

Tabor-Loris Tribune

OPINIONS...

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Schools, youngsters and religion in trouble

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A new public school literacy examination in the State of Massachusetts requiring classroom teachers to pass a state board test, revealed that the educators were not so smart. The test is about an eighth grade level exam, but 56 percent of the teachers taking the test failed miserably. How can the school system ever get any better if the teachers are that unqualified? Hopefully, the Carolinas teachers are not that poorly prepared. But then who would have dreamed that Massachusetts teachers were so inapt.

Then there is this survey of young people that really shows how little many parents know about their children. It clearly shows that there is much more involvement with drugs that previously conceived. When asked, 21 percent of parents said their children may have smoked pot. When the children

themselves were asked about their involvement with pot, it was found that 44 percent had smoked pot. Then parents we asked what percentage of kids had been offered hard drugs,



they said 38 percent. In truth 60 percent had been offered drugs. When parents were asked what percent of their children's friends smoked pot, they said 45 percent. The real truth is that 71 percent did.

In a South Carolina county, zoning officials threatened to fine Rev. Orie Wenger \$1,000 a day if he continued to hold Bible study classes in his home.

Neighbors complained that the service was a nuisance. The State Legislature came to the rescue. It passed a measure that prohibits local governments from interfering with religious services in the home. Gov. David Beasley said, "Our ancestors gave their blood, toil, tears and sweat to give us the right to assemble and worship. It outrages me that anyone needs to be reminded that zoning regulations never can wipe out Constitutional guarantees."

The so-called American Civil Liberties Union has virtually destroyed any religions in the schools, even though the vast majority of Americans approve of religion in the schools, efforts are apparently focused on home worship too.

There is at least one bright spot -- in the south, 88 percent of the adults today profess some religion and belief in God.

What happened to Virginia Dare?

What really happened to Virginia Dare, the first child of English parents born in the New World? The same Virginia Dare whom I suggested recently belonged on "The World Almanac's" list of famous North Carolinians.

A few weeks ago I wrote about Sir Walter Raleigh's organization and establishment of the colony on Roanoke Island as described by Andrew Lawler in his book, "The Secret Token: Myth, Obsession, and the Search for the Lost Colony of Roanoke." He called the expensive and intricate preparations for the colony "the Elizabethan equivalent of the Apollo program."

In July, 1587, the colonists arrived on Roanoke Island led by its governor John White whose granddaughter, Virginia Dare was born on August 18. A few days later, White sailed to England for much-needed supplies. When he finally returned in August 1590, the colony had disappeared, leaving only a carving of "Croatoan" on a tree as a possible clue.

There are a lot of answers to the question of what happened to Virginia Dare, her family, and their fellow colonists. Most are legends. Some say Virginia Dare grew up into a lovely young woman and was transformed into a white doe, an animal that still haunts coastal North Carolina. Another story says she and other colonists made their way to Robeson County where some locals will show you her burial

site near Red Springs.

Less imaginative authors suggest that the colonists, including Virginia Dare, died from hunger, disease, or by massacre by Native Americans. Others suggest that the colonists joined nearby Native Americans and were absorbed by them.

In "The Secret Token," Lawler gives a history of the developing interest in Virginia Dare and the Lost Colony. After her baptism certificate in 1587 there was no public mention of her until 1834. In that year, Harvard trained historian George Bancroft published his influential "A History of the United States." Lawler writes, "It is difficult to overstate his impact on the way we see Raleigh's colony today."

For Bancroft, the colony was "the germinating seed" for our country and its institutions, "just as important as its revolutionary coming of age."

Lawler writes that for Bancroft, "Roanoke was, in essence, the nation's humble Bethlehem, and Virginia Dare was its infant savior destined for sacrifice."

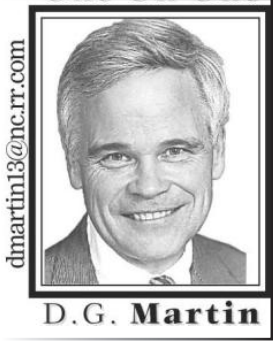
Bancroft's version sparked an explosion of writing and activity around Virginia Dare. In the 1890s some white supremacy organizations adopted her. Lawler writes, "Roanoke Island emerged as a pilgrimage site for Anglo-

Americans seeking to reaffirm their racial dominance at the annual celebration of Virginia Dare's birth."

According to Lawler, Chatham County author of "Searching for Virginia Dare," Marjorie Hudson, takes a different and less exclusive path. She writes that Virginia Dare "is the archetypal mother, a source, like a great river of strength and blood for descendants of a convergence of two great peoples."

Lawler chronicles efforts to learn where the colonists, if they survived, went. To Croatoan, now a part of Hatteras Island? To Site X, a place marked under a patch in a map drawn by John White, located where the Roanoke River flows into the Albemarle Sound? Or to the Chesapeake Bay near where the Jamestown Colony settled and where Powhatan, the local Indian king, massacred them?

