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TO

THE

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Special election report EDUCATION: THE ISSUE OF ISSUES

UNC BONDS: PRO & CON WHAT KIDS ARE READING WHAT YOU SHOULD READ TO KNOW MORE

Raleigh's Tift Merritt

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BRIGHT FUTURES

ampaign finance reform, adjustments in Medicare, how much more to allocate to our Armed Forces are really details in the upcoming election. The real issue that has Americans upset and divided is the state of education in the richest country on earth.

Bush and Gore know it. Richard Vinroot and Mike Easley know it too in the North Carolina governor's race. And North Carolinians are being asked to mark their ballot yes or no on over \$3 billion in bonds for the 16-campus UNC system of colleges and universities, with additional financing for the state's community college system.

Metro's Special Report on education in North Carolina is your guide to this critical vote. MetroBooks and MetroIndex are included in this informative special section.

AND THERE'S MORE

You can say you saw her first in *Metro* this month before Tift Merritt takes the world by storm. Managing Editor Patrik Jonsson caught up with the Raleigh-born rising country/blues/rock sensation and brings in a glowing report in a special feature profile. As you'll see, this cowgirl has it all.

Food editor Nancie McDermott delves into the tasty tradition of Brunswick Stew, a fall tradition in these parts, and Philip van Vleck keeps you informed on the latest in music goings-on in PvV. Events editor Frances Smith, on the heels of our September Metro Season fall preview, has uncovered even more activities for you to enjoy in the beautiful month of October.

All in all a tasty and eclectic autumn edition of *Metro*. Those of you who have not subscribed by now, this is your last issue unless we hear from you this month. Please fill out of the enclosed subscription card, or call our hotline at 800-567-1841 or use the form you received in the mail from me last month. It won't be the same without you.

Correspondence

CONCORDE CONUNDRUM

On page 6 of your September issue you invite readers to write and help "keep the record straight"—so here goes.

Your editorial column "Sonic regicide" (My Usual Charming Self, September 2000) blames the demise of the Concorde plane on the "greenies" and the "activist environmental policy in the U.S. during the disastrous Carter administration." Strong stuff—but just plain wrong. The facts are quite otherwise.

I'm enclosing an article from the *Economist* which makes it clear that the prime reasons for the failure of the Concorde to become widely accepted were in fact market-driven. "Greenie" policies were not the basic problem, as your column states.

Aubrey Fletcher Durham

The Economist writes: "Concorde was built in the days when air travel was for the elite. In fact, it could never have recovered its operating costs merely from chief executives prepared to scrunch into its small body and pay \$5000 or so to save four hours getting to New York, London or Paris. It has become profitable only by dint of clever marketing...of supersonic travel to tourists such as those killed in last month's crash. ...While Concorde sped off on a flight path to nowhere, the true advance in air travel has turned out to come from refinements of large jets, which have grown steadily cheaper and more reliable."

GENERATIONS AND SOULS

Excellent feature on the N.C. Museum of Art in your September issue. Fine reporting job by Patrik Jonsson and outstanding photographs. (I particularly like the way you brightened the Brueghel.)

I go to the museum because it's such a beautiful place to be. I really had no idea

how valuable the collection is and I'm anxious to see if that knowledge affects my next visit. Your description of it as a "state treasure" makes me even more grateful that it is open for me to enjoy. My thanks to all the folks who have wrangled and cajoled the legislature the last 50 years here's wishing them continued success.

And my respect to those who direct and run the museum with the passion caught in your article.

I found it interesting to join Harlan Boyles' viewing of the half billion dollars as an investment—an exercise I don't normally connect with museums. That's about enough money to build a small semiconductor chip factory whose costs and benefits are easy to calculate. But then the chip factory's return is only in years and dollars, not generations and souls!

Terry Murphy Durham

UNIQUELY US

The Elizabethan Gardens on Roanoke Island are particularly unique in that they were adopted in 1951 by the Garden Club of North Carolina to be a memorial to the first English settlers.

We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary on April 21-22, 2001, and sincerely hope that your intent to "embrace" Eastern North Carolina into the editorial mission and to continue your "editorial mix of…history, commentary and beautiful photography" will include our place as one of the major efforts over the years by a group of North Carolinians. One reporter said recently that we're "the best kept secret on the East Coast."

Mary Lou Huske Fayetteville

SPELL CHECK?

Your magazine is fine, but, oops, your spelling needs work!

See page 61, for example (Metro-Gourmet, September 2000), the listing about Horne Creek Farm. I was pretty horrified at the spelling you gave.

The correct town is spelled P-i-n-na-c-l-e, as in high point, as in the big pinnacle and the little pinnacle of Pilot



LAY OF AN ANCIENT LAND Several readers wrote and called to say they liked "Abundance of Riches," *Metro*'s feature story in September about the public treasures stored in the vaults and exhibitions at the North Carolina Museum of Art on Blue Ridge Road. Even CBS Morning News zoomed in on *Metro*'s cover during a spot the network aired about the museum. Pictured above is the 1596 masterpiece by Jan Brueghel the Elder, which alone is worth \$2.5 million. It was bought for \$3000 in 1952.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mountain, Surry County. Horne Creek Farm is about seven miles from Pinnacle, not as the crow flies.

Anne Radford Phillips, Ph.D. Raleigh

LET IT SNOW

Great issue and your column on Bobos was great (My Usual Charming Self, September 2000).

I particularly like the MetroIndex but I believe the snowfall measurement was at Raleigh-Durham International Airport vs. Raleigh. Remind the editors that the National Weather Service measurements in this area aren't in Raleigh or Durham but at RDU Airport. It is more Metro sounding anyway.

Reyn Bowman

President & CEO Durham Convention & Visitors Bureau

TAXING DILEMMA

Your readers can make a difference and their support is needed to help pass three critical bond referenda this November.

We are working with a group of citizens called the Friends of Wake County. The purpose of the group is to publicize and generate favorable votes on three Wake County bond questions on the November 7th ballot: \$500 million for schools, \$20 million for jails and \$15 million for open space.

These bonds will help accommodate the growth that has taken place in Wake County. The new school bond package is \$150 million less than that presented to the voters last year. Since the defeat of last year's referendum, representatives of groups who both supported and opposed the bond have spent thousands of hours to reshape the proposal and have developed a plan agreeable to all. If the voters approve this revised bond

PRAISES AND PANS

In response to *Metro*'s first direct-mail campaign in August, we received not only a windfall of subscriptions, but a number of short notes of praise and criticism. Here's a sampling:

"MetroMagazine is outstanding this month (again). Especially liked My Usual Charming Self and the piece on the NCMA. I plan to use subscriptions as Christmas gifts this year."

"Great magazine you've got going! We're headed to California soon, but will subscribe when we get back next May."

"Your editorials shout so loudly the

package, we will be able to build 14 new schools, renovate 32 existing schools and make needed repairs to more than 60 other schools.

The jail bonds will allow the County to begin the long-term process of creating beds to match inmate population in both the short and long term.

Finally, the open space bonds will be used to ensure that we do all we can to protect our water supply, wildlife and future recreation areas.

Each of these issues will be separate items on the November ballot. In addition, there are several other important bonds on the ballot: N.C. universities and community colleges and the City of Raleigh bonds for roads, parks and affordable housing. Without publicity, the importance of the bonds in Wake County may get lost.

These bonds will not raise taxes but will spread the cost of these projects over thirty years and this borrowing does no harm to the County's AAA bond rating.

If the bonds are defeated, we will still need to build and renovate schools and jails. Unfortunately, if faced with this dilemma, the County may have to raise property taxes as much as 11 cents per \$100 valuation or increase taxes while

opposite message that I cannot support your endeavors."

"Must subscribe after receiving the outstanding September 2000 issue... superb!"

"I have enjoyed the complimentary issues of *MetroMagazine*. It is refreshingly different."

"The area of northeastern North Carolina was the original settlement for the state. However, when the capital moved to Raleigh, we became the stepchild of North Carolina and time has passed us by. You are bringing us back to life!

reducing services, and using higher cost financing alternatives.

As you can see, passing the bonds is the best way to finance these essential programs. It is very important that we communicate to the public the need for these bonds and that the bonds will not require the County to raise taxes. Without investing in our community's infrastructure, we are risking our long-term quality of life.

For more information, check our website: www.wakebonds.com

Richard Urquhart and Hilda Pinnix-Ragland Co-Chairs, Friends of Wake County

CORRECTIONS

Ericsson is not a Swiss company, as *Metro* described it in the July/August issue. It's Swedish.

WRITE US: MetroMagazine seeks to keep the record straight. Please write us and include your full name, hometown, and daytime phone number. Address correspondence—as well as corrections or clarifications of fact—to: Editors, MetroMagazine, PO Box 6190, Raleigh, N.C., 27628, or email the magazine at email@metronc.com.



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Volume 1, Number 8 October 2000

COVER STORY

17 ELECTION 2000: METRO ADDRESSES THE CRISIS IN EDUCATION—THE REAL ISSUE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION

Forget about who's replacing Jim Hunt. Chances are, the Election Day outcome of the two education bond issues going before voters in November will become the actual stuff of history. As the capital's top pundits square off on the merits of the bonds, *Metro* also takes the opportunity to investigate what our students are learning—and how much that education actually costs in cultural and financial terms. Special editions of MetroBooks and MetroIndex also illuminate the state of today's public classrooms.

PROFILE

12 CATCH A RISING STAR

Tift Merritt is the real deal. Fresh from a concert tour that brought her from the Berkshires to the Smokies, and to NYC in between, the award-winning 25-year-old Raleigh singer/songwriter courts Nashville—and flirts with a big-time career. *by Patrik Jonsson*

FEATURE

60 BOILING POT

Food editor Nancie McDermott heads for the backroads in search of that fall community classic: Brunswick Stew. Though most Brunswick recipes call for at least 14 hens, MetroGourmet scales it down for the home kitchen.



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Events editor Frances Smith finds October happenings as colorful as wild asters and goldenrod in MetroPreview.

65 SOUND DETECTION

PvV writes about music critic David Menconi's Web-published book. What's it about? Music and crime, what else? Also: The Jimmy Nations story, hot buzz tracks, and videocentric picks.

71 YELLOW BRICK ROADS

Senior editor Rick Smith takes to the highways and byways of the New Economy with his truckful of tidbits, stories and data on today's wired world.

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moves to the new Meymandi Concert Hall (currently under construction) in February. It's never too early to reserve your seat. Get ready for a great sound!

MetroProfile

by Patrik Jonsson

Photos by Bryan Regan

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—This is Tift Merritt's big night...so she came to the Music City prepared.

"I dried my jeans twice so they'd fit tight," the rambling singer from Raleigh joshes before soundcheck—to goodnatured grumbles from the boys in the band.

Though at 25 already kind of a veteran of hard-knock music bars, what's happening here at the 12th and Porter club on Nashville's west side is a Parton-esque step up for Merritt. Here, in a record label capital where "every concert is a business proposition," the young Raleighite is about to step on the stage with her band. When she was here in June, the local music scribes (who seem to know every rumor, every hint) wrote about her like she was the next big thing-which made her so nervous she had to go sit in the van while the guys ate lunch. Later, she found out that Emmy Lou Harris was smiling in the audience during the show. She's feeling a little more relaxed for this gig: Pro manager and booking agent suddenly signed, now it's just that little matter of warming up the record label dudes.

Chances are, on this night Merritt could wear overalls and they'd still pay heed.

Sure, the cards are still not in agreement on the career future for the daughter of Robin and Peggy Merritt, and the namesake niece of famed local cardiologist, Tift Mann. But what is fact on this

LONGEST WAY

Since winning the Chris Austin songwriting contest at May's MerleFest, Tift Merritt rode a "lucky streak" to the heart of Nashville. The Music City critics call her "sorghum-sweet."

EARNING HER SPURS

Raleigh's Tift Merritt did it her way on the long road to Nashville



Nashville Friday night in early September, is that Tift Merritt, who used to write songs on a red upright piano on a lonely farm in Pittsboro, is making her third pilgrimage across the Blue Ridge Mountains to Nashville in less than four months. We're talking Nashville as in Lucinda Williams, Hank, Dolly, the Dixie Chicks—and now Tift Merritt, the singer with the once-in-a-million name and the "sorghum-sweet voice," as one *Tennessean* newspaper critic crooned.

Here on the wings of a "lucky streak" that began last spring in the mountains, continued to Arlo Guthrie's church of folk in western Massachusetts, to New York City, back home to venues at Chapel Hill and Carrboro, Merritt is indeed flirting with a major league music career—one she knows for a fact can break her heart as easily as could one of the handsome cowboys in her songs.

"The thing is, though, we're not celebrating on the outside yet, but, I'm telling you, I can't describe how happy we feel on the inside, just from what's happened this summer," Merritt said. "What's happened to us still feels very surreal."

Petite and sexy in a country kind of way, a provocative songwriter and a vocalist who can set your goose bumps astride, Merritt just finalized a major management deal with Frank Callari, a respected Nashville-based band manager who once was a DJ at New York's Studio 54, and the former handler for scary-rock singer Marilyn Manson ("A very sweet guy in person," he said). He's the man to talk to when you want to talk to Lucinda Williams, The Mavericks and even that other recent Tar Heel export to Nashville, the talented, Neil Younginspired Ryan Adams.

After seeing Tift this summer, Callari said he knew he had to sign her onto his roster. Callari's a big, confident guy who doesn't order a drink from the bar until well after soundcheck. He checks with the bands and laughs it up, talks about new songs. Used to being her own manager, Merritt thought at first she had to impress this worldy guy. Instead, she says the respect flows both ways in warm camaraderie.

As the day dies on the corner of 12th and Porter, Callari tells the story of how he heard about Tift earlier this year—and how he finally wrote her an introductory e-mail to which she wrote back, "I was wondering when you were going to call."

"What we're doing right now, tonight in Nashville, is we're trying to create some buzz," Callari said. "And we're not having much trouble doing that."

Notably, Tift got here to Nashville on her own terms, without even a studio CD to her name. For years, she circled the phone to get the courage to call up halls and bars for gigs—mostly to get the thumbs-down. But last spring, recognition came, notably with a collaboration with local headliners Two Dollar Pistols. Then there was MerleFest in the N.C. mountains in May, where astounded judges awarded her top place in the Chris Austin songwriting contest. Then, on that buzz, she got booked at the Nashville benefit concert Kim Fest in June.

"I used to ask everybody I knew about the music business," Merritt said. "And then one day I finally got it: Nobody's going to tell you how to do it. That's the point. Suddenly, all my decisions became a lot easier to make."

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The lights go down at 12th and Porter. The din of 250 people jams against the ceiling, against the bar. Tequila is flowing, so are the import beers. Guys smoke Lucky Strikes and the ladies make nice.

A rafting guide who just swept into town says he came to see Merritt. He'd heard about her all over town. Many club-hoppers are also here to see Ryan Adams get wild on stage—which eventually he does, to wonderful effect. At one point, the darkly humorous Jacksonville, N.C., local even breaks into a guitar-buzz version of Back Street Boys' "I Want It (That Way)." Fusion breeds apart, the tunes of Merritt and Adams somehow blend on the bill.

Somewhere in the crowd hover record agents—but no one wants to point them out.

First on stage, Merritt seems to mesmerize the audience, backed up by steel guitarist Greg Readling, drummer Zeke Hutchins and bassist Jay Brown. Even though it's immediately obvious that everyone in Nashville is a critic, the response is warm and welcoming. The women in the audience sway, and the men grin as though love-struck. Sliding smoothly from acoustic to cranking Telecaster, Merritt sings about being someone's Cadillac, the wrong ways to make him happy, the adventures of a juke joint girl, and an itch for sweet trouble:

In your kitchen on the way to your window. Walking down your hallway. Make some trouble over me. Button my coat up, stumble with your words some. Let me think that you might go to a little trouble over me.

Later, singing "Longest Way," Merritt continues to hammer home hard-lost lessons of the heart:

Your love is like this whole downtown. Just a rumor nailed into the ground. When I get there, I'll know you were wrong. You're the longest way, whichever way I'm going.

Wearing the wicked jeans and a white, coffee-smudged T-shirt, Merritt kicks up her feet, jigs around the stage, swings her hips and lets her expressive tenor loose into the PA. The show is nearly 50 minutes long, a tight-knit showcase for most of the band's set list. Afterward, out of sight, Merritt gleefully jumps into Zeke's arms for a huge hug.

"She's gorgeous, sings like an angel breathing down your neck and writes great songs—she's the real deal," says a clearly enamored Callari.

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A week later, Tift is taking a day off from her waitressing job at Raleigh's Caffe Luna restaurant. Record deal yet? "These things take time," she said. Her second floor single in Oakwood is blessed with good light and lived-on furniture. Where her old red piano might have stood is now a nice Rhodes organ. "I couldn't ask the men in my life to carry that thing around anymore," she said.

Before moving back to the city last year, Merritt spent nearly three years on a 40-acre poultry farm in Pittsboro, where she made earnest attempts at UNC-CH while hiding out and writing. That's where she formed the band, and where she wrote some of the songs on the band's current set list. That's also where she and partner Zeke toiled in obscurity for the cause. "It wasn't always fun," Merritt said.

Merritt hates trying to put a label on her music. Once, trying to describe it to a booking agent, she blurted out, "Dolly Parton meets Bob Dylan." It's definitely not country with a *K*. Neither is it rock, nor folk (although the crowd at Guthrie's Berkshires folk venue "treated us real nice," she said). With such disparate influences as the Rolling Stones, Emmy Lou Harris and Dylan (and a trunkful more), Merritt said she just tries to emulate what she thinks good songs should sound like. "I have tried to bring to it what I like about music, the best I can."

Musical heroes aside, the open

There are tippes when everything counts on choosing the right partner.



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"JUKEJOINT GIRL" "Your love is like this whole damn town," sings Merritt, who once wrote songs on a red upright piano, on a Pittboro chicken farm. Now Nashville beckons.

highways of rural America have perhaps made a greater impression—at least on her keen, evocative lyrics.

In "Cowboy," she writes:

I would take what I could carry, I'd take what I could keep.

I'd speak in words of kindness, even in my sleep.

I would watch the red sun dying, the moon would cover me. Spending silver nickels on a horse just being free.

Merritt said she started doing things her own way in earnest when she turned 18. Not necessarily to find material for the great American song, she hit the road.

"I moved around quite a bit, looking for trouble, mostly," she said. "I never wanted to travel for the sake of writing. Instead, I wanted to get rid of everything I had in order to get down to the simple truth of it. I don't know if I ever did, but I don't have that need anymore."

Still, many of her songs meander like a lonely girl in a Cadillac through the big, heartless country west of here. In fact, she lived all over, including Montreal and Santa Fe. Well, stayed is more like it. "Living is what you do when you have a home," she said.

She passed through the big west, the west coast, up through the Rockies and down the continental shelf and the big cattle country of Texas. She even stopped in Nashville on one sojourn. "I got out, kicked the tires, and left," she said.

Waitressing for cash and playing guitar with a different style than she carries now, Merritt sometimes found herself the lone woman among throngs of beerboozy cowboys and construction workers. "Playing to a roomful of boys on a Saturday night by yourself isn't fun, necessarily," she said.

She still sometimes has a deleterious effect on men, but now at least, she

points out, she's got back-up.

In fact, Merritt doesn't give many specifics about her meanderings. But what she sings in "Blue Motel" stings with at least the pin-prick of personal legend:

A cowboy full of graces waiting on a small town waitress.
He's bought a one-way on her brown eyes.
The dealer nods and raises, I know where he keeps his aces.
They'll up the stakes and he will win again.
You're back in Carson City and that's all I can feel.
So there's nobody in this blue motel.

Having such a headstrong rambler for a daughter may have unraveled some parents, but Critter, the nickname for father Robin, and Peggy Merritt say they couldn't be prouder. In fact, it was Mr. Merritt who as a young dad first taught his daughter the right chords on the guitar.

"My parents are both real proud of me," Merritt said. "When I was just getting started, my dad didn't really like the songs, but, you know, I had to do those bad songs to write better ones. Now he likes them a lot. My mom has always told me to say things like they are, and I've always tried to do that, for better or worse."

Growing up in a Southern family, too, helped her writing, she said: "Southerners are always telling different versions of a story, embellishing it all the time. That made it easier for me to tell my versions."

Did she ever have doubts about getting to Nashville? Plenty, she said.

"I thought it was frivolous to want to be a singer," she said. "It's like, go ahead and pick the one thing you'll never be and go do it."

