

WHAT NEXT???

Some things never cease to amaze us, especially politics in Robeson. Last week we talked a little about political signs and political alliances... Since that time, signs have been taken down, new signs have been put up... And it appears that the Sutton supporters are serious about removing the appearance of an alliance with former Lumberton Mayor David Weinstien, candidate for N.C. Senate... We are seeing more and more Sutton signs going up over Senator David Parnell signs... That would not be so bad, except in many instances around Pembroke, an effort seems to be underway to destroy Sampson signs and replace them with Sutton signs... For the record, while we all understand the psychology of signs, people will make the decision in the voting booths... The coalitions between Sutton and Weinstien, Sampson and Parnell seems pretty much set in concrete at this time... It will be interesting to see, after the election, how closely associated to each other the votes are, especially in the Indian community... If we are to read the signs, then there is no way for Senator David Parnell to lose... He is now surrounded in most areas by Sampson, Sutton and David Green, candidate for the board of education at-large... These election figures will certainly be interesting in the Black community also... We have witnessed in the past the majority white precincts as they also have voted racial lines... Our friend David Weinstien does not want to believe this, but the record is accurate... Those majority white precinct voting figures will be very interesting, especially in the District 85 House race where both candidates are Indian... They will have to vote for Sampson or Sutton, or leave the ballot blank... The at-large position on the board of education (three seats are available) will be another interesting vote to watch... We predict that all three races will vote on

racial lines on this one... That will, of course, be to Tommy D. Swett's advantage, as he is the only Indian candidate in that race... Since several Blacks have filed, we are watching to see if the Black community splits three ways... But back to the House race, Sutton has been endorsed by the Hoke and Robeson Chapters of NCAE, as well as the Native American Political Action Committee... And contrary to what you may have read or heard, NAPAC endorsed Tommy D. Swett for the at-large position on the board of education. The organization did not endorse Mitchell Locklear over Robert Deese in the District 4 race... Just to set the record straight, NAPAC does not endorse in district races when there are two Indians running for a county position. NAPAC does, according to its by-laws, endorse State positions (as they did in the House of Representatives with Cliff Sampson and Rep. Adolph L. Dial before him)... It will all be interesting... It will be interesting to find out whether people are inclined to elect and attorney to the House of Representatives to help make the laws, and as we see it, help enhance the lucrative business we all recognize as the law profession... We still maintain our faith in the collective wisdom of the masses... People will make the right decision when they are given the facts...

We will return another point about NAPAC. The organization was formed to "Provide a communication structure which will provide forums for persons desiring to run for political office... To concentrate on county-wide and state elections... To endorse candidates for those offices... To work actively for their election... To negotiate with other groups in establishing a cooperative political agenda for the county... To create political awareness... To identify potential candidates for office and encourage

Along The Robeson Trail

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

A friend in Greensboro sent me a copy of a newspaper article by Andy Rooney about Indians. In it Mr. Rooney says remarkable things like: "Is there anything wrong with a team calling itself the Redskins?" and "American Indians were never subjected to the same kind of racial bias that blacks were," and "...we took the country away from the Indians, they want it back and we're not going to give it to them;" and "While American Indians have a grand past, the impact of their culture on the world has been slight... There are no great Indian novels, no poetry..." and my own personal favorite quotation of the century: "They hang onto remnants of their religion and superstitions that may have been useful to savages 500 years ago but which are meaningless in 1992."

Now Mr. Rooney usually seems to me like a pretty smart guy. He says things on TV that are satirically funny, and often things with which I find myself agreeing. But in this case, he seems to have lost sight of a few facts. And there are lots of other statements in his article with which one could argue, but these few above quotations seem to reveal enough.

1. "Is there anything wrong with a team calling itself the Redskins?" You tell me, Mr. Rooney--would there be anything wrong with a team calling itself the Honkies? Or the Darkies? Or the Slant-Eyes? Of course there would. So is all this "land of the free" business taken to mean "the land where you're free to be insulting to your neighbors?" I hope not.
2. "American Indians were never subjected to the same kind of racial bias..." I wonder where Mr. Rooney has been?
3. "We took the country away from the Indians..." Mr. Rooney says this as though he were proud of it. Surely enough, it is probably too late to "give back the country." But that doesn't mean we get to pretend it was OK to take it.
4. "While American Indians have a grand past, the impact of their culture on the world has been slight..."

