

# WHAT NEXT???

Robeson County seems always to have been struggling with its school systems. It has long been recognized that knowledge is power and for a long time our schools were separate and unequal thereby insuring some would possess the knowledge necessary for success and to maintain the status quo. For a long time Robeson County had six and then later five separate school systems. And for a long time many people were allowed a vote in controlling the activities in their own system and in the county system as well thereby placing barriers to insure the county system would be inferior to some of the city systems. After all, taxpayers with children attending the city school systems did not care about the county school system and they voted their unconcern.

When integration came we witnessed "white flight" to several private schools in the area. Education was not the concern of those who fled. And when possible, those in power sought to insure the impact of integration would be minimal where their children attended school by fighting over and protecting certain school district lines. With the recent merger of the schools of Robeson County some individuals have decided its now time to provide an "alternative" to public education. Wonder why these individuals did not act earlier? In fact this "alternative" has nothing to do with education. Control and fear are the real issues behind this alternative movement.

Several individuals have recently announced the establishment of a new private school in Robeson County. It will be known as Southeastern Academy. Despite the kind editorial words from one newspaper and the hype from the "founders," the academy is an anachronism. It is not needed. Several private institutions exist in the area if one truly wishes such an experience for their children. In our opinion, the foundation of this academy rests not on the betterment of education for all of our children, but rests on the pillars of fear and distrust. As a result we predict the academy will have a short, uneventful existence and the "\$2500 children" (cost to attend the academy) will have to return to the public schools much poorer, and we can only hope and pray, wiser for the experience.

Education and politics...unfortunately it often seems these two words go hand in hand and as a result, our children usually suffer. While it will never be admitted by our elected representatives, politics plays a very big role in education. Shortly, the legislative delegation will appoint four new members to the board of education. According to our information, Dr. Carroll will be re-appointed but McDuffie Cummings will not! Why? There are several reasons. Many white politicians see McDuffie as too radical. What is a radical? It's any person who speaks up for the citizens he represents and fails to toe to the official line. McDuffie has represented our district well, but he made several mistakes. He spoke his mind without consulting with the powers that be. McDuffie did not need someone to tell him when or how to vote...therefore he was a marked man. The status quo needs no free thinkers...either "play the game" or find a new field.

McDuffie has also been his own man in terms of choosing whom to support in the recent primary elections. This independence has potentially cost him re-appointment to the board of education. And this is wrong. Service should be the primary criteria for appointment, not politics, but what can you expect from the likes of Hasty and DeVane!

It's strange how Indian and Blacks can be labeled "radicals" when they attempt to speak up for issues that impact their community, but when it's done by whites, then whites are just serving the interests of their constituency. It's a double standard and as such, education in Robeson County still remains in danger. While the citizens of Robeson County can vote out some of the rascals appointed by our legislative delegation, the delegation can override the wishes of the people by appointing some of the same crowd over and over again. All seats on the board of education should be elected by the citizens of Robeson County. We believe the majority of the voters still place the welfare of their children first and they will therefore vote accordingly and choose the best qualified to serve on the board. It is a sad commentary to say that we do not likewise believe our

elected representatives can or will do the same for the future of education in Robeson County. Watch the appointments made by Hasty and DeVane and...remember!

There are 41 percent of the voters who should be very, very proud...not only did Hubert Stone win the Democratic primary, but now we have another drug dealer on the streets! And perhaps these voters can take a measure of pride in the fact that Hubert Stone again has come to the defense of yet another drug dealer.

Stone testified Leroy Locklear was very helpful in the recent Horace Locklear case--as a result, the court sentenced Leroy Locklear to four months with a recommendation for immediate work release. So, Leroy is walking the streets thanks to the willing assistance of the current Robeson County Sheriff, Hubert Stone!

