

WHAT NEXT???

You are probably well aware of the continuing investigation into the murder of Julian Pierce. And while some real progress seems to have been made, there are some disturbing rumblings that need to be brought to your attention.

Ron Guerette is the private investigator who was hired to look into the murder of Julian Pierce. He was hired, originally he said, by Mac Legerton, the executive director of the Center for Community Action. And while Guerette investigated, Legerton sought grants and contributions to support and pay for the investigation, so the story goes. Guerette says Legerton informed him months ago that CCA would no longer support the investigation and says he is owed \$14,000 for his work. Some obvious questions are: did Legerton and CCA quit soliciting funds for this investigation months ago? If not, where is that money going? How much was raised for the investigation and how were those funds spent? How much money was used to support the investigation and how much to support CCA or its officials?

We understand Guerette will be continuing his investigation and support will be needed, but we'll get to that later.

In the past we have publicly called on Rev. Legerton and CCA to release its audit reports (which Legerton said were done) for the past three years (it would be four years now) and other financial information such as staff salaries and benefits. Legerton has rebuffed our repeated requests. Legerton's lack of response to such requests sows seeds of doubt about his commitment and true dedication to the concept of "public accountability." He seems to maintain two separate and distinct standards; one for himself and one for everybody else. So, while Legerton has consistently attempted to hold other officials to a high standard of public accountability, he has just as consistently, in our opinion, avoided applying this standard to himself and the activities of CCA. Apparently public scrutiny, especially where money is involved, is not desired or needed. We guess we are supposed to simply accept Legerton's activities on faith--apparently he, alone, knows what's best for us and if we just will leave him alone, he will do it. But, for some reason the Latin phrase "cave canem" continues to run over and over in our mind (loosely translated it means, "beware of the dog"). And while we are far from drawing parallels between the behavior of Rev. Legerton and those of the animal kingdom (out of deference to and respect for the animal kingdom) we are reminded of the wisdom in the saying: "if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and talks like a duck, then it must be a duck." We wish Legerton would quit ducking the issue of public accountability and release the audits done on CCA for the past four years. What is to fear but truth!

Now back to the future activities of Ron Guerette and his investigation into the murder of Julian Pierce. According to some of our sources, public trust has been eroded. Many who might wish to support the continuing investigation still have unanswered questions about the monies raised for the *Sandy Chavis Defense Fund*, which was chaired by Donna Chavis (she is married to Rev. Mac Legerton). We call upon Ms. Chavis to give a public accounting of the funds raised and spent under her direction as the chairperson for this fund. Surely Donna Chavis feels the public has a right to know what happened to the money? A quick and complete public accounting will, once and for all, settle this issue, but somehow we doubt it will be forthcoming. We wait to be surprised!

We also understand Donna Chavis sits on the advisory board of Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in her spare time from traveling about the world to inform them of the dire straits Robeson County is in... (nice work if you can get it.) Perhaps she will also use this position to help others who seek to take a sabbatical (\$10,000 would be fine and fair)... We know that her husband, Rev. Mac Legerton received \$10,000 this summer for a sabbatical.... Apparently, the good Rev. was extremely tired from his many hours of "work" to right the wrongs in our county.

For those who wish to support the continuing investigation into the murder of Julian Pierce, you may send your contributions to: Families United Against Racial and Criminal Injustice, P.O. Box 2165, Pembroke, NC 28372. According to our information the families of Julian Pierce, Sandy Chavis and Johnny Goins are

heading up this fund. For those who are concerned, we have been assured that neither the Rev. Legerton, Donna Chavis, or CCA is involved in this fund-raising effort.

How do you operate a restaurant and run a farm without having to worry about labor laws? Try tapping into the "work release" program!

Apparently Mr. J.D. Odum, owner of Chason's Restaurant, was using prisoners through the work release program to work in his restaurant but also secretly to work on his farm.

Because Mr. Odum was aided in his efforts, we wonder how many of these prisoners, who handled or prepared the food that was served, had the proper health cards? We wonder how many hours or weeks prisoners were required to work, apparently without pay, on Mr. Odum's farm? We do not yet know much because Mr. Odum, so far, refused to talk.

