

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

"We cannot know where we are going if we do not know where we have been."



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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Letters To The Editor

An Open Letter- Guilty or Innocent?

An Open Letter:

With the oncoming of Christmas shopping, as with the daily pressure of life itself, we at times forget about others, who are locked away behind the walls of prison. True many are there for all the right reasons. Because they broke the law, and should pay for the crime. However, some are there because of injustice of the law.

Case and Point: The story which was carried by The Carolina Indian Voice, dated Dec. 2nd of this year. Title "He Is Not Guilty."

This story of John D. Locklear is a sad one indeed. It is not for this writer to say if this man is innocent or guilty of the crime in question. But I can say, this could very easily have happened to any one of us.

However, I do feel that John D. Locklear could easily be innocent of the charges brought against him. Perhaps he is guilty of past association, of being friends to the wrong people. One should not have to serve time, or pay the price because he or she was friends of wrong people.

It seems in this country, money can buy anything. Look again at the case of John D. Locklear. "Lack of money, poor defense."

It is so easy for us all to rally around or support with our money, political people, beauty contests, etc., and

including supporting our churches each Sunday. Although I am for the church and for the donations we place into the offering plate because the "Great Spirit" smiles on this. But I feel within that the "Great Spirit" also cries as well because his churches feel that or don't have time to set aside a little of the money received to set up a general defense fund to help people such as John D. Locklear.

I pray that one day soon that our churches will come together and set up a defense fund to be used in helping our people within our community.

It is all so easy for our churches to send money to Latin America or Africa for missionary work, but for some reason its so hard to use our money to help our own at home.

Let us start now and help this man having his day in court.

Someone please form a committee. Let's get this together. I too am not a rich person, but if we all pull together, we can help people like John D. Locklear get a fair trial. Since money is the only way it can be done to prove a man or woman's innocence in this country.

Set up the committee. My money will be among the first. Help John D. Locklear have his day in court-the right way.

Ted Silverhand Garrison

A Silent Cry For Women in Robeson County

There are an extremely large number of women in Robeson County who are battered and abused in untold numbers of incidents of domestic violence. In Robeson County these women suffer unusually harsh conditions and get little or no help from society. They need a place to recover from the hurt, anger, frustrations and humiliation they suffer from their experience.

There are many women in Robeson County who depend upon men for their support. They believe that they can't sufficiently support themselves without the help of their men. Many of them suffer abuse, live in poverty and poor housing, and have poor health. Women in the county typically have small children who at the same time suffer trauma and pain along with their mothers during and after each incident of battery and abuse.

In addition to the harsh social conditions of the county, the women suffering from incidents of abuse and battery get little help when they need it most. Law enforcement

personnel doesn't provide any help at all, in most instances, for domestic violence situations. I dare say that for every reported incident of domestic violence there are 10 that go unreported.

In Robeson County domestic violence, wherein the woman is a victim, is a serious problem that should be dealt with more effectively. Law enforcement personnel should be more prompt in answering desperate domestic calls and more effective in reporting and dealing with the problem. The local Social Service Agencies and churches should be more aware of the problem and better prepared to deal with it.

Citizens of Robeson County need to take a serious look at the problem of battered and abused women. They need to direct the county officials to make a concerted effort to help these tormented individuals. There should be a secure shelter where battered and abused women and their children can stay while they recover and make their future plans.

Crying Inside



CHRISTMAS IN CENTRAL PRISON

I remember the saddest Christmas I ever experienced-Christmas 1965! I had just arrived in Central Prison at the beginning of a 7-10 year prison sentence for drunkenly breaking into a residence. I arrived in Central Prison, as I recall it, on December 21, 1965 and I stayed there until August 1968. I had previously spent 7 months in solitary confinement in Hillsborough County Jail awaiting trial. Those were dark days, sad days. And I'll never forget that first Christmas in Central Prison. Christmas carols were being piped out to our sad collection. Hardly anyone smiled. And Santa Claus did not make an appearance in that dark and dank hole. It was incongruous, ironic, to hear the cheerful sounds of Christmas in such a sad place. It made Christmas even sadder. Carols seemed, somehow out of place there.

So, I remember all the prisoners on the advent of this Christmas season. If you know someone in prison...go see them! That's the best Christmas present they could ever receive. Home cooking is especially appreciated. But your visit will mean more than anything else.

I hope to be going to Central Prison in a few days, if the prison officials approve. I have a friend there that I care a great deal about. There are many men there that I think are redeemable, salvageable, worth visiting and sharing with this Christmas.

A visit would make Christmas meaningful to the prisoners there. I know! My mother, grandmother and sisters came to see me Christmas 1965. I still walk about rejoicing and appreciating that visit that Christmas. I don't remember what they brought me but I remember the visit, the kind words of encouragement, the smiles the gentle touch. GO SEE SOMEONE IN PRISON THIS CHRISTMAS! THEY WILL NEVER FORGET THE CHRISTMAS MOMENT. You just might encourage one of them to take heart in Christ in Christmas. You just never

know what a kind word, a good and upright gesture will accomplish. Merry Christmas to all of you in sad places this joyful season.

TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY TAKING SHAPE

Our ten year anniversary is taking place. Tickets are being printed. Committees being formed. Ads being sold. Stories being written. It's going to be a red letter day for us and we hope you will share the happy moment with us.

Our banquet is scheduled for January 22, 1983 at Pembroke Senior High School beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for a single, \$15 for a couple. We, most likely, will have interesting speakers, recollections, remembering ten years of fulfillment and happiness.

Serving as tri-chairmen are Carnell Locklear, Sam Kerns and Jimmy Goins. Three good men. More details will be announced in the coming days. We'll share them with you as they unfold.

And, of course, our anniversary issue will be published Jan. 20, 1982, commemorating ten years of continuous service or, as I see it, a decade of service. The job don't pay much but it is quite fulfilling. The Carolina Indian Voice attempts to fill a needs, that's the barometer of success and satisfaction. Find a need and try to fill it. Happiness must follow in its wake. It's a law of the universe.

And I'm busy finishing up the book. Bruce Barton's Best of...As I See It. See ad elsewhere in this issue. I hope you will want to buy a book. We need the money. Honest.

AL...I'M COMING TO ANSWER YOU. HONEST. My buddy Al Kahn, WAGR's great pontificator, has had another week's reprimand. I was the subject of one of his spirited editorials a few days ago and I meant to answer him last week.

Alas, I've been terribly busy and haven't gotten there yet but, Al, ol' buddy, don't despair. I'm coming. Honest.

I believe your question was, as well as I recall it, what does double voting have to do with the county school system's latest district plan? Well...



James F. Scott of Pembroke caught these Blackfish at the Riverside County Club Lake recently. One of them weighed in at 10 pounds, one weighed 10 pounds and a smaller one weighed in at six pounds. (Bruce Barton photo)

An Editorial Expression of The Carolina Indian Voice

IF SCHMALLEGER SAYS "AFGHANISTAN" I WILL REPLY "GNU'S MILK"

This writer thought that Al Kahn, WAGR's delightful editorialist, was the last of the great Pontificators. We had not reckoned with Frank Schmallegger, Ph.D., Criminologist, Lumberjon. Yep. That's how he signed his letter to the Robesonian Monday. I was surprised. He actually is Chairman of the Sociology Department at Pembroke State University.

And what was Schmallegger's letter about? You guessed it. Indian business. It seems that there is a study floating about pertaining to the justice (sic) that Indians receive (or don't receive) in the Robeson County courts. The study is being looked at by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. In fact, the Indian Commission intends to conduct public hearings soon in Robeson County in light of some of the findings unearthed by the study. They might come with subpoenae power.

The report was written by Darlene Jacobs who undertook the project as part of her master's project at the University of Oklahoma. Ms. Jacobs is a Lumbee Indian from Robeson County.

The report concludes with nine major findings.

- *In Superior Court, Indians had a 54 percent higher conviction rate compared to their per capita population.
- *Indians were indicted at a 25 percent higher rate in Superior Court compared to their representative population.
- *Indians were indicted in District Court at an eight percent rate higher than their representative population.
- *In District Court, Indians had a 53 percent conviction rate higher than their representative population.
- *Indians received more active sentences in District Court at a rate of 21 percent, while whites had a four percent rate higher than their representative population.
- *In Superior Court, the active prison terms for Indians ran about 52 percent higher than their representative population, compared to a 13 percent rate for whites.
- *Case dismissals in District Court for Indians were only seven percent compared to about 34 percent to whites. Case dismissals in Superior Court for Indians were about 11 percent, compared to 30 percent for whites.
- *Indians were arrested by the Robeson County Sheriff's Department at an 11 percent rate higher than their population.
- *Indians were arrested at a younger age compared to whites.

recognize a sociological nuance if one bit him on the leg. Possibly that is why he bills himself in public print as a criminologist. Let's look at what the dictionary defines a sociologist as. A sociologist is one who studies sociology. Sociology is "...the study of the history, development, organization, and problems of people living together as social groups..."

Yet Schmallegger has never, seemingly, given credence to our sociological leanings as a reason for racism, discrimination, denial of justice in our local courts, five school systems, or any of sundry other reasons. He sees no evil, therefore he speaks no evil of those in power. He likes, as I see it, the status quo. The District Attorney, Order. Power brokers and the like. He likes to look at the surface of matters of concern. It seems to me, although I am not a learned scholar, that an academician like Schmallegger would ask "Why?" ever once in a while. A root cause seems to him to be an evil, life-threatening force.

In his letter to the Robesonian he is quick to say, "I have been privileged to see the study." And "The study shows that, on a per capita basis in this county more Indians than Whites are arrested." Then he adds, in the qualifying manner, "Perhaps Indians commit more crimes on a per capita basis." I would flunk him summarily if he were sitting in my sociology class for such simplistic pronouncements.

He sees nothing to get alarmed about. Oh, he just goes on and on building one simplistic pronouncement upon another. Then he adds the kicker: "They (data, factors, etc.) should be examined before we jump to the conclusion that discrimination is prevalent in our courts. I, FOR ONE, BELIEVE IT IS NOT." Now talk about objectivity, reason, common sense.

