

A scheme most foul

Whittle Communications has won the battle and, for all practical purposes, the war. It has succeeded in what some diehards still insist was a hostile takeover of many public classrooms.

The delaying action found by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction has been reduced to a symbolic gesture, in keeping with its growing reputation as a toothless tiger. In exchange for a few pieces of electronic equipment Whittle has guaranteed its advertisers a daily audience in public schools.

So? Why get exercised over the selling of student consumers when all the studies show they don't pay attention to TV anyway? So say for Whittle it learned its

seize-the-moment well. If two minutes every school day are good, a whole day every school day would be wonderful. Flexing its newly-developed muscle in the educational marketplace, Whittle said last week it will establish 200 for-profit secondary schools in selected markets in this country.

Listen. The next sound you hear will be those same public-education administrators who love Channel One prophesying the Fifth Horseman and Armageddon. Translation: competition. Whittle will do for public education what UPS did for USPS: skim off the cream.

That chicken coming home to roost is the foulest of the fowl.

Why delay the inevitable?

Greensboro News & Record

Somewhere out on the far side of reality 42 North Carolina Republicans continue to insist that no state tax increase will be necessary this year. They would have you think that being conservative means being dead-set against a tax increase, no matter what.

But since when did conservatism require a refusal to face facts? Conservatives used to talk about fiscal integrity and the importance of a balanced budget.

North Carolina, as everyone can now see, enjoys neither.

Thanks to hard times and a series of dodges in past years on the part of the governor and legislature, North Carolina faces the worst deficit of its history. Not since the Great Depression have the state's prospects looked so bleak.

Gov. Jim Martin announced this week that the state treasury lacks \$729 million that it will need to finish the year in the black. That's

twice the deficit the Martin administration had originally projected.

North Carolina has gotten so deep in hock, in fact, that Governor Martin says he will be satisfied if the state can just maintain the illusion of solvency—hang the realities. He has proposed a series of emergency measures that drip with desperation.

He would, for example, shift \$106 million in teacher salaries from this year's budget to next year's. This is plain trickery. The bill won't disappear. They will simply be postponed.

The bookkeeping measure would preclude having to furlough state workers, the governor argues. But that's a poor excuse for a flim-flam. If the state doesn't have the money to pay its needed and valued workers, it's because leaders didn't have the backbone to raise the money.

Scrape by this year, Martin is saying, and next year we'll put the house in order.

Another military success

One on One

By D.G. Martin

Part of my pride in America's armed forces is the magnificent example that they have been to the rest of us. Some of the fundamental problems that have a hammer lock on the rest of society once plagued our military services too. I am thinking about things like insufficient education, drugs, and the legacy of racism and inequality.

A recent article by David Gergen in the Washington Post shows how much the army and the other armed forces have done in the last few years.

In education: 98 percent of the volunteer armed forces have high school diplomas. Compare that with only 75 percent of the population at large in the same age range. Education continues, especially for officers, throughout an army career.

A survey by the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro found that 88 percent of the army's brigadier generals hold masters degrees. Do you know what the percentage is among equivalent upper level managers in civilian life? It's only 19 percent.

In summary, the United States military really believes in education. And, as we learned so dramatically in the Gulf, it pays off.

Not so in the rest of the country. Not so in North Carolina this year as the state legislature closes doors to educational opportunity with every education budget cut and every tuition increase.

With racism: The armed forces have been leaders in fighting

racism since the late 1940s. Nevertheless, in the Vietnam War bitter racial divisions surfaced. The army didn't give up. Although not all problems have been solved today, most bitter divisions are gone. The army has been proactive in race relations and in enforcing its anti-discrimination rules.

It is worth mentioning that army ROTC produced the first black chair of the joint chiefs. He is also the first black who has a real shot at being president of the United States—if he wants to give it a shot.

