

Editorial and Opinion Page

Letters to the Editor

Some Thoughts on the Closing of "Strike at the Wind"

Dear Editor
Well, it's me again: I guess you knew you would hear from me sooner or later. After all, Danny Chavis (from Union Chapel) was my grandfather. One of the many things I loved about him was that you never had to wonder what was on his mind, even when you didn't want to hear it. My grandmother was really special. Her name was Cassia Lee. She was kind of quiet, but if you asked, she could share her opinions also. So, I guess you could say sharing opinions is in my genes, or as they say today it's in my DNA.
I haven't been home later, but as always I've heard a great deal about what is going on. I heard of the passing of Chief Tom Carter who will be greatly missed and the passing of Hope Shepherd. I want to let the members of their families know that they are in my prayers.
I was asked "Did you know they are going to start Strike at the Wind up again next year?" This information I received with mixed emotions. And as always this is getting to my point of writing. And as always this is my opinion. I am not telling anyone what to do or what to think. I always encourage you to make up your mind. Before you read any further, get a glass of iced tea or a Pepsi or another cup of coffee and don't get ahead of me with your thoughts.

Allow me to complete my thoughts before you go to exercising (jumping to conclusions). And listen to my complete thoughts. Don't take part of what I am saying and run with this. This is going to sound strange, but I think it was a mixed blessing when the drama was closed down. For some people, they don't know what they have until it is gone. And some people can't learn from their mistakes. But I hope now all of the mistakes that were made can be put behind us so that we can move on. Because it is a non-profit corporation, the drama will always need start up money each year. I would like to take this time to kill one of the many rumors concerning the drama. No one makes a killing off the drama. If you would see how much is spent in advertising, the power bill, insurance, etc., you would see why no one makes money from the drama. This is where almost eighty percent of the budget goes. I do believe that the drama should be run as a business. I believe that people who love the drama and have a business sense should be on the board. The truth be told, there are people who sit on the board of the drama for no other reason that it is a status symbol.
I am not saying everyone on the board, but there are a few who see it for no other purpose. But consider this, if there is only one person who

feels that way. If you have one strong mule and a weak one, you go in circles and never get anywhere. Then again, some of the board members probably feel like they are on the Titanic with no place to go. I don't have the reputation that it did during the Golden Days. You might say the honeymoon is over. Well, if that is true, then we need to get about the business of maturing and the lessons of bettering our relationship and becoming more professional.
A lesson that needs to be learned is the importance of the actors. Once again, no one makes a killing off the drama. I recall when all my friends would look at me and say, "You start rehearsal in June-Monday through Friday nights. You give up your summer. I can't believe you do that." Then when the production started it was Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights and you got paid a couple of hundred dollars. You hardly made your money for gas. I began to feel that just because I was dedicated to the drama that I was being taken advantage of. I am sure there are others who feel this way. The bottom line is that you pay for the best and that is what you get. Especially in this so if you treat the actors with respect. Some of the Directors who have been with the drama failed to understand these actors are volunteering their time and should be

treated with respect. In defense of the Directors, I am aware of the fact that the cast started getting young and young, which made it harder to have respect and a sense of professionalism. But it has to begin somewhere.
I look back now and I see where the drama was side tracked from what it could have been. A show case for Robeson County. I ask where are the hotels? The Restaurants? And gas stations that should have sprung up from the presence of the drama. I wonder did someone not want these kinds of businesses? And why not? These questions may never be answered. We must realize the drama belongs to the people of Robeson County, not to any individual. Secondly, the drama has to be run like a business. Still, people need to be treated with respect all the way down the line. And as to all, you have to add a degree of professionalism. Notice I mentioned respect first and professionalism secondly. They do go hand in hand, but to me respect should always come first. I believe the drama needs few scenes rewritten and a few character changes and improvements in the amphitheater to improve the appearance of the drama.
As I have stated before, it was a dream of mine to become the General Manager or to direct the drama, or to serve on the board some day. But those dreams got side tracked. Then

