

# Viewpoint

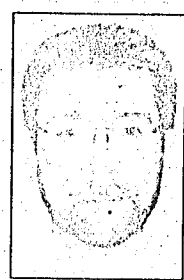
"Although I disagree with everything you say, I will defend unto death your right to say it"

## Reward offered for golf vandals

Tuesday's events in New York and the nation's capital have left us speechless. Where once we were concerned about the possibility of conventional war, we now live in fear of terrorism.

Obviously, our lives will never be the same after Tuesday. And our local problems will pale in comparison to what happened at the World Trade Center and Washington D.C.

Editor's Corner



Dale Gowing

Still, we go on, and face our own ugly news.

### Vandalism at course

Enough's enough, says Charlie Roberts. The head pro at the Mooresville Municipal Golf Course has convinced the Town to put up a \$500 reward for the idiots who destroyed the green at the 12th hole late last week.

Sometime late Friday or early Saturday a vehicle was driven onto the green, which is immediately adjacent to Norman Drive. The tires chewed up the sensitive turf, doing between \$6,000 and \$10,000 damage, Roberts says. He plans to re-sod the green, but it probably won't be ready until mid-November. In the meanwhile, a temporary green has been created in front of the damaged one.

It's the first serious damage done to the 18-hole golf course by vandals in a couple of years, Roberts says, but he doesn't want the culprit to get away this time. Hence the \$500 reward.

"We'd like to put a clamp on this (vandalism)," Roberts says. "I hate that it happened. It's senseless."

Roberts says the Town is considering erecting a "decorative" fence along Norman Drive next to the 12th hole to prevent future damage.

### Price of growth

Until Monday, a portion of Lake Norman had been under a "swimming advisory" from the Mecklenburg County Health Department since Aug. 31. Sewage spills had created high bacteria levels in a large cove near Mariner Villas on the southern end of the lake.

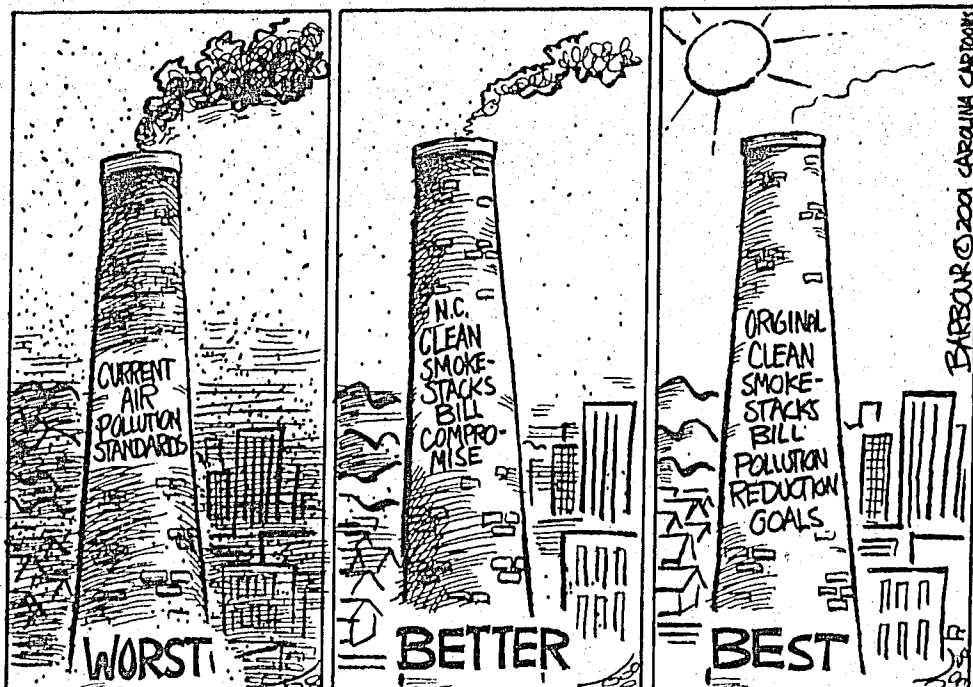
Unfortunately, such fouling of the lake is going to continue, and it's a price we pay for the commercial and residential growth that continues unabated along the shoreline.

### But some good news...

The Mooresville-Lake Norman Office of the American Red Cross has outgrown its quarters at 145 W. Statesville Ave. in Mooresville, and hopes to move into more spacious digs on Williamson Road in early November.

But there's a catch: The Red Cross still has a lease at its present site, and needs to find another tenant to pick up that lease before it can move to the new building. The current site is, essentially, half of a renovated house, and has 800 square feet. It is divided into three offices and has a large back porch area for storage.