Thus satisfied, Tift Merritt took that troublesome road to where she needs to be.

Election 2000—Special report

EDUCATION: THE ISSUE OF ISSUES

UNC BONDS: PRO & CON

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re not reviewed in the mainstream press.....



UNC BONDS: VOTE 'YES'

State Treasurer Harlan Boyles explains why the university and community college bonds are essential to North Carolina's future.

half-century ago, the people of North Carolina had the courage and vision to support issuance

of the farm-to-market road bonds, which were the spark for an economic revolution in this state.

On November 7 North Carolinians will again have the opportunity to set the course for record economic prosperity and opportunity in our state by approving the community college and university



HARLAN BOYLES "These funds will go to serving people throughout our society."

higher education bonds referendum.

In many ways the decision should be much easier this time. In 1949, the amount of the farm-to-market bonds was equivalent to the entire state budget. In contrast, the annual cost for the community college and university bonds will be less than one percent of the state's budget. That's why I'm confident that, through responsible budgeting practices and economic growth, paying for these bonds should not require any state tax increase and that the bonds will be the most cost-effective way for the state and counties to pay for these badly needed improvements. workers they found here. We can't afford not to be ready in the same way when future companies consider our state for a location or expansion.

A second reason that voting for the

state education bonds should be an easy

choice is that they will go toward making

a proven product even better. North Carolina's community colleges and uni-

versities have been one of the most impor-

tant factors in our state's reputation as a

national leader in attracting new jobs and

business investment

over the last 30 years. In communities and

counties throughout this state there are

thousands of com-

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Carolina because of

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Perhaps the most important reason for North Carolinians to vote for the community college and university bonds is that the funds will go toward serving people throughout our society. Each year almost one million people take at least one course at North Carolina's community colleges and universities. They are people at every income level. They are young people, seniors, and members of working families. They are scientists and farmers. Over 300,000 of those students are full-time.

And the demand is only going to get greater. By the end of this decade, full-time enrollment at those schools will increase by 100,000 students. North Carolinians are responding to the rapid changes in our economy by seeking additional training and education from our educational system. The state schools must be ready for them, or the state's economy will start slipping backward.

Consider these warning signs:

- Contrary to their historical open-door policy, North Carolina's community colleges are closing their doors to some students because of lack of classroom and laboratory space.
- Community colleges have long waiting lists for classes, especially in highdemand fields like computers.
- Some schools can't offer industries the training their employees need because of a shortage of facilities.
- Each year North Carolina's universities are turning thousands of eligible students away from their choice of schools and courses because there's not enough room.
- Some students can't get the quality of education they need for this century's jobs because their classes are in facilities that are limited to equipment that only requires skill levels of last century's jobs.
- Because of space shortages, badly needed nursing school applicants are being turned away at East Carolina University.

 UNC-Charlotte has to limit qualified transfers from community colleges because of lack of classrooms and laboratories.

Perhaps the most important reason for North Carolinians to vote for the community college and university bonds is that the funds will go toward serving people throughout our society. Each year almost one million people take at least one course at North Carolina's community colleges and universities. They are people at every income level. They are young people, seniors, and members of working families.

The list goes on and on. Careers and economic development are being put on hold.

In response to these challenges, the North Carolina General Assembly overwhelmingly approved this bond referendum package. The bonds will go toward repairing, renovating, modernizing and constructing well over 300 buildings at our community colleges and universities. Those buildings will be for increased classrooms, science labs, libraries, industrial-training facilities and technology infrastructure.

In the Triangle, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University and UNC-Chapel Hill will receive over \$1 billion for science labs, numerous classroom and research buildings, and technology infrastructure. Wake Technical Community College and Durham Technical Community College will receive a total of almost \$50 million.

To manage the bond funds effectively, they will be distributed to the 59 community college institutions and 16 universities over the next six years. And, the bond legislation requires the appointment of an independent oversight committee that will review proposed expenditures in detail.

At the county level, the bonds will significantly reduce pressure on the counties to use local resources to pay for needed community college facilities. Traditionally, it is the counties' responsibility to pay for the lion's share of community college facilities. That situation is just the opposite with these bonds.

Of the \$600 million going to community colleges, nearly \$500 million will not require a match from the counties. Every community college will receive a fair share of the \$100 million designated for repair and renovation without having to match these funds.

Counties that need to make a partial match will have a variety of choices.

Let's take Wake County for example. Under the bonds formula Wake Technical Community College is earmarked to receive \$33 million. Of that total, Wake County will receive nearly \$30 million in state funds without having to make any match. Of the \$30 million, nearly \$3 million from the state will be for repair and renovation, a responsibility that Wake now carries entirely in its budget. Those are direct savings for the Wake County taxpayers.

One Wake County choice is to accept the \$30 million match-free dollars and not apply for the \$3 million they must match. Another choice is to look at how they might match the other \$3 million. Certainly the one choice they won't make is to turn down the \$30 million match-free dollars. But first the bonds need to be approved.

Nearly all other counties with a required match are in similar situations. They have a variety of choices. Personally, I hope they will all step up with solutions to using their entire share.

And, it is worth repeating that nearly \$500 million of the \$600 million comes at no expense to those counties. That alone deserves the full support of those living in those counties.

The bottom line is that there are demonstrated needs for these improvements that are so important to the livelihoods of our citizens and the economic future of our state. These community college and university bonds are by far the most cost-effective way for the state and counties to pay for those improvements and provide badly needed opportunities for progress in North Carolina.

State treasurer Harlan Boyles first took office in 1977 and has held it ever since. He will retire next year. He graduated from UNC-CH and is a native of Lincolnton, N.C.



UNC BONDS: VOTE 'NO'

Education specialist George Leef debunks the higher education bond.

ere's a terrible situation for you. You're driving along in an unfamiliar city when something goes

CLUNK under the hood. All sorts of warning lights come on. You manage to putter slowly along until you see "Billy Bob's Service." You drive in and are soon met by Billy Bob (his name is on his overalls) to whom you explain what has happened to your car. Billy Bob has you pull your car into his service area and suggests that



GEORGE C. LEEF "Are they padding the bill?...Yes."

you wait in his "customer lounge" while he evaluates the problem. You sit uncomfortably for 45 minutes, glancing through an issue of *People* from 1993.

Billy Bob finally strides in to face you. "I'm real sorry, but your whatchamacallit is shot, your thingummy is about to give out, and your doohickey should've been replaced thousands of miles ago. Fixing it's going to cost \$1247.63. If you want me to get started, just sign here."

Is Billy Bob giving you the lowest price for doing just the work that is needed? Or is he inflating the cost of everything, including things that don't need to be done? You aren't in a good decision-making spot, but you have to take his offer or leave it.

North Carolina voters, I submit, are in much the same situation regarding the referendum on the Higher Education Bond. Assuming that they have been attentive to the news stories and the multi-million-dollar pro-bond campaign, they understand that there is a problem

> in the University of North Carolina system. Lots of buildings are in deplorable shape and the higher education folks say they must borrow \$3.1 billion to fix things up. Just vote YES on November 7. It's a no-brainer we've got to have good educational facilities, right?

Are the higher education folks and their political allies playing the Billy Bob role? It's a tremendous amount of money. Are they going to fix just what needs to be fixed at the lowest cost? Or are they padding the bill?

I have been asking myself that question for months and have concluded that the bill is heavily padded. We don't need to borrow nearly so much to fix the decrepit dorms, labs, and classrooms and a lot of the proposed expenditure is for building projects for which the taxpayers shouldn't foot the bill now, if ever. Let's analyze the proposal piece by piece.

REPAIR AND RENOVATION

Many buildings throughout the UNC system have been allowed to deteriorate very badly. Some laboratories are so antiquated that using them could be dangerous; some dorms are so run down that students share them with mice and spiders. The General Assembly has not appropriated enough money to keep the buildings up to standard. Furthermore, UNC administrators have spent hundreds of millions that could have gone into building maintenance on a host of new construction projects, often on structures only tenuously related to academics, such as conference centers and athletic facilities. That's political management for you.

In the bond proposal, \$2.5 billion is to go to UNC and half of that is for repair and renovation projects. The legislation that put the bond referendum on the ballot gives a list of all the buildings slated for such work and the anticipated cost. That's the service order UNC is handing us and asking us to sign. But does it need to be so expensive?

I looked into the files of the State Construction Office (SCO), which sends teams of three building experts to assess the condition of all state-owned buildings every three years. Their findings are reported and estimates given as to the cost of repairing defects. In building after building, I found a wide discrepancy between the cost of repair given by the SCO and the amount to be spent under the bond proposal. To give just one example, Memorial Hall on Chapel Hill's campus (used for concerts, plays and the like) does need some renovation-\$1.77 million by the SCO estimate. However, the bond proposal has the state borrowing and spending *\$9 million* for renovation and an addition. Do we really need to borrow and spend that extra *\$7.2* million?

Certainly we have to come up with the funds to fix (and in some cases replace) the forlorn buildings, but the bill we're looking at is far higher than need be to do so.

EXPANSION

The other half of the UNC money would go into new buildings that are supposedly needed owing to the projected growth in the number of college-age students over the next decade. Let's take a look.

First of all, a substantial amount of spending is for buildings and other items that aren't academic. Many of the most obvious "wish list" items from last year's

Certainly we have to come up with the funds to fix (and in some cases replace) the forlorn buildings, but the bill we're looking at is far higher than need be to do so.

higher UNC package (\$2.7 billion) have been dropped, such as the \$10 million performing arts center on Roanoke Island, which isn't even close to a UNC campus. But there is still a large amount—around \$100 million—for projects that can't be considered part of the campus crisis. UNC Public TV gets \$65 million. The North Carolina Arboretum gets \$9 million. There is money for athletic facilities and concert halls. Nice things all, but we don't need to borrow to do them right now.

But more importantly, does UNC have to expand? Yes, there will be more collegeage students in the future, but it does not follow that the UNC system has to have places for all of them. UNC is just a part of the huge and rapidly changing market for higher education. There are numerous independent colleges and universities in the state which have room for some 9000 additional students currently. Many of them would gladly expand if the demand were sufficient-with money voluntarily contributed rather than taken from taxpayers. There are colleges and universities in other states, of course, and also the rapidly growing market segment of on-line study. Options abound. So does financial assistance for students from poorer families. Recently enacted legislation makes it easier for parents and grandparents to save money for college expenses.

In short, there is no reason why we must borrow to expand one of the nation's most heavily subsidized state university systems (UNC tuition is very low compared, for example, to Virginia, Pennsylvania or Michigan) so that it can then enroll more students, adding further burdens on the taxpayers.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

If the bond referendum passes, \$600 million is targeted for the state's community college system, more than 80 percent of it for new construction.

The main difficulty I have with this part of the package is not the amount of money. Community colleges are no-nonsense places that, from what I have read, do good work in training and remedial education to get students caught up whose K–12 years were unproductive. The problem is in the *process*. These are *community* colleges, and usually the funding for capital improvements comes through *local* elections, where the people can best assess the needs and merits of the institution. Why should voters in the Triangle make a decision affecting colleges ranging from the seacoast to the Tennessee border? A decision, incidentally, that may require increases in local taxes to cover a county's matching requirement for new construction.

Bundling all the community colleges together is bad enough; to bundle them together with the very different UNC system is a terrible way to make a decision.

SPEAKING OF TAXES

Approval of the bond issue will increase the state's cost of debt service by \$310 million per year once they have all been sold. Is that going to lead to higher state taxes? Not directly or necessarily. No one knows what financial imperatives will arise in the future. We can, however, say with certainty that a tax increase is *more likely* if we have made an irrevocable commitment of \$310 million annually than if we haven't. It is also certainly true that state tax reduction is *less likely* if the bond issue passes.

IMPLICATIONS

If the voters say no to the bond proposal, that will not mean disaster for UNC, much less the state. It will muddle through until next year when Molly Broad and her political allies will float a new and presumably less extravagant plan for financing the work that is essential. And it is not the case that the pathetic



buildings must wait until the approval of some bond issuance. Each year UNC receives money (\$89 million last year) from the Repair and Renovation Fund. That money should be targeted to the worst problems. And of course, the legislature can appropriate additional money if it is willing to cut less important budget items elsewhere. I'd recommend starting with the corporate welfare (a.k.a. "economic development) spending in the Department of Commerce. A frugal governor could easily find several hundred million dollars in needless spending that could be redirected toward UNC and the community colleges.

We don't have to accept this proposal and if we don't, it may just lead to some salutary changes in the way UNC runs its affairs and the way the state allocates our resources.

George Leef, the director of the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy Institute in Raleigh, is a 1977 Duke Law School graduate. A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he's been back in North Carolina for two years.

By Arch T. Allen

WHETHER 'YES' OR 'NO' ON THE UNC BONDS, REFORM IS NEEDED

fter reading Harlan Boyles' positive and George Leef's skeptical pieces on the \$3.1 billion higher education bond issue, readers will be better prepared to decide whether to vote "yes" or "no" on November 7. Having written a two-part article earlier in *Metro* on the UNC System, I here offer my thoughts about its \$6 billion capital needs crisis and its \$2.5 billion component of the bond issue.

There is no reported opposition to the bond issue. The Governor and all three past living governors and other state leaders, including State Treasurer Harlan Boyles, are for the bonds. There have been some criticisms, however, largely from George Leef and other analysts at the Raleigh-based John Locke Foundation and its Pope Center for Higher Education. They have concluded that \$1 billion is a more realistic figure-for bonds to finance UNC's immediate needs. Other projects, they contend, could be paid for with annual appropriations in amounts less than the annual debt service on the proposed bonds. They have also concluded that campus priorities should be realigned and some projects eliminated or financed by other available funds, such as gifts.

As one of Leef's colleagues has written, the UNC System and the legislature have given us voters a Hobson's choice ride their \$2.5 billion horse or walk. Personally, I would rather ride a \$1 billion horse with other pay-as-you-go improvements, but I do not want to walk away from UNC. Thus, I plan to vote for the bond issue.

Whether other *Metro* readers plan to vote for or against the bond issue, and whether or not it passes, we should all reflect on the implications of the UNC capital needs crisis. In my opinion, bonds or no bonds, the crisis calls for reform of the UNC System and its financing.

In my experience, there is always a crisis in higher education. Indeed, a recent book on American higher education is entitled *The Academy in Crisis*. It explains the economic and other effects of the political policies for funding American higher education. Generally, its authors advocate more market-based approaches to financing higher education. They advocate less direct payments to the institutions, with education subsidies going first to the students in the form of vouchers or grants that they can redeem at the schools of their choices. Such a choicebased approach is akin to the former GI Bill, and is already found to some degree in the existing federal Pell grants program.

The contrasting approach of direct subsidies to institutions of higher learning has caused inefficiencies and distortions. For example, direct subsidies have over-emphasized faculty research and under-emphasized undergraduate teaching. Direct subsidies have entrenched the faculty who benefit from them and encumbered our campuses with inefficient bureaucracies to administer them.

With those thoughts in mind, let's turn briefly to two questions.

1) What does the crisis say about UNC governance and management? Before the state consolidated its campuses under the UNC System in 1972, there were fierce

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• IN EDUCATION

Over the next decade, North Carolina will face the fourth largest increase in public school enrollment nationwide. Approximately 2,500 new teachers a year will be needed in southeastern North Carolina alone. UNCW's Watson School of Education is the third largest producer of teachers in the state, but is limited to approximately 300 annually because of current space limitations. The education classroom building and regional resource center in the November bond issue will nearly double the number of educators available to work in the region's public schools. It will also provide muchneeded facilities for educators' continuing professional development which will help raise regional education standards. UNCW currently works collaboratively with more than 1,000 teachers and administrators in 60 schools in 10 area districts.

IN BUSINESS

Through its Division for Public Service and Extended Education and Cameron School of Business, UNCW supports area businesses and industry and educates the workforce in undergraduate and graduate degree programs including its innovative Master of Business Administration Degree. Following Hurricane Floyd, the Small Business and Technology Development Center at UNCW assisted in the business recovery assistance effort working with 180 clients in six area counties. NC Marine Trades Services assists individual marine businesses and focuses on issues on an industry-wide basis. The Center for Business and Economics Services provides essential economic data to regional businesses. To continue meeting business education needs, the university requires additional space provided by the bond issue,

• IN RETIREMENT

Located in one of the fastest-growing retirement regions of the country, UNCW is dedicated to serving seniors with continuing education, cultural opportunities and degree programs. UNCW's Adult Scholars Leadership Program explores problems in the region and possible solutions, and graduates enhance their community through volunteer and entrepreneurial services. Educational opportunities are available at a variety of levels including traditional undergraduate and graduate degree programs, the new Master of Arts in Liberal Studies and special interest "lifelong learning" classes. Working with the Arts Council of the Lower Cape Fear, UNCW promotes more than 55 arts groups through *Celebrate Wilmington*! and hosts many productions on campus. Expansion of services to retirees is dependent on additional facilities funded in the bond issue.



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debates on many aspects of the plan. One key debate was whether or not the campuses should be consolidated under a coordinating organization with decentralized management or be governed by centralized management. Centralized management won. There is no need to reopen the debate for what was best in 1972. Perhaps centralization was appropriate then. But whatever was right for the past quarter-century is not necessarily right for the 21st century.

At present, modern management theory advocates decentralized authority and centralized accountability. As I see it, we have much apparent authority on the UNC campuses, but the real authority resides at the UNC central bureaucracy. And as far as I can determine, we have little accountability anywhere. If my assessment is wrong, perhaps someone can tell me where accountability lies for the \$6 billion capital needs crisis.

Whether or not I'm correct in advocating decentralized campus-based authority and campus accountability, I hope that the issue will be debated publicly and that the legislature will re-examine it. I know, from the many comments I have received about my earlier *Metro* article, that many people share my views. Many now or formerly within the UNC System agree that decentralization would better serve the state now. For various reasons, they are reluctant to speak out publicly.

2) What does the crisis say about North Carolina's policies of directly subsidizing higher education while charging students low tuition? The 16 public UNC system campuses today, with nearly 150,000 students, compete with 36 private North Carolina colleges and universities, with over 60,000 students. At the UNC campuses, tuition and fees, including those for dormitory rooms, average approximately \$7000 a year, while at the private campuses they average well over twice that amount and are often higher.

With those differences, the UNC system projects increased enrollment of nearly 50,000 in the next decade while the private campuses are approximately 10,000 students under their current capacity. Thus, the direct subsidies of the public campuses have "crowded out" the private schools. Also, the direct subsidies are unfair in some cases. Under the low tuition policy, the state taxes poorer citizens to subsidize the UNC education of wealthier ones who can afford private tuition or higher public tuition.

A partial solution to this "crowd out" and unfairness would be for the state to expand existing programs and assist North Carolinians attending private North Carolina colleges and universities. Vouchers or grants for students attending private colleges and universities could cause better utilization of the undercapacity private campuses and educate more students at lower total costs to the taxpayers. They could also tilt the price playing field closer to level for the public and private campuses and enhance competition between them.

As I advocated in my earlier *Metro* article, under a decentralized, more market-based approach, the trustees of each campus should set tuition and fees for their school. The resulting revenues should flow, not into the state's general fund for bureaucratic re-distribution, but directly to the campuses.

The legislature should decide how much it is practicable under the state constitution for taxpayers to subsidize students, and then pay for student subsidies through vouchers or grants. It could also add supplemental grants based on need and requiring some level of academic achievement. It could thus assure access to higher education for needy students. Beyond those per-student subsidies, each campus could raise additional revenues through its own tuition and fees. This would result in students who can afford higher tuition and fees not being subsidized to the present extent.

CONCLUSIONS

These calls for reform of the huge UNC bureaucracy are much like tilting at windmills. But the winds of change blow broad and sometimes hard. There are other issues caught in the downdraft of the UNC capital needs crisis. As they swirl about, perhaps the ideas of decentralization and a more market-based approach will gain momentum.

In the meantime, we can wait to see how the winds blow in November on the bond issue vote, and observe what changes will follow.

Arch T. Allen earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, served on its Board of Trustees from 1989 to 1991 and was vice chancellor for development and university relations from 1991 to 1995.

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Making College Affordable for Everyone

A Service of the State of North Carolina

by Burton Folsom, Jr.



Bye bye American pie

NORTH CAROLINA'S U.S. HISTORY TEXTS TARNISH AMERICA'S GILDED MOMENTS

"Only the study of history will furnish you with the story of the precious inheritance you have received from the builders of the American nation and provide the background of knowledge necessary for the wise preservation and improvement of your heritage."

