

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

...the voice of the drum is an offering to the Spirit of the World. It's sound arouses the mind and makes men feel the mystery and power of things
BLACK ELK

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



From a Bewildered Indian Leader

Dear Bruce:

Last Tuesday was an important day in Lumberton. My friend, Mike called. He said, Henry, there is a call from Lumberton. You, Paul, and I are to meet with our peers at 2:00 p.m. I asked: "About what and why?" Mike answered by saying that he wasn't too certain except that it dealt with The Carolina Indian Voice and the group wanted us Indian leaders there. I quit what I was doing and attended the meeting.

The three of us Indian leaders walked into the office and we were met by three other men of great esteem in the County. The spokesman, John, greeted us perfunctorily and said, "We thought the Voice was done in." I said "what Voice?" He thundered at me "The Carolina Indian Voice." He said "We thought it was squawking its last squawk" and now we read where there are local efforts being made to keep it alive. My Indian friend Mike spoke up and said, "Yes there are such efforts and it appears that I might have to join in them." The spokesman asked my other Indian brother if a similar something was happening to him and he answered, "Yeah" I waited to be asked. Nobody paid me attention.

The spokesman said, "For five years we have listened to that Voice. It has been strong and independent. On occasions we have even had to speak to it. All of this is absurd!" My Indian brother Paul said "Well we thought the Voice would quit talking. We've been waiting for that. We knew you all didn't want it to speak too long. Five years is a long time. It is not our Voice, it is not your Voice, the paper speaks for no one, except for the people."

John, the spokesman said, "Well, we know you have not supported the Voice, you've said snide things about it to your Indian friends, but 'dang it' it has a following. The Mayor has gone public in favor of it, Indian leaders, groups and organizations have gone public in favor of it, is there no stopping of it?"

I then, bravely, spoke up and asked? "What is wrong with the Voice speaking?" I was then looked upon with scorn and given a withering look by my three hosts and my two Indian friends and I heard a voice saying...all in the fantasy of my mind, "The Voice," the Voice said to me, does not speak for us."

I am, a bewildered Indian leader.

Name withheld by request



ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

EVANGELIST TED BROOKS

HOLDING FAST

Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the fast that I have chosen to loose the bonds of the wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke."

Is this not what we promise God when he saved us. Lord, if you save me or my children, I'll help others to be saved. I'll go and undo all those burdens I have put on others. I've known people to fast and fast but soon as they got what they wanted from God, He was forgotten and never mentioned until we have our valleys. In the 4th verse God said you fast for strife, debate, and to smite with the first of wickedness. God said you fast this way for your voice to be heard. In the 5th verse I have not chosen such a fast. The only fast God wants from you is plainly stated in the next verse. Is it not to deal thy bread to the poor and that thou bring the poor that are cast out of thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him. Verse 7. This is why we can not hear from God because we fast for strife. Jesus said to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, visit the sick and those in prison, in jail or any where there are burdens and people are oppressed. "Then shall thy light break forth like the morning and thy health shall spring forth speedily and thy righteousness shall go before thee, the glory of the Lord shall be thy rear guard. Then shall thou call and the Lord shall answer, thou shalt cry and He shall say here am I."

Glory to God, wouldn't it be a beautiful day if some one would call and say Brother Joe or John or Mary's child was just saved, or the one who was sick is now up and doing fine. Brother Lacy is now walking and one time he couldn't even move so much as a foot and now when he came to church he was shouting. You say Brother Brooks that sounds wonderful and I would love to see that, but it will never happen around us. We read it and hear it on the radio, but at our house, it seems we never can do it. Well, what can we do. I can't by myself tell you anything but I will pass on to you what God gave me and that is his wonderful word. When God said in Isa. 58:9 Here am I when the people get through to him and were in need of help, they said God if thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger and speaking vanity.

And if you are a sinner and need help from God, Jesus' word to you is verily verily I say unto you, except we eat the flesh of the son of man, and drink his blood, we have no life in you. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the tree, therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hew down and cast into the fire. Matthew 3:10, John 6:53. And for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16. Think about it sinner man. A king came all the way from the portals of glory just to die for sinners like you and I.

Yours in Christ.

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THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE desires to be notified promptly of a change of address. Send your address change to: THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, N.C. Second Class Postage Paid at Pembroke, N.C. 28372.

**-ELECT-
GOVERNOR R.
BARNES, JR.**
For
JUDGE
16TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
•Robeson and Scotland Counties
"Equalized Justice—
Not Preferential Treatment"

Barnes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Governor R. Barnes of Pembroke. He is a member of Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke. This is his first bid for an elected position. Barnes pledges to work diligently for ALL the people of Scotland and Robeson Counties if elected.