See EDITOR'S, page 11A



## Turning distress into opportunity

The writer is President of the North Carolina Community College System.

By H. MARTIN LANCASTER

News of budget shortfalls, meager quarterly earnings and layoffs plagues the front page these days. If you haven't felt the pinch of a slowing economy visit Laurinburg, where hundreds of workers at Abbott Labs were recently handed pink slips. Or Shelby and Lexington, where nearly 800 workers stand to lose their jobs at PPG Industries.

Thankfully, within days of layoffs like this, a "rapid response team" including members from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the Employment Security Commission, other agencies prepared to help and the community colleges go into action much as the American Red Cross responds to victims of natural disaster. Teams hit the floor on every shift, assessing needs, offering retraining and helping with job searches. This is one of the most important uses of the unique resources of the North Carolina Community College System.

The North Carolina Community College System serves our state as the designated agency for workforce development and customized training. In times of need and of prosperity. For almost 40 years, we have prepared workers for new opportunities presented by an ever-changing economy while extending a helping hand in times of need. After all, that is our mission.

We have all witnessed how traditional manufacturing jobs are giving way to opportunities in the new economy. We train students to take advantage of these opportunities and offer the highest quality retraining



Lancaster

for people already at work. Our Small Business Centers open doors to independence for many entrepreneurs who discover that unexpected job loss can be the prod they need to create their own businesses.

To do this effectively requires a faculty and staff of innovators. Fortunately for us, pioneers in education created this system with flexibility and local autonomy to make economic and workforce development a top priority. Many believe that community colleges may be the most important instrument in determining whether North Carolina can reap the economic rewards of tomorrow's innovations.

Whether you are a corporate officer, a legislator or an average citizen, you should know the North Carolina Community College System is a team of educators working hard and producing results. It's results based on responsiveness and need that positively affect our economy and way of life. Just this year North Carolina community colleges gained national recognition when three students were selected as members of the 2001 All-USA Academic First Team, and one graduate was selected as one of 12 Outstanding Alumni.

A colleague put it best when she described the work of North Carolina's community colleges as the "better life business." A more apt description of the mission of the institutions that make up the North Carolina Community College System simply doesn't exist.

We are in the "better life business." Our dedicated faculty and administrators are helping further the hopes and dreams of more than 760,000 students who come through our doors each year. If you haven't yet ventured onto a community college campus, I encourage you to discover the amazing opportunities we offer to expand your mind and open doors for your future. We are a proud group of dedicated professionals ready and willing to serve you.

## Now they're 'Hewcom-Packpaq'

In a merger that is shaking up the technology world, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq have agreed to terms aboard the U.S. Missouri to merge and form the single largest group of NASDAQ watchers in all of eastern Wisconsin.

This union has really turned the technology sector on its ear. The new company will be the second largest computer company in the world behind only Radio Shack's Tandy, whose aggressive pricing on the TRS-80 have kept it at the forefront of computer sales. The steam-powered TRS-80 may seem like a relic to some, but if you shovel coal fast enough, it can theoretically calculate almost as fast as an abacus in the hands of a Mr. Potato Head.

Both of the merging computer companies have had their ups and downs these last few months. This has been attributed to the fact that the public's personal computing needs have not kept pace with advancing technology.

Let's face it, an old 386 speed computer had enough "hertz," or possibly "gigs" to reproduce a thoroughly acceptable flatulent noise and then email it to all of your friends in mere seconds so that they could share in the both the technological and the lesser known scatological aspects of the PC revolution.

The pricing war that forced this merger is a result of the computer companies' persistent misunderstanding of the public. They think we know what goes on in our computers and that we value processing speed and



Corey Walcott

memory. Ha ha!

A recent poll showed that Americans are just as apt to sacrifice a live chicken on their monitors to dispel evil "error demons" as they are to call customer service who might ask them upsetting questions about their computer. I would honestly be unable to prove that my columns are not stored on a grilled cheese sandwich somewhere inside the humming box.

Hewlett-Packard, having outlived its industrial sibling, Hewlett-Studebaker, is now a mainstream computer manufacturer, but has made a real name for itself with its printers. Following the lead of Xerox, Hewlett-Packard fought prognosticators who said that we would be working in a "paperless world" by the turn of the century. Through a powerful and compelling marketing campaign which conveyed the confusing and frankly dubious link between printing documents frequently and saving baby seals, Hewlett-Packard created a demand for printers that borders on the bizarre. The Association for Truth in Advertising (ATA) was chasing down the facts behind the campaign until it surfaced that the ATA had falsely represented itself as a real organization that actually existed.

