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PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

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Robeson County, N.C. Library... 805-536

LREMC MEMBERSHIP DEFEATS TWO INCUMBENTS



RONALD HAMMONDS

Former Board Chairman Ward Clark, Jr. was ousted as a director at the 48th annual membership meeting of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation.

Following the voting, Gus Bullard was re-elected as chairman and Timothy Strickland was elected secretary.

During the business meeting the membership voted to bind the board to a list of cost-cutting measures.



JAMES H. DIAL

finance committee to track the board's expenses; a limit on out of town travel; and the elimination of medical insurance on former board members.

District 1 includes the townships of Maxton, Alfordsville, Thompson, Union and Rowland. James H. Dial received 731 votes and Ward Clark, Jr. received 572.

In the at-large district Lacy L. Cummings received 537 votes. Clifton Sampson, Jr. received 429. Etta B. Jones received 153. Stephen Strickland received 83. Barbara C. Goins received 54. And Carl D. Stephens received 47.

District 6 includes all of Hoke County east of N.C. 211. In that district John G. Elebee received 507 votes. Johnny H. Boyles received 436. Incumbent Alton V. Dudley received 235. And Renate Dahlin received 125.

District 5 includes Lumber Bridge, Parkton, St. Pauls, East and West Howellsville and Saddletree. Incumbent Ronald Hammonds received 698 votes and James H. Hammonds received 605.



LACY L. CUMMINGS

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THE OPTIMISTIC CYNICS BY KAREN CORONADO & WM. RICHARD MATHIS

THE TRIAL OF HATCHER AND JACOBS: THE GOVERNMENT LOSES

Eddie Hatcher rises from the defense table where he has been sitting alone, and somewhat awkwardly picks-up a handful of papers and a cup of water.

"I've never done this before," he sheepishly mutters on his way to deliver his closing argument to the jury which will be deciding his destiny.

In short, unrushed steps, he approaches the lectern in front of the jury, only briefly stopping to place the cup of water on the prosecution table. As he places the cup, he appears neither anxious nor arrogant standing directly before the man who has earlier tried to convince the jury of his guilt.

Although some people have come to believe Hatcher to be somewhat of a grandstander, he approaches the jury almost meekly yet without timidity.

Dressed in a leather vest and Indian breechcloth with an eagle feather in the back of his shoulder length hair, Hatcher is as solemn as the hardwood panels of the courtroom and the black robe of the Judge.

Softly and calmly, he tells the jury that he would like to present a closing argument written by William Kunstler, the counselor of his choice.

Hatcher reads that Kunstler wrote the argument in a place several hours away from Raleigh and that Kunstler finds it difficult to write a closing argument for a jury he has never seen or spoken to.

Kunstler says that he had been engaged in a trial in New York since April which has forced his client, Hatcher, to have to sit alone at the defense table.

Kunstler has been able to only make a limited contribution from afar, Hatcher reads, but he is going to try to create a closing argument for Hatcher even though he knows it can't be the type of summation Kunstler could have given if he had been present for the trial.

Yet Kunstler has written a thorough closing argument which reiterates many of the themes presented by Jacobs' defense team during its closing argument.

Kunstler also writes that Hatcher had never before used violence or a gun but that he had been a caring and concerned person who had attended to aged grandmothers.

Hatcher finishes the prepared statement and looks-up at the jury: "I never denied doing it (the takeover of the Robesonian). I never pointed my gun and never told people I wanted to hurt them... There's not any evidence to show I had a bad, malicious intent... I was trying to save my life under exceptional circumstances: conditions of discrimination, injustice, corruption, violence, fear."

He mentions that the prosecutor said earlier in his closing argument that the constitution allowed for peaceful protest. Sounding tearful, Hatcher asks the jury, "When you go to those sworn to uphold the constitution and they won't do anything, what do you do?"

The tears begin in the courtroom among the spectators. At the defense table of Jacobs, the lawyers of the Christ Institute seem to hang on every word, the emotion building. Timmy Jacobs is sitting straight, serious, listening to the words of his friend.

