

Pursuit Of Priorities

Wake Forest University recently was host to a national seminar on the 200-year-old U.S. Constitution. Teachers, lawyers, legislators—sharp people every one—gave their views on this astounding instrument that is the bedrock of democracy, American-style.

Not surprisingly, much discussion turned on how much attention the "average American" pays to his Constitution. A Harvard professor of history viewed with alarm the citizenry's general ignorance of the document—its specifics, its line-item particulars. A teacher of political science at the University of California at Los Angeles accepted the ignorance, but dismissed the alarm.

"Who needs to know chapter and verse?" she asked. "We can look it up. That's why we have printed copies of the Constitution. What's why we have dictionaries. Americans know and value their Constitution in a broader, more meaningful way. They know what it means to them in terms of their lives, their rights and freedoms."

UCLA is right. Religion by rote is social discipline; education by rote is memory discipline. Learning is something else altogether. Learning inspires action and application.

So agree that the National Endowment for the Humanities has performed a public service with its recently-released survey of America's high schools. What are older heads to make of students' ignorance of geography, history and literature? Those heads will shake when they read that fully a third of the sampling of students not only don't know exactly when Columbus discovered America, they don't know it was prior to 1750.

American adults are being beaten about the head and shoulders with reminders that Japanese and West European students are ahead of ours in math and science. Kids in those places are disciplined, therefore they're motivated. That's what we've got to bring back, discipline. Spare the rod and spoil the student. All play and no work makes Jack a functional illiterate.

Do this before you assume American public education is down the toilet: Find out

what our students are thinking. Why are we taking a stand in the Persian Gulf? What about "double-zero" and other alternatives to war? Must Freon be banned with the other propellants to safeguard earth's atmosphere for their children's children? For every five high school juniors who can't name the continents there may be one whose pressing priorities regarding his place in today's world don't leave room for what he sees as trivial pursuit. He's the one to watch.

A Wife's Place

It's a safe bet Loyd Dillon and Lou Glatzman, the Charlotte team whose latest cartoon collaboration is on this page, read The Washington Monthly. You can rest just as assured The Washington Post does too.

Mrs. Dole, Salisbury's girl-made-good, is the monthly magazine's September cover girl. The cover story gives her A-plus for pluck and political resiliency—from LBJ Democrat to independent to Nixon conservative to whatever her husband is now—but it flunks her on performance as a member of the Reagan cabinet. The piece stresses what it sees as Mrs. Dole's failure to deal with DOT responsibilities: "Air travel stinks, auto safety is a joke—and Washington still loves Liddy Dole."

In the course of its discourse, the magazine worried that the DOT secretary figures less in DOT business and more in her husband's presidential plans. Late last week, The Washington Post pointed out she spent 21 days during August traveling in connection with Sen. Dole's campaign. She said all her extracurricular work was on nights and weekends after DOT hours.

With that kind of stamina, small wonder Liddy Hanford did so much and went so far, even before she added Dole to her name and to her schedule. Here's hoping she's able to catch a few invigorating winks on company time, perhaps while the staff goes over September's list of near misses blamed on control tower fatigue and overload. We wouldn't want her skirting her wifely duties. Behind every good man and all that.

The Danger Of Seeing Too Clearly

"America—love it or leave it." "Don't badmouth farmers with your mouth full."

Name it, and there's a bumper sticker to cover it. Here's the trouble with bumper-sticker mentality: on the surface it looks deep, but down deep it's shallow. It's myopic, it's simplistic, and, taken seriously by too many, it is downright dangerous.

Recently, The Providence Journal in Rhode Island offered America in microcosm in this editorial warning against the good guy-bad guy, no-shades-of-gray approach to problem solving.

Henry David Thoreau lived at Walden Pond in Concord, Mass., 140 years ago because he wanted to exist simply and be with nature. The summer visitors to the pond today come mostly to swim. But, if Walden Forever Wild has its way, that soon would end. Swim somewhere else, they say.

Swimming has become a symbol of the contention between people who appreciate Walden Pond for very different reasons. It has brought out the worst in both groups.

On one hand, there are people who are so self-righteous in their intense appreciation of the pond they feel they must tell others how to go about it. These people go up to the sunbathers and chide them for their very presence, however benign. On the other hand, there are the predictable slobs who leave litter, play loud radios and deport themselves in a boisterous manner.

