

WHAT NEXT???

The Interim Board of Education for the newly merged school system has taken no action concerning the newly hired six assistant superintendents. Board Chairman Baker muddied the waters when he said the board would take an active role in the future hiring of top school officials. The board does the hiring, the Superintendent only recommends the individuals. So Superintendent Johnson only recommended the individuals for assistant superintendent, the board hired the assistants. Apparently, Johnson is the fall guy for the board's action.

Many had hoped the board would take some corrective action and replace some of the assistant superintendents with equally qualified minorities. Some individuals use the "contract" excuse. Since most of the newly hired assistants have contracts with the various systems, then some excuse the board's action by suggesting the board had no choice. Perhaps these individuals had to be hired because of their contracts, but they did not have to be awarded such high positions. Superintendent Johnson could have used the individuals in other positions and promoted unity by balancing his recommendations for top positions among qualified members of all races.

We can, in no way, excuse Johnson's recommendations. He is new to Robeson County. He obviously is naive as to the dynamics at work in our county. The failure for this mess rests squarely on the shoulders of the members of the Interim Board. This board was appointed and that is part of the problem. As you examine these appointees you can see the compromises and as such, the struggle continues to maintain the status quo. Those in power wish to remain, but a day of reckoning is coming. Election day is not far off even though only four members will be up for election.

Watch the actions of this Interim Board very closely. The struggle is not over!

The Robeson County Board of Education held its last meeting Tuesday night. As of July 1st, the various boards of education will be dissolved and replaced by a single board of education for the entire county.

It is our understanding that the county board of education has existed for 104 years. While that may be true, it was only when Purnell Swett became superintendent that education began to improve for the county students. First double voting had to be defeated, but through hard work, the county system improved.

As a result of Mr. Swett's leadership and to acknowledge his contribution, the Indian Education Parent Committee has created a \$10,000 endowment at Pembroke State University in Purnell Swett's name. Students interested in education and the public schools of Robeson County will be eligible for limited support.

This is a fitting and continuing living memorial for a man who has done so much for all of the children. What else can be said, except thanks again, Purnell Swett!

Nearly everyone is talking about the projected tax increase in Robeson County. The large share of this increase will go to the

schools. We cannot understand why anyone would object to this. Can we really allow substandard education to exist in our county? Sure, we want our commissioners to reduce the size of the projected tax increase, but not if it means we steal from our children's future.

President Bush vetoed the minimum wage bill which was passed by Congress. So, George remains sweetheart of the business community by turning his back on the common man and woman. Thanks a lot, George!

The trial of Sandy Chavis, who is being tried in the case involving the murder of Julian Pierce, came to a screeching halt. Judge Anthony Brannon quickly granted the state's request to indefinitely delay the trial while the state searches (sic) for its key witness. We wonder if Judge Brannon knows Joe Freeman Britt. What was their relationship prior to the murder of Julian Pierce? Honestly, does the prosecutor in this case expect us to believe that he did not know that Kim Locklear, Jr. was not available for court on Monday? We believe that the prosecution is playing psychological games with the Chavis family. How much is going to cost, we the taxpayer, for this continued charade. If the prosecution's case is resting on the testimony of Locklear, why wait until the day of trial to state that he is a "crucial" witness. A year ago the prosecution was ready for trial. What has transpired in a year to change that? We urge the "special" prosecutor, James Coman and the judge (Brannon) to stop insulting the intelligence of thinking individuals. If you don't have a case, and apparently you don't, we suggest you drop the charges against Sandy Chavis and re-open the case. The public has a right to know what happened to Julian Pierce and why.

We certainly must add Judge Brannon's comment to our book entitled, "I Wish I Hadn't Said That." He was quoted as saying he assumes everyone wants a trial where all the evidence is available so "the truth may be known." Their actions, in our opinion, during the investigation and prosecution of this case speaks to how ludicrous this statement is. Many of us do not believe that anyone involved in the investigation or the prosecution is interested in the "truth." It all appears an attempt to support the "official" story of the murder of Julian Pierce. In the name of all that's honorable, let's stop playing silly games with people's lives, their money, and more importantly their emotions.