Hatcher says the Reverend Jesse Jackson has talked about the people who have been abandoned by the law. "Can you imagine 60,000 frightened, hurt, rejected, abandoned people crying out?" He is on the verge of tears and at least one juror, a Black woman, also looks ready to weep.

"From 150 miles away, they're crying out. Some are faint, they're tired, they're wore out. Please don't abandon me and Timmy."

He softly says thank you, with his head partially lowered and turns away, to walk back to his solitary seat. The one Black juror turns her head slightly to her left and the matronly White woman next to her responds by turning towards her until their eyes meet and they break into slight smiles, briefly touch hands, and nod in unison.

The prosecutor seems to realize the impact Hatcher has just had on the jury. In his rebuttal to the closing arguments of the defense, he implores them not to base their verdict on sympathy. But it is too late: the jury suddenly looks cold and impersonal, and they shift in their seats farther away from the prosecutor.

Even the Judge, who had been sitting up attentively during Hatcher's final moments, reclines in his leather chair until all you can see of him is his head. As he yawns, you get the sense he is tired and bored of the entire mess and wants to wash his hands of it as expeditiously as possible.

And the following day, October 14, 1988, the judge and jury washed their hands of the affair when the jury acquitted Hatcher and Jacobs of all charges.

From the quiet decorum of the courtroom, the not guilty verdict unleashed a torrent of emotions. Inside the courtroom, there was crying and rejoicing mingled with exclamations of thanks to the Almighty. Outside the courtroom the verdict surprised and shocked Robeson County like the killer tornado which hit in '84.

In Lumberton, the staff of the Robesonian expressed outrage and bitterness. They had experienced terror and strongly denounced the verdict which freed those who had held them hostage with sawed-off shotguns on Feb. 1. Where is justice, they cried, for us to experience sheer

terror and for Hatcher and Jacobs to go free, not even convicted for sawing-off a shotgun?

In Pembroke, the mood was different. While many people were relieved at the verdict and thought it fair, there was a sadness that the trial had not produced the evidence of rampant corruption which had been hoped.

Some people in Pembroke were outraged by the verdict and thought Hatcher and Jacobs should have at least done time for the sawed-off shotguns. "There's the evidence, right there on t.v.," the fellow said Friday night, "they're right there on t.v. with sawed-off shotguns. How could the jury possibly not convict them?"

Some news analyses and editorials have argued that it was sympathy in part because Hatcher's attorney was absent. One has argued it is because of a "Rambo" mentality in our society which tolerates and even encourages the taking-of-the-law-in-your-own-hands.

The jury decided that there had been no criminal intent by Hatcher and Jacobs in taking-over the Robesonian. If there was no criminal intent, what kind of intent could there have been? The desire to gain publicity by violent means? No, the jury reasoned otherwise.

Even though the Judge had not allowed the Necessity of Defense argument to be used by defense lawyers, the jury believed Hatcher and Jacobs had experienced a terror greater than that experienced by the staff of the Robesonian.

The defense presented three witnesses who testified they had seen Deputy Sheriff Kevin Stone circling Hatcher's apartment. There was testimony that Sheriff Stone had a warrant for Hatcher's arrest and that Hatcher feared for his safety in the Robeson County jail.

Hatcher testified that he feared for the safety of John David Hunt, a former SBI informant who was in jail, and had given Hatcher maps and information purporting to link Sheriff Stone with major dope dealers.

Hatcher and Jacobs testified they feared for their lives because of this knowledge. But they also claimed they tried to pass along the information but were unable to find anyone to help them. Hatcher wrote a letter to Stone threatening to reveal the information to the media if Hunt was hurt.

But the government did not call to the stand Sheriff Stone or his son, Kevin. The government did not present any rebuttal witnesses to disprove Hatcher and Jacobs' claims of danger and terror.

If you are a juror and hear testimony that two young men took-over a newspaper out of fear for losing their lives at the hands of an allegedly corrupt and violent Sheriff and then the government does not even present the testimony of the Sheriff to deny the allegations, what would you think? Would you think it was, or why else wouldn't the prosecution bother to deny the claims? Apparently that jury in Raleigh thought so.

