

# EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it, and, above all, accurately so they will be guided by its lights.

-Joseph Pallitzer

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## -EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT- An Indian Manifesto

Robeson County is the homeland of our Indian people, though for many long years we were almost powerless in our own country because of white political domination. Now, thanks to the efforts of many Indian people, we, as Indian people, have achieved much progress. However, let us not be deceived: Indian progress has been accomplished through Indian power. Massive voter registration was accomplished with Indian registrars. The evil double-voting system for the county school board was broken via an Indian federal court suit. The reapportionment of the county commissioner districts was forced via another Indian federal court suit. The long-time white conservative county commissioner, George Reed Pate, was defeated via a massive Indian voter turnout in the Rowland District. We, as a group of people, must face a very simple fact: The Indian people are locked in a struggle with a white racist political system which has absolutely no intention of allowing our people to participate in the decision-making process within this county. We need only look at the recent judicial race for proof of this simple truth. The white population of this county en masse voted against our candidate simply because he was an Indian; they voted in favor of an unknown outsider simply because his last name was not Oxendine. How long are we to endure such insult? How long are we to allow the county white political system to keep our people in political, social, and economic bondage?

In the recent democratic primary, Indian people, in a sense of fairness, made several significant concessions to the white community for the sake of racial harmony within Robeson. One of our most respected leaders withdrew from the house race in order that it might remain tri-racial. The white senator from Robeson was unopposed so as not to jeopardize our chances for an Indian judge. Many Indians made a concerted effort to see that the county school board was tri-racial. From the lips of several Indian figures came the soothing message: "They have changed; let us not do unto them what they have done unto us." WE WERE BETRAYED! Indian candidates were massacred in the white precincts. Our naive trust, grounded as it was in deception and betrayal, almost cost us our children's future. But for those staunch-hearted Indians who rejected the siren call, we would have lost even the county school board. The 1976 Democratic Primary clearly shows that there is as much white racism here in Robeson as there was in the days of Henry Berry Lowrie. The question we pose today: Is there still as much Indian courage and determination?

Unless we act forcefully all will be lost; we cannot allow such a challenge to go unanswered if we are to survive. We must re-group before the 1978 elections. Is it not time that we think of our own people? Unless something is done before the November 2 general election, two of the five people to receive four-year terms on the county school board will be white—one of whom, Shirley Britt, opposes everything the Task Force to Break Double Voting represents. Are we to allow Indian children to suffer under such representation? Based on her stance, Shirley Britt feels that the Indian students in Pembroke could learn in windowless rooms without air conditioning where temperatures in excess of ninety (90) degrees were common place. Must our children endure four years of Shirley Britt's racial attitudes? The issue is graphically clear: Shirley Britt versus Camell Locklear. Please do not be deceived by the Democrat versus Republican smokescreen. Camell is not a Republican, he is a Locklear. Can anyone in Robeson say that Camell Locklear is not an Indian? Should we not support those, such as Camell Locklear, who have fought so long and hard for our Indian people? The eyes of the whole county are watching this race; please do not reject one of our own. Camell Locklear had nothing whatsoever to do with the Hoover Depression; however, he was largely responsible for Indian progress in the seventies.

When you go to the polls on November 2 send a message to Lumberton. Tell the white political structure that you are sick and tired of being a second-class citizen in your own homeland: VOTE INDIAN: VOTE FOR EVERY LOCKLEAR ON THE BALLOT.

## According to Scripture

Exodus 19:5: "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them, for I, the Lord thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."

In 2 Chronicles 25:1-4 it tells of King Amaziah who would not kill the children for their fathers' sins. Read Verse 4. David said, behold I was shaped in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Here is where sin lies. You were born in sin, David said. We were shaped in sin. Paul said when a man is married or a woman, she or he careth for the thing that is of the world or how they may please one another. I Cor. 7:32-34, which means God is not always first in their minds. When people are married, they tend to please one another.

I have heard this verse quoted a number of times. When tragedy comes to some one's home or family, I often said what kind of God would impute sins on people for what their fore-fathers did or their mother. It is nothing to hear someone say "well his father did so and so and the Lord visited the third and fourth generation." In the New Testament we know that Jesus suffers, his blood is our power, which washes away all sin and He said who-so-ever will let him come, and receive the remission of sin, for thy host redeemed us to God by the blood of Jesus. The curse of the how was lifted when Christ came. Lots of us, when we get saved, get self-righteous. We may not have killed or raped, but we sin and Jesus Christ who came to reprove the world from sin that you and I might have life, sees all. God used the word in Isaiah 44:22 "Blotted out, like a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and like a cloud, thy sins; return unto me for I have redeemed thee. Not of your father or mothers' sins, but yours. I-John 2:1, said, if any man sins, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. Matthew 11:28 said "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Who did Christ say? Not sister or brother, or any member of your family, but you! Only you can be forgiven for your own sins. And as far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions (sin) from us.

Yours in Christ  
Ted Brooks  
Rt. 2, Box 339  
Pembroke, N.C.

### ACROSS THE MAYOR'S DESK

With  
**REGGLE STRICKLAND**

Congress Re-Enacts General Revenue Sharing... Congress voted overwhelmingly today to re-enact General Revenue Sharing. Both houses approved a compromise conference bill, and the measure now goes to the White House. It will be signed into law within the next two weeks.

