

# EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

## AS I SEE IT

by Bruce Barton



### CONGRATS TO DR. CRAIN & THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

I became acquainted with Dr. Ed Crain when I initiated efforts last year to begin a Braves Club with Jim Paul, Walter Ozendine, Arnold Locklear, Dr. Gerald Maynor, Buddy Bell and Dr. Crain. The Braves Club is now in its second year and flourishing under the capable leadership of Buddy Bell, the exuberant Braves Booster who is also assistant principal at Pembroke Junior High School.

The idea behind the Braves Booster Club was simply to boost Braves athletics and enhance community-campus relations which are, as I see it, at an all time low.

Except for Dr. Crain and Dr. Ken Johnson (who live in Pembroke) all the rest of the athletic department and most of the faculty live in the Lumberton community. We see them as they whiz by our window on their way to Lumberton to spend their monies etc.

But that's another story and one deserving of more research and space. This space here is to sincerely congratulate Dr. Ed Crain and his cross country team for winning the national championships. Dr. Crain was also named National Coach of the Year.

So, sincerely, congratulations guys. We are proud of you.

### AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LOVELY BRENDA HUNT, MISS PSU AMONG OTHER HONORS

She's lovely and talented. She has not, as one of the fellows said, ever gotten above her raisings. She is something extra special. She's Miss Brenda Carol Hunt, formerly Miss Lumbee, Miss Pembroke Junior High, Miss Pembroke Senior High, and now Miss PSU.

She was sponsored by the PSU American Indian Student Association and sang "Once Upon A Time" as her talent presentation. She won the title last Wednesday night. We wish Brenda well. She's a lovely Queen!

### AND HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OF YOU!

We are going to take Thursday and Friday off and celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner with our oldest sister, Ruth, who resides near Burlington, North Carolina. It will be fun to be with her. It will also be nice to take a day or so off and just relax.

We hope each of you have a nice and safe and bountiful thanksgiving. Really! Happy Thanksgiving!



The lovely Miss PSU Brenda Carol Hunt

## An Editorial Expression

### Opinions One Of The Spoils Of Democracy

Everyone has an opinion. If we allow one another to express said opinions without shooting or cutting those we disagree with then democracy will bloom and flourish. And we'll feel better for having had our say.

According to press reports, Pembroke Councilman, Bob Brewington, had his say at last Thursday's meeting of the Robeson County Board of Education. He reportedly assailed district lines, the administration of the Indian Education Program in the Robeson County Schools, and called for the resignation of the chairman of the board of education, Ralph Hunt.

We hardly agree with Mr. Brewington about any of his assertions. We do not believe Ralph Hunt should resign from the Robeson County Board of Education's chairmanship. He's a darn good chairman. But we hope he will mend his ways relative to recent traffic incidents seemingly precipitated by excessive drinking.

He does have a responsibility as a role model but we have a responsibility too to be understanding and helpful to Mr. Hunt, if possible.

But mostly Mr. Hunt is innocent until proven guilty. How can we call for his resignation until he has had his day in court? Should we throw everything out with the dish water? We say, resoundingly, no!

And HEW is everyone's favorite whipping boy. HEW is bureaucratic madness. We agree with that. But the district lines were in place when Y.H. Allen was the county school superintendent. The truth of the matter is Allen was negligent (almost criminally) circumventing his responsibilities relative to those sacrosanct HEW lines. At least Supt. Purnell Swett is not seemingly a lawbreaker like his predecessor. More than that, Swett seems to be doing a good job with a mostly impossible situation, most of it left over mess from the regime of Y.H. Allen.

We do not agree with Mr. Brewington's complaints concerning the Indian Education Program. It is a good program, exemplary even! Mr. Brewington mentioned 68% Administrative costs on the radio. We have not uncovered such a figure, nothing close to it. As a matter of fact, the IEA Program administered by Mrs. Ruth Woods, the parent committee and the board of education, is one of the best programs of its kind in America.

Part of the problems seems to stem from the fact that Indians (some of us anyway) are uncomfortable being set aside, even by a program. The monies are for Indian students only. That seems to be an uncomfortable crow in some folk's throat.

But we mostly agree with Mr. Brewington's right to express himself. Opinions are like navels and ankles and sundry other things...all of us have one. And this is the editorial opinion of The Carolina Indian Voice.

### For Senior Citizens

It's been said that as people advance in life they get what is better than admiration—judgment. And this is apparent on the road. While older drivers make up nearly 30 percent of all drivers, they are involved in less than 20 percent of all accidents in the country. Here are some tips for mature drivers.

When driving, keep your head and eyes moving. You will be more alert, better able to anticipate danger, and less apt to grow tired. Avoid driving at dusk. Poor light conditions and long shadows distort and camouflage possible obstacles. Eyes may react slowly to changing light conditions.

On a long trip, plan to drive no more than five or six hours a day. Stop in the afternoon for some exercise to get the knots out of your muscles, have a relaxed dinner, and get a good night's rest. With juries awarding high judgments in auto accident cases, it's a good idea to consider whether your coverage is adequate. Most companies recommend at least \$100,000/\$300,000 bodily injury liability limits. If you have encountered difficulty in obtaining or renewing automobile insurance, you will probably be pleased to know that the Colonial Penn Insurance Company meets the needs of mature Americans by specializing in insuring drivers who are 50 years old or older. And each auto policy has a lifetime renewal guarantee feature that pertains to people in this age group.