If Kim Locklear, Jr. was not heard from since March, why bother to go through the Charade in Smithfield on Monday, June 12th. The prosecution knew in March that their "crucial" witness was not available for June 12th. Is it possible that the state does not wish to find Kim Locklear, Jr.? To continue this charade is to delay the truth in the matter of Julian Pierce's murder. That is unfortunate for all of us who were friends and family of Julian. It is unfortunate for the friends and family of Sandy Chavis... When are we going to stop being blinded by seeming "coverups" and camouflage and demand that justice be done...Our mistake, in order for justice to be served, it is necessary for justice minded persons to be in positions of authority...

THE READERS' FORUM

Christians must take a stand against wrongs

To the Editor:

There have been so many times when I have asked myself the question: why did Jimmy Earl Cummings have to die? That was the most horrible incident to me and to numerous other people. It has been so sad to witness the agony that has been imposed on his mother, brothers and sisters since he was shot and killed by Kevin Stone November 1, 1986. I believe that only God still has the answers. I am a mother myself and I have only one son. Therefore, I can relate to the heartbreak that Lula Mae Cummings must feel over the brutal, needless death of her son, Jimmy Earl.

It was extremely heart breaking for me to see my son depart for Vietnam. I did not know if I would ever see him alive again. Only God knows what I went through daily during my son's tour of duty. But if he had not returned, I could have said that he gave his life for our country. But Ms. Cummings' doesn't have that consolation. And there are still so many unsolved murders in our county. Our hearts go out to all these families. These are hard times we are living in, dark dark days, and it

seems that there is no ease for the troubled minds and spirits of the people. I am reminded of the song which goes, "We will understand it better by and by." One thing I know for sure is that God does not want His people to forget the past or to live in the past. The past, however, does have meaning for us today.

If Christians will take a stand against the wrongs of a sinful society, they can expect ridicule, criticism and even persecution. We want to advance in boldness, but we are restrained by caution and constrained by fear of others. Nevertheless, we are standing strong with our faith and God and firmly believe that we will see the solution to many of the problems that surround us in Robeson County.

I am reminded of one of my brother Rev. Sanford Locklear's favorite scriptures: "For nothing is secret that shall not be made manifest, neither anything hidden that shall not be made known and come to light." Luke 8:17. That is the Gospel and we will see the fulfillment of that promise one day soon.

Violet Locklear
Pembroke, NC 28372

A Letter to My Flag Day Boy

June 14, 1989

Dear Donny,

Can it really be 29 years since you came into this world, and I experienced what it's like to be a mother--for the first time? It seems more like yesterday. Can you imagine how proud and thrilled your daddy and I were, to have our own little Donny boy? On our first anniversary, you gave me your very first smile. Before we knew it, you were into everything, crawling like a lizard, or climbing like a monkey.

You had the energy which I needed, just to keep up with you. So, I started nagging, and forgot to praise. Sometimes, when I got really "stressed out" I would find myself yelling, or even screaming. And I was going to be a "perfect" mother!

Did you ever guess how proud I was when you came home with 100's on your papers? Or when you got athletic trophies? Or the year you were JROTC Battalion Commander? Or that hot June day when you graduated third in your class?

Donny, did you ever know how much your mother really loved you? How I wish I had come right out and told you, one way or another, while you were growing up. Or at least when you were still here with us.

So, I'm letting you now, my Son.
Your Loving Mom,
ALTA NYE OXENDINE

Locklear and Jacobs Wed In Garden Ceremony



MRS. RICK JACOBS

The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ransom of Pembroke was the setting for the 6 p.m. wedding June 10th of Marcia Anne Locklear of Pembroke and Rick Jacobs of Bailey. The Rev. John Robinson officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curt Locklear of Pembroke. She graduated from Pembroke Senior High School in 1974, from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1978, and from Campbell University in 1983. She is employed by the Fairmont City School System.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Darras Jacobs of Maxton. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1973 and from N.C. State in 1979. He is employed by Porritts and Spencer of Bailey, NC.