again, sometimes I feel like I was black balled when it comes to the drama. Everyone else seems to have had their chance. One dream I still hang on to is that I would love to return one season and perform the role of Henry one more time. But due to the fact that I am here in Greensboro and can't find a job that would allow me the chance to come home, it is just a dream for right now.
Then again, some dreams are never meant to be. They are just good to have. Maybe that is the situation. I look back at all the time I spent with the drama and think maybe things did work out as they were supposed to. After all, very few of us get our just rewards here on earth. But it is hard to give something your labor and dedication and see nothing come from it. I can see all the teachers and preachers, mothers and fathers agreeing with me. Some time we are paving the way for those to follow so they might reap the rewards of our labors. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to reaping my rewards, not necessarily on earth. I may not have much on this earth but I have a mansion waiting for me up yonder.
Pray for me and I'll pray for you and with the help of the Almighty, we'll make it through what we must bare.
In the True Way,
Derek Lowry

House Speaker Makes Committee Assignments

House Speaker Harold Brubaker made committee assignments for House members on Thursday, Feb. 6th and the local delegation received the following committee assignments:
Representative Ron Sutton, Democrat, Pembroke: Appropriations, Sub-Committee on Transportation; Congressional Re-Districting; Ethics; Judiciary II; and the State Government, Sub-Committee on Military, Veterans and Indian Affairs.
Representative Doug Yongue, Democrat, Laurinburg: Appropriations, Sub-Committee on Education; Agriculture; Environment; and Pension and Retirement. Rep. Yongue is the ranking minority member on the Environment Committee.
Representative Donald Bonner, Democrat, Rowland: Appropriations, Sub-Committee on Capitol and Budget; Commerce, Sub-Committee on Public Utilities; Election Laws and campaign Reform; University Board of Governors; and Welfare Reform.
Each local member received sound critical assignments. The delegation is confident they will play a major role in shaping the bipartisan priorities of the House. They will be working diligently to enhance the lives of the citizens of this region and the entire state.

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Gospel Singing
Everyone is invited to a Gospel Singing at New Prospect Methodist Church 7 P.M., on February 22, 1997, at 7:30 P.M. There will be no admission but a love offering will be taken for a mission trip.
Groups that will be singing include: The Host, The Bullards, The Pierce Family, Carla and the Redemption, The Oxendine Quartet.

Say You Read It In The Carolina Indian Voice.

ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL
by Dr. Stan Knick, Director,
YCP Native American Resource Center

A few weeks ago we began looking at what is revealed about traditional Indian culture in the pages of *Native Heritage: Personal Accounts by American Indians 1790 to the Present* (edited by Arlene Hirschfelder). This week we return to this book for some totally different views. The next Native voices we will consider come not from the days of early contact between Indians and non-Indians but from more modern times, and they demonstrate some of the long range effects of European colonization.
Arthur McDonald is an Oglala Sioux from South Dakota. He is highly educated, and has served as a faculty member at the California School of Professional Psychology. In 1978 he wrote an analysis of why so many Native American students drop out of college. For many, McDonald says it is due to a fundamental clash between the value system in which they were raised and the very different value system they find in operation at universities. The former is a value system centered around the extended family and based on traditional Native American beliefs and ways of doing things. The latter is a value system based instead on the beliefs and practices of the European-American nuclear family.
"In the Judeo-Christian culture, the family carries with it rather clear-cut definitions and expectations of responsibility. When a child becomes an adult in the white world he is on his own. He is expected to be independent and legally responsible.... The basic principle seems to be: 'You take care of yours and I'll take care of mine,'

