

WHAT NEXT???

Jim Bakker's fraud and conspiracy trial in a Charlotte U.S. District Court might be on hold for awhile. As you probably know, ol' Jim got pretty upset during his trial last week and he was led away, obviously distraught. He is now at the Federal Correctional Institute in Butner, NC for an evaluation to see if he is fit to stand trial. It is a shame we don't evaluate people before we allow them to get on television and beg for money. Seems we always close the barn door after the horse has escaped and damaged our neighbor's property, but that's another story.

One psychiatrist said Bakker had lost touch with reality; a university professor said, "here's a man who most of the time lives in a fantasy world that he and his wife and his close associates have created." Several of those "professional" people feel Jim Bakker just reached the breaking point and is unable to distinguish reality from fantasy.

Speculation has not been limited to "professionals;" us common folk also have an opinion and from what we have heard, many seem to feel that ol' Jim is playing possum (possums know the fetal position too). Some have pointed out that if Jim is crazy, his is crazy like a fox. They said he still possesses enough sense to his handcuffs with his jacket when he is in public. You see, Jim always was one to worry about his public image and he surely doesn't want people seeing him wearing handcuffs, so as this line of reasoning (?) goes, that should prove Jim is not that crazy.

Jim was just another flashy media-religious star who, in our opinion, possibly began by praying for and then somehow started preying on people who were in need. Jimmy is now facing the harsh reality of being caught up in a web---what's cracking up Jimmy is it's a web he wove (Oh, what a tangled web we weave...when first we practice to deceive...!)

We have heard some people say they feel sorry for Jim Bakker and some even suggest he should be remembered in prayer. We agree he stands in need of prayer. But in our opinion, Jim Bakker got himself in this sorry mess because he made a mockery of religion. He preyed and he preyed and he preyed. He placed his fellowman above that of his fellowman and has been accused of using other people's money to support his welfare while making promises he had no intention of keeping. He should have known the American public and the media can be and usually is hard on those who fall.

What Jim misjudged is that the American public is doubly hard on those who profess Christianity and seem to forget the teachings of Christ. Jim had the opportunity to do good things for people, but he chose to help himself first and somehow when such a choice is made, the road is downhill then---Jim has rolled a long, long way!

Yes, we'll pray for Jim Bakker. We'll pray he is sane enough to stand trial, sane enough to remember all the people he hurt, sane enough to face the harsh reality of being in the position to really help his fellowman and knowing he turned his back on them. Jim, was that air-conditioned dog house really worth your trip to Burner, NC? We hope you have fond memories because your future might be surrounded by an assortment of steel and concrete.

Jim, we will be watching you and wondering what the future will bring. We really wonder what will happen if you are found guilty and sent to jail. You see, Jim, we've seen many hardened criminals face the jury and go to jail and them wham-o-bam-o, that criminal grabbed a Bible and

became a changed man....looks good to the parole commission...We know this happens sometimes...We wonder what will happen in your case---you already had a Bible under your arm!

And, Jim, please make us one promise. Regardless of how things turn out, please, please don't write one of them confession books. Read St. Augustine's CONFESSIONS, develop a little humility, and don't be so self-serving.

There has been a great deal of unwanted attention focused on N.C. State University's basketball program and academics the past couple of months as the result of a book some say is more fiction than truth. If nothing else, these events illustrate that even a speck of truth can often focus attention and bring much needed reform if someone is willing to come forward. We wonder if the citizens of Robeson County got the message?

In the past few months, our county commissioners have blamed higher taxes on school merger, the need for a new county jail, and anything else they figured the voting public would believe. None has had the courage to place the blame where it belongs; on the lack of leadership, the actions of previous commissioners and on themselves.

Robeson County maintained five separate school systems for one reason and one reason alone...racism! Whites easily controlled the St. Pauls, Red Springs, Lumberton and Fairmont systems. They wanted to insure this control and so they fought and continue to fight the merger of Robeson County's schools.

County Commissioners were elected to foster and maintain the separate school systems and none ever strayed from this assignment. Rather than provide leadership and foresight, these men chose to remain in power. Power is seductive and these old men enjoyed the seduction. Decisions were made on the basis of politics, not on the basis of fact and or need. Expediency was the watchword and whatever helped these individuals build a power base, then that was what guided their decisions. And don't forget, many helped them in their efforts.

