

# Viewpoint

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

## Letters to the editor

To the editor:  
Would a lottery be good for North Carolina? We, the Covenant Disciple group of Rocky Mount United Methodist Church in Mooresville, believe it would not.

A lottery is inconsistent with Jesus' teachings, such as the great commandment of "loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength" (Mark 12:30-31). These are teachings that often take a back seat to human greed. Also, the Old Testament scriptures (Genesis 2:15 and 3:19) advocate an honest work ethic.

The members of this group have researched the Internet, newspaper editorials, and individual residents of states adjacent to North Carolina concerning their lotteries. The results have shown the revenue received from the lottery rarely increases funding for education as promised and has corrupted the lives of many youth.

Bishop Charlene Kammerer (WNCC/UMC) and Bishop Marion Edwards (NCC/UMC) sent letters to Gov. Michael Easley setting forth the stance of the United Methodist Church in opposition to a lottery as a solution for funding education in North Carolina, as well as many reasons why a state lottery would contribute to the deterioration of the moral fiber of our society.

We, the members of this group, appeal to the citizenry of North Carolina to allow yourselves to be guided by asking, "What would Jesus do?"

We ask you to prayerfully consider all you hear and read about state lotteries in the light of right and wrong, good and evil. And when and if the day comes to vote on the issue of a North Carolina lottery, you should vote against it.

We further ask you to use your influence in any way you can to express your opposition to a state lottery.

Rev. Cecil Donahue  
Rev. T. Dale Holcombe  
Louise Holcombe  
Louise Cook  
Rosemary Mical  
Sue Sherrill

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To the editor,  
Driving through Charlotte recently, I couldn't help but notice the number of signs in front yards with either "Vote YES" or "Vote NO" on them. They were in reference to Tuesday's referendum on an arena bundle.

To me the idea of building yet another large coliseum in Charlotte when there already exists a nice coliseum down the road is ludicrous. Many on the city council have already made up their minds, but I think they lack the guts to come out and say that this is a bad idea. Here are a few proposed solutions:

Solution 1 — Expand the current coliseum. What? You say that you can't expand the coliseum. Is this planned obsolescence? If the current

coliseum can't be expanded then there was very poor planning in the designing and construction of the current facility. With the idea of expansion in mind the architect should have built the facility by leaving room for more seats or sky boxes so they could have been added very easily down the road when more were needed.

Solution 2 — Remove seats and add more sky boxes. Remove 3,000 seats of the current 23,500 seats and add more sky boxes where those seats used to be. This will result in more sky boxes at pretty low costs.

Solution 3 — Sell the Charlotte Hornets to the people. The Green Bay Packers are owned by the taxpayers of Green Bay, Wis. If it is such a good idea to have a coliseum, then why not have the ownership held by the people of the area. If they want to keep the team, they will. And if they don't then it can be sold. In any event there will not be any of the crybaby stuff from George Shinn and Ray Woodruff. They don't care about Charlotte or the people of this area. Why don't people wake up to this fact.

Money is all the owners really care about anyway. If the new downtown coliseum were built, what would happen in 10 or 15 years when the owners again need more money and want yet another new coliseum or they will move the team. This "we'll move the team without a new coliseum" idea will keep recurring again and again.

