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David Owens: A Measure Of The Man

DAVID Owens created out of the material of the human spirit a rare and precious gift for his fellow man. It was, in essence, love.

He expressed it in many ways—philanthropy without fanfare, compassion for the weak and defeated, confidence in the essential goodness in every human breast, faith in the ordered unity of religion and, not the least, appreciation of beauty in all of its inexhaustible abundance.

He was a man of wit as well as wisdom and sensitivity and he polished his vision of "the good life" with a rare sense of humor. It served him well as a mask for softer sentiments that always seemed to lurk just below the surface of a wry merriment.

History will record that David Owens was a great merchant, and that is perfectly proper. As vice president and general manager of J. B. Eby & Co. he made mercantile history in North Carolina and the South. He was rewarded with fame and fortune. No mere listing of his assorted accomplishments can do justice to such a man as Mr. Owens, however. The depth of his character can only be hinted at and the warmth of his character can only be suggested. A man's true worth requires subtler measurements.

The emptiness and grief that so many Charlotteans—and others throughout the South—felt today on learning of his death is such a measurement. Because his kindness touched so many, directly and indirectly, the mourners are many. Here was a man who distributed gifts in \$100,000 packages to huge educational institutions but who was just as anxious to aid an individual family in financial distress.

Here was a man who rose to the heights of some of America's biggest business associations but who always stood ready to come to the rescue of any community or neighborhood groups that needed his services.

Because of his love of beauty, he did more to enrich Charlotte's cultural life than perhaps any other citizen in the city's history. In bringing good music to Charlotte, his influence was particularly great.

Mr. Owens was also an important guiding force behind the Auditorium-Coliseum movement in Charlotte and, because of this fact, the new municipal auditorium was named in his honor.

But the name of David Owens is etched even deeper in the consciousness of the individual citizens of Charlotte. It will not be erased. It will remain there. That, too, is a part of the measurement of the man.

The Importance Of What Didn't Happen

PRIDE properly is a quiet quality. But amid healthy manifestations of shame over ugly schoolroom incidents there is room for a note of pride in Charlotte's conduct during a difficult period of tension.

There is no need to minimize these incidents, as Gov. Hodges has tried to do. Whether it was sticks and stones or, in the governor's words, "pebbles and wood shavings" that were tossed by a mob at a Negro child, the incidents were and are inexcusable. They should have been prevented and most Charlotteans will share Police Chief Littlejohn's regrets that his orders to that end were "muffed."

It also is true, however, that the incidents have been over-emphasized. Mobs always over-emphasize themselves. And there is a need to point out to every student who succumbed to the hateful whisperings of agitators or was swept up in mob hysteria, hundreds of other students went about their business in an orderly fashion. And more than a few of them have offered to give human kindness to the child who was subjected to so much meaning. That is Charlotte's way. The city's essential kindness will prevail.

Certainly Charlotte can be proud of

having won the disapproval of the White Citizens' Council organized by John Kasper. Such lawlessness as Kasper's cronies succeeded in arousing here failed to satisfy their appetite for violence. They are "disappointed" in the white people of Charlotte and may remove their presence. If they do, Charlotte surely will be able to show them the error of their ways.

Chief Littlejohn deserves commendation for encouraging the view that Kasperism is out of place here. If his orders for strict control of rowdiness were not properly carried out Wednesday, there is no doubt that he intends to control in the future.

What is important in the long run is not what happened in Charlotte this week but what did not happen, not those who tossed sticks and stones but those who did not.

The true image of Charlotte was not presented by the mob.

It was merely obscured.

Prosperity Note

TWO late model Cadillacs collided on a country road near Nuncie, Ind., the other day. In one car were bricklayers. In the other were factory workers. Are you listening, Moscow?

The Three R's, Arkansas Version

"Reeling and Writing, of course, to begin with," the Man Turtle replied, "and the different branches of Arithmetic—Ambition, Distraction, Uglification and Derision."

—ALICE IN WONDERLAND

TO GOV. Orval Faubus of Arkansas, the three R's must mean roughly what they did to Mock Turtle in Lewis Carroll's famous fantasy.

Reeling, writing, ambition, distraction, uglification and derision will figure somewhere in the Little Rock school crisis.

But what the governor is providing is

not comic relief. It is a grim problem for Justice Department lawyers: Just how far can the governor of a sovereign state go in flouting Uncle Sam?

While it is the governor's clear duty to prevent trouble it is also his clear duty to obey the law of the land.

Little Rock's desegregation was not voluntary. It was ordered by a federal court. Sooner or later, the court's order will have to be obeyed.

Gov. Faubus, however honorable his intentions, has painted himself into a corner. It will be interesting to see how he gets out.

