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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson County

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## Sandy Chavis Accepts Plea Arrangement

Sandy Jordan Chavis pleaded guilty on Monday to accessory after the fact of murder in Smithfield. He had been charged with first degree murder in the 1988 death of Julian Pierce. Chavis was given a five year suspended sentence. Chavis was sentenced by Judge Wiley F. Bowen of Dunn after his plea of aiding John Anderson Goins in avoiding arrest and apprehension. Chavis was placed on unsupervised probation.

The prosecution alleged that Goins killed Pierce because Goins believed Pierce was responsible for problems with his girlfriend, Shannon Bullard. Bullard is the daughter of Pierce's girlfriend. Goins was found dead at his father's home before authorities could charge him with the Pierce murders. Authorities said Goins committed

suicide.

Members of Julian Pierce's family filed a motion saying that they were not satisfied with the court's decision to accept a plea bargain from Mr. Chavis. Their motion stated: "A guilty plea will deny the family an opportunity to scrutinize the evidence and benefit from the revelations and insights that would be available in a trial."

The motion further stated that "the case is riddled with rumor and suspicion and has left a cloud over the memory of Julian Pierce and the reputation of Johnny Goins, and to some extent, the entire community."

No mention of the motion was made during the hearing.

## HARVEY GANTT TO FACE HELMS IN NOVEMBER



Harvey Gantt, former Charlotte Mayor won the nomination on Tuesday and will face Sen. Jesse Helms in the november election for Senate. Mr. Gantt is the first Black in 100 years to win the Senate nomination in North Carolina. With 99 percent of the precincts counted, Gantt had 59 percent of the vote while Mike Easley had 41 percent. Traditionally minority candidates have led primaries with several white candidates, but lost runoffs with a single white candidate. It is the first time in many years that a Black has won a run off election against a white candidate.

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## Robeson Voters Approve Bond Referendum

Voters of Robeson County passed a \$10.3 million jail bond referendum on Tuesday. The referendum passed by unofficial totals of 4,903 to 2,137. It was a light voter turnout with about five percent of the registered voters turning out.

The referendum was to determine the method of financing the construction of a 240-bed jail to replace the old downtown facility. County commissioners had already

voted to build the jail. Their idea is that general obligation bonds are the least expensive way to finance the jail. A state inspector has said that the present conditions in the jail are deplorable. The county has been pressured into building a new jail. Commissioners estimate that they can save about \$600,000 by using bonds to finance the jail instead of a lease purchase arrangement. The jail will include administrative offices for the sheriff's department.

## Holmes Named Commander of Most Decorated Patrol Squadron

Commander Michael L. Holmes has been named commander of one of the U.S. Navy's most decorated patrol squadrons.

The Lumberton native, of Orange Park, Florida, was named commander of the Navy's Patrol Squadron twenty-four, an anti-submarine unit, in special ceremonies held May 25 at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Fla. where the squadron is headquartered.

The primary mission of the squadron is anti submarine warfare, with secondary missions of aerial mining, anti surface warfare, or warfare against surface ships and maritime surveillance. The squadron maintains watch over ocean shipping lanes, collecting and reporting information on movements of foreign naval forces and potentially hostile submarines and intelligence-gathering ships.

Holmes' promotion is a culmination of a 17-year naval career he began shortly after graduation from Pembroke State University where he received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics in 1972.

He then joined the Navy, receiving his officer's commission in December, 1973. He was designated a naval aviator in December, 1974, through the Navy's Aviation Officer Candidate Program.

After completing flight training, Holmes was assigned to Patrol Squadron Twenty four, serving as Airframes and Corrosion Control Branch officer, Quality Assurance officer and Pilot NATOPS (Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Program) officer. While with the squadron, he was deployed to Signella, Sicily and Keflavik, Iceland.

In May 1978 Holmes was assigned to Patrol Squadron Thirty as an instructor pilot, also serving as the survival training officer, Pilot NATOPS officer and alternate NATOPS evaluator.

