No acceptable excuse

By the time you read this you will know what county commissioners did and did not do Tuesday afternoon about investing your money into education.

Barring a 180-degree turn, the five elected people who represent your county-government interests will not do the one thing they must do to keep faith with all who advocated merger of the Statesville and county school systems. At this Monday-morning juncture, all evidence suggests the board has sacrificed a school supplementary tax on the altar of political expediency.

If county commissioners do not put in place a tax to be levied exclusively in the new consolidated school system and used exclusively to raise the level of educational services within that district they will betray every citizen — most specifically every school child — within that district. Even those citizens who objected then and object now to the merger in principle and practice will have been cheated.

No excuse from county commissioners is necessary because none is acceptable. They have the power to do what they know must be done, but they lack the courage of their convictions. There can be no reason so compelling they shouldn't do what everyone who fought for and against consolidation expected them to do.

Everyone recognizes that a school district supplementary tax is the only way to ensure the new district's stability. Without local monies paid by and used by this district the local-funding inequity that has plagued this county for generations will remain. A major — if, indeed, not *the* major force that drove the merger effort through its years of wrangling was additional local funds for rural Iredell school children. Thousands of Iredell citizens supported consolidation for no other reason.

Now, worst-case scenario: Statesville schools will lose $1 million in supplementary funds, rural Iredell schools still will not have supplementary funds and Mooresville schools will continue levying a supplementary tax. The inequity will be compounded.

Without the additional monies, the consolidated system will be strapped, and the Mooresville system, whose expenditures for self-aggrandizement are limited only by the imaginations of its promoters, will continue every effort to be more inviting to families in South Iredell who live outside the Mooresville school district. Mooresville will continue using every legal, social and political means at its disposal to expand its enrollment, its district and its influence.

Without its own supplementary tax, the two-system consolidation strikes out before it goes to bat. It will have been denied the one and only way to level the playing field.

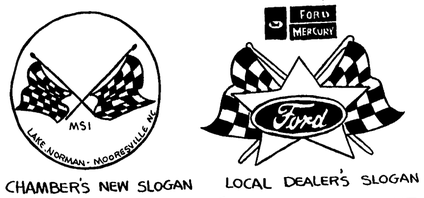
Of course some of the people on the joint Statesville/Iredell County school board were elected on precisely that platform. Of course they will be pleased to see the new system hamstrung in the starting blocks. Of course they have done what they could to prevent commissioners from levying the supplementary tax.

Of course four-year superintendents' contracts awarded by the Statesville and county school boards two years ago were dumb and expensive. But school children of the merged district should not be punished for those mistakes.

Bottom line: County government — including the current administration — is on record through Democratic and Republican control as favoring county-wide consolidaiton. By denying the two merged systems funding equity, the present board will ensure the indefinite financially-healthy sovereignty of the third. The gap between the haves and have-nots can only grow wider.

SHADES OF JOE BIDEN!

(PLAGIARISM HITS SMALL TOWN)



CHAMBER'S NEW SLOGAN
"WINNING YOU OVER"

LOCAL DEALER'S SLOGAN
"WINNING YOU OVER"

Uncle Dan from Doolie says

Selling is name of the game

One of the magazines run a story recent where a resterant in Denver is doing big business with a new twist on a old idee. It does more than look after children while parents eat in peace, it has a separate place fer kids to eat. While Ma and Pa dine by candlelight and soft music, the children are off to theirselves with burgers, chips, splashing ketchup and TV games.

Bug Hookum reported on this place during the session at the country store Saturday night, and he went on to say he hopes it don't go the way of Pizza Time Theater that tried to entertain and feed the hole family together. Pizza Time learned quick that if Ma wants that she can set the food in front of the TV and lock herself in the bathroom.

General speaking, Bug said, family togetherness is wonderful, but somepun can be said fer absense making the heart fonder. Fer sure, he went on, other folks eating at that Denver resterant are glad the little dickens are out of their sight and sound. Bug said a big night out fer him and his old lady usual is family supper at the church, when you expect the children and actual enjoy most of em, but when they go fer a store bought supper they don't want to git caught up in a food fight or a yelling contest.

What Bug's report tells us, Zeke Grubb allowed, is that this still is the land of opportunity, what of it ain't under second morgage or sold to other countries. Where else can a high school boy start a $4 million a year business shopping fer other people, Zeke wanted to know. He had saw where this feller began by picking out gifts fer wives and customers of men to busy to leave the office, and now he has set up shopping training centers and branched out. A phone call to him will git a shopper picking out the best cuts of meat, using all the coupons fer discounts and taking the week's groceries to somebody to rich or to lazy to git out of the house.