POKER AND THE LAW

THAT ruling by a judge in Buenos Aires that poker is a game of skill and not one of chance may be said to be open to argument. The poker player who is on the right side of the ledger is almost sure to agree with the Argentine magistrate while the player who is well in the red will affirm that successful poker is simply a matter of luck. And incidentally we are speaking of straight five-card draw or stud poker and not any of the aberrations that should never be mentioned in the same breath.

Most poker players who are not in the special guest-of-the-evening category know the odds connected with the possible improvement of a hand. They appreciate that drawing to one pair, the odds against getting four-of-a-kind are 359 to 1; against a full house, 97 to 1; against triplets, 8 to 1; against two pairs, 5 to 1; against any improvement, 2 1/2 to 1. Holding up a kicker such as an ace is 4 to 1 against any improvement. And the odds in drawing to inside straights, flushes and so on are also known to most players or should be.

Where much of the uncertainty creeps into poker, the player who is in the red will stoutly assert, is in figuring out whether the man who draws only two cards has triplets and doesn't want you to know it, or has a pair and a kicker and wants to make you think he does have three of a kind—or is one of those rash individuals who is drawing a three-card flush and—horror of horrors—makes it

But the chap whose percentage for the year is good will maintain that skill can solve even the mystery of the two-card draw. But this time the skill is not in an ability to calculate the odds but in a skillful eye. A tremor of the hands, a flushed countenance or a pale one, a little too much bravado or not enough genuine courage—and the skillful eye sends the right message for good or ill to the skilled poker mind. The only real question is whether skill will predominate over chance or not in just such a situation. Sometimes it does not and the fellow who had all the appearances of running a bluff turns out to have the better hand after all. In that case the odds have played somebody false and that somebody is also going to disagree—at least temporarily—with the learned Argentine judge.

The honeymoon is over when a bride squawks about the noise her husband makes while fixing his own breakfast. —GREENVILLE (S.C.) PIEDMONT.

A man says after-dinner speakers should be limited to a small pitcher of warm water, and no refills.—BARTOW COUNTY (GA.) HERALD.

Noting that Memphis had more suicides last year than murders, a friend says count him out—he's too curious to see what's going to be in tomorrow's paper. —MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

People's Platform City Council Refuses To Be 'Rubber Stamp'

Editors, The News: CHARLOTTE DURING recent weeks there have been news items, as well as editorial comments, about the so-called "experts" versus the opinions and decisions of the City Council. My only comment is that, as elected representatives of the people, we have hired trained and efficient heads of our various departments to help us run our growing city.

Their recommendations are presented to the Council for approval or disapproval. If we are to be "rubber stamps" to all our departments' requests, there would be no need of a City Council and we would only be "yes men."

We, as Council members, recognize the opinions and views of our so-called "experts," but making decisions "by the book" and by the need of "changing times" causes us in a few instances to disagree—yes—even with each other.

Our criticism from the press, which I have said many times represents the "voice of the people," has been that we have not supported the recommendations of our efficient Planning Board, as well as some of the other departments.

For the record again, I mention a recent report from the Planning Board records stating that out of 97 requested changes during the past 1 1/2 years we have supported the Planning Board with 86 approvals or a percentage of 88 per cent. Yesterday we supported them with 9 out of 10 or a percentage of 90 per cent.

The government at Washington, Raleigh, and Charlotte is operated under majority control—51 per cent. I think our record of 88 per cent is pretty good, Mr. Editor. What say you?

—H. H. BAXTER City Councilman. Editors' Note: See editorial, "City Council's Big Chicken Flits Home," News, Sept. 6.

South Should Beware Of The Hate-Mongers

Editors, The News: IT SEEMS to me that it is time that someone stands up and speaks for the true spirit of southern American citizens.

To set the record straight before I state my opinion, I am a white person, a native of North Carolina and am being educated in the segregated schools of the South. At present I am enrolled in a college in South Carolina.

These statements should make it obvious to anyone that I have



CITY COUNCILMAN HERBERT H. BAXTER Government By 'Yes Men' Condemned

been raised in the same environment as any resident of our state. Before anyone says, "Bah! Nothing but some stupid college student spouting off at the mouth," it might be a good idea to remember that it was a group of college students who started the revolt against Communist oppression in Hungary last year.

College men and women are, and have been, responsible for a good many changes which have made our world a better place in which to live.

Now, to get down to the purpose of my letter. It is common knowledge that the school boards of several North Carolina cities have admitted Negro students to previously all-white public schools. I myself am not an avid fan of integration but it seems to me that some persons like to make mountains out of mole hills.