The first group, represented by Walden Forever Wild, wants to change the status of the pond from state park to historical sanctuary, and ban swimming. The second group has no name, but has examples can be seen each sunny weekend in summer. But there is a third group, the majority of park goers, who are careful, considerate sunbathers, and they have the most to lose if swimming is banned.

What's so bad about swimming? For the Walden Forever Wild people, aesthetics seems to be their strongest argument. "People don't want to come from Europe and see Coney Island," they say. They also cite water pollution and bank erosion.

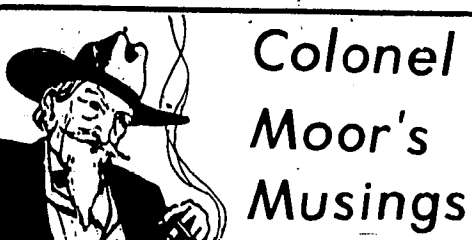
But why single out swimming? Walking on the banks also causes erosion. So does boating. The pollution argument doesn't hold up. The state Department of En-

vironmental Management tests the water quality every other week, and it hasn't changed since 1952.

The swimmers have a big argument in their favor. The deed to Walden Pond stipulates that the pond must be kept open for "bathing, boating fishing and picnicking." A 1960 state Supreme Judicial Court decision affirmed that bathing, boating, fishing and picnicking "may be encouraged ... so long as the physical aspect, character and appearance of the shores and woodland ... are not essentially changed."

The Walden Forever Wild group doesn't think the state has done a good job managing the resource. But the evidence to the contrary is strong.

On recent hot Sunday afternoon, litter was minimal. Rangers maintained a strong, but courteous presence. They gave walking tours and discussed the history of the pond, and seemed knowledgeable and anxious to impart their enthusiasm. The rangers don't let in unlimited numbers.



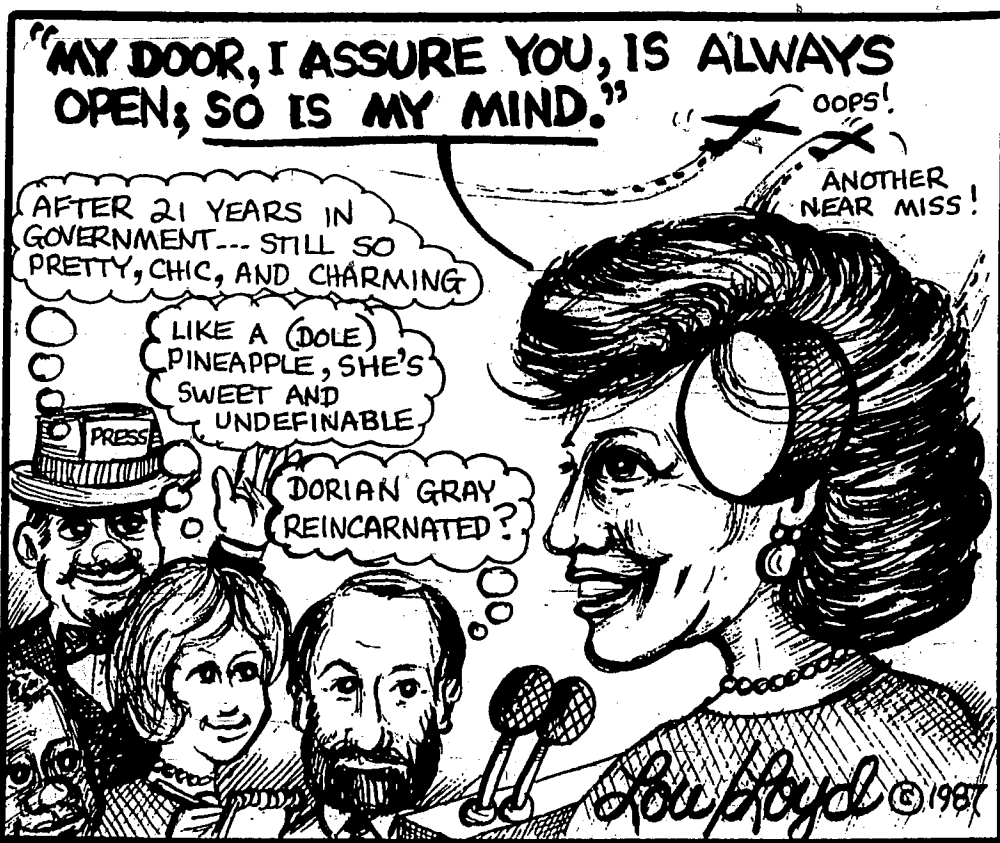
The Salisbury Post appears bent on giving everybody in Rowan County a persecution complex. Pity poor Rowan, the paper keeps saying, everybody's picking on us. Everybody else gets the elevator and we get the shaft.