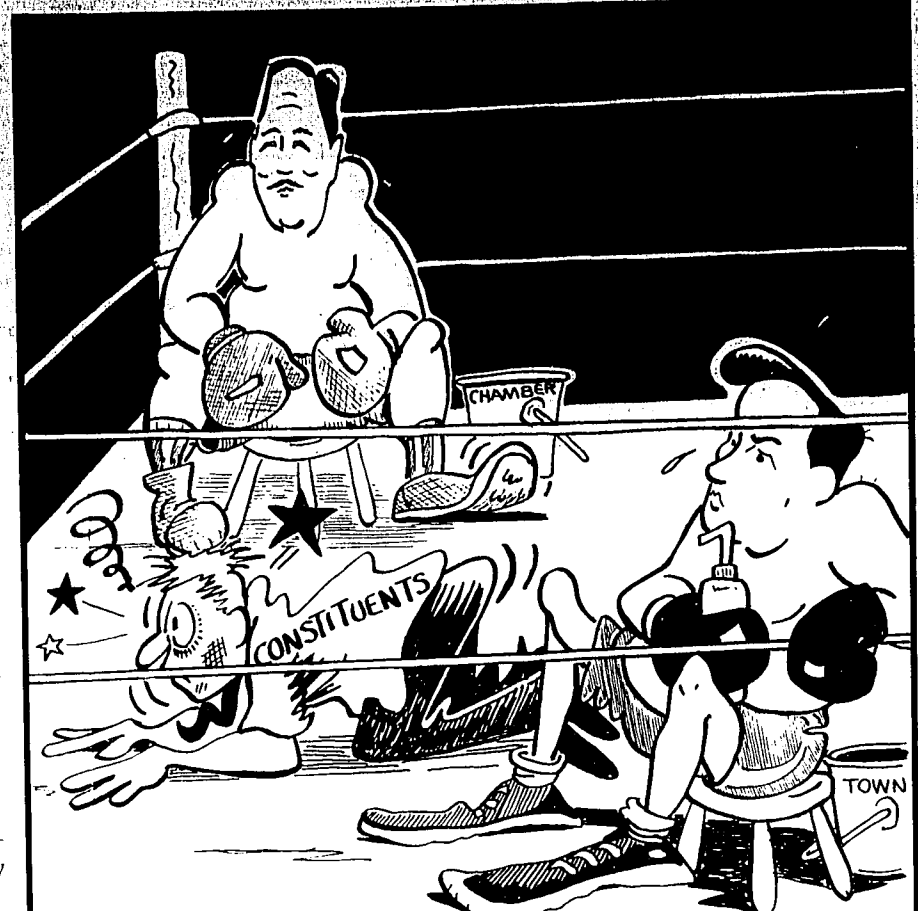
Why do the services succeed with race relations? Because they work hard at it.

Not yet so in the rest of the country. Drugs: 10 years ago a survey showed that 48 percent of young enlisted sailors had a drug abuse problem. The army had similar problems. Today, the military is practically a drug free work place.

Not so in the rest of America. Does the armed services' success say anything to those of us who want to be optimistic about the future of our country, but get beat down by our country's inability to address its basic problems? Yes.

When the results of crime, drugs, racism and an unwillingness of our society to invest its resources in the education of its citizens make us think that it is impossible to solve our problems, there is some good news.

D.G. Martin of Chapel Hill is secretary to the University of North Carolina. He shares these opinions with state newspapers.



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Uncle Dan from Doolie's says

Flip side of base closings

The fellers that make garden got to talking about crop rotation Saturday night at the country store, and the discussion rotated in all directions. Zeke Grubb said his old lady wants her tomatoes this year where they were last year. She says a few volunteers allus come up in that section of the little patch, and they're more likely to live than the plants she buys ever spring. Zeke said her mind is made up and she don't want to be confused by any facts about moving stuff around to give the soil a rest.

Right off, Zeke got some flak from Bug Hookum that noted there's no way to put any trust in volunteer tomatoes. He said the seed could of come from 10 mile away in bird droppings, and it is more likely to be a runt than a Big Boy. Bug said he sticks to store bought plants and he puts em in the same place because it gits the morning sun.