Religion offers the greenest pastures fer start-up businesses, but education runs a clost second and fer many of the same reasons. — Zeke Grubb

By all accounts, went on Zeke, religion offers the greenest pastures fer start up businesses, but education runs a clost second and fer many of the same reasons. Folks make up their minds about both and keep looking fer others that agree with em. The trick to gitting ahead in both fields is marketing, Zeke said, and there's no limit to how are you can go if you're good at it.

Fer instant, he had saw where Christopher Whittle is planning to open schools all over the country that offer kindergarden through high school. Zeke sees this as a way to serve the market that is unhappy with public schools and the market that ain't finding what they want in church schools after pulling their kids out of public schools. Whittle, that has a big advertising business in Knoxville, says he can make a profit selling better education at less cost than the public schools.

There's a good chanct, Clem Webster allowed, that Whittle is right. From what he sees, Clem said, private does a better job than public, which explains why more public services are going private. The more a bureaucracy grows the less it does, Clem said, until it's all grow and no do. And it can't keep using the excuse that private just skims off the cream and make what's left a even heavier public burden.

Southerners see themselves

One on one
By D.G. Martin

"In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

These were the closing words of a prayer before the beginning of a meal at a small dinner for a group of high-level civic leaders. Different religious groups, including Judaism, were represented.

Nobody indicated he was surprised or offended.

Later, the mistress of ceremonies, a very liberal Democrat, reached back into history to make a point by referring to the humiliating terms of surrender imposed on the South by General Grant at the end of the Civil War.

Both races, blacks and whites, were well represented. The entire group understood the point she was making, and nobody hinted that he thought she was out of line.

Could this have happened anyplace other than the South? Not according to new book called *The South for New Southerners*, edited by Paul Escott and David Goldfield, and published by the UNC Press.

The editors assembled the book as a guide for people who have just moved into our region. It is a book to help these new folks understand us.

We are different. No other region in the country holds so fast to a tradition of protestant Christianity that was, until recently, almost a monopoly in the South. Why was the South so different from the rest of the country that has been so religiously diverse?

Easy answer from the book: In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the rest of the country was accepting waves of religiously and ethnically diverse immigrants. But few came South to live.

Why didn't they come South? Another easy answer from the new book: The South was too poor. There was no opportunity, no work, to draw them here. Our legacy of past and present poverty, as well as our religious traditions, set us apart, according to the authors.

Of course, constant references to the Civil War by white southerners are hard for non-southerners to understand. Why hold so tight to the memory of a war fought so long ago — and lost so decisively?

No easy answer from the book.

Civil rights battles of the 50s, 60s and 70s freed all the South's people. Thus, these struggles are now as much a part of the white southerner's heritage as the Civil War. The same white person who talks about the heroism of General Lee in one breath will praise the heroism of Martin Luther King in the next breath.

Only in the South. Only us.

Even though it was written for new southerners, you might want to take a look at *The South for New Southerners* to help understand how unusual our wonderful homeland is, and to help see why others think we're so different.

Mooresville Tribune

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Marrying for (welfare) money

Marrying for money rather than love has always been a risky undertaking. Yet that is what Gov. Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin would have teenage parents do as part of a proposed welfare experiment in his state. The controversial plan would reward teenage mothers who marry and penalize those who remain single.

Welfare recipients in Wisconsin currently receive $440 a month for one child and $80 a month for each additional child. The new plan would cap payments to unwed mothers at $440 a month, no matter how many children they have. By contrast, married couples with children would receive another $80 a month for each additional child. Parents would also be allowed to earn up to $14,500 without decreasing their welfare benefits. In addition, recipients would be required to finish high school or receive job training.

Communicating With Your Government Representatives

			Office	Home
Town	Manager	Rick McLean	663-3800	664-7735
	Mayor	Joe Knox	663-0426	664-1051
	Ward I Commissioner	Grady Shoe	664-1300	664-1365
	Ward II Commissioner	David Tompkins		663-7572
	Ward III Commissioner	Darrell Wilson	664-3617	664-2069
	Ward IV Commissioner	Gene Brannon	664-1772	663-0248
	At-Large Commissioner	Richard Nantz	664-5806	664-3027
	At-Large Commissioner	Robert Randall	663-3221	664-1921
County	Manager	Joel Mashburn	663-1616	
	Commissioner Chairman	R.B. Sloan Jr.	873-5241	872-8664
	Commissioner Vice Chairman	Alice Stewart	585-6644	
	Commissioners	Sara Haire	663-1777	896-0715
		Doug Madison	873-0521	873-9887
		Frank Mitchell	876-0133	876-4327
State	26th District Sen.	Howard Bryan 1420 Mt. Vernon Ave. Statesville, NC 28677	919-733-5783	872-9000
	43rd District Rep.	Robert Brawley Route 5, Box 96 Mooresville, NC 28115	919-733-5931	663-2635
Federal	9th District Rep.	Alex McMillan 507 Cannon Building Washington, DC 20515	202-225-1976	663-1976
	Senator	Terry Sanford 716 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	202-224-3154	
	Senator	Jesse Helms 402 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510	202-224-6342	

