

Reflections

By Alta Nye Oxendine

HEARING FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you ever met a President in person?

I haven't. The day I took a tour of the White House (in the '50s) we were told that President Eisenhower was out of town.

However, on Election Day, I heard from our current president.

Did you?

Against Impeachment? As I've said before, I'm a registered democrat. But I vote for the person, not the party.

And, during the past six years I've become even more disappointed with this administration than I was with the Bush administration.

George Bush, like Ronald Reagan, seemed to put his trust in Mikhail Gorbachev, as well as also taking credit for ending the Cold War.

Bill Clinton bonded with Boris Yeltsin soon after winning the presidency in 1992. Since then there have been several joint ventures, including some former KGB officers helping law enforcement officers in this country. (How do we know that they are not still spying for Russia?)

Then there is the cozy relationship of our president with the president and others from mainland Communist China. And "Filegate," etc

And some presidential decrees that have been largely ignored by the media.

Before the "Lewinsky affair" I was very uneasy with the president, who seemed to me to be more interested in attaining and maintaining the position of president than in being open and honest with the rest of us.

So, when I got a phone call from a young woman with the democratic committee, asking if I planned to

vote the next day, I said "Yes."

But I explained that I would not be voting for many democrats, that I was not very happy with this administration because they don't seem to know what's really going on around us. The caller was very nice and wished me: "Have a good day." I did the same for her.

Midmorning on election day the phone rang. I picked it up, expecting Wanda Kay to ask how Byron and I were doing.

Instead, a male voice said, "This is President Bill Clinton." (I finally decided it was a recording. He sounded desperate!

He said it was critical for me to vote for John Edwards and all the other democratic candidates in North Carolina. (He listed them by name.) The call ended with a "Thank you."

I've had at least four reactions to that call. 1) A kind of thrill to hear a President's voice right in my own home. 2) Wondering whether a frightened president was trying to send a message to Congress (by elect-

ing democratic candidates) that the American people are opposed to impeachment.

3) Anger that anyone (particularly the president of the United States) would presume to tell me exactly how to vote!!!

4) Concern that others (who must have also heard his message) would consider him such an important authority figure that they would follow his advice and make a special effort to vote a straight ticket without even trying to think for themselves.

If many of these calls were made, I do not believe that the number of democratic candidates elected necessarily means that the country wants to stop the impeachment inquiry. It might mean that a lot of people were simply following orders from above.

I want to be fair with President Clinton, with his wife and family. In fact, I feel sorry for all of them at this point.

But I don't want them (or anyone else) telling me how to think. As I've said before, we will have a better country when we each learn to think for ourselves!

Littlefield Class of 1973 to hold Class Reunion

Littlefield High School's Class of 1973 will hold their 25th year class reunion on November 28th. For more information call Tom Taylor at 910-739-5692.

From the Office of the Superintendent by Dr. Barry Harding

A fire in a school bathroom. A rock thrown through a school building window. School bus seats slashed. It would be bad enough if these were merely isolated incidents that happen in our school system. Unfortunately, they happen all too often. Sometimes the damage is substantial. Sometimes it's not but the amount of damage is not the whole story.

When we examine the damage done by these acts of vandalism, we can't help but wonder why they happen. I believe that the attitude of the child or young adult who is responsible is what we need to be concerned about. You can't help but wonder what goes on in the mind of the vandal that makes them commit such acts which are certainly destructive and, sometimes, disruptive. The latter is seldom the case since many of such acts take place after school or on the weekend when classes are out thus really not interfering with class activities. That's not to say that they never take place during the school day and, when that happens, they do, of course, disrupt the regular school routine. An example would be the fire that was set in a waste paper basket in a bathroom recently which caused an immediate evacuation of the school. Although the evacuation was accomplished in an orderly manner since all schools practice for emergencies of that nature and there were no injuries, there is always the possibility that there could have been. Did the perpetrators think of that possibility? I would hope that they didn't. Bad as what they did was, how much worse it would have been if it had resulted in injuries or worse.

