

WHAT NEXT???

Two people were recently named to the Pembroke State University Board of Trustees: John Nicholson, general manager of Belks at Biggs Park Mall in Lumberton, and Gloria Williams, personnel director for Hoke County Schools. And two board members were reappointed: Revs. Jerry Lowery and Julian Ransom.

Previously we mentioned Dr. Paul Givens had left to retire in Florida but we now understand he is still on campus and will stay until the last minute. So, we only have to endure for just a few more weeks, then Givens will depart. In our opinion he is leaving about nine years, eleven months, and twenty nine days too late!

Anyway, Dr. Joseph Oxendine will become the new chancellor of PSU on July 1, 1989 and it somehow seems appropriate that Dr. Oxendine returns during Lumbee Homecoming and the fourth of July.

The Rural Advancement Fund Justice Project recently made a presentation to the Robeson County Human Relations & Unity Commission which confirmed what most people already knew.

RAFJP checked employment statistics and this is a little of what they found:

83 percent of the faculty of PSU is white.

59 percent of the employees of Southeastern General Hospital is white.

52 percent of all county jobs are held by whites.

In looking further into the hiring practices at SGH it was found that 37 of 38 of the department heads were also white. In the county, whites dominated 60.5% of the positions which pay \$16,000 or more per year and minorities hold most of the jobs which pay less than \$16,000 per year. Also, county department heads are 80% white, 20% Indian. There is no Black department head.

As you read over these figures let your imagination go (you won't need much of an imagination) and see what you can come up with to explain the above numbers. Also remember that population estimates for Robeson County show that 38% of our residents are white, 37% Indian, and 25% Black. How else can you explain the above figures except to believe discrimination and favoritism played the important role in determining who would be hired?

If you have the opportunity, obtain a copy of the Rural Advancement Fund's presentation. It confirms what people have been saying for years! Perhaps the time for complaining is over and action will be forthcoming to correct these inequities.

The Center for Community Action, headed by Rev. Mac Legerton, recently mailed out its first newsletter, *CenterPoint*. Overall the newsletter is a welcome addition to the discussion and debate going on in Robeson County. The only complaint we've heard is the newsletter lacks modesty. CCA has made some positive impacts on our county, but CCA in this newsletter seems to go a little far in claiming credit for almost all the positive strides we, together, have made. Some people were turned off by this newsletter--one such person said she was glad we had a previous description of the creation, else CCA might attempt to take credit for that.

When all is said, we welcome *CenterPoint* and hope it will focus on the issues which are important to us

all and leave others the task of assigning or claiming credit. After all, it's the work and results that are important, not credit!

The county commissioners met Monday night to hear comments regarding the increase of county property taxes by as much as 50%. It was ironic that H.T. Taylor, a former commissioner, would make an appearance. In our opinion, individuals like Taylor are responsible for the situation we currently find ourselves in since Taylor and others failed to emphasize the importance and fight to adequately fund education in Robeson County.

Commissioner Sammy Cox does not seem to hold the voting public in Robeson County in very high esteem. He said, "I don't believe the public knew what they were voting for when they raised taxes for merger." In our opinion, Cox is a part of the problem and has contributed directly to the mess we currently face. Previous county commissioners were not interested in funding education. They diverted money that should have went to education to other pet or special projects. This is why we face such a large tax increase today. Education can no longer be treated like some unwanted step-child. If anything, education should be top priority in our county. We do not agree with Sammy Cox. The voting public knew exactly what it was doing when it voted to fund education. We believe the public is sick and tired of seeing its children receive a second-rate education. The voters of Robeson County knew what they were doing. They voted out men like H.T. Taylor and Carl Britt and hopefully the voters in Sammy Cox's district will remember his record. We

feel Taylor and Carl Britt deserve another fishing buddy and we hope the voters will choose Sammy Cox for this job.

In our opinion, Cox has been a part of the problem all along. Our children are the solution, so we, as taxpayers, will invest our money in our children and the future and leave the past to men like Cox since he is obviously more comfortable there!

Oliver North will be sentenced on Friday. In our opinion, North deserves an active sentence and a substantial fine. Men such as North must be made aware that there are serious consequences for running a shadow government. Perhaps some time in jail will teach North that we are a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." Nowhere in our constitution does it say that LL Colonels can substitute their will and beliefs in the place of the citizens of the United States.

