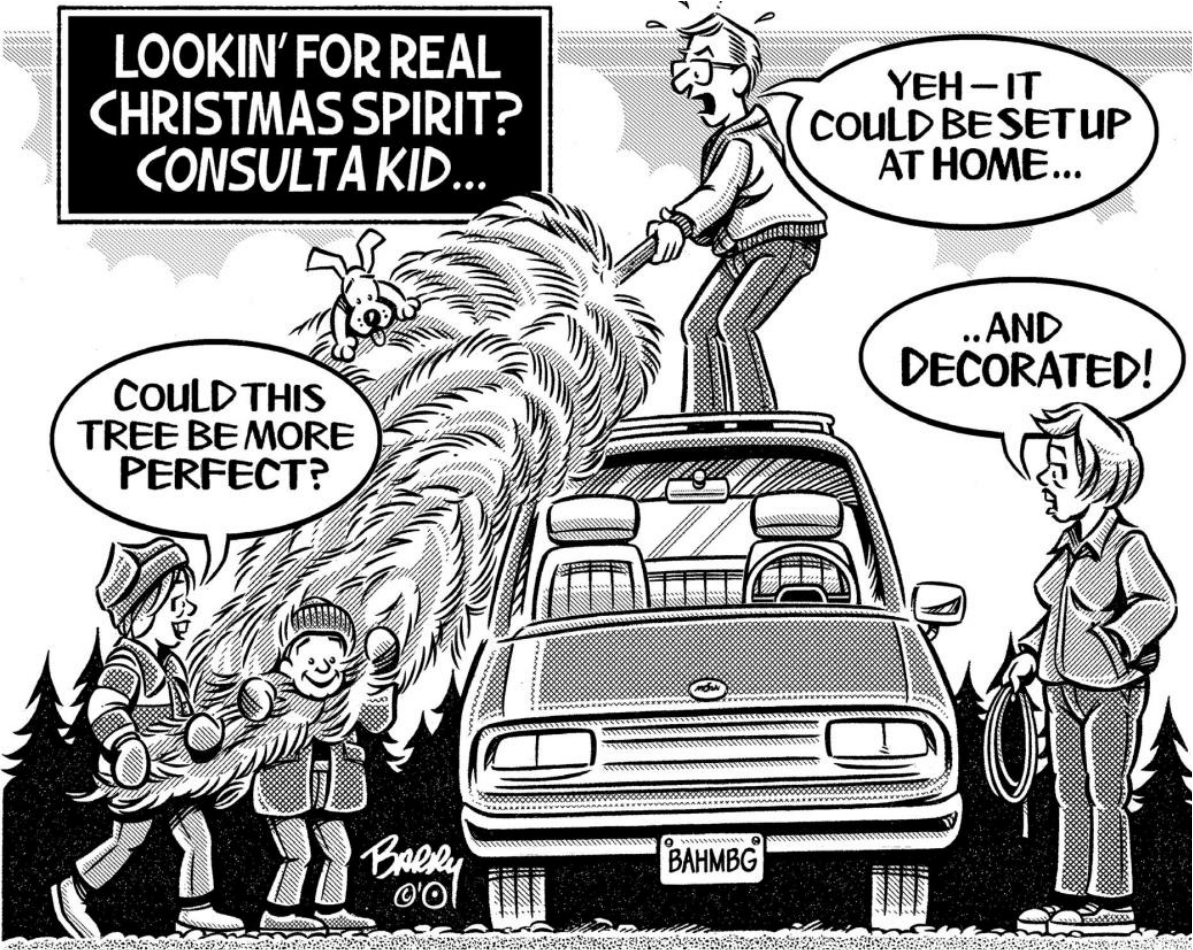


Tabor-Loris Tribune

OPINIONS...

SERVING TABOR CITY, NC AND LORIS, SC



Does severe punishment deter crimes and violence?

First published July 15, 1998

We do not know the answer to that question although for a lifetime I have believed in capital punishment and execution of murders, traitors, terrorists and others who kill, maim and destroy lives and property for their own financial gain or some personal philosophy.

A sign carried by a picket on TV recently said something like “Is killing someone who killed someone the way to stop killing?”

Well it hasn’t stopped killing across the nation, but at least those who are executed won’t kill again as many released criminals are prone to do.

It’s hard to explain a murder like that of Crosby’s son who was brutally killed on a California highway. That rascal is going to stay in prison a long time and cost the taxpayers \$20,000 a year. Maybe a death

sentence should have been the verdict in that case. And almost certainly O.J. Simpson should have paid the supreme penalty for his foul dastardly deeds.


Then in trying to understand what is right and wrong we look back at the laws in the tiny country of Finland where we were recently. Their maximum punishment regardless of the crime is 12 years in prison. They are hard years and they don’t enjoy all the comforts of home like U.S. prisoners do. Yet, despite that minimum punishment for crime, Finland has a very low crime and violence rate.

