

# OPINION

## OUR VIEW

## The past is still present at market

Twenty-some years ago, Market Square Properties on Commerce Avenue became a huge part of High Point's home furnishings market, and in the process the old Tomlinson Furniture factory was saved from what likely was eventual destruction.

About 16 years ago, Cisco Square on English Road became a significant part of High Point's home furnishings industry, and in the process the old Adams-Mills hosiery factory was saved from what likely was eventual destruction.

And now this market, Cisco at Mills Village on Mill Avenue is taking its place of preeminence at the High Point Market, and in the process the old Highland Yarn Mill textile manufacturing building is being saved from what likely was eventual destruction.

The past is still alive at the High Point Market because of preservation-minded leaders in the home furnishings industry such as these and others. There are individuals, there are small companies and there are large corporations who are seeing that restoring and refurbishing many of the significant reminders of our past instead of knocking them down and replacing them with Las Vegas like, climate-controlled boxes gives High Point a unique character.

Then combine these heritage-minded efforts with stylish new designs for market facilities, such as Showplace, 300 Steele and Natural American and High Point has a special variety in its market architecture that other locations don't have.

The Cisco at Mills Village showroom open this market occupies the lower level of the old yarn mill, which was the center of activity in the Highland community from the early part of the 20th century into the 1980s and 1970s. The new showroom's owner, Cisco Brothers of Los Angeles, plans to develop the site naturally, preserving much of the remaining architecture and using materials scavenged from the site where new construction is necessary.

In addition to its preservation efforts, Cisco Brothers' venture began in 2005 with the old mill's purchase at a time when there were few questions about the new Las Vegas market's potential impact on High Point. Cisco's move then and its continued investments now are saying a lot about confidence in the home furnishings industry in general and High Point in particular. And you've got to love what you bear.

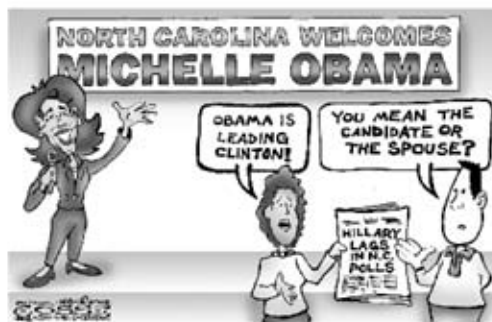
## OUR MISSION

The High Point Enterprise is committed to this community ... and always will serve it by being an intensely local newspaper of excellent quality every day.

LEONARD PITTS:  
America went shopping while some bad things were happening.  
TOMORROW



Opinion Page Editor  
Vince Wheeler  
vwheeler@hpe.com  
(336) 888-2517



## Orr knows how to examine an issue and make a decision

### Before you read ...

John Hood continues a series of profiles of each of the six serious candidates seeking a major-party endorsement for governor.

To get a sense of how Bob Orr fits into the 2008 race for North Carolina governor, take a look at what Cabarrus County blogger and Republican activist Justin Thibault discovered in the course of picking his preferred candidate.

Thibault, who blogs at Cabarrus Cheap Seats and also edits a key aggregator of North Carolina political sites, counted up the total number of words on the "Issues" pages of the four GOP candidates for governor. The relative newcomer to the race, Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory, had only about 300 words on his policy positions. The militia-activist outsider, Salisbury attorney Bill Graham, had just over 1,000.

State Sen. Fred Smith, running as an experienced leader at the state and local levels, offered nearly 8,000 words worth of issue discussion and policy prescriptions. And Orr, the former Supreme Court Justice? His "Issues" word count came to more than 20,000.

Orr can speak and write succinctly when he needs to. As a young man, he put in a brief stint as a television reporter covering state government. Later, after leaving the high court to become executive director of the N.C. Institute for Constitutional Law - in the interest of full disclosure, I helped recruit him to that post - Orr became an effective panelist on "N.C. Spin," the statewide political talk show where liberty is a boon and windbags quickly deflate.

It's telling, however, that when it comes to laying out a vision for state government in North Carolina, Bob Orr can literally write volumes. For one thing, his 18 years as an appellate judge in Raleigh have given the candidate a unique perspective on many current political controversies: mental health reform, educational finance, tax policy, trust fund shenanigans, and government corruption.

For another thing, Orr is naturally drawn to such tasks as studying complex issues, analyzing alternatives, and constructing arguments for change. If he hadn't been a judge, he might well have made a career as a university professor - or, horror of horrors, a think tankier.



### OPINION

John Hood

A native of Hendersonville, Orr hopes to attract the support of voters in Western North Carolina who often feel left out of the political discussion in Raleigh, as well as of voters who seek detail, substance, and statewide electoral experience. On the issues, Orr offers a heady conservative agenda:

- Use tax reform, deregulation, and innovation to create a broader market for private health insurance while reforming education and licensing systems to meet shortfalls of key medical personnel.

- Build a new state tax system that eschews special incentives in favor of lower marginal rates applied to a broader, fairer tax base.

- Restructure the Department of Transportation to spend state dollars more wisely, including a redirection of highway funds to the most-congested thoroughfares.

- Introduce merit pay, stronger management at the district and school levels, clearer lines of accountability in Raleigh, and more charter schools into North Carolina education.

- Strengthen the state's open meetings and public-records law to combat misinformation in government, including penalties for officials who violate the law and fee recovery for those who must sue to obtain records.

- Enforce existing laws and regulations keeping illegal immigrants from inappropriately accessing state services, while tailoring the cost of mandatory services to illegals in order to pursue reimbursement from Washington, including if necessary a lawsuit against the federal government.

On that last point, as Orr is hardly a strident politician, some were surprised at how combative he sounds on immigration policy. But as he explained his position in a recent interview, Orr does understand the reasoning behind such proposals as giving longtime students in the state public schools access to college and university, even if they were brought to the country illegally.

"There is not a more volatile issue out there in the election than immigration - and probably not a more complex issue," he says. But state officials "can't selectively pick and choose which laws to enforce."

As a judge, Bob Orr is used to making - and writing - complicated decisions. He's hoping Republican primary voters value that experience.

JOHN HOOD is president of the John Locke Foundation and publisher of *CarolinaJournal.com*.

## ENTERPRISE

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Richard A. Bean  
Publisher

Thomas J. Elliott  
Editor

Vince Wheeler  
Opinion Page Editor

250 Church Ave.,  
High Point, N.C.  
27642  
(336) 888-1500  
www.hpe.com

## WALLBURG

Town Council

Mayor Allen  
L. Todd, 408  
Oaklawn Road,  
Winston-Salem  
27107; 769-2005  
h; 769-6880 w

Gary Craver, 266  
Lamondree Place,  
Winston-Salem  
27107; 769-2208 h

Zane Hedgecock,  
1404 Wallburg  
Road, Winston-  
Salem 27107;  
869-7579 h

Clyde Lynn  
Reece, 8013 N.  
MC Highway 109,  
Winston-Salem  
27107; 769-9849 h

Mark Swain,  
3781 N. MC High-  
way 109 (P.O. Box  
8410), Wallburg  
27373; 769-3341  
h; 692-0202

Steve Yokeley,  
5167 Wallburg  
Road (P.O. Box  
1751), Wallburg  
27373; 769-3173  
h; 669180 w