

Some Observations About Sheriff Hubert Stone's Press Conference

To the Editor:
 Sheriff Hubert Stone holds a press conference and plays a Robeson County Sheriff's Department Communications tape that was made on the night his son Kevin Stone, shot and killed Jimmy Earl Cummings. The only information revealed from playing said tape was that Kevin Stone, son of Sheriff Hubert Stone, was lost only a few miles from where he (Kevin Stone) grew up. Not only was Kevin Stone, son of Sheriff Hubert Stone, confused before he allegedly murdered Jimmy Earl Cummings on November 1, 1986, Kevin Stone could not tell Robeson County Sheriff's Department Communications his location. There was greater confusion when Kevin Stone called for an ambulance. Kevin Stone, son of Sheriff Hubert Stone, gave his location as near Green Grove School but his correct location was near Fairgrove School.

These occurrences make one wonder... Was Kevin Stone, son of Sheriff Hubert Stone, under the influence of alcohol or drugs or both on November 1, 1986, the night he killed Jimmy Earl Cummings in cold blood? His confusion makes one wonder what was "bending" his mind. Knowing his location, road and area is a must if Kevin Stone is to do his job as it should be done. It is reported that on the night of November 1, 1986, the night Kevin Stone, son of Sheriff Hubert Stone, allegedly murdered Jimmy Earl Cummings, three law enforcement officers visited the home of Jimmie Earl Cummings' mother and the three officers were reportedly under the influence of alcohol.

The conflict of interest generated from Kevin Stone and Keith Stone, sons of Sheriff Hubert Stone, in the Robeson County Sheriff's De-

partment is ample reason to remove the Stone family from the Robeson County payroll in my opinion. Hubert Stone is now serving his third four year term as sheriff and the list of unsolved crimes continues to grow at an alarming rate. An undetermined amount of drugs and cash was removed from a locker or lockers in the Sheriff's Department on August 1, 1986. Kevin Stone and Burais Wilkins held keys to this locker or lockers as members of the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Hubert Stone contends the State Bureau of Investigation found his son Kevin Stone was justified in the death of Jimmie Earl Cummings. Sheriff Hubert Stone, your son was confused as to his whereabouts geographically on November 1, 1986. Is it possible, Sheriff Hubert Stone, that your son Kevin Stone was sure Dad would handle things the way the missing drugs and cash was handled on August 1, 1986? There is an old axiom that fathers strive to bring up their sons in the way they would have them go.

My greatest concern is that it took 45 days to produce a tape which says nothing. Sheriff Hubert Stone reports the events which took place on November 1, 1986 were routine. If it took 45 days to come up with a routine procedure, no wonder we have unsolved murder cases in the teens. If this is routine, then we can expect more citizens to be murdered on the roads of Robeson County. If the events that happened on November 1, 1986 were routine, why did it take 45 days to put a tape together verifying this? Traumatic death is not routine under any circumstances. Never has been and never will be.

JOHN L. GODWIN
 Pembroke, NC

Reader Supports Special School Tax

Dear Editor:

For the past several months and years, I have been reading and hearing about merger of school systems in Robeson County. I do not understand how it will help the county schools. I have talked to lots of people in favor of merger, but I have not been convinced that it will help. Several years ago I talked to several leaders in the County about a Special Tax for the county schools. If money is the reason for merger, the tax would eliminate that need. I read in the December 14th issue of the Robesonian that Mr. Bill Oxendine and the Board of Education are in favor of a Special School Tax. I support Mr. Oxendine and the Board in that decision. I know people sometimes frown on tax, but sometimes it is the only answer.

The city school systems have a special tax and what will happen if they merge? I don't believe the people in the city systems will agree to pay tax without the county system doing the same. So why pull one system down to try to help the other. I do not believe the city schools turn out any better educated children than the county schools. Look at Mr. Cedric Woods, a senior at West Robeson Senior High. He is one of the top students in North Carolina. I could name lots of doctors and lawyers who are products of the county school system. So what is the problem? Anything you mention can use more money. The church could use more money but unless the money is used right it will not do any good. One problem is we are paying too many teachers that should be in another profession. I do not know how to weed them out but someone should be able to. I realize it is hard to get all of them out but the school system should try a little harder. We have people in all professions that would be better at something else for example, some law enforcement, doctors, lawyers, preachers and teachers.

I am a tax payer in the county system and do not have any children in school. I am retired and living on a fixed income but I believe in education at the highest level possible. Therefore, I say put a Special School Tax to a vote and let the people decide if they want it. I don't believe all people were put in this world for the same thing. If you spend ten thousand dollars on each child you will still have lots of them not interested enough in education to really try to obtain it. Some of the most prosperous people in the world do not have a high school diploma. However, the opportunity should be available for everyone who wants it and young people should be encouraged to take advantage of it.

Getting back to the school tax, I was talking to a man a few days ago who lives approximately six miles out of Red Springs and he said he was paying a special school tax for the Red Springs School System.

Therefore, if we in the county school system feel we are down, why not pull ourselves up instead of pulling other systems down. If you're trying to balance scales, you have to take from one side or add to the other.