Practical speaking, Bug said, real farming is like real everything. What goes around comes around, so one farmer's rotation this year is another farmer's aggravation the next. Conservation is the big buzz word nowadays, he said, and everybody agrees if you lose the topsoil you strike out before you git to bat.

As fer cycles, Ed Doolittle took note of the latest round of military base closings and sacred cow goring. He said everybody allus is in favor of a cost efficient military tailored to the job as long as tailoring don't include his district. Sen. John Breaux of Louisiana thinks the Defense Department's hit list of 31 installations is terrible, but Sen. Wendell Ford of Kentucky thinks it's great. Pure incidental, Louisiana would lose England Air Force Base and Ken-

It is said that Washington, D.C. has a bulletproof economy, but not when you realize that economy is not of the real economic world. — Clem Webster

tucky's bases would dodge the bullet.

Furthermore, Breaux is claiming the closings are based on partisan politics because 60 percent are in Democrat districts. What Breaux ain't saying, Republican Ed noted, is that more than 60 percent of the districts are Democrat.

Fer onct in a blue moon, Ed got some support from Democrat Clem Webster that said we got to realize that depending on a Federal payroll is false economy anyway. It is said that Washington, D.C. is depression and inflation proof, Clem said, but not when you know that city is not of the real economic world.

Clem's motion got a second from Zeke that said Florida is exhibit A in the case fer civilian use of closed military bases. Zeke said that state is full of big airports serving little town that couldn't possible afford them concrete runways. Towns wailed when the training bases closed after WW II, Zeke said, but they were quick to use the fields to boost their economy.

Practical speaking, went on Zeke, this is the way towns can look at the move to cut back the military 25 percent. There ain't no economy in closing bases and paying to keep em up in case we need em. But letting em rot is worst, Zeke said, so ways ought to be worked out to turn em to civilian use.

This is the right idee, which means its time won't ever come fer a bureaucrat.

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Commissioners	Sara Hall	663-1777 ..	896-0715
	Doug Madison	873-0521 ..	873-9887
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Senator	Terry Sanford	202-224-3134
	VIC Hart Senate Office Building ..	Washington, DC 20510
Senator	Frank Lautenberg	202-224-3342
	400 Capitol Court, Suite 200 ..	Washington, DC 20516

Your turn

It was the week of "Mother's Day" which brings to mind the thought of families. But for me last week was a horrible nightmare that will remind me how close I could have come to losing two of my three children.

After supper the night of May 16 the two oldest boys went outside to play basketball. About 30 minutes later they came inside munching something, and I asked what they were eating. They showed me some red berries they had found growing on a tree behind the barn.

The berries were like none I had seen before. They favored raspberries, but they weren't on a vine. I checked the encyclopedia, but I didn't see any berries like these. I went to a neighbor's, whose mother is a gardener. She didn't know what they were. We called poison control. From the description I gave, they said it was hard to tell, but the berries could be very harmful. They told me to give the children Ipecac and water, wait about 15 minutes to see them get sick, and to make sure that the seeds were expelled. If not, rush them to the hospital and have their stomachs pumped out. Waiting those few minutes felt like an eternity, all the time wondering if my children were going to be all right. At first, the boys weren't worried, but as they listened to our worries they became upset, and my 12-year-old began to cry.

I couldn't wait another minute. I put the boys and two pails in the car and we headed for Lake Norman Regional Medical Center. When I got to the emergency room I went to the window and asked for help. I told the girl behind the counter that my children had eaten some berries and I couldn't find out if they were poisonous, and could someone please tell me what they were.

The girl said she didn't know what they were. A doctor walked into the office, so she asked him if he knew. After he hanging off of it, he smiled and said he didn't know what they were either. He told me to have them drink more water and have them run and jump around the parking lot. I must have looked shocked, because he said he was serious. The boys went in search of a water fountain. They drank and ran outside.

