slanderous statements, good taste and may be refused for any reason.

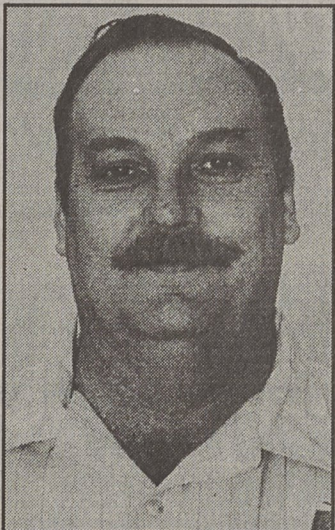
All letters must be signed in ink and must include the full name, address and telephone number of the writer. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Mail letters to Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

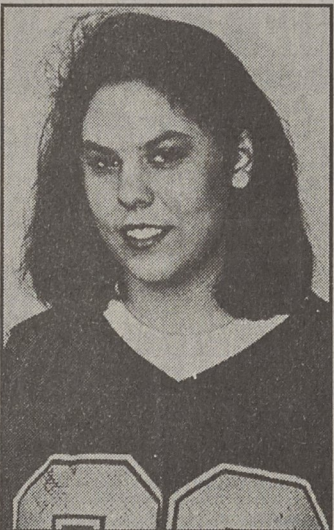
## SIDEWALK SURVEY

• By Lib Stewart

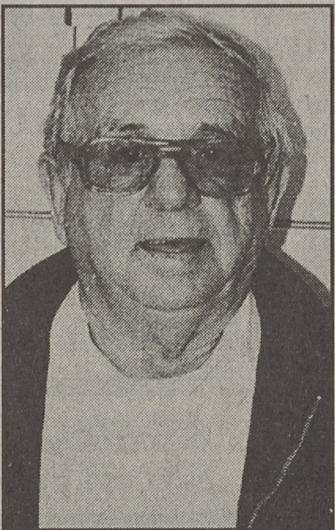
### Do you support Clinton or Dole for president?



**RAY BLACK**  
Bill Clinton. I don't think Bob Dole would change a thing if he got in the White House.



**CRYSTAL MOSS**  
Bob Dole. I like his stand on Affirmative Action and I support him.



**PAUL "BILL" ROBERTS**  
Bob Dole. He would bring more experience to the office of President.



**TAMMY ROBB**  
Bob Dole. Bill Clinton has just not been my favorite President.



**J. THAD MORGAN**  
It's time for a change. I support Bob Dole.

**Kings Mountain Herald**  
Established 1889  
Published Thursday at East King Street at Canterbury Road, Kings Mountain, North Carolina 28086.

USPS 931-040, by Republic Newspapers, Inc. 2nd Class postage paid in Kings Mountain

Dean Ridings ..... Publisher  
Darrell Austin ..... Operations Manager  
Aron R. Goss ..... Marketing Director  
Gary Stewart ..... Editor  
Elizabeth Stewart ..... News Editor  
Shirley Austin ..... Advertising Representative  
Mary Frances Eiters ..... Advertising Representative  
Sarah Griffin ..... Business Manager  
Debbie Welsh ..... Production Manager  
Julie Long ..... Graphic Artist

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Gaston & Cleveland Counties: 1 Year \$17.00; 6 Months \$10.00. Other NC Counties: 1 Year \$19.00; 6 Months \$11.00. Outside NC: 1 Year \$22.00; 6 Months \$12.50. (All Prices Add 6% NC State Sales Tax)

REPUBLIC NEWSPAPERS, INC.  
Member North Carolina Press Association  
Postmaster: Send Address Changes to:  
Kings Mountain Herald: P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086  
Back issues, one month or older, when available, are 70¢ per copy.