

WHAT NEXT???

The debate over our schools continues as concerned individuals seek to find answers to the many questions that divide individuals and communities.

Recently we were presented with a new plan which proposed to address the concerns about funding. This plan was labeled the "Parnell Plan." We find this very interesting. And, so far our state senator, David Parnell, has not come forward to set the record straight concerning the so-called "Parnell Plan." But, we really did not expect David Parnell, given his past record, to be forthcoming; so we will tell you—credit for the plan suggested by David Parnell properly goes to the Robeson County Budget Study Group. Richard Mathis presented the ideas months ago but they received little notice. Enter David Parnell and all of a sudden the earth moves. In our view it's actions like these that illustrate the distance we have to go. If the average citizen is ignored and ideas can only come from people like David Parnell in order to receive serious consideration, our future is doomed.

There is an old Hebrew proverb that wisely advises us even today: "Do not confine your children to your own learning, for they were born in another time." It's time to forget old scars. It's time to forgive old adversaries. It's time to think of our children! Wisdom needs no sanction from the power brokers. Let's respect the ability of the citizens of Robeson County to work together to solve our problems. This is not the time for gamesmanship and politics. It's the time for respect, frankness, and honesty. We hope David Parnell is up to the task!

The Robeson County jail continues to draw attention, but little is done to address the obvious problems. So far it appears the county commissioners seem content to continue to drag their feet while conditions at the jail worsen. It's only a matter of time before the conditions result in either major injury or loss of life.

And while the foot-dragging continues, so-called conservatives in our county make dishonest comparisons by suggesting our county jail is a country club.

We would like to remind these "conservatives" that most of the individuals in our jail are awaiting trial. They have not been convicted of any crime and under our

system of government these individuals are innocent until proven guilty. Another fact for our so-called conservatives is that most individuals in the jail are there for misdemeanors and bonds have been set so high that most cannot make them. Therefore, they unfairly languish in jail until trial.

Perhaps some conservatives would feel more at home in Argentina, Cuba, Korea or Iraq. There they would not have to worry about individual rights or humane treatment. We suggest Robeson County would be better off if some of our so-called conservatives occasionally took a trip on the "reality express" rather than drive a bandwagon of public deception and disinformation.

We can only hope and pray that as you read these words that the United States is not at war with Iraq.

Over the months since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2nd, we've thought many times about the tremendous costs of war. If you have talked with veterans they tell of the horrors almost beyond words. If you have been to "the wall" which lists the men and women killed in Vietnam, you see the human costs dramatically represented. And as you think on these things you must also remember the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, girlfriends, wives, and children who suffered and continue to suffer the loss of loved ones.

And while considering all of these costs, we also realized that humanity loses in every war. Our future is a little less bright because no one knows what those who were killed could have contributed to mankind if only they had lived.

Our sons and daughters are serving their country on the front lines today. They have served in this capacity ever since the American Revolution. But today, there is the real possibility that they will be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. Our prayers are with them and with the many innocent men, women, and children of Iraq.

*"Let us, then, be up and doing,
with a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait."*

H. W. Longfellow

Say you read it in
The Carolina Indian Voice

Along The Robeson Trail

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

Another Native American group which in many ways has shared in the experiences common to Eastern Woodland folks is the Ottawa Nation. Their original homeland is now uncertain, but it was somewhere on the shores of Lake Huron, in what is now Southern Ontario (Canada) and Northern Michigan. A part of the confusion about their original home results from the fact that the Ottawa were traders all over the Great Lakes region long before the Europeans arrived. The name Ottawa comes from the Algonkian word "adawe" which means to "trade or barter."

According to their own oral traditions, the Ottawa were always traders. This probably had to do with where they lived, on or near the Great Lakes, where travel by canoe was relatively easy, and various other Native Nations convenient to contact just across the water. In this ideal natural setting for trade, the Ottawa established themselves as "the" trading Nation. After all, that's what their name means.