As a result of years and years of neglect and lack of leadership, Robeson County is now going to have to "pay the piper" in the form of higher taxes, just look at former and some current commissioners. And before you begin pointing the finger, just sit back and recall where you were and what you were doing when all these "decisions" were being made.

We, you and me, are the blame for higher taxes...and folks, that's the long and short of it!

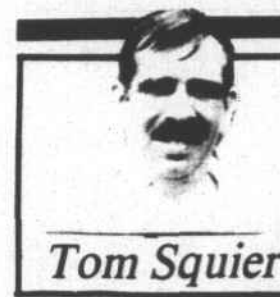
Well, ol' Pete Rose was banned from baseball for life as a part of a bargain he made with the commissioner of baseball. Pete still insists he did nothing wrong---(yeah sure, and the Pope is not Catholic). He still says he didn't bet on baseball...he didn't bet on his own team. And, so with this agreement, Pete will now have to wait one year and then petition to be reinstated.

The FBI decided it wasn't going to continue investigating Pete. After all, the FBI said it didn't investigate one individual gambler---in other words, they had bigger fish to fry! But Pete still faces the possibility of charges from a grand jury which is looking into his taxes and reported gambling activities.

Pete Rose was a hero to many people, both young and old. The charges yet to be faced might insure Pete pulls a little time in a

dug-out with bars. We feel that is where Pete belongs. And to us, it would be somehow fitting if Pete Rose and Jim Bakker wind up sharing the same cell. After all, both appear to be high rollers and both seem to enjoy fantasy worlds. And who knows, with time Jim could teach Pete to prey and Pete could teach Jim to slide---we are talking about Pete's head first slide now, not back-sliding!

Eddie Hatcher was arraigned in Robeson County Superior Court on Tuesday. Through all the mockery of the so-called Robeson County justice, we believe that he pleaded not guilty to fourteen counts of kidnapping. We are amazed and amused by all the idiocy we saw... We will expound in depth next week on that issue...Reports are that more than a dozen uniformed officers were in court and our infamous sheriff also...Where was this representation of justice last week when there was \$1.2 million worth of marijuana found growing in our county. The sheriff's department said they did not have the manpower to find out who the "grass" belonged to...But they apparently have the "manpower" to try and intimidate the judge, the district attorney, and the entire judicial system with their presence...The smirk on the sheriff's face was worth seeing...And we wondered during that judicial (sic) proceeding...who was selling the peanuts, popcorn and coke...any circus certainly should have refreshments available...Hopefully, the upcoming election will give our message to Hubert Stone...



Tom Squier

RANTIN' 'N RAVIN'

Folk stopping and smelling the "Rose"

by Garry Lewis Barton

Everybody, it seems, is stopping to smell the "Rose" - Pete Rose, that is. The media and baseball commission claim they smell something fishy about Rose's alleged gambling activities.

History will remember Pete Rose as one of the all-time great baseball players. He played for the Cincinnati Reds for many years and now he manages the same team.

His greatest attribute could very well be his hustle. In fact, he earned the nickname, "Charlie Hustle."

I like Pete Rose. But I don't like the way the media and baseball commission folk have been crucifying him lately. The baseball commissioner is investigating alleged gambling activities of Pete Rose. One of the charges is that he even bet on some of the games in which he played.

Wow! And he probably jay-

walked a time or two! And is bound to have double-parked at least once! And probably had the audacity to throw a plastic coca-cola bottle out the window of his car some time during his career!

I'm being facetious, folk. The media and others are making a mountain out of a mole hole, if you ask me. Swallowing camels and gagging on gnats, if you will.

Pete Rose is a living legend, looked up to by many of our young'uns. Seriously, folk! Heroes are in short supply today. We need to treat genuine heroes like Pete Rose with a lot more respect.

I just want everybody to lighten up.