-Historian David Muzzey

Our ability as a society to transmit our heritage effectively to the next generation depends largely on the reliability and balance of the textbooks that our schools adopt. *MetroMagazine* obtained four leading U.S. history texts, all of which are on the accepted list for North Carolina.

This article examines their content, with special emphasis on how they look at the decline of economic liberty and the growth of government.

We chose to focus on this one key area, economic history, although textbook writers demonstrate the same problems and slant in dealing with religion, race, politics, and other key areas of American life. But when we look at the major area of economic history-from the "robber barons" to the New Deal to the Great Society and finally to Reagan's tax cuts-we can see clearly through many examples that students are indoctrinated with a negative view of individual entreprenership and enterprise from exposure to these four texts under review: Paul Boyer, The American Nation; Gerald Danzer, et al., The

Americans; Henry W. Bragdon, et al., History of a Free Nation; and Gary Nash, American Odyssey: The United States in the 20th Century.

The quoted lines leading into this study are from David Muzzey's *A History* of Our Country, the textbook that taught more high school students than any other in America during the 20th century. The uniqueness of America excited Muzzey, and he stressed in his text how important liberty and freedom were in developing the distinct American character. "The torch of our history was kindled at the sacred altar of liberty," Muzzey concluded for his students. "Let it be your pledge and mine to bear it...."

Muzzey would be sad to see that the current crop of textbook writers has dropped the torch of liberty. Many of them, in fact, see liberty, especially economic liberty, as sinister and potentially dangerous. With the torch of liberty extinguished, textbook authors have picked up their pens to celebrate the growth of government.

GREED OR PROGRESS?

The Gilded Age, the years from 1865 to 1900, is recognized by historians as an era when the U. S., under a system of limited government, became a world power, with steel, oil, and chemicals the key industries that sparked the growth of the American economy. It was an era in which American entrepreneurs invented new products, improved others, cut costs for consumers, and in the process attracted millions of immigrants from Europe to farm on our prairies and work in our factories.

In the four textbooks under review here, the story of the rise of America's economic pre-eminence is presented as an era of greed, not the development of resources and the rise of new industries. The textbook authors stress exploitation, corruption, and the making of vast sums of money from cutthroat competition. Author Nash in his *American Odyssey*, states it this way:

In the heady, expansive atmosphere of the Gilded Age, the struggle for wealth became a way of life for the most ambitious Americans. How did business leaders bent on killing off competition in order to increase their control of the marketplace and make as much money as possible, justify their activities to a public raised on the ideology of a fair and open society?

Nash answers his loaded question by pointing to the doctrine of the survival of the fittest and the concept of economic liberty. These businessmen "heaped praise on [the] notion that government should never interfere with the separation of the weak from the strong because this would only hold back progress." Nash cites no businessman who held such views, and none to my knowledge exists. But in phrasing the problem this way, Nash clearly defines the terms for his students: economic liberty was the means for entrepreneurs in the Gilded Age to "kill off competition," to "increase their control of the marketplace," and to "make as much money as possible." The growth of government, in Nash's view-through regulating business or forcibly redistributing wealthis desirable because it would have stopped, or at least limited, the exploitation of people and resources by these business pioneers. Nash intimates that controlling economic expansion would have somehow provided benefit to other groups in society.

VILLAINS OR HEROES?

The other textbooks under review echo Nash's thesis. This comparison is perhaps best addressed by looking at John D. Rockefeller, who, along with Andrew Carnegie was one of the two wealthiest Americans during the Gilded Age and the two men most thoroughly covered in these texts.

In all four texts, Rockefeller is described as ruthless. Nash calls the founder of Standard Oil "both wise and ruthless." Bragdon says that Rockefeller "used methods so shrewdly brutal that when they were revealed he became one of the most hated men in America." Danzer tells students why Rockefeller was allegedly so despicable:

Rockefeller's achievement was remarkable. In 1870, the Standard Oil Company of Ohio processed two or three percent of the country's crude oil. Within a decade it controlled 90 percent of the refining business.

Rather than passing savings along to employees or consumers, however, he reaped large profits. He paid his employees extremely low wages and drove his competitors out of business by selling his oil at a lower price than it cost to produce it. Then, when he had control of the market, he hiked prices far above their original level to gain back his money. Rockefeller's agents also used their clout to win rebates on railroad shipping costs and kickbacks from the higher fees railroads charged to other firms.

Boyer adds more detail to this nefarious account:

To drive his competitors out of business, Rockefeller made deals with



TWO TITANS John D. Rockefeller Sr. and Jr. plan another "ruthless" industrial coup. In fact, the Rockefellers stood firm against predatory pricing.



suppliers and transporters to receive cheaper supply and freight rates. George Rice, a small oil refiner driven out of business by Rockefeller's practices complained to the U.S. Industrial Commission in 1899, "I have been driven from pillar to post, from one railway line to another, for twenty years, in the absolutely vain endeavor to get equal and just freight rates with the Standard Oil Trust, ... but which I have been utterly unable to do. I have had to consequently shut down, with my business absolutely ruined." Rice was not alone. Rockefeller forced most of his rivals to sell out.

What students read about Rockefeller here is false in almost every detail, as demonstrated by scholars-from Allan Nevins, the Pulitzer Prize winner at Columbia University, to John McGee (who studied Standard Oil's records meticulously) to Ron Chernow, the author of the most recent biography of Rockefeller.

Boyer, however, accepts Rice's complaints at face value. The text never tells the students that George Rice was a charlatan, a con man who was trying to use the oil business as a scam to exploit others. He operated a mediocre refinery and tried to sell it in 1876 for \$24,000. There were no takers. Six years later he tried to dump it on Standard Oil for \$250,000. Naturally, Rockefeller refused to offer a price that high. Undeterred, Rice later doubled his asking price and complained bitterly when neither Standard Oil, nor any other refiner, would buy him out. Economist John McGee, in 1958, documented Rice's

manipulations carefully, but Boyer's text does not include McGee's discoveries about Rice; Boyer simply condemns Rockefeller and quotes Rice as though he were a legitimate businessman who



BARONS, ROBBED "Much of what students read about 'robber barons' like Herbert Dow (pictured here) is false in almost every detail," education analyst Burt Folsom concludes. Why?

had been wronged by Rockefeller.

In Rice's specific complaint, cited by the Boyer text and presented for the students without qualification, Rice apparently expected to receive the same rebate for shipping his small quantity of oil as Rockefeller received for shipping his massive amounts. No railroad would give Rice that large a discount unless he would give the railroad the same volume of business as Rockefeller.

It was not predatory pricing that made Rockefeller; it was the strong merit system in place at Standard Oil and the competitive wages he paid his employees. That's why his business had so few labor strikes. As Allan Nevins explained in his two-volume biography, he did it by pro-

ducing a quality product at a competitive price. He got more kerosene out of a barrel of oil than any other refiner because he was innovative and took risks. No one else could match him. Also, Rockefeller



TARNISHED AGE Industrialists like William Durant and John D. Rockefeller were discredited for leading the "Gilded Age." Without them, where would we be?

concentrated on the by-products of oil, and threw nothing away. He sold naphtha, waxes and gasoline separately while other refiners in Cleveland dumped them into the Cuyahoga River.

Gerald Danzer, in his textbook, The American Nation tells the students that Rockefeller engaged in predatory pricecutting. Rockefeller himself, when asked about this, told people he didn't do that because it would have been unprofitable. Since Standard Oil controlled almost 90 percent of the oil refining in the U.S., if he had cut prices below cost, he would have lost money on the massive amount of business he already had. His competitors, meanwhile, could have either shut down and waited until he raised prices to re-open, or, better yet, bought the oil below cost themselves. John McGee studied the company's financial records in detail and concluded, "Standard Oil did not use predatory price discrimination to drive out competing refiners, nor did its pricing practice have that effect. ...To do so would have been foolish."

The distortions and falsehoods in these texts about Rockefeller are important. He was the first billionaire in U. S. history and by far the brightest star in the constellation of the Gilded Age. By presenting Rockefeller as a devious, throat-cutting monopolist who cheated his customers, the texts can tell the students that economic liberty has been dangerous to American society. This leads to the conclusion that the federal government needed to have expanded powers to curtail economic freedom.

GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT: GOOD THING, BAD THING?

The Sherman Antitrust Act, which was used by government to break up Standard Oil in 1911, is applauded in all four texts. However, they never tell the students that market forces were already at work whittling down Standard Oil and other large corporations during the Progressive Era (1900-1920). For example, Rockefeller refused to invest in the Texas oil fields, which opened in 1901. Gulf Oil did and also took the risk to invest in offshore drilling. This caused Standard Oil's share of the oil market to erode even as the government was prosecuting it and breaking it up by force. Market forces, not government, whittled down U. S. Steel, the first billiondollar company, and International

Harvester both of which refused to take strong risks and lost business to more imaginative companies during the early decades of the 20th century.

The bias and lack of balance in these textbooks are confused further by



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contradictory facts. Danzer, for example, claims Rockefeller "paid his employees extremely low wages" but Bragdon says "the [Standard Oil] company had few labor troubles because it paid its workers well." Confusion reigns as well in the stories of other businessmen.

SHERMAN AND MELLON

With Rockefeller and others in the Gilded Age discredited, the texts are poised to argue that the huge growth of government in the 20th century was a good thing. The Sherman Antitrust Act, the Interstate Commerce Commission, and other federal interventions restricted free enterprise and created large bureaucracies in Washington. The income tax became law in 1913 and was used to support expanded government. What the texts do not say about the income tax is that once it became law, the marginal rate on the highest incomes was hiked to more than 70 percent in only five years, helping to make the IRS a pervasive force in American society. When Calvin Coolidge became president in 1923 he had Andrew Mellon, his Secretary of the Treasury, work on plans to lower rates on all income levels. The resulting "Mellon Plan," which fully became law by 1929, slashed rates on the highest incomes threefold-from 73 to 24 percent-and on the lowest incomes eightfold-from 4 to 0.5 percent. The economic results, in large part spurred by these tax cuts, were astonishing. Prosperity increased so rapidly that federal revenue actually increased during the 1920s even as rates dropped. The U.S. had budget surpluses every year during the 1920s and per capita income across society increased.

What do the texts say about Andrew Mellon and his tax cuts? Bragdon gets the story straight, but the others do not fare as well. Nash insists that "Mellon personal exemption for lower income earners—as well as lowering their tax rate eightfold. After reading Nash, the student would be astonished to learn that



BRIGHT LIGHTS Henry Ford (left) and Thomas Edison confer. Their innovations drove America's economy through the Industrial Age—and still underpin the electronic age.

immediately set out to cut government spending and reduce taxes on corporations and on people with high incomes." He, and Boyer as well, never mention the larger proportional cuts for those in the lowest income bracket.

Nash then turns a misleading point on tax cuts into a false one in the chapter review. Here he asks the students to answer the following question: "Why did Andrew Mellon believe millionaires should not pay taxes?" The unsuspecting student, of course, has no way of knowing if that is true or not. Actually, after Mellon's plan was adopted, millionaires had the highest tax rate in America, but the student has no way of knowing that Mellon even raised the millionaires, and those others in the top three percent of incomes in America, bore almost the entire income tax burden by 1929. In fact, a student reading Nash on Mellon would actually have to "un-learn" all he had read to begin his understanding of the subject.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

When a text errs in describing the Mellon tax cuts, that makes the text prone to err again in promoting under-consumption as a major cause of the Great Depression in the 1930s. In other words, if the rich were getting richer with tax cuts, and the poor were getting poorer, in part because they were shouldered with the whole tax burden, then it stands to reason that most Americans would not be able to buy as much—and that this decline in purchasing power—labeled "under-consumption" by economists—might help to spark a



MELLON PLANS Andrew Mellon's tax cuts for the rich spurred U.S. prosperity and presence on the world stage in the 1920s. Some textbook treatments of the "Mellon Plan" are best left unread.

depression in the national economy.

Boyer explains the role of under-consumption in allegedly causing the Great Depression this way:

Writer Upton Sinclair noted, "The...depression is one of abundance, not of scarcity. ...The cause of the trouble is that a small class has the wealth, while the rest have the debts." This income gap meant that most people did not have the buying power needed to boost the economy. According to many economists, if workers had received higher wages for their labor and farmers better prices

for their crops, the depression would have been less severe. Some even argue that it could have been avoided.

Contrary to Boyer's claims, the under-consumption view has been abandoned by economists because it doesn't square with the evidence. First, as we have seen, the Mellon tax cuts and tax exemptions provided greater proportional cuts for the lowest groups of taxpayers. Put another way, those who earned incomes of less than \$10,000 paid 20 percent of the entire federal income tax burden in 1923; after Mellon's tax cuts, they only paid 2 percent in 1929.

Lower taxes were not the only gain for America's wage earners. The proportion of national income going to employee compensation rose from about 55 percent to over 60 percent during the 1920s. Per capita income during the decade steadily rose; even net income per farm rose in both 1928 and 1929. If we look at the upper and lower incomes together, we find that they gained wealth during the 1920s at about the same proportion. According to the Historical Statistics of the United States, published by the Department of Commerce, the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans received 25.47 percent of the nation's income in 1921 and a similar 26.09 percent in 1929.

Peter Temin, an economist at MIT, has studied in detail these and other facts that clearly refute the under-consumptionist view. As far back as 1976, he concluded, "The concept of underconsumption has been abandoned in modern discussions of macroeconomics. ...An under-consumptionist view of the 1920s...is untenable." Except, Temin could have added, in some high school history texts, which insist to their students that under-consumption is gospel.

What did cause the Great Depression is complex and hard to resolve. What's interesting is that more and more economists and historians today are pointing to government as the problem, not the solution. Milton Friedman, the Nobel Prize winning economist, argued that the Federal Reserve, by lowering and raising interest rates at the wrong time, contributed greatly to turning an economic slump into a huge depression.

Jude Wanniski and others point to Congress and President Herbert Hoover for passing the Smoot-Hawley Tariff in 1930. Under that bill, 3218 items were tariffed, some at prohibitive rates. It was the highest tariff in U. S. history and caused foreign nations, in retaliation, to tariff American products. The U. S. virtually lost its export market. Sometimes one or more of the texts under review will touch on the role of the Fed or the Smoot-Hawley Tariff, but more often they look to problems with Andrew Mellon, unequal distribution of wealth, and under-consumption.

If the students are reading that the Mellon tax cuts helped the rich get richer and the poor poorer in the 1920s, and that the Great Depression came as a result of under-consumption in the 1930s, then economic liberty obviously failed. Massive government intervention, the texts insist, in the form of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal was a positive solution to the Great Depression, one that was at least a step in the right direction.



ART OF MAKE-BELIEVE: PRETEND HOOVER, PRETEND ROOSEVELT

In discussing the 1930s, the four texts first tend to set up President Hoover as a straw man. They argue that he was rigidly against economic intervention by the federal government. According to Boyer:

Hoover's firm belief in individualism and the value of characterbuilding experiences kept him from establishing a federal system that would directly aid Americans in need. ...He also believed that private charities and local communities, not the federal government, could best provide for those in need.

Danzer says almost the same thing: "As a supporter of rugged individualism, Hoover opposed any form of federal welfare, or direct relief to the needy." On the next page, Danzer adds, "Despite public criticism, Hoover continued to hold firm to his principles. He refused to support direct relief or other forms of federal welfare."

This textbook view of Hoover is overstated at best and flat wrong at worst. The real Hoover was much more interventionist than the textbook Hoover created by these authors. In fact, his administration authorized \$300 million for direct federal relief to the states, the first such program in U. S. history. Hoover also supported \$500 million to create a Farm Board, largely to prop up cotton and wheat prices. He also supported almost \$2 billion for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to make loans and gifts to banks and corporations. He spent more on federal public works than any previous administration. Although the texts sometimes touch on some of these programs, they present a caricature of Hoover as rigidly laissez-faire.

Once students understand that Hoover actually wanted more government spending, not less, they can understand why the national debt stopped shrinking and began rising again during Coolidge's vice-president), but nothing to those without political pull; he built public works at federal expense in his home state of California, but ignored the Tennessee Valley area. However, these actions of federal spending are not a remedy for a depression; they are political maneuvering with taxpayer dollars. And taxpayer dollars are what Hoover wanted more of—he promoted a bill to hike the



THE STRAWMAN Herbert Hoover's belief in America's individualistic streak didn't save him from being labeled "rigidly laissez-faire." This view is "overstated at best and flat wrong at worst."

his presidency. Confidence dropped as unemployment skyrocketed from 3 to 25 percent in Hoover's presidency. His government programs obviously did not stop the Great Depression from deepening, and perhaps made things worse.

Under Hoover, the federal farm board gave money to wheat farmers, but not soybean farmers; the Reconstruction Finance Corporation gave \$90 million to Charles Dawes (Hoover's friend and tax rate on lower incomes from 0.5 to 5 percent and on the highest incomes from 24 percent to 63 percent. No wonder, during the presidential campaign in 1932, Franklin Roosevelt campaigned to balance the budget and denounced Hoover as having "the greatest spending administration in peace times in all our history."

That makes Bragdon's juxtaposition of Hoover, the rigid opponent of government spending, with Roosevelt, the government activist, all the more absurd. In that presidential campaign, Bragdon continues this mythological dichotomy: "Hoover flatly rejected Roosevelt's position that government had 'a positive duty to see that no citizen shall starve.' 'You cannot,' warned Hoover, 'extend the mastery of government over the daily life of a people without somewhere making it master of people's souls and thoughts.""

If we have, however, a pretend Hoover who rejects government intervention, and if the Great Depression then deepens, we can have also a pretend Roosevelt emerge to save the country, or at least improve it, by dramatic increases in the growth of government.

FDR & THE NEW DEAL

In describing Roosevelt, who ran against Hoover on a platform of less government spending, the texts commend him for his willingness to experiment and expand the role of government-the AAA for the farmer, the RFC for the banker, the NRA for the businessman, the TVA for the South, and Social Security for the elderly. "Americans responded enthusiastically to Franklin D. Roosevelt's call for action to fight the Great Depression," Bragdon tells his students. The texts sprinkle occasional criticism on Roosevelt for not going far enoughmore blacks and women could have been hired; more programs for the poor could have been instituted; wealth could have been redistributed more evenly. But the tone in these texts is one of optimism and celebration of the increased role of government in the national economy.

What the textbooks never say is that most New Deal programs—from AAA to NRA to the Silver Purchase Act could never have worked regardless of funding. You can't restore prosperity by having government (read "taxpayers") pay farmers not to produce, by fixing prices of goods, or by purchasing silver at inflated prices. The more thoughtful observers recognized this; as Walter Lippmann, the columnist and early supporter of the New Deal, concluded, "the common character of all this legislation—from AAA to the Stock Market Bill, is that it constricts enterprise."

PAYING THE PIPER

These texts rarely talk about taxes, which is the flip side of the government

programs. If the texts are going to describe in detail some of the programs of the New Deal, they must also tell students where the money for these programs was coming from. Students might be shocked to read that Roosevelt and his allies pushed the tax rate on top incomes to 79 percent in 1935 and to over 90 percent in the 1940s, during World War II. None of these texts mentions that in 1942, Roosevelt issued an executive order to tax all incomes over \$25,000 at 100 percent (Congress repealed it). By 1945, Roosevelt's last year as president, the bottom rate had been pushed up to 20 percent, most American families were paying income tax, and withholding had





been introduced permanently to capture revenue immediately at the source. These dramatic changes in American society are greeted in two of the textbooks with total silence, and in the other two with vague and incomplete information.

Also absent is a discussion of the excise taxes, which funded so many of the New Deal programs. Roosevelt supported excise taxes on cars, tires, movie tickets, cigarettes, whiskey, telephone calls, and bank checks—all of which are considered regressive because they hit lower income earners the hardest. When taxes couldn't cover all the costs, Roosevelt resorted to deficit spending: The national debt doubled in his first six years in office.

If students were given the full story behind the New Deal, or even a few key parts of it, they would have the tools to analyze the following paragraph from Nash on the Works Progress Administration (WPA): "Both directly and indirectly, the WPA improved the quality of life in communities across the nation. In all, during its 5 years of operation, the WPA gave jobs to more than 8 million people."

