

WHAT NEXT???

"It doesn't take much time for evil to raise its head, and the sick mind emptying doesn't take much time to fill with madness."

George Seferis

Many point and blame others for the various problems that exist in Robeson County. Rarely do we examine our behavior, beliefs or inaction. Because of the vacuum we create, evil and madness invade our county. Once again we must remind ourselves that citizenship is a daily task--progress can only take place if each of us chooses to make the sacrifice and effort to nurture the positive aspects of our citizens and community.

School officials in Bladen County recently applied for a grant from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. The grant is to assist "at-risk students." The proposal asks for \$135,580. The main problem as we see it, is that 82.6 percent (\$112,000) will be spent for personnel; only 3.7 percent (\$5,000) will be used for educational materials.

In our opinion, too much money is being devoted to salaries for staff and too little is being spent on the "at-risk" students. This proposal calls for an executive director position which will pay \$36,000 per year. The project is called "Project Uplift." We hope the officials at Z. Smith Reynolds take a close look at who is being "uplifted."

President Bush's choice for Secretary of Defense, John Tower, is still facing a tough battle in his bid for Senate confirmation. Tower really wants the job--in fact he wants this job so bad he has said he would abstain from alcohol if the Senate would approve him.

John Tower has been questioned about his past consumption of alcohol and fondness of women. All published reports, excluding the FBI report, have been a collection of rumors. Nothing has come to light that documents the charges against Tower. But, in our opinion, by his own action (i.e. swearing to give up alcohol), John Tower has given credibility to the stories floating around him. To give up something that is not a problem would seem to be (1) needless and (2) a hollow effort to generate some much needed support. Unfortunately, Ruskin's words appear to sum up John Tower's recent attempt to gain support: "The essence of

lying is in deception, not in words."

The Commissioners of Robeson County met with our legislative delegation to seek support for a two cent county tax increase. This proposal would distribute the burden across the board rather than hit property owners only.

Robeson County will need additional revenue. With the passage of school merger, the new county jail, and additional projects, our county must generate additional revenue to fund these activities. Commissioner Sammy Cox stated: "It's going to be the worst budget to have to balance...of course, the people have brought it one themselves..."

Thanks, Mr. Cox! Perhaps you would rather for our children's future to be mortgaged to an unequal education by continuing a five-school system. Perhaps you prefer the government to take over our jails or perhaps you would just like to pay the lawsuits that will result if we do not do something about our current jail. Mr. Cox, did the citizens of Robeson County really have a choice in merging our schools and in pushing for improvements in our jail system? We think not!

The cost of the projects is a result of small-minded, nearsighted thinking. As a result we believe officials, who would rather be elected than make tough decisions which would help Robeson County move into the future, are crippling progress.

Mr. Cox, the burden of the taxpayer will bear can be directly traced to you and previous cohorts. Because of your inaction, we are now forced to pay a high price. But, Robeson County citizens will pay and our county will be better for it. It is a shame you escaped the consequences of your inaction and failed leadership! Perhaps on election day, you will reap your just reward!

Have you noticed the big promotional about Sears and the closing of their stores so they can reduce prices, some by as much as 50 percent, so the ads say? We fail to understand why we should be so thrilled by Sears action. Are they now saying they have been charging us too much for all that merchandise, but now that they have some serious competition, they will give us a break and lower prices? Thanks Sears--but no thanks!

