

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

...the voice of the drum is an offering to the Spirit of the World. It's sound arouses the mind and makes men feel the mystery and power of things. -BLACK ELK



'Spitting into the wind' provokes similar ire on Allen's Award

To the Editor:

After reading As I See It, "Spitting into the Wind," I must comment. I have been taught all my life that Indians will sell out for White Owl Cigars. That is the most degrading statement I have ever heard. However degrading, it is nevertheless true. And after Y. H. Allen was given the "Boss of the Year" Award by the Pembroke Jaycees, I was again convinced that it is a statement of fact. My question is why? And next I ask: Who?

Littlefield, I. J. Williams and Company is reflected in the minds of us all. The mentality of these men who will condone a system called double-voting who will spend our money to defend a system they know in their hearts is illegal. This mentality reveals that they actually believed that robbing us of our good self-images, denying us our Constitutional rights, breeding us to be masses of mental labor, was for our own good.

In pondering over it all, I have concluded that the Y. H. Allen of this county are not to be blamed for their actions. I believe that they also have had their hatred of us inbred in them. When the Anglo Saxons were indulging in slavery they did not believe the Blacks were human beings. From much concentrated reading, I have learned that they believed Blacks were less than human, that they had no souls. And they treated them just as they felt they were inhuman. Don't be misled by their never-failing claim that their grand mother was a Cherokee. They believe Indians also to be less than human. That is why they have treated all the minorities in this county as sub-human beings. They believe we are less than they are. And they have taught us to believe and feel less than they are. And they have taught us to believe and feel less than they are. That is the one thing I find difficult to forgive them for. They have taught us well in that respect. They failed to provide us the means for an adequate basic education, but they have taught us well that we were inferior.

Are we to hate them for this? I think not. According to my basic belief in Christian principles, they are to be pitied. One day soon, sooner than we want to admit, time will be no more. When time runs out, Y. H. Allen will appear before a man whom we all know has no respect of persons. I am assured that when he is asked about the wrong he has done to the children, he will be shocked. And he will say, "Lord, I did not know they were my equals." In his mind he will believe he is right, but in his heart he will repent. In all likelihood, it will be too late for his salvation.

It is already too late for my generation and the generation preceding me and the generation preceding me to be saved from the evil-doings of men such as Y. H. Allen. Still, he is to be pitied because the day of oppression, depression and repression of minorities is slowly fading into the past. But he and those like him, their day is in the future, and "We unto them."

And what of the Jaycee who nominated Allen? I pity him also. After all, he was only doing what he was indoctrinated to do: that being to look upon the Anglo Saxons as idols. What do you do with an idol? You pay homage to them. You sacrifice for them. I only pray that whatever the motive of the nominating Jaycee, he will find it well worth the sacrifice.

I say all that to say this. Although I was not at the Awards Banquet in person, you did not walk out on that farce alone, nor do you spit into the wind alone. You do it with and for people like me—those who have suffered unmercifully at the hands of Y. H. Allen and his kind in Robeson County. Thank you for caring.

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Letters to Editor Policy

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are welcome. We encourage our readers to express themselves subject to the following conditions:

Letters should include the signed name, address and telephone number of the writer.

The editors reserve the right to reject letters of a libelous nature or those considered in bad taste.

Yeah, them good 'd' days! Maybe, after we Indians get tired of punishing ourselves for being stepped on and mistreated, denied and robbed...well, then we can get down to business and make this a good county to live in and work in for all the people-Indian, Black and white.

Then O' Reasonable can quit a looking back to them good 'd' days. Tell you the truth, there was rotten and soul robbing days.

Strongly Supports IEA Funds & Needs

To the Editor:

The recently published opinion of one local principal makes one wonder if the concentrated effort to upgrade the quality of education for Indian children, and the constant struggle for Indian survival have all been in vain.

The indirect confession and honest admission of lack of knowledge in the expediting of Indian Education funds is heartbreaking for Indian parents, not to speak of the underprivileged Indian students who are being denied the benefits intended to derive from these special funds.

After years of extensive surveys and testing, Indian students were found to score below the National educational level of other races, one factor being deprivation and hard ships imposed on Indians throughout the history of America. As a result, Congress created the Indian Education Act to provide special monies, thereby allowing Indian students to catch up with the National average.

