

Editorial And Opinion Page



AS I SEE IT
Bruce Barton

Book on Indian basketball nearing publication date ...

As many of you know, Tim Brayboy and I have been working on a book about Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties for some time. And the end is in sight.

We expect to present the book at the second annual meeting of the Indian Basketball Alumni Association, Inc. at the Indian Education Resource Center (located in the old "Indian" Pembroke High School building), next door to the UNC-Pembroke chancellor's residence. The meeting will be held on December 13, 2001, beginning at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there. More information will be forthcoming in the next few days and weeks. The name of the book is:

PLAYING BEFORE AN OVERFLOW CROWD.
The story of Indian basketball in Robeson & adjoining counties between 1939-1967.

The book, now about 90% complete, is a history of "Indian" basketball in Robeson as we remember it. Information is scant, but it was a time of rank segregation although positive currents emanated from the unique social incubator and experiment. The book explores what happened, where it happened, when, how, who, and, most importantly, WHY?

Also, what valuable lessons can be learned from this special moment in time?

TO RESERVE A COPY, fill in the blanks and send it to Indian Basketball Book, c/o Bruce Barton, Post Office Box 362, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. Or call 910-521-1881, Extension 13 for more information. We also welcome old "Indian" basketball photographs and memories.

Name _____

Address _____



Infante and Strickland wed in Dillon Ceremony

Ruth Infante, M.D. and Kenneth Strickland were married on May 27, 2001 at a small ceremony in Dillon, South Carolina.

Dr. Ruth Infante, a psychiatrist in private practice in the Alexandria, Virginia area, is originally from Manila, Philippines. She finished her undergraduate and medical degrees in the Philippines and then completed her residency training at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Infante of Galthersburg, Maryland.

Kenneth Strickland, a businessman of McLean, Virginia and on the Board of Directors at Millennium Bank in Reston, Virginia, is a graduate of Prospect High School and the Florida Barber College in Jacksonville. He also attended the Northern Virginia Community College. He is presently President of the McLean, Virginia Lions Club. He is the son of J.P. and Mattie Bell Strickland of Robeson County.

After a Honeymoon Cruise from Venice, Italy on the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the couple are residing in McLean, Virginia.

27th Annual Pow Wow Held This Weekend in Baltimore

The Baltimore American Indian Center and the Native American Student Association of the Community College of Baltimore County-Catonsville will sponsor the 27th annual pow wow "Honor the Circle" August 24, 25 and 26 at the CCBC-Catonsville Campus Athletic Fields. Friday from 12- 8 PM., Saturday 10 a.m. until 8 PM. and Sunday 10 a.m. until 6 PM.

The pow wow will feature Native American dance and Drum competition, crafts, art, clothing and Native American cuisine.

Admission is adults \$7, seniors \$5, children under 12 \$3, children under 6 free; adult weekend pass is \$15.

For directions and further information call 410-675-3535 or visit the website at www.baltimorepowwow.com. This is the Center's largest fund-raising event.

Check Out These Web Sites:

Here are a few Web sites you may want to watch:
Assurex International at www.assurex.com.
R.C Precision at www.rprecision.com.

ValuPage at www.valupage.com.
The American Bankers Association Education Foundation at www.aba.com.
Dr. William Forgey at www.docforgey.com.
Tonalin CLA at www.tonalin.com.

Editorially Speaking

More on Patrick Bullard, Redistricting, and his allegiance to people with klan mentality

As far as we are able to determine at this time, Patrick Bullard, Chairman of the Board of Education, is residing in his legal residence in District 5. At least one visitor is upset about our constant reference to his living outside the district. "He no longer lives in his new house," is what we heard. Well, do we intend to kill the messenger because we don't like the message? Let me try and explain it one more time in case anyone has misunderstood. Patrick Bullard knew when he was running for the Board of Education that he was residing in District 5. He knew that in order to represent that District he had to live there. He knew also that he was in the process of constructing a new home outside the district he was running in. After he was elected to represent District 5, there should never been any question as to where he would reside. DISTRICT 5!!! Having completed construction on his new home since election, he should have known he could not legally move outside the district and continue to represent it. At that point, he had a choice to make. He choose, according to our reports, to move outside the district. When attention was brought to the issue, we understand he feels that we have forced him to move back into the district. We understand further that he thinks that when the redistricting is done, to benefit him, he will simply move into his new home in a newly drawn district and everything should be legal....Our question remains: is it legal to redistrict the board of education to accommodate Patrick Bullard? We further question whether he will be legally seated in his new home after redistricting, if he has not been elected in the newly-drawn district. We will, of course, keep researching, investigating, questioning and eventually find out. The Justice Department, of course, will answer our question about the legality of redistricting to accommodate a seating board member. Other questions may require consultation with a private attorney.