Vernon Oxendine
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 Pembroke, NC 28372

A Thank You Note To H.B. & Madgie Locklear

This is an open letter to H.B. and Madgie Locklear. I have been wondering what to say. Yes, I could say thank you and merry Christmas and just stop there. But that seems so inappropriate for what you have done for me. Your kindness causes my mind to travel at this time of year to Joseph and Mary. I am not going to attempt to compare you to these two people who were blessed with the anointing of Jesus physical birth. I am reminded a new of commitments to help each other.

What H.B. and Mary Locklear did for me will remain private, but they know and the Good Lord knows and I am most grateful. It has matured me into giving God more praise. And as for the six people, namely the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, H.B. Madgie and the whole world. I am only doing what is pleasing to God. That's giving honor where it is due. Jesus

did. (Remember Caesar). I am using this as an example, the story of Joseph and Mary's flight. Their flight helped me to say thank you at this time of year when lots of people are celebrating the birth of Jesus. I remember that He was born in a stable because there was no room for Him in the Inn. His birth was God's blessing to the whole world. We should thank Him more and give Him the glory for sending His Son Jesus for the whole world.

As the years have passed, I have often listened to H.B. and Sister Madgie Locklear testify in church and thank God for all His blessing. Little did I know that they were so genuinely concerned about people with a genuine need. They showed such compassion. The real kind that Jesus spoke of in I John 3:17, "But whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him." Do you think there was any compassion showed to Joseph and Mary? Madgie, H.B., Herald, Eddie, Ronnie, Tony, Susie, Diann, Margaret, Joyce, Wanda, Angie Locklear, isn't God good to give us so many blessings? Undeserving, that is what we are. I have listened to Mona Gail (Locklear) Hunt sing that in church so many

Sheriff, Coroner and D.A. Reader Encourages Resignation of

Dear Editor:

I have just had the chance to read your article and editorial of November 20th regarding the employment of relatives by your sheriff and your demand for the resignation of the Sheriff and the District Attorney and the firing of the sheriff's two sons.

I am gratified that you had the courage to take such a strong and outspoken stand publicly and I hope that you will continue to press the matter until such action is taken.

The position of sheriff in our country, in my opinion, is extremely outdated and overdue for elimination. It has continued to be a patronage position and sheriffs are elected by the local population and are therefore only interested in helping, and pleasing those who have helped elect them to office. Often they are not really qualified for the position, which should be based on police training and ability, along with a good working knowledge of law.

I have lately begun advocating the retirement of the position of sheriff with their replacement by an expanded U.S. Marshall's office so that all the people will be represented, and properly protected, instead of just the politically chosen few. I have taken this position after watching at least three different sheriffs from three different counties, two in Florida and one in California, deliberately violate their office by ignoring established Supreme Court law in the decisions of *Cherokees Vs. State of Georgia (1831)* and *Worshester vs. State of Georgia (1832)* in which the court ruled reservation Indians were Independent Nations, and as such

were not subject to the state but were Wards of the Federal Government, not by law but by treaty, and yet the Sheriff of Broward County, Florida pursued the local Seminole nation through the courts to try and close down, first their cigarette sales on the reservation, and then their Bingo hall (he lost both cases in Federal Court). The sheriff over at Ft. Myers, Florida took the Chief of the Seminoles to jail for shooting an endangered species (a panther) on the reservation. (He lost that case in Federal Court). And the sheriff of San Diego County, California raided a local Indian reservation by actually going on the reservation without permission and tried to close down their bingo hall by making several arrests for which he was taken to court and was beaten, again in Federal Court. In each case the sheriff knew the law, but ignored it and in each case the state court backed up the sheriff and found the Indians guilty and in each case the Federal Courts had to in the Supreme Court cases to release the Indians and reprimand the sheriffs. This proves to me that it is time to replace the system of a sheriff, politically elected, by well trained police personnel and it would appear that the U.S. Marshall's office is the best qualified for such a responsibility.

Maybe your paper and some of the other Native American papers would like to join me in my battle.

Sincerely,
 James Younge, Jr.
 P.O. Box 427
 Ft. White, Florida 32038

CHOOSING THE RIGHT NAME

To the Editor:

I have this friend who adopted a burro. The burro had been used to carry tourists up and down the Grand Canyon. Once her services were no longer needed (too many miles on the old odometer I suppose), she was placed for adoption. Don't ask me how it works, I just know this guy adopted a burro. The animal is sure-footed and stubborn. What do you name an adopted burro? Once the owner thought of an appropriate name, he was pleased. He named the burro Sara after his ex-wife. His present wife doesn't think that's very kind, but he's warned her "if you're not careful, I'll have to get another burro and pick another name. You'll like that name even less."

I work with a lady who has a soft spot for cats. She and her family seem to attract stray cats. They picked up another one in a rainstorm the other night. "It was just sitting there in the middle of the highway where no homes were close and it was crying so we took it home. It's so tiny and so cute." Cats say they can't talk, but word gets around among cats and this family has quite a household of the furry little rascals. They spend enough on cat food to send a kid to an Ivy League college. But aside from the cost, I wonder how they come up with names for all the cats.