Apparently Leroy knew very well what he was doing in May and his hard work has paid off. His public support for Hubert Stone is widely and well known and as a citizen he has the right to support whomever he chooses. And, in our opinion, Hubert Stone's support of Leroy Locklear, and apparently his activities, is now a documented fact! But, Stone does not have the right, especially as the chief law enforcement officer in the county, to assist and associate with whomever he chooses. Stone is supposed to set a standard--he is supposed to be an obvious advocate of truth, fairness, and justice. We fail to see how Stone fulfills this role by continually speaking up for convicted drug dealers. We fail to see how the voters of Robeson County can truly hope to combat drugs if men like Hubert Stone are elected to provide the leadership. In our opinion, Stone's priorities are warped--drug dealers, even friendly ones, are supposed to go to jail! Even so, we've decided to come up with a slogan for Hubert's November campaign:

"work for me and you'll go free"

Next Tuesday, June 5th is a very important day! It is time for voters to return to the polls and make a choice for the future. One choice we find very easy--Harvey Gantt should be the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senator! We believe Gantt can provide the leadership necessary to change the image of North Carolina. We believe Gantt is the only candidate who can successfully challenge Jesse Helms. Gantt's opponent brags about being tough on drug dealers--we fail to understand how plea bargaining can be translated as "being tough."

Too often minorities are forced to run again and again in order to represent the people. Although Gantt easily defeated his opponents in the primary, he failed to win the necessary 40 percent plus one vote and therefore he must run again. We hope and urge you to return to the polls on Tuesday and support Harvey Gantt!

A couple of weeks ago we briefly discussed the fact that Hubert Stone only won the Democratic primary--he was not elected sheriff.

In November you will have another chance to vote for the best candidate for sheriff of Robeson County and it does not matter if you are a registered Democrat, Republican, or Independent. In fact, the Republican Party has offered the voters a choice when considering the office of Sheriff.

As you know by now, Hubert Stone won 41 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary--59 percent voted for another candidate. We still believe Hubert Stone is in trouble especially if the citizens of Robeson County vote their conviction and vote for change.

Now some might tell you that you cannot vote for a Republican if you are registered as a Democrat, but that's just plain wrong--how do you think Jesse Helms (he's Republican) wins elections--Democrats vote for him!

We urge you, the voter, to forget the party and vote for the man! Do not vote a straight Democratic ticket--make the right choice for Robeson County by voting for change for Robeson County. Vote for James Sanderson for Sheriff! Let's give Hubert some time as a "private citizen" to spend with his special friends: Leroy Locklear, Carson Maynor, Jonathan Lowery! Hubert deserves to be retired and Robeson County needs to regain some measure of its pride by sending a strong message that public officials are accountable to someone...and that someone is you, the voting public!

## READERS' FORUM

### Time to stop foolishness and continue with Cultural Center

To the Editor:

I have been following with interest the controversy concerning the N.C. Indian Cultural Center being developed in Robeson County, and would like to present a few thoughts on the matter. A recent article in the Fayetteville Observer prompted me to write this letter, since it presents what I believe to be a very narrow view of the topic.

First, let me say that I am not a native of Robeson County, although it has been my privilege to have spent a great deal of time there over the past 15 years. I am, however, a resident of the State of North Carolina, and therefore my taxes are going to subsidize the Indian Cultural Center. That, if nothing else, gives me some right to voice an opinion about the situation. I am also someone who believes that the history and cultural heritage of the Indian people of North Carolina is worth preserving. It is popular among many non-Indians (and a few Indians) to say that Indian people in North Carolina have no culture worth preserving, or that our children are better off forgetting about our past and looking only at the future. I disagree. Indian culture in North Carolina has been suppressed for years, but it can still be found by those who take the time to look for it. If we, and our children, are allowed to forget where we have come from, how can they have any sense of self esteem, or self pride. I think part of the problem our young people have today is they have been taught that only the values of mainstream America can bring them success. Forgotten are the values of community versus the individual, or cooperation versus competitiveness. They are taught that their history and traditions are worthless. It is people such as Lonnie Maynor, if he was accurately quoted in the Fayetteville paper, who have helped make our young people ashamed

of where they come from, and have emphasized the good of the individual over the good of the community.

Even if the Cultural Center falls short of the projected 500 new jobs for the area, it would still provide many times the 5 or 6 jobs created by the golf course. The idea of Indian people championing a golf course over a center that would be of benefit to thousands of people each year, providing not only recreational activities but the chance for both Indians and non Indians to learn about the richness of native culture and history, is to me ridiculous.

No one is suggesting that we replace modern housing with longhouses, or give up electric heat for campfires, as some of the persons quoted in the paper would seem to believe. What I would suggest is that we work now to preserve what we have left of Indian culture in North Carolina, so that 100 years from now, people can look back on our efforts with gratitude for our foresight. The game of golf is not going to disappear, but with each passing day, as another of our elders passes on, we lose a little more of our history.

