

WHAT NEXT???

It is definitely election season. The rumors are already abounding. The latest is that Hubert Stone, Sheriff of Robeson County, and District Attorney Richard Townsend are at odds. It would appear that someone wants us to believe that Townsend should be elected District Attorney on that premise alone. The politicians and rumor mongers certainly do believe that the voters of Robeson County are gullible. We contend that the voters in Robeson County are more aware now than they have ever been. We question many things in both those departments... Common sense tells us that if Stone and Townsend were at odds, the first thing Stone would do would be to dismiss Martin McCall's wife. She's Stone's private secretary and it is believed by many people that McCall makes the decisions in the district attorney's office. Rumor has it that George Regan who has filed as a candidate for district attorney is a Hubert Stone supporter... We wonder who strated that one....Our advice is that every time you hear one of these interesting stories, stop and ask yourself some pertinent questions. Why is it necessary for the Sheriff and the District Attorney to run on the same ticket. After all, they both have separate jobs to do. The Sheriff's job is to make arrests, as well as maintain law and order. The district attorney is supposed to prosecute cases for the state of North Carolina. If there is not enough evidence to warrant a trial, in the district attorney's opinion, the charges should be dropped for insufficient evidence. We know very little about George Regan. We have had some knowledge of District Attorney Richard Townsend in his official capacity....We believe that someone is using the sheriff's race to garner votes for Townsend. We are encouraged on the other hand by this turn of events because it says to us that the sheriff and others realize that Stone has some serious opposition and it is possible for him to be defeated.

One of the most interesting Stone-manufactured plays on logic is this: "Let Hubert Stone serve for four more years and he will have completed his career. He will then endorse Detective Jimmy Maynor for sheriff... The man deserves to finish his career." Boy! That is one for the books. That won't work, Hubert. Who are you to decide who the next sheriff is? And may we remind you that you are elected by the people of Robeson County and must be

accountable to the people of Robeson County. You are not suppose to be a dictator and appoint your own successor. We remember that it worked well for former sheriff Malcolm McLeod. When he endorsed Hubert Stone, the voters behaved as if a Higher Power had spoken...In our opinion, we made a serious mistake. After thirty years in law enforcement if Hubert Stone's career is not made, it is impossible to make it. We advice all voters to weigh these stories, theories and out right lies. The truth is that Hubert Stone has not been the best sheriff for Robeson County. We remind you once again that Sheriff Stone, chief law enforcement officer, writes letters of "reference" for drug dealers and also testifies to their good character in open court. Is there something wrong with that picture?

It seems that the county of Robeson County will pay the family of Jimmy Earl Cummings \$65,000 as a settlement in the wrongful death suit filed by Cummings' family. The suit was filed against the county, Sheriff Hubert Stone and his son, Kevin Stone, who killed Jimmy Earl Cummings...Not to worry though, according to County Attorney Joe "Pete" Ward the money will be paid by the insurance company. Too bad nobody has bothered to tell us, the taxpayers, how much money has been paid in settlements of suits since Sheriff Hubert Stone's reign began...The good news is that the county has admitted that the murder of Jimmy Earl Cummings was a "wrongful death." It took them from November 1, 1986 until Monday night to tell us what we already knew...If indeed it was a wrongful death, and the county said it was, why is Kevin Stone still a member of the Robeson County Sheriff's Department? He caused the wrongful death of Jimmy Earl Cummings and cost the taxpayers \$65,000 in addition to his salary over the years....What is necessary for his dismissal? We call on the Sheriff of this county to stop nepotism. Stop defending convicted drug dealers and those who are responsible for "wrongful deaths." Show some courage, Hubert Stone, dismiss your son, or resign....Better yet, just resign....

Rep. Sidney Locks is rethinking his decision to resign from the legislature. We encourage him to finish

out his term as a member of the House of Representatives. There are many issues that are being dealt with that require his expertise...

One of the saddest sights we have witnessed over the last few days was the candlelight vigil at the meeting of the board of education. How tragic to see our students being mislead and used. We urge Travis Collins, chairman of the group opposed to the name Purnell Swett High School, to evaluate the private agendas of Millard Singletary and Greg Coble. What has Singletary to gain? Only election to the school board. What's Greg Coble's beef? We contend that both of these men are opposed to the name simply because they are opposed to honor and homage being paid to Purnell Swett... We urge Mr. Collins to look at the private agendas of these two men...Do a little research on the back ground of Greg Coble. We encourage Dr. Dalton Brooks, Chairman of the Board of Education, to "let sleeping dogs lie." The board has reaffirmed the name change. So let the issue die.