Selected for the Personnel Exchange Program in which the United States and its allies routinely exchange military personnel, Holmes served with the Canadian Air Force in 415 Squadron, based at Greenwood, Nova Scotia, from October 1981 until November 1983. He was assigned to the USS America, based in Norfolk, Va., serving as the vessel's communications officer. As part of his assignment, he completed a Mediterranean/ Indian Ocean cruise.

In April 1986 Holmes was assigned to Patrol Squadron Ten in Brunswick, Maine where he served as the maintenance officer and operations officer, also completing a split site deployment to Rota, Spain and Lajes, Azores.

In April 1988 Holmes joined Patrol Squadron Thirty for a one year tour of duty as the squadron's COMNAVAIR LANT (commander, Naval Air Atlantic NATOPS evaluator.



Michael Holmes

He then reported to Patrol Squadron Twenty-four, being named executive officer for the squadron on May 5, 1989.

With his promotion, Holmes replaces squadron commander Commander George J. Murphy, who assumed command of the unit on May 5, 1989. Murphy has been assigned to the Office of Naval Operations Strategy/ Concepts Branch in Washington, D.C.

Holmes is married to the former Viola Padilla of Del Rio, Texas. The couple have three sons: Michael, Jared, and Justin.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Normie Holmes of Route 10, Lumberton. He has two sisters: Darlene Holmes Ranson and Olivia Oxendine of Southern Pines. His brother is First Class Petty Officer Eddie Holmes of Jacksonville, Florida Naval Air Station.

Holmes is a graduate of Magnolia High School as well as Pembroke State University.

Attending the ceremony were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Normie Holmes, his sister and her family, Olivia and Gervais Oxendine and their sons, Brock and Eric; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Emanuel, all of Lumberton; Mr. and Ms. Carlie Bell; Diane Keene; Jeanie Keene; and Ron Sutton; Lane Emanuel of Charlotte; Mr. and Mrs. Welton Chavis of Detroit, Michigan.

Other out of state guests attended from California, New York and Illinois.

## Prepare Yourself For a Life of Change

On Sunday, May 27, 1990, Robeson County Resident Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks delivered the commencement address at Southeastern Community College. He was introduced by Dr. Charles E. Grigsby, Dean of Instructional Services for the College. Dr. Grigsby told the assembly of the Southeastern roots of the speaker. After graduating with high honors with a Masters in Mathematics from North Carolina State University, Brooks taught with Dr. Grigsby in the Mathematics Department of the College for the 1971-72 academic year. After teaching the next year at Robeson Technical Institute Brooks attended law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he graduated in 1976. After being engaged in the private practice of law in Pembroke, he was appointed to the superior court bench on January 1, 1989 by Governor James G. Martin.

Judge Brooks entitled his remarks *Prepare Yourself for a Life of Change*. He explained the nature of the changing world to the graduates. We now live in a global village. The rise of Japan and the decline of Russia will have a profound effect on our lives. The free enterprise system is superior to any economic system advocating central planning over individual incentive and initiative. Totalitarian and authoritarian political systems not only suppress human rights but also human creativity. Individual freedom requires group responsibility. America is confronting the problems of drugs, crime, racism, single interest political groups, negative political campaigns, corruption, a burgeoning budgetary deficit and national debt, pollution and the homeless. In the future the United States will be more concerned with economics than the military; education will become the foundation of a new economic policy; minorities and women will become more visible; the environmental movement will transform the country; and senior citizens will become more important as the population ages.

Judge Brooks urged the graduates to be versatile and adaptable; to learn fundamental concepts rather than black letter rules; and to develop interests beyond their work. Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he urged the

graduates to reach out to their fellow man.

### PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A LIFE OF CHANGE

We live in exciting times. The world that your grandparents knew is now ancient history. The world that your parents knew is only a fading memory. Although many people are finding it difficult to adjust to the rapidly changing times the impending new century promises no respite for the weary. I urge you not to become a casualty. Start tomorrow because your hard work these past long months or years has earned you the right to take the rest of the day off.

