

WHAT NEXT???

Can you believe it? Dr. Thomas Paquin, superintendent of St. Pauls schools has decided to run for the office of state superintendent of public instruction.

Dr. Paquin strongly opposes the merger of the schools of Robeson County. Given this view, even when a majority of children suffer from an unequal education, can you envision education in North Carolina under this man's leadership and philosophy?

We've just learned, while writing this we have made a terrible mistake. Apparently, Dr. Paquin is the comic relief in the campaign for state superintendent. He merely wished to inject some humor in an otherwise very serious campaign. Our apology and thanks to go Dr. Paquin. We thought he was serious!

At the recent forum held at Pembroke Jr. High we could not help but notice the failure of many of our elected officials to attend. Several were there and they faced serious questioning. Just once we would like to hear where John (Pete) Hasty stands on the issues. Where does he stand on the question of school merger? Where does he stand on the location of a hazardous waste facility in Robeson County? Why did he vote against the bill to create a holiday for Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.?

Several times in the past he has been asked these and other questions but he has failed to answer. Does Rep. Hasty represent us? If he does, perhaps he should address some of the issues facing the county. We would have enjoyed his presence at the forum held this past Saturday. The area around Pembroke also is in Robeson County. In his last campaign his slogan was "rePete." To that we now counter with: "voters, do not be too Hasty!" He does not deserve a free ride this time around.

"Government is a trust and the officers of government are trustees; and both the trust and trustees are created for the benefit of the people."

Henry Clay

As voters we have an obligation to reclaim our government every election day. This process begins by educating ourselves. What have our representatives done since they were last elected? Where do they stand on the issues important to you?

Educate yourselves, challenge your representatives, and do not vote carelessly. Remember, actions speak louder than words. Our politicians have had some time to demonstrate their worthiness. It is too late for some now. Do not be taken in by their words; judge their works!

WHAT NEXT???



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"It's better to know nothing than to know what ain't so."

Josh Billings

To the Editor:

You might have read where Dr. Carroll, former superintendent of Lumberton City Schools, called the recent hostage events a "black-eye" on Robeson County. Apparently Dr. Carroll, who is now executive director of the Lumberton/Robeson County Chamber of Commerce, thinks the hostage incident will hurt industrial recruiting in our county.

Shame on you Dr. Carroll! If anything is going to hurt industrial recruitment, if anything is a "black-eye" on Robeson County, our five separate school systems should be at the forefront for such distinction. Quality education for all of the children of Robeson County would help industrial recruitment. After all, what industry wants its workforce to receive an unequal education? What industry wishes to send its executives into an area where education depends on where you decide to live in the county? What industry wishes to locate to an area where five systems compete against each other rather than work as one unit for the betterment of all the children of the county?

Perhaps Dr. Carroll needs to look at the message the L/RCCC is sending out. Does Lumberton come before Robeson County? Is that why Dr. Carroll worked so hard to maintain Lumberton City Schools as a separate system? Does he, as many others, look with pride at the history of education in Robeson County? Has he forgotten "double voting" and the

inequality it perpetuated and damage done to generations of Robesonians? Has he subscribed to the "separate but equal" concept fostered years ago but later dropped as a convoluted scheme to maintain the status quo?

On one hand, Dr. Carroll calls for unity as the best means of insuring future growth in our area. On the other, he did all he could to insure divisiveness by opposing the merger of the schools of Robeson County. Before one attempts to blame an incident that occurred on one day in February of 1988, one needs to look at a long history of events that have damaged Robeson County in countless ways. Dr. Carroll, why don't you point them out for the citizens of Robeson County?

Dr. Carroll, a strong, quality education for all of the children of Robeson County will go a long way in addressing many of the problems in Robeson County. As these problems are addressed and corrected, industrial recruitment will become easier. In my opinion, our current educational system which consists of five separate school units deserves the "black-eye" and you helped give it since you were in a powerful position to forcefully advocate for and guide much needed change.

I hope you will agree, there are more than enough black-eyes to go around and these have hurt all of us in Robeson County in more ways than one can measure.

LILBURN MURRAY
Pembroke, NC

Cub Scouts Continued From Page 1



Shown above are members of Cub Scout Pack 327

Association (TRIA), United Carolina Bank, Quality Oil Company, Crown Point Motors, Freeman Motor Company, Boise Cascade, McLaughlin Plumbing, Representative Daniel Devane, U.S. Congressman Charlie Rose, and the Adolph Coors Company.

The 50th Annual Blue & Gold Banquet will be held February

23rd at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut. All supporters of Scouting in our area are invited to attend. Also invited are all former members of both Cub Scout Pack 327 and Boy Scout Troop 327. Tickets are \$8.00 per person, \$14.00 per couple. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from Pembroke Hardware or Pates Supply Company.

EDITORIAL EXPRESSION

"It's true facts..."

Sheriff Hubert Stone
Feb. 15, 1988

Our Sheriff was responding to questions regarding his letter to a judge in Florida who was considering the sentence of a convicted drug dealer. Sheriff Stone's letter was described by officials in Florida as a favorable recommendation for the drug dealer.

Is it not curious that our Sheriff's Department can periodically, especially around election time or when the department receives bad publicity, arrest twenty to fifty petty small time drug dealers, but this same department cannot seem to arrest what DEA agents have called "a major interstate narcotics distribution organization" operating here in Robeson County? Seems like one should focus on the major dealer to try to cut off the supply to the pushers.

Is it not curious that our Sheriff, Mr. Hubert Stone, was quoted as saying Mr. Johnathan Lowery, "had a reputation for drugs in this county but no record" and yet, this same man received a recommendation from Sheriff Stone? Even more troubling is that it was reported Sheriff Stone wrote the letter on Mr. Lowery's behalf while the judge was considering sentence for Mr. Lowery. Does this mean that Sheriff Stone knew he was writing a letter, not only for someone with a reputation for drugs in Robeson County, but for someone who now stood convicted of drug dealing?

What does Sheriff Stone stand? By Sheriff Stone's actions and those what we must judge him by, are we to assume small time drug pushers are wrong and will be arrested but big time drug dealers, especially those with money, are eligible for a recommendation from the highest law enforcement officer in Robeson County?

"It's true facts." Sheriff Stone does not seem to remember now if he wrote the letter on Mr. Lowery's behalf, but the law enforcement officials in Florida know. Apparently they were shocked! Can you feel sympathy for Sheriff Stone's explanation: "I've never written a letter for anyone that's not true facts (sic). I've never written a letter that I wouldn't write another one (sic) the same way." Perhaps Sheriff Stone can release his letter, written on behalf of Mr. Johnathan Lowery, to the local newspapers and let all of Robeson County read the "true facts."

Many people in Robeson County know of big drug dealers who masquerade as law abiding, upstanding citizens, yet there is no evidence to give to law enforcement officers. Often times, only leads can be given to law enforcement officers and these leads are based on trust. Given Sheriff Stone's actions, now even these leads might dry up since one does not know if they can trust the chief law enforcement officer in the county.

In the past few days the Sheriff's Department announced the establishment of a "hot line" for citizens to report suspected drug activity in the county to the department. Given the Sheriff's actions, can we now assume we will have a "hot line" for letters of recommendation?

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