We realize the educational level in N. C. is below the National level, and Robeson County is behind many other counties in the state, and this too is sad. But until we wipe out racism, along with six (6) existing school districts we will continue to remain behind.

These conditions were not brought about by Indians, we are victims of circumstances, and if funds earmarked for Indian students are used for all races, how can we close the educational gap? Which is the intent of the Act.

The IEA guidelines allow and encourages parent input into program planning, and deciding how to best meet the most urgent needs of Indian students at the school level, which is totally different from all other funds received by the Board of Education in that parents have no voice in expenditures. Since this program began in 1973 parents have drawn up proposals, approved by the elected committee, also approved by the Board of Education that were never implemented. Purchase orders have been filled without any knowledge of some of the members of the committee or the parents. This practice has created chaos and unrest in the schools and communities that was so unnecessary but will remain long after the funds are discontinued.

It seems to me, if an administrator can expend Title funds for the poor, state and local funds and all other Title monies within the guidelines, IEA shouldn't be such a headache to spend for Indian children, if administered in a professional manner.

Alleged IEA funds irregularities necessitated bringing in a team of Federal auditors, who have been in the county system auditing all IEA expenditures for the last several weeks. Placing extra work load on busy administrators and overworked staff, and extra expenses on the system that is so badly needed in other areas of school operations.

IEA funds are not allocated to be used at the principal's discretion. These special monies are to be used over and above any other per pupil allotment to enrich the educational level of Indian students and not to supplant any state or local funds in any way. Is that so complicated?

Perhaps the IEA timing, was poor, and I'm sure it places our principals in an awkward position many times. Our schools are operating on a very tight budget and doing a remarkable job under cramped conditions in many instances. But if we use these funds within the rules and regulations set forth by Congress, the work load should be lightened for all races, serving a two fold purpose and bring about a better understanding among all concerned.

Allen Holmes
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Ugly Head in Robeson

—An Editorial Viewpoint—

The search for a director of Industrial Agricultural Development in Robeson County has brought racism to the foreground again in our backward, 19th century County.

The choice has come down to M. Woods, an Indian, and Donald E. Gupton, a white. The lines have been drawn. Seemingly, who ever can muster the racism in their respective camp, will win who gets the job. It looks like, moment anyway, that the whites have won at anyone else.

The credentials of the minority candidate, M. Woods, have been bandied about in the news media by Waverly Barham, chairman of the Robeson County Industrial Agricultural Commission in no uncertain terms. In essence, Barham intimates he could not affirm Woods because he is not the most qualified. "Is Guyton?"

Why was Woods chosen as a topic in the area news people when there were other candidates for the job? Those who compared the resume of the two affirm Woods is more qualified than Gupton. Barham, according to a light skinned Indian who was standing by when Barham and other members of the commission emerged from the commissioner's room at the last meeting, made some comments. Said Barham, according to the light skinned Indian who wishes not to be identified for the most obvious of reasons, "We might have to come up with another candidate."

Said another, "Nah, we have to stick with Guyton because Sam Noble's (commission chairman) choice..." Did he actually say that can't swear to it but it seems plausible based on some of Mr. Barham's comments in the press and before the board of commissioners lately.

Who will get the job? Well, it looks safe bet to place your money on Gupton. He's the right color. The loser, Murphy Woods, as it is now, is another sacrifice that Robeson County has made to the idol—RACISM. We all lose—Black and White when the color of a person's skin, instead of his credentials, is the riding factor as to whether or not he gets a job in Robeson County.

No wonder that Robeson County is the 39 counties in North Carolina that have recently enacted affirmative action employment in Robeson County is laughable and toothless.

Racism is an evil, crippling disease. Unless Robeson County is cured of it, only things left will be illiteracy, poverty and 90,000 scarred people walking about upright.

God help us all! We're all infected with madness. Said a Black who called recently, "THE INDIANS GETTING EVERYTHING!" Indians have nothing", this is a reply to the distant sound of a conservative snickering in the background.

Attend The Church Of Your Choice Sunday

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God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference.
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AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

TIMES ARE CHANGING BUT THEY REMAIN THE SAME

Indians are having a hard time of it psychologically and politically and in every other way. They are being buttressed about by the stresses and strains of their history. The chickens are coming home to roost.