So, let's quit fooling around. Close the golf course so that the land (which represents a large percentage of the useable land on the site) can be used to build a center that we, and our children, and their children can be proud of.

Incidentally, I wonder what the Recognition Committee of the Bureau of Indian Affairs thinks of all these protestations that Lumbee culture is gone and that the Lumbees would rather play golf than take an interest in their own history and traditions. I would urge you to contact your representatives to the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs and tell them it is time to stop all the foolishness and get on with the show.

Forest Hazel  
Mebane, NC

## ALONG THE ROBESON TRAIL

By Dr. Stan Knick, Director of the PSU  
Native American Resource Center

The Paleo-Indian period, the oldest known Native American occupation in Robeson County, gradually came to an end with the close of the last Ice Age. As part of the global warming trend, the continental glacier retreated toward Canada and the climate in Robeson County became progressively warmer. During this climatic change, which took one to two thousand years to occur, the old northern-type forest which was dominated by evergreen trees was gradually replaced by a temperate-type forest; this new forest brought with it new sources of food--nuts, berries, and smaller animals. The Native Americans living here gradually changed their lifestyle over many generations to adapt to the changing forest.

This new period of Native American occupation is now called Archaic (pronounced ar-ky-ik). These Archaic people were semi-sedentary, which means that they still moved from place to place as did their ancestors, the Paleo-Indians, but that they did not need to move as often. They probably could remain in one place for as long as a season at a time, hunting, fishing, and gathering nuts and berries and other edible plants. And just as their diet became more complex, so did their tool kit. Archaic people still made stone spearheads and other projectile points, but they also made a wide range of other types of tools, including scrapers, borers, drills, axes, grinding stones, blades, and nutting stones (for cracking nuts). They also learned how to make containers (such as bowls) out of soapstone, a very soft but durable stone. (Remember that all of this stone raw material had to be brought into Robeson County by trade or other means.)

But perhaps the most amazing tool invented by Archaic Native Americans was the atlatl

(pronounced at-lat-l; rhymes with "cat battle"). The atlatl was a giant step forward in technology, and illustrates how intelligent and adaptive Archaic Native Americans were. The atlatl is a carved stick, hooked on one end and often with a stone weight attached near the same end, which is used for throwing a spear. It has the effect of making the user's arm seem to be longer and stronger than it really is. With it, a man can throw a spear farther and more accurately than he can without it. Thus the atlatl, or spear-thrower, made hunting easier and more productive. Since wood does not preserve as long as stone, nowadays all we generally find remaining of the atlatl is the stone weight, which is often crescent-shaped or butterfly-shaped with a smooth hole drilled through the center. They may not look like much now, but they were a great technological advancement in their time.

Because of the new forest with its new and diverse sources of food, and the new tools invented in response, the Archaic population grew in numbers. Not only did Archaic people leave more sites for us to find, but they also lived in larger groups than had the Paleo-Indians. The Archaic period lasted from around 10,000 years ago until around 4,000 years ago, and during this time Native Americans were apparently quite prosperous in their new lifestyle all over the Eastern Woodlands, and here along the Lumbee River.

In the next segment of *Along the Robeson Trail*, find out how Native Americans became permanent village dwellers (Hint: the seed of an idea was planted). For more details, call or visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

## SAY YOU READ IT IN THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

### THE READERS' FORUM

#### Some drug dealers are more special than others

Dear Editor:

It was with pain I read a newspaper account of the sentencing of a notable Robeson County drug trafficker in Robeson County Superior Court on May 21.

After reading how Sheriff Hubert Stone took the witness stand and testified on behalf of the drug defendant, I painfully recalled the case of my 27-year-old daughter who was charged with drugs in June 1988. She was chared when cocaine was found in her home while she was a way from home at her place of employment. It was argued by local law enforcement agents that because the drug was found in her home the drug belonged to her. Until this day my daughter denies guilt.

My daughter was ultimately tried six months later in Robeson County Superior Court; sentenced and held in the county jail for a month before being transferred to Central Prison in Raleigh. I personally appealed to Sheriff

Hubert Stone to recommend that she be incarcerated in the Robeson County Prison Unit. The sheriff told me he could not do it because it wouldn't be fair to other inmates. When my daughter was taken away she left behind two young children whom I care for. The situation served to be a severe financial and physical hardship on me and my wife.

