

Editorial And Opinion Page

AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

AS I SEE IT ... Bruce Barton My faith is shaken to the quick

A friend of mine suggested I keep quiet about the whole matter. She cried out, "brother, you had better keep it to yourself because they (that great nubulous force out there somewhere) will think that you have erred and am on your way to a sinner's hell." Oh well, she's probably right, you know, but I have always erred on the side of truth and must confess, even publicly, that my faith has been shaken to the quick by a number of earth-shattering events around me, most of them within the circle of my family and friends.

Friends (sic) and family have disappointed me very much and I have walked away from Deep Branch Baptist Church, my spiritual home for 23 years, and other religious substitutes, for a season. I QUICKLY NOTE HERE, THOUGH, FOR THE RECORD, THAT I AM STILL SAVED ... it's just my broken heart venting.

I pray most times alone, and wonder why man has become so unethical and unfaithful and untrue. Crowds sadden me and I now love the solitary trek, the quietude of a nice drive. I ponder deep thoughts. Who will save us if we do not save ourselves? "If your word is no good," my grandfather used to say, "then you're no good." I tend to agree with my late Papa, Harker R. Barton.

Death and heartache seem to seek out the Barton Clan in unusual ways, and we are left to ponder our spiritual shortcomings. Have we sinned somewhere in the deep recesses of our heart, harboring dark thoughts that seemingly have shaken loose the foundations of earthly decorum? Have integrity and upright behavior turned inward and gone bad? Have we lost our spiritual moorings?

Will Bush and Gore, and a tribal government, save us? I doubt it but we ought not impede their good intentions. I encourage you to vote and ignore my dark broodings ... and pray that I'll get better in the morning. My hope is the fact that my faith is only shaken to the quick, not destroyed. Yes, PRAY FOR ME, the wayward one who sees and feels things too deeply.

I loved Pat Reese from afar

Pat Reese, best known as a writer for the Fayetteville Observer, died Monday at age 73, still smoking cigarettes and taking on dragons. He loved newspapers, acting and helping others, probably in that order.

I only met him a time or two and he probably didn't know me from gator, but I knew him and respected him very much for his body of work. The area has lost part of its passion and heart in his passing. Amen!

Editorial speaking ... Vote for your tribal government on November 7

On November 7 the Lumbee people will hold tribal elections for a tribal government. The election is the result of a civil action, the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians vs. Lumbee Regional Development Association. Both parties claimed they were the governing body of the Lumbee people. Judge Howard Manning, white and conservative and probably Republican too, ruled otherwise, saying in essence that neither was the governing body although LRDA was given limited authority to act for the tribe in certain specific ways until the election. The two parties sued and counter-sued each other in Manning's court.

In response, Judge Manning established the Lumbee Self Determination Commission (LSDC) to carry out the mandate of his ruling and determine if the Lumbee people truly wanted a government and, if so, to determine, what kind of government they wanted. The Lumbee people will also vote November 7 on whether or not they want a constitution to live by.

The LSDC body was also given the mandate to carry out the election after public hearings, pollings and surveys determined that the Lumbee people did, indeed, want a government and the right to decide if they wanted a constitution. Jim Lowry, a Robeson native, now living in High Point, was chosen by Judge Manning to serve as chairman of the 39 member body. Lowry and all 39 members of the Lumbee Self Determination Commission have worked diligently to carry out Manning's ruling. A large turnout on November 7 will be Lowry and the commission's reward and testimony.

Hopefully Lumbee people will go out and vote for the election of 23 tribal council members from 18 districts and decide whether or not a constitution is desired. The tribal chairman will be elected at large. 80 candidates give us reasonable choices.

The destiny of the Lumbee people is in our own hands. That's how it ought to be, and what happens is of great consequence to all of us. We cannot blame anyone else for this election. Please vote on November 7!

Judge Manning has promised to certify the election no later than December 1, 2000. At that time, the elected representatives will become the governing body of the Lumbee people. Good!

Letter to the Editor

Did Judge Manning Help?


Superior Court Judge Howard Manning created the Lumbee Self-Determination Commission to end the ongoing power struggle over governance of the Lumbee Tribe or did he? Remember this is the same man who state "I don't have a don in this fight" Did Judge Manning help by setting up the Lumbee Self-Determination Commission or should he had just said that the LSDC is the government of the Lumbee Tribe. Lets stop and take a look at a fact before November 7

Members of the LSDC have to decide who is eligible to run, the terms of office and the boundaries of the districts. There are thirty-nine members of the LSDC and fifteen are now candidates. We are electing officials without guide lines or a constitution for them to follow. As a tribe is this what in the best interest of the tribe to elect candidates who can set up their own terms on the council. To have LSDC election committee made up with some of the candidates who are running in this election. Remember they have no boundaries. Isn't there others on the LSDC that aren't candidates that could make up the election committee? We have a candidate whom

son has printed the ballots for the election and the candidate himself delivery them to the LSDC office in Pembroke I know we have others who could have printed the ballots. If LRDA's board member or Tribal Council member win in their district do we really think that's going to help? Will we still have the same on going fight between the two groups. We need to take a long hard look at the new faces on the ballots. We need to put being us all our personal hidden agendas and work for unity within the Great Lumbee Nation. We need people who will reach out to our elders and youth. Without the wisdom of our elders we can't understand the past and how far we have come as a people. Without the strength and vision of our youth we can't move into the future. I hope on November 7th when you go to vote and you should. Please stop and take a good hard look at the whole picture and not just at the candidates. Ask yourself which one can and will help build unity in the tribal and not division.

Patricia Brayboy
Pembroke, NC

Tim Blanks
Tribal Government Board
District 18
Encourage your family to VOTE in the upcoming election
Be Lumbee, Be Proud!



Vote for Reginald Oxendine Tribal Council

I have worked a lifetime for Indian People trying to provide better educational, recreational, social and economic opportunities.

May I be your servant on the Lumbee Tribal Council?
"Ask your children who has worked for their futures"

North Pembroke - District 6
Vote - November 7, 2000



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