A case in point: The Robeson County Board of Education met Tuesday afternoon and said not a word about the attorney hiring. Six Indians, two whites, and one Black can not find it in their hearts to replace I. Murchison Biggs, the epitome of white conservatism, with an Indian law firm. Why?

Well, nobody knows, really! Indians do not kill across racial lines and they do not reduce across racial lines so it stands to reason that they cannot fire a white conservative anything, including I. Murchison Biggs or Y. H. Allen, the shrewd white superintendent.

When Harbert Moore's motion at an earlier meeting to replace Biggs with an Indian law firm was defeated 4-2 it raised a number of questions. The most overriding question is why did only six board members vote when all nine of them were present?

The chairman only votes in case of a tie. What happened to the other two Indians who did not vote? Was it psychological shock? Were their hands still by a reading of their infamous history? Faced with an opportunity to fire a white conservative...well, were they overwhelmed with the thought of such potential power?

God only knows our heart. Who can decipher the nuances and subtleties of our history? Are we programmed? Are we indoctrinated by what has happened to us?

God only knows...Still, we must begin to grapple with our past, our ignoble present and our unknown future. Our destinies are in our own hands. What will we do for our children?

Anyway, the board did not mention the problem. The politicians called off the people and it seems that I. Murchison Biggs and Y. H. Allen are what we want and, seemingly, what we deserve.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DO IT TOO...

Another interesting case is the one that the county commissioners are dealing with right now. I expect them to emulate the county school board; you know debate it and then give it to the white.

Slim Barnes died and, suddenly, the commissioners found themselves with another problem. An Indian, Murphy Woods, applied for the position of chief industry hunter for the county.

It seemed that the Indian had the inside track in the race, until the white conservatives got into the act.

There are three Indians on the seven member board of commissioners. They are out numbered. Times are changing but they remain the same.

It seems right now that the white will get the job. It is racial pure and simple. Indians as the white conservatives see it, are trying to get above their raisings. Said a white politician, "You know that Lumberton wouldn't help an Indian in this job. They just wouldn't. You know why as well as I do..." Yes, I know why but when are we going to deal with the racism that keeps Robeson County backwards, low country entity?

But here's the catch: Whites vote for whites, Blacks vote for Blacks, and Indians...well, you never know who an Indian is going to vote for. That's our disadvantage.

Indians will, on occasion, vote for whites and Blacks. History has proven that the reverse is not true.

Condescension is still the byword in racial relations. Many Indians walk about saying, "let's not do unto them as they have done unto us." And they continue to do it to us. It seems that there are two sets of rules, one for the Indian and one for the others.

Racial relations, as I see it, are at their lowest ebb since the days of Henry Berry Lowry.

A Black political leader called me the other day and he was as mad as a setting hen. Said he, "By God, the Indians are trying to take everything." In the distance, I heard the braying laughter of a white conservative.

It is, as I see it, time to be honest. Racism rules the roost in Robeson County. We need forceful, aggressive and bold Indian and Black and white leaders to represent us in public office. As long as we elect mediocre politicians, our return will be mediocre.

What would happen if I. Murchison Biggs was replaced with an Indian law firm? What would happen if Murphy Woods, a bright and attractive and qualified Indian was named chief industry hunter in Robeson County?

Would the heavens fall on us? Would the county regress to the dark ages? Would the whites flee the county? Etc. Etc. Etc.

I say no! But who will convince the politicians?

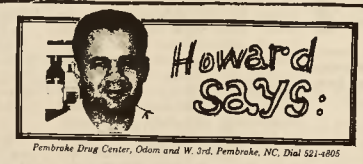
Times are changing but they remain the same. There is little rhythm or reason to the pattern of our life at the moment.

Who will be the first to knock down the psychological barrier that separates us all? Will we impart to our children what has been given to us?

HOPE IS AN ECHO, HOPE TIES ITSELF YONDER, YONDER

I'll admit that I am discouraged and disillusioned at the moment but I continue to chant a line of Carl Sandburg: "Hope is an echo, hope ties itself yonder, yonder..." Without hope there is despair.

There is little fire or passion in this column. I am distracted, upset, visibly disturbed about the trends I see developing...but, well, the hope remains. I know things can be better and should be. There is not much more to say about it.