We have to admire the prisoners in this web of deceit--they were the only ones who appear to have been attempting to do the right thing. How long has Mr. Odum used such an arrangement and how long would it have continued if some prisoners had not come forward? This, in our opinion, is a prime example of someone taking advantage of the system and of another human being's circumstances. People used to call it exploitation. Now they simply call it cheating. Mr. Odum surely seems to have set one fine example for prisoners not to follow. Let's hope the prisoners realize you are supposed to obey the rules--not bend, break or ignore them!

Purnell Swett High School was listed in *The Charlotte Observer's* "Sweet 16" football poll last week. They were ranked #13. Last Friday, Purnell Swett beat the #1 football team in the state, Richmond County, by a score of 24 to 21.

As far as football is concerned it is obvious Purnell Swett does not need a name change to be successful. We are sure this success can also be duplicated in the classroom. Seems like everyone we meet is very proud of Purnell Swett High--hopefully the name change idea is dead! After all, it will cost a lot of money to change the name now--we wonder what the vandals and cowards, who usually roam at night and destroy and deface signs, will do to future trophies which proudly proclaim *Purnell Swett High School*.

Onward and upward for Purnell Swett High as they meet Scotland County this Friday night. We hope you have a chance to go out and support our team!

Short reminder: "Read my lips, no new taxes!"
GHWB

Everyone probably heard how great Rob Moroso was--Moroso was a 22 year old stock car driver who many felt would bring great things to the NASCAR circuit. Several newspapers carried stories of Moroso's contributions, talent, and the hope of a bright and shining future. But, Moroso was killed in a car accident on his way home near Charlotte and the racing community was dumbfounded by the tragedy.

Unfortunately, no one remembered Ms. Tammy Williams, the 27 year old mother of two children. Ms. Williams was in the other car and she too was killed. And while accounts later developed to show that Moroso was traveling over 75 miles per hour as he rounded a 35 mile per hour curve and that Moroso was legally drunk at the time (his blood alcohol content was .22), we do not feel the initial stories surrounding Moroso's death were fair to the victim, Tammy Williams. Sadly people who are in the public eye, either famous or rich, often seem to be judged worth more than the average hard-working, everyday person. This is wrong! Ms. Williams' life and accomplishments are worth just as much as Moroso's were. Its too bad our society fails to appreciate the virtues and hard work of what was once known as "the common man."

Election time is closer every day...The latest bull we hear on the sheriff's race is this: *The worse thing that could happen to Indian people is to vote for James Sanderson. Hubert Stone will really give Indians a hard time after the election.* That is pure poppycock. Hubert Stone has always given Indians a hard time. We encourage you not to be misled by this. When we go to the polls in November, we will remember Jimmy Earl Cummings. We will remember Edward Zabitowski. We will

remember Johnny Goins. We will remember Julian Pierce. We will remember the many other Indians who have been killed under questionable (to say the least) circumstances... We will remember Hubert Stone's association with convicted drug dealers... We will remember the infamous task force that continues to make major drug busts and all of the small dealers who are arrested are Indian. We will remember that the drug problem in Robeson County is financed by a higher, unnamed power. We will remember the injustices in the Robeson County judicial system. We will remember Billy McKellar who died in the Robeson County Jail. We will

remember the countless others who have suffered and died in our county.... We will remember and we will vote against Hubert Stone.... Twelve years in office has proven that Hubert Stone and his administration has always been "out to get Indians." What else can he do "against" Indian people.... Indian people must stop letting people who do not have our best interests at heart make decisions for us.

A vote for Hubert Stone is a vote for continued drug bust propaganda, unsolved murders, suspicious deaths and coroner's inquests that are a mockery to justice....Vote Against Hubert Stone November 6th.