Eight million people may have been given government jobs, but the taxes raised to create these jobs meant that many Americans had less to spend, just as those with the new government jobs had more to spend. Those WPA programs that "improved the quality of life in communities across the nation," were gained at the expense of taxpayers in other communities across the nation. One community's federal project is another community's tax burden. This is clearly seen in the first federal welfare program, which gave \$300 million to states in need. It became a grab bag for whichever states could rush to Washington quickest to get the cash. Illinois, for example, snatched over \$55 million; Massachusetts got zero. Illinois, then, reaped benefits from taxpayers all over the nation, including Massachusetts—which had to pay for its own statewide welfare program and then, through federal taxes, contribute to Illinois as well. That's "the rest of the story" that even more. Those politicians, usually Democrats, who favor increases in government power, are praised; those who wish to limit government and expand economic liberty are criticized.

The next wave of government expansion occurred from 1963–1968 under Lyndon Johnson and the so-called "Great Society" legislation, which expanded some New Deal poverty programs and introduced several new pro-



MAN OF THE PEOPLE Treated as a political saint in many texts, FDR (shown here on a North Dakota farm) actually. "constricted enterprise" by paying farmers not to grow crops and pushing top income tax rates to over 90 percent in the 1940s.

the students need to hear to balance the praise that the texts give to Roosevelt.

THE NEXT WAVE

The sharp growth of government under Franklin Roosevelt was a political watershed in U. S. history. With the New Deal reforms in place, the four texts praise those who—in the following decades—wanted government to grow grams that are still with us today. Nash, Danzer, and Boyer all praise Johnson as a man of "vision." "LBJ cared about the poor," Nash assures the students, and outlines the new government programs. He compares the New Deal and the Great Society, and applauds both. The Great Society "was under-funded," Nash insists. "Perhaps the greatest weakness in the Great Society programs was that it
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promised so much that, despite its successes, critics could always point to problems yet unresolved." What a clever way to praise the Great Society while seeming to criticize it. That point aside, Nash assumes here that more money spent in government programs would eliminate more poverty. In fact, that has not occurred. From 1966 to 1996, over four trillion dollars were spent on various social programs, but roughly the same proportion of the population—15 percent—was below the poverty line in both years.

In a way, this result parallels the problem described earlier with unemployment in the New Deal. In 1938, after five years of massive New Deal spending, unemployment was almost identical to what it was in 1931, the year before Roosevelt was elected president, or 1934, the middle year of his first term. Similarly, in 1996—after 30 years of head start, food stamps, expanded welfare, and sharply increased aid to families with dependent children—the same proportion of Americans, roughly one out of seven, were still in poverty.

Why did the Great Society fail to reduce the percentage of Americans living in poverty? As journalist M. Stanton Evans pointed out, if we had simply taken the money allocated for the War on Poverty and made checks out to each poor family, *all* the poor families in America would have been pushed far above the poverty line. So, what went wrong? At one level, of course, the failure of the Great Society parallels that of the New Deal. For every dollar put into the hands of a poor person, \$10 are taken from the taxpayer—one for the poor person, three for a bureaucrat, one for his supplies and expense allowance, one for his secretary, and four to build the air-conditioned building to house him and other bureaucrats. Soon more tax money is needed; the marginal taxpayers fall below the poverty level; and no net improvement is made in the poverty statistics.

On this riddle of why spending trillions of dollars made no dent in poverty, sociologist Charles Murray has studied the evidence and offers a solution. In Losing Ground, he observes that the increases in funding to poor families created incentives for them to remain in poverty. For example, single women with children were given increased welfare benefits for each illegitimate child they produced. If they married, they forfeited the federal aid. Therefore, many single women never married and continued having children. On the plus side, some of these children broke the welfare cycle and became admirable and productive members of society. But statistically, Murray finds, the children in these singleparent households were disproportionately involved in crime, dropping out of school, and in fathering (or mothering) one or more children during their teen years. These children of the government programs started in the 1960s thus continued the cycle of poverty for another generation into the 1990s. Murray cites the statistical evidence that shows the number of illegitimate births more than doubled in the United States from 1965-the first full year of the Great Society-to 1979. Such a cataclysmic change transformed American history, and its consequences are felt today.



CARING FOR THE POOR "Great Society" programs of the 1960s actually didn't reduce poverty—but you'd hardly know that from many school texts.

The Great Society, to paraphrase Murray, did not accomplish what it set out to do; and, in fact, it often made things worse. In 1965, only one in 20 live births were illegitimate; by 1995, almost one in three was illegitimate. Students reading these texts are shielded from these startling statistics on the increase in illegitimacy. The broken homes, the fatherless children, the stressed-out mothers, and the fleeced taxpayers do not make serious appearances in these texts. Nash simply tells us "LBJ cared about the poor," and that more funding was needed for Great Society programs.

THE REAGAN YEARS

The federal spending sparked by the Great Society increased steadily during the 1970s and went largely unchallenged until the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. Reagan often ridiculed the failures of many government programs and used them to make his case for more economic liberty and limited government. During his presidency, he cut tax rates and reduced some (but not all) federal spending. The GNP grew steadily, and the 1980s were among the most prosperous decades of the century. Reagan's "misery index," that is, the average amount of annual inflation and unemployment, was the lowest of any president since Calvin Coolidge, who, interestingly, was the last president before Reagan to cut tax rates significantly. These results help explain why Reagan not only won election to two terms, but won re-election by one of the greatest landslides in U.S. history.

The texts tend to downplay Reagan's success. Often, their pages read like campaign leaflets from the Democratic Party. Boyer's subhead reads "Role of the New Right," and stresses the emergence of fundamentalist Christians. "Conservative Backlash" is the subhead Danzer uses to describe the 1980s; Reagan's "tax package," he tells the students, "cut income taxes and business taxes an average of 25 percent; the largest cuts went to those with the highest incomes." What Danzer fails to inform the students is that those "with the highest incomes" had paid a disproportionate share of the income tax; therefore, it was logical that if a cut was to be made that they-as the highest taxpayers-should receive the largest reduction.

What's more disturbing is that neither Danzer nor any of the other texts tells the students that when Reagan took office America's largest income earners paid a marginal income tax of 70 percent. Reagan ultimately had that reduced to 28 percent. That 70 percent rate, however, was a bit of a throwback to the

Roosevelt days (Kennedy in 1963 had proposed the successful cut from 90 percent, which was the Roosevelt rate, to 70 percent, where it remained until Reagan's presidency). Reagan argued, as did Coolidge and Mellon before him, that when government took more than two out of every three dollars that an entrepreneur earned, that no one would have incentive to start companies, invent products, or create jobs for average Americans. The texts do not fairly present Reagan's argument here. Nor do they discuss the results of his whole tax package: federal revenue in the 1980s actually increased, and increased sharply after the tax cuts went into effect. In fact, total federal tax revenue in 1990 had actually doubled from 1980. Not only was the economy stimulated, but federal revenue sharply rose as well.

The texts do blame Reagan for budget deficits during the 1980s, but neglect to mention that he often proposed cuts that the Democratic Congress rejected. Reagan does bear responsibility for signing bills that increased many government programs, but, if the texts decide to criticize Reagan for these deficits, they need to be fair and note that the Democratic Congress passed and promoted the programs that made these deficits a reality.

Nash, in his text, has his own way of dealing with Reagan. He wants students to picture him narrowly as the candidate of the rich. He opens his chapter with a two-page spread with these opening lines in large print: "The New York Hilton banquet hall glittered with diamonds at the \$500-per-plate dinner that launched Ronald Reagan's third try for the



REAGAN REVISED Now derided in many classrooms, President Reagan actually kept the "misery index" low. He was also one of the most popular presidents of all time.

presidency." On the opposite page is a full-length picture of Ronald and Nancy Reagan, dancing in tuxedo and fulllength gown. Of course, many candidates, whatever their philosophy, open campaigns with expensive dinners, which are needed to raise the cash to run for president. But Nash presents only Reagan this way. He tried this technique on the students earlier in his section on the Gilded Age. Here he showed a picture of affluent Americans at Newport, Rhode Island, with this caption, "While the wealthy lounged on the steps of summer 'cottages,' others worked in factories and mines." Then he poses this question to the students: "Why were the 1800s known as an age of excess?" With this method, Nash plants the image and the question subtly in the students' minds to shape their thinking in a negative way



about the entrepreneurs of the 1800s that he carries forward to the 1980s and Ronald Reagan.

In case students miss the subliminal messages in Nash's pictures, he spells it out later in the text. At one point, he says,

Most of the scaled-down programs had grown out of the liberal social agenda that had dominated presidential and congressional politics for decades. Cutting them back fit Reagan's conservative view that the government should be less involved in the lives of its people, even those people who needed help (my emphasis).

THE CLINTON ERA

These four texts seem relieved when, in 1992, Bill Clinton, a candidate who wanted to expand government, was elected to the White House. Boyer talks about Clinton's "message of renewal for the nation," and adds: "Influenced by the idealism of the 1960s, he believed strongly in diversity and equality." On Danzer's last page of text, he cites issues of the future for possible government intervention: "global warming, acid rain, and the loss of the earth's protective ozone layer. And poverty remains a problem for many Americans in the late 20th century as the number of manufacturing jobs declines and government antipoverty programs are cut."

TEXTBOOK ERRORS: BIAS & INDOCTRINATION

High school students in North Carolina are not receiving a balanced and fair-minded picture of American

history from the four texts under review. The students are taught that economic liberty in the 1800s was a dangerous experiment, and that extensive government intervention was therefore required in the 20th century. Three of the four texts misrepresent the Mellon-Coolidge tax cuts; three of four distort President Hoover's views on the Great Depression; all four commend without objectivity Franklin Roosevelt and see the New Deal as a very positive direction in U. S. history; all four praise Lyndon Johnson's Great Society without noting the problems it created; and none of the four tells specifically what the Reagan tax cut did and what its impact was on both the economy and the federal treasury. These textbook authors could have drawn from a variety of books, articles-or even Muzzey's venerated A History of Our Country-to find accurate and balanced information.

Some of the texts are less egregious than others. The Bragdon text, for example, should be commended for mustering the courage to present the Mellon tax cuts in an honest manner. The Bragdon text is also less biased in favor of the New Deal and the Great Society than the others.

The worst text is probably Nash's. He often uses biased language and is prone to ask the students loaded questions. He has factual errors that slant the discussion toward his point of view. He sometimes uses pictures to create a mood of hostility toward capitalism. What is more alarming is to discover that during the 1990s Nash headed the group that wrote the National Standards for U. S. History. He met with hundreds of teachers and sifted through thousands of pages to determine what American history should be taught to elementary, middle and high school students across the nation. With all of this opportunity to promote history and inspire students with the drama of the past, Nash eventually chose to distort, misrepresent, and indoctrinate.

We were better off when we learned our history from Muzzey. Sure, he had a strong feeling for New England, and he needed to include more on immigrants, blacks and other groups, but his work had integrity and inspired students to learn about and improve on the heritage that was given them. He told students that his text was "written to help you to understand your America better, in order that you may be better equipped to perform your duties as American citizens." That sounds quaint, but when we see the current crop of texts and their stress on race, class, and gender-things that divide us as Americans-we appreciate Muzzey more. At the end of his message to students, he told them he wanted to inspire "in each of you the desire and determination to do your part to make your 'patria' a fatherland more and more worthy of the reverence and love of its generations of sons and daughters to come." MM

Burton Folsom Jr. is author of The Myth of the Robber Barons, now in its third edition, and is Historian in Residence at the Center for the American Idea in Houston, Texas.

Come-back kid JIM TALTON SALVAGES AND REPAIRS LAST YEAR'S FAILED WAKE COUNTY BOND

im Talton is technically retired, but that's of course a joke. The former KPMG top accountant, a graduate of Ralph L. Fike High School in

Wilson, now is chair of the Research Triangle Regional Partnerships, the chairman of Impact Design Build Inc., a construction firm, and a board member at his alma mater, East Carolina University. That's the very least of it. He also chairs an eclectic 31-person county-sponsored group that spent nearly 3000 hours coming up with a

tableaux of recommendations its members hope will ensure passage in November's important general election of a drastically revamped \$500 million school construction bond. A different proposal failed miserably—and surprisingly—at the polls in June 1999. The School Board is planning to adopt all of the citizen advisory group's 28 recommendations for the wording of the bonds. *Metro* caught up with Talton recently for an interview.

MetroMagazine: How did you get involved in all this?

Jim Talton: I think it was coincidental with my retirement. Their first request was for me to chair the oversight committee that would monitor the spending of the money had the bond issue passed in June 1999. Once it was clear it didn't pass, the county and the School Board came back and asked me to chair the Citizens Advisory Committee for School Facilities, Planning and Funding. MM: And then your role changed? JT: One big change was to involve 31 people in a citizens advisory commitee. That had not been done before, so

> [county government] learned the hard way. And it was a broadly based political and geographic group throughout the county. There were educators, business people, dissidents of the last bond issue. In other words, we had the folks who helped defeat the last bond issue on our committee.

The charge we were

given by the School Board and county commissioners was to develop within our group something that would be acceptable to the voters of Wake County. One of the first things the committee agreed upon, after a presentation, was that there was a clear need for additional seats in Wake County. We all accepted that. There are approximately 3500 new students in Wake County every year. The big question and the challenge was to devise a way to pay for more seats.

MM: Why did last year's bonds fail?

JT: I think there was inadequate education and information for the citizens as to needs and costs. And furthermore, there was an arrogance—I believe—that everyone understood and accepted the need for a substantial tax increase to pay for school facilities. Based on previous successful bond issues in Wake County and based on polling results by Wake Education Partnership, there appeared to be a track record and evidence that voters would support the needs for additional schools. They didn't.

MM: What's the difference in the bond proposal compared to last year's offer?

JT: The last bond issue that failed was a mix between bonds and pay as you go, just short of \$1 billion, and it entailed a substantial property tax increase. The current bond issue package is \$500 million, covers a period of 3¹/₂ years versus 5 years, and involves no additional taxes of any kind. Another major difference is that the current bond issue includes new schools but no other auxiliary facilities.

MM: There were so many players involved in your committee. Were you pleased with the results? Could it have been better—or worse?

JT: I am pleased with the results. I'm pleased that citizens throughout the county, from totally different perspectives, politically and otherwise, were able to come to an agreement. We reached a consensus opinion on different areas like new schools, repairs and renovations to existing schools, technology, other facilities, and legislative items.

MM: Given what happened last year, what do you think are the chances for this year's Wake County school bonds?

JT: At this point, we have no organized opposition. But we're still concerned. We need to inform the electorate as to the development of the plan, and to the fact that there will be no tax increase generated by voting for the bonds.

-Patrik Jonsson



JIM TALTON "I am pleased with the results."

SPECIAL METRO EDUCATION INDEX

Average private school teacher's pay: \$104 per d	ay worked
Reporter's pay, including benefits: \$88 per day	worked
Trucker's pay, including benefits: \$141 per day	worked
North Carolina high school principal's pay, including benefits [excluding count	ty supplements]: \$367 per day worked
Average car loan, per day: \$8	
Price of Delmonico-cut steak at Harris Teeter:	\$7.99/lb
Increase in N.C. teacher salaries in the last four year	s: 39 percent
Amount of yearly bonus per teacher at top-scoring N.C.	schools: \$1,500
Total increase, in actualized dollars, in teacher salaries nationa	lly since 1970: 2 percent
Number of years on the job before N.C. teachers go u	p for tenure: 4
Average class size in 1985: 22 students	In 1999: 17 students
Percentage of women enrolled at N.C. Central University in 1980: 61 percent	In 2000: 64.5 percent
Total enrollment of women in N.C. colleges in 2000	: 56 percent
Number of American Indian students in N.C. public se	chools: 18,762
Number of Asian students: 22,597 Hispanic: 46,164 Black:	388,778 White: 777,400
People in schools reporting fights between different ethnic grou	ips last year: 23 percent
Number of new schools built (or under construction) in North (Carolina since 1994: 264
Proposed schools under review: 26	
Total number of new schools planned for Wake County alone if the \$500 millio	n school bond passes in November: 1
National high school drop-out rate in 1978: 14.2	2 percent
Today's national drop-out rate: 11.8 percent North Carolina's drop	p-out rate: 4.6 percent
Average increase since 1989 on the Math portion of the SAT: 9 points	Increase on the Verbal: 1 point
Increase in N.C. students scoring high (over 600 points) in the Verbal SAT	Fin the last five years: 19 percent
Increase in N.C. students scoring high on the SAT Math section in the	same timeframe: 36 percent
National ranking of N.C. SAT scores in 1991: 48	In 1999: 48
Number of N.C. students per 1,000 who qualified for Advanced Pla	acement credit in 1989: 48
Number of N.C. students per 1,000 who qualified for the	same in 1999: 104
North Carolina's ranking among states trying to improve	teacher quality: 1
Increase in education spending since 1998: 7	percent
Average annual per-pupil spending nationwide	: \$6189
Yearly per-pupil spending in New Jersey, the top-payir	ng state: \$9643
Amount North Carolina spends each year per stud	lent: \$5257

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The Bobby Knight Syndrome

by George C. Leef

ARE BIG-TIME SPORTS UNDERMINING THE PURPOSE OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

ow good is undergraduate education in the United States? If you consult the higher education establishment's web sites, college brochures, and statistics, you will hear that things have never been better. More students are learning more from the smartest and most dedicated faculty members ever, enabling them to move on into business, the professions, or government to make tremendous contributions to the welfare of mankind. It's *magnificent*.

On the other hand, you might consult any of a small army of critics who argue that higher education in the U.S. is largely a pompous fraud, delivering less education at increasing cost each year. You'll find terms like "crisis" and "meltdown" in their writings. Who is right?

I count myself among the critics and wish to commend anyone with an interest in this dispute to Murray Sperber's new book Beer and Circus. A professor of English at Indiana University for nearly 30 years, Sperber has nothing to gain from his forthright criticism of higher education, and indeed has suffered substantially for it. In retaliation to his opposition to Indiana's decision to retain cantankerous basketball coach Bobby Knight, Sperber has been subjected to such a degree of threats and harassment that he has felt it necessary to take a leave of absence from teaching there. Lawyers would say that Sperber's book is an admission against interest.

The trouble, he maintains, is that

undergraduate education has been denigrated at major universities across the country. Instead of serious coursework and individual attention to their students, many institutions of higher learning today offer four (or more) years of an easy, fun lifestyle Sperber calls "beer and circus." It helps to keep enrollments high, but means that many students graduate with degrees that stand for virtually nothing. He writes that, "(M)any universities, because of their emphasis on their research and graduate programs, and because of their inability to provide quality undergraduate education to most of their students, spend increasing amounts of money on their athletic departments and use big-time college sports-commercial entertainment around which many undergraduates organize their hyperactive social lives-to keep their students happy and distracted and the tuition dollars rolling in." A strong indictment, but he backs it up.

Interest in big-time college sports is nothing new, of course, but the manic pursuit of winning teams as a route to "success" (as seen by university administrators) is of fairly recent origin. It affects not only the prestige universities, for whom the idea of a losing season is almost as frightful as the idea of losing government financial support, but also what Sperber calls the Upward Drift universities, whose administrators covet the prestige that their institutions don't have. Unfortunately, prestige equates to big



Beer and Circus by Murray Sperber Henry Holt & Co., 2000 352 pp.

enrollments, big graduate/research programs, and winning sports teams in at least one of the major sports—football and basketball. To pay for the graduate/research programs (which requires hiring "star" academics who will do very little actual teaching, but will do lots of research and writing), a large student body is necessary. To attract a large student body, given the mindset of most young Americans, the beer and circus environment of winning sports teams is a must.

As a prelude to writing the book, Sperber devised a questionnaire on student attitudes to which he received more than 1900 responses. The results were consistent with his impression that many young Americans are enthralled with sports and think it important to be a part of a winning school. One student commented that he had chosen to attend Syracuse because "I wanted to win a basketball championship while in college...." It's pathetic that students think of the exploits of athletes who have been recruited to play at the school they attend as "their" victories or defeats, but that's the way things are and university administrators take advantage of it. Or try to, anyway.

Sperber calls the connection between winning teams and growing enrollments the "Flutie Factor." In one of the biggest upsets in the history of college football, Boston College defeated top-ranked University of Miami in a nationally televised game in 1984. Boston College's quarterback, Doug Flutie, was the game's hero. The win put Boston College on the map, football-wise, but the game had much wider repercussions. Next year, applications at Boston College rose 25 percent. The reason was clearly that many students were attracted to the school's "winner" image. B.C. already had a "party school" reputation and the addition of winner status was recruiting dynamite.

Other schools noticed. Soon many were trying to duplicate the "Flutie Factor." Some were successful, among them the University of Oregon, where an increased emphasis on sports paid off in wins and students. But at others, it was an expensive failure. The University of Buffalo (formerly SUNY-Buffalo) spent millions to qualify for the top tier in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) hierarchy, Division I-A. Alas, its football team has been the laughing stock of the "unelite" Mid-American Conference, a fact that may actually be depressing enrollment. (Buffalo's huge lecture classes taught by aloof profs don't help matters.)