Pharmacists likened to basketball heroes

In some respects the pharmacist is like the basketball player who plays the whole game unnoticed, but who scores a last second goal that wins the game.

It only takes a second, but perhaps the most important obligation that a pharmacist has to his "team" of health officials is to insure a correct, safe prescription. We are the last ones on your health team to take a "shot" at catching a possible error in your medicine. So, like the basketball player, your pharmacist stands ready to "score" when you need the points!

It is an awesome responsibility, day in and day out. But 24-hours a day, we stand ready to serve you instantly.

pembroke DRUG CENTER

Questions Writer's Bible Quote

To the Editor:

I am writing in reference to an article in your 2-4-77 edition of The Carolina Indian Voice.

Mrs. Mabel Oxendine of Rt. 2, Maxton made a statement that I would like to know where I can find it in the Bible.

The statement was "Charity begins at home."

She stated to the person she was writing about to read the Bible and he would find the above statement. Where?

One of your loyal readers.

Palmer Ray Bryant
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Retired Serviceman's Pay A Concern of Reader

After seeing on TV the hardships caused by the worst cold weather in history I can't understand a pay hike for the top brass in the Congress of the United States.

It appears to me that the Congress can agree on a pay raise for themselves easier than they can agree on ways to help the unemployed and help on welfare and etc.

How about equalization of retired pay for enlisted men that retired between 1955 and 1958. This is only a starter of unfairness in our social system.

I quote, "National Association for Uniformed Services," as follows: "Equalization of Retired Pay, Uniformed Services retirees of the same rank and service now draw eight different rates of pay. For example, a Sergeant Major, Master Chief Petty Officer, or Chief Master Sergeant who retired before June 1, 1958 receives 88 percent less retired pay than another with the same length of service (30 years) who retired in 1968."

On September 17, 1973 the United States Senate approved by a vote of 71-14 the Hartke

Bill on Reimputation.

Representatives Charles Rose (D) went on record in favor of reimputation; Senator Jesse A. Helms (R) voted for reimputation; Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. voted against reimputation, but retired early in order to receive the highest pay for his retirement.

I hear a lot of things on TV, Radio, Newspaper, and etc., but no one listens to the ones who have given the best years of their life for their country, only to be lost in the mass of red tape, etc.

Only wish that "more" people knew and understood how our enlisted service personnel have been forgotten and mistreated.

One of the reasons given for not passing Reimputation of retired pay was because it would take too much money, now I wonder; if it wouldn't cost a lot of money to raise the salaries of our biggest salary drawing people in Congress and top federal employees.

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Pembroke, NC

Musing By Reasonable Locklear

SOMEHOW THE OLD DAYS WERE BETTER...UNTIL YOU GET TO THINKIN'

O' Reasonable can remember the good old days when the only Indians who had any thing to do with town government in Pembroke was police men. Even though Pembroke was 95 percent Indian back in the 20s and 30s and 40s the governor of the state would appoint the mayor and town council from Raleigh. He all appointed whites. And them

whites appointed or hired other whites (although there were less than 200 of them most of the time in the whole town) to be tax collectors, town clerk, check writers, etc. It was a pure mess and degrading to the Indians.

But the hot head Indians back them could scream and hollar and raise the dickens about the mess 'cause they knew they were in the right.

Now, well, we'll get Indians just about ever' where you look. They are in the seats that used to have power. Now that they are in some of the seats, the power is being transferred somewhere else.

Now, with Indians where ever you look, it is a getting complicated to cuss and raise too much devil. You might be a stepping on an Indian's toe. That complicates the situation somewhat.

But O' Reasonable does want an Indian school board attorney and an industry hunter (whatever that is) etc. etc. You know, just a third of everything in the county, including the money and power.

As soon as Indians (and Blacks) find out they can look a man in the eye and not ask for demerol at least two thirds of ever' thing, life will get a whole lot better.

Right now, as it stands, the Indians especially are half way apologizing for even a thinking how I. Murchison Biggs' head might look on the political chopping block. O' Reasonable says "chop it off!" We do need Indian attorneys a doing some of that hifalutin paper work.

Howard SAYS: Pembroke Drug Center, Odum and W. 3rd, Pembroke, NC, Dial 521-805

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