

Sandhills Pulse and other Bull

By Henry C. Francis

Mr. Walter B. Bull, Jr. fancies himself a publisher, investigative reporter and editor in his "Sandhills Pulse", Volume 3 Number 2. If you read this rag you probably wondered, "What tree did this nut fall out of?" Maybe I can help answer the question.

In a December, 2001 feature article for "Business North Carolina", [Sign Language: It speaks volumes in the latest spat to split prim, proper -- and litigious – Pinehurst](#), Stephen E. Smith, a Southern Pines based free-lance writer, wrote, "Bull moved to Pinehurst three years ago from Philadelphia, where he owned Allen Rogers & Co., a securities brokerage, after years as a stockbroker for Shearson Lehman and Smith Barney... This spat, which began in 1998, is typical of what detractors like to call Fortress Pinehurst, the golf Mecca where many corporate chiefs -- used to barking commands, not seeking compromises and consensus -- go to retire." Smith's depiction of the driving forces in Pinehurst may very well have identified to us the source of all those intractable issues which are constantly nagging the Village, Moore County and our Party. His account of the infamous "Bull sign protest" is nothing less than pure comedy:

It's June 19, 2001, and three men and a woman on the far side of middle age have taken to the streets in the only protest in Pinehurst anyone can remember. Clad in golf shirts and shorts, they wave signs. The largest, about 4 square feet, says "Sign Petition for Small Signs." Another says, "Big Enough," and points to a third, an 8-by-10-inch placard that simply says "For Sale."

They oppose a push by real-estate agents to overturn the village's strict limits on real-estate signs. In Pinehurst, the signs must be prim and proper, hardly larger than a piece of notebook paper, with a green background and white lettering.

The demonstrators stop in front of the Re/Max Prime Properties office in the center of the village. Peyton Gentry, who owns the real-estate office, charges from the building, shouting that the protest is interfering with his business and swearing he'll sue. The protesters retreat to the Post Office to collect signatures for a petition opposing the real-estate agents' effort. The postmaster tells them to move along: They're violating federal law. They leave, but they keep collecting signatures around town to present to the Village Council. And they tell anyone who'll listen that they plan to picket every real-estate open house in the village if they don't get their way. For protest leader Walter Bull, the sign issue is simple: "They make the village look ugly."

Mr. Smith discussed road signs, roundabouts, and other simpler problems that had been resolved in Pinehurst and said, "Oprah's billions wouldn't have gained her admission during the village's first seven decades. Advertisements and village deeds were emphatic: "Negroes, Jews, and people with consumption" couldn't own property. "Henneries, piggeries, and mercantile establishments" were banned. The restriction against stores was dropped in the '20s, and consumptives could buy village homes beginning in the '50s. It wasn't until the late '60s that "Negroes" and "Jews" gained admission. For henhouses and piggins, you still have to drive out into poor, rural Moore County"; after which Smith returns his focus to... Bull.

As leader of the local association, Paul Shaffer has become spokesman for the agents... "I have no clue as to why anybody thinks real-estate signs are going to do anything to deter the ambience of Pinehurst."

Bull, one of the gang of four, thinks that's, well, bull. White-haired and heavyset, he has become a fixture at council meetings and on The Pilot's letters page. And his blue eyes still flash when he gets to talking about real-estate signs... "Why do they need to go and muck up the village by putting up great big Realtor signs?"

When Bull and his wife, Nancy -- a former real-estate agent -- moved to Pinehurst, they didn't go in search of for-sale signs. They asked their agent to pull out a Multiple Listing Service book. But Bull admits that when he sold his house in Philadelphia, he placed an industry-standard sign in his yard.

"You can't compare that," he says. "Lots are smaller in Pinehurst. The street frontage is limited. I had a large corner property. The neighborhood didn't look damaged because I put a sign up. I don't think it's hypocritical at all. In most communities, Realtor signs are not offensive." The subtext is clear: Pinehurst isn't most communities.

