

WHAT NEXT???

The Lumberton/ Robeson County Chamber of Commerce recently stated they are taking steps to "educate" residents on the proposed merger of county schools. With the merger referendum scheduled for March 8th and the L/RCCC forum set for February 29th, one wonders if this is really education or cleverly disguised propaganda! This very timing of this so-called forum makes it very suspect.

We all know the executive director of the Lumberton/ Robeson County Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Gilbert Carroll. Somehow since we also know he is adamantly opposed to the merger, his words that "we (the chamber) will not say we are for it or against it" ring hollow, in our opinion.

If the chamber truly wished to "educate" the residents, why did they not begin shortly after the General Assembly passed the bill. They could have sponsored several forums. Then everyone in the county would have had the opportunity to hear their "fair" (I believe Bo Biggs defined fair for us) forum and would have had ample opportunity to respond and debate the issue not only on the editorial pages of our newspapers but also at later forums.

Attend this meeting if you wish, but remember that Mr. Rod Bullard, the chamber board's president, said questions will not be taken from the floor. Education in this instance is what they tell you. Don't ask questions; that would be bad for the community!


Gilbert Carroll, executive director of the L/RCCC says the chamber is not for or against merger of the 5 school systems in our county. Is the chamber saying the future of the 6 year old is none of their concern for equal and better education now or later? Is this so called forum the standard procedure of setting guide lines and dictating policy to the tax paying residents of our county? Why was this resident training delayed until 7 days prior to the referendum vote on the merger issue? Perhaps brainwash is a more appropriate description of this proposed get together. Forum is any public place or medium for public discussion. Board president Rod Bullard of L/RCCC said questions from the floor will not be allowed. This is typical dictatorial practice and procedure in our county. Emotion and shouting is not the reason for refusing questions from the residents they hope to be present at this brainwash session. Perhaps the presenters feel they will be unable to give acceptable answers to the questions from the floor on this most important issue.

This training session is to present advantages and disadvantages of merging the 5 school systems in our county. Merger of the 5 school systems will bring equal and better education for each 6 year old in our county. This fact alone is reason to vote yes to merger of the 5 school systems in our county. Present conditions and quality education is the greatest form of immoral disadvantage to the 6 year old in our county. The citizens of L/RCCC who do not stand for anything pertaining to education will agree with the county commissioners when they (commissioners) say there is no money to pay for merger.

This is the year to leap forward and remove elected officials who hire relatives and friends rather than hire qualified persons to serve tax paying residents of our county.

Hubert Stone, sheriff of our county, recently told a writer from New York City that our county has not had an unsolved murder in two years. The sheriff did not tell this writer from New York City that the Coroner, district attorney and the sheriff have a policy by which a Coroner's inquest is staged and the killers are declared innocent by accidental death and or self defense.

WHAT NEXT???



WORDS OF HOPE

By Charles W. Godfrey,
Pastor

Pembroke Seventh Day
Adventist Church

One of the greatest scandals of Christianity is the fact that most Christians suffer from a vision so stunted that they shame the purposes of God. Perhaps this is why the world's conception of a saint is of a man who goes about with downcast eyes and an apologetic air of intruding on the business of men.

Why is this? It is a perversion of everything that the Christians of the early church knew. Persecution they shrugged off. Discouragement they knew not. Failure was unthinkable. If ever a man knew trouble, it was the Apostle Paul. Five times beaten to the point of death, thrice shipwrecked, suffering from exposure and starvation, deprived of sleep and knowing no place where he might rest in safety, he dismisses all this as "this slight momentary affliction." (2 Corinthians 4:17, RSV.)

What a man! No, that is wrong. What a Christian! The secret lay, not in his virile manhood, but in the viewpoint from which he saw life. We, who often adopt the perspective of moles, we see only mountains of difficulties. Paul, who had the vision of heaven, saw only molehills.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he exults gloriously in this vision. (The following extracts are taken from Phillip's Letter to Young Churches.)

"Here is the staggering thing--that in all which will one day belong to Him we have been promised a share." (Ephesians 1:11.)

"How tremendous is the power available to us." (Ephesians 1:19.) "For the church is His body and in that body dwells fully the One who fills the whole wide universe." (Ephesians 1:23.)

