

# Lewis Grizzard

Syndicated Columnist

## For Those Who 'Ain't From Around Here'

ATLANTA — I don't care what they do to the Georgia state flag, the subject of so much controversy because it has the Confederate battle flag on it. They can put a big peach on the thing as far as I'm concerned. They can put Deion Sanders smiling face on it.

And let it be known that the opponents of the flag, with its reminiscence of the Confederacy, will bring down that flag.

One way or the other, color it red, white, blue and gone. It's politically incorrect and all the things that are deemed such have no future in this country.

We elected Hillary Rodham Clinton and the ban on the gays in the military will be lifted. It's a done deal. Like it or not, the Georgia state flag has no chance, either.

The issue on my mind is white Southerners like myself.

I read a piece on the op-ed page of a local paper written by somebody who, in the jargon of my past, "ain't from around here."

He wrote white Southerners are always looking back and that we should look forward. He said that about me.

A friend, also a native Southerner who shares my anger about the constant belittling of our kind and our place in this world, put it this way: "Nobody is going into an Atlanta bar tonight celebrating because they've just been transferred to New Jersey."

Damn straight.

They want to tell us how to speak, how to live, what to eat, what to think and they also want to tell us how they used to do it back in Buffalo. Buffalo? What was the score? A hundred and ten to zip.

The man writing on the op-ed page was writing about that bumper sticker that shows the old Confederate soldier and he's saying, "FERGIT HELL!"

I don't go around sulking about the fact the South lost the Civil War. But I am aware that once upon a long time ago, a group of Americans saw fit to rebel against what they thought was an overbearing federal government.

There is no record anywhere that indicates anybody in my family living in 1861 owned slaves. As a matter of fact I come from a long line of sharecroppers, horse thieves and used car dealers. But a few of them fought anyway, not to keep their slaves, because they didn't have any.

Whatever the reason there was a citizenry that once saw fit to fight and die and I come from all that. I look at those people as brave and gallant and a frightful force until their hearts and their lands were burnt away. I will never turn my back on that heritage.



GRIZZARD

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lewis Grizzard's column appears in the Aiken Standard on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

where required.

"I hope DHEC and EPA will not wait for DOE to take the lead," Costner interjected, especially as it pertains to responsibility for getting information out to the public.

"We will do whatever the charter says do," an EPA representative assured the group.

said Sellers.

Sellers also stated that when the time comes to plan the budget, the sheriff's office budget will include grant proposals, including funding for a DUI prosecutor and an expanded Drug Awareness Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program.



Staff Photo By Scott Webster

mp was pulled from the ground at North Aiken Elementary are removed to make way for a new driveway. Principal rving the root system.

## Driveway Planned

Aiken Elementary driveway that t the school. e plans for the he trees, were rtments.

"Not one penny came from the school district," said Leopold. The funds used came from the S.C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Leopold added that the school PTO will plant new trees over the next five years at the school.

The driveway will allow drivers to exit on Dupont Drive, which runs beside the Rutland Drive school.