If he did break an infraction, then slap his wrist and put him on probation, or something. But, for God's - and baseball's - sake! Don't break his wrist. Let's put that lack-luster inning behind us and get on

with the game. Indeed, if I were in charge with the scenario, it would go something like this:

Pete Rose is at bat. The baseball commissioner gives the pitcher the signal to take Rose out by hitting him with one of his fast balls.

But the pitcher balks. He decides that, hey! If they don't want me to pitch to him, I'll walk him. That way, maybe Rose won't win, but at least he won't strike out.

And the make-believe pitcher is right. If you put Rose out of baseball, baseball will be the eventual loser. And baseball fans and fanatic like myself will be the ones to suffer because he is one of the all-time greats.

We'll talk again, folk. Meanwhile, a little advice to the baseball commissioner: "Play ball! Son."

REFLECTIONS

By Alta Nye Oxendine

EDDIE--MY OPINION

Along with all the publicity surrounding him during 1988 and 1989, Eddie Hatcher has caused most of us Robesonians to take sides, either for or against him and his "causes." Nearly everyone in Robeson County, it seems, has some kind of strong emotional reaction (positive or

negative) whenever Eddie's name is mentioned. In fact, I honestly feel as though some of the many groups which rushed into the county about the time of the Robesonian "takeover" may have been trying to split our county into sections and to escalate the misunderstandings which already existed between groups and individuals.

However, hard as it is for us ordinary human beings to do this, I believe the time has come for ALL of us to CALM DOWN and look at the situation we're in just as rationally and non-emotionally as we possibly can! I also believe that the ONLY way we can begin to do this is to take this situation (like any other situation in our own personal lives) to the God who not only created us but who, I believe, continues to love and care about every one of us---even those who believe He does not exist!

For those of you who are offended when I refer to God as "He," let me hasten to explain: I realize that God is not a masculine "human being" (like a man) nor a feminine "human" being (like a woman) but rather a powerful Spiritual Being, with all the attributes of all the best fathers and all the best mothers this world has ever known. For me, however, it is easier to think--and talk--in terms of a firm but loving Father who yearns for all His Children to come to Him, through His Son, Jesus, the Christ and the Savior.

Now to get back to Eddie: To Go, I am sure, Eddie is neither an angel nor a devil, neither a Hero nor a Villain. But a human being like all the rest of us.

Eddie has made a number of choices which, to be personally, seem extremely unwise. In fact, over and over, I have been shocked by his actions. However, I believe there have been times when he has been sincerely concerned about helping to make conditions better for those persons he saw as having been

treated unfairly in one way or another by other groups.

And I keep wondering how much various groups and individuals may have been using him (with or without his awareness) to help them achieve their own goals---perhaps even before the February 1, 1988 incident. Let me make myself clear. I am not referring to any local groups or individuals, such as Mac Legerton or Connee Brayboy. They were both stunned by that action! I know, because they are my friends, and I happened to talk to each of them separately, shortly afterward.

Instead, I am thinking particularly of one group which may have needed to exploit some volatile situation in this state in order to get enough signatures to gain access to the ballot in North Carolina. In any case, this was one of several groups who apparently made the most of the situation, regularly interviewing Eddie or someone else in the Indian community and reporting on "conditions" in Robeson County. And they apparently succeeded in achieving at least one of their goals, that of being on the ballot in each of the 50 states.

I also believe, from what several of my friends have told me, that Eddie had gotten so "stressed out" (prior to the takeover) that he was unable to see any other way out of what must have seemed to him (whether or not it really was the case) like an impossible dilemma. I am sure there were other much better ways to handle such a situation. But sometimes we get so panic-stricken or depressed that we cannot find any light at the end of the tunnel. So we act in desperation. This is what I see as a major cause of many of the other violent actions which take place from time to time, especially among groups (and individuals) who have spent years feeling that they are powerless to do anything about their situation.

See Reflections on Page 3

Doves ... a delightful dish

Well, to the delight of some and the chagrin of others, this year's dove season opens Sept. 2 and runs through Oct. 7. It is a three-part season this year and the other two portions are Nov. 21-25 and Dec. 16 through Jan. 13.

Hunters can begin taking birds from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset. Each hunting day they are permitted to take only 12 birds. This is an important change from last year's limit of 15 daily. Hunters may only have a total of two days' limit or 24 birds in their possession which means the freezer as well. Those people who have 30 or 40 birds in their freezer at the end of the season are in violation of the law.