With such a vision, how could a man walk but with head erect, with eyes aglow and with the swinging stride of a pioneer who sees, not the ruts in the road, but the towers of his visionary future. Paul well knew "that inner illumination of the Spirit which will make you realize how great is the hope to which He is calling you." (Ephesians 1:18.) Suffering saint he was, but one never heard him whining about it. The last thing he ever thought of was apology. He was sorry, not for himself, but for those who fondly imagined they controlled his destiny.

We read in Acts 26 of when he was brought in chains or an interview with the two haughty kings, Festus and Agrippa. Hide those manacles on his wrists! Never! Instead he almost flaunts them as symbols of his inner freedom. The dynamic scorn with which he dismisses his shackles, "Except for these chains" (Acts 28:29, RSV), could not fail to

EDITORIAL EXPRESSION

PSU ADMINISTRATORS CHOSE TO "SWIM WITH THE CURRENT"

"IN MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE STAND LIKE A ROCK: IN MATTERS OF TASTE, SWIM WITH THE CURRENT."

...Thomas Jefferson

Several days ago it was reported that the Pembroke State University Board of Trustees decided to "develop a systematic strategy" to change the name of PSU. In making this decision we believe the current administration has chosen to "swim with the current." This name change idea for the administration is a matter of taste because it is obvious the facts do not support the need for such a change. Either they just like the sound of UNC-P more or perhaps they think Pembroke State University sounds too Indian! Could this be the "mindset" Mr. Wayne Evans' committee wishes to address?

When the name change idea was proposed over two years ago, the PSU administration and trustees underestimated the opposition. Apparently it was felt the name of our university was insignificant and could be changed upon a whim and obviously they decided to do this. Without concern for the community or heritage of the university, without evaluating whether a real need existed for changing the name of the university, the current administration and trustees were surprised by the response to their idea! Since that time, both have consistently been off balance and have yet to demonstrate or articulate any valid reason for changing the name of Pembroke State University.

We find it very ironic that Mr. Wayne Evans' community relations committee now suggests the need to explore the possible impact to the community of changing the name of PSU. Considerable damage has already occurred but this community contact would seem to be a significant first step; but this is not to be! Mr. Dennis Lowery, current chairman of the Board of Trustees, has asked the community relations committee to develop "methods and ways to counteract" opposition. Given this, it should be fairly obvious that the trustees or administration has no intention of re-evaluating their name change proposal. They are as committed to it now as when first proposed. In maintaining this position they disregard the need to educate the community as to the pressing necessity for a name change; they disregard the events, the growth, and progress of PSU during the past two years; they disregard community feelings, thoughts and seek only to perpetuate this sad, unjustified, and very obviously unneeded and outdated idea.

We can not see how the administration and trustees hope to force this idea on us now! They have no facts to support their case; their reasoning is without merit, and their high-handed manner has succeeded in isolating many individuals. Since proposed, one individual who had opposed the name change has now changed his mind. Perhaps in two more years the administration will have another such "success."

There is no justifiable need or reason to change the name of Pembroke State University, and so opposition is a matter of principle. Consequently, we ask everyone to heed Thomas Jefferson's advice.

'TIS WISE TO ADVERTISE

REFLECTIONS

by Alta Nye Oxendine

I'm writing this on Tuesday, nearly two weeks since the snow started falling on Thursday morning. Now--after the rain--it's almost gone. Just a few scattered patches here and there.

And I'm sad!

How can such a thing be? After all those years of pulling on heavy overshoes, wearing long johns under, or ski pants over my stockings, trudging unhappily through snowdrifts, rubbing my hands together to keep the circulation going, wearing a square wool scarf on my head and a narrower neck scarf across my nose (tied together at the back of my head), waiting impatiently for spring and the first glimpse of bare ground.

I always loved the first pretty snowfall but hated the succession of storms which followed, from November on to March.

Who would ever have thought that I could become nostalgic about snow!

But I am, it seems. Like my wood-burning heater, the snow these last two weeks has given me a kind of security going back to my childhood days.

Of course, I'm glad our weather here was not as severe as the winter welcome I got my first year on the Blackfeet Reservation (which borders Canada on the north, Glacier Park on the west). I was a church worker living with the minister's family across the street from the Browning Methodist Church. Christmas Day, 1949, came on Sunday. I was to be at the church when the Sunday School attendants arrived. But there was a problem. We could not see the church because of a blinding blizzard which came up overnight. The pastor walked with me halfway across the street, until we could see the outline of the church, and then let me go on by myself. (In a blizzard people often lose their way and freeze to death.)