General Revenue Sharing will be extended for 3 1/2 years, beginning on January 1, 1977, and running through Sept. 30, 1980. The funding level will be 6.65 billion during FY 1977 and \$685 billion for each full year thereafter during the re-enactment period.

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### AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

#### CONDESCENSION IS NOT STRENGTH IN POLITICS OR ANYTHING ELSE.

I am an observer of the political scene in Robeson County. One of the things I have noticed is that, as a general rule, white politicians do not give Indians or Blacks anything of substance unless it is laced with the political arsenic of condescension.

Politically, they (the white power structure) allow us (Indians and Blacks) to take one step forward and two steps backwards at the selfsame time. It is a defeating process. Power comes from strength and cohesiveness and a unified will. We must learn to work toward our common goal: political and social and economic parity with our white brethren. Simply put, parity is two-thirds of everything in Robeson County period. Two thirds of every dollar, tree, political office, etc. Yes, count 'em out. We (Indians and Blacks) should also rightfully want two thirds of the responsibility of running Robeson County, taking the best from all three races and truly putting our collective minds together and making some thing worthwhile for our children.

But listen to the chant of the Indian and Black politician: our Indian and Black heroes! They mouth empty, meaningless chants: "Don't activate the opposition." How can one activate his supporters if he does not activate his opposition? "Aren't we moving a little too fast?" No, my friend, yesterday was too soon: today is the day for justice and equitable treatment of all people in Robeson County. Tomorrow will be too late.

We are Robeson County: all of us—Indian, Black and white. The people are demanding action now, not tomorrow. Give us our share of Robeson County and remove the demeaning additive of condescension.

We are tired of white judges and white district attorneys sending our young people away to prison. We are tired of every county office of substance being manned by whites. We are tired of empty promises that come to nothing. We are tired of condescension and ill treatment and that most evil and condescending malaise of "Black vice-president this" and "Indian vice-chairman that." We are tired of our children growing up and not thinking well of themselves. We want a share of the economic institutions such as banks and savings and loan association and farmers markets and tobacco boards of trade. We are tired of our leaders selling us out for a mere pittance. We want to raise the price of our souls and psyches and mentalities. We want to market the crops as well as grow and harvest

### Howard says:

Howard Gross, s. r. ph.  
Pembroke Dr. Center

#### "Dead" leaves and smoke spread poison

Though its leaves are drying up and turning brown, poison ivy remains as infectious as ever. Its vines and root clusters are still contagious and oleoresin, its oily residue, still produces skin rashes, itching and burning blisters throughout the winter.

So, a word of caution: When raking up "dead" leaves and underbrush, use the utmost care. Where poison ivy is suspected, use gloves, carefully avoid smoke when burning such trash, and wash both your

### A Secret Chamber of Commerce?

Class of '66 to reunite

Dear Sir:

You must be dead wrong in suspecting the existence of a Pembroke Chamber of Commerce.

Everyone knows that a Chamber of Commerce is always on the front lines in any city or town. There cannot be any such creature as a secret Chamber of Commerce.

If you find one please put it on the front page of the paper because a secret Chamber of Commerce is an extremely rare creature and highly news worthy.

Sincerely,  
Brantley Blue  
Washington, D. C.

### Pembroke BPW Club to hear President of N. C. Women's Political Caucus

### LRDA Receiving Reading Grant

Stanford Locklear  
Class President  
Class of 1966  
Pembroke High School

There will be three Reading Academies established. The location of the three academies will be Smyrna, Fairgrove, and Smithtown. The program will provide reading instruction, motivational counseling and supportive services for seventy-five functionally illiterate adults and youth and thirty homebound functionally illiterate youth and adults.

Individualized instructional materials will be utilized to improve the educational level of the project participants to cope more effectively with existing problems and to alleviate barriers which hinder self-improvement. Cultural enrichment activities and workshops will be organized throughout the program year in areas relevant to the needs and interest of the program participants in order to broaden their understanding and knowledge of those areas, which will enable them to cope with everyday situations more effectively.

Project staff will consist of a Project Director, a Curriculum Developer, a Secretary, Bookkeeper, three Recruiter Coaches, and three Teacher Monitors (part-time).

LRDA urges community people living in the Smyrna, Fairgrove, and Smithtown communities, who are 16 years and over and interested in learning to read and write to participate in the Right To Read - Reading Academy Program. More detailed information concerning contacts, program start-up date, and time will be announced later.

In observance of National Business Women's Week, October 17-23, the Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Club will sponsor a dinner meeting on Monday, October 18th, at 7:00 p.m. at Maynor Manor Community Room in Pembroke. The program entitled, "A Salute to Women" will feature an address by Ms. Tennala Abner Gross, President of the North Carolina Women's Political Caucus who will speak on the Emerging Roles of Women Today. Dinner tickets are available for \$3.00 each by writing to Pembroke BPW Club, P. O. Box 906, Pembroke no later than October 8th. The meeting is open to both women and men who are interested in attending.

Ms. Tennala Abner Gross, assistant professor of mathematics at East Carolina University, was elected president of the North Carolina Women's Political Caucus at the recent fifth annual NCWPC Convention on the ECU campus.

A member of the state caucus since its organization in 1972, Ms. Gross has also been a NCWPC Policy Council member for four years and was second vice president this past year.

Politics and the women's movement have been among her chief interests, and the chance to combine both came with her active role in N. C. ERA United last year, when she served as eastern N. C. coordinator for the campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

She is also a charter member of the Eastern Carolina Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Greenville-Pin Counties.

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