

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

"We cannot know where we are going if we do not know where we have been."



DEXTER BROOK'S FIRING A SAD LESSON FOR ALL OF US

Even though I understand the dynamics of the action, the firing of Dexter Brooks Tuesday night by the Robeson County Board of Education left a bitter taste in my mouth. I feel sadness, regret, uncertainty about the future of my people.

I equate it somewhat to the "Crab mentality." Put a bunch of crabs in a foot tub and watch them act out a mean and cruel scenario. One crab begins timorously to climb up the side of the tub and, lo and behold, the rest of the crabs summarily reach up and pull the aspiring crab down to their level. Indians, in general, and all men, suffer from this mentality, this need to keep us all down on the bottom of the foot tub.

But, as noted, I understand it. The game, the scenario. All of us are guilty, including the wounded party. The mistake Brooks made, as I see it, was to be perceived as disloyal to his employer. There is an old saying: "If you work for a man, be loyal to him. If you can't be loyal, get out from his sphere and criticize him to the high heavens." Brooks seemingly was not as loyal to his employer as he might have been, at least as some saw it. Sentiment was expressed that his brother, Larry T. Brooks, ran for county commissioner against Herman Dial, and eventual winner, Wyvis Oxendine, with the tacit blessing of Dexter Brooks. Herman Dial had the support, although muted, of Superintendent Purnell Swett and educators generally. Also, some seemed to think that the incumbent board of education member Lillian Faye Locklear and others were opposed by the Brooks forces. Dynamics. Politics. Dark plots. Mean doings. And the chickens came home to roost.

None of us should take particular pleasure in the firing of a brilliant and talented young attorney. I have been a fervent fan of Dexter Brooks for many years, but I am also a staunch supporter of Purnell Swett. When two heroes come to a parting of the ways hero worshipers are left disgruntled, sad, confused. And the dynamics take over and life

runs its bitter course.

Two men, two heroes, two dynamos. Dexter Brooks has won many battles for Indian people. Every good thing that has happened to Indian people in the last few years can be laid to his side of the ledger. Count them: the breaking of double voting, the saving of Old Main, the redistricting of the county, equitable representation on the board of education, the discovery of the unlawful annexations by the Lumberton City Schools, and more. Brooks was instrumental in all of these victories. I stand in awe of his intellect. And I have read a book or two of his.

And Purnell Swett. He assumed the superintendency of the county school system at a particularly vulnerable time. He has been a remarkable administrator. He has led the school system through some difficult times. He has not been afraid to make difficult decisions, unlike his predecessor who simply put hard questions on the back burner and left them to future administrators to answer.

But we'll survive. We're a hearty folk, at our best when trouble is in our camp. We'll be stronger for the experience, better able to grapple with the dark forces about us. Earl Homer Strickland is a competent young Indian attorney. He will not shirk his responsibilities. Our enemies should not assume that our ranks have been split asunder indefinitely. We will be stronger, in time, for the devious experience all of us, in one way or another, have contributed to.

And, of course the attorney for the school board serves at the pleasure of the body. Board members, whether incumbent and lame duck or not, have a right to exercise their responsibility. They have done so. And they should not necessarily be damned or praised for exercising their prerogative.

When the pain subsides, the initial shock of being rejected subsides, Purnell Swett, Dexter Brooks, and all of us, will be stronger for the experience. Besides, we need all of our soldiers on the battle field slaying dragons. Many problems remain, many enemies swarm around our camp. There is plenty of work for all of us to do. I hope we will now turn our attention to the real enemies, not ourselves.

LORI ANN LOCKLEAR A ROUSING SUCCESS AT 'STRIKE AT THE WIND!' CONCERT

Lori Ann Locklear is going to be a star, make no mistake about it. She is talented, a country music star on the horizon. A turn away crowd turned out last Friday evening to hear her in concert, making the audience the largest to see a performance of 'Strike at the Wind!' in recent years. A count of 1,342 was registered at the box office as Lori Ann Locklear proved again that she is a particular favorite of local folks in this area.

I am proud of the response to our appeal to get me down off this proverbial limb. Thanks for coming out and making this a night to remember.

NOW MEDIA NIGHT IS SATURDAY NIGHT...

As you remember, I have taken three nights--August 6, 14 and 20--and have climbed out upon the proverbial limb and vowed to fill up the audience at 'Strike at the Wind!' on these nights. The first one--August 6--was our Lori Ann Locklear concert preceding the performance of 'Strike at the Wind!' As noted, the audience was full, over running. The next one is August 14--Saturday night--and is being billed as Media Night. The local media is sponsoring this evening at 'Strike at the Wind!' with special activities, including promotions by the individual media outlets, and door prizes during intermission of Saturday night's performance of 'Strike at the Wind!'