Rowan commissioners certainly aren't helping, and they may be hurting. Worse, the Post pointed out some time back, they may be hurting by design. Why were commissioners conspicuous in their initial lack of protest over the disproportionate number of prospective sites identified in their county for the hazardous-waste disposal plant? Could it be, the paper pondered, they're cutting a deal that would solve their sanitary landfill problem in the bargain?

Then Rowan's all-Republican legislative delegation refused all helpings from the Democrats' pork barrel. Other counties got meat smothered in rich gravy; Rowan got zilch. "A nice statement of principle," the Post lamented, "but a costly protest."

Now the paper sees a demonic pattern: Rowan's table manners when the pork was passed pointed out the crass inequities of particular political wheels allocating grease. In so doing the county protest riled Democrats who are punishing the county by rigging the process used to select the hazardous-waste disposal plant. How else can it be, of the 100 counties, Rowan has six chances in 15 of getting the stinky end of the shaft?

Nobody knows the trouble Rowan may see. But somebody knows why.



LIDDY DOLE - OUR NEXT FIRST LADY?

From Where I Sit

By Johnny Morrow

The recent passing of Mrs. Erma Shinn, at age 94, was significant to us all, whether we realize it fully or not. She was a gracious lady who touched so many different people in ways too numerous to mention here. To those who did not know or know of her, she was just a statistic, another member gone from the ever-dwindling few born before the turn of the century. To her family, she was a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. To me, and thousands of others like me, Mrs. Shinn was a respected teacher and good friend. May she rest in peace.

When word of her death reached me, I instinctively thought first of her family. I hoped that they would be able to temper their grief of the moment with joy of a future day. I hoped that they would be able to justify their sorrow by realizing Mrs. Shinn's ultimate happiness and eternal reward. After years of declining health, she was finally set free of the surly bonds of this imperfect world. It is difficult to accept, I know, but sometimes death should be viewed not as a cruel end, but as a merciful beginning. Her family can take consolation in the fact that she is in a far better place now, looking down at them, a warm smile on her glowing face. All is well, literally and figuratively.

I prefer to remember Mrs. Shinn as I knew her best. And that was during the 1957-58 school year at Shepherd Elementary, when I was promoted to her second grade class. She was tall, wore red lipstick, had the whitest hair I'd ever seen and seemed to always have a sweater on or draped over her shoulders. She had a subdued elegance and a stately manner, but never balanced her dignity on the tip of her nose. I used to wave when she drove by. She always tilted her head slightly to the left, nodded and displayed just the crack of a smile, all without taking her eyes off the road.

In class, she was strict but fair. Mrs. Shinn taught us to be young ladies and young gentlemen. She demanded that we be orderly, whether it was hanging our coats in the closet, placing our baseball gloves on the shelf or arranging the books in our desks. There was a place for everything, and she wanted everything in its place. She was dedicated to the basic elementary studies and the fundamentals of an education. But she went beyond the three R's. Instead of English, we were taught "language skills." Our text books were used more as supplements than the bases for learning. Reading was especially stressed. Mrs. Shinn's classroom was a world geared to second graders.

Every Monday was "lunch money" day. We marched one row at a time to Mrs. Shinn's desk, plunked down \$1.25 for a week's meals, then waited for her to check our names off in the roll book. Once that was done, she allowed us to talk quietly among ourselves. Eventually, an eighth grader would come to our room and pick up the lunch report, so the ladies in the cafeteria would know how much to cook. I made the mistake of getting rowdy one Monday morning. Mrs. Shinn sternly ordered me to get under her desk. I sat there, red-faced, the object of my classmates' ridicule, until all the money had been collected and the lunch report filled out. I never cut up in her class again.

While scrunched under her desk, I got more than a lesson in discipline. I was a firsthand witness to compassion. A couple of students whispered to Mrs. Shinn that their parents didn't have the money to spare. She said it was all right, for them to go on to lunch with everybody else. She paid for their meals. I had the feeling that such occurrences were routine, but she never mentioned them. That would only cause embarrassment. It was comforting to know then and perhaps even

more so now 'that no child ever went hungry in Mrs. Shinn's class.