And in the good old U.S.A., we have more people in jail than any other country in the world and we continue to build more and more prisons all over the nation.

There’s a screw loose somewhere and we are not exactly sure where.

W. Horace Carter

Jan. 20, 1921
—
Sept. 16, 2009



A plaque for Bush in Chapel Hill?

“There should be an historic plaque in Chapel Hill honoring George Bush.”

On the day after the former president’s death, Chapel Hill lawyer and chair of the town’s historic district commission, Bob Epting, was making opening remarks at a public seminar on preserving historic spaces.

“I didn’t vote for him,” Epting said. “But I admired and loved him.”

Epting explained that during World War II, Bush and about 15,000 other prospective U.S. Navy pilots were part of a pre-flight training program at Chapel Hill. “It is a shame that there is no marker here for Bush and the others.”

In Jon Meacham’s 2015 best seller, “Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush,” the president’s time in Chapel Hill plays a short but very important role in his life.

When Bush turned 18 in 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Chapel Hill for pre-flight training, which was according to Meacham, “a very shaping experience, a memorable experience.”

Perhaps even more important for Bush was the daylong visit to Chapel Hill of 17-year-old Barbara Pierce. Bush wrote his mother, “She looked too cute for words—really beautiful.”

Meacham writes, “They had a sandwich together and walked the campus, winding up at the university’s Kenan Memorial Stadium in a grove of pine trees about a mile away from the inn. A sudden storm drove them

into the canvas-covered press box. ‘We laughed at everything,’ Bush wrote, grateful for the stolen hours.”

During that short visit their romance bloomed, leading to their marriage in January 1945.

Without the tough Chapel Hill training that prepared him for wartime service and without the tough Barbara Bush by his side, the “kinder and gentler” Bush might have spent his life in business in New York or New England like many of his Yale classmates.

With the closing of the Chapel Hill airport earlier this year an important physical reminder of Bush’s connection has been lost.

There are few other reminders of the pre-flight program and its contribution to the war effort, to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and to the town.

One fresh reminder is a new book by Anne Keene whose grandfather directed the program. Keene’s book focuses on the program’s connection to another set of American heroes. Her book, “The Clodbuster Nine: The Untold Story of Ted Williams and the Baseball Team that Helped Win WWII,” focuses on a group of major league baseball players like Williams, who trained in Chapel Hill and went on to fly combat aircraft during the war. They were heroes in the sky and on the baseball field.

While they were in Chapel Hill, Williams and other major league players such as Johnny Pesky, and Johnny Sain were among a cadre of fighter-pilot cadets who played for a Navy team called the Clodbuster Nine.



D.G. Martin

Keene asserts that the Clodbuster Nine team was better than the New York Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals, the teams that faced each other in the 1943 World Series.

Bush and Williams were not the only famous names in the pre-flight training. Gerald Ford, John Glenn and Paul “Bear” Bryant took the training too.

That training was rigorous in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in other tough physical and mental exercises. The curriculum was designed to get the future pilots in shape for combat and the challenges of survival should they be shot down in enemy territory.

Because the hard and effective training contributed significantly to the ultimate victory, it is fair to say that the war was won, at least in part, in Chapel Hill, and certainly should be commemorated. A plaque like the one suggested by Bob Epting, could honor and remember not only Bush, but also Ford, Williams and the thousands of other pre-flight cadets.

Bush decency and America’s Christmas list

Christmas is coming and wish lists vary. Here are ideas from which most can benefit.

Medical care for all Americans. Congress must sever ties with lobbyists working on behalf of the pharmaceutical and medical insurance companies and represent the American people. Prescription costs are too high and the government pays too much money to the drug companies for those who receive various medicines from government coverage.

All Americans should be able to see a doctor and receive medical care. Working Americans should have access to affordable medical care. Retired and poor/disabled/uninsurable Americans should have access to Medicare and Medicaid. All Veterans and military should be able to choose an alternate doctor or hospital when the VA hospital and doctors are not in close proximity or are inaccessible.

My medical insurance company recently informed me that my doctors must always gain their consent when prescribing any kind of medicine. They not only demand final approval on any medications I might need, they frequently dictate that my doctor prescribes a medication that is less expensive.

I would like to think that my doctor prescribes medicines based on his opinion that they will work. If I decide to follow my doctor’s direction and the medical insurance company doesn’t agree then I will be totally out of pocket for my prescription.

My wife and I were in France once and she had to see a doctor. There were doctor offices everywhere in Paris. Seeing a doctor and getting two prescriptions were less than \$35. We didn’t use an insurance card and a visit to the doctor and going to the pharmacy around the corner both took less than 90 minutes. France does not have socialized medicine. They are involved in controlling the costs of drugs. The life expectancy for those living in France is longer than us living in America. France’s medical world is not perfect but we should take notes.

Christmas will be good if Americans can have access to jobs

(Continued On Page 5)

A good President in a good country

A month-long season of morning in the United States peaks today with funeral services for George H.W. Bush, our 41st President and the last from what journalist Tom Brokaw described as “The greatest generation.”