On May 2, 1978 vote for a change in our courts. Vote Governor R. Barnes and let's restore equality and justice to our courts.

Paid for by Supporters of Governor R. Barnes, Jr.

As I See It Bruce Barton



Men of Distinction

I see it clearly now. Men of distinction are those hearty souls who stand for something over a long period of time without flinching. They are our heroes, the role models for our children. They are the ones we talk about around camp fires, on front porches as the shadows of evening descend.

The trend setters, the facile facilitators, machiavellian types, status quo seekers, men with elastic backbones are soon forgotten. Times change and the shifty ones dissipate, drift away, and one wakes up one day and realizes that so and so has been gone for years. No one really noticed the trendy one's machiavellian departure.

But every once in a while real men come on the stage of life and act out hearty and fulfilling roles. Two men of distinction have been in the news this week.

Both of these men of distinction have stood for something over a long period of time, fitting one of our yardsticks of greatness.

Rev. Elias Rogers, the president of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, a 16,000 plus membership cooperative, is a man who will stand for something until he is proven right or else.

Ten years ago he took on the then white-conservative dominated electric co-op that he now heads. He suffered the pangs of stupid racism like few men have. By a court order, he was seated on the co-op. He was greeted with surly silence by the other board members. They simply ignored him. They thought that Rev. Elias Rogers would go away. How wrong they were.

Every person sitting on that co-op board ten years ago when the federal court seated Rogers has been soundly defeated in subsequent elections. No one even remembers their names.

Rogers sued the co-op board for tampering with his civil rights. He won a sizeable sum of money and was recompensed for his considerable legal fees in the case.

The point is... Rogers, an Indian now living in Hoke County, never gave up. He persevered. Victory seldom goes to the swift. Victory, in most instances, is to the long winded, the marathon runner, the man who perseveres until victory comes.

Elias Rogers, president of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp. board of directors, was appointed to serve on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn. (NRECA) Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) for the 36th annual meeting of the association last week.

The annual meeting, held in Las Vegas, Nev., was attended by approximately 12,000 rural electric cooperative directors, managers and employees from 44 states, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Bolivia and Brazil.

Rogers, president of the red Springs-based electric co-op since last October, has served on the board for ten years, and he is also a member of the board of directors of the state wide association, N.C. EMC.

He was the only director from NRECA Region I to be appointed to serve on the CEDC, also, to our knowledge, the only Indian.

Region I is made up of the eastern seaboard states from North Carolina to Maine. Other committee members included co-op directors and managers from throughout the U.S. representing NRECA's ten regions.

How sweet victory is when it comes and is not haughtily

received. If Rogers is a bitter man he refuses to let it show. He goes about doing his thing quietly but firmly. I prophesy that Rogers (if such is not already the case) will be the greatest president the co-op has ever had.

Yes, it's a classic case of poetic justice. A pure case.

Dr. Martin L. Brooks is, according to the history buffs in the community, the second Indian doctor. The first was Dr. Governor Locklear, a graduate of John Hopkins University. Prospect rightly claims Dr. Locklear. We all do. He was a man ahead of his time and destroyed mostly, as we see it, for getting out of his prescribed societal place. But that's another story. This column is, in part, about Dr. Martin L. Brooks.

After graduating from Michigan State's School of Medicine in the late 1950s, Dr. Martin L. Brooks returned home to practice medicine in Pembroke. He has been here ever since. He treats everyone -- Indian, Black and White. That is a measure of the man's greatness. Many expected him to conform to the racial insanity of the times and refuse to treat Black patients. How wrong those provincial folk were. Brooks has treated the ills of all men, whatever their color.

A certain white financier is said to have stopped by one afternoon as Dr. Brook's medical clinic was being constructed and remarked haughtily, "You know I have owned this piece of property three times. Chances are very good that I will own it again."

Not yet he doesn't. Said financier now lies in a dark and dreary grave. Time over ran him. That is what happens to purveyors of hate and racism and class. Time over runs them. Life changes and they stay the same. They become sad and anachronistic figures out of step with the rest of the world. And, usually, death overtakes them as they muse on how "ever" thing's a changing."

Dr. Brooks nows about racism. As I see it, he is an expert on racism. He can recognize it from forty paces away. He has lived with the debilitating sickness ever since he began practicing medicine in the late 50's.

And if racism is ever cured, eradicated, scourged from the consciousness of man, it will be done because of men like Dr. Martin L. Brooks. While his peers (sic) practiced subtle racism, Dr. Brooks just kept practicing medicine. He refused to bow down to the evil doers. He had too much to do, too much illness at his door step. Someone had to see the hundreds (and now thousands) of patients that have flocked to his clinic on Highway 711 East in Pembroke.