Even winning schools, however, lose vast amounts of money on their athletic departments. One of Sperber's targets is the myth that big-time sports can be cash cows for a university if they field winners. Not so. The NCAA admits in its regular financial reports that most college athletics departments lose money, but the author notes that, "because of the accounting tricks used by almost all athletic departments, the NCAA reports are only partially accurate, and the actual annual deficit numbers are much higher than the NCAA and member schools admit publicly." Accounting tricks? Nothing so tricky really-they simply allocate many costs that should be attributed to sports to the general university budget. Prof. Andrew Zimbalist made the same point in his book Unpaid Professionals last year. For example, a claimed surplus of \$1.78 million by the University of Massachusetts basketball team in 1997 turned into a loss of more than \$1 million once an array of expenses ranging from videotape to advertising were properly allocated.

Even big winners can be big losers. Sperber points to the University of Wisconsin's football team, winners of the Rose Bowl in 1999 and 2000. For its 1999 appearance, the university was paid \$1.8 million. However, the expenses of the trip to Pasadena were \$2.1 million. How could a trip for a football team cost so much? For starters, the UW traveling party came to 832 people, many of them university officials and their spouses. Then, everyone stayed in a top-notch Beverly Hills hotel and ate and drank in style. A corporate travel planner is quoted as saying that the trip could have been done for one fifth of the cost, but athletic departments are not concerned with economy. All that high-class treatment of the officials will pay off in future support.

It isn't that Sperber has a gripe against athletics per se; nor is he against research. What bothers him is that when universities pour their resources into those two, the result is a degradation of undergraduate teaching. The undergraduates have to endure huge lecture courses taught by graduate students or lower-ranking faculty members who are mainly interested in their own research, and the beer and circus atmosphere distracts many students from pursuing what learning opportunities there may be. The faculty and students enter into an implicit "nonaggression pact" that goes like this: the faculty agree to give the students A's or at worst B's for doing a minimal amount of work and in return the students agree to make no time demands on them. The faculty members are free to pursue the research that can gain them tenure; the students are free to enjoy the school's beer and circus amenities. No wonder that increasing numbers of college graduates wind up delivering pizza or selling coffee at Starbucks.

Sperber sees the students as victims in this trade-off, writing that "this truce short-circuits students' natural curiosity and desire to learn." Here I disagree with him. In my own teaching experience, I found most students to be quite lacking in intellectual drive, preferring that things



be as soft and easy as possible en route to their degrees. My encounter with one student was an epiphany. After my efforts to get the students to discuss an assigned reading proved futile, a young man blurted out, "Couldn't you just, y'know, tell us the main point?" Not much desire to learn there. And I'm far from alone in observing that today's students are averse to work. For example, in *Generation X Goes to College*, Peter Sacks wrote about how he was compelled to dumb down his courses to avoid negative student evaluations. Most students, I think, are eager to enter into the nonaggression pact.

Several quotations Sperber gives from his survey reinforce my conclusion that a great many students are getting exactly the non-education they want. For example, a University of Missouri student wrote, "Most Mizzou students are satisfied with easy schoolwork because other things are much more important to them, mostly partying and following the Tigers." Unfortunately, Sperber does not ask where that indifference to learning comes from. The answer is that for many young Americans, their first 12 years of education are easy "self-esteem" builders that leave them with the idea that there is no need for hard academic work. The drive for ever-greater enrollments has filled colleges and universities with an increasing percentage of what University of Montana English professor Paul Trout calls "disengaged" students who are quite hostile to academic pursuits. But that is truly a subject for another book and I can hardly fault Sperber for not delving into the tar pits of K-12 in a book about the tar pits of higher ed.

What would Sperber like to see done

to return undergraduate teaching to the place it occupied half a century ago? He realizes that his suggestions are swimming against a powerful current, but offers them anyway. First, the big research universities should, to use a popular phrase, reinvent themselves by setting undergraduate teaching as the top priority rather than sports and research. He points to universities such as Rice and Emory that have never succumbed to the "prestige" model and provide strong programs for their undergraduates. That would necessarily mean a great slimming down because of those hordes of "disengaged students" who won't tolerate academic rigor. Sperber rightly says that such students "waste their tuition dollars and would be better off if, after high school, they attended junior college or entered the workforce." It's time that somebody uttered that politically unpopular truth.

Second, he would have the big research universities separate their research activities into autonomous institutes that would have to pass the test of the market rather than subsist to any degree on university largesse. Likely result: "The top research institutes would thrive, but mediocre and poor ones would fail; probably most of the research programs at Upward Drift universities would be becalmed and then sink, with very little loss to the world." Terrific idea, but the only thing that would bring it about would be if state and federal governments shut off the money pipeline so that universities would have to stop underwriting that element of the "prestige" package.

Third, Sperber would have universities hire and promote faculty members on the basis of good teaching rather than on their "research." (Much of what is called research is just the publication of jargonladen minutiae in obscure journals that are read by virtually no one.) As things stand, only the small number of students who are admitted to "honors" programs at the big universities get the benefit of consistently good instruction. Sperber would like to see all undergraduates get that same treatment. Employing professors who are motivated to teach and would insist on strong academic standards would make a world of difference.

Fourth, he would "abolish teaching methods that turn undergraduates into passive receptacles. ..." That is, do away with the massive lecture courses that invite students to doodle away in anonymity. Those classes are especially bad at the freshman level where students need attention, motivation, and maybe some threats. It would be costly to have to hire the additional teaching faculty, but if the mission is to resuscitate undergraduate education, it is one that must be borne.

Fifth, Sperber would require that students earn a passably good score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) before being handed a diploma. If that were done, it would be taps for a great number of "mickey mouse" courses and even whole majors. Students would have to think about the content of courses, not just whether they're an easy credit. Colleges and universities that did so might find themselves embroiled in litigation over the "fairness" of the GRE, but there would be a sterling benefit for the students who earned their degrees-they would be in a superior competitive position compared to graduates of schools

that did not have that quality guarantee.

Finally, he would abolish athletic scholarships. Sperber knows that it's not going to happen any time soon, but advances the idea anyway. So long as universities can, in essence, pay kids to come and play sports for them, it will be hard to undo the beer and circus environment. Attacking athletic scholarships is like trying to sink an aircraft carrier with a canoe-not only would athletic directors, alumni and "booster" groups, defend them, but also the National Football League and National Basketball Association. The professionals benefit from having the universities (which mostly means taxpayers) provide them with their "farm systems" at no cost. Still, there is merit in discussing ideas that are good but aren't politically feasible at the present.

What if the education establishment ignores the "beer and circus" problem and continues on as it has been? In that event, Sperber suggests, pressure for change will come from an unexpected quarter-the business community. More and more, managers are expressing outrage at the phenomenon of job applicants with college degrees who can't even write a coherent memo. Sperber quotes John Chambers, head of Cisco Systems: "If universities don't reinvent their curriculum ... many students will "go to school" on-line. Many big firms-Cisco, GE, IBM, AT&T-are starting on-line academies to train new employees and to constantly upgrade the skills of existing ones." That is something to worry about. Once the sharp, energetic students start to think, "Why blow four years spinning my wheels at Behemoth State U. and graduate with a suspect piece of paper in hand when I can sign on with Cisco and get the training that will lead to a good job there in just a year or two?" the beer and circus schools (and perhaps even some that aren't) will find it harder than ever to keep their classrooms filled.

Murray Sperber is to be congratulated for this exposé. Even if university administrators ignore him and athletic nuts harass him, he has done something very valuable. His book alerts parents to the fact that the glossy brochures often mask the unpleasant reality that their sons and daughters will receive an education in name only. If you have high schoolers, I suggest your reading Beer and Circus before you start to consider colleges and universities.

REVELATIONS ABOUT REVOLUTIONS

Jacque Barzun's From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life has been on the New York Times bestseller list for 14 weeks. Somehow it's encouraging after the mindlessness of Survivor mania to know that thousands of our fellow Americans are purchasing Professor Barzun's magnum opus. Even more heartening, buyers are apparently actually taking the time required to read the book.

Deciding to delve into this 802-page tome is a bit like inviting an elderly great-uncle whom you don't know all that well to come for a visit. You're not quite sure what to expect; you don't know how long the visit will last; and truth to tell, you suspect—in the most politically incorrect sort of way—that a 93-year-old man might be a trifle garrulous, perhaps even repetitious.

Not to worry.

Within less than 50 pages, this often impatient reader was hooked. Jacques Barzun is someone who not only knows a lot about a lot worth knowing about, but is also witty, wise, and frequently entertaining.

A professor friend of mine once theorized that he could design a 4-year liberal arts curriculum using only the *Oxford English Dictionary* as a text. I'm not sure about the practicality of that idea, but I'm pretty sure at least a twoyear college humanities curriculum could be built around Barzun's text, supplemented by the many books that he

by William S. Brettmann



From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life by Murray Sperber Harper-Collins, 2000, 802 pp.



recommends along the way.

Jacques Barzun has been a respected teacher and writer on Western cultural history for 60 years. He was Seth Low Professor of History at Columbia University, and for 10 years prior to retirement, Dean of Faculties and Provost. *From Dawn to Decadence* is an extended valedictory address to posterity concerning all that an exceptionally sophisticated and humane intellect has learned, digested, taught, and found worthy to pass along.

The book is organized around what Professor Barzun tells us are the four great revolutions of the last 500 years: the Religious (1500–1660); the Monarchical (1661–1789); the Liberal (1790–1920); and the Social (1921–?). He sees three recurring themes running like threads through all these revolutions and historical periods: Primitivism, Individualism and Emancipation.

On the principle that every action produces an equal reaction, each of these revolutions creates its own distinctive backlash. The Reformation's questioning of authority in Church and State results in kings becoming absolute monarchs, which leads to a period of bloody populist revolutions in Europe starting in 1789.

The final chapter on the fourth, or social, revolution, titled "Demotic life and times," is as brilliant an analysis of European and American culture since the First World War as I have ever read. Barzun sees Western culture as having exhausted its three major themes by forcing them to their limits. He diagnoses us as presently living in a time of "decadence," which he defines in its literal meaning of "falling off."

What began as the liberal tolerance

for cultural pluralism has now "fallen off" into separatism all over the globe. Nation states are being pulled apart by linguistic, ethnic and regional separatists. Contemporary Western culture is tired and unsure of its bearings. But Barzun reminds us that "boredom and fatigue are great historical forces."

What he calls "the blight of boredom" is perceived ultimately to be a sign of hope, for widespread boredom leads to a restlessness out of which will emerge yet another cultural revolution. Barzun is anything but a dour pessimist, however. In fact, he is stubbornly optimistic about the future of a dynamic Western culture that will present our descendants (if not ourselves) with other revolutionary themes, both galvanizing and unsettling.

There is much to learn from Jacques Barzun and much to admire in what is undeniably his masterpiece. Without apology, he presents us with his favorite personages over the centuries. I've never been motivated to read Rabelais, but now I am. I knew who Walter Bagehot was (19th century editor of the *Economist*), and was delighted to have confirmed by Barzun the pronunciation of his name as "Badjet". And anyone who writes appreciatively of the late Dorothy L. Sayers and her detective fiction is someone with whom I would like to have lunch.

Another delightful aspect of Barzun's style is that he intersperses throughout the text what he calls "digressions" on the meanings of particular words. It's rather like that imaginary great-uncle going ahead full throttle in conversation, pausing for breath, and saying, "By the way, that reminds me..." Rather than being irritated by these digressions, I was consistently illumined by them.

A refreshing decision is to locate quotations in bold type in the margins, making any particular quotation easy to locate for future reference, thanks to an index that clearly indicates on what pages a person is quoted. The Church of England's Sydney Smith, a personal favorite of mine and one of the few clergymen in history remembered for



preaching laugh-out-loud funny sermons, is quoted as saying, "I never read a book before I review it; it prejudices a man so." The great Anglican wit is correct: I might have been better off not reading this book before reviewing it. I am definitely prejudiced in unqualified praise of *From Dawn to Decadence*, and wish Barzun many more years of describing us to ourselves.

William S. Brettmann is currently director of the Program in Arts and Humanities at Wayne Community College. He is a retired Episcopal priest living in Goldsboro and holds Master's degrees in theology from Oxford University and Yale Divinity School.

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A LOOK AT BOOKS

Most Important Volumes on Education in the Last 20 Years

Nº:	TITLE	AUTHOR	REMARKS
1.	Market Education: The Untold Story	Andrew Coulson	From the ancient Greeks to modern times, the educational market.
2.	The Conspiracy of Ignorance	Martin Gross	Analyzes the "dumbing down" of our educational system.
3.	The Twelve-Year Sentence	edited by William F. Rickenbacker	Essays exploring the defects in our public K–12 system.
4.	Why Schools Fail	Bruce Goldberg	Lives completely up to its title.
5.	The Degradation of the Academic Dogma	Robert Nisbet	The great sociologist looks at the decline of our universities.
6.	The Graves of Academe	Richard Mitchell	A sharp, witty, satirical look at rampant lunacy in American higher education.
7.	The Abandoned Generation	William Willimon and Thomas Naylor	How colleges and universities have drifted from their roles.
8.	Generation X Goes to College	Peter Sacks	One prof's unhappy experiences in dealing with today's unmotivated students.
9.	On Higher Education	David Reisman	How student consumerism is replacing academic merit.
10.	Inside American Education	Thomas Sowell	Famed economist puts U.S. education under his microscope and dislikes what he sees.
11.	Impostors in the Temple	Martin Anderson	American universities as institutions of reason, learning and high ideals? Maybe not.
12.	The Imperiled Academy	ed. by Howard Dickman	The trends that are making higher education worse.
13.	The Educated Child: A Parent's Guide from Preschool Through Eighth Grade	William Bennett, Chester Finn and John Cribb	A great resource for parents to maximize their children's education.
14.	Reclaiming Education	James Tooley	British scholar takes on many sacred cows of the education establishment.
15.	Profscam	Charles Sykes	Highly critical look at "teaching" in U.S. colleges and universities.
16.	Dumbing Us Down	John Taylor Gatto	Former Teacher of the Year in New York blows the whistle on falling academic standards.
17.	How Professors Play the Cat Guarding the Cream	Richard Huber	Why higher ed costs more and more while delivering less and less.

Nº.	TITLE	AUTHOR	REMARKS
18.	Killing the Spirit	Page Smith	History professor looks at tenure, publishing, trendy courses and much more.
19.	Ed School Follies	Rita Kramer	What really goes on in the teacher-training colleges is not encouraging.
20.	Reaffirming Higher Education	Jacob and Noam Neusner	Wide-ranging assessment of the flaws in higher ed, and suggestions for renewal.
21.	Public Education: An Autopsy	Myron Lieberman	Why public education has been going steadily downhill.
22.	The Teacher Unions	Myron Lieberman	Former teacher union leader now regards them as a destructive force.
23.	Power Grab	Gregory Moo	An exposé of the National Education Association's agenda and tactics.
24.	Education Without Impact	George Douglas	College professor laments the "defreighting" of the curriculum.
25.	All the Essential Half-Truths About Higher Education	George O'Brien	Former college president's critical analysis.
26.	The Hollow Men	Charles Sykes	The ill effects of the politicization of the curriculum at colleges and universities.
27.	Choosing Equality: School Choice, the Constitution, and Civil Society	Joseph Viteritti	A passionate case for educational choice that has some opponents wavering.
28.	Break These Chains	Daniel McGroarty	Detailed look at Wisconsin's voucher program.
29.	Teacher Pay and Teacher Quality	Dale Ballou and Michael Podgursky	Challenges conventional wisdom linking the two.
30.	Miracle in East Harlem	Seymour Fliegel	Educational choice working for inner-city kids.
31.	Ten Traits of Highly Successful Schools: How You Can Know If Your School is a Good One	Elaine McEwan	Help for parents who want to know if their children's school is any good.
32.	Losing Our Language	Sandra Stotsky	Explores the deleterious effects of multi- culturalism on our educational institutions.
33.	Politics, Markets, and America's Schools	John Chubb and Terry Moe	Shows why politics and education are not a good mix.
34.	The Diversity Myth	David Sacks and Peter Thiel	A damning portrait of Stanford in the grip of multicultural dictates.
35.	The Shadow University	Alan Charles Kors and Harvey Silverglate	Examines loss of freedom due to speech codes on campus.
36.	Losing the Race	John McWhorter	Black professor argues that affirmative action is counterproductive.
37.	Left Back: A Century of Failed School Reforms	Diane Ravitch	Argues that 20th-century "educational reforms" were a disaster.
38.	Transformation of the School: Progressivism in American Education	Lawrence Cremin	In-depth and provocative, this volume is listed as a "must read" by Jacques Barzun.

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Preview

Brilliant October... LIGHTS UP THE LANDSCAPE AND EMBELLISHES EVERY OCCASION

he autumnal equinox is past, scarlet leaves whirl about the region, and on Oct. 13 the showy Harvest Moon will shine fat and full as a pumpkin. Now a burst of energy rises from hundreds of exciting events, adding more color to the mix and setting October ablaze with concerts, exhibits and celebrations.

Football games at area high schools and universities dominate the sports scene; county fairs and the big State Fair (highlighted last month) show off products of the land in a carnival setting; and Halloween fun tops off the month with costumes



Autumn Angler, 1997—reproduced from an original watercolor by William Mangum

and candy for kids of all ages. Although we described many October events in September for Metro Season, covering happenings through December, we have harvested, in addition, a bountiful crop of happy occasions to fill Metro's October calendar.

Several new exhibits are stunning: William Mangum's "Carolina Preserves" at the Museum of History is a circle-and-go item, and the intricately drawn insect plates by entomologist Obadiah Westwood at the D.H Hill Library are remarkable.

Music and plays for many tastes crowd the calendar—from the sparkling Afro-Cuban jazz of "Cubanismo" at Duke to the inspiring strains of Haydn's *Creation*, performed by the Raleigh Oratorio Society. *Cabaret* lights up the stage at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium while at Duke the *Complete Millennium Musical* by the Reduced Shakespeare Company turns the history of the centuries into a musical comedy.

Can't give up festival fever? Then head for the "International Festival" in Raleigh for a rollicking mix of spirited dancing, food and fun. Down in Edenton "Oktoberfest" takes over Chowan County and beyond with a German smorgasbord and the real thing: a German band imported from Dresden, Germany.

If antiques pique your interest, don't miss "Heirloom Discovery Day" at the Hope Plantation in Bertie County or the Poe Center for Health Education's "Antiques and Garden Show" in Raleigh.

And if you love the speed of jet planes, there's fun for the whole family over at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, where the sky's the limit for thrills at the "2000 Air Show."

Enjoy October. It comes only once a year!

EXQUISITE EXHIBITS

Preserving products of the land in clear glass jars is a well-known part of Southern culture and now Tar Heel artist William Mangum has carried this penchant for preservation to a high level in a series of paintings that capture and preserve North Carolina's heritage. The N.C. Museum of History has opened Carolina Preserves, an exhibit featuring 60 of Mangum's watercolor paintings. On view through Nov. 7, the paintings depict the state's character, its natural beauty and its unique customs. Mangum will discuss stories behind his paintings at the museum on Oct. 7. and on Dec. 2, UNC-TV will present a high-definition television production based on the paintings with complementary stories and footage shot on location. Just out, and available in the museum's gift shop, is the coffee-table book, Carolina Preserves. containing 130 of Mangum's paintings and 48 related stories from N.C. writers and notables. The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 East Edenton St. in Raleigh. Call 919-715-1200.

John Obadiah Westwood, a prolific 19th-century entomologist and archaeologist with unique artistic talent, is the subject of an NCSU Libraries exhibit, "A Victorian Renaissance Man: John Obadiah Westwood," open through Dec. 8. The exhibit, highlighting Westwood's artwork and his scholarly work



Northern Jungle Queen butterflies, drawn by John Obadiah Westwood

in entomology, is located in the circulation lobby of the D.H. Hill Library on the N.C. State Brickyard. Call 919-515-2273.

Art enthusiasts will soon head for **Lee Hansley Gallery** in Raleigh where an exhibition of new work by the renowned **George Bireline** will open Oct. 11 and run until Nov. 11. Lee Hansley Gallery is located at 225 Glenwood Ave. Call 919-828-7557.