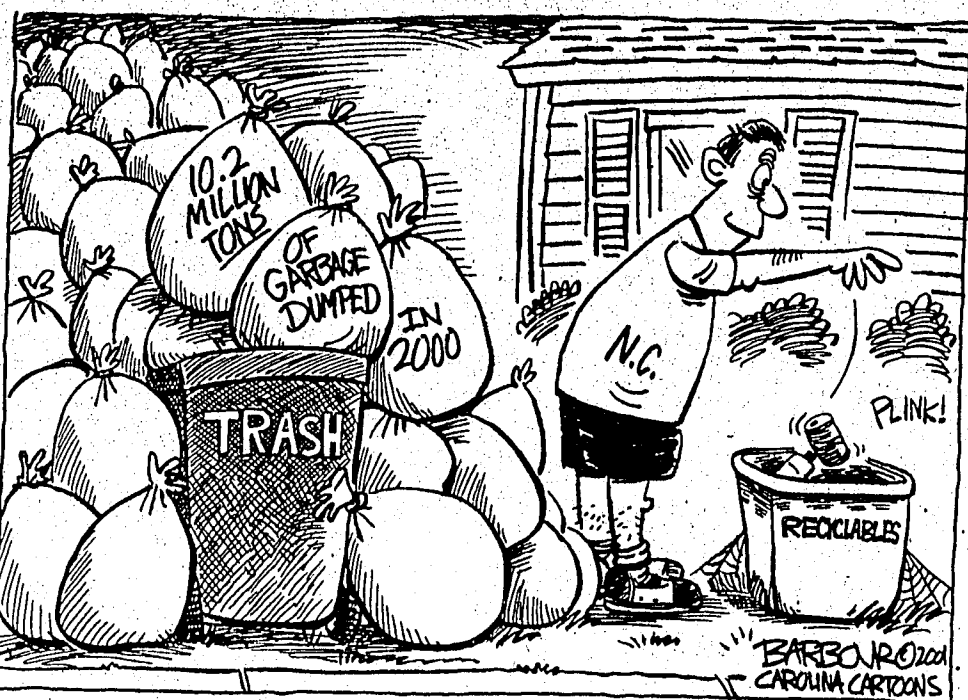
Solution 4 — Sell permanent seat licenses (PSLs) for the seats in another coliseum. You do the math. Divide \$250 million or \$300 million by the number of seats in a "new coliseum" and see what you get. Assuming new seating capacity of 19,000, PSLs would average \$13,158 or \$15,800 each.

Why don't they try to sell those and let's see how far they get. Remember this is just the average. The sky boxes would go for much more and the way back seats would be less. Let the prices of the seats be determined by the amount of money needed by the team to operate each year to keep the caliber of talent on the floor that is needed and to provide a big profit to the owners.

Let's see how that flies with the general population of Charlotte and surrounding communities. I'd say it will fly like a lead balloon.

Solution 5 — Let the bankers pay for the new coliseum. If this were such a good idea there would be tons of financing available from bankers all over the area anyway. The truth is that it is a very bad idea. Regardless of how many ball games, concerts, plays, etc. are booked for the facility, the new coliseum will probably lose lots of money and that is why no one wants to pay for it. The owners' idea is to let the taxpayers pay the ticket, and we'll tell them what a great sports town this is.

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## A farewell to friends and family

Editor's note: This is part 89 in a continuing series on the "Reflections" of Mooreville in the 1800s, as chronicled during the 1990s by the Rev. J.I. Goodman of Fleming, Colo. in a weekly column in the old Mooreville Enterprise newspaper. This series is compiled and edited by Iredell historian O.C. Stonestreet III.

Feb. 28, 1935

Surveying "The Enterprise" columns has revealed the passing of several kith and kin; one nephew and three cousins; also several playmates and friends.

## Echoes of the past

It seems not long since my brother E. T. Goodman and Mattie Raymer were joined in wedlock. Vividly do I see them standing before our pastor, Rev. Tuttle, as he pronounced them man and wife. What a fine wedding dinner! Many jolly guests. They began housekeeping at Spring Grove in a small residence in father's yard. About a year later a little boy was born — my first nephew. What a joy this brought to Father, then confined and slowly dying of tuberculosis. Every day he wanted the baby brought into his room. The child was too young to remember the events of that sad occasion.

The next year the brother moved to Mooresville, then a small village. His residence was in John Moore's cotton field on the Prospect Road, two blocks east of the depot, the first building on that block. There Preston Goodman began to recognize those around him. Within several blocks of that spot nearly all his sixty years were spent, and now his body lies in that small space in the town cemetery.

Of his life and doings your readers know far more than I. He was only a youth when our lives were parted by a wide space. He visited me once when he was exploring the West, and I visited him fourteen years ago. By now he was highly esteemed.

Only a few months since his last letter came, but never a hint of disability. He grew up in splendid health, developing a robust body. His wife was one of my pupils. They appeared well-matched and happy. Not long after they were parted, only a few months.