Recognize that we now live in a global village. Darkest Africa, Outer Mongolia and Faraway China no longer exist. Events in any part of the world can have a very profound effect here in Southeastern North Carolina. The rise of Japan as an industrial and technological juggernaut has altered forever the way nations relate to each other on the world stage. For a millennium a strong military was necessary for a nation to play a role or to have any effect beyond its national borders. The world that your parents and grandparents knew was stabilized and structured for over forty years by two competing military giants, the United States of America and communist Russia. In the past several months or years communism has been discredited as a viable economic and political system while the Russian empire seems on the verge of fragmentation. In spite of its military prowess Russia seems incapable of feeding itself or producing a consumer product capable of being sold in the world marketplace. While Japan, a country with no nuclear armaments and no apparent interest in obtaining any, has built an economy that is the envy of the rest of the world.

What lessons are to be learned from the rise of the Japanese and the decline of the Russians? The free enterprise system is superior to any economic system advocating central planning over individual incentive and initiative. Totalitarian and authoritarian political systems not only suppress human rights but also human creativity. Individual freedom requires group responsibility. Japan is a great country because the national interest is always of concern to individual Japanese.

With the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and the rise of democracy throughout the world many will be looking to the county with the oldest democratic constitution for guidance in the use of newly-found freedoms. It is, therefore, only fitting that we in this country re-examine the status of our own national character. Every American should have the same opportunity to develop to his or her fullest potential. The individual has certain rights that should remain inviolate. The national interest is a matter of vital individual concern.

America is confronting a legion of problems. Drugs, and drug-related crime and corruption, seem to be overcrowding our courts and prisons and eroding the very foundation of the republic. Many people are becoming less tolerant of others. Racism is on the rise. Special or single interest constituencies are seeking to impose their views on their fellow citizens notwithstanding the protections of our common Constitution. Candidates for public office are elected on the basis of slogans or negative advertisements rather than individual merit. Corruption is undermining public confidence in government. The federal government seems incapable of meaningful positive action on the deficit or a national debt threatening to bankrupt future generations. The air and land are rapidly being poisoned by thousands of chemicals of whose presence we are finally becoming painfully aware. The ranks of the poor and the homeless continue to swell as millions seem to be locked out of the American Dream.

What does the future hold for the graduating class of 1990? The Cold War will continue to wind down. Substantially less national monies will be devoted to the military, especially nuclear armaments. The country will become more concerned with its economic relationship with the rest of the world rather than its military relationship. With the rise of a united Europe, in addition to continuing Japanese competition, the United States will no longer be able to take for granted its ability to compete in the global marketplace. The federal government will again focus on education as the foundation of a new economic policy as technology

becomes more complex. As country becomes more racially and culturally diverse members of minority groups will become more visible in all facets of our lives. Women will assume more of a leadership role in all our affairs. The environmental movement will transform this country in a manner analogous to the civil rights movement of an earlier era. Senior citizens will become even more important politically and economically as the national population begins to age.

If you are to be successful in the coming years you must be versatile and adaptable. Today's technological marvel too fast becomes tomorrow's unwanted relic. Ground yourself solidly in foundational concepts. Learn reasons rather than black-letter rules. An education is what you have left after you forget everything that you learned in school. Understand the world around you and your place in it. Develop interests beyond your work. Cultivate a sense of humor; you are going to need it. Reject greed and embrace your fellow man. Remember the advice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

*Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. This is the judgment. Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?*

And above all else develop a deep and personal relationship with the Creator.

## VFW To Hold Monthly Meeting

Locklear-Lowry VFW Post 2843 will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Post Home. Supper will be served at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend. Membership has reached 384 and enrollment is still open for 1990. Call QM Ardell Jacobs for more information at 521-2313. W.D. Oxendine is Post Commander.