

# WHAT NEXT???

The recent invasion of Kuwait by Iraq was obviously the most talked about event of the past week and the continuing developments insure this will be one of the leading topics of conversation for weeks to come.

It is interesting to watch the television networks as they seemingly hype the news--it's almost like they hope a shooting war will break out. To what degree they are reporting news or channeling selected information to form public opinion, we do not know. But now, we do have a better understanding of why many people are turned off by television "stars" posing as newsmen. It can be disgusting after awhile.

Many people are wondering why Iraq's President Saddam Hussein would run such a risk by invading Kuwait. After all, Iraq had just ended an eight year war with Iran which was estimated to have cost \$50 billion. And to some extent, this was a part of the problem which forced Hussein's hand. He was facing a severe crisis at home. He had little to lose.

The Iraqi people were becoming increasingly disgruntled as rampant inflation cut their purchasing power. Iraq owed billions (estimated to be at least \$80 billion) to its oil-exporting neighbors. Iraq's citizens were also becoming disenchanted with the government which had done little to repatriate its 70,000 prisoners of war. And all this in addition to a one million man army which was no longer needed and an economy which could not absorb even a small portion of this manpower.

Obviously Saddam Hussein had to do something and the current power vacuum in the Arab world helped him make a quick decision. Kuwait was the wealthiest country in the region. It had an army of 21,000 men with 275 tanks and only 54 combat aircraft. So faced with discontent at home, increasing inflation, and rising debt, Hussein looked at the wealth of his neighbor and compared its military to his 1 million troops, 5500 tanks and 670 combat aircraft, and the solution became obvious. Hussein opted for the quick fix. Patriotism would off-set some of his people's complaints and Kuwait's gold reserves and oil would insure Iraq's future and power. Saddam would become the default leader of the Arab world! It was a great dream!

But, Saddam Hussein obviously underestimated the severity of world opinion. While no American wishes to become involved in another Vietnam, we believe our country had little choice in this matter. Most people will state the obvious...the United States had to become involved to protect the oil fields and prevent Hussein from possibly invading Saudi Arabia and thereby gaining control of up to 50 percent of the world's known oil reserves. So most people will cite the economic and financial reasons in support of America's action.

But, in our opinion, the basis of our support is even more legitimate. Simply stated, it is wrong for any country, the United States included, to attempt to conquer another and therefore the United States, the world's most powerful nation, must continue to take the lead in rallying the world against this type of aggression. We, as a nation, have a moral obligation first...our additional special interests should be a very distant second!

The mayor of Washington, D.C., Marion Barry, was recently convicted of misdemeanor possession of cocaine. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the numerous additional felony charges and so now Barry apparently "walks"--he is a free man!

This is distressing. Everyday men and women are convicted and sent to prison on less evidence than was presented at Barry's trial. You probably saw the videotape which clearly showed Barry smoking crack cocaine, but for some reason the jury seemingly discounted this and the testimony of numerous witnesses.

There has been much speculation as to why the jury was unable to agree on the felony charges against Barry. Some suggest the defense made a very convincing argument that the government

"entrapped" the mayor and this was a pattern of behavior whereby the government was singling out Black leaders for such selective prosecution and therefore the jury should send a message to the government that such behavior was unacceptable by finding the mayor not guilty. And while the jury did not find the mayor "not guilty," their verdict will undoubtedly have an impact on future efforts by prosecutors.

Over the years we have repeatedly pointed out the "second class justice" minorities receive here in Robeson County. We have witnessed selective prosecution--we have watched as the chief law enforcement officer of the county, Hubert Stone, wrote and testified on behalf of major drug dealers and we watched in disbelief as the voters of this county rewarded Stone's behavior with a narrow victory in the Democratic primary for sheriff. We have seen many individuals escape the fruits of justice because of their power, prestige or money.

All the while we have consistently been opposed to drug dealers and have repeatedly called for harsh punishment for those who were caught and convicted. Some have commented that we are "too hard on our own" perhaps implying or suggesting that we should lighten up on Indians who are caught and convicted for dealing drugs. We reject this notion!

The color of a drug dealer or user is of no consequence. The evil and damage these people do transcends racial heritage or identity. When someone is wrong, they remain wrong even if they happen to be Black, white or Indian. And while it grieves us to report on the drug activities of our people who are attracted to such activities, we must continue to do so. But, we still forcefully maintain Indians are not the only people buying and selling drugs in Robeson County. Apparently some of our so-called leaders not only know this, but some obviously have decided to ignore and/or actively protect the major white dealers and suppliers in our county for personal profit. There is big money in this business and the mighty dollar talks loud and long to some. But one day this wrong will also be corrected and we can only hope we are here to loudly say, "we told you so"!!