Nine people walked to church that day, some from the other side of town!

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THE READER'S FORUM

An Open Letter To Mr. Bob Horne

Dear Editor:
Enclosed is a letter addressed to Mr. Bob Horne, Editor of the Robesonian. I would ask that this be published as an open letter in your section of "Letters to the Editor."

Thank You
Eddie Hatcher

Dear Mr. Horne:

I shall not address this letter nor direct it to the "Public Forum" section of the Robesonian whereby this would only grant you the opportunity of having the last word in one of those biased, bold-printed, brown nosing "Editor's Note." Ordinarily, I would welcome a rebuttal but with the unfair reputation held by your's and "whoever else's" paper, I decline this masochistic venture.

With the recent announcements of candidates for the Superior Court Judgeship, it would take either an imbecile or lover of corruption not to see the prejudicial and one sided articles which covered these announcements.

"And he's out of the chute!" "Happy days are here again." My, my, my all the hoopla! When the Robesonian printed the Joe Freeman Britt announcement as candidate for judge, one would have thought it was the second coming. I mean a large front page picture of King Joe, etc. I must add here, should he in fact somehow be elected, I'll guarantee you we'll wish it was the second coming, pronto...

Continuing, when Mr. Julian Pierce announced as candidate for Superior Court Judge, where was his front page picture, or second page, or tenth page picture. There was no picture was there Bob? Did King Joe forbid you, Mr. Horne, to print a picture of his opposition? I guess it's obvious whose hand washes the other in Lumberton.

No, Mr. Horne, we don't expect much out of the Robesonian because just as Joe Britt's past record shows prejudicial discrimination, the Robesonian has a record of its own, to be proud of only by those it represents. The Joe Freeman Britt's of Robeson County!

I am sure, before this election is over, we shall see a much worse display of unprofessional, irresponsible back-scratching by the Robesonian; however, please don't underestimate the Indians and Blacks of Robeson County. Naivete makes for a hard ramp when beaten by a trump card, especially an Ace!

With Best Regards, I am
EDDIE HATCHER
Pembroke, NC

P.S. Don't say you didn't have a picture of Mr. Pierce, that won't cut the mustard.

Bo Biggs Gives Away Unspoken Rule

That Governs Our County

To the Editor:
"...That might not be fair, but I haven't seen much that was fair to anything (sic) in a long time."

Bo Biggs, Chairman of the Robeson County Board of Elections With the above statement Mr. Biggs attempts to justify his support of Mr. Ray Revels as elections supervisor over the more qualified Ms. Pearlean Revels. Apparently since others have not been fair, Mr. Biggs sees little need to break tradition.

It is exactly this attitude that perpetuates the many problems we have in Robeson County. Fairness is no longer a consideration when making decisions. Given this "philosophy," should we not expect honesty, justice, and truth to suffer similar fates? Have we adopted the philosophy that the ends justify the means?

Perhaps I am unfairly singling out Mr. Biggs since we all know many subscribe to his stated position. Either Mr. Biggs was brave enough to speak the truth or foolish enough to give away the, until now, "unspoken rule" that governs our county. While I understand some lack the courage to be fair and do what is in the best interests of the citizens of our county, I can not understand why one would relish this lack of courage by making the statement quoted above!

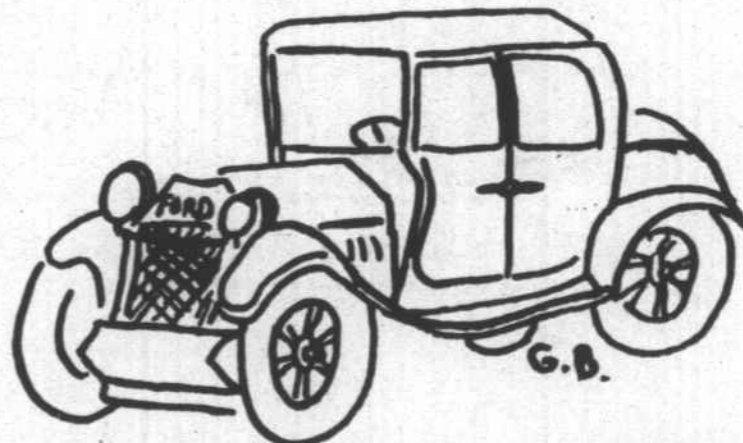
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