

# WHAT NEXT???

One would think an organization which suggests it exists for "community change" and "justice" would set a shining example for the public, community service and non-profit agencies to follow. We now know one's words and one's actions can be diametrically opposed. Too often some are content to hold others to a *standard* but are unwilling to submit to the same standard. Some appear to feel they hold all the answers; they have the one and only correct "vision" and therefore they are somehow superior or better than others. Unfortunately, going solely on the lack of response by Revs. Walker and Legerton, we sadly have concluded they are candidates for the "do as we say, not as we do" award!

This newspaper publicly called on the executive director of *The Center for Community Action*, Rev. Legerton, to provide the last two audit reports and current budget of CCA to this newspaper so we could share this, what we feel is public information, with you, the public. After all, Legerton and company have petitioned, marched, demonstrated, called for public hearings, challenged the various elected and appointed leaders in our county, and pushed for "their vision" of a better Robeson County for several years. This is in addition to the fact that CCA has and is raising enormous amounts of monies from various church and social change organizations to fund such activities.

Much of this activity has been positive, but serious questions about sincerity, questions about loyalty, and questions about imposition of "the vision" have legitimately surfaced from many members in the Robeson County community. And one such area concerns the finances of CCA (does nepotism exist?) and how these funds are dispersed and what benefit such dispersal has upon the lives of the so-called "target population" (just a fancy couple of words meaning us Robesonians).

We were assured by the outgoing chairman of the board of directors of CCA, Rev. Arnold Walker, that audits were performed and the board was fiscally responsible and carefully accounted for funds which were solicited and spent on the various CCA projects. Rev. Walker mentioned audits as one primary method of accountability. But our efforts have failed to secure one piece of information which would substantiate Rev. Walker's claims. Apparently Revs. Walker and Legerton's words are supposed to be good enough, but they

hold our county commissioners to a higher standard. And folks, for us, 'that is the rub.'

Our county has tremendous problems but problems that we, together, can overcome. Often times we need help and sometimes we are fortunate to receive this help. But, Robesonians need to be very careful about the assistance receive from those who come to 'help us.' Please consider the words of William Davies, an English poet (1871-1940), and be forewarned:

*"The more help a man has in his garden,  
the less it belongs to him."*

Robeson County is *OUR* garden and in the final analysis, the job of cleaning it up belongs to us!

We will no longer press CCA for information that should rightfully be yours. We will not seek this information under the Freedom of Information Act. We will not contact the N.C. Secretary of State or the Attorney General's office. We will leave it to others to contact funding sources and ask "why?". We have informed you, the public. You are aware of CCA and its activities and while some of its activities have definitely been worthwhile (i.e. environmental concerns...), in the long run, you will have to ask yourself one of the obvious questions: "why are Revs. Legerton and Walker reluctant to let the public see what's going on in terms of monies raised and spent?"

Upfront we want to it plainly understood that we are unequivocally against drugs and drug dealers and that is regardless of sex, race, creed, religion, handicap or the national origin of the dealer. If anything we believe we have been hitting our own the hardest for selling and using drugs. This is because we strongly feel individuals who sell drugs are on par with murderers and rapists because these individuals not only poison people and steal their humanity, self-esteem, and spirit, but as a consequence of this, drug dealers also steal our collective future, shatter our hope, and turn our dreams into nightmares (if you doubt this, ask anyone who has been down this road!). Therefore, in our opinion, almost no penalty is too harsh, except maybe capital punishment, for these "dealers of death, misery and destruction."

With that said, we would like for you to think about this: Jonathan Lowry, one of several Indians who were indicted on federal charges of drug trafficking, faces a

possible sentence of life in prison without parole and a \$7 million fine while Gen. Manuel Noriega faces life in prison and a \$1 million fine. Our question is this--why didn't President Bush invade Robeson County rather than Panama? Now we know we are being a bit facetious, but not much.

Robeson County is a safe haven for drug dealers. But even more than that, Robeson County is a safe haven for whites who deal drugs. What is hard for us to understand is why the public, black, white and Indian, does not see this fact! One merely needs to examine their newspaper and they will be repeatedly hit with the obvious fact that apparently only Indians sell drugs in Robeson County because that is all that is arrested in our county. Is this a fact? Do you truly believe that only Indians like money? Do you truly believe that only Indians are selling drugs in Robeson County? Really???

Sadly, we have even heard some Indians say perhaps whites are too scared to sell drugs and that maybe only Indians do sell these drugs. Can you really believe this? What does this attitude say about the self-respect and self-image of some Indian people? Do we, as a people, truly believe we are the only evil in Robeson County? Do we, as a people, truly believe other races do not take advantage of this easy, and apparently if you are white, safe way of making money in Robeson County? If not, then how can any thinking Indian, black or white, even for a moment, consider voting for Hubert Stone for Sheriff? Stone is in the position to direct the attack on drugs and when whites might face embarrassment, it seems Stone's troops then say they "do not have the resources" to do the job. A case in point involves the \$1 million marijuana field which was discovered in the Lumberton area. Remember? That is not ancient history!

The sheriff's department said they did not have the resources to stake out the field of marijuana and therefore they just pulled up the crop and destroyed it. No arrests...no trouble...no embarrassment! What the sheriff's department did not tell you is that (according to our sources) some of the land in question belongs to one white, who is in sales, and another white, who is in law. So why do you really think Sheriff Stone did not have this marijuana field staked out?

