

Editorial and Opinion Page

Editorially Speaking

Rep. Ron Sutton Proves to be Alert, Astute, and Effective in Re-districting Efforts; McIntyre Attempts to Remove Indian Precincts From District 7

The upcoming redistricting of Congressional Districts seems to clearly define Rep. Ron Sutton as representing the 85th District, as the hero of the hour. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the 1st Congressional District, represented by Congresswoman Eva Clayton, a Black, is unconstitutional. The Court ordered that District be re-drawn. This of course affects all Congressional Districts in the State.

In the process of re-districting to abide by the wishes of the Supreme Court, our local legislators were charged with the responsibility of a plan in accordance with the mandate of the Supreme Court by April 1st. If the State Legislature could not approve such a plan by the April 1st date, the Court would then establish their own re-districting plan.

In the excitement of re-drawing lines, and in attempts to protect already seated Congressmen, several plans were circulated.

A small section of Robeson County is now in the Eighth District, represented by Congressman Bill Hefner. The remainder of the county is represented, of course, by the ultra conservative Mike McIntyre in the 7th District.

Our sources tell us that in the final days before the deadline for re-districting, Congressman Hefner and Congressman McIntyre agreed on a plan that would place Fort Bragg in the Seventh District and place two major Indian precincts, Oxendine and Prospect, into the 8th District.

We were not surprised by McIntyre's agreement to this idea. To begin with,

the total votes in those two precincts came out to be just about exactly the number of votes that Rose Marie Lowry Townsend, an Indian female, defeated him by in the Primary election for Congress. McIntyre won the seat in a subsequent run-off. Politically, we understand his readiness to remove a 2100 Indian block vote from District 7. On the other hand, we felt that he should have fought to keep those supporters of his who worked so hard for him during the General Election. Editorially speaking, it appears that McIntyre felt he would rather have Fort Bragg in his district than Oxendine and Prospect. While we understand politically why he would agree to that plan, we question his gratitude to people in Oxendine and Prospect who apparently thought he would make rational and reasonable decisions for them.

We understand also why Hefner would want 2100 more votes in Robeson. After all, he is a Democrat and it is almost certain that Oxendine and Prospect will vote for a Democrat in any given General Election.

On the other hand, McIntyre, we believe, would have been happy to have the Indian vote diluted in Robeson County. Certainly, that would make Indians less of a threat, if you remove the approximate number that defeated you in a primary from the District. It was probably good politics, if it had worked.

Fortunately, Indian people were represented by Rep. Ron Sutton who was astute enough to make the appropriate contacts and get the commitments that

eventually led to keeping the Indian votes in tact in District 7. We wonder what would have happened had Indians not had a representative who was alert and competent enough to prevent the exchange of Oxendine and Prospect Precincts for Fort Bragg? We believe that if Rep. Sutton had not been there and been "paying attention," these two major Indian precincts would have ended up in District 8. It makes one wonder if McIntyre did not tell us a lot about himself in agreeing to such a trade off to begin with. Was he saving perhaps that he was not comfortable to have so many Indians in his district? Did he remember that Rose Marie Lowry Townsend defeated him in the Primary by approximately 2,000 votes? Did he believe that he would be more comfortable representing the conservative area of Fort Bragg? We wonder. Editorially speaking, we believe the ultra conservative McIntyre would prefer to have less Indians in his district. We believe also that he is like a few other white Robesonians. They don't seem to be exactly sure what to do about the Indians.

Nevertheless, Rep. Sutton is the hero and we editorially commend him for his swift thinking and action. While we have nothing against Hefner, we feel it very important that the Indian votes in his county remain in one district. After all, there is strength in numbers and McIntyre's agreement to remove 2100 Indian votes from the 7th District, reminds us that he understands very well the strength in numbers... especially at election time when there is an Indian candidate.



The Word on Washington
Congressman
Mike McIntyre

Did you know that sexual assault is the most rapidly growing violent crime in America? These and other terrible facts about rape and sexual assault were of great concern to me and my staff when we recently visited the Rape Crisis Center in Fayetteville. The rape crisis volunteers are on the front lines every day working to achieve zero tolerance for the crime of sexual violence and reduce its trauma. However, they cannot realize their most important goals without you — the public.