And Andy Warhol fans are in for a treat at the **Ackland Museum of Art** in Chapel Hill. From Oct. 29–Jan. 21 the museum will exhibit **Andy Warhol: Endangered Species**, 10 colorful screenprints of endangered species with text next to each print describing the status of the animals. The Ackland Art Museum is located on the UNC-CH campus on the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets. Call 919-966-5736.

ECLECTIC MUSIC

Cubanismo, an Afro-Cuban jazz band from Havana, will perform Oct. 5 as part of **Duke's On Stage** series in Page Auditorium in Durham. Alema-y, a Cuban expatriate, has created a band that celebrates Afro-Cuban dance rhythms. Fiery trumpet playing and a lively percussion section produce a sound that is uniquely Cuban. Call 919-684-4444.

Trumpet player Derrick Gardner, who has played with the Count Basie Orchestra and other jazz greats, will perform on October 6 in Baldwin Auditorium on Duke's East Campus in the Fall 2000 Jazz Series with the Duke Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Paul Jeffrey. On Oct. 27, the series will present George Cables, piano, and Danila Satragno, vocals, in concert. Cables has collaborated with Art Blakev. Sonny Rollins and other famous jazz artists and Satragno directs vocal programs at two Italian jazz schools. Call 919-684-4444.

Veteran country singer Reba McEntire will bring her "Singer's Diary Tour" to the Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena on Oct. 6. The RESA is located at 1400 Edwards Mill Road. Call 919-834-4000.

In the classical vein, the Hillsborough Arts Council is currently featuring Parlor Performances: Musicians and Writers in Private Historic Homes. October's performance on Oct. 22 in Ashe House will feature an all-French program with selections by Francoeur, Fauré and Debussy on piano, violin and clarinet. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call 919-732-7741 or 919-732-8051.

The **Raleigh Oratorio** Society will perform Joseph Haydn's renowned oratorio



Amadi Hummings, violist, is solo musician with the N.C. Symphony

Creation on October 22 at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh. The Symphonic Choir will be joined by members of the N.C. Symphony and soloists Elizabeth Packard Arnold, soprano; Richard Heard, tenor; and Alfred Walker, bass. Call 919-856-9700.

Viola virtuoso **Amadi Hummings** joins maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann and the **N.C. Symphony orchestra** for an Oct. 7 concert in Durham's fabled Carolina Theatre. Hummings will perform Krzysztof Penderecki's Viola Concerto, *Victory Stride* by James P. Johnson and Beethoven's Second Symphony. Call 919-733-2750. The Mountain Chamber Players will present

"Images of Nature" on Oct. 29 in association with "In Praise of Nature: Ansel Adams and Photographers of the American West" at the **N.C. Museum of Art** in Raleigh. The program will feature works influenced by or depicting nature in music. The museum is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road. Call 919-715-5923.

The **Carolina Harmony Chorus** of Sweet Adelines International will present *Magic to Do* on Oct. 21 at the Cary Academy, 1500 N. Harrison Ave. in Cary. If you like barbershop harmonizing, this is the concert for you. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Young Singers Foundation. Call 919-404-4232.

The ArtsCenter in Carrboro is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with a Silver Concert Series that will span the month. A pre-concert reception will open the series on Oct. 7. A longtime ArtsCenter favorite, **Maura O'Connell** will apply her "honky tonk Emerald Isle style" to songs of Tom Waits, Mary Chapin-Carpenter and dozens more.

Other celebration highlights will include The **Tannahill Weavers**, one of Scotland's premier traditional bands, who will take the ArtsCenter stage on Oct. 14 with a unique combination of traditional melodies on pipes (including the full-sized highland bagpipes), flute and fiddle; guitar and bouzouki; and three- and four-part vocals.

On Oct. 20, at the Arts-Center. The Carolina Connection: Great North Carolinians in Popular Music will be presented by the Loonis McGlohan Trio with quest vocalist Randa McNamara. Composerpianist McGlohan developed "The Carolina Connection" to pay tribute to North Carolinians who have made great contributions to American popular music, including big band leaders of the 1930s, all-time great divas, jazz masters and



they rejected corporate America.

they're running it.

Baby Boomers. No other generation has been studied more and understood less. Just when you think you've got them wired, they confound. First they rebelled against Main Street. Then they bought it.

In the SIXt

Today, at 76 million strong, their wealth is unprecedented and their corporate clout, undeniable. In the next few years, they'll inherit \$10 trillion, making their power unavoidable. So where do you find this unpredictable bunch of Boomers? Right here. In the magazines that capture their lifestyle and chronicle their intriguing journey – City & Regional Magazines.







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A husky elephant seal on the Falkland Islands-in concert

mountain pickers. The ArtsCenter is located at 300-G E. Main Street in Carrboro. Call 919-929-2787.

STAGE PRESENTS

The spirited musical Cabaret is coming to Raleigh Memorial Auditorium Oct. 10-15 on the Best of Broadway Series. Winner of four 1998 Tony Awards, including best musical review. Cabaret will star Kate Shindle and Jon Peterson. Call 919-934-4000.

PlayMakers in Chapel Hill will present an adaptation of Thomas Wolfe's Look Homeward Angel on Oct. 18-21 in the Paul Greene Theatre. Wolfe, a UNC-CH graduate, proclaimed Angel to be autobiographical. In this remarkable first novel, the character of Eugene Gant is based on the life of Wolfe as a young man. Call 919-962-PLAY.

Campbell University

students will star in the University Drama Department's production of Little Shop of Horrors, scheduled for Oct. 20 & 21; 26-28 in Ellis Theatre, Buies Creek. What if your favorite plant went out of control? That's what happens to Audrey II. a voracious. carnivorous vine (think venus fly trap on steroids), in this delightful spoof of horror movies. Call 910-893-1509.

The Falklands, a scattering of remote, windswept islands in the South Atlantic, are the subject of The Falklands-Refuge in the Sea, a travelogue produced by award-winning filmmaker Richard C. Kern and scheduled to screen on Oct. 24 in Hendrix Theatre on the East Carolina University campus in Greenville. With Kern as guide, the film will explore the islands' people, scenic beauty and exotic wildlife-including sea lions and penguins. The Falklands were seldom in the news before 1982 when a war for dominion between Britain and Argentina cast them into international prominence. A theme dinner in Mendenhall Student Center will precede the screening. Call 252-328-4788.

The Complete Millennium Musical (Abridged) will be presented Oct. 30 by The **Reduced Shakespeare** Company as part of the Broadway at Duke series in Page Auditorium on Duke's west campus in Durham. The musical is an irreverent and jolly celebration that abridges into musical comedy the history of the last millennium-"from Beowulf to Baywatch" -with music by Nick Graham. Call 919-684-4444.

URTESY OF INTERNATIONAL FOCUS INC.



Colorful ethnic dancers perform at the International Festival.

FOR THE FOOD & FUN OF IT You can take a whirl around the world at the 15th Annual International Festival to be held Oct. 6–8 at the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center. This year's theme will be courtship and marriage with cultural exhibits showcasing love life in many countries. Forty ethnic groups from the Triangle area will present exotic dances on the main stage, and will man bazaars and sidewalk cafes. A new highlight will be a spirited tango performance by **Tango Danza**, a highly praised dance group from Washington, D.C. The Convention and Conference Center is located at 500 Fayetteville St. Mall. Call 919-832-4331.

Edenton is celebrating Oktoberfest in grand style on Oct. 14. A special highlight will be a German smorgasbord including German-style foods, Weeping Radish brew and assorted beer and wine. And the spectacular highpoint of the evening will be a German band, Die Nierentische, imported for the event from Dresden, Germany. The band, on its second American tour, features dueling drummers, horns, guitars and keyboards with an eclectic mix of German songs, Italian love songs, Beatles tunes and songs from the '40s and '50s. Sponsored by the Chowan Arts Council, the event will be held in the National Guard Armory on Soundside Road. The word from Edenton is "eins, zwei, drei, suffe!" Call 252-482-8005.

Is that the aroma of Chili floating on the fall air? It soon will be. The **State Chili Cook-Off** will be simmering down in **Havelock** at the Walter Jones City Park on Oct. 21. Everyone can sample the mouth-watering chili (50 cents a cup). The day will be lively with 50 chili booths, a



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METROPREVIEW

salsa contest, entertainment and concessions. Thirty lucky judges will choose the five best chilis, and the top winner will be eligible to go to the National Chili Cook-off in Nevada. Call 252-447-1101.

POTPOURRI

Treasures in your trunk? You can have them evaluated at Heirloom Discovery Day on Oct. 14 in Bertie County at Historic Hope Plantation's Roanoke-Chowan Heritage Center. Robert S. Ruggiero, Sotheby's Regional Consultant, and Robert S. Brunk, president of Robert S. Brunk Auction Services, will give auction estimates. Proceeds



Heirloom Discovery Day will benefit a North Carolina treasure, historic Hope Plantation in Bertie County



will benefit Historic Hope Foundation. The Plantation is located on Hope House Road, four miles west of Windsor on highway 308. Call 353-794-5583.

Historic Wilmington Foundation will present its annual gala and auction, An Evening Aboard the Preservation Express,

October 20, at the Coast Line Convention Center (formerly the Atlantic Coast Line headquarters and warehouse). The gala features silent and live auctions, cocktails and dinner, and dancing with the popular group Peace and Love. Tickets are at a premium, so make reservations early. Call 910-762-2511.

Antiques will also take the spotlight in Raleigh at the Antiques & Garden Show on

Six Golden Opportunities To Celebrate Our Silver Anniversary

Subscriptions for our Silver Anniversary Season are on sale now! Call **919/962-PLAY** for subscriptions or more information.

The School for Wives by Moliere, translated by Richard Wilbur

Look Homeward, Angel a play by Ketti Frings based on the novel by Thomas Wolfe

An O. Henry Christmas adaptation, music & lyrics by Peter Ekstrom

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"Master Harold"...and the boys by Athol Fugard

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Melissa Podcasy and Timour Bourtasenkov in Coppelia. Barbour Photography

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INDEPENDE#T

"Carolina Ballet, America's most promising young Company, based in Raleigh, N.C. ..."-Time Magazine





The Herald-Sun Spectator



ARIS



Beauty abounds at the Poe Center's Antiques & Garden Show

Pinehurst Harness Track, the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens, and the historic 1772 "House in the Horseshoe." A lecture by NC State professor Leonidas Betts on Oct. 23 will be followed by an all-day trip on Oct. 27 to **Seagrove**-area potteries. Call 919-515-5782 or visit www2.ncsu.edu/encore.

If jets flying fast and hard give you a thrill, you'll want to be at **Seymour Johnson Air Force Base** in Goldsboro for its **2000 Air Show** on Oct. 28. The show will comprise 3 1/2 hours of flying activity, highlighted by an A-10 Demo from Pope Air Force Base and an air field attack with F-15E's and A-10's swooping down for a raid and a paratrooper drop. The family event is free and gates open early. Call 919-722-0027. Visit the "2000 Air Show" web site at www.seymourjohnson.af.mil.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send information about your area's coming events (with color photos or slides) to: Frances A. Smith, events editor, MetroMagazine, 5012 Brookhaven Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27612. Email address: frances33@earthlink.net. Entries for November should arrive by Oct. 6.

Oct. 13-15 benefiting the Alice Avcock Poe Center for Health Education. Some 30 dealers from 10 states will display and sell antique furniture, porcelain, silver, paintings and jewelry. This year garden furniture, urns, planters, art and unique plants will be introduced. The show will be located in the WakeMed Medical Education Institute Conference Center, 3024 New Bern Ave. For information about special events and reservations. call 919-231-4006.

Put on your traveling shoes. This month, N.C. State's **Encore Center for Lifelong Enrichment** will offer two day trips and a lecture for adults over 50. On Oct. 20, the Center will travel to the **Sandhills** to visit the



HEARTY FARE Lots of hands are needed to make and eat Brunswick Stew, that fragrant orange-hued standard of town picnics for centuries. Photo taken 1948, Nash County.

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Come and get it! BRUNSWICK STEW CALLS TAR HEELS BACK HOME

hen I moved back to North Carolina a year ago after 15 years in Southern California, I tended to focus on the changes that had taken place in my absence. Though I had often come back to visit family in and around Greensboro over the years, I had never stayed long enough to focus on the growth and transformation taking place. But once we settled in and began putting down roots here, numerous changes stood out.

Roads had swollen and multiplied and new buildings abounded. Sub shops and Chinese buffets had sprouted, and grocery stores carried kalamata olives and Gorgonzola cheese. Bread, coffee and Moon Pies came in flavors now, and fans of intercollegiate athletics showed their love not just with T-shirts, but with banners, face paint, license plates and flags. Tea was still sweet though you often had to specify, and the K and W Cafeterias now provided balsamic and white wine vinegars for those who wanted a little zing with their greens.

Zooming along I-40, I often needed the signs to tell me where I was, but a turn off onto roads that had been there long enough to have two lanes with hills and curves soon restored my sense of place. Produce stands still carried silver queen, cukes, 'maters and 'lopes, and a barbecue place promised both sliced and chopped but nothing of salmon, Caesar salad or anything grilled.

Come fall, other than the glory of autumn colors on all those leaves on all those trees, the sweetest sight of all was the appearance along those roadways of signs heralding the opening of the Brunswick stew season. Starting in September and simmering on until early November, stew season satisfied me greatly, stirring up memories and providing the family with many a delicious supper all the way through spring.

Brunswick stew cooks long and slow outdoors in big heavy pots, stirred with great wooden paddles and tended by experts and their apprentices with patience, energy and love. Stew takes lots of hands and lots of hours to bring its elements together into hearty, comfortfood harmony. This is why people have been gathering to cook it and share it for as long as anybody can remember.

STEW HOW-TO

The ingredients are simple and the

techniques straightforward enough. Various meats are simmered until tender, cooled and then boned, chopped and pulled to pieces. Into the meat stock go prodigious amounts of tomatoes that provide Brunswick stew with its autumnal red-orange hue. Back in go the meats, along with diced potatoes, onions, fresh and dried lima beans, and white corn. Seasonings include butter, sugar, salt, black pepper and red pepper.

Many people would agree with the process to this point and the fact that stew cooks a long time and needs a lot of stirring. But it is here that the consensus ends. The order of adding things to the pot, the amounts, additions and variations on this theme are as varied as the leaves on the autumn trees. Opinions are strong and deeply felt, but not as intensely around here as those on barbecue and slaw. Happily, stew is low-key and pleasing, an invitation to gather, lend a hand and be fed in good company.

I BRAKE FOR STEW

Meats anchor a traditional Brunswick stew, which originally featured wild game with squirrel and rabbit, the essential elements of the classic stews through-

METROGOURME

out the South. In recent generations chicken has replaced wild game in most versions with beef and/or pork roasts also going into the pot. Sometimes stew chefs start by cooking the raw meats in water, but they are often cooked and chopped separately in advance, reserving the stock for the stewpot.

The scale of a traditional community stew recipe reminds me of seeing recipes used on battleships and army field kitchens: 20 pounds of stew beef, hens by the dozen, tomatoes by the gallon and salt by the handful. Cooking times in such recipes are approximate, and vary with the amount of stew, but one thing is certain: Somebody will be up at 3 or 4 a.m., or at least before you and me, getting the fire going, the pot boiling and the paddle stirring.

The sign may say "Brunswick Stew Saturday: 4–7 p.m.," but this is the invitation to the grand finale. The planning begins months in advance, with the week leading up to stew day a blur of procuring groceries, getting firewood or gas ready to keep the pots bubbling, setting up tables and chairs for the eat-in crowd and quart containers for the takeaway line, food prep, arranging for trash and parking—I've forgotten something, but they haven't. The stew folks will be ready when they said they would and the stew will be wonderful.

The dedicated crowd needed to produce a stew and the delicious and satisfying nature of the finished product ensure that many a community organization makes Brunswick stew an annual community fundraising event. Last year my purchase of stew and hush puppies at a Durham child-care center near Fayetteville Road helped send their staff members to a child-development conference in Atlanta. The stew I bought in Hillsborough helped a local civic club with their service projects. The stew I bought out in Chatham County helped pay for a new engine for the volunteer fire fighters.

Seems to me that this Brunswick stew is a very good deal. How grand to be able to do a good deed with such little effort and with great personal reward. This reward can be savored now, at a long table in the grange hall with tea and pie and friendly folks, and then again during, say, a big snowstorm in January, or on any too-busy-to-cook night.

I'm pumped up for stew season, with a license to chow down and a bumper sticker, which reads, "I Brake for Stew." The flaming leaves and a little chill in the air are calling me out onto the country roads. I am hungry and ready. My only wish is that I had more room in my freezer.



SMOKY AFFAIR Hens by the dozen, 20 pounds of stew beef, gallons of tomatoes and handfuls of salt, all boiled for hours—somehow it comes out as Brunswick Stew. Photo taken c.1950, Nash County.

Recipes

The real deal

BOB GARNER'S BRUNSWICK STEW

This recipe comes from North Carolina Barbecue: Flavored by Time (John F. Blair, Winston-Salem), Bob Garner's extensive and fascinating valentine to North Carolina's national dish. I've adapted it a bit. Garner writes: "Even though this recipe is designed to be made in a kitchen rather than over a fire in the backyard, the work will be lighter and you'll have more fun if you invite a friend over for the day to help you make it."

- 7 pounds chicken
- 4 cans (28-oz.) whole tomatoes
- 3 cans (15-oz.) baby lima beans
- 6 cups frozen lima beans
- 6 medium potatoes
- 2 large yellow onions
- 4 cans (15-oz.) creamstyle corn

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp. salt
- 1 tbsp. black pepper
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine
- 2 tbsp. Texas Pete hot sauce

Wash chicken and cut up. Place chicken in large pot, barely cover with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer chicken until tender, approximately 40 minutes. Remove chicken from pot and set aside to cool, reserving stock.

Place the tomatoes in a second large pot and crush them with your hands. Open canned lima beans and drain their liquid into the pot with the tomatoes. Put the drained lima beans into a mixing bowl and use your hands or a potato masher to mash them. Set aside.

Add six cups of the chicken stock to tomatoes and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium high and cook for about 40 minutes, or until liquid is reduced by about 1/3, stirring frequently.

While the liquid is cooking down, bone the chicken and shred the meat. Peel and finely dice potatoes and onions. When liquid is sufficiently reduced, add chicken, mashed lima beans, potatoes and onions. Do not add salt yet. Simmer over very low heat, stirring frequently, for 3 1/2 hours.

Add corn, sugar, salt, pepper, butter, and hot sauce. Continue cooking for 1 more hour, stirring almost constantly to prevent stew from sticking and burning. Serve hot.

Makes 7 quarts; about 30 servings.

Sweet tooth

HELEN WHITING'S PUMPKIN PUDDING

This fall pleasure comes from *In Helen's Kitchen: A Philosophy of* Food, by Helen Whiting, (Regulator Bookshop, Durham, N.C.).

- 2 cups cooked pumpkin
- 1 cup brown sugar, divided
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 cups cream
- 1 tbsp. melted butter
- 1 tbsp. molasses
- 1 tbsp. brandy
- 1¹/₂ tsp. cinnamon
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ground ginger
 - 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 3 eggs, beaten well

Mix all ingredients together, using only 1/2 cup of the brown sugar and adding the eggs last. Butter a casserole dish and spread the bottom

> and sides with the remaining 1/2 cup of brown sugar. Pour in the pudding and set the dish in a larger pan, filling the larger pan

with enough hot water to come half way up the sides of the pudding. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 50 minutes. Serve with whipped cream.

Off the Menu

JAPANESE KITCHENS #101

This fall the Japanese Amity Association of Raleigh offers on-going classes in the cooking of Japan. Small groups meet for three sessions, at both beginning and advanced levels. Call 919-854-0063.

SHELLABRATION

October brings the annual Oyster Festival to the

Brunswick County town of Shallotte. Head for West Brunswick High School on Highway 130 to revel in an abundance of these molluskan marvels, October 20–22. Call 800-426-6644.

THE BARBECUE EXPRESS

"All aboard!" they'll be shouting as the Piedmont leaves the Amtrak stations in Raleigh, Cary and Durham, bound for Lexington, N.C., on October 28th. The occasion is the 17th Annual Lexington Barbecue Festival and they suggest you come hungry. Call 336-956-1880.