Compaq, of course, is best known for its unusual use of the letter "q" in its name. Despite some initial excitement, their use of the letter "m" turned out to be pretty pedestrian. Really, that "q" thing is about all they had going.

As is usually the case in corporate "mergers," one company is actually assuming control of the other company. They just couch the acquisition as a merger because it sounds less hostile. During a hostile takeover,

## Letters to the editor

To the editor,

The Town of Mooresville wants to change Iredell Avenue to Dale Earnhardt Road and N.C. 136 (Coddle Creek Road) to N.C. 3.

I was born in Mooresville 79 years ago and raised in Mooresville. I still call Mooresville my home town. There have been a great number of gentle and giving men in Mooresville who also deserved praise. For instance, my late husband who worked for Burlington Mills.

My point: The Aug. 30 issue of the (Concord-Kannapolis) Independent Tribune said in big bold letters that Richard Childress "adjusts to life after Earnhardt." Isn't that what the Lord requires us all to do? It's been 13 years for me, but I don't need a bronze marker or road change to remember my husband. He's with me every day in my heart.

I think it would be much more appropriate for the town to establish a scholarship in Dale's name for some deserving student. Or a donation to "My Sister's House" (perhaps a room furnished with a little plaque on the door).

No road changes, please. The mayor of Kannapolis said that town's new monument would be a tourist attraction. Don't we all know where Dale Earnhardt, Inc. is? Don't make a profit on a deceased person.

I think the family needs a grieving period.

Ruth Craven  
Concord

To the editor,

I would assume everyone has received their tax statement by now. Take a good look at what you owe for this year. It will probably be the lowest one you will see in the near future. I would almost bet the house and camper your tax rate will go up with the next budget.

The first reason will be to cover the loss to the county from the state budget shortage caused by over-spending in Raleigh. Iredell County will (lose) a couple million dollars in revenue from the state budget, and most of those cuts will effect services mandated by the state that the county has to provide.

The second reason for a tax increase will be for the purchase of and repairs to a building the county cannot afford under the current fiscal conditions of the county. People with a vested interest in and around the old Lowrance Hospital (in Mooresville) are tickled pink with the county buying the old building. No one else I have talked to is sold on the idea.

The county is to pay \$1.9 million for the building. There will be a cost of \$2 million to \$3 million to clean up and renovate the building. We will have to pay for asbestos removal, any soil contamination from leaky

tanks, a leaking roof and remodeling. The leaking roof has caused ruined carpets, floors and mildew in the walls. When the building is occupied, employees will be sick and we've got to pay them sick time. The cost of repairing the building has been put on hold already. Another two or three years and the place will be in worst shape than it is at present. Ding-Dong!! Does a little bell go off saying "more tax money?" Does it say that dollars spent versus tax revenue comes up a minus? How can the county pay for it without a tax increase? NO WAY!

Reason number three for a tax increase is the school situation. The Iredell-Statesville school system has lost \$3 million in funding for this budget year. The demand for services, buildings, maintenance and supplies will continue to grow. The board has spent \$178,000 for grading on the land to house a new administrative building that they don't have the money to build. If and when they get the money this grading will have to be done all over again.

The system needs new buses. That cost will be in the next budget. The 1995 School Facilities Task Force replaced the cost to replace Wayside/A.D. Rutherford schools at \$6.3 million. Today the cost is over \$12 million! Now did it double in only six years? With the legal problems forthcoming from the current wrongdoings in the school system's administrative office, lawyers and accountants are at a premium. We are at the top of this iceberg. Nobody has a clue what this will cost the county. How are we going to pay for the misbehavior of a few (shall I say careless?) people? With more tax dollars!

Take another look at that tax bill. You probably won't see one like it again.

Buddy Hemric  
Statesville

To the editor,

On Friday, Sept. 14, the American Cancer Society will hold a Relay for Life at the Mooresville High School stadium, and everyone is invited. There will be food, entertainment, and fun throughout the evening.

As co-chair of the event for this community, I want to encourage area residents to come and camp out at the high school. The committee has worked long and hard and really does what this is to be something for all of us to enjoy and be a part of.

I do not know of any person who has not known or had to deal with the harsh reality of cancer. But somewhere, the answer lies, and I know by helping to fund programs and research through the American Cancer Society we are not far from discovering that cure.

If you are a cancer survivor, please call to register for your free T-shirt, dinner.

See LETTERS, page 11A

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## Letters to the editor

Continued from page 10A

and victory lap. For a \$10 donation, you can have a candle lit in honor of a loved one who has fought or is fighting the battle against cancer. We hope to have hundreds of luminaries burning in honor of cancer patients lining the athletic track on Friday at 9 p.m.

