

WHAT NEXT???

It came as no shock to us...E.B. Turner was easily defeated for the position of mayor of Lumberton. What was surprising was Turner's characterization that racism played a part in his defeat. Just how naive is Turner? Surely a man with 29 years on the Lumberton City Council knows something about the voting public...especially the voting people of Lumberton! What did Turner expect? Did he actually think his coziness with Sheriff Hubert Stone would help him win the election?

Given Turner's penchant for characterization, we wonder how he would have called the election of three Black women to the town council in Maxton. White incumbents were defeated because Blacks united and voted against them. Would Turner call this racism? We think not...so what's fair for the gander is also fair for the goose...whites ganged up and voted for Pennington. Turner was beaten because he had a Precinct 6 mentality...he did not appeal to the mass voting public because of his brashness and perceived mean spirit. While the voting public's perception might have been entirely wrong, E.B. did nothing to educate the public and apparently chose to rely on the good ol' boy network. And this time the ol' boys hung Turner out to dry.

Welcome to the real world E.B....we told you not to waste your time but we're glad you did not listen. Education and a dose of humility builds character! We know you'll be back.

(The real reason E.B. Turner lost the election for mayor of Lumberton...he's too tall and some folks just cannot deal with that!)

Nearly everyone was shocked about the news that Magic Johnson has the HIV virus. It's almost like learning God must wear socks! It's inconceivable and even blasphemous.

Sadly too many people have already died without significant governmental research into a cure for AIDS, but with more and more well-known people testing positive for HIV, we can expect to see a dramatic increase, not only in public interest, but also in government research funds.

The founding fathers of the United States were wrong...all people are created equal but only in sickness and poverty...attention, concern, freedom and action seem to be reserved for the wealthy and well-known! If the less fortunate somehow benefit from this attention, then so be it! (That's the definition of "trickle down" folks!)

Many of you have probably noticed migrant farmworkers, particularly Mexican, are not leaving now that most crops have been harvested. Many have chosen to remain in Robeson and surrounding counties and are actively seeking full-time employment in local industry.

One local industry seems to delight in hiring Mexican farmworkers, especially the undocumented ones (they are the ones in the country illegally), to work in its processing plant. Mexican farmworkers have the well deserved reputation of working harder and faster than the local population and some industries seek to take advantage of these people.

The word on the street is Robeson County will be the target of much attention during the next four to six months from several governmental agencies and this attention is directly related to the influx of migrant farmworkers. Guess we will have to wait and see what exploitation can cost a businessman, farmer or company. It should be interesting! Apparently not everyone is whom or what he appears to be! As Gomer Pyle, of the Andy Griffin Show would say, "Surprise, Surprise!!!"

Some of you probably read the cartoon strip, *Doonesbury*. This week you will be subjected to re-runs as some newspapers have chosen to present themselves as taking the "high road" in deciding to censor Garry Trudeau's latest.

Trudeau has caused newspapers across the country to do some amazing things over the years. Some moved his cartoon strip from the comics section to the editorial page. Even now, some have decided to drop his strip altogether.

Trudeau's latest strip will concentrate on a series of allegations that Vice President, then Senator, Dan Quayle purchased cocaine and used drugs while a Senator from Indiana. Although several organizations such as *The Washington Post* and CBS' *60 Minutes* investigated such allegations a couple of years ago and found nothing to substantiate the rumors, Trudeau has chosen to focus on the allegations in his cartoon strip.

The Observer-Times, based in Fayetteville, NC, has chosen to re-run previous *Doonesbury* strips until the Quayle sequence is completed. In explaining their decision *The Observer-Times* stated, "...the *Observer-Times* does not knowingly print false charges—in news stories, in editorials or in cartoons." You have to admire the *O-T*...they were savvy enough not to include advertising in their disclaimer. The *O-T* knows which side its bread is buttered on...censorship, business, and profit designed and disguised as journalism!

Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Keith, Director of the PSU Native American Resource Center

Last week we saw that there was ample opportunity for interaction between Native Americans and Europeans (and, for that matter, Africans) long before John White's "Lost Colony," with the 1526 Ayllon colony in South Carolina. And there were many other opportunities for international exchange of everything from infectious germs to contagious ideas before White lost his colony.

The Englishman John Cabot had explored the Atlantic coast from Newfoundland to Delaware in 1497. In 1500 and again in 1501, Gaspar Corte-Real had sailed under the Portuguese flag to Newfoundland and Labrador, taking shiploads of Native American slaves back to Europe with him. And in 1524 Giovanni da Verrazano had carried the French flag as far south on the Atlantic coast as Cape Fear, North Carolina.

In 1528, just after Ayllon's colony failed, Panfilo de Narvaez attempted to establish another Spanish colony in "La Florida" at Tampa Bay. After several military encounters with the Indians of the area, and with the number of colonists cut nearly in half, these Spaniards decided to return to the safer colonial settlements of the south. But in order to do so, they had to kill their horses and make small boats from the hides, and in these awkward vessels try to sail along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. What remained of the colonists wrecked on the Texas coast, near Galveston.

Carolina Indian Voice

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The Native Americans living on the Texas coast had not been "visited" by Europeans before, and they did what many other Indian people who had not seen outsiders before would do—they came to the aid of the destitute colonists. But most of the colonists died anyway, leaving only five survivors. Of these five men, two would become important in the history and lives of Native Americans: the Spaniard Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca; and an African known as Estevanico.

These five men were kept by the Indians as servants or slaves. Cabeza de Vaca was apparently pretty good at it, pleasing his new masters so much that he was soon given increased responsibilities. During his years with the Indians, he became a trusted trader and a part-time shaman. He would later write that he had combined Christian and Indian prayers, and that he praised the Creator for helping him to help others.

After six years Cabeza de Vaca, Estevanico, and two others were allowed to leave East Texas, leaving behind the fifth man (who decided to stay on with the Indians). The four men traveled around in Texas, and eventually found themselves near present El Paso, on the Rio Grande. Here they were told by local Native Americans about Indians farther west who lived in large cities with big houses, and who dressed in cotton.

So they headed west into New Mexico and Arizona, and in the process came into contact with Spanish soldiers out on slaving raids from Mexico. They returned with the soldiers to Mexico City in 1536, where they re-told the stories they had been given by the Indians around El Paso of the great cities somewhere to the north. Cabeza de Vaca and one other of the original five survivors went back to Spain; a third stayed in Mexico. Estevanico would also remain for the time being in Mexico, and would become a principal figure in guiding the expedition of Coronado into the American Southwest.

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado sent out two advance columns ahead of his main force—one under leadership of a priest named Marcos de Niza; but the trail-blazing group was led by the former slave, Estevanico, who was supposed to know the way. Estevanico was accompanied by Mexican Indians employed by Coronado, and regular messages came back to the main force of the expedition telling of fabulous wealth which awaited Coronado in the "Seven Cities of Cibola."

In the next segment, find out what happened to Estevanico when he met the Native Americans of Zuni Pueblo. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

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