We have been witnesses to several such "construction engineers" in North Carolina in the past several days. I have never seen any of these individuals in person nor have I heard one of their long orations. This world has, I think, had its share of soap box "reformers" in the form of Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, communism and Nazism. These famed "reformers" attained their power by getting little mobs together and

working them up into a hysterical state of mind. Once these people were in the right state of mind, these would-be benefactors started their well-calculated plans of molding their followers into little puppet men.

The citizens of the South should beware of these soap box orators who prey and feed on hatred and strife.

North Carolina was among the first of southern states to admit Negro students to its state-supported college system. This integration has gone through without a single hitch. Why? Because those people who are fortunate enough, and have the guts enough, to get out and better themselves by obtaining a college education, realize that no one should be able to deny any citizen of the United States of America the opportunity of bettering himself.

There are some individuals who have forgotten the basic principles of our democracy for which our men have fought and died from Concord, Mass. to Pusan, Korea. We have fought to keep others from taking our freedom and yet we sit idly by and let these "grand and glorious" orators, who, incidentally, are, in my opinion, as big a drag on the South as the Carpet Baggers of the Reconstruction era, jeopardize our rights. It might pay for each of us to get

out a copy of the Bill of Rights and read it.

Persons who are discontented with the government of our country have the power and the privilege to change it legally. Have we forgotten so quickly the price our men and women have paid for this precious right? Stop and think!

I am not advocating integration of the races in our public schools. I do, however, advocate that the rights of each and every American citizen should not be snuffed out by a few.

If we do not like the laws and rules which our government makes we should see to it that they are changed legally, and not by mob violence. Such methods work to no avail, as is clearly demonstrated by the incident which happened in Clinton, Tenn. last year.

How shall our country be run? By a duly elected government or by a mob of hoodlums and hide groups every turn to tell us we can't see particular movies because a Negro appears in them, or by democratic actions or the actions of a would-be dictator? The choice is up to us. The entire world is watching our section of the country. Which shall it be? —D. S. RICHARDS III

Don't Let Hate Dim Future Of Children

Editors, The News: ABOUT one year ago, the Special Session of the North Carolina Legislature meeting in Raleigh was hammering out the Federal Plan, changing it a bit here and there, but withal, imposing confidence in those who had spent many weary months devising it.

Advisors from Eastern North Carolina, Piedmont North Carolina and Western North Carolina, after many months of study, after many months of discussion that necessitated the session, had recommended this bill.

To be sure it had its detractors, some of whom were eminent scholars from leading North Carolina schools, and some from white and Negro scholars educated by a benevolent North Carolina, and some of whom were rabble-rousers from the two dog-fight races, leaving out only the Indians, the true Americans of all. For five heat-drenched days and nights the lower house conference of the whole, with every member speaking his piece; but there was an air of accomplishment for the over-look of our state when we adjourned sine die.

It may be that this law will survive the test laid down by the impractical judgments of the U.S. Supreme Court, but it is in all fields of jurisprudence have become in some measure a hedge podge of immature house podge. However, let us adhere to in the past dating back to John Marshall and Taney as strict observers of the constitutional law of the land.

May all natural resentments be calmed by the realization that the pawns of the chessboard are children whose future should not be dimmed by hate.

—MERCER J. BLANKENSHIP Member, 1956 Special Session

Helpless Children Are The Victims

Editors, The News: I ET ME first please state that I was born and raised in the Deep South, and so was my mother and grandfather, my great-grandfather and his father. No wonder then I was not brought up in an atmosphere where integration of any kind was desired or approved.

Yet the attitude taken by some misguided people in Memphis, Tenn., which had the misfortune to observe personally, or the obnoxious behavior of equally misguided laborers in Charlotte, which I also witnessed, makes me believe that it is about time these people stop their nasty foolishness.

Integration as such is coming regardless of the decidedly lawless acts of the government of Arkansas, or the silly performance of the senator from South Carolina, the Honorable Thurmond. So we might as well resign and make the best of it.

But above all, let us not take out our anger on completely helpless children, who from what I have seen are the only victims, the only ones who suffer. The colored children, because nothing will ever eradicate from their memory the throwing of

stones, the chanting, the mobbing, the shouts of derision, the spittle in their faces. The white children, because when they grow up to be thinking, useful citizens they will always regret the way they treated their fellow beings.

Reading the newspaper account of Wednesday's happenings, my opinion is that the only real soteria lady was the young Miss Counts, who so gracefully tolerated the abuse heaped upon her by the woman called Warlick. To Miss Counts may I offer an orchid, to Mrs. Warlick a bunch of scallions.