We still believe North deserves some cell mates. One day perhaps the whole sad story will be known and even if some individuals escape punishment today, history will be the final judge and future generations will be harsh on those who escape accountability today.

Timothy Jacobs surrendered to authorities in Cumberland County Monday. He will begin serving a six year sentence for his role in the Feb. 1, 1988 takeover of a Lumberton newspaper.

Hopefully Robeson County will be a better place when Timothy is released. We are encouraged by the increased awareness of Robeson County's citizens and we look forward to the day when everyone will look at Robeson County and wish that they too lived here!

CHURCH NEWS


A gospel sing featuring The Kelleys of Linden, NC will be held the fourth Sunday, June 25, at 11 a.m. at Evergreen Holiness Church.

The pastor, the Rev. Joseph Locklear, and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

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Running in vain?

Strenuous exercise can lower blood pressure and improve cardiovascular fitness. But recent research indicates that the medication *propranolol*, though it lowers blood pressure, may also block the additional benefits of regular work-outs.

Scientists are suggesting that, if you're taking blood pressure medication but want the natural benefits of exercise for your heart, you should check with your doctor to see if you might achieve better results from *metoprolol* or some other drug.

Then, through exercise, you may eventually be able to taper off or discontinue your drug therapy.

Read Our WEEKLY PHARMACY EDITORIAL

Your Pharmacy

THE READERS' FORUM

CFID Victim Wishes to Form Support Group

To the Editor:

This letter to the editor is different from the types of letters I've been known to write in years past. It is not about Saving Old Main, Breaking Double-Voting, or the Lumbees' search for equal justice but, it is about a severely disabling disease that has taken me out of the battle for Indian rights.

The mysterious disease is known by several names, Chronic Epstein Barr Virus, Chornic Monoeculius, Yuppi Flu, the flu that never goes away, but the disease's national researchers are now referring to it as Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome.

I became disabled in April, 1986 after a year and half's struggle to defy the virus' hold on my body. It was not until late January, 1988, after hundreds of trips to many doctors, Duke, the Mayo Clinic, Rodchester, Minn. and much depression, anxiety and fear that I finally received a diagnosis from Dr. Paul Cheney, a Nalle Clinic Epstein Barr researcher in Charlotte, NC.

The syndrome is characterized by symptoms of sore throat, fever, swollen lymph nodes, extreme paralyzing fatigue, joint, bone, and muscle pain, elevated white count, abdominal pain and disorders.

I've seen days pass when personal hygiene was an impossibility because of the relentless fatigue.

Later, these symptoms are joined by a whole new group, they are tachacardia (my heart beat went to 196 beats per minute), numbness in the hands and fingers, muscle weakness, joint swelling, mental confusion, memory loss, clinical depression, loss of hair, neurological pain, rashes, sores in the mouth, chicken pox lesions, and the list goes on.

There is no cure for CFID. We only know its' activity and destruction to the body's immune system can be slowed somewhat and that it is not contagious. But there is always the severe never yielding pain and fatigue that makes one a prisoner in the body.

The cause is also unknown. However, I wonder if there are others who may have been diagnosed with crippling and disabling syndrome? If you think you might have this new disease of the 1980's and need help, you can write for information

to: Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, P.O. Box 230108, Portland, OR 97223. Include a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope.

If you have CFID, I am interested in forming a local support group. Please call me at 521-9632. Dr. Charles R. Beasley has been great. Without his understanding, I can't see how I would have come this far. I would like to talk with others that carry on the CFID battle daily.

If you are someone who is reading this letter and you have been battling for months or years without knowing what is draining your life away and have other similar symptoms, I would love to talk with you. It is not only the patients that need up to date information, but the medical community is in great need of education on CFID also. Diagnostic information and material may be obtained from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA.

One doctor referred to it this way, "Had it not been for Aids, this would be the major new disease of the 1980s." Help us help each other.

Sincerely,
Jan Maynor Locklear

SOCIAL NOTE

The Family of **LELA HAMMONDS BROOKS** are hosting a birthday dinner in her honor on **July 1st** at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Harper's Ferry Baptist Church. Family members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Saturday, June 24, 1989

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