The bride was given in marriage by Mr. Stephen Locklear, her brother.

The bride wore a long sheath gown of ivory chantilly lace. It had a Victorian neckline with a sweetheart inset and leg of mutton sleeves. The sleeves and skirt were draped with strands of pearls. An asymmetrical draped lace ruffle engraved the skirt as well.

Her veil cascaded with streamers of illusion. It was adorned with a back pouf and held by a wreath of satin braided with pearls and a side cluster of peach flowers, pearls and netting. She carried a cascade bouquet of ivory, peach and teal silks accented by netting and seed pearls.

The matron of honor was Kelli Sheffield Locklear, neice of the bride,

of Pembroke. She wore a tea-length gown of peach taffeta with an overlaid bodice of ivory venise lace, styled with a boat neckline, drop waist, teacup lace sleeves and flared skirt. She carried an arm bouquet of pearl and ivory silks.

Bridesmaids were: Jane Powell of Fairmont, Linda Clark Jacobs of Fairmont, and Brenda Dial Deese of Pembroke. The Junior Bridesmaid was Adrian Jacobs, neice of the groom. They were gownned like the honor attendant.

The best man was the groom's brother, Mr. Don Jacobs.

Ushers were: Anthony Quinn Locklear of Pembroke, Tony Matthews of Middlesex, NC, and Jimmy Jacobs of Red Springs. The Junior Groomsman was Justin Roberts Hunt, the bride's son.

The groom wore formal ivory tails with ivory bowtie and cummerbund. The best man and ushers wore ivory tuxedos with peach bowties and cummerbunds.

Other members of the wedding party were Julie Beth Smith, flower girl and Kara-Lynn Locklear, miniature bride.

Musicians were the bride's sister, Mrs. Cathy Thomas, and Mr. Robert Hunter, trumpeteer. Vocalists were Mrs. Cathy Thomas, Ms. Carla Edwards, Dr. Curt Locklear, Jr. and Mr. David Oxendine.

After a wedding trip to the Bahamas the couple will live in Bailey, NC.

Honored at Bridal Shower

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Prospect Fire Department hosted a bridal shower for Michelle Moore on Tuesday, June 13, at the Prospect Head Start Center. Michelle, the daughter of Earl and Shirley Moore, will become

the bride of Chuckie Sanderson on July 2, 1989. The ceremony will be held at the home of the bride's parents. It will be a lawn wedding. The groom-elect is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Kelly Sanderson.

In Memory of Otis Locklear

6-22-29-6-13-82

THE FAMILY

His wife, Mrs. Daphna B. Locklear; children: Phillip Ray Locklear of Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. Velinda Morgan of Rennert, NC, Thaniel, Kendale, Perry, Diane, Macy, Denise, Phyllis, and Phillip Ray, Jr.; brothers: Reddy, Alfonse, Julious, Charlie, Colonel Jr., Bernell, and Austin; sister: Yvonne L. Sanderson; mother: Mrs. Trixie (Macie) B. Locklear; father (deceased): Mr. Colonel Locklear, Jr.



THE 23rd PSALM

"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

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Help Dad stay healthy
Whether a man has a healthy diet or not often depends on what is prepared for him at home... so this is to those who prepare food for all the Dads we're honoring this Father's Day.
Research shows that oat bran eaten daily may lower serum (blood) cholesterol. And for every 1% his cholesterol is lowered, you reduce Dad's risk of heart attack by 2%. Oat bran can be added to fruit toppings, poultry stuffing, stews, ground meat, and pancakes, just to name a few ideas for you cooks.
Our business is to keep your family in the best of health. Best wishes for a Happy Father's Day!
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