Along The Robeson Trail

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

Although the Tuscarora War was, in effect, ended with the fall of Neheroka in March of 1713, occasional fighting continued in North Carolina until 1715, when yet another treaty was signed. But only two months after this last treaty of the Tuscarora War, the Yamasee and Cheraw Nations of South Carolina would rise up against the colonists. As with the beginning of the Tuscarora War four years before, there were several immediate causes for this new warfare. But the dominant reasons were the loss of traditional hunting grounds and continued ill treatment at the hands of colonial traders.

On April 15, 1715, the Yamasee and their allies began a series of devastating attacks on the colonial traders of the southern frontier of South Carolina. A military expedition was sent out from Charleston (then called Charles Town), and several Yamasee leaders were killed. The colony's southern frontier grew quiet for a time. But the Cheraw and their Siouan allies struck along the northern frontier of the colony, driving the colonists out of the Santee River valley. And although another colonial expedition from Charleston attacked the Cheraw and their allies, the Cheraw would continue their occasional raids on colonial settlements.

Part of the reason for the continuing Cheraw raids was that the South Carolina colonial government refused a Cheraw offer of peace in 1715. The Cheraw offer was made through Governor Spotswood of Virginia, with whom the Cheraw had a history of pleasant trading relations. But the South Carolina colony apparently resented Virginia's involvement in the offer, so the Cheraw were refused.

Again in 1717 the Cheraw made an offer of peace to the South Carolinians, but once again their offer was not accepted. So the fighting continued. But by late 1718, disease and warfare had done their disastrous work on the Cheraw and their allies, and what remained of many of these Eastern Siouan Nations soon moved westward to live near the Catawba.

The Yamasee and Cheraw Wars were over, but the Carolinas would not escape warfare for long. Incited by French and British colonists, Native Americans became involved in what would be known as the French and

Indian War. By 1756, England and France were in a formal war to determine which country would control North America, and both sides used Native Americans in their efforts.

The various Indian Nations of course had their own reasons for entering the conflict. All sought to protect their ancestral lands and hunting rights. Most had established trade relations with other Native Americans and with different colonies, and some felt they were better treated in trade by some colonies than by others. And there were several traditional rivalries between Nations which extended back into pre-European times.

But the effect of all of this was that European countries employed Native Americans to battle over their own land. By 1763, disease and warfare had reduced the Catawba and Cherokee by at least 75 percent of their warriors, and virtually all of Northern America east of the Mississippi River was "owned" (at least on paper) by the British.

Perhaps the most bitter irony of the "Indian Wars" in the Carolinas was that Native Americans were used against each other. During the Tuscarora War for example, the Catawba, Cheraw, Yamasee, and Wateree (and others) were employed by colonists to fight against the Tuscarora and their allies. Then in the Yamasee and Cheraw Wars, the Tuscarora and Coree (and others) were employed by colonists to fight against the Yamasee and Cheraw. This bitter history would be repeated again and again as the waves of colonists moved across North America.

There was a brief time, around the year 1700, when Native American unity amongst the four principal language families of the East could have resulted in pushing back the European colonization of North America by many decades (if not by centuries). Europe, after all, had its own growing troubles at home. Now only philosophers (and the Great Spirit) can answer why that unity did not happen. But it doesn't take much of a philosopher to see how important Native American unity can be today.

For more information about the "Indian Wars" in the Carolinas, call or visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

The Coach's Corner

By Ken Johnson

SOME PREDICTIONS

In the baseball play offs-Boston to fade out, Oakland to win the next two games. The Pirates have shot their wad and will lose their next two games. And Oakland will win four straight in the World Series. It looks so one sided at this point in the play offs.

Michigan State to beat Michigan, number one in today's ratings. It sure sets them up to get beaten. Virginia is number two, Notre Dame fell to number 8. Miami is number 3, with its win over Florida State.

Stanford isn't even in the top 25 with its win over Notre Dame.

In boxing it looks like Evander Holyfield will defeat Buster Douglas in their championship fight on the 25th of October. Douglas hasn't fought in 8 months and was up to 262 pounds. His lack of dedication to conditioning will be his downfall. While Holyfield is in super condition at 202 pounds. The win over Tyson was over an "unready" Tyson. So it goes to show Holyfield will be Tyson's next next match and he may win that one also.

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