Among the items traded by the Ottawa were certain food products, probably fish and corn amongst them. They also traded hides, but perhaps were best known for their woven mats, which were made by the Ottawa women. When the French came to the Great Lakes, the Ottawa quickly became involved in extensive fur trading as well.

The Ottawa language is yet another branch of the Algonkian language family. Their closest relatives are the Potawatomi and Chippewa, and some researchers believe that at one time these three Nations may have been one Nation.

The Ottawa were also farmers, growing the usual crops of the Eastern Woodland. They also tapped maple trees, and boiled the sap down into sugar. Two of their best known food staples were 1) hominy made from corn, mixed with beans and bear oil, covered with maple syrup; and 2) pemmican, made by pounding dried deer meat into a powder, and then mixing it with berries and bear fat. As was true of their Potawatomi cousins, the Ottawa in traditional times also enjoyed games, including Lacrosse and dice, as well as foot and canoe races.

And, as with the other Eastern Woodland Nations, Ottawa life was irreversibly changed by European

contact. The Ottawa were caught between the English and French as these two European powers struggled to gain final control over North America. Generally, the Ottawa were on the side of the French, who had been their trading partners from the earliest European contact. But ultimately it would not matter which side the Ottawa were on—they would have to move and move again, crossing Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas before ending their removals many years later in Oklahoma.

Probably the best known Ottawa of the historic period was the great chief Pontiac. Born to an Ottawa father and a Chippewa mother in 1720, Pontiac became a widely respected warrior and leader. When General William Braddock was sent by the British to capture Fort Duquesne (later known as Pittsburgh, Pa.) in 1755, his large army of redcoats was ambushed by Pontiac and his Ottawa warriors (who also were accompanied by a few French soldiers). The redcoats were defeated, and Braddock was killed. But the defeat of the French in 1763 signaled that things would never be the same for Pontiac and the Ottawa.

Between 1763 and 1765, Pontiac would lead his own people and those of the Miami, Peoria, Chippewa and other Nations in armed conflict against the British, in what came to be known as "Pontiac's Rebellion." Although this conflict had terrible effects on the British for a while, eventually they would so outnumber and out-gun Pontiac and his warriors that the "Rebellion" came to an end.

After several removals, the Ottawa wound up in northeastern Oklahoma by 1869, on a federal reservation. After having their lands "allotted" in 1892, they were ultimately "terminated" by the U.S. government in the mid-1950's. In recent years, some of the Ottawa have sought to revive their old traditions, and they have started having powwows and other cultural activities again. Despite everything that has happened to them, their sense of being Indian, of being Ottawa, has not disappeared.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.



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TOWN OF PEMBROKE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FISCAL YEAR 1989
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SMALL CITIES
BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that the Town of
Pembroke Board of Commissioners will conduct
a public hearing at its regularly scheduled
meeting on February 4, 1991, at 7:00 p.m.,
at the Pembroke Municipal Building,
Pembroke, NC.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider
a program amendment to the town's FY89
Community Development Small Cities Block
Grant program. This amendment would revise
the project boundaries of the C-1 project
area to include two additional dwelling units.

The total cost of the Pembroke FY89 CDBG
Community Revitalization project is \$231,260;
84% of the total cost is being financed with
\$195,027 in CDBG funds.

All interested citizens are encouraged to
attend this public hearing, and all comments
are welcome. Anyone wishing to submit
written comments should do so by mailing
them directly to McDuffie Cummings, Town
Manager, Post Office Box 866, Pembroke,
NC 28372, no later than 5:00 p.m. on
February 3, 1991.

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DON'T PANIC! Apply direct pressure to the
bleeding area very firmly with a bandage, towel, or
other clean material.

Just soaking up the blood will not help. Neither
will applying constricting bands above a cut on an
arm or leg.

Remember, apply direct pressure to bleeding
cuts, and see your doctor if you think stitches may
be required. Your good health is important to us!

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