And then you might start thinking that's the real reason the government doesn't want to give defense attorneys any information regarding drug trafficking and corruption in Robeson County. You start doubting the government's argument that the information is immaterial because Hatcher and Jacobs can never prove it was necessary to take hostages the staff of the Robesonian.

But the evidence presented by the defense is that no one, at least on the governmental level, has ever really seriously addressed the problems in Robeson County. The Community Relations Services of the U.S. Justice Department had been here for twenty years but what have they done but gather information and shared it with the FBI?

So, the jury concluded, Hatcher and Jacobs did not take-over the Robesonian as a violent protest. Instead, they apparently believed Hatcher and Jacobs acted to save their own lives in the face of a greater terror which had been allowed to flourish as the government floundered.

Unfortunately, the whole story wasn't told about corruption in Robeson County and its relationship to the hypocritical drug policies of the federal government which encourages people to "just say no" to drugs while cutting backroom deals with dictators like Noriega. But did the government really want that story told in a federal courtroom?

Did the government want the public to know it has allowed drugs to enter this country when it was in the interests of "national security"? Did it want the public to know that most drugs end up in minority communities, destroying young brown and black lives while bankers and Contra leaders reap the profits? Did the government want Robeson County to be held up as an example of the rampant corruption produced by the government's policies? Of course not.

So we are left to believe that the government was willing to sacrifice its case against Hatcher and Jacobs in order to prevent sacrificing its knowledge of and its involvement in Robeson County. This, of course, leaves us wondering as we were before Feb. 1: What is the truth in Robeson County and what are we going to do about it.

Indian Solidarity Meetings

Indian Solidarity is an organization being proposed to create a constitutional framework through which Indians can institutionalize decision making.

Approximately three months ago a constitutional committee was formed to write a proposed constitution for the concept. That has been completed and an organizational committee has been elected to hold meetings in each precinct to obtain grassroots review and input into the final development of the constitution.

South Pembroke, North Pembroke, Smiths, Maxton-October 20. Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. South and North Pembroke will meet in the Pembroke Courthouse. Smiths Precinct will meet in the Prospect Day Care Center Community Building.

All Indian persons 18 years or older or persons married to an Indian who is 18 years old or older are encouraged to attend these most important meetings.

BRIEFS

ALUMNI ASSOC. TO MEET The Pembroke Area Chapter of the Pembroke State University Alumni Association will meet on Thursday, October 20, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. in the James B. Chavis University Center at Pembroke State University.

All Alumni are invited to come. HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL Bryan Memorial School will hold its Halloween Carnival on October 28. Chicken and barbecue plates will be sold between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Carnival games will be between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Auction will be at 8 p.m. For more information call 798-8666

THE COACH'S CORNER

WILL THE DODGERS' LUCK HOLD UP?

What's up, comes down and what's down, comes up, that's the difficulty the Dodgers are facing tonight in their third world series game. This phenomenon of regression, a psychological happening comes about when a team has reached such a high plateau that there is no place to go except down.

Ken Johnson

CHURCH NEWS

HOME COMING PLANNED

Prospect United Methodist Church will have its Homecoming Sunday, October 23, 1988. Sunday School service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Robert Mangum is pastor. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

REVIVAL PLANNED

Prospect United Methodist Church will hold its annual fall revival starting Sunday, October 23rd thru October 28th. Services will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday and 7:30 p.m. thereafter. Speakers will be Rev. Robert Mangum, pastor of the church, and Mr. Dell Harris, Liturgist at Prospect UM Church.

Special music nightly. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Say You Read It In The Carolina Indian Voice



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PLATE SALE PLANNED

Cherokee Chapel Methodist Church, Wakulla, NC will hold its annual chicken and barbecue plate sale on Saturday, October 22, beginning at 11 a.m. and lasting until...

Come out and enjoy lunch and dinner as well as the fellowship. Rev. Julian Ransom is pastor.

YARD SALE

A yard sale will be held at Moore's Chain Saw (Prospect community) on Saturday, October 22, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Clothes and other miscellaneous items will be on sale.

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