I want Sheriff Stone to explain to the citizens of Robeson County how he can go to bat for one "special" drug dealer and have no mercy on other people charged in drug-related cases.

As I see it, "What's good for the goose is good for egander." I say the justice system in Robeson County is unfair and that Sheriff Stone must give account of his actions in testifying for some people and not others.

Dan Locklear  
Lumberton, NC

#### Growing marijuana seems to be safer than practicing law

Dear Editor:

I read with amazement the daily newspaper account of the sentencing of Robeson County drug trafficker Leroy Locklear on May 21. As I read the article I wondered if other citizens received the same message in the testimony of Sheriff Hubert Stone when he spoke on the behalf of his long time friend and political supporter Leroy Locklear.

Our "High" Sheriff's message rang loudly and seemed especially directed toward the Leroy Locklears (drug

dealers) in Robeson County. I message I read in Sheriff Stone's testimony was, "If you are trafficking drugs in Robeson County don't bother to hire a lawyer, because I can better serve your interest. I have everyone under my control."

Is Sheriff Stone telling the lawyers and other people in Robeson County that it is safer and wiser to grow marijuana than to practice law in the county?

Mary B. Hall  
Lumberton, NC

## NEWS

### Pembroke Kiwanis meets

Hesther Hooks will dance with Guest Performer Luis Cataldi in Verdi's "Seasons," a part of the Spring Festival of Dance 1990 at the Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium on Friday, June 1 at 8 p.m. and Sunday June 3 at 3 p.m. Presented by the Charlotte Blume School of Dance, the Dance Festival with some 250 students offers a variety of Ballet, Tap, Gymnastics, Jazz and Modeling scenes. Cataldi, a principal artist with the North Carolina dance Theater, also dances in the Festival's featured Ballet, 3rd Act "Raymonda" with Margot Siek. Other Lumberton dancers featured are Amy Soderena, Chonda Smith and Tamara Starnes. The public is invited. Tickets are \$3.50 at the door for adults; children under 12 are admitted free.

The weekly meeting was held at the Town and Country Restaurant on Tuesday evening at 7 p.m.

Mr. Kevin Starr, Agriculture Agent specializing in landscaping was the speaker. He was presented by fellow Extension Agent Ray Lowry.

The agency is an extension of the North Carolina State University Agriculture Department. It is funded by the federal, state and county governments and is educational in nature. Mr. Starr used color slides showing and discussing the Do's and Don'ts of landscaping. Prepare the soil before planting, even if it is just loosening the soil. It is a key to good growth of flowers and plants. Usually people just put the seeds into a hole and wonder why poor production results. Just loosening the soil makes a big difference. Peat moss and other organic material will also help. Use color in landscaping, especially in the fall and summer as color in the spring is more predominant than the other seasons. Mums are very good in the fall. Crape myrtle is very popular here. Paracanthia is very good in the fall and can be trained to a fence or wall. Much spraying is necessary due to death by nematodes. Nematodes attack box woods and Japanese lilies and there is no chemical to use on them. If you plant roses, black spots are sure to appear as they cannot be avoided. Regular

spraying is needed. Reflections off white gravel should be avoided in landscaping; azaleas don't like it. Match plants with the site and think what you want to accomplish. Layman cypress is very popular, but is has bag worms and needs regular spraying.

Landscaping doesn't need to be complicated. Keep it simple and for your own pleasure. And keep away from high maintenance. Are you a good yard person? That is important as much landscaping is neglected. It is best if plants are allowed to grow naturally. Pruning is used on hedges and many times are shaped, but they should be allowed to grow in their natural shape, although there are many formal gardens of shaped hedges. Avoid landscape fabrics. There should be a clear space between the plants and the lawn area, or mulch. Black fabrics won't stop weeds. Make use of natural areas. Pine trees are good for azaleas. Mums are important in landscaping and good taste is important. Plant what you or your wife like. Don't cut down on oxygen by using too much top soil. There are not too many rules on pruning but let new leaves grow. It's best to prune when things are not growing.

Presiding: Ronnie Sutton; song leader Ray Lowry; invocation: Dorsey Lowry; program: Albert Hunt; reporter Ken Johnson.