Our visitor questioned what we had against Patrick Bullard? We have

nothing against him. We speak to the issues surrounding him. Some people seem to have a problem separating personalities from issues. The issues are as stated above. Bullard started out all wrong, in our opinion. He surrounded himself and joined the ranks of a group of what we perceive to be klan mentality racists including Terry Smith, Millicent Nealy, Steve Martin. To their ranks is also included the editor of the daily newspaper, himself a racist, in our opinion. Beware of that man who says I am not a racist. Anyway, as soon as Bullard joined ranks with these people we believe to have an agenda to reclaim politically power in the county, he votes with, and in our opinion, is used by them. His house is out of the district. He knew that when he ran and we have no choice but to question his motives. The right thing to do, speaking of principle and integrity, is to be honest and say my intention in running was to pay Barry Harding for firing me and get my new house redistricted into the district I was elected to represent. Thus far, Bullard has not done that. He for a while, tried to give the appearance of living in the district, according to our sources, while living outside the district. That is dishonest and his whole message, as we read it is one that reeks of impropriety. How many ways can we say it? He appears to be a scout to hurt other people and his allegiance continues to be with the klan-mentality Calvary. That's just how we see it, of course. But so many others of you have called and come by to say "keep up the good work." We appreciate the encouragement and hope that Bullard will do the right thing....What is legally right can sometimes be morally wrong....and we keep waiting for Bullard to show us the principle and integrity, he told us he had when he announced his candidacy.....A political coup is not worth the loss of a testimony or a reputation.

by Connee Brayboy, Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Derek Lowry speaks to recent issues, unemployment and NC Indian Cultural Center

Dear Editor:
It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. Is it just me, or is time really flying by? Well, anyway, you know me. I haven't ask for this time just to shoot the breeze or for small talk, so here it goes.

I've managed to keep my mouth shut for a good while now. I believe in the old saying, "It's better to be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt." So, if I say anything that you take the wrong way, just know that you're entitled to go your own wrong way whenever you feel like it. For what it's worth, here is my two cents worth on some of the local happenings I read about over the summer.

When it comes to the unemployment in the area, a lot should have been done that was not done. To begin with, I blame state government which spent millions of our hard earned tax dollars to build up the Research Triangle Park and the universities across the state. Now don't jump off to any conclusions before I can finish my train of thought. No, technology is a wonderful and greatly needed thing and our universities are leading the way in many areas. But if my grandfather Danny Chavis were alive he would tell us, "We put the wagon before the horse." This state spent millions in these two areas without spending equal funds in our children's educational future. One only needs to look at who is really benefiting from the money spent, not our children but outsiders some who happen to be Yankees. Now

before I go any further, I have no problem with Yankees, they are a wonderful baseball team. Before you ask, I'm joking. But I am not joking about the manner in which things were handled. If ten years ago we had spent millions in our elementary, middle and high schools, not only would they not be in the shape they are today, who knows maybe it would be some of our people working at the Research Triangle Park and at the various universities. I think the state and the federal government need to come in the area with additional funding to assist those out of work. In short it's as if the state jumped from industries to technology and left the small people behind, which is who we are to them. The state knew that technology was the way of the future and it used our people's backs and their tax dollars to cut them out of this future. My heart really does go out to those in their late fifties and early sixties who had planned on a nice retirement from those factories that they gave so many years of their lives to.

Maybe even a better approach is for all the churches to come together and start prayer meetings until this situation improves. I'm talking about Baptists, Holiness, and Methodists. Everyone put aside their differences and pray over this matter until the One Above answers us.