A silent auction will be held this week in the main lobby of the Mooresville-South Iredell Chamber of Commerce from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Items will include NASCAR autographed memorabilia, hotel packages from the Hampton Inn & Suites and Fairfield Inn, a Cotton Ketchie print, Merle Norman Cosmetic Basket, Wal-Mart gift certificate, U.S. Savings Bond from Piedmont Bank, and passes to Memory Lane Automobile Museum.

The auction is a "sealed bid" silent

Sylvia Spury  
Mooresville

auction. You do not have to be present to win. High bidders will be notified by telephone on Sept. 14 and should make checks payable to the American Cancer Society. If you would like to place a bid on an item but are unable to get to the Chamber office, call Sylvia at 704-664-3898.

Insurance agent; Randy Marlon of Randy Marlon Chevrolet; and George Brawley, the president of Mooresville Savings Bank.

An eye-opening experience, though, was the reception I received from some of real estate people and large developers in the area. Some of their responses from those companies were, "We donate to Mecklenburg schools" and "The owner's children go to Charlotte schools."

I guess a \$250 donation out of the hundreds of thousands that they will profit from us was too much to ask. Shame on them!

Jeff Lavole  
Lake Norman High School PTA  
Mooresville

## Walcott

Continued from page 10A

one company tries to corner another company by influencing their clients, debtors, suppliers, and shareholders. If these complex corporate maneuvers don't work, then the aggressive company will often resort to a more contemptible and archaic strategy, namely catapulting dead cows upon the reeling foe.

Finally, under the extreme duress that could only be the result of enduring a deluge

of dead cows, the workers of the vanquished company are forced to surrender and serve as fleas in the cafeteria.

Market reaction is yet unknown. Major events like this arbitrarily give investors either "jitters," meaning something significant, or "confidence," leading to something else entirely. I will keep you posted.

Lake Norman-area resident Corey Walcott's column appears every other Wednesday on the Viewpoint page.

## Sheriff's 'Pusher-a-Day' effort rounds up 5 more dealers

By JONATHAN WEAVER

Arrests made last week in the Iredell County Sheriff's Office Pusher-A-Day program include:

Jeffrey Todd Turner, 30. Turner was arrested and charged for sale and delivery of cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, and maintaining a dwelling to sell and deliver cocaine.

Steve Edwin Hager, 44. Hager is charged with manufacturing marijuana, possession with intent to manufacture and sell and deliver marijuana, and maintaining a dwelling to sell cocaine. He

was given a \$30,000 secured bond.

Jackie Brian Capps, 30, of 131 Brady Lane, Statesville. Capps was charged with possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine and sale and delivery of cocaine. He was given a \$10,000 unsecured bond.

James Michael Cousineau, 49, of 116 Stephanie Lane, Statesville. Cousineau was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was given a \$600 bond.

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**EnergyUnited**  
Annual Meeting & Family Festival  
Members of ENERGYUNITED EMC are invited to attend the 2001 ENERGYUNITED Annual Meeting and Family Festival  
Saturday, September 15, 2001 • 7:30 a.m. to noon  
Davie High School, Mocksville, North Carolina

**7:30-8:30 a.m.**  
• Free health screenings  
• National Rural Electric Cooperative Association long-term care program

**8:30-9:00 a.m.**  
Registration  
(Each member receives \$5 for registering and a chance to win a pick-up truck and other prizes)

**9:00-10:00 a.m.**  
Fun for children, including a clown, face painting, MoonWalk, train ride and much more

**10:00-11:00 a.m.**  
Fun for the whole family, including a close-up look at a genuine NASCAR race car - courtesy Richard Childress Racing, and the Dr. Pepper dual simulator race car (driven by Bobby Hamilton) with Play Station II NASCAR 2001 racing games, and other activities

**11:00-12:00 p.m.**  
Bluegrass music by award-winning "Wood & Steel"

**12:00-1:00 p.m.**  
Business meeting

**1:00-2:00 p.m.**  
Drawings for pick-up truck and other door prizes

**2:00-3:00 p.m.**  
Free hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks

The Annual Meeting and Family Festival is only for members of ENERGYUNITED EMC. All events are free. Please bring your Registration Card from the September issue of the Connect newsletter with you to the Meeting.

Transportation is available from ENERGYUNITED offices in Cornelius, Denton, Lexington, Madison, Statesville and Taylorsville. Call your local EnergyUnited office to make transportation arrangements.

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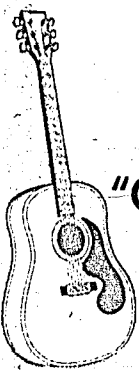
"PEACHES"

Thursday, September 13

"CHRIS MONTGOMERY"

Saturday, September 15

7-10pm



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