THE COACH'S CORNER

BY KEN JOHNSON

The Objectives of Education

The seven cardinal principles of education set off the main goals of education and as long as the so-called new Basic Education program ignores putting physical education in its prescribed program, it is not doing what the taxpayers trust the educators to do. Physical education is a part of the first cardinal principle and that is: 1. Health--There is no health without strenuous physical activity. 2. Ethical Character--People need to learn to be honest and this honesty they get from learning to obey the rules of all of the games. When the sophomores, juniors and seniors don't get P.E., they lose this opportunity to develop honesty. 3. Worthy use of leisure time--Gym class sports carry over to their leisure time as all

educational activity supplements a child's life. 4. Worthy home membership--When a child is physically fit the whole family is proud, boy or girl. 5. Command of the fundamental processes of reading, writing and arithmetic--If this isn't rote memory, I'll eat it. The critics of rote memory should take heed. 6. Social efficiency--The only way people are learning to get along is to develop this cardinal principle. 7. Vocational efficiency--All big industries support recreational programs thereby improving workers' morale and efficiency. Citizenship is promoted through the TOTAL PROGRAM. So when the State of North Carolina says Basic Education, why do they leave out the most basic of education and that is physical education. Where is Pete Hastay, Charlie Rose, and the rest of them?

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Dear Editor:

While I am no longer in Robeson County, I still look forward to getting the Carolina Indian Voice each week. So, I feel a real need to keep informed about what is happening in our homeland.

I read the January 5th issue of the paper and I was deeply moved by the front page stories. With feelings of pride, mixed with some pain of memories, I read about Mr. Dexter Brooks becoming the first Indian Superior Court Judge in North Carolina.

I would like to say to Judge Brooks that he has my prayers and best wishes. We charge him to serve well for all mankind to always remember that everyone who comes before his bench is human and not just another number; to not look at the color of the skin; nor the weight of the money; nor be persuaded by pressure from anyone. It is my hope that at no time will our judges lose sight or forget the Supreme Judge before us all. While He is not visible in person, we can still be guided by his perfect counsel. He has left a standard by which one can always be just and fair. He will always be with us. Just remember what He stood for and the message He left. If you remember that and remember the man, Mr. Julian Pierce, you will do just fine and serve a long time.

To the new public defender, Angus Thompson: a lot of eyes will be on you. Some will want you to fail and go back to the way it always was. But is is a new day in Robeson County. Nothing will ever be the same again. A lot of people worked hard for a Public Defender, myself

included. With you, Angus Thompson, comes a renewed hope that people will get the best defense and not a defense which accomodates the system; one that doesn't care and operates for the money. Find the best people to make up the staff that you and the people deserve. You also have my prayers and best wishes.

To the people of Robeson County: I am no longer there. I may like that. And hope it will never be necessary for me to come back. But that is a different story. I would like to say to you who are working for a better place to live: keep the flame alive. There have been many tears and broken hearts and even deaths to get where you are now. We didn't get everything we wanted. But we didn't go away empty handed either. I thank God for letting me be a part of what has taken place there & for my job with "Friend in Court." I thank Him for being able to meet great men and women in my county such as Julian Pierce; John L. Godwin; Joy Johnson; Sidney Locks; Horace Locklear; Connie; Ann and Jen. There have been so many others.

God called me to a new area in November 1988--to South Broadway Baptist Church in Batimlore, Maryland. I may not be in Robeson in person, but my heart will always be there. May God ever bless us all.

And, finally to a good friend, Horace Locklear, hang in there to the end.

Sincerely,  
(Rev.) Jimmy Hunt  
Baltimore, MD

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**TAX TIPS**

**Should Dependent File Separately?**

When a married dependent files a joint return, the parent cannot claim an exemption. The loss of the exemption may cost a parent more than the joint return saves the couple. In such a case, it may be advisable for the couple to file separate returns so that the parent may benefit from the larger tax saving.

If the couple decides to revoke their election to file jointly and then file separately in order to preserve the exemption for a parent, they must do so before the filing date for the return. Once a joint return is filed, the couple may not, after the filing deadline, file separate returns for the same year.

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**'Smokeless', or not?**

The A.M.A. has filed legal petitions, contending that the "smokeless cigarette" is a "new, hazardous" drug that needs testing.  
R.J. Reynolds said that it is making no medical claims for the product. But, since the health hazards contained in cigarette smoke are well known, doesn't the label "smokeless cigarette" make an inherent health claim?  
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