with mine being defined as the immediate nuclear family. In the traditional Indian value system, the family is much extended in terms of caring and responsibility. Aunts are often considered to be mothers, uncles are called fathers, and cousins are brothers and sisters....
"In the Western European tradition the greatest good has been the development and perpetuation of the self. Although some lip service has been paid by Christian doctrines to praying for others, primarily the ultimate objective is personal salvation. Day-to-day behavior is geared toward this objective in terms of economics, religious values, education, status needs and family relationships. This produces an extremely competitive, consumptive, exploitative interaction with the environment and with other people.
"The traditional Indian culture by contrast has as the ultimate good the survival of the tribe. The individual is expendable in the sense that one does what is good for other people at the sacrifice of individual goals and objectives. This is seen in a variety of behaviors, such as the 'giveaway' ceremony.... In Indian culture, if one is asked to help, he simply cannot refuse. Thus, a student who receives a phone call telling him he is needed at home will go. The threat of receiving an 'F' for a course is of little relative importance.... The fact that administrative officials do not understand what is real and true to the Indian community is very bewildering to the Indian student."

McDonald also believes that many Native American students, especially those who were raised on reservations, drop out of college because of the attitudes of the people in their own communities. He points out that in rural white communities when a son or daughter leaves the farm to go off to college it is most often a source of pride for the family. These are the youngsters who have "gone on and amounted to something." But in traditional reservation communities, McDonald says the young person's decision to leave home and pursue higher education elsewhere is met with less than enthusiasm.
"It is a clear-cut decision that the person has made to reject the old traditional ways and go to the white man's road. It is generally assumed that the person is lost to the traditional community. Many Indian students who have completed their degrees find it extremely difficult to return to their reservation to work.... There is mistrust toward an Indian who has obtained an education, and the educated Indian must face a rather continuous attack by family as well as others for having that education."
McDonald's view of higher education and Native Americans, perhaps ironically from one who is himself quite educated, is directly opposite of the view of another modern Native American whose comments we will see in next week's segment. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

At 16, You Thought Only One Card Carried So Many Privileges.

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PEDIATRIC POINTERS
by Dr. Joseph T. Bell
Pediatrician with Robeson Health Care

One of the things we get concerned about as parents is how often our children have cold symptoms. Sometimes it seems like our young kids have colds continuously, especially though the winter time. The question often asked to me as a pediatrician is "Is my child having too many colds?" What we have to remember is that during infancy and in the preschool years, children average about 7 or 8 colds per year. When you consider that the average cold might last up to 7 days, this means as much as 60 days in a year could be spent with cold symptoms and that be normal.
The main reason kids get so many colds is that they are constantly being exposed to new viruses as young infants. There are at least 200 cold viruses in the environment. The younger the child, the fewer viruses he is being exposed to and the less protection his immune system has against it. Children who attend daycare, nurseries, or preschool are directly exposed to more infections than children who don't. Infants kept in home based day care rather than large day care centers tend to have less complications during the first

year of life with common colds. Children with older siblings in school also have more indirect exposure to cold viruses. The older siblings catch colds and then bring them home. Colds are thus more common in large families.
The are of colds triples in the winter when people spend more time crowded together indoors breathing recirculated air. Smoking in the home increases a child's susceptibility to cold and coughs as well as ear infections, sinus infections, croup, wheezing, and asthma.
Some parents worry that a child who has frequent colds has some serious underlying disease. Children with immune system diseases do not get any more colds than the average child. Instead they tend to get the more serious infections often, like pneumonia, meningitis, sinus infections, and skin infections.
Some parents worry that they have in some way neglected their child or done something wrong to cause frequent colds. On the contrary, having a lot of colds is an unavoidable part of growing up. Colds are the one infection we cannot prevent. From a medi-

cal stand point colds are an educational experience for your child's immune system.
That is all on colds today. Next week we will talk about dealing with frequent colds. Take care. We will talk again next week.

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Classes to become a Certified Laubach Tutor will be held at Robeson County Church and Community Center on 210 E. 15th St. in Lumberton. There are six hours of instruction, Tuesday Feb. 25 (6-9 PM) and finishing Tuesday Mar. 4 (6-9 PM).
For more information and to register, call 738-5204 or 521-4230.
The classes are provided at no charge by the Robeson County Church and Community Center.