While watching my children running around the parking lot, I saw the emergency room open and the doctor I had just talked to come out. He looked at the boys jumping around the parking area, smiled and left. As he walked off the porch he stopped and spoke to two EMS drivers who were standing by their ambulance. They turned and walked over to me and asked about the berries. They said they looked like strawberries and they felt that the boys would be all right, then they left.

What could I do to make someone listen to me and help my children? This wasn't a joke, and it certainly wasn't funny. The Ipecac hadn't worked and it had been well over 30 minutes, so the boys decided to go to the restroom and try to gag themselves into throwing up.

Frustrated, I ran back into the emergency room and asked a nurse what doctor was on call. She told me the one who had just left. Well, that was just great, now what was I supposed to do? The nurse asked if she could help me, and I showed her the berries. She said, "honey, these are strawberries."

About this time I heard the children becoming sick in the bathroom, so I flew in there with them. After one of the boys finished I asked him to take his pail to show the nurse. Within a minute or two he was back saying that it was all right. After cleaning up the boys and the restroom I picked up our things and went back into the emergency room where everyone had gone back to what they were doing as if we had never been there.

I couldn't believe what was happening to me. I thought my children had been poisoned and I had come to the hospital for help, but I didn't get any. I asked for help and ended up treating my own children in the LNRMC emergency room.

Even after I got home it was still hard to believe that it happened. Sleep was almost impossible. I kept worrying about the boys, wondering if they had been poisoned, and what kind of berries they really were.

I decided that night that there was one person I could count on to help me identify the berries. Next morning I went to Mooreville Senior High School, where T.G. Phillips teaches biology.

He informed me that the berries were not harmful. They are, in fact, very good when they get ripe. He called them mulberries. I had never heard of or seen a mulberry, but I'll never forget them now.

Salisbury Remembers Washington's Visit

Salisbury will commemorate the 200th anniversary of George Washington's visit to the city with a week-long celebration featuring costumes and regiments, pageants and balls.

The celebration will begin May 25 with breakfast and end May 30 with a ball. A highlight of Washington's public appearance, Salisbury is a town that revels in its history, says Frederick Lyman, executive director of the Historic Salisbury Foundation. "Douglas Southall Freeman wrote in his biography of George Washington that Salisbury is a small town (which) cherishes traditions and keeps them alive." This celebration is a good example of the importance that the citizens of Salisbury place on their past."

Washington visited Salisbury on May 30, 1791, as part of his Southern tour. The American Revolution had ended only eight years before, and he undertook the trip to "heal political wounds," according to George Raynor, the late editor of The Salisbury Post, a local historian. Raynor called the tour "a sentimental journey" for

Washington, "a hail and farewell to those who had fought at his side and those others who had sacrificed and suffered so much for independence."

Washington, who made the tour at age 59, traveled along the Eastern Seaboard to Savannah and returned north through Augusta, Columbia and Camden. He came to Salisbury by way of Mecklenburg County and traveled to Salem after his stop here.

Several events are scheduled for the bicentennial celebration. A breakfast on May 25, will commemorate Washington's impromptu visit to the Brandon family home, now known as Eastover.

Legend has it that Washington stopped en route to Salisbury and asked a young girl, Betsy Brandon, for breakfast. The rest of her family had gone to the city for the president's visit, so she alone served him the meal. The bicentennial breakfast, sponsored by the Rowan Museum, will be held at 11 a.m. at Eastover, now owned by Joe Wilson, on U.S. 29 South. A descendant of Betsy Brandon will dress in period costume and greet guests. Local resi-

dents will play the part of George Washington at all the events.

A banquet and ball, jointly sponsored by the Rowan Museum and Historic Salisbury Foundation, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, May 25 at the St. Luke's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. Mem-

bers of the 6th North Carolina Historical Regiment will perform 18th century dances, and Carolina Baroque, an ensemble directed by Dale Higbee, will provide period music.