Or near Edenton, where in 1937, a California man said he found a large stone? It was inscribed with a message from Virginia Dare's mother, Eleanor, to her father, John White, reporting the death of her husband, her daughter Virginia, and other colonists. Lawler's account of this probable fake "Dare Stone" is almost as interesting as the story of the colonists told by Harnett County native and Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Green's outdoor drama, "The Lost Colony."



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A happy new year

A Happy New Year is on the agenda for most people. Arrive at 2020 alive. Another full year of life will give you the opportunity you desire to pursue happiness and fulfillment.

You can't achieve anything in this world if you are dead. Think about driving a bit slower, eating healthier, some daily exercise and monitoring your health. The reality of life is that at some time and in some way each of our lives will end. Be mindful of health and taking care of yourself in 2019.

Make a couple of friends in 2019. Too many close friends can be a lot of work but too many Americans are isolated and lonely. My wife and I spent almost two hours visiting people in a local nursing home on Christmas Eve. I played the violin for different people in their rooms and then the dining room.

Everyone was very quiet and no one seemed to have any visitors during our visit. I felt the heaviness of their loneliness on Christmas Eve. People come and people go in this life however be open to building a couple of friendships with people that you might visit with occasionally.

A good life consists of having some good people you can talk to.

Have something to do. If you are going to school, or working a job or raising a family you have plenty to do. Some people are trying to do all three and it's more than enough.

Everybody needs a constructive day. Have something that you need to do. Have something to look forward to and something to occupy your time. You need to feel like your life counts for something and it's up to you to make it count. Create your life. Come up with something to do that is meaningful to you.

Be smart about your money. Make some. Give some away. Save some and spend some. You can't take any of it with you so you should try to enjoy whatever income you have. However, you might live longer than you think.

A good friend of mine told me he would run out of money at age 90. He was 89 and concerned. He lived to 93. He had Social Security but his income dramatically dropped his last three years. We never know about our longevity but try to save and spend in balance.

Seek wisdom. Pray, meditate, seek the wisdom of God and smart people. Make sure the people you consult know what they are talking about but listen and learn. We are never too old to learn.

So dear reader, Happy New Year to you. May 2019 be the best year of your life. It won't necessarily be easy or free from aggravation or pain but I hope you will have peace and joy throughout all the events and circumstances of your life.

Keep this in mind, your happiness will begin and end in you. Happiness is in inside job and 2019 is now all before you. – Glenn Mollette, glennmollette.com

‘I alone can fix it’ No, he can’t

President Ronald Reagan famously quipped that the nine most terrifying words in the English language are "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help."

That observation from the 40th president drew chuckles, including mine.

But it's a pre-Presidential phrase from our 45th President, "I alone can fix it," that have become the most terrifying words in our country.

Give Donald Trump credit for brevity, his boast during his 2016 campaign clocked in at just five words.

I've said it in person, and in this space before. It was that phrase more than anything else Trump ever said or did that cemented my opinion of him.

Described as "extraordinary" by the Associated Press, the resignation last month of Jim Mattis as U.S. Defense Secretary has set in hardened tungsten steel, that's harder than cement, the reality that though our current Commander in Chief may believe his rhetoric, it's simply not true.

It never was, nor could it have been.

Successful people, the great ones, accomplish little if anything on their own, surround themselves with smart people who make good decisions, and recognize how others contribute to the overall success of the organization, from family to small company, from big business to a nation.

I've been fortunate to work for people who sought excellence from others, and provide opportunities for success.

That philosophy was reflected in the grocery store manager who hired me at minimum

wage, though I told him I'd been making 25 cents per hour more in my previous, summer job. He saw fit to meet that scale after seeing me work.

It was evident from the new radio station owner who told his employees just after buying WSHB in Raeford that "I'm not firing anyone, today" before giving all of us a chance to prove what we could do.

He also asked for advice on what could be done to make the station better.

"We should be doing local news," I said.

"Then do it," was his response.

There's a straight line between that conversation and the job I've held here for 38 years now, still working for good people who surround themselves with smart, capable leaders and let them do their jobs.

Apple computers founder Steve Jobs brought to life not just a company, but an industry that has changed almost everything in business and culture. He did not claim that success was his alone.

"It doesn't make sense to hire smart people and tell them what to do," Jobs said. "We hire smart people so they can tell us what to do."

Our current President has managed to hire some smart people, and some of those have worked diligently to reign in his worst instincts. Increasingly those smart people, including Mattis, have failed.

As Trump begins his third year as President, his "I alone can fix it" philosophy is inevitably falling apart.

My hope and prayer is that our Republic can survive it.



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AWARDS