That’s the generation of my Dad, gone for more than five years now, and my experience tells me Brokaw’s take on the generation that brought this country through World War II and transformed America in the years that followed was on point.

So much has been written since news of the death of a President broke early Saturday. So many have weighed in on the President who in two words laid out his vision for America during his inaugural speech.

Kinder. Gentler.

Bush lived the philosophy he espoused in ways we haven’t seen since. His son George W., our 43rd President, carried some of those traits but I’m sure he would admit his Dad did so better, and more consistently.

There are two other words that describes the elder Bush, and my Dad, and so many from that Greatest Generation.

Thoughtful. Deliberate.

Those traits allowed him to believe America could be that beacon on a hill with “a thousand points of light” for the world to follow. And the world did, through cooperation in a gulf war not seen since that World War of the 41st President’s young adulthood; and as Germany united after the Berlin Wall came down during the watch of President Ronald Reagan.

of humor displayed often with ridiculous socks, and he also accepted the impersonation from Saturday Night Live’s Dana Carvey, who immortalized the phrase “Not gonna do it. Wouldn’t be prudent.”

That sense of humor is something I’ve found consistent among many of the Greatest Generation. Dad, with a basic working knowledge of computers, would have appreciated these thoughts on passwords, a ban of existence for just about everyone, shared by my friend and cartoonist Barry McWilliams of J.P. Doodles fame.

Passwords are required everywhere online, and though important, keeping up can be a real, sometimes impossible chore. There’s an App for that, but that’s another story. Consider this exchange between a user and the Windows operating system. I’ve had to edit this just a bit, for language.

Barbara Bush would have insisted. You’ll understand.

Why folks never change their passwords

Windows: Please enter your new password.
User: Cabbage
Windows: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters. User: Boiled cabbage
Windows: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character.
User: 1 boiled cabbage
Windows: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.
User: 50damnboiledcabbages
Windows: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.
User: 50DAMNboiledcabbages
Windows: Sorry the password cannot contain more than one upper case character consecutively.
User: 50DAMNBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourxxxIfYouDon’tGiveMeAccessNow!!!
Windows: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.
User: ReallyP-issedOff50DAMNBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourxxxIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow
Windows: Sorry, that password is already in use.

During the funeral Sunday for Ed Harper, Editor and Publisher of The State Port Pilot in Southport, his daughter recalled seeing flags at half-staff that morning and her mother, unaware of the passing of the President remarking “How nice.”

Ed’s newspaper boasts the slogan “A Good Newspaper in a Good Community.”

That’s a fair way to describe the 41st President, and for that matter my Dad, both of The Greatest Generation, both good men in a good country.

RIP, 41.

Flags

Humor

President Bush had a sense

Tabor-Loris Tribune


W. HORACE CARTER - FOUNDER
January 20, 1921 - September 16, 2009

Our Staff

DEUCE NIVEN
GENERAL MANAGER/EDITOR

JENN BOYD
ADVERTISING/REPORTER

PENNY HOLMES
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR/CIRCULATION

Member  NCPA North Carolina Press Association
ncpress.com

- 1953 - PULITZER PRIZE FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE
- 1974 - NCPA PRESS AWARD/PERSONAL COLUMNS
- 1975 - NCPA PRESS AWARD/NEWS SERIES
- 1975 - NCPA PRESS AWARD/ADVERTISING
- 1986 - NCPA PRESS CONTEST/SPOT NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY
- 1988 - NCPA PRESS CONTEST/FEATURES
- 1995 - NCPA EDITORIAL CONTEST/SPOT NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY
- 1995 - NCPA EDITORIAL CONTEST/HUMOROUS COLUMNS
- 1995 - NCPA EDITORIAL CONTEST/SPOT NEWS REPORTING
- 1996 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/PHOTOGRAPHY PAGE
- 1997 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SPOT NEWS REPORTING
- 1997 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/NEWS WRITING
- 1997 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SPOT NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY
- 1998 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/NEWS FEATURE WRITING

- 1998 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SERIOUS COLUMNS
- 1999 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
- 1999 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SERIOUS COLUMNS
- 1999 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
- 1999 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/FEATURE WRITING

- 1999 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS
- 2000 - NCPA ADVERTISING CONTEST/BEST USE OF SPOT COLOR
- 2000 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SERIOUS COLUMNS
- 2001 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY
- 2002 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SPORTS COLUMNS
- 2002 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/SPECIAL SECTION
- 2003 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/EDITORIALS
- 2007 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/GENERAL NEWS REPORTING
- 2009 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
- 2009 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/GENERAL NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY
- 2010 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/PROFILE FEATURE
- 2011 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING
- 2011 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/GENERAL NEWS REPORTING
- 2011 - NCPA JOURNALISM CONTEST/FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

AWARDS