BACK IN HELEN'S KITCHEN

Friends, family and fans of the late Helen Hudson Whiting gathered last month at the Regulator Bookshop in Durham, to celebrate her life and feast on some of her favorite dishes as prepared by folks who miss her. Hot off the press and on sale were copies of *In Helen's Kitchen: A Philosophy of Food.* The book gathers her two decades worth of essays on food and cooking, along with anecdotes from friends, and recipes ranging from meatloaf and gazpacho to ossobucco and Libyan lamb stew. All proceeds from the book go to the Helen Whiting Scholarship Fund.



Metro's Holiday Gift Guide 911 FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPERS

Dizziness, shortness of breath, night sweats. These are just a few of the symptoms shoppers may experience when confronted with holiday gift buying. The volume of merchandise available in stores, catalogues and over the Internet overwhelms them. What to buy a teenager or grandmother mystifies them. Holiday shoppers need help fast.

In the November and December issues of *Metro Magazine*, they will find a solution. In our two-part gift guide—"Gifts for the Ages"—we will feature the best, newest, and most exciting presents for our reader's circle of family and friends. Divided into age categories, our readers will find out what to buy for:

- the Baby Boomer who has everything
- the Baby Boomers' parents who have more leisure time
- the on-the-go Gen-Xer
- the Echo Boomers—the country's new big marketing sweethearts

From **jewelry** to **clothing**, **electronics** to **chocolates**, *Metro*'s gift guide will present readers with the best offerings of the season in a visually pleasing and easy-to-read format. Other categories of gifts include:

cars

wine and food

resorts

- cooking and gardening
- perfume and cosmetics
- music and toys

Baby Boomers will be the focus of our 16-page November guide, while December's extended guide will cover the other generations. Each choice in the guide will be shown in a photograph and discussed in a paragraph of text written by **guest editor Molly Fulghum Heintz**, **fashion editor at** *platinum* magazine, a national publication based in Boston, and a native of Raleigh.

Deadline and Production Schedule

Issue	Space	Materials
November 2000	October 9	October 13
December 2000	November 10	November 14

Call 919-831-0999 for more information.



Bringin' down the house THE ROCKABILLY RISE OF JIMMY NATIONS

Musician Jimmy Nations (Jimmy Sardone) is known to many Triangle fans of alternative country for his involvement in The Burnley Brothers, rockabilly outfit out of Wilmington that regularly played venues like Local 506 in Chapel Hill and The Brewery in Raleigh. Music fans on the coast know Jimmy not only through The Burnley Brothers, but also from the years he spent working solo gigs in Wilmington area clubs.

Nations has recently released an album titled *The Jimmy Nations Combo* (reviewed last month in this column), an outstanding collection of country swing and rockabilly tunes, produced by Byron McCay and recorded at Jag Studios in Raleigh. The CD comes as a result of the success Jimmy has experienced in recent years working in New York City.

Jimmy's North Carolina history begins in the Blue Ridge Mountains. When he was about 12 years old his parents moved from Virginia to Sylva, N. C., which is west of Asheville, about 20 miles from Cherokee. "My parents wanted some peace and tranquility," Jimmy said. "They wanted this little slice of a mountain; they just wanted some space. I was horrified, of course, going from Virginia to the mountains. The nearest neighbor was like two miles away. At first I really didn't appreciate it that much.

"Eventually I got used to it," he continued. "I got into music, and there was a lot of country and bluegrass music happening in and around Sylva. I was playing with some of the local music legends and going down to Asheville to see bands. I got into rock 'n' roll, but the stuff that really influenced me was the music I picked up on in the mountains."

When Nations was graduated from Western Carolina University in 1987, he headed for Wilmington, planning to work in film production. He did some film work, too, but it wasn't that satisfying.



MOVIN' ON Beginning as a rock musician, Jimmy Nations has since travelled to NYC and back to his country music roots

"I wanted to get back into music," he explained. "I started getting all these acoustic gigs, you know, lunch gigs and stuff like that. I was able to get by on that. The pay just for my own happiness, it was gonna be country."

That resolve led to the formation of The Burnley Brothers with his friend from Sylva, Mark Griffith. The



SWINGIN' Nations is riding the tide of a new swing generation

wasn't that great, but the cost of living in Wilmington at that time was low.

Nations started a rock trio called Brickbat. Although they toured with The Jesus Lizard and released an album produced by Steve Albini, Brickbat never happened. "The band was mainly a vehicle for frustration," Jimmy laughed. "I finally decided that if I was gonna play music band was a solid country act for three or four years, but Jimmy was still restless. "I felt like I wasn't getting anywhere in Wilmington," he said. "I thought I'd have a better chance in a bigger city. I love the South, but I wanted something different. I packed up and moved to New York in November 1997."

Once in the Big Apple, Jimmy was overwhelmed by the New York-ness of it all. "I had no idea what I was doing," he said. "But I got out to see a band called Western Caravan and they really blew me away. These guys were a great swing band. And through them I met different musicians and started putting together a country band of my own.

"I took the name Jimmy Nations for my stage name," he added. "I got that name from a creek that's near our house in the mountains— Nations Creek. I just didn't think an Italian name sounded country."

Jimmy began to find gigs at places like the Rodeo Bar in New York. "New York's a jazz town," he said. "Nobody was doing this jazzy, Bob Wills, Speedy West kind of western swing that we do. The country scene's not very good here and we had trouble finding gigs at first. And then we got this regular gig at Tramps, when it was still open, and we played every Wednesday. That's when we really started attracting some attention. Swing dancers were my initial audience.

"Our record deal with Rubric Records came about because of our Tramps gig," he noted. "This is the first time I've had any real record company kind of help, and they've been great."

Jimmy and his combo will be touring this fall, and he does expect to make some stops in North Carolina.

On the record

David Menconi, the staff rock critic for the Raleigh News & Observer, has written a novel entitled Off the Record, in which he charts the very abrupt rise and fall of a rock trio known as the Tommy Aguilar Band (which goes by the acronym TAB). It's a knowledgeable look at the music business from the inside out and should be required reading for anyone who thinks they want to be a rock 'n' roll star.

Menconi has been a pop music journalist long enough to become intimately acquainted with the "off the record" side of the music biz. The rumors and stories he's heard, and the strangeness he has witnessed first hand, would, if put down on paper, easily rival the copy he has published over the years. He's finally found a home for all that accumulated, unprintable data, and it forms the bedrock upon which events transpire in Off the Record.

TAB consists of the lunatic frontman-singersongwriter-guitarist Tommy Aguilar; an incredibly normal, musicians' musician, bass player named Michelle Rubin; and a heavy hitting, opportunistic drummer named Ray Roby. Other principal characters are music



Off the Record by David Menconi iUniverse.com, 2000, 420 pp.

journalist Ken Morrison, a mid-sized market ink slinger with a knack for self-promotion and an ethical blind spot the size of a highway billboard; rock club owner Bob Porter, a guy who earned a Purple Heart in the U.S. Army and earns another one via his involvement with TAB; and promoter/booker Gus DeGrande, the all-time sleazoid music business parasite, so corrupt and so thoroughly mercenary that if he were to come to life suddenly, he'd immediately be given the presidency of Sony Nashville.

With this dead-on set of music biz characters, Menconi spins a cautionary tale of some considerable magnitude. The novel is a well-written page turner, rich in the sort of detail that can only come from one who's spent his career talking to bands in cramped green rooms after gigs, interviewing hundreds of musicians, standing in clubs listening to live rock week after week and following the Byzantine workings of the business.

For those of us who do what Menconi does for a living, Off the Record is virtually trade talk, albeit very organized trade talk. Everything in the story, from the band members to the gigs to the music to the rock clubs to the major label denizens, is so familiar that it's almost like TAB's crashand-burn history really happened. For readers who don't work in the music biz, or write about it, Off the Record promises to be an eye-opening account of a hidden world. Menconi's prose has an immediacy that will put you right in the middle of the sonic blast as a TAB song happens on stage, or take you into the record label executives' offices as they do what they do so well.

The easiest way to find *Off the Record* is to go online at www.iuniverse.com and search the author or the book title. You can buy the book right there. Make sure to check out the TAB web site—www.offtherecord.com —where you can get to know the cast of characters and actually hear some TAB songs. I'm serious.

MUSIC FOR SALE

Sam Bush Ice Caps: Telluride in the '90s Sugar Hill



Bluegrass fans know the genre is filled with great pickers, but they also know that there's no one quite like Sam Busha mandolin and fiddle virtuoso, a great singer and a truly eclectic musical force. All of those traits are personified by the 16 live tracks that comprise *Ice Caps*, recorded over the years at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. From his awesome cover of Dylan's "Girl From The North Country" to the hoedown energy of "Big Mon" to the hard-assed blues rock of "Speak Of The Devil" to his inspired cover of Lowell George's "Sailin' Shoes" to a one-minute version of "Celebrate" to the near-jazz of "The Ice Caps Are Melting," Sam is all over the music map, showing why he's a tough act to follow. He's not doing this alone, either, so check the input of players like Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, John Cowan, Jon Randall Stewart, John Magnie and Larry Atamanuik. This is an album of terrific style and whopping substance that will appeal equally to grassers, roots rockers and Americana fans.

MUSIC FOR SALE, continued

Jo Dee Messina: Burn

Curb



Messina's self-titled debut album, from which sprang the monster hit "Heads Carolina Tails California" (isn't the choice obvious?), put her on Nashville's girl singers A-list, though the follow-up release, I'm Alright, probably didn't take her much further. Burn. however, is a uniformly strong collection of tunes that hit the Billboard Top Country Albums chart at number 1 the week it was released. "Downtime," the title track, "Saturday Night," "Dare To Dream" and "These Are The Days" are all winning tunes, and any of them could easily land major airplay. Messina is a vocal powerhouse who has remained countryrock enough, thus far, to avoid cutting maudlin pop songs. Though she'll never possess the ultimate twang of Patty Loveless or the Texas bluegrass soul of the Dixie Chicks, Messina remains a wise judge of the music that suits her inclinations, and that judgment has just taken her to the top of the country chart.

Various Artists: Cliff's Picks Antone's Records



Clifford Antone has been run-

ning the best blues venue in

Austin-Antone's-for the past

25 years. Antone's Records

has been around for 15 years,

recording blues and R&B acts,

and this CD is a compilation of

tracks recorded for Antone's

Records over the years. As the

album title clearly indicates,

Cliff picked the songs. There's

no faulting his taste, either.

This CD is nothing but great

music. Cool tunes include

Doug Sahm working "She Put

The Hurt On Me." James

Cotton's superb cover of "Call

It Stormy Monday," Pinetop

Perkins' "Ida B," Marcia Ball,

Angela Strehli and Lou Ann

Barton performing Ike Turner's

"I Idolize You," Zuzu Bollin's

"Hey Little Girl," tremendous

R&B numbers from Toni Price

and Lavelle White, and Kim

Wilson covering "If I Should

Lose You," with Duke Robillard

on lead guitar. The album ends

with Cliff Antone talking about

all the artists on the compila-

tion, which is a nice bonus for

blues fans.

Paul Pena: **New Train** Hybrid



This album was recorded in 1973 and never released-yet another commentary on the near-mythic stupidity that rules the music business. Pena, a blind singer/ songwriter/guitarist, was one of the hottest folk/blues artists to ever come out of New England in the '70s. He eventually relocated to San Francisco and was subsequently the subject of the award-winning documentary Ghenghis Blues. This album is a revelation. Pena has a voice that you will not forget. Listen to his version of "Jet Airliner" and you'll hear the bluesy crunch that The Steve Miller Band couldn't capture in their hit cover of this Pena tune. The urgent groove of "Wait On What You Want" is just as convincing, as is the Grateful Dead vibe of "Venutian Lady" (that's Jerry Garcia on pedal steel) and the deep soul of "Let's Move And Groove Together," "Gonna Move" and "A Bit Of All Right." This would've been one of the best albums released in '73. Instead, it's one of the best albums of 2000. Better late than never.

Chucho Valdés: Live at the Village Vanguard Blue Note



Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés is the founder of the great Cuban jazz orchestra Irakere, but this gig at New York's storied Village Vanguard was a quartet affair, featuring Francisco Rubio Pampin on bass, Raul Piñeda Roque on trap drums and Roberto Vizcaino Guillot on congas and bata drums. Valdés has long been known as a stunning pianist and you'll hear nothing in these tracks to dispel that notion. Plug into "Punto Cubano," a number that begins as a simple tropical wave and builds into a hurricane of a piano solo. Valdés' tribute to pianist Bud Powell, "To Bud Powell," is a 10-minute flight of fancy that melds bop and samba into a groove that would surely have delighted Powell. Mayra Caridad Valdés, Chucho's sister, delivers a fiery vocal on "Drume Negrita," Cuban creole for "sleep, my little child." Mayra's passionate performance is hardly a lullaby. Gotta mention "Como Traigo La Yuca," a salsa-fueled adventure that uses every inch of the keyboard.

VIDEOCENTRIC

Storyville: The Naked Dance Shanachie Home Video; 60 mins. Documentary. DVD



Here's a little slice of Americana that didn't come up in your high school American History class. This documentary recounts the rise and fall of the reddest red light district the U.S. has ever known, New Orleans' fabled Storyville. The district was created in 1898 by a city council concerned with separating the Big Easy's "sporting ladies" from the general population. The prostitutes were herded into a district near the French Quarter that was guickly nicknamed Storyville, after a councilman named Story. Between 1898 and 1917, a guy could get anything he wanted in Storyville, from heroin to beer to sex shows to jazz. The Naked Dance is an instructive look at the amazing hypocrisy of the Victorian Age. This documentary also features a graphic look at the turn-of-the-century female body. Storyville prostitutes-who were evidently not prone to anorexia nervosawere quite comfortable posing for nude photos, and the filmmakers collected guite a few of these old photographs.

Loves of a Blonde

Home Vision Cinema/Janus Films; 86 mins. Feature. VHS



American movie fans are familiar with Czech director Milos Forman's U.S. films, particularly the Academy Award-winning One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, but he began his career on the ugly architecture side of the Iron Curtain, in his native Czechoslovakia. Loves of a Blonde, produced in 1965, was an Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Film in 1966. The story is a wry look at the life of a young woman who works at a mind-numbing job in a shoe factory in provincial Czechoslovakia. Following a nightlong sexual encounter with a piano player, she packs her suitcase and heads for his home in Prague, hoping to turn a onenight-stand into a regular thing. When she drops in on his parents, complications do ensue. This droll film is often categorized as a comedy, but believe me, it's not that funny. Forman was working on the needy, bittersweet side of sex and love, and his keen sense of the ridiculous is the insight that rules Loves of a Blonde.

Steely Dan: Aja Rhino Home Video; 60 mins. Documentary. VHS



This video is one of the latest releases in Rhino's Classic Albums series. The idea behind each program in the series is to get together with musicians and take a retrospective look at one of their most famous albums. In this case, we spend an hour with Donald Fagen and Walter Becker as they discuss the making of their brilliant album Aja, originally released in 1977. They spend part of the video sitting at a studio mixing console, breaking down the tracks of tunes like "Peq," "Josie," "Deacon Blues" and "Black Cow." Commentary also comes from producer Gary Katz, songwriter lan Dury, and several of the studio musicians who played on the Aja sessions. Fascinating stuff. Steely Dan fans will enjoy this look into the stunning musicianship that made Aja one of the best rock albums of all time.

Sisters

Home Vision/Janus Films; 93 mins. Feature. VHS



This is Brian DePalma's initial slasher movie, originally released in 1973. Sisters put DePalma on Hollywood's map and now it's been digitally remastered and letterboxed for our viewing pleasure. Margot Kidder stars as the knife-wielding, schizoid cutie who makes a bloody mess of an overnight quest in her living room, in view of a reporter (Jennifer Salt), whose apartment window faces the scene of the crime. By the time our erstwhile reporter drags the cops to Kidder's apartment, the place is clean, the body is gone, and Salt looks like a fool. But, hey, she's a reporter, so she knows a story when she sees one, and she won't let go of this bone. The plot takes some funky twists, and the bloodletting has just started. DePalma is often compared to Hitchcock, but DePalma was much sicker, and Sisters is our first clue.

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Gold standards YELLOW BRICK ROADS TO BETTER CUSTOMER SERVICE

magine being a loyal customer to a bank for 10 years and your loan payment gets lost in the mail. Ten days after the payment is due, a rude person is on the phone demanding payment.

"You're late," he says. "Please mail immediately. You also will need to include a \$29 late fee."

"Wait a minute!" you reply. "I've been with your bank for years and have been a great customer. Check your records."

"I'm sorry," comes the reply, "but I don't have access to that information."

You are so mad you vow to find a new bank—and the old bank loses a valued customer.

How can such a thing happen in these high-tech, new economy days? Well, it does a lot because so many companies keep their information in "silos"—accessible only to a particular department. Thus, billing doesn't know what sales knows and so on. Despite the computerization of records by the terabyte, customer services is often no better than a not-sofast-food restaurant.

Into the breach, however,

steps a Triangle company called "Yellow Brick Solutions." Its mission is to enable companies to share customer information across all the silos a firm may have, from sales to service.

"We are bridging the gaps between the technology, the information that companies gather, and what can be done with that information," says Gene Ferruzza, who heads up the Morrisville-based company. The Yellow Brick Solutions software is designed to link customer information across all a company's so-called "touch points" where people interact with it. These points include web sites, e-mail, call centers, direct mail, kiosks and fax-even wireless devices.

The goal is to let the callcenter operator know everything there is to know about that customer, from buying habits to payment record, at the touch of the keyboard. By having all the data in hand, Yellow Brick Solutions says companies can improve customer service and retention. It's called "customer experience management."

Ferruzza says companies have too many "turfs" and

"fiefdoms" for information. When Paul doesn't know what Peter knows, Mary gets left in the lurch. Because platforms and software can be different across a company's operations, Yellow Brick Solutions developed webbased "object-based intelligent

agents" designed to collect and present information completely and graphically. And when something changes in a customer's record, Yellow Brick Solutions is designed to update all data in all silos. The new product also means companies don't neces-

sarily have to replace their existing information technology infrastructure.

Another advantage to compiling customer data allows the companies to develop profiles of interests, buying habits, purchasing power and other data.

As for the company name, Ferruzza chuckles as he recalls the story. Some 200 names such as "Oz" were put on a spreadsheet. Management decided on Yellow Brick Solutions rather than Oz or Yellow Brick Road because the message of the company's focus comes across without being too closely linked to the classic movie.

"This is not a fairy tale. This is the golden path to success," Ferruzza says. "You don't want to get off the Yellow Brick Road when it comes to taking care of customers.



There are plenty of dangers out there."

Yellow Brick Solutions went live in August and immediately secured several customers. The company, which was founded in 1999, already has raised \$6.5 million in venture capital. For more information, visit www.placeware.com.

Wide area news

MORE SCHOOL KIDS GET CONNECTED

North Carolina's commitment to bring Internet access, high-speed computer networks and better computers to its students is paying off.

More than 9-in-10 public school students in North Carolina now have access to the Internet, according to a The niche for this company is to custom design its clients' promotional needs and products to the technological needs of its customers. Electronic Ink calls its method "design, human

Ratio of NC public school students to computers						
Year	Multimedia computer	New computer	Basic computer	Network computer	Internet computer	
2000	7:1	6:1	5:1	7:1	8:1	
1999	9:1	7:1	5:1	9:1	11:1	
1998	-	9:1	5:1	16:1	27:1	
1997	-	11:1	6:1	27:1	103:1	

Source: Department of Public Instruction

new Department of Public Instruction survey.

Nearly 92 percent of school districts have access to the Internet while only 6.42 percent don't. (Another 1.8 percent didn't answer.) And more than 85 percent of school districts now have "wide area networks" in place.

Meanwhile, the ratios of students to various devices, networks and the Internet continue to improve drastically from figures reported in 1997. The most drastic improvements have come in Internet access, networked PCs and modern PCs.

Electronic ink

FIRM CUSTOM CATERS CLIENTS' MESSAGES

Electronic Ink, which calls Philadelphia, Pa., home, has opened an office in Research Triangle Park. The firm's lead designer, Mark Ziegler, is heading it up. factors and technology." Among its clients are Microsoft, IBM, Pearson PLC, and The New York Stock exchange.

Check out www.electronicink.com.

Full effect

MAXI-mize YOUR 3-D GAMES

NetImmerse, the company in Chapel Hill which has developed some of the most cutting-edge 3-D PC game technology around, showed off its newest products over Labor Day in London.

The MAXImmerse engine for PlayStation 2 was demonstrated at Europe's big game show. PlayStation 2s hit the market this fall and are expected to set a new standard in electronic game realism and interaction. MAXImmerse is designed to improve game platform performance and has added new texturing and animation features.