If you don't have a burro who reminds you of your ex-wife, picking names for pets can be a problem.

Rex, for example, is a popular name for dogs, but I'd never name a dog Rex because two of the finest men I ever knew were named Rex. It just wouldn't be right. When I was a boy we had a dog named Clem, but we didn't know any Clems at that time so no disrespect was intended. If I had to name a puppy today, I'd probably name the puppy after a Yuppie. A Yuppie, as you know, is a (affluent) young, urban professional person. I would borrow one of their names, but would it be nice?

We had a kitten we named Ben. When we discovered the kitten was a girl, it was too late to change her name. If I had to name a kitten today, I'd probably give it a good Preppy name. A Preppy is a student enrolled in an exclusive private school preparing for college. Favorite preppy names are Muffie, Pudge, Tad and Biff. Again, I would use one of those names, but would it be nice?

The trouble with giving people's names to pets is it's either an insult to the person the pet is named after, or people work too hard to give their pets "cute" names like Kojak or Kissinger or Princess Di. It's sickening. It's people like that who buy expensive lots in pet cemeteries.

There is a better way to name pets. Name the pet for what it is or where it's come from. For example, I've heard of a dog named Wind because he loved to be in the wind. Another was named Blessing because the owners felt blessed by her. The trouble with that system is that too many dogs would end up with names like Fire Hydrant or Pain. Or if you bought a race horse that was so slow he had to be pulled, he would probably get a cruel name like Tug-of-War.

That's why the very best way to name a pet is to name it where it's come from. I know some folks who name their dog Norway, because he came from Norway or is some Norwegian breed, I'm not sure which. So if you get a dog from a guy named Butch in Brooklyn, don't name the dog Butch, name it

Brooklyn. That way the burro could be called Grand Canyon and each new stray cat would have a name like Highway 57, Back Alley, Short Cut, Garbage Can or wherever you happened to find it.

But don't bring home a Yuppie or a Preppy. They have homes of their own, they already have names and they're much too spoiled to make good pets.

Following the above line of thinking, in selecting an appropriate name for our institution of higher education in Pembroke, undoubtedly it should today be known as Lumber State University. But historically, Indians have allowed the Great White Fathers and the Divine Appointees to think and decide for Indians what is more fit in their scheme to "keep the pigs at the trough" and to keep the blind stumbling along.

In recent months, there has been a massive campaign to change the name of Pembroke State University to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Most often, the perpetrators of this argument stated that people did not recognize or associate Pembroke State University with the UNC system. Why should people associate Pembroke State University with anything other than an institution for educating poor Indians, blacks and whites in southeastern North Carolina who have listened to the Rubberstamps and Shoulder-Rubbers who sold us out? There are historical Black and White institutions, but these same leaders offered the only historical Indian institution to the altar and did in fact, absolve any institutional commitment to either Indians or higher education in southeastern North Carolina except Fayetteville State University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. With emphasis only on Blacks and whites as set forth in the Desegregation Plan for Higher Education in North Carolina, the University system has negated any responsibility to Pembroke State University in either resources, enhancement or strengthening of the institution because it has the highest percentage of minorities- Black and Indian- of any state supported institution. Yet, Indians are not considered minorities by the UNC system. When we sold our identity and our historical birthright as an Indian institution to become a "white" institution, we sold ourselves right out of existence. Therefore, UNC at Pembroke would upgrade the diplomas of graduates, mostly white, and it would be to their advantage, but first as the designation as white institution has ripped off Indians, it would have no advantage to Indians because Indians are still Indians, and either Pembroke State University or UNC at Pembroke would remain the same because "a rose by any name is still a rose" and Indians remain victims of the historical discrimination and racist ideology which granted them separate education with the establishment of the Indian Normal School in 1887. What is worse is that Indians continue to allow others to decide what is best for them. Until 1960, all Indians in North Carolina knew where Pembroke State College was, and we still do, and it's time to reclaim our identity and our legal and historical right for education of Indians. It took Indians 80 years to access East Carolina, UNC Chapel Hill, N.C. State University and the others, but it took non-Indians only a short while to learn where Pembroke State College (University) was located when it met their purposes.

Tommie Dial



Christmas Spirit

Christmas seems to sneak up on me a little more each year. The weather this week reminds me of April or October in southern Montana where I grew up. After 33 years in the "Tar Heel State" it is still hard for me to realize that December is here-when we have not so much as had one down-to-zero night or seen one tiny snowflake!

We did not all dream of a white Christmas when I lived in the "Treasure State." But we knew that our spot on this earth would be wrapped in a white snow blanket several times before December 25 rolled around.

Of course wintery weather and the hustle and bustle of shopping, cleaning, cooking are not what Christmas is really all about. Our Single Adult Fellowship is celebrating in the true Christmas spirit. Under Mrs. Grace Locklear's capable leadership we are preparing to present a play, "Come and Behold Him," to nursing home residents next week. With Christmas carols and simple drama, we will be sharing once again that beautiful old-yet ever new-story of how Christ the Saviour came to this world.



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Additional factors, of course, enter in. But the point is clear. Substance abuse starts with innocent but thoughtless encouragement. As a result, substance abuse has become America's very real problem.

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