

# SOUNDED GOOD AT THE TIME...

*By A.C. Cargill*

## The 'Sell-Out' syndrome

Back in the "hippie" days (1960s and 70s), some people said anyone who stopped being a hippie and got a regular job was "selling out to the establishment" - giving up the principles of hippie-dom to become a productive citizen. Sounds good, but...

"Selling out" has become a syndrome without hippies. For example, we have people selling out to the government. They can no longer cut it as a productive citizen in a job where they have to contribute to the bottom line. So they sell out to collecting a paycheck funded by tax dollars and demanding more tax dollars for such projects as renovating old town halls. (Note: Legitimate positions, such as Police, Fire, and Public Works, are not included in this assessment.)

Some private companies sell out to local governments. Target, Wal-Mart, and others have sold out across the nation to get the land they need to build a new store. However, this has been made necessary by "open space" initiatives, where available land gets seized by local governments through eminent domain or outright purchase using tax dollars and becomes off limits to building.

The most egregious sell-out, however, is by government at all levels. A local example is Cary's Mayor McSlither - oops, McAlister - along with the mayors of Apex, Holly Springs, and Morrisville, in selling out the public they are supposed to serve. The four towns have been tasked by Wake county and the ever-so-wonderful EPA with building a new wastewater treatment facility. Why? Growth. Let's face it. Modern plumbing is great, but when we flush, it has to go somewhere. And with more people moving here - despite anti-growth attitudes from some local officials - there will be more...well, you know. In pursuing this task, they seized on our behalf 200 acres of farmland in New Hill, something the locals have not taken lightly. Gee, thanks for making us all look like a bunch of pikers.

Another example right here in Apex is the Old Town Hall renovation. The cost is estimated at \$1.1 million, coming from the County's Hotel and Prepared Food Tax, federal funding, and "existing Town funds already earmarked for the project." The town paid out \$19,000 of your hard-earned money to The Winslow Group, Inc., to see if the renovation could be privately funded. I guess it couldn't. (Just think if you spent that kind of money for the sole purpose of finding out if you could do something.) The people spending the money aren't the ones getting up early, fighting traffic and dealing with a job every day to earn it. You are.

Personally, as an artist (I paint and compose music when not writing these fun little articles), I think a Cultural Center is a great idea, but only if privately funded. I'd rather have my tax dollars go where they are supposed to: Police, Fire, and Public Works. They deserve it and do a lot to make everyone's life better and safer - in contrast to city councils taking private property for their big projects.

Hmmm, I can't find "selling out" in the US Constitution...

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