Dove hunting can be very dangerous. A large portion of the hunters will return to develop poison oak or ivy in a couple of days and because of the heat, there is a great risk of being bitten by a snake or of even a heart attack in the hunter who isn't used to exertion in the hot September days wearing a dove vest and other equipment.

Try to find a shady spot and take plenty of water with you. Don't assume that because of the small size of the shot used, there isn't any danger from accidental shootings. Last year on opening day, The Charlotte Observer reported there were six victims of hunting accidents brought into Charlotte Memorial Hospital for treatment. One, 15 years old, lost an eye, permanently blinded. Opening day brings out hordes of hunters --- many novices with no experience.

And take along a cooler, too. Not for beer, but to keep the birds from spoiling. In the heat of the early part of the season many birds are lost to spoilage. Here is a suggestion. After you shoot your birds, pluck off the breast feathers, slit from anus to breastbone and pluck out the entrails. Put the bird in a plastic bag and keep on ice in the cooler during the long hot day. As hard a time as many hunters have hitting these little targets, it is a shame to lose them to poor care in the field.

Many arguments exist about doves. My brother, Chuck, said he had to settle an argument at work because one "expert" was explaining to colleagues that the female birds were doves and the males were pigeons. Although they have been bred into many fancy varieties,

such as fantails, tumblers and homers, pigeons are referred to as rock doves in the bird identification manuals. Generally we are considered to have only one native dove around here --- the mourning dove whose plaintive cooing call we associate with sadness. There are occasional sightings of a small brown dove known as the ground dove and sometimes an escaped ring-necked dove is seen. These are the small doves we see as cagebirds and Petersen's Field Guide to Eastern Birds list their origin as unknown.

Many people object to hunting doves, and in some northern states they are considered by law as songbirds and therefore protected. About 75 percent of the doves born each year die of natural causes each year anyway and it seems hunting has little effect on their numbers. That is hunting where legal limits and seasons are observed. We must not forget what happened to passenger pigeons.

What is really a shame is that some hunters only eat the breasts because it is too much trouble to clean the whole bird. I am here to tell you that the whole bird is good, even if you only use the legs and wings to make dove-and-dumplings or pot pies or in other stew-type recipes.

Paprika Doves

- 6 doves, halved
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 cup dandelion or other white wine
- 4 tablespoons flour
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1 tablespoon rosemary
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 2 tablespoons sour cream or yogurt

Shake dove halves in bag with flour, half the paprika, salt and pepper. In heavy skillet or casserole brown dove in butter and olive oil about three or four minutes per side. Add garlic, onion, parsley, additional paprika, rosemary and chicken stock. Cover and cook on medium heat half an hour. Add orange juice and wine and cook until fork tender --- about 15 minutes more.

Stir in and warm the sour cream or yogurt.

Microwave Glazed Doves

- 10-12 doves
 - salt and pepper to taste
 - 1/2 cup orange juice concentrate
 - 1/2 stick butter
 - 1 cup honey
- Microwave doves whole or halved about 10 minutes or until they are tender. Salt and pepper to taste while cooking after rubbing with butter. Drain and roll in honey and orange juice. Broil until the honey and the chicken are browned. If you don't have a microwave, you can precook the doves a little in water. The small birds must be watched carefully under a broiler.

Country Fried Doves

- doves
 - salt and pepper to taste
 - hickory smoked salt (optional)
 - flour
 - butter or oil
- Rinse and dry the doves. Halve or quarter. Roll in flour and salt and pepper to taste. Sprinkle with hickory smoked salt if desired. Fry in small amount of hot oil about four minutes on each side. Serve with gravy made from the oil over rice for a delicious taste treat.



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Preventing strokes?

Recent studies suggest that women who have taken replacement estrogen any time after menopause, even for as few as six months, may later be protected against stroke.

These findings have scientists intrigued because replacement estrogen has also been associated with fewer deaths from heart disease. Researchers speculate that these benefits - if they really exist - are probably due to estrogen's dilating action on blood vessels and its ability to alter blood-fat levels.

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