If you do have an automobile accident, report it. Laws in almost every state require you to report an accident immediately or within a short time if there are personal injuries or property damage in excess of \$100 or \$200.

A free set of booklets on safe driving tips for the mature motorist is available from Colonial Penn Insurance Company, 5 Penn Center Plaza, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103.

## Food-Stamp

### Benefits To Rise

WASHINGTON Millions of low-income families in the government's food stamp program will get a boost in benefits Jan. 1 to help counter inflation, the Agriculture Department said Tuesday.

The increase in food stamp benefits will be about 5.2 percent for a family of four. For example, a current stamp allocation of \$182 a month would go to \$192 beginning the first of the year.

Assistant Secretary Carol Tucker Foreman said that in the first six months of 1979, states will convert to a new method of allocating food stamps to needy households so recipients no longer will have to pay part of their incomes to get stamps.

The change was ordered by Congress in the Food Stamp Act of 1977 as part of a massive overhaul of the federal program that currently helps about one of every 14 Americans.

Ms. Foreman also said that beginning Jan. 1, the maximum net incomes that families can have and still qualify for stamps will be adjusted in line with the new law.

A four-person household will be able to have an income of up to \$542 a month — \$6,504 a year — and still qualify. The current method allows such a family to have an income of up to \$640 a month — \$7,680 a year — and still be eligible.

As it is now, a qualified family has to pay a portion of its income — depending on household size and adjusted income — to buy stamps and then gets free bonus coupons to supplement its grocery budget.

Nationally, families spend about \$4 to get \$10 worth of food stamps. The program cost the government about \$5.5 billion in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 and is expected to rise to around \$6.1 billion this year.

Congress changed the law last year so that persons will be able to get the bonus stamps without spending any of their own cash to get them. Despite the change in methods, most recipients will have the same purchasing power in food stores.

Until the new procedure can be phased in, the current method of requiring families to buy part of their monthly stamp allocations will continue, Ms. Foreman said.

Some 15.3 million persons — about 4.38 million households — received federal food stamp benefits in September, the most recent month tabulated by the department's Food and Nutrition Service.

When operational, the new law is expected to make it easier for more low-income and elderly people to get stamps. It also will tighten eligibility standards for those at the higher end of the income scale.

In all, department officials expect that about three million persons not now getting benefits will be added to the food stamp program and about one million at the higher-income levels excluded.

The increase in food stamp benefits, scheduled Jan. 1 is mandatory under both the old and new laws. Adjustments must be made twice a year to reflect changes in costs of a "thrifty food plan" used by the Agriculture Department to set food stamp allocations.

Costs of the plan for September were used in setting the allocations scheduled for Jan. 1. On July 1, the stamp allocation for a four-member household was raised to the current level of \$182 a month, a 4.6 percent increase, based on food costs last February.

The current procedure calls for the monthly stamp allocation to be rounded off to the nearest \$2. Since the September thrifty food plan was computed to cost \$191 a month, the allocation Jan. 1 under the old formula will be \$192 a month.

But the new law calls for the allocation to be set at the nearest \$1 of the cost of the thrifty food plan, meaning that in those states shifting to the new procedure after Jan. 1 a four-member family could get a maximum stamp allotment of \$191 or \$1 less than under the current method.

## Editorial Expression

### Minorities Give Away Gained Position With New Elections Head Selection

Until the 1960s Indians and Blacks were considered "Non people" by the Robeson County political and economic powers that be. Until then Indians and Blacks were not elected or appointed to anything in Robeson County. They (Indians and Blacks) received few of the jobs accruing to party faithful.

Now, in 1978, after having won a battle or two, and having seen Blacks and Indians appointed and/or elected to responsible positions in the county structure, they (the Indians and Blacks) are in the process of giving back the gained positions that have accrued to them.

To be fair and above board, two thirds of everything in Robeson County would have to belong to Indians or Blacks. Indians and Blacks make up approximately two thirds of Robeson's population.

Alas, Indians and Blacks are finding the responsibility of power and position unsettling. They (Indians and blacks) are in the process of giving back the power and position that they thought they wanted. Why? It is a sociological puzzle that almost defies description.

Last week the elections board passed over the Indian acting supervisor of elections (Mrs. Pearlina Revels) in favor of Mrs. Elizabeth Morton, a white, with little or no experience in conducting elections. At the self same time they asked Mrs. Revels to remain as second in command. Strange indeed! Indians and Blacks suffer from a societal disease called "vice-president this and vice chairman that."

If Mrs. Revels was not qualified, why did the board literally beg her to stay on in the number two position? That is exceedingly wierd to us.

Why would a Black (Rev. Charles McDowell) and an Indian (Carmel Locklear) vote for the white candidate (Mrs. Morton) and allow the White member of the elections board (Ray Revels) to make political hay by voting for Mrs. Revels? It is mostly

unbelievable unless Rev. McDowell and Mr. Locklear were also making political hay and/or following instructions from the political power brokers in the county.

When queried as to whether or not she had been treated fairly, Mrs. Revels said emphatically, "No, I have not!"

We concur. The Carolina Indian Voice believes that Mrs. Pearlina Revels should have been named supervisor of elections.

Conservatives in political circles are snickering smugly to themselves. They have said all along that Indians and Blacks do not have the moxie or sense to govern themselves. Maybe there is some credence to their condescending assertion. God forbid!



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We shall go to the Jordan River and see the water in which Jesus was baptized, and we shall sail on the Sea of Galilee.

Don't put it off. Plan to go with Reverend Chavis to the Holy Land March 12, 1979.

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