Mrs. Munroe Clodfelter was born and reared Amanda Goodman, my blood cousin. A quiet, lovely girl, and an active Christian woman. Many happy hours we spent together in early life. A very useful woman indeed. Not long after she and her husband parted by death. Happily married again, methinks, where there will be no more parting in St. Martin's city of the dead (St. Martin's Lutheran Cemetery) were laid her mortal remains, where have been laid so large a number of the descendants of the Rev. Henry Goodman, including himself and wife.

Mrs. John Young, the Josephine Goodman, also was a cousin, by second degree. John T. her father, was a good and useful citizen of the Shepherd community, serving well his day and generation. Josephine was a nice, well-behaved girl, and doubtless made good as a mother.

From the dawning of the village of Mooresville, R.A.

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## Echoes of the past

Continued from page 10A

(Locke) Goodman was a pioneer merchant and town builder. He was engaged in several lines of business. A high-minded Christian gentleman was he. Fair and conscientious in all his affairs. Associated with him in his business affairs, your scribble had intimate acquaintance with him. I never knew him to do a dishonorable act.

Locke married Ida Gray of Statesville, whose father was "mine host" of the Central Hotel for many years. As a nest for her he built a residence two blocks north and one west of the depot, which my mother later purchased. Then he built the Goodman Hotel block.

They had one little girl, Carrie. Locke departed from Earth many years ago. Of wife and child, I have no knowledge. Now she sleeps with the dead. Her pilgrimage was long and to me her memory is sweet. We were good friends.

Jacob Bost, whom I knew as a young man, has ceased his earthly pilgrimage after 86 years. He gave promise of a life of usefulness. He came from a good and honorable ancestry, and probably transmitted many of their

virtues to his descendants.

In the late 1870s Bob Gray worked in the store at Spring Grove. He was a stalwart, handsome man, good-natured, jolly and a lover of children. Also husband of Louisa, a kind, motherly woman, and father of Jane, a shy little girl who later married Victor Edmiston. Recently, at the age of 74, she died.

Thus, one by one, our childhood playmates are crossing over.

About a century ago (1830s) a young man named Willis Deaton established a home two miles east of Spring Grove. He was a brother of James and John, of the Mooresville community. After my family moved to Spring Grove from near Troutman a warm friendship grew up between the Deaton and Goodman families. Mr. Deaton never acquired much wealth, only a comfortable sustenance, but from his loins and fatherly care — assisted by a lovely wife — he gave our community five splendid citizens, two boys and three girls. John bought a farm near by, was a good farmer and prosperous businessman, above all a devoted Christian, a pillar in the St. Enoch Lutheran Church, giving his twin sons to the ministry.

Enoch bought the old homestead, lived and died. The late Edward C. was a son of his.

Misses Melissa and Caroline married and spent useful lives in the Enochville community. The other daughter married John Kerr of the Salem community.

Mr. Kerr had a nice farm near James A. Harris. A quiet, unostentatious man. One little boy to whom he showed kindness still reveres his memory. The Kerrs had an only daughter, Agnes, with whom that little boy went to school. She is now the venerable Mrs. A.W. Gudgey, who just celebrated her 80th birthday, after fifty-nine years of marital life with one man; a record rarely beaten. Congratulations, Mrs. Gudgey. May your remaining days be full of sunshine.

John Kerr built the first house east of the Lee Connelly residence when Bob McKey decided to allow his west cotton field to become a parcel of our town. That house stood opposite the McKey barn, which made him the pioneer of east Mooresville.

J. I. Goodman  
Fleming, Colo.

## Letters to the editor

Continued from page 10A

is. Most people say they are paying enough taxes already.

Charlotte has never supported a sports team for long, so why would it support one now? Remember the Carolina Cougars? Charlotte did not support them for long. Remember the pro soccer team that was pretty good for a while, yet Charlotte dropped their support pretty quickly? Remember the minor league Charlotte football team several years back that was undefeated two years running and won their own championship twice, and yet they folded due to lack of support?