Mrs. Shinn had a sure way of getting my attention. She called my best friend in ways too numerous to mention here. To those who did not know or know of her, she was just a statistic, another member gone from the ever-dwindling few born before the turn of the century. To her family, she was a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. To me, and thousands of others like me, Mrs. Shinn was a respected teacher and good friend. May she rest in peace.

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OUR COMMUNITY IN OTHER YEARS 1950 37 YEARS AGO

Bobby Gabriel, a first-year student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spent the past week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gabriel, at their home on East Ireddell avenue. Miss Nona Wallace, of Asheville, spent the week end with her brother, Mr. T.T. Wallace, and Mrs. Wallace. Mr. and Mrs. Asa McNeely and Miss Alice McNeely spent Sunday in Chapel Hill with Mrs. McNeely's brother, Milner Watson, who is a student at the University of North Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pruitt, of Charlotte, spent last Sunday with the former's sister, Mrs. S.D. Boyd, and Mr. Boyd at their home on East Center avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. John Freeze and son, Wayne, and Mrs. W.H. Malcolm spent Sunday in Hickory where they visited Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Vanzant and Mrs. C.A. Freeze.

Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Cathey and daughter, Judy, of Thompsonville, Conn., were weekend guests in the home of the former's mother, Mrs. Lester Cathey, of North Broad street. The visitors were enroute to St. Petersburg, Fla., where they plan to spend several months.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Combs and children visited Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morrow at the Methodist Home in Charlotte last Sunday afternoon. Mr. Morrow is reported to be in serious condition. The Morrrows are former residents of Mooresville.

Buddy Teague, a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spent the past week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. T.O. Teague, Jr.

Train car-load upon train car-load of 30-inch wrought iron pipe for Transcontinental's Texas-to-New York gas line is arriving in Mooresville daily, according to Mr. R.H. Baker, Sr., agent at the Southern Railway depot here.

Mr. Baker said that 68 car-loads have already been placed on the sidetrack at the depot and on the siding south of town. He said that he understood that some 600 car-loads would be shipped to Mooresville, with about 60 car-loads arriving weekly.

Of the 68 car-loads already here, each gondola car holds 14 pipes, while each flat car bears 15 pipes.

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Toward new health standards
To those of you who've slipped off the President's Fitness Chart in recent years, "Join the club!" It's important to re-establish your standards, however, for health's sake.
To promote long-term health, the simplest advice is to be regularly active, every day. Not through intense programs of strenuous exercise, but through moderate periods of walking, golfing, swimming, or gardening. Engage in exercise you can live with!
Additionally, your Pharmacy can provide you with a dietary balance, and a trim waistline, so that you will be robust, healthy, and fit.

SPORT SIDE

Drama, Emotions High In Opener

Touching All The Bases: All things considered, it just couldn't have been much better.

It, in this case, is last Friday night's home and seasonal debut for Mooresville Senior High's football Blue Devils, who triumphed in dramatic fashion by a 10-3 count in overtime to kick off not only their 1987 campaign but also the series between first-time opponent Mount Pleasant.

If you only attend one high school football game a year, and heaven forbid that you do, then it should be a season opener. And that opener should have all the characteristics that were present in Friday night's affair.

There was high drama, as the questing Tigers, who had already pulled off a couple of questionable plays, drilled a 32-yard, fourth-down field goal with only 17 precious ticks of regulation play remaining to tie the game at three apiece.

Prior to the game, and for whatever reason, the subject of a tie game was brought up by the coaching staffs of both teams. It was agreed upon in that pre-game meeting that, should the game be knotted at the end of regulation play, they would settle the issue by following the regular extra-session routine.

This called for another flip of the coin to determine possession. That team would start at the 10-yard line and possess the game in which to score. The other team would then have the same. If one team scored, and the other didn't, the game was over. If both teams scored, they would follow the routine again until only one of them did. Ditto if neither scored.

Mooresville earned the overtime's first possession, and, on the first play, completely shocked their guests as workhorse Tommy Blakeney, perhaps with no more energy to run after nearly 30 carries, lofted a halfback pass to class and teammate Tod Alexander in the Mt. Pleasant endzone for the game's first and only touchdown. Point after became crucial in OT sessions, and Frank Matthews, a half-converted soccer player, booted a perfect one to provide the seven-point margin.

The Tigers, who during regulation once went for, and were denied, first down on a fourth down play with around eight minutes to play and then near the 2:00 mark decided to punt after reaching deeper inside Blue Devil territory and having less yardage to cover in order to gain a first, never recovered. All four of their plays were halted, allowing the hosts a delayed celebration of the conquest.