We hope to see you there. That will leave August 20 which is my favorite of the whole bunch--Church Night. More about this next week.

People ask me what I contribute the relative success of The Carolina Indian Voice to and I tell them "helping people." I like Carnell Locklear, the general manager of 'Strike at the Wind!' and "Boss Strong" in the drama. He is a fighter, a man who is not afraid of a challenge.

When he took over 'Strike at the Wind!' two years ago rumor has it that the bank account was depleted and the drama was in real trouble. Carnell, on his own initiative, revived the popular outdoor drama about Henry Berry Lowrie and his friends and protagonists in Robeson County.

I like him for saving the show, a good and positive dramatization of a proud and hearty folk. He really deserves our support. And I look for ways to help him and all those who want to be successful. And, most of all, I like the guy and am proud to count him as a dear friend.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS FROM SPAIC

Dear Bruce,
On behalf SPAIC (Society for the Preservation of American Indian Culture), I would like to thank the Indian people for the excellent reception they received while attending the annual convention of the Society for the Preservation of American Indian Culture. LRDA, NC Indian Commission, Title IV, Robeson County schools, and Pembroke State University extended their very best to inform our visitors and make

them welcome and comfortable.

Our board of directors has selected the Indians of Robeson County as a model for Indian people everywhere.

Words of great praise came for the presentation of 'Strike at the Wind!' It gave an informative but delightful plus to the meeting.

We would also like to thank you personally for making our second convention great.

Sincerely,
H.L. "Lindy" Martin, Ph.D.
Chief Executive
P.O. Box 76073
Mountain Brook, Alabama
35253-6073

Of Mugwumps and Power Brokers

by Lew Barton

If there is anything worse than the political power-broker, it is the mugwump. One is over-involved, even dishonestly involved, while the other steadfastly refuses to become involved at all. He straddles the fence and come heck or high water, he will not take sides. It is an Algonquian Indian word which more or less means fence-sitter. Yet ironically, the mugwump wields great influence, even often decisive influence by simply keeping away from the polls when he darn well ought to be there.

THE MUGWUMP SONG

by Lew Barton

Oh, does the dictionary tell us
What a mugwump is?
I said a mugwump is?
Oh, Lord, a mugwump is?
Oh, does the dictionary tell us
What a mugwump is?
He's a strange and most peculiar kind of bird.
Oh, he can sit on barbs and fences

While the skies fall down!
I said the skies fall down!
Oh, Lord, the skies fall down!
He can sit on barbs and fences
While the skies fall down!
And he'll never make complaint
Or croak a word!

L.B. 1982

We saw the top vote getter in a three way race for county commissioner defeated recently in a run-off which brought out not nearly as many voters as the first primary. The mugwumps were not there but ironically, their influence on the polls counted dramatically.

Voters do count, one way or another, whether they are there or not. If you are an American, there is no way to escape your responsibility.

Isn't it better to be there and have it count the way YOU want it to count? I'll close with a quote from Wayne Revels, a young man who voted for the first time this year: "Have you ever noticed that the people who complain the loudest and the most are the people who don't even bother to vote?"

You don't always get every one and everything you vote for--of course, you don't. But you get the satisfaction of voting your own convictions. And that is important. It's practically the only right you have. Hang on to it.

Irises take their name from Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe seeks funding for Library

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, Inc., is a tax-exempt Organization with a C-3 Status. Its major priority is to work for the improvement of the Socio-Economic conditions of the Tribal members' Community.

According to recent surveys that were conducted by the Administrative Staff in 1979-1980, indicated a strong need for a Library to be established in the community. This need was also determined as a priority by the Tribal Governing Council.

Funds will be used to build the Library for use by all the people living in the area served by the Tribe. It will contain a ready reference of culturally related materials on the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe and other Native Americans. It will also include other direct school resource materials.

The total projective cost of this project is \$43,525.00. During the last year, we have requested funds from various foundations, in state and out of state. As of this date, we have received commitments of \$14,000.00 from

Z. Smith Reynolds, \$500.00 from Burlington Industries, and \$500.00 from the General Tribal Funds. These funds will go toward the construction cost of \$27,825.00. We have a deadline date of December 31, 1982 to raise other funds to supplement already committed funds.

The Tribe was donated (25) acres of land in June 1980 from Continental Forest Industries. If funds are obtained for this proposed Library it will be built on this land. Land Development Plan is available for review at the Tribal Center, which includes proposed Library.

We would greatly appreciate your cognizance of this request for donation primarily for matching construction or other Library related needs. All donations are tax-exempt, receipt will be given upon request.