If Charlotte is not going to support a big sports team, then why do we have to get a new very expensive place for a team to play? Charlotte and the surrounding area are pretty nice places to live already. Why do we have to have a big sports team or facility to bring this fact to the attention of the world? Aren't there tons of festivals and other activities all around this fine state?

Big sports teams are so popular in these

big towns because there is nothing else to do in some of these towns and the life there must be getting people down. That is not the case in Central Piedmont North Carolina. Life will go on whether there is another big overly expensive coliseum or not. One new coliseum (the current one) is probably enough.

Solution 6 — Drop the idea completely. This is something that the Charlotte City Council refuses even to consider. Why not just drop the idea completely? Only the big special interests in downtown Charlotte want a new coliseum anyway. The general population is probably 60-70 percent against paying for another new coliseum, especially if they have to pay any more taxes to pay for it.

Drop the idea. The people don't want it. Perhaps these thoughts will cause some readers to reconsider the ideas for a "another New Coliseum."

Jeff Stonestreet  
Mooresville

## Walcott

Continued from page 10A

million to the F-22 jet fighter program, a wonderful defensive weapon which Bush notes will be interacting directly with the environment, most notably by sucking it through its engines.

During his speech, he did take some tacit shots at California Governor Gray Davis. Davis had appealed to Bush to institute federal price caps on energy. Davis argues, correctly I think, that the whole NASDAQ thing is really sucking it to California. They need relief in the form of free power from Texas, which has gladly polluted itself so much that foreign spy satellites now have to orbit so low and slowly that school children can beat them out of the sky with sticks like expensive shiny pinatas.

Bush responded that this was no time for name-calling. Davis said nobody is calling names. Bush noted that this is a time for leadership. Davis pleaded that he leads. Bush replied "The environment needs more roads so that it can drive itself to a country that cares." Davis winced, then cried. Bush said he has faith in the EPA, though now staffed by only a single howler monkey.

Christie Todd Whitman, former governor of New Jersey, is currently that monkey. Her environmental record in New Jersey was instrumental in her winning the appointment. New Jersey used to be an environmental disaster. But after Gov. Whitman's tenure, the impression of New Jersey drastically changed. In fact, the official state motto went from "New Jersey: Taste our air!" to "New Jersey: Our water stings!" For a while, it was actually healthier to breathe New Jersey's air through a lit Marlboro. Though that is no longer the case, they are now battling

the findings that say the safest way to drink Jersey's water is out of your shoe. Some argue that Whitman achieved her position because she is a woman, and not because she is a respected environmental advocate. But her critics have been quieted by her persuasive speeches wherein she advocates "patience" in lieu of fighting pollution. I agree, we can't rush this whole "Keep the planet livable" initiative.

As Bush finished his tour of Sequoia National Park, he paused long enough to watch an asthmatic chipmunk scurrying around for a nut, or possibly a chad that could turn over the election. "I just love chipmunks," Bush whispered, "...over rice."

Lake Norman-area resident Corey Walcott writes his humor column every other week for the Tribune's Viewpoint pages.

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## New environmentalism 'hard to pronounce'

Standing in front of a giant 260-foot sequoia, President Bush proclaimed triumphantly that he was set to usher in a new era in environmental management, one that considered the earth to be our most precious resource, and a resource that he intended to "tap like a keg" frequently.



Corey Walcott

Then he turned to the massive tree with which he was sharing the stage and patted it, adding "I love this old sassaquatch." For his final photo-op while communing with nature, he leaned over and kissed the tree to demonstrate his administration's intention to introduce legislation

that takes seriously the need to both preserve and taste the national parks. Then he lovingly patted the 2,600-year-old tree one more time and it fell over, revealing an oil derrick in its hollowed-out trunk. Bush then walked over to the derrick and kissed it, too.

The president's new environmentalism is not to be confused with the old environmentalism which was focused entirely too much on the environment and which Bush claims "did more harm than good." The new environmentalism will not be so narrow in its scope. It will focus more on things like affluent tax relief, military build-up, and having Senator Jeffords exiled to the island of Elba. And Bush is calling for more money than ever to be spent on this new open-ended environmentalism. For instance, his Environmental Military bill dedicates \$100

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