OUR COMMUNITY

IN OTHER YEARS

1959

A stubborn fire gutted the C. and H. Grand 5 and 10 Cent Store, formerly known as the Gem 5 and 10, in the town's main business district around midnight Tuesday night. The loss has been unofficially estimated at $63,000.

The large two-story, brick building was located on South Main street.

Three fire departments fought the conflagration — Mooresville, Statesville, and Troutman.

The fire was discovered at 10:50 p.m. by night policemen Richard (Dick) Perkins and Frank Upright, while they were making their rounds.

Members of the Mooresville Volunteer Fire Department answered the call immediately. Statesville and Troutman fire departments sent men and equipment to the scene.

Charles A. Troutman, Jr., chief of the Mooresville Fire Department, was quoted as saying the fire apparently started from defective wiring, on the second floor of the two-story structure.

The 40 by 100-foot building was owned by Hugh L. Sloop,

1916

Honor Roll Mooresville Graded Schools, Month Ending March 10:

First Grade — Virginia Melchor, Margaret Melchor, Kate Brawley, Gladys Grubb, Ethel P. Plummer, Oleen Young, Parker Norman, Hazel Cook, James Moore, James Miller, Francis Mayhew, Merlyn Baker, Nettie Morrow, Annie May Vanderford, Frank Brown, Carl Lackey, Louis Perry, Ray Howard, Harry Brown, Fred Campbell, Floyd Smith, May Honeycutt, Sadie Troutman, Sadie Pless, Neta Mayhew.

Second Grade — John Boyd, Lillian Harwell, Harry Honeycutt, Charles Kirkpatrick, Alva Miller, Daisy Moore, Kenneth Neill, Naomi St. Clair, Katherine Atwell, Margaret Cook, Ruth Evans, Fay Earnhardt, Erlean Grubb, Mary B. McLean, Maude Murdock, Margaret Lothery, Nancy McNeely, Ernest Christenbury, Samuel Douglas, Murray Evans, Karl Poston, Frank Clark, John White, Carl Freeze, Floreen Howard, Lillian Colson, Ethel Pless.

Third Grade — Gladys Honeycutt, Bessie Fox, Lorene Poston, Evelyn Cornelius, Rebecca Kirkpatrick, Mable Murdock, Annie Sloop, Phyllis Rogers, Lorene Kerr, Louis Rose, Ada Mae White, Eva Brantley, Alvin Moore, J.D. Rodgers, Smith Little, Edward Kipka, Cecil Brown, Kenneth Baker, Hal Johnston, Young Brown, Worth Campbell, Leo Rimmer, Fred Hudson, William Harrington, Katie Moose, Louise Sharpe, Sadie Ree McCoy, Elfrieda Gouger, Margaret McConnell, Lucile Troutman.

Fourth Grade — Florence Beam, Margaret Boyd, Virginia Boyd, Edna Deaton, Harold Deaton, Lillian Earnhardt, Council Fox, Naomi Hartness, Ruth Jones, Beatrice Mayhew, Gracie Morrow, Helen Brown, Ellen Louise Brantley, Myrtle Nanney, Annie Ruth Ratledge, Neta White.

Fifth Grade — Ora Brantley, Mary McNeely, Mary Moore Deaton, Donald Abernethy, Wilson Moore, Mary Eva Young, Hope Brown, Elsie Cranford, Stuart Horton, Parks Hudson.

—Sixth Grade — Lucy McNeely, Cora Freeze, Alma Culp, Vita Rodgers, Everette Cloaninger, Carroll Beaty, Charles Moore, Henry Hudson, Lewis Brantley, Frank Moore, Gibbon Moores.

Seventh Grade — Catherine Deaton, Margaret Smith, Emma White, Mary H. Turlington, Aubrey Shackell, Lieuvena Goodman, Cornelia Cathey, Julia Melchor, Edward Murdock, Louis Brown.