It was an emotional scene, not only for the players and coaches directly involved but for Devil football fans in general.

Though we'd like to forget, we all remember last year. It took our crew five weeks to register win number one, and victory number two came three weeks later. Triumph number three never showed.

A number of key players on this year's team went through that frustrating season. Earning the season's first favorable decision in the very first try is bound to serve as springboard towards building confidence.

The fans were just as supportive. Steve Young,

Congratulations
Phil Campbell
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We congratulate Phil on achieving Salesman of the Month for August. Phil thanks the many customers who helped him win this award by choosing to purchase their new vehicle at T&S Cadillac-Olds. Phil welcomes you to call on him or one of the other sales professionals at T&S when selecting your next vehicle.
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Six Home Games To Help FAC Pad 7-5 Non-Conference Football Mark

If home is where the heart is, then the Football Athletic Conference's blood will pump vibrantly this weekend.

That is the case as six of the seven FAC members scheduled to take care of high school football business come Friday night will be doing so in front of the home fans.

The 3A circuit is coming off a successful weekend that saw it collect victories in five of seven outings, as all league members were winners in their season-opener's previous week.

The list of victorious teams included a pair, in North Ireddell and Wilkes Central, whose Vikings were one of two FAC members idle on the season's opening night.

Three more circuit members collected their initial wins of the '87 campaign, two of them, in Forbush and South Ireddell, making an extra week of preparation work to their advantage as they each conquered their respective opposition in the season's first attempt. The third, North Surry, followed a defeat in its opener the previous weekend with a victory Friday.

As for the league's other two members, in West Ireddell and Statesville, they each suffered second straight losses, providing rough beginnings for the clubs that finished first and second, respectively, in last year's final FAC standings.

With once again all seven clubs scheduled to battle non-conference enemies this weekend, the FAC carries a 7-5 overall showing into this third full weekend of the prep campaign.

Only one of this week's FAC teams will be doing its battle on the road, Forbush, home for a second straight win by visiting Mt. Airy.

Elsewhere around the league, it's a virtual homecoming week, as North Ireddell entertains East Lincoln, North Surry hosts South States, South Ireddell rolls out the red carpet for West Rowan, West Ireddell welcomes in Hixbrite, Wilkes Central faces incoming South Caldwell, and Statesville sees the home field advantage against Davis County.

Of last week's victors, the one securing the largest winning margin was South Ireddell, whose Vikings were one of two FAC members idle on the season's opening night.

The Vikings combined a stiff defensive stand with a stout offensive attack to throw a 13-0 shutout at host Charlotte Country Day. The win extended to five straight South's string of non-conference wins dating back to its '83 season enjoyed a year ago.

Also emerging victorious its first time out was Forbush, whose visiting Falcons were involved in a baseball score-line battle with West Wilkes. Forbush prevailed by a 3-1 tally to successfully kick off its season.

North Ireddell hiked its mark to 2-0, tying it as one of the league's top performers to date, with a 14-7 downing of visiting Davis County. The Raiders join Wilkes Central as the only FAC teams with a pair of wins.

As for those Eagles of Wilkes Central, they are able to join North Ireddell atop the current league standings as a result of their 10-4 campaign.

edging of home-standing Alexander Central. The Eagles, the FAC's cellar-dwellers' last year, are already within of matching last year's total of victories.

North Surry, a two-point loser to Winston-Salem Carver in its opener on the road, pleased the home crowd Friday by toppling cross-country rival East Surry, 13-4. The victory, coming in the home opener, evened the Greyhounds mark at 1-1.

West Ireddell, which rummaged unsubstantiated through regular-season play last season, tasted life on the other side for a second straight week, the most recent one the result of a 22-13 loss suffered at Statesville. The loss dropped the Warriors to 0-3, giving them more losses this season than rendered in all of '86.

Another team traditionally unaccustomed to losing was dealt a second straight one Friday, as Kannapolis Brown delivered a 14-0 beating on visiting Statesville. As a result, the Greyhounds fell to 0-2, already accounting for the first shutout suffered by an FAC team this season.

All league members will be in action both this week and the next before conference play cranks up in earnest. All Friday's contests carry 8 p.m. starting times.

THIS WEEK'S FAC GAMES
FORBUSH at MT. AIRY
East Lincoln at NORTH IREDELL
South States at NORTH SURRY
West Rowan at SOUTH IREDELL
Hixbrite at WEST IREDELL
South Caldwell at WILKES CENTRAL
DAVIS COUNTY at STATESVILLE

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