Bull's latest effort to ensure he would get his own way was focused on local Republican Party politics. The things that he published have more than stepped on opponents' toes. By his statements he has unabashedly trampled the U.S Constitution, and particularly, it's First Amendment. He did this scurvy thing for a mere morsel. He wanted his candidate to be elected. To accomplish this Little thing Bull fanned anew the flames of bigotry that Pinehurst had vanquished only 40 years ago. He published malicious and deceitful statements under the guise of "investigative reporting", they were neither. He despicably inflamed bigotry against fellow Republicans, members of Calvary Memorial Church, solely to gain an advantage for John Owen in the recent Moore County Republican Party Convention. John Owen's reiteration of the very same vile defamations within his campaign letter is just cause for all good Republicans of all faiths to repudiate the lot of them and so I do.

The particulars of his ignoble writings you can find for yourself. I'll not give space to them here except to point out a couple of facts contrary to his statements. Mr. Bull published my wife's name in the one of his "investigative reports" and described her saying, "She is the manager of The Christian Bookstore"; however, she is not The Christian Bookstore manager. She has not been for over a year. Mr. Bull need only ask to find this out but he did not ask. Mr. Bull did not investigate anything. He just started spewing his hatred for Calvary Memorial Church members without any regard for truth, justice, or the law. Mr. Bull seems to have believed that political activity by church members is illegal. I say that in the past tense because I know Mr. Bull is in possession of a very articulate and forceful response by a nationally renowned constitutional lawyer whose job it is to defend churches like Calvary from ignorant people like Mr. Bull. Unless Mr. Bull is also an idiot on top of being ignorant he now knows the error of his ways. The statements he made in print for all to see must be a complete embarrassment to him now that he knows it was only he who was ignorant of the law. Statements like, "*But when you cross the line into political activity the ice becomes very thin. Ignorance of the law is no excuse...*" Worse than that by far Mr. Bull is offending one of God's little ones.

[Matt.18:6](#) "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Rom.12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Mr. Bull, you are clearly the one who is playing with fire here.

In another report in his paper Bull writes, *“According to Owen, Daves (State Party Interim Chairperson, Linda Daves) was demanding arbitration on a matter brought to her attention by someone here in Moore County, but as yet failed to provide details and documentation for review by Owen. Should the matter be legal in nature, Owen is prepared to engage local counsel to protect all local interests under his control.”*

Apparently neither Bull nor Owen had a clue that the State Plan of Organization gives the State Executive Committee complete authority over all controversies that may arise in District and County organizations in the state. Ms. Daves was trying to explain that to Owen but being ignorant as he was of that rule he did not understand that it was he who was required to provide details and documentation to Daves, not vice-versa. She did not need his permission to arbitrate the matter. Owen and Bull were eventually made aware of these facts but don't expect a correction from Bull. He will likely keep on claiming that the State Organization is butting in as long as he keeps on stirring up controversies. That's just what he does.

The Republican Party State Plan of Organization

Article VIII.C

1. Controversies

Controversies in any County or District with respect to the organizations set up therein under this Plan shall be referred to the State Chairman, State Vice-Chairman, National Committeeman, National Committeewoman and General Counsel for arbitration. Ruling shall be made within 60 days, and their decision shall be final.

Finally, I found this on Mr. Bulls website, <http://the-slingshot.com>:

John Taylor Gatto, a former New York teacher of the year who comments extensively on the American school system, writes *“The Supreme Court decision *Everson v. Board of Education* 330 U.S. 1. (1947) prepared the dismissal of religion from American public schools. We are hidden by more than a half-century from the shock and numbness this **new doctrine of “separation of church and state”** occasioned, a great bewilderment caused in part by the absence of any hint of such a separation doctrine in the Declaration, Constitution, or the Bill of Rights.”*

You can be certain that this is not the last chapter of the separation matter and perhaps, over time, law will reflect the will of the majority rather than a small minority who object to our nation's historical foundations.

If Walter B. Bull, Jr. actually believes what he posted on his website, that the doctrine of “separation of church and state” is new and the Declaration, Constitution, and Bill of Rights are absent any hint of such a separation doctrine, **AND** also believes all that he published in his Sandhills Pulse, he must be a doubled minded man, unstable in all his ways; otherwise, I think he is a political coward, a hater of Christians, and an opportunistic liar.

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