No one will dispute this fact: Dr. Martin L. Brooks is a very good medical doctor, period. Even those who opposed him because of his darkly hued skin tone never have disputed that fact. They could only object to the skin color of the man. How sad those dark days were.

Monday Dr. Martin L. Brooks appeared before the Robeson County Board of Commissioners. They approved his request for a sewer line to his proposed medical facility that is now being prepared for bids.

The commissioners agreed to the \$40,000 request without a murmur. They know that they are dealing with a man with a mission. They know that Dr. Martin L. Brooks is not going away. He is going to stay at the task until medical services are delivered to his patients.

Dr. Brooks has done considerable work on his proposal, a health care facility that could cost as much as \$1 million and include facilities for four family physicians, a dentist and an

MORMON MISSIONARIES IN TOWN

Elder Lee Maughan and Elder Greg Higgins, missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) are serving in the Pembroke area. They will be stationed in the Pembroke area and serve the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Pembroke.

optometrist.

I expect to see Dr. Brook's dream become a reality in my life time. He has proven to county and state officials that he is a man who will stay at a task until it is done. He is a long distance runner.

A few months ago, Lt. Governor Jimmy Green visited Dr. Brooks and announced plans to help Dr. Brooks secure funding for his life's dream. The county commissioners, by pledging monies for the sewer line, have decided to share the dream also.

It is reassuring to know that we have men of substance, men of distinction. Dr. Martin L. Brooks and Rev. Elias Rogers are our examples. We can tell our children of these two men of distinction. That is good and proper.

They inspire me, for instance, to keep on keeping on until victory comes. Ahem, therefore, I must say, but not in a haughty fashion, that we are prepared to stay at the helm of The Carolina Indian Voice until we see financial ground ashore.

With the example of Dr. Brooks and Rev. Rogers to guide us, we are in the race until it is won. We are afoot for the long run. We strive to be long distance runners like these two men of distinction.



The earliest self-service grocery stores were two independent enterprises in California in 1912.

Nestles Boycott urged

Editor and People,

It has been thrust to my attention by the Native news paper *Akwesane Notes*, in the December issue 1977, pg. 26, that another issue of monstrous magnitude faces the Native and Natural World People's of the Earth. My name is David Wilkins (Karonhiawakon) and as a Native of the Great Island (America) I am concerned that we, as human beings of all colors, be made aware of this, yet another attempt, to deal genocide to the Native People of this Great Earth.

The issue: The Nestles' people, a multi-national corporation, who produce such products as milk flavorings, candy, baking chips, Libby's products, Taster's Choice, Nescafe, Decaf, Nestea, Stouffer's Products, Cross and Blackwell products and Karlsburg Cheeses are engaged in enlarging their baby formula market into poor and under privileged communities world wide.

Their most popular method is to send Saleswomen who have come to be known as "milk nurses." These nurses visit new mothers with their promotion gimmick being that bottle feeding is better for babies than the mothers own natural milk. Many times they will distribute their samples and often make home visits.

They do not state in their home visits that these baby formulas require clean water, bottles that are sterilized, clean hands, proper refrigeration and money. But it is the policy of these "nurses" (they are not usually nurses) to see to it that the mothers don't understand these necessary facts. The mothers will try this product, and their milk, which has been proven medically more healthy stops flowing.

These "milk nurses" exert a great influence over the mothers because they are "iden-

tified as hospital or clinic staff." The cost of this infant formula to already poor families is phenomenal. Frequently the mothers will dilute the formula to save money, "not realizing the weakened formula will not sustain life."

A great killer and defomer of babies, malnutrition, is becoming increasingly apparent in the early stages of life. Before this it was unusual prior to weaning, usually not showing up until the infant was two years or older, this is a strong indication of the superiority of breast milk even in poor and low income communities.

Where is it happening: "Baby-bottle disease" is being reported in "Kenya, Pakistan, India, Chile, Tanzania, Jamaica, Barbados, in the U.S. on Indian reservations and farmworkers camps." This is only a partial list.

A boycott of Nestles' products is already underway and is being encouraged by the Infant Formula Action Coalition (INFAC) of San Francisco. As of this writing, Nestles, the Swiss Giant, has remained adamant when approached to enter into serious negotiations. "The result, like sterilization of women, is simply another form of genocide."

For the life of the children, I urge you as fellow human beings to boycott all Nestles' products, especially those listed earlier in the article. Also, you may write to Nestles yourself at this address: Nestles, 100 Bloomington Rd., White Plains, NY 10605.

As the great Lakota Sioux Medicine Man said: "Let us put our minds together and see what life we will make for our children."

In beauty and balance,
David Wilkins
117 H Ivey St.
Graham, NC 27253

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**LADIES' SHOP
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- One Rack of Ladies' Dresses
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40% Off on All Other Ladies' Dresses Pants & Tops!!!

SALE DAYS