Eighth Grade — Ruth Lentz, Rena Westmoreland, Grace Kipka, Madge Deaton, Grace Evans, Gertrude McNeely, Julia McNeely, Edith Hudson, Fred Smith.

Tenth Grade — Annie Lardner Moore, Mary Cornelius, Clara Young.

Eleventh Grade — Mildred Jones.

LAKE NORMAN AREA TV PREVIEW featuring Cable

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KEITH CARRADINE: MULTI-MEDIA PERSONALITY

by Seli Groves

If you get to Broadway this year, you can see the Tony-nominated Keith Carradine starring in the multi-Tony-nominated musical, "The Will Rogers Follies." If you can't get to New York, you can go to a movie theater showing the sure-to-be Oscar-honored film, "The Ballad of the Sad Cafe," in which Keith costarred with Vanessa Redgrave. And if you can't do either — or even if you can — there's still one more place to see Carradine in action, especially when the Showtime movie, "Payoff," premieres.

Besides the recently released "Cafe," and the upcoming Goldie Hawn production, "Criss Cross," in which he has an important cameo role, Carradine's film resume lists such classic cinema flicks as the two Robert Altman movies, "Nashville," (Keith won an Oscar for the song, "I'm Easy," which he wrote and sang in the film) and "Thieves Like Us," "The Duellists," and "The Long Riders."

And now, there's "Payoff" which, he admits, is not quite like most of the movies he's done.

"That's one of the reasons I wanted to do it," Carradine said. "I'd never done a straight action-revenge genre picture, and this one appealed to me. Also, the director, Stuart Cooper, had done some interesting films, and he got excited me what I would project me to do it. I suggested some changes which I felt would make it work, and he was very open to those suggestions, as were the writers. And then we all sat down with the producers, and talked about our plans for the picture, and everyone agreed we had something of value here. I realized I couldn't pass up a chance to be part of it."

The movie is based on a book by Ron Owen, a former craps dealer at Harvey's Casino in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The story involves a man named Pete "Mac" McAllister (Keith's role) who sets out to avenge his parents who were killed by a bomb which he, as a youngster, was duped into delivering.

"He grows up believing that he was responsible for their deaths," Carradine said. "And it's always been emotionally, he knows he was literally used by the killers. But emotionally, he feels that if he hadn't delivered the package they gave him, his parents would not have been murdered.

"He's a man whose life is in a shambles because of the history he has to deal with, and what I tried to do with Pete is create this sense of imminent disaster so that when you meet him, you see that he's one step away from the skids. When he realizes he has a chance to get back on the right track, he's first real reason to get himself straight, to focus on something, and take care of business. He's not so much concerned with getting rid of the bad guys who may be a threat to society; what drives him is the need to avenge his parents' deaths. In pursuing this end, he's finally able to make an emotional connection with a human being — a woman who has become very important to him, so one can hope that there may be something left for this man after all."

As for the title, "Payoff," Carradine saw "several levels of meaning ... There is the potential for financial payoff in terms of what he's doing to get his revenge. There is the emotional payoff of succeeding at righting, or at least, evening a wrong. Regardless of how you may feel about that personally, it can be an important factor in Pete's life. And then there's the reward of having decided to keep on living. That's the hoping for that opportunity for a long time."

KEITH CARRADINE

Speaking of payoffs, part of Pete's plan involved getting a job in the casino. The script called for Keith to bet — and lose — $5,000 on a spin of the roulette wheel. At the third take, he put his chips on number 18. The wheel spun, the ball clacked, and finally came to rest in number 18! Keith could tell the odds were 35-1. If he bet were for real, I would have walked away with $175,000!"

Playing the legendary Will Rogers, who was one of the great entertainers, wits, and philosophers of the 1920s and early '30s (he died in a plane crash in 1935) and who dispensed his humorous commentary on politics and everything else while twirling a rope, was a challenge for the brilliant young actor.

"I knew I couldn't do a Will Rogers imitation," Carradine said. "And it would have been foolish to try, so I didn't. I'm sure there are plenty of people who could have done a really good impression of Will Rogers. What I had to do was use what I have to make the character real for the audience. As for the rope twirling, I had to learn how to do that, and I'm still learning.

In "Ballad of the Sad Cafe," based on the novel by Carson McCullers, Carradine plays the ex con member of a band of Vanessa Redgrave. The film is directed by Carradine's brother, Ian, who carries him, and promptly throws him out. He returns to find himself in a surrealistic situation: Her cousin has come to live with her, and he, in turn, develops a dog-like adoration on her newfound relative, who, in his newfound brother-in-law.

