

WHERE DID YOU GO, NORTH CAROLINA?

I sometimes think the inmates have taken over the institution!
When did we lose this progressive and moderate state?

Let's begin with a rally by gun rights advocates in Raleigh supporting a bill making it legal for school principals and teachers to carry concealed weapons into classrooms. "Guns Save Lives," their signs said. Really! Rep. Larry Pittman, R-Cabarrus, spoke at the rally and promised to propose a Constitutional Amendment allowing our state to ignore Federal laws relating to gun ownership. Sounds a little like anarchy to me.

And let's not forget Tim Moffit, the Tsar of mendacity, who continues to invoke "dominant" domain on anything with an Asheville tag on it. First it was the airport and now it's the Asheville Water System! Why not take on something equal to his arrogance and put Duke Energy under the control of the state?

But this doesn't keep him busy enough, he wants to become the protector of our morality by leading a "nipple" patrol to spare us the debauchery of seeing a woman's breast, lest we go blind, I suppose. I already feel safer and purer.

To add to this lunacy, our new governor is reducing the checks of the unemployed by 35%. I suppose the savings will cover the 8% wage increase given to government officials. Cabinet secretaries will get a \$13,000 increase in salary. Is this a payback for these prominent donors who helped get him elected?

Governor McCrory has also promised to set up a panel to review the curriculum of the state university system in order to weed out any courses that are not job related. These liberal arts courses he holds suspect are for, what he calls, the "educationally elite." Are these the same imaginary "effete snobs" Spiro Agnew warned us about?

Not since Jesse Helms described UNC as the "University for Negroes and Communists" has a politician challenged the integrity and value principles of North Carolina's educational system that has such a commendable record in using basic liberal arts studies as the foundation to support vocational skills.

And McCrory has appointed John Skvaria as Secretary of the Department of Environmental and National Resources? There is not enough space in this column to examine Skvaria's positions on climate change, renewable energy, clean water, pollution, and stewardship of our natural resources. Is it backward science? Just think "environmentally challenged" and you get the picture.

And finally, in response to a judge's ruling that opossums cannot be abused, a bill is in the hopper to allow the Brass Town Annual Possum Drop to go forward. One legislator opined that the chamber needs a little levity to break up the monotony. I agree. In fact, I like political jokes. Only problem is, they get elected.

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