To consider endorsements in district or local (not state) elections when there is only one Indian candidate... To register voters and educate them on the voting process... These things being so, written and adopted in the by-laws of the organization, we are nevertheless amazed at some of the things we continue to hear... We know that there are certain political brokers and strategists who are opposed to this kind of organization, unless of course it can be used for their own personal agenda... We remind you of the 1990 sheriff's race... Those Indian persons who are seemingly now leading the move to discredit NAPAC, were in favor of the organization when it endorsed Glenn Maynor for sheriff... They were pro NAPAC when the organization addressed the issue of electing members to the board of education as opposed to appointments... They were for NAPAC when the organization spoke to doing the right thing and expanding the board of commissioners to include two Black districts... Now these same persons appear to be opposed NAPAC and are attempting to discredit the organization, apparently because their personal, hand-picked candidate did not receive an endorsement... And these same forces were opposed to single-member districts and spent much time trying to explain why that plan wouldn't work... It appears to us that NAPAC is okay with the strategists and power brokers when it is advocating anything that is

Once again, the Indians are relegated to the past. As long as "they" stay in the past, "they're" alright. And let's just forget about their contributions to the world, eh, Mr. Rooney? Let's forget about most of the vegetables we eat every day (corn, beans, squash, tomatoes, potatoes, etc...). And let's forget about our form of government which owes much of its nature to the Iroquois Confederacy. And never mind about the hundreds of traditional Indian medicines which have made their way somehow into the pharmacies of the world. And tell the part about "no great Indian novels, no poetry" to Pulitzer-Prize-winning writer N. Scott Momaday, or the countless other excellent Indian writers (names like Louise Erdrich, Susan Harjo, Gerald Vizenor, Peter Blue Cloud, James Welch, Simon Ortiz, and Roberta Hill Whiteman at the head of a very long list of other fine writers). And we'll have to forget about the stories of Will Rogers, and the lyrical oratories of Seattle, Tecumseh, Chief Joseph and others. All we have to do is forget about a huge bank of American history and literature!

5. And then there's the prize winner about "remnants" of "religion and superstitions that may have been useful to savages 500 years ago..." Surely no educated person today thinks it's possible to get away with using a word like "savages" anymore! When Chivington and the Colorado Third rode into Sand Creek killing women and children, who were the savages? When Custer ordered a similarly murderous attack on the Indian camp on the Washita River, who were the savages? When Indian children were beaten by missionary schoolmasters for speaking to each other in their native languages, who were the savages? And when Mr. Rooney rides rough-shod over the history, culture and sensibilities of America's first citizens, who is the savage?

For more information, or to read the entire Rooney article, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

advantageous to their personal political empire building... We remind our readers also that NAPAC survived when Glenn Maynor was not named sheriff of this county... NAPAC survived when Harvey Gantt was defeated by Jesse Helms... NAPAC survived when Adolph L. Dial was elected to the House of Representatives... And here's the news flash... After the votes are county May 5th, NAPAC when survive and continue to grow stronger and stronger... It is unfortunate that some of our Indian people do not appreciate that statement of fact... Hopefully, they will eventually see that the only way that progress can come for all of us is for all of us to lay aside personal agendas, strategizing, attempting to destroy and discredit, and work progressively toward those things that are beneficial and constructive to the building of better lives for all Robesonians... We are opposed to what we call "imperialism," no matter what color the ruler or rulers happen to be... Unfortunately, being an Indian does not exclude a person from having the responsibility to do the right thing... If we all "just do the right thing," we will see a better day for our children and grandchildren, both politically, economically, socially and educationally... Someone asked not long ago what the difference was in an imperialistic and a dictatorial form of government... It is simple, in an imperialistic form of government, you have to genuflect.



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DEAR FRIENDS: Are you aware that the Lumbee recognition bill has passed the House, and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, and will come up on the floor of the Senate soon? After years of frustration, we may get our recognition instated.

However, the word is that the White House will veto the bill. To prevent that happening, you need to write today to:
President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20505
and tell him to sign the Lumbee Bill. Thank you very much.
Dr. Dean Chavers
Albuquerque, NM

Thank You Note
The family of Mrs. Sharon Kaye Chavis wishes to thank everyone for the deeds of kindness extended to them during the time of their loss.
Mother & Daughters

Friends and Committee Members cordially invite you to attend a Fund-Raising Reception for
Cliff Sampson
Candidate for N.C. House of Representatives
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