We commend Mr. Purnell Swett for his courage in remaining quiet on the issue. There is no way for him to win by making a public statement. We encourage him to recognize the depth and feelings of racism that have always run deep in this county. The problem is not, Purnell Swett. The problem, as we see it, is that Purnell Swett is an Indian and there are some among us who can't accept the reality of Mr. Swett's contribution to the education of our students simply because he is an Indian. Some people still believe that Mr. Swett "got out of his place" when he served as superintendent of the Robeson County Schools.

We are sure that it is hard for Mr. Swett to remain quiet while the Greg Cobles and Millard Singletarys attempt to destroy his name and reputation. We remind Mr. Swett of this age old saying: "This too shall pass."

It might behoove other people to follow Mr. Swett's example and remain quiet....We have always heard that an empty wagon makes the most noise....

Rumor has it that a few of the teachers and faculty of Purnell Swett High continue to stir and move the students toward a continuation of this activity...We have heard that Diane Dixon is one of them....We hope that this is not the case... We hope that Ms. Dixon is busy doing what she

is paid to do, educate the students....We hope that other names that we could call are not instrumental in continuing the charade of the name change.

We remind Mr. Collins that there are some "real" issues facing our county and encourage him to become active in solving them....Don't let the Singletarys and the Cobles use you, Mr. Collins, to continue to denigrate your own....When some people who are racists (and they do exist in this county) succeed in getting an Indian to speak openly and forcefully against another Indian....they sit back and laugh about how stupid Indian people are....We urge you to consider these things in the spirit that we offer them. If you are unhappy with the behavior of the board of education, election time is here... Get busy and work for a representative who will represent you fairly and honestly. Let's correct some of the ills of this county, together....Too many people are dying, too many drugs are flowing through our county...Too many people are unemployed....Too many people are being used and abused in this county...Please don't be sidetracked by the insignificance of the name of a high school....Let's hold a candlelight vigil for all those people who are victims of violent crime...for those people who are classified in this county as "unsolved murders" or "suicides." Let's hold a candlelight vigil for

Jimmy Earl Cummings, for Billy McKellar who died in the Robeson County Jail because of "neglect." Let's hold a candlelight vigil for those people who are victimized by our criminal justice system....Let's hold a candlelight vigil for those many young boys and girls who are addicted to drugs....There are so many problems that are deserving of the time and effort that goes into a vigil....Let's be genuine about the name "All Caring Together." And while we're holding vigils, let's not forget to pray. Let's pray for a better tomorrow, a better future for our children, a future where the color of one's skin is not a measuring stick for accomplishments and contributions to the betterment of the world around us....Let's pray for a change in the system that is designed to arrest and convict only those people who are darkly hued and who are economically disadvantaged. Let's pray for our leaders. And while we're praying let's remember the age old Serenity Prayer: "Grant us serenity to accept the things we cannot change; courage to change the things we can; and wisdom to know the difference."

READERS' FORUM

Hatteras Tuscarora Tribe Not Affiliated With Tuscarora Tribe of N.C.

To the Editor:
As a member of the Hatteras

Tuscarora Tribe located in Maxton, N.C., I would like to state for the

record that we are not, and will not be associated with the Tuscarora Tribe of N.C. Inc., that is under the direction of Bradeigh Graham. Mr. Graham has no right to say that we have any ties to his organization. We have told him previously, "Not to use our name in any way, shape, or form."

Our Federal Recognition Petition went to Washington, D.C. in 1980. Our petition has no ties with the Tuscarora Tribe of N.C. Inc. Mr. Graham did have power or of attorney at one time for this tribe, but this was taken away from him in 1986.

We want to let the public know the truth about the Hatteras Tuscarora. Our tribe began coming together in the early 1960's, and it is the original and oldest group in Robeson County.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

OXENDINE TIRE CENTER
(Alignment & Brake Specialist)

Congratulations
Carolina Indian Voice

521-3346 or 521-4590
SR 1616 Pembroke, N.C.

TYPESETTING
for
Family Histories,
Poems, Sermons,
Other Creative Works.
521-0119

H. Mitchell Baker, III, PA.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Fighting for victims' rights is what we do
...and it's all we do.

PRACTICE LIMITED TO
■ Wrongful Death
■ Serious Auto Accidents

Offices in Lumberton
and Wilmington

1-800-542-2664



SOUTHERN INTERIORS

WIDE SELECTION OF
CARPET

*Expert Installation & Financing Available

SOUTHERN INTERIORS
Union Chapel Road
521-8131 Pembroke

Congratulations

Carolina Indian Voice

On 18 Years of Continuous Service

The City of Lumberton

Mayor,
David F. Weinstein

Congratulations and continued success!

Carolina Indian Voice

On Your 18th Anniversary

Public Schools of Robeson County

Indian Education