"It's different from much of what I've done, no doubt about that," Keith said. "But it's a wonderful film, and one of the chance to work with Vanessa Redgrave; I'd been with each other anymore."

There are five Carradine brothers, all sons of the late, great actor John Carradine. "But there are really eight 'boys'," Keith explained. "The five Carradines, two Grimsaws, and a Bowen. We're all variously interconnected."

Keith laughed when it was suggested that he might consider starting his own stock company with all his talented kin.

"Well, maybe we will," he said. "My wife and I have a home in Telluride, Colorado (that's the town in which Butch Cassidy pulled his first bank heist), and we've become involved in restoring the Sheridan Opera House, a wonderful turn-of-the-century little gem of a theater with 240 seats, and we plan to create some vital communities. I hope a lot of these towns come out to see us."

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Entertainment Extra by Evelyn

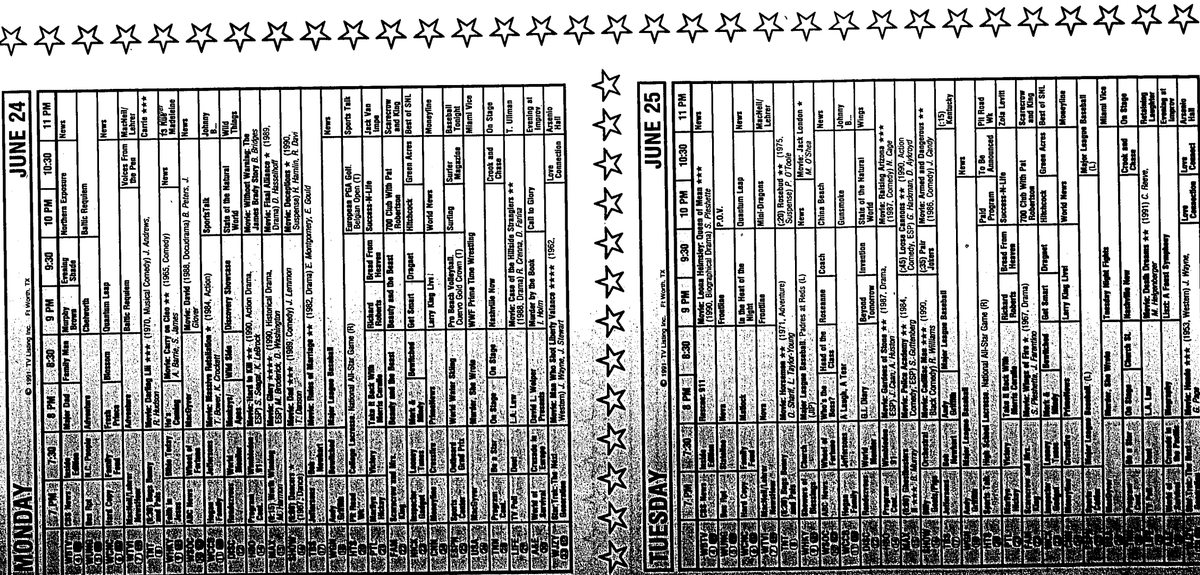
Q. Could you please tell me if James Earl Jones' show "Gabriel's Fire," will be returning to the airwaves next fall? Cedric T.

A. No. However, James Earl Jones will be returning to ABC on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. EST in a new revamped series called "Bird and Kat." The series costars Richard Crenna and it is about two men who start their lives over as private investigators.

Q. I am a very big fan of Patrick Duffy, who starred as Bobby Ewing on "Dallas." Could you please tell me what Mr. Duffy will be doing in the future now that "Dallas" has been cancelled? Francis M.

A. Next fall, Patrick Duffy teams up with Suzanne Somers in a new series for ABC that will be seen on Friday nights at 8:30 p.m. EST. The show is titled "Step by Step" and stars Duffy as a divorced father and Somers as a widowed mother.

Q. I recently bought a box of old movie star photos in an auction of unclaimed storage goods, and I'm having a great time looking at all these stars when they were young. One photo shows Errol Flynn in a movie scene. He was wearing what looks like a Civil War general's uniform. Unfortunately, the caption for the picture is missing, and I don't know what movie this is from. The only clue I have is that some of the other pictures come from movies I've seen on television and they were all first released in the 1940s. Have you any idea what movie this may have come from? Mary G.

A. Without having seen the photo, but assuming that it's probably from the 1940s, I'd guess the scene is from Flynn's 1941 flick, "They Died With Their Boots On." This was a version of the story of General George Custer and the famous last stand at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Custer died in the attack against the advice of military experts and died, along with thousands of U.S. soldiers and Sioux Indians.

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