—NAPOLEON H. BOUDREAU

South Carolinian Has Advice For Tar Heels

Editors, The News: WHY has the mixing of races in our schools happened in the Carolinas? Our state government leaders and the legislatures of some of our southern states have claimed that they had enacted laws to prevent mixing in our public schools. Yet it seems as if the school boards in some large cities of our sister states have objected to the idea of observing state laws. They have ordered the mixing of white and colored children in our public schools.

The people of the South should tolerate any school board that does not uphold the state laws. I realize that we have many in the South who are weak-kneed up to do nothing about it only by saying they don't like it. If that is their only protest I say they won't amount to anything. Any school officer who will recommend mixing in the schools should resign in fairness to the people of the South. They should get out. —J. A. GRAHAM

Negroes In East Are Keeping Still

Editors, The News: THIS program of admitting Negro students to white schools is cock-eyed confusion in the extreme. Three-fourths of the Negroes in this state live east of Raleigh and not one Negro child has asked to be admitted to a white school that I have seen reported in the news.

It is only in the areas, Greensboro and Winston-Salem, where they have the encouragement of white racial leaders that the effort is being made. The Negroes of the eastern part of the state know that the white people are offering them what they deserve and all they deserve, equal educational, political and job opportunities, and they are content to be as they are. It's the terrible type of Negro that causes the trouble—always trying to go where he knows that he is not wanted.

Well, Ike's star has set. The victory in Wisconsin was caused by his list of death: Nixon, Knowland and Gov. Knight are daily praying that he does not endorse their candidacy. His star started to rise when he was curbed out England and France for trying to protect their property in the canal before the UN. His downfall has resulted from accepting the advice of John Foster Dulles, who is the most inept man living. "Ike likes me, Humphrey, you tell him what you think" is typical of the sense he has. But Ike is responsible for the advice he relies upon.

Then, too, Ike adopted a dead duck when he accepted the New Deal plus. The actions and philosophy of FDR are now rejected completely. The pendulum has swung to the other extreme.

And don't forget labor. Its reign is now over, which has long been over due. Henry Ford Jr. told Walter Reuther when he suggested that the price of next year's Fords be cut \$100, with the intimation that he would less demand next year. Ford said his grandfather put labor on its feet, gave it respectability as a profession. He told the gentleman that the Ford company had lost money every day since the end of World War II on the cars made in Detroit that he would close the plant, let the unions live on their little unemployment pay and graze thereafter for a living so far as the Ford company was concerned. The other motor companies have followed suit, and so has industry all down the line, which means that wages must be reduced to the international level of prices, as labor has made training out of every market in the world.

America is returning to its senses and in a hurry. —JOHN W. HESTER



Drew Perry-Gound Mery-Go-Round

Editors' Note: While Drew Perry-Gound is touring the Mediterranean, his column is being written by his junior partner, Jack Anderson.

WASHINGTON THE report that America beat Russia into the air with a successful intercontinental ballistic missile, supposedly fired 2,400 miles over the Atlantic, is unfortunately mistaken.

'Snark' Obsolete The Air Force has tested only one Atlas, which began wobbling in flight and was destroyed by a ground safety officer before it shot out of sight. Our only other ICBM, the Titan, is still under construction in Denver. It probably won't be ready for testing until the first of next year.

U. S. Missile Flunked Its Final Exam

Strictly speaking, the Air Force developed the first intercontinental missile a year ago. This was the subsonic Snark, a winged missile, which can be shot down by jet fighters and is already considered obsolete.

Top Secret Data Each experimental Atlas is known inside the Air Force by its number. No. 2 is now mounted in its launching stand at Cape Canaveral, Fla., waiting to be fired. The trigger date, of course, is top secret.

Trait-Blazer What might have been mistaken for a successful Atlas was the X-17, a three-stage missile that the Air Force has been using to blaze trails for the Atlas along

the edge of space. Four stories tall, the X-17 has been fired to tremendous heights to duplicate conditions the Atlas will encounter.

Ominous News Meanwhile, the Russians definitely are known to be testing multiple-stage missiles in the Arctic. These missiles are specially designed to be launched in the polar route is the shortest distance to American targets. Russia has at least two major bases of launch sites, 20 or more launching sites, scattered along her northern fringes.

Chamber's Boost In private correspondence to its big business backers, the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce boasts it killed President Eisenhower's school construction program. This might also interest parents whose youngsters are now trudging back to overworked schools.

Russia Takes Lead Meanwhile, Russia is surpassing America in education. This is particularly true of technical training so vital in the atomic age. Next year, Russia will graduate almost twice as many engineers as the United States.

Warns William Benton, publisher of the Encyclopedia Britannica: "Russian education is a bigger threat than the hydrogen bomb."