

Mooresville Tribune

"Although I Disagree With Everything You Say I Will Defend Unto Death Your Right To Say It"

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Len Sullivan's

Shucks

D.G. at the will-call?

You know D.G. Martin's late dad, Grier, was president of Davidson College. You know D.G. is a product of Davidson — the town and the school. You know he's a lawyer, a most articulate, moxie fellow, friendly as a bluetick hound and a former candidate for our congressional seat. You know he moved his family to Chapel Hill a few years ago, where he is secretary to the University of North Carolina.

And, of course, you read D.G.'s stuff regularly on the editorial page of Ye Olde Tribune. You read his clarion call to Tar Heel Democrats right there last week. So, I ask you:

Is this guy registered for the draft or what? Is he close by the will-call window?

I read a tentative offer into his concern about the state of the state Democratic Party: "Is every Democrat just waiting for the candidates to self-select themselves? Is anybody thinking about what kind of team can win? Is anybody ready to wake up?"

I saw an offer because I wanted to. True-blue Democrat D.G. Martin would be a most attractive candidate for statewide office. He has a talent for establishing an immediate rapport with anybody. He's as politically acute as anyone I know in or out of elective office.

There is this: D.G. has the best job in North Carolina, and he knows it. Still, he's the guy crying in the Democratic briars and brambles: "Now is the time for all good Democrats to come to the aid of their party."

Certainly he should be given the opportunity to say why he won't. The North Carolina Democratic Party ought to leave a couple of court-side tickets for him at the will-call.

Rx: shared burden

It's Tuesday noon where I am. In all probability, Iredell County commissioners tonight will approve the Lowrance Hospital Trust Fund Committee's recommendation to fund the two projects remaining of the seven-project first phase. That will round out allocation of the first \$1 million of proceeds from the sale of Lowrance Hospital.

The second phase is one project: a public service for South Iredell that South Iredell never would be able to afford otherwise. This has taken the form of a multi-purpose building that would concentrate on facilities for the elderly and would contain other amenities.

The hangup: financially-strapped municipal government is looking hard into this gift horse's mouth. Can the town afford to accept such a facility with the understanding it will operate and maintain it? Should municipal taxpayers be asked to take on this additional burden? Are supportive funds available from other sources?

Specifically, will county government finally and at last do the right thing about public recreation in South Iredell? As last count, 58 percent of the people who use services provided by the Mooresville Recreation Department do not live in Mooresville. At least 98 percent of those who use the services and do not live in town live in rural Iredell.

County government does not contribute penny one to Mooresville's \$400,000-a-year recreation budget. It should assume some of this responsibility.

And there is this: the War Memorial swimming pool is brain dead. It is worn out beyond repair, and it is being maintained on a very fragile life-support system. It probably cannot be opened this summer on more than a part-time basis because it will have to be drained and refilled often. Its water-cleaning equipment is shot and so obsolete it cannot be replaced.

Some very serious numbers must be crunched here, and sources of financial help need to be pursued very aggressively. Lowrance Hospital deserves a visible, contributing legacy in this community.

And there is this: the third funding priority is some sort of half-baked health education "consortium" promoted by local schools, Mitchell Community College and Lake Norman Regional Medical Center.

And this: LNRMC's owners bought Lowrance Hospital from Iredell County. Why should Iredell County now give \$2 million of proceeds from the sale back to the hospital?

Depot's May Display Focuses On Flowers

The May exhibit of the Depot Visual Arts Center displays a myriad of flowers as expressed in the art of Mooresville Artists Guild members.

Walls of the three galleries as well as the warehouse exhibiting area are adorned with over 100 art works depicting the artistry of Guild members. The exhibit has been previewed by the presidents of the two local garden clubs who have selected their favorites.

Evelyn Sims, president of The Moonrakers Garden Club selected "The Garden", an oil painting by Frances Bonney, as her favorite.

Barbara Stout, president of The Mooresville Garden Club, chose "Early Risers, a watercolor by VI Fabik. Each of the winners will be awarded a cash prize by the Guild.

The exhibit was viewed on the

evening of May 4 by approximately 175 guests who attended the "Evening at The Depot" concert of big band music by the Nothing Finer Band. The Floral Art exhibit will be available for viewing throughout May.

The Depot Center is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

An added attraction at the Depot Center is scheduled for May 18 during Lake Norman Festival Day when Friends of the Library will hold a book sale in the warehouse area.

The Mooresville Artists Guild is supported by the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce, by the N.C. Grassroots Program through the Iredell Arts Council and by friends of the Guild.



Sims, left, Stout with presidential choices



Lowder Receives Community Education Award

Richard Lowder, center, community schools director for the Mooresville Graded School System, was recently selected as the recipient of the North Carolina Association for Community Education's Robert L. Mason Award. The award salutes service promoting public education and community involvement in education. Lowder, among other duties, oversees the preparation of the Mooresville system's award-winning annual report. He is being congratulated for the honor by Frank Fields, left, chairman of the Mooresville Board of Education, and Dr. Sam Houston, local superintendent.

Anniversary Program Set For Pastor

Anniversary services will be held next week at Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland.

The special program will be in honor of the Rev. J.W. Parson's anniversary as the church's pastor.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. on May 15 and continue with nightly programs during the week and special activities on Sunday.

On May 19, starting at 3 p.m., the Rev. David Houston will be the guest speaker for the final service of the anniversary program. Houston is the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Salisbury and St. Matthews Baptist Church of Rockwell.

The public is invited to take part in any or all of the anniversary celebration services.

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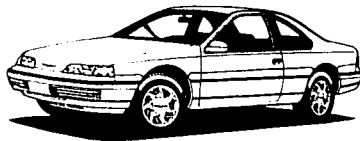
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