Descendants of Salisbury leaders who welcomed Washington to the city in 1791 will be among those who will offer toasts to the president.

On May 26, the Historic Salisbury Foundation will offer a Family Historical Walking Tour that will include visits to historic sites and talks with characters from Salisbury's past. The tour, which is free, is scheduled for 2-3:30 p.m.

The actual reenactment of Washington's visit will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 30, in front of the Community Building on North Main Street. Local residents will perform a pageant written by Linda Bailey, managing editor of The Post, and researched by Elizabeth Etheridge of Woodleaf. The 6th N.C. Regiment will participate in the reenactment.

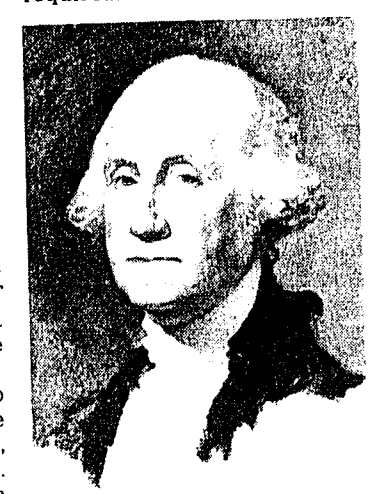
"We're encouraging people to wear period costumes to the events," says Janie Matthews, HSF special events coordinator. "That will make the celebration even more festive."

The Elizabeth Maxwell Steele Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a

tea in the DAR room of the Community Building before the public celebration. Washington mentioned in his diary that "In the afternoon (he) drank tea with about 20 ladies who had assembled for that occasion."

The Rowan Museum will display a number of artifacts associated with Washington's visit, including a gown worn to the ball held in the president's honor. In addition, the Rowan Public Library will have documents relating to the visit — one on loan from the Library of Congress — on display.

Anyone wishing further information may call the Historic Salisbury Foundation at 704/636-0103. Seating is limited at the Brandon breakfast and at the ball, and reservations are required.



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4-H'er Templeton To Attend National Leadership Meet

Kenya Kaye Templeton of Statesville is one of two 4-H'ers who will represent North Carolina at the 1991 American Youth Foundation's National Leadership Conference.

Templeton, 17, won a \$550 "I Dare You" scholarship from the American Youth Foundation and a \$150 North Carolina 4-H Development Fund travel scholarship. The scholarships will pay her full registration and expenses to the conference.

She will attend the conference at Camp Minwannea near Shelby, Mich., for two weeks in late July and early August.

The conference will focus on leadership skills, such as problem-solving, communicating and working with groups, according to Dr. Thearon McKinley, 4-H specialist with the Cooperative Extension Service at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. Young people from all of the nation's 50 states and many other countries are expected to attend the conference.

Templeton, a 4-H'er for five years, is a member of the Ebenezer Club. She has completed projects in leisure educa-

tion and recreation, crafts, clothing and poultry. She also has held many leadership positions. A daughter of Carolyn Jean Templeton, of Statesville, she is a high school senior.



KENYA KAYE TEMPLETON

NOW HEAR THIS

Jill Howard
M.Ed., CCC-A

Herb Wetzel
M.D.

TELEPHONE OPTIONS

For many people with hearing impairments, the telephone is especially challenging. Understanding conversation can be greatly improved by the use of a telecoil, which frequently is incorporated into modern hearing aids. Switching on the telecoil amplifies the signal from the phone and eliminates interfering nearby noise.

Other devices are available that can enhance phone communication, some without the need of a telecoil. One is a special handset with a volume control, which the user can adjust for optimum listening comfort. This handset is designed for easy replacement of existing handsets on modular phones. Another device, which is battery powered, is an amplifier which the user attaches to the receiver on the handset. Easily detached, this device can be taken along to use while traveling, for example.

If you have difficulty in listening to voices on the telephone, consult the hearing instrument specialists about possible solutions for your specific problem.

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