The damage caused by rocks that are thrown through school building windows is, of course, obvious. Sometimes though, in addition to the obvious damage, the broken window also serves to allow the vandals to enter the building which often results in further damage or the theft of equipment which then needs to be replaced. Recently, for example, a break-in resulted in fire extinguishers being emptied on the floor of the school. Why that would be done is difficult to explain other than it just being a mischievous act. Still, think about how much more damage could've resulted had a fire broken out which might've been controlled by the use of a fire extinguisher if it could've been used.

Up to this point, what I've said has to do with incidents involving students either while school was in session or otherwise. While those incidents that have taken place during the school day most certainly involved

students, there is no certainty as to whether those occurring after school or on weekends involved students. I don't want to point fingers in their direction unjustly. There are, unfortunately, other misguided people who could easily have been responsible for them. There could've been young or even older adults apparently with time on their hands who found that destroying school property was an interesting way to while away the time. It's unfortunate that that kind of thinking should even exist.

You've often heard the expression

that "children will be children" and there are some people who seem to be willing to allow that as an acceptable excuse for such misdeeds. While there may be some activities by children where that feeling is acceptable, vandalism and destruction of property are not among them. I feel certain that, if the parents of the young people apprehended in such activities make them realize the seriousness of what they've and the law deals appropriately with older people found guilty of those activities, the incidents of vandalism suffered by our school system may be substantially reduced.

Swett High News

The Students Against Destructive Decision Making Club sponsored by Red Ribbon Week October 23-30. October 26 there were several speakers shared presentations on drugs, teenage driving and law careers. Students pledged to remain drug free by placing handprints on posters that were displayed all around the school. Red carnations were sold, re ribbons were tied on cars and red ribbons were issued to the entire student body, faculty, and staff.

On October 27 students staged a morning prayer vigil at 7 a.m. in member of all those students who have died from Alcohol/Drug related accidents.

On October 28 SADD club students staged an assembly program for the student body. The keynote speaker for this event was Sgt. Randy Hammonds. Various students presented musical entertainment and a skit was also performed. Students

wore red to show their support for a Drug/Violence free campus.

October 29 the drama club hosted a play "Only Seventeen."

October 30, a number of guest speakers spoke to various classes. Rachel Blue, Brad Locklear and Bobbie Taylor were selected as nominees for the Moorehead Scholarship.

The Swett High Marching Rams Band participated in a band competition at Richmond Senior High on Saturday. They competed against school from North and South Carolina.

In Class "A" they won second place for percussion and hornline. They also participated in a Veterans Day parade on November 11 in Pembroke. They played "American the Beautiful" and other songs. The drumline played "The Cadence" and the colorguard did a dance created by Jessica Strong, a colorguard member.

Scouts to return for food Saturday

Scouts will return this Saturday, November 21st, to pick up grocery bags that they left at residences throughout the county last Saturday.

Residents who are donating food should have their bags of unperishable food at their front door by 9 a.m. Saturday for the scouts to pick up.

Scouts will collect the food and take it to Robeson County Church and Community Center. Anyone who did not get a bag can bring any food they want to contribute to the Robeson County Church and Community Center, 210 East 15th Street. Any questions call Jim Blake, 739-7146.

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Rowland, NC 28383
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IN CONCERT

The D & L Gospel Singers

Sunday afternoon

November 22, 1998

2:30 p.m. at the

**Indian Education Resource Center
(the Old Indian High School) on
West 3rd St. in Pembroke**

The Indians here along the Lumbee have always sung Gospel Music Robeson County "Indian Style!"

In honor of Indian Heritage Month, we are proud to present the **D & L Gospel Singers** from the White Hill Freewill Baptist Church in concert on Sunday afternoon, **November 22**, at 2:30 p.m. here at the Indian Education Resource Center in Pembroke. Come join us and help us celebrate our rich and varied Indian heritage. **THIS IS A FREE CONCERT!** A reception will follow.

THANKS!

We thank Congressman **Mike McIntyre** for visiting us on November 3 here at the Indian Education Resource Center. He brought us a message of good hope, and also a United States Flag that had previously flown over the capitol.

THANKS!

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