In our view Marion Barry has disgraced the American people with his activities. Whether singled out for prosecution or not, no one forced Barry to smoke cocaine. He did this of his own free will and thereby not only violated the law of the land, but he let down the people who had faith in his vision and leadership. Only now are the people learning Barry's vision was clouded by drugs and alcohol. And while he will not see any jail time, his own vices and misdeeds insure his eventual dishonor and fall. And for some individuals, the dishonor is more severe than time in prison so perhaps Marion Barry has yet to receive his just reward!

As we reported recently, Joe Pete Ward, the county attorney, will retire soon. He is expected to step down this month. Unfortunately the latest news is not as good. Apparently Mr. Ward's words of wisdom convinced the county to hire his law partner, Hal Kinlaw, Jr. Mr. Kinlaw is scheduled to succeed Ward on September 1.

This is the politics of this county. Friendships, partnerships, contacts, power, money, prestige...all of these factors play a significant role in who works for the county. And this latest announcement is one in a continuing series of back-room deals whereby "who you know" counts for more than "what you know."

Austin O'Malley, a writer, should get the last word on taxes...one might feel perhaps he had lived in our area at some point in time based on this observation:

"In levying taxes and in shearing sheep it is well to stop when you get down to the skin."  
We can only pray our politicians will heed the wisdom of O'Malley!

## People Shouldn't Play Politics to get Jobs with County

To the Editor:

People have raised questions about racial employment with county government. I believe that all races of people should be treated equally.

A lady from Fairmont stated in this newspaper that the Indians and whites receive the jobs with the county. The Indians don't get the jobs with the county. I don't think it is fair for people to be elected county commissioners and then work for their relatives to have county jobs.

I don't think it is fair for people to play politics to get a job with the county or with the sheriff's department.

The last account I had from the county personnel office, 65 percent of the employees with the sheriff's department

were white. That doubles the number of Indians Blacks with the sheriff's department. I agree that the sheriff's department should be an affirmative action employer. I don't feel that a person's name should go Washington or Raleigh to get a job with the county.

I believe that a person's last employer and the Clerk of Court's office should be enough to get a job with the county or sheriff's department.

The Indians don't get the jobs with the county or with the sheriff's department.

I am well aware that a Lumberton county commissioner has relatives employed with the county. That is unfair.

James W. Bell  
Lumberton, NC

## Two Minutes With The Bible

BY PRESTLEY LOWRY

### THE TWO GARDENS

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel." Genesis 3:15.

There once was a garden. In it were heard the sounds of laughter and holy joy; and the Holy Presence of God as He came down in the cool of the day to commune with Adam and Eve. God planted that garden and put our first parents in it "to dress and keep it." (Genesis 2:15). But the garden of life became the garden of death. The chill winds blew across its face and blighted the innocence of holy joy. Made in the image of God, made to enjoy the fellowship of God and angels, Adam and Eve hid, afraid, from the face of God. (Genesis 3:8)

But God came seeking them. "Where art thou?" He called (Verse 9). This question rings through every book of the Bible. God is seeking humanity--seeking us because we are lost, because we cannot help ourselves. So God comes to us and when He comes, it is to buy us salvation, to offer us hope in the provision He already has made to meet the emerging of sin.

So to our first parents in their shame came a word of hope from God. God promised a "seed" of the woman who in God's own time would come to crush the head of the serpent. Though that child of Eve would suffer in the process 'thou shalt bruise his heel'...He would be the divine agent to assure the triumph of right in the great controversy with evil.

There was another garden. In it, on a Thursday night when the moon was at the full, a man knelt to pray. He had often come to this place, seeking quiet communion

with God. Always He had left refreshed. But now His sweat was like great drops of blood. Agonizing, He cried out: "O my father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39). That garden, which became the garden of death for Jesus of Nazareth, is the garden of life for us. By His struggles, submitting to drain the bitter cup to its dregs, tasting death for every man and woman. (Hebrews 2:9) He reversed the loss of the first garden. Through His heel was wounded, dying He saved us, freeing us from our guilt and breaking the power of the enemy over us. Thank God for "the seed" of the woman.

"Our only ground of hope is in the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.

"Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God as if you had not sinned." (Steps to Christ, Page 62)

"What we do not overcome will overcome us and work out our own destruction." (Steps to Christ, Page 33).

If you have experienced having Christ as your personal Saviour, the following prayer should be our early morning prayer. And if you have not yet placed your trust in Him, why not? Salvation is the greatest privilege we have in this life and you too can leave with Him all of your faults as you breathe this prayer of hope though you may be surrounded and plagued by the works of sin and Satan:

"Lord, take my heart...It is thy property. Keep it pure for I cannot keep it for thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me in a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of thy love can flow through my soul."

[Christ's Object Lessons, Page 159]

## Locklear-Hunt Wed At Harper's Ferry

Harper's Ferry Baptist Church in Pembroke was the setting for the 4 p.m. Saturday, August 11, wedding of Sherita L. Hunt of Pembroke and Anthony W. Locklear of Pembroke. The Rev. Dalton Brooks officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Hazel L. Hunt of Pembroke and the granddaughter of Thurman Locklear and the late Velma Locklear of Pembroke. She graduated from West Robeson High School in 1984 and from Pembroke State University in 1989. She is employed by the Robeson County Department of Social Services.

The bridegroom is the son of Katie L. Locklear of Pembroke and the grandson of the late Jack and Rosie Locklear of Pembroke. He graduated from West Robeson High School in 1984 and from Robeson Community College in 1985. He is employed by Davis Electric Construction Co.

The bride was given in marriage by her mother, Hazel L. Hunt.

The bride wore a long gown of white satin. It had a princess neckline, basque waist and long fitted sleeves. The bodice, neckline, sleeves, skirt were trimmed with hand beaded Alencon lace. The skirt ended in a cathedral length train.

Her pouf veil of illusion was trimmed with pearls and was held by a halo of seed pearls and spangles. She carried a forever ring bouquet of satin and covered with pearls of lilies, roses, ivy and jip.

The maid of honor was Amanda Hunt, sister of the bride of Pembroke. She wore a tea length gown of celeston bengaline, styled with a scoop neckline, basque waist, graced with a bow at the back waist, short pouf sleeves and full skirt. She carried a nosegay bouquet of sweetheart roses, jip and majestic daisies.

Bridesmaids were Wanda Brewer of St. Pauls, Shelena Smith, Sonya Lowry, Susan Deese, and Sandra Oxendine all of Pembroke. They were gowned like the honor attendant.

The best man was Jimmy Locklear, brother of the



Mrs. Anthony W. Locklear

groom of Pembroke. Ushers were Kenny Brewer of St. Pauls; Oswell Cummings, Arnold Hammonds, Reese Jacobs, Jr., and Chuck Oxendine, all of Pembroke.

The groom wore a gray formal tail coat with matching trousers, wing tip shirt, gray vest and tie. The best man and ushers wore gray strollers with matching trousers, wing tip shirts, with clarendon tie and cummerbunds. Other members of the wedding party were Chelsea Collins and Julian McNeill.

The wedding reception was held on August 11 in Harper's Ferry Family Center. It was hosted by Hazel Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Stacy Locklear, Mr. and Mrs. William Locklear and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Callahan.

The rehearsal dinner was held August 10 at Fuller's Old Fashioned Barbecue.

After a wedding trip to the Bahamas the couple will live at Route 4, Lumberton.

## Coach's Corner

By Ken Johnson

### THE RIVERSIDE GOLF COURSE

So far there has been no sign of a compromise that would recognize the rights of paying golfers to continue to play golf and enjoy the fruits of the labors of real Indian leaders...Harris, Bullard and many others. The only thing that really kept the thing going all these 25 years is the genuine love of golf by the Indian players and others. The "selective ethic" the love of the game ahs kept it open. Now the "situational ethic" seeing just one side of the coin is dogmatically being used and a don't care attitude on the part of the management of the course seems to be the

way you get things. Just take over, it is o.k. We don't care, do we? It's ours. We the Indian Commission. But they forget the disunity they are creating and the fact that the land belongs to all of us taxpayers and not the Indian Commission just because they are being given grants.

They say we can manage our own affairs even when it is taxpayers' money. It simply doesn't make sense and tribes used to be nomadic for their own survival. That doesn't make sense any more with beautiful homes and millions of pick-ups and even cadillacs.

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**The Carolina Indian Voice**  
Newspaper is Published  
Every Thursday Afternoon By  
**THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, INC.**  
P.O. Box 1075  
Pembroke, N.C. 28372  
Phone (919)521-2826

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