If you should have further questions regarding this request, please let me know, and if you can not donate today, please let us have your pledge at a later date.

Most Sincerely,
Kathy Harris-Wilson

Socio-Economic Planner

P.O. Box 66
Hollister, N.C. 27844



Lyndon B. Johnson was the first President to be sworn into office on an airplane.

Pharmacist
Howard Brooks
Pembroke Drug Center
Odom and W. 3rd, Pembroke, NC

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"Of course, I'll get it for you, darling... Stand away, while I kick the window in!"



Irises take their name from Iris, the Greek goddess of the rainbow.

Ever Green Church News

by Mrs. Leacie Brooks

The subject for Sunday's lesson was "Keeping the Family Together," taken from the Book of Matthew 19th chapter second through the ninth verses and the Second Chapter of Peter, verses 11 and 12. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Mark 10:9.

The lesson Sunday was about the responsibility of our church and society to keep families together. The strength of the church is determined by the strength of its families. Keeping families together therefore is of utmost importance to both the church and society. We have a problem, however, for in many countries, a growing number of families are breaking up. We must remedy the situation, and the best way to do it is to influence our families to return to the Word of God and God's plan for the family.

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FAMILY

Matthew 19:2-9

One of the main issues in Jesus' times was the grounds for "putting away" one's wife. Among the Jews there were liberal schools of thought on grounds for divorce. The liberals believed a husband could divorce his wife for almost any reason, while the conservatives believed a husband could divorce his wife only if she committed fornication, adultery, or some other act of unfaithfulness to her husband.

The Pharisees tried to reason that if Jesus sided with the liberal attitude toward divorce, He could be accused of not upholding the Jewish morality. Many of them, like many modern men, looked for an easy way to put away their wives so they might secure or get another.

During His ministry, Jesus already had spoken twice on the subject of divorce (See Matthew 5:32 and Luke 16:18). On the occasion of our lesson, Jesus answered the Pharisees by directing their attention to the act of God in creating one man and one woman for each other, and uniting them as husband and wife. Jesus boldly affirmed that divorce never was a part of God's plan for the marriage relationship. In marriage, husband and wife become one, united by God, and no one has authority to separate them. Divorce was invented by man, not God, and is therefore wrong.

With the exception of Mark 10:11 and 12, the Gospel passages about divorce speak of husbands divorcing their wives, not the other way around. This is because there were no provisions in either the civil or religious laws of that time for women to divorce their husbands. However, Jesus taught that men and women have equal rights and obligations in marriage and He condemned divorce for husbands and wives.

When the Pharisees saw Jesus had answered them, the scriptures without taking sides with either school of thought on the issue, they reminded Him of Moses' provisions for divorce. If divorce had not been God's plan, why did Moses grant husbands the authority to give their wives writings of divorcement?

Jesus answered that Moses had not authorized divorce, but had only allowed it. He permitted divorce because of the cruelty of husbands toward wives who, for various reasons of the husbands, had become undesirable; Moses realized that husbands with unwanted wives might abuse or even murder them.

A lot of the problems in schools come from children who are from broken families, or families that are in trouble. An unhappy family life produces unhappy children.

But our marriages and our homes need not fail. If each marriage partner keeps his spiritual life in accord with God's will, problems can be settled without reaching divorce.

Husbands and wives should remember their courting days. They were considerate of each other then, and they must be considerate of each other now. If there were disagreements then, they would try every way possible to get things straight. If should be no different now.

Keeping the family together is the most important job of husbands and wives. It is important for them to realize they must be led by God in each decision they make. If they are in tune with the will of God, and let Him direct them, the family will stay together.

Praise God for that. Sunday's program was put on by the youth class. The teacher is Mrs. Dinna Blue. This class too received the attendance banner.

Those paying their birthday offerings were little Shon Strickland, grandson of Pearl and Jeffery Strickland, Teresa Wilkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Wilkins and Melissa Cummings, daughter of Mr. James and Mrs. Mable Cummings.

The Rev. Joseph Locklear, our pastor, preached from Daniel 2, beginning with verse 31 through 35, using for his text "What is Next?" I've never heard a preacher preach from this before. It was news to me, but very interesting. Praise God for His word. The Bible is a book of books.

Don't forget conference Saturday at 2:30. All male members are asked to attend.

The revival will begin the third Sunday night around 7 o'clock. The moderator and assistant moderator, Rev. Norton from Fayetteville and Rev. Oxendine from McCall will be the speakers. You have a special invitation to come worship with us.

SEE MORE EVER GREEN

CHURCH NEWS ON PAGE 4

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