I'm really surprised that someone hasn't purchased the old Converse factory and then go to Fort Bragg and asked for contracts to make shoes for the military. Can you imagine the

people this would put back to work. Over night you would have turned this entire situation around. Next I would like to address the issue that happened at a certain high school where students failed the standard course of study. Guess what? This will happen again and again. The bottom line is it's going to get worse before it gets better. Instead of blaming these few teachers and administrators we all need to own up to our share of the blame. We all should have asked the question how would standardized testing affect our Indian students? Once again, I think more attention should have been paid to the early years of our children's education. There is another old saying that goes like this, "You can't harvest what you don't plant." If North Carolina wanted to be the leader in the Technology and the University systems, they should have spent more to educate our young in their early years. Then none of the problems we have today would be as great as they are. Well, I've beat this dead horse enough. It is time to move on.

Before I go, I would like to say something to the group who wants to turn the NC Indian Culture Center into a recreation center again. Don't you think with all the people who are out of work, we need jobs instead of a recreation center? I agree that things haven't been handled the best possible way, but then again no one asked me. But for what it's worth, here is what I wanted to see the different Indian tribes and their churches come together and do: build the village sites.

Here is another old saying: "before you can catch fish, you have got to have bait." There is one simple rule to getting the attention of big money and that is have something to show them where their investment is going. All the NC Indian Culture Center has is a great location and land for a few drawings to show and that is not going to catch too many peoples' eyes. I understand the feelings of this group that nothing has been done and they like many are frustrated. Every Indian agrees the culture center is needed long over due, but for some reason we can't agree how this should be done. You had a small group over here saying it should be moved closer to I-95, and there was a big fight over the golf course. It was all a waste of time. And now some are saying that the old board of directors had too high and mighty plans that could never be.

It seems to me a few are standing in the way. They should put their own agendas aside for the people. They should listen to our elders who say they want it. They should listen to our children who say they need it. And make it so. I still believe that there is nothing that the Indian people across the state can't do if they would only put their own egos aside and learn to work together.

Well, so much for my two cents worth. I am sure you have your opinions and if anything, I hope I've given you something to think and pray over. In the True Way,
Derek Lowry
Greensboro

The Birthplace of James W. Bell "Motor Vehicle Awards" is a Lemon



Dear Editor:
Your recent article Biggs Park Shopping Mall reminded me of this photograph. Tenant farming was something else!! This photograph is of my birth place August 18, 1940. It still stands and is located at 3317 Hwy 72 West. It is known as the KM Biggs Estate and also as the Bradford Oxendine place. It is in the Lowe's community.

James W. Bell
Lumberton, NC

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by Attorney General Roy Cooper

A new auto-related scam is targeting people all over the country. At first glance it appears to be becoming right out of North Carolina. And it's a real lemon.

The scammers are sending out thousands of letters. Each letter from "Motor Vehicle Awards" tells the person who receives it that he or she is "an award recipient in a national sweepstakes" and that the person is "guaranteed to receive a brand new automobile or a cash award." The letter includes an official-looking certificate, an information sheet, and instructions to fill out the form and return it along with a check for \$9.95.

Sounds good, doesn't it? The letters are signed by "Charles S. Cummins," and in recent months they have included a return address in Charlotte.

However, as best we can tell, "Motor Vehicle Awards" has no actual business in North Carolina-just a post office box to collect our money. But stealing \$9.95 a pop is only the beginning of the scam.

Many elderly people who respond to this letter get phone calls a few weeks later. The person on the other end of the line claims to be with "Motor Vehicle Awards." The scammer tells the consumer that he or she needs

to send money to cover taxes or other expenses associated with the award. These extra costs range from \$2,500 to \$6,000. An unfortunately, some people don't see through the scam.

One elderly man who received the letter and follow-up phone call snuck out of his nursing home twice to send money to the scammers via Western Union. Recently two men in Colorado each wired \$5,000 as a result of this scam. And elderly consumers aren't the only ones who can fall victim. Just last week a 26-year-old North Carolina woman lost \$3,500.

If you or someone you love gets a letter or a telephone solicitation from "Motor Vehicle Awards," don't respond. Call the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office (we really are located in North Carolina) at (919) 716-6000. Report the scam to us. And never send money to help secure a prize that someone says you have won. If you do, the con artists have won, and you have lost.

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his Consumer Protection staff are on the lookout for scams that seek to rob unsuspecting North Carolinians. We will do our best to stop the wrong doers, but we will also work to inform consumers so they can learn the best ways to protect themselves.

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