You see Schmallegger has already made up his mind. And he is upset at the rest of us who look for root causes, and plausibly will "WHY?"

Schmallegger pontificates in his closing sentence, "At the very least, if it [the Indian Commission] associates itself with indictments of the existing system, then it should do so only after a careful consideration of the facts."

What nonsense. Condemnation would rule the roost, if Schmallegger and his do-gooders had their way.

But some of us will not stand for that. If Schmallegger says "Afghanistan" I will, in turn, say "GNU's Milk."

Come on Indian Commission. Study the subject carefully. Look at the findings of the report as objectively as you can. It is obvious that Schmallegger will not...or cannot because of some sociological shortcomings.

-BRUCE BARTON

Red Springs Teacher Killed

A Red Springs school teacher, Mrs. Mary Lowery Davis was killed Thursday morning in an automobile accident near here. A passenger in her car was critically injured.

According to the state Highway Patrol, Mrs. Davis' car struck an auto that was being backed out of a drive way two miles northeast of Pembroke on Rural Road 1515. Her car then struck a tree, killing Mrs. Davis.

Homer Deane, a passenger

in the Davis car, was taken to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton where he was in the intensive care unit Thursday, Dec. 10.

Also in the car were Mrs. Davis' year old daughter and her five year old son. They were in the back seat and were not injured.

The vehicle Mrs. Davis' car struck was driven by Rosella Haney Brooks of Route 2, Pembroke. She was not injured.

Pembroke Woman Dies in McColl Wreck

McColl-A 34-year-old Pembroke school teacher died last Friday from severe head injuries in a one-car accident less than two miles from McColl.

Clarise Johnson Bowen, an elementary school teacher died at McLeod Regional Hospital in Florence, SC Friday night.

South Carolina Highway Patrol reports show Mrs. Bowen was driving a 1982 Toyota south on secondary road 34 when the accident occurred.

Reports show the accident probably resulted after head lights in the car were accidentally turned off.

Mrs. Bowen lost control of the vehicle, which ran off the right shoulder of the road into a ditch, hitting a culvert, over turning, and sliding across the road.

Mrs. Bowen was thrown from the car.

Three passengers in the vehicle, the victim's husband, David Mitchell Bowen, her 10-year-old son, Adam Reese Johnson, and her brother-in-law, Jimmy Bowen, all of Pembroke, were treated and released at Marlboro General Hospital for injuries.

THE RUNNER STUMBLES

-A Review

by Steve Tyner

The trial of a priest charged with murdering a nun served as the backdrop for a drama of intense human emotion in PSU's production of Dec. 2-4. Once again Enoch Morris has provided us with excellent entertainment in his production of Milan Stitts' "The Runner Stumbles." Outstanding performances by Chuck Kinlaw, Delores Grainger and Francy Adler provided the audience with a moving in sight into the struggles of a priest whose faith comes into conflict with his emotions.

Grainers, in her first theatrical performance, was remarkable in her portrayal of Sister Rita, a nun whose compassion for people opposes the rigidity of the church's laws creating an intense conflict with Kinlaw, whose portrayal of Father Rivard was superb. His characterization of the doubt and indecision with its ensuing struggle was convincingly done. The story clearly captures the difficulties of men and women who have dedicated their lives to God and yet must live with the emotions experienced by all humans.

The play is presented as an intermingling of past and present. The trial is carried out among numerous flash backs by the main characters as they relate the events leading up to the death of Sister Rita. These flashbacks were smoothly done through an impressive use of lighting and area staging. Bob Levy's expressionistic design provided the ideal setting for the transitions

from one time frame to another. The one drawback seemed to be a lack of synchronization between cast and lighting crew which found actors at times in distracting positions of shadows and near darkness.

Adler's portrayal of the priest's elderly housekeeper was exceptionally done, growing stronger as the play progressed. Her surprising admission of guilt in the final moment proved to be one of the best moments of the night. Only the climactic scene of emotion between Rivard and Sister Rita when he admits his love for her while denying his God was more intensely done.

A surprising jewel of a performance was provided by Cindy Locklear in her portrayal of the love struck Louise, a student in the school operated by Rivard. The yearning of the adolescent for what she feels is the untouchable priest was well portrayed.

The supporting cast provided quite adequate performances. Most notable were Randy Pait as Monsignor Nicholson and Debbie Morris as Erna, a friend of Father Rivard.

Director Morris indicated in the program that he felt the cast and crew had surpassed the challenge presented by the production. This writer would like to add that the performance of Friday, Dec. 3, surpassed all expectations for a good night of entertainment and provided us with one of the better theatre experiences we have enjoyed.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT IN FAIRMONT, N.C.



Office space formerly occupied by three family physicians and known as Fairmont Medical Clinic is now available for rent. Excellent location. In the above picture, there are two separate office complexes. The office space for rent is on the left; and Fairmont Optometric Clinic, which is occupied by six Optometrists, is on the right. Will remodel for other professions or business. Contact Dr. Harold C. Herring, Box 644, Fairmont, N.C. 28340 or telephone 919-628-8316 (day) or 919-628-6613 (night).