Career days

GETTING A JOB, MADE EASY

Given the ups-and-downs of Wall Street and the everincreasing speed of technological development, students pondering career choices today can have a very tough time. N.C. State is trying to help make the process easier with a newly revamped web site called "Career Key" www.ncsu.edu/careerkey/.

NCSU said the site originally was intended for middle school students but has been expanded for high school and college students. Among the features are a career interest inventory as well as information about careers as provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook. Also included are "foundation skills" required for workers in the 21st century. Heading up the effort is Dr. Lawrence K. Jones, a professor in N.C. State's College of Education and Psychology.

Zoom zoom

GOING THERE ON THE WEB

Zoom Culture, which is working to bring people and videos (home, business and more) to the web from around the world, has named a top-flight board of directors.

Mitch Mumma, one of the Triangle's top venture capitalists, joined the board. Also named was Kip Frey, the former president and CEO of Open Site Technologies, which recently was sold. Nathan Wieler, the founder of Zoom Culture, also was named to the board. His corporate title is "chief zoom officer." Also selected were Farrell Reynolds, former president of Turner Broadcasting sales, and Dwight Sawin, a founder of Vodafone/Airtouch PLC.

The board announcements were made as Zoom Culture also announced it had lined up venture funding totaling \$5.4 million. The money came through a syndicate led by Intersouth Partners, where Mumma is a general partner. Also making investments were Cordova Ventures, Dean & Company and Tri-State Investment Group.

Promoted pioneer

BROADWELL GETS HIGH-TECH TITLE

While most newspaper executives were struggling, or fighting, the Internet in the early '90s, Charles Broadwell moved to embrace it. As editor of The Fayetteville Observer, Broadwell helped the Observer establish one of the first newspaper web sites, now www.fayetteville.com. As of Sept. 30, he also became president and publisher of the newspaper. He will keep his title as editor. Broadwell's uncle, Ramon Yarborough, retired on that date. Broadwell's grandfather and great-grandfather also were publishers of the paper, according to Editor & Publisher magazine.



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Secr

Chief catalyst RENAISSANCE JUDGE STEPS DOWN

Russell G. Sherrill, chief judge of the Wake County District Court system, is retiring in November after a nearly 30-year career in public service, beginning with a

Judge Sherrill is largely responsible for implementing several innovative and groundbreaking ideas, including high-volume courtrooms that can handle 1000-plus cases a day.

stint as assistant district attorney in 1973 and into his days on the bench, which began in 1979.

Judge Sherrill is largely responsible for implementing several innovative and groundbreaking ideas, including high-volume courtrooms that can handle 1000-plus cases a day, mandatory mediation trials for child custody cases, a special court for domestic violence cases and, in the days after the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City was bombed, he helped crack down on security at Tar Heel courthouses—where about 90 weapons a month are found on people going into government buildings.

He has also served on a variety of boards: Carolina Correctional Services, Inc., N.C. Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee and Artspace Inc. among them. Thanks, judge.

Family feud

ALT PAPER LEGEND TOSSED OUT OF NEWSROOM

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution calls it "creative tension" in an article recently published detailing a coup d'journaliste at the Atlantabased Creative Loafing newspapers, the \$20-million-a-year alternative newspaper chain which purchased the Raleigh/ Triangle Spectator in 1997 from founder Bernie Reeves.

The founder of the Atlanta weekly, Debby Eason, is being booted out by her husband, three children and business partner, Scott Walsey. Eason, 66, who founded *Creative Loafing* in 1972 as a monthly guide, said to reporters: "My partner told the whole staff that he is dealing with the

s of State

most dysfunctional family he's ever met. He's got it right."

Eason has held on to her shares, but the controlling interest has changed with no job description for her. According to Eason: "I'm the founder and they're kicking me out of my building."

According to the newspaper article, Eason's family and her partner felt she had squandered company money on unfocused Internet initiatives that did not pan out. Said copublisher Scott Walsey, "We were trying to accomplish too much and not concentrating on having some successes."

King of dance

BALLET FOUNDER STEPS OFF STAGE

Hats off to Ward Purrington, who has stepped down as the chairman of the board of the Carolina Ballet. Purrington single-handedly birthed the ballet and kept it going to its pinnacle today as, according to the New York Times, Washington Post and Time Magazine, "the best regional ballet in the country."

Purrington is responsible for hiring artistic director Robert Weiss to head up his dreams for a professional ballet company in the capital city. Weiss, a principal dancer with George Balanchine's New York City Ballet, had served for eight successful years as head of the Philadelphia Ballet. Together, Weiss and Purrington have put Raleigh and the region on the cultural map with the highest level of the balletic art. The community owes Ward Purrington a big salute and sincere thanks for his tireless contribution to the establishment of Carolina Ballet.

Working conditions ROBINSON HAD HIS REASONS FOR LEAVING Word is that former athletic director at N.C. State University, Les Robinson, left for the Citadel for the AD job by choice rather than continue to work under conditions created in the department by Chancellor Marye Ann Fox.

Robinson served as an assistant coach at the Citadel



Into the future NEW BERN PREPS FOR GOOD TIMES

Long foundering in the backwash of the state's economic boom, New Bern now has a tripod of new projects that promise to deliver the brickencrusted former capital into a more prosperous future. First, the new crossriver exchange unclogged one of the state's worst traffic jams; then Tryon Palace bought up waterfront land for an exciting expansion; and now the long-awaited Craven County Convention Center is completed and open for business.

The swank convention

center opened officially on August 26 with a huge gala affair catered by all the best restaurants in town. The center's spacious digs, gorgeous murals and state-of-the-art stage technology were shown off to hundreds of appreciative conventioneers, including the party-goers in this picture.

SECRETS OF STATE

under the dictatorial Press Maravich, father of probably the best guard in the history of basketball, Pete Maravich, and who later became head coach at N.C. State University. Press Maravich and his son Pete went to LSU as

Robinson, a walking history book of Southern athletics, is happy to be "home" in Charleston, where he is in touch with Low Country author Pat Conroy (*Prince of Tides, Beach Music*) about Conroy's basketball-playing days at Citadel, helping the author recount the tapestry of the era.

coach and player, where Pete enjoyed a record-breaking career as a college player.

Robinson, who played basketball at N.C. State under the legendary Everett Case in the early 1960s, later coached at the Citadel and returned to his alma mater, N.C. State, as head coach in the mid-1990s—later becoming athletic director. Robinson, a walking history book of Southern athletics, is happy to be "home" in Charleston, where he is in touch with Low Country author Pat Conroy (*Prince of Tides, Beach Music*) about Conroy's basketball-playing days at Citadel, helping the author recount the tapestry of the era.

Food for the family YOUNG NEAL TAKES OVER THE BAR AT CROOK'S

Who does SOS discover working behind the bar at the famous Crook's Corner in Chapel Hill/Carrboro, but Matt Neal, whose parents, Bill and Moreton Neal, founded the area's first French country cuisine eatery, La Residence, in Chapel Hill in the late '70s.

The late Bill Neal then went out on his own and took over Crook's Corner, previously a barbecue and oysters joint (featuring the old ceramic tile urinal walls from Kenan Stadium as a bar—still there today) and turned Crook's into one of the area's most famous eateries, what the former *New York Times* food critic Craig Claiborne called "the finest restaurant in the South" during the mid-1980s.

Nice to see the family tradition continue.

Art challenge

NEW WILMINGTON MUSEUM GETS ANOTHER BOOST

A huge addition to the St. John's Museum of Art in Wilmington is a lot closer to reality after the Troy, Michigan-based Kresge Foundation offered the project a \$500,000 "challenge grant" recently. The foundation lobbying for what will be called the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum is confident it will come up with the matching \$500,000 needed to secure the Kresge monies.

The only museum to collect solely Tar Heel art, the St. John's already has received about \$6 million to expand it from 14,000 square feet to 42,000 square feet—hopefully by the fall of 2001. Four million of that was donated by the Bruce B. Cameron Foundation in 1997, becoming the largest gift to a cultural organization in Wilmington's history.

The land donated for the new museum is also historic. Located at the intersection of Independence Boulevard and 17th Street Extension, the site was where one of the last battles of the Civil War was fought just before the fall of Wilmington—and the Confederacy.

Former Wrightsville Beach beach-goer Charles Gwathmey, who designed the renovation of New York's Guggenheim Museum, will draw the plans. Gwathmey, a



WEST WINGER Raleigh's Emily Procter will play opposite screen hunk and political operative Rob Lowe this fall on NBC's *West Wing*.

Charlotte native, is the son of painter Robert Gwathmey.

Rising star

RALEIGH ACTRESS SIGNED FOR NEW ROLE

Raleigh native and actress Emily Procter, who has several screen credits already under belt, including *Guinevere* and the critically acclaimed HBO movie *Breast Men*, has been selected to play a primary character in the Emmy-Award-winning NBC drama *West Wing*.

Miss Procter has been signed for six episodes to play a conservative think tank staffer who, sources say, becomes involved as a love interest with series co-star Rob Lowe. The first episode featuring Miss Procter will air in late October.

Millions for scholars

SALISBURY NATIVE ESTABLISH UNIQUE GIFT

The Robertson Scholars, a unique undergraduate gift of \$24 million that calls for students to attend both UNC-CH and Duke, has been established by Julian H. Robertson and his wife Josie. The first group of scholars, 15 at Duke and 15 at UNC, is expected to matriculate in the 2001 school year. Each scholarship includes full tuition, living expenses and computers.

Julian Robertson, a Salisbury native, is one of Wall Street's best-known and most highly respected figures.



Eyes Only hears that Bayboro, N.C., is suddenly a **boxing capital**. In less than a month, Evander Holyfield and Sugar Ray Leonard have shown up to watch boxing events in the small Bay River town. Leonard, however, **fell sick** and had to leave before the fighting began. **•••** Tryon Palace is expanding, buying up prime riverfront property in New

Bern—and **making plans** for a children's museum. **•••** Event organizer and sports promoter Hill Carrow has returned to Raleigh to start up a new division of Capitol Broadcasting, Capitol Sports Management. Carrow made his **early mark** as head of the highly successful Olympic Sports Festival held in the Triangle in 1987 and most recently as VP of U.S. Olympic Properties, the Salt Lake City games' fundraising arm. His return to Raleigh wasn't all business, though. **He married** Durham Academy Lower School principal Sheri-lyn Lockwood in July. **•••** Advertising guru Alfred Hamilton and former Greensboro newspaper editor Mike Hoyt took 30 years to figure out they were made for each other. Now, years after **making friends** at UNC-CH and meeting again later in Vietnam, the two finally decided to "bundle 75 years' marketing experience into a two-person practice" by opening Hoyt-Hamilton in Raleigh this summer. Market **niche specialists**, the two are already helping out CargoLifter, the N.C. Dental Society and Leap Technologies out of Chicago. **•••**

Stephen Coggins has been named pro bono attorney of the year by the North Carolina Bar Association. A partner at Parker, Poe, Adams & Bernstein, Coggins serves as voluntary counsel for the AIDS Service Agency of North Carolina, and others. •••• Talk TV bigshot Larry King, who has interviewed over 35,000 people, will be at UNC-CH on Oct. 20 to talk about ethics. ••• Chapel Hill's Zoom Culture, a streaming video firm, will provide live feeds for Internet's The Extreme Road Trip, an adventurous tour de force of extreme sports locations throughout America. *** A while back, Eyes Only announced a sculpture contest by the Forum, a Wilmington shopping mall. Wilmington artist Hiroshi Sueyoshi won. His Harmony (shown here) is made of brightly painted, undulating steel panels, and will go up soon. Don't mistake it for the mysterious 30foot blue man wind sculpture that appeared recently at the same location. Art and shopping do go together. Raleigh-based BTI's chairman and founder Pete Loftin was mentioned in the September 18 issue of People Magazine following his purchase of the mansion

in Miami Beach owned by the now deceased fashion designer Gianni Versace. Loftin, according to the magazine, paid \$19 million for Casa Casuarina, the 20,000-square-foot mansion, making it the **highest price** ever paid for a residence in Miami-Dade County.

MOVING MARVEL Hiroshi Sueyoshi's new sculpture at The Forum in Wilmington



My Usual Charming Self

by Bernie Reeves

THE EDUCATION STATE

remember with pride that my state, North Carolina, was head and shoulders above other Southern states in educational attainment. Through the efforts of public-spirited citizens, we had here a uniform elementary, junior high and high school curriculum that provided students from all walks of life what is today yearningly called a "basic education." Those who did not attend college carried with them through life proper grammar, basic mathematical skills, a geographical point of reference, an understanding of the American political system, a solid foundation in Western literature and the tools to understand basic science.

During the turbulent early days of federal de-segregation orders that closed schools throughout the South, North Carolina devised the Pearsall Plan that kept ours open. Named for the Rocky Mount legislator who devised the approach, it is largely responsible for the establishment of the Research Triangle Park. The first private tenant, the Chemstrand research division of the Monsanto company, located scientists here in 1959 largely due to the fact that their executives were assured that our schools would remain open. Under the Pearsall Plan and the state leaders who instituted it, North Carolina schools, with some exceptions, integrated peacefully and continued their tradition of quality basic education.

That tradition included pride in America and North Carolina, proper dress and manners, respect for others, Christmas celebrations (including carols and songs), school spirit, discipline with fairness and consistency, and respect for

Through the efforts of publicspirited citizens, we had here a uniform elementary, junior high and high school curriculum that provided students from all walks of life what is today yearningly called a "basic education." Those who did not attend college carried with them through life proper grammar, basic mathematical skills, a geographical point of reference, an understanding of the American political system, a solid foundation in Western literature and the tools to understand basic science.

teachers and administrators. School back then basically reflected the agreed-upon consensus of values that the large majority of Americans shared. Students, teachers and parents felt connected and secure. Before anyone knew it, things went terribly wrong. Schools became a battleground, literally and figuratively. Prayer in schools became an issue far out of proportion to its effect in the classroom. Radicals such as Madelyn Murray O'Hair made national reputations in the angry '60s fulminating against religion in the classroom, although ignoring religion in the other aspects of our public life.

In that era, the arrogant bureaucracy birthed by the Great Society legislation of 1965 unleashed directives to local school boards demanding conformity to self-styled "national goals" that ran contrary to local customs and beliefs. The newly established Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), the cutting edge agency of federal interference in local and personal affairs, undertook to dismantle the University of North Carolina system, salivating over it as a large trophy since its consolidation from three to the now 16-campus system.

After opening with a virulent attack on the University, accusing it of "vestiges of racism" because it had, unlike our Southern neighbors, undertaken to educate its black citizens, the HEW-threatened law suit hovered over the heads of university and state leaders for 10 long years. After capitulating to every demand from the arrogant HEW apparatchiks and getting nowhere, one University official finally asked them what they really wanted. The answer? That the UNC system physically remove several identified schools and colleges at Chapel Hill and Raleigh and move them to the predominantly black campuses. Under threat that this remedy would be made public, HEW finally relented. In the aftermath of millions of wasted tax dollars to defend itself against the agency, the academic standards of the schools have been compromised, leaving them open to radical academic fads and the curriculum at

the mercy of unscrupulous activists with axes to grind and a consistent lack of respect for our values.

AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH

To make things even more difficult for parents and educators, sexual freedom and the abortion issue entered the culture, placing unheard of demands on school administrators. Feminism was on the rise, changing the order of school activities by creating surreal compliance to physical equality on the playing field. The New Left radicals attacked the system and the principles that underlay American society. Social scientists began tinkering with learning itself, imposing New Math in the 1960s leading to "student directed" curricula, which led to emphasis on Ebonics, gender studies, post-modern Marxist interpretations of history, critical race theory and Multicultural Studiesthe high sounding "inclusive" platitude that actually seeks to denigrate Western civilization and with it the cherished American belief in the sanctity of the individual over the dictates of the state.

Unions picked up steam in this era. Teachers were transformed by the National Association of Educators from highly regarded self-sacrificing professionals with high status but low pay into a phalanx of organized workers demanding higher wages and better working conditions.

The status of teachers deteriorated further as the movement to integrate evolved into forced busing in school districts across the South and cities in the North and Midwest. America had never experienced social engineering on this scale. Concocted by a sociology professor, who later apologized for the damage it inflicted on millions of school children, busing disrupted communities and uprooted the lives of students who, to this day, are traumatized from its effects. It's painful to think about the children who were ripped out of the security and nurture of their neighborhood schools on the whim of the state. Their resentment will stay with us and perhaps haunt us in the years to come.

With kids uprooted and traumatized, teachers have been handed the impossible mission to teach while attempting to keep order in the chaos that ensued. The teaching environment now resembles a detention center. Disoriented kids are placed in classrooms in which the learning levels vary from high achievement to barely literate and numerate. A new issue-crime in school-has become a larger issue than student success. Parents, most of whom both hold jobs in today's society, are constantly jittery, worried over their kids riding buses for long hauls and being confronted with physical danger from other students inside the school building.

Supposedly busing has been ruled unconstitutional. But it's still with us, even after a federal court ruling struck it down. There are just too many education bureaucrats who will not admit its failure or who rely on it for their livelihood. Pupil assignments are still a large part of the planning and operation of the school year in Wake County and around the region. Still hiding behind the skirts of "magnet schools," the euphemism for kinder gentler busing, and remembering the spineless and vague U.S. Supreme Court decisions from the 1970s that allowed the process to continue, educrats won't let it go—in the face of the reality that even black families now want it terminated.

Perhaps that's why the chickens have come home to roost in recent defeated school bond issues around the region. Voters (read parents of school children) did not defeat school bond issues because they thought it cost too much. They're letting school officials know that they have had enough of the disruptions, poor performance and attendant depression suffered by their kids over the past 25 years of forced busing.

JIM HUNT WORSHIP

In this picture appears the face of Jim Hunt. He came to office in the early '70s and has stayed there since, with only one break for the people of the state. In that time, the alleged "Education Governor" of the late 20th century has presided over the decline of scholastic achievement in North Carolina from its once proud pinnacle to the very bottom of the national heap. Yet his name is bandied about as the likely appointment in an Al Gore administration as Secretary of Education.

Hunt cobbled together a voting bloc of teacher union activists and state workers to get elected and stay in office. He has remained allegiant to this constituency over the needs of the families and children that rely on him to provide the educational context that ensures them a successful future. The result of over 25 years of Jim Hunt is appalling. In 1989, after 17 years under his leadership, North Carolina hit rock bottom, 51st in the nation in SAT scores. And this in a state proud of its past attainments, that spends 70 cents of every tax dollar collected on education. Hunt and his cronies have thrown more money down a rat hole than any group of second-rate poltroons in the state's history trying to stop the decline. Today, we've climbed back up only to a still disgraceful 48th in 11 years. So it's not the money, it's the philosophy, the standards and the leadership that have been abandoned under Jim Hunt.

But there's more to the problem. Even if he had wanted to change the system, he couldn't. The education bureaucracy is too big, bloated and overpaid to see itself with any critical observation. And with tenure for teachers, it's nearly impossible to weed out the incompetents that sneaked in during the past 25-year lapse in standards. Under these prevailing conditions, the good teachers, the majority from what I know, are prevented from bringing up standards by the teacher unions, the education bureaucrats and the political activists.

Now is not too soon to listen to the people and dismantle the current education establishment, from university down to grade school, and start again unencumbered by the political baggage that has dragged down student performance and self-esteem in North Carolina. School districts must abandon busing in the wake of recent court decisions. Teachers must be required to pass a competency test. Standards in the curriculum must be established and maintained. School is for teaching, not for propagandizing social issues held by activists with an agenda. If federal money has attached to it demands for political pressure in the classroom, districts must turn it down even if it means more local taxes. Then perhaps we can get on with restoring the pride once felt by North Carolinians in our educational system.

THE BIG HOWEVER

But yes, I recommend our readers vote in the affirmative for the Wake County school bond issues discussed in our Special Report on education in this issue. We are living in a thriving community from the Triangle to the coast that cannot continue to achieve without housing students in proper facilities. Citizens have worked diligently to make this proposal economically sound with no frills. Vote yes and take heart that the earlier defeat of this bond issue sent the right message to school officials.

And I say vote yes for the UNC bonds on the ballot statewide. But I

agree with Arch Allen's observations in our Special Report. UNC must heal itself from the weight of its own bureaucracy and decentralize the system in order to be competitive in the future. I

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also feel quite strongly that the ineptitude of the Chapel Hill central office not harm the great achievements by the campuses in our region and the continuing critical service performed by our community colleges.

After all, we're the education state, aren't we?

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