It is very distressing to see Indians arguing with each other over names and not facing up to the real problems that face us and our brothers and sisters in the world. Why must Indians seek dominion over each other? Why must Indians act like Europeans and seek to build empires even when these empires come at the expense of other

native people? What has happened to our faith in the Great Spirit and our common bond as a people? Does this mean so little that we gladly undercut our brothers and sisters just to receive some grant or handout from the federal government or BIA? Sadly it seems we too often take immense joy and pride in the failure of other Indians just because they do not choose to go by the same name we choose. Too often it seems some Indians are only happy when other Indians fail. And rather than our Indianness binding and bonding us together for support, strength, courage, wisdom, development and growth, it seems our diverse names (Lumbee, Cherokee, Tuscarora, Hatteras, etc.) become the foundation for prejudice, bickering, jealousy, racial slurs, backbiting, weakness and division. With such "Indianness" is it a wonder that our people still suffer today? Our future, our children, are dropping out of school, are tempted by drugs, are turning their backs on their rich and varied heritage because we, as adults, do not set the example. We do not set the high standard. We have lost our way in the futile grabbing of more and more material things while our brothers and sisters sit without hope or help.

So while some Indians will join with others in protesting the name Purnell Swett High School, and some Indians will assist men like Hubert Stone because he did *them* a favor, and while some Indians fight over whether one is a Tuscarora or a Lumbee, and while some Indians seek high position, wealth and power and forget to help others, and while some Indians will sell drugs, and while some Indians will get high and drop out of school, and while some Indians will blame all their problems on others--our future becomes bleaker, our children become weaker, our destruction as a people becomes more and more complete.

All of this "ranting and raving" is to say this: think about your actions; think about the long term consequences and costs and not just the present benefit. Help set examples for our children, encourage them to remain in school, help those who do not. Seek out the very best, they very best leaders (men like Julian T. Pierce, John L. Godwin, Dr. Joseph Oxendine, and numerous others--black, white and Indian) and help them to help bring about positive change for all of us. As a people we must come together and draw upon our collective resources to face the tremendous challenges ahead. To continue as we have in the past more assuredly condemns us to repeat the past.

*"When you have a choice and don't make it,  
that is in itself a choice."*  
Wm. James

## READERS' FORUM

### Why Hasn't Kevin Stone Been Arrested?

To the Editor:  
Recently I heard on the news that a police officer was cleaning his gun. The gun went off and shot a person, but did not kill the person. The district attorney said charges could be brought against the police officer. At that point there had been no charges brought against the officer. My question is this: how come charges could not be brought against Kevin Stone for killing Jimmy Earl Cummings, a Lumbee Indian. Is it because Cummings was considered to be a drug dealer?

According to a coroner's inquest the killing of Jimmy Earl Cummings was in self defense or accidental. Kevin Stone is the son of Sheriff Hubert Stone. That is what the Indian unrest is all about. There are three races of people in Robeson County, Indian, Black and white. Many people do a lot of racial things in this county and get by with it and they seem to stay ahead. Kevin Stone is just one example of that, in my opinion.

James W. Bell  
Lumberton, NC

## THE COACH'S CORNER

BY KEN JOHNSON

### McEnroe's Attitude

A negative attitude to be sure but he has won millions of dollars with it. All he has done for years is throw a tantrum when the going gets tough. It throws the opponent's concentration off and McEnroe wins. The Australian Open tennis officials disqualified him as the result of cursing and racket bashing. This strategy is completely unfair and he has gotten away with it including hurting the feelings of ball boys and girls, linesmen when they make the wrong calls and referee. He would win a lot more with a positive attitude which improves his concentration and playing ability.

winner. Montana does have the skill, knowledge and the proper attitude of the winner. There is a little saying, "The surest way to win is play an open game, give smile for smile, and throw one in and friends will do the same." Arnold Palmer is admired by millions because of his smile and positive attitude.

One can compare McEnroe's attitude of being negative with the positive attitude of Montana, the 49'er's quarterback. This Montana attitude plus his three-step drop back and quick passes has led him to be unstoppable. I don't see how the Broncos and Dan Reeves can figure out a defense for Montana's quick passes. They can't blitz against it. And Elway drops back five to seven steps, allowing the 49'er's defensive backs to cover man to man. Anyway, the 49'ers I pick to win the Super Bowl, with superior play with their passes. All sports are made up of skills knowledge and attitudes. McEnroe has the skills, but no knowledge or attitudes of how to be a

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**Tips for healthy eating**  
If you want to eat right for good health this year, be sure to know the facts about "healthy" foods. For example, some breads labeled "wheat" are nothing more than white bread with caramel coloring. "Whole-Grain" or "Whole-Wheat Flour" are what to look for at the top of the ingredients list if you want bread with fiber. And as for those thick dressings you spoon onto those "diet" salads, remember - *The same amount of hot fudge has slightly fewer calories and a lot less fat!* So before you 'swallow' health claims of foods, know the facts. *Your good health is our business.*

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
**TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NORTH CAROLINA  
REHABILITATION OF PRIVATELY-OWNED  
DWELLING UNITS FY89 COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

The Town of Pembroke, North Carolina, is requesting bids for the rehabilitation of privately-owned dwelling units in its FY89 Community Development project area. Bid specifications will be distributed at a contractor's meeting to be held on February 1, 1990, at 2:00 p.m. at the Town of Pembroke Municipal Building. Interested contractors or their representatives must attend this meeting to receive specifications; bids from contractors who do not attend the meeting will be rejected. Bids will be opened and read promptly at 2:00 p.m. on February 15, 1990.

The Town of Pembroke's FY89 CDBG program budget is \$231,260, of which \$195,027, or 84%, is being financed with CDBG funds authorized by the Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

The Town of Pembroke is an equal opportunity employer and encourages bidding by small and minority businesses.

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