Rape should not be a taboo subject. Our communities need to talk about sexual assault. Our communities need to be educated on the facts about sexual assault. According to the American Medical Association, sexual assault continues to represent the most rapidly growing violent crime in America. Over 700,000 women are sexually assaulted each year. It is estimated that fewer than 50 percent of all rapes are reported. Other statistics show that 1 in 3 women will be assaulted during their lifetime and that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be assaulted by the age of 18. Most importantly, our communities and government must work together to educate, change attitudes, increase awareness, and counsel those who have been victimized.

One such effort is taking place in Southeastern North Carolina at the center we visited in Cumberland County. This fine organization offers two distinct programs, Direct Services and Community Education. The Direct Services Program assists victims of sexual violence while the Community Education Program presents accurate information about the crime of rape. A volunteer companion is available 24 hours every day to listen and understand the feelings associated with a sexual assault. In addition, this center provides assistance with victim's rights compensation programs, information and resources on law enforcement, medical and legal procedures, arrangements for transportation, clothing and emergency shelter, and support groups to help ease the transition back. In essence, these extraordinary volunteers are there to assist victims from directly after an assault all the way through this difficult healing process. Along with the victims, these men and women deserve our support, commitment, resources and prayers.

The Rape Crisis Center in Cumberland County is able to perform its mission because of resources from **Education Loans Available To NC Residents**

Education loans for North Carolina residents attending colleges in or out of state and for nonresidents attending colleges in North Carolina are available through College Foundation Inc. (CFI). The Federal Family Education Loan program administered by CFI is funded by North Carolina banks and other investors. Federal Stafford Loans (both subsidized and unsubsidized) are made to dependent or independent students in either undergraduate or graduate/professional studies. Federal Plus Loans are made to parents of dependent undergraduate students. For more information, write College Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 12100, Raleigh, NC 27605-2100, or call 919/821-4771 or toll-free, 888/CFI-6400.

private, local, state and federal resources. It is the best example of how local problems can be addressed with a commitment from public and private entities. If you would like to assist, please call the Center at 910-485-7273.

In addition to supporting federal programs that fund programs like this Center, I am an original co-sponsor of an important piece of anti-sexual violence legislation in the House of Representatives, HR 305, the Protection from Sexual Predators Act, prevents the all too familiar scene of a convicted sexual predator being released from prison for "good behavior," only to strike again and again. This bill allows for federal prosecution of rapes and serious sexual assaults committed by repeat offenders. It requires that convicted repeat offenders are automatically sentenced to life in prison without parole. It is severe, but given the seriousness of the assault, it should be. Please be assured I will be working ardently to ensure its passage during this session of Congress.

Sexual assault is not just a woman's issue. It is a human issue and one that we all must be aware of and work toward alleviating. Through the efforts of organizations like the Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County, we can make progress in this effort. As your Congressman, I will fight against this horrendous crime.

Mike McIntyre is the 7th Congressional District's Representative to the United States Congress. He can be reached at 202-225-2731, 910-323-0260, 910-671-6223 or 910-815-4959.

Two by Two Presented by the University Theatre

The University Theatre at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke will present the musical "Two By Two" on Thursday, April 17 at 8 pm, Friday, April 18 at 11 am and Saturday, April 19 at 2 pm in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

"Two By Two" is a fresh retelling of the biblical story of Noah. It seems that the building of the ark was only the first of Noah's many daunting challenges in a journey that wasn't always smooth sailing.

By turns inspirational and hilarious, we discover that being chosen by God for great things does not necessarily simplify the daily demands made of a father and husband. It's good fun from the Good book and when the land has dried, man and beast alike are invited to go forth and prospering a bright new world.

"Two By Two" features music by Richard Rogers, book by Peter Stone and Lyrics by Martin Charnin and is based on the play "The Flowering Peach" by Clifford Odets.

Tickets for "Two By Two" are \$5 general admission. UNCP students, faculty and staff are admitted free with ID. For reservations or more information, call the GPAC box office at (910) 521-6361 or 1-800-367-0778.

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

The Native American Resource Center is pleased to announce a new fine art exhibit entitled *Divergent Parallels: These Things We Hold In Common*. This exhibit consists mainly of a collection of acrylic paintings and pencil drawings by Karl Anthony Hunt (Lumbee). A reception to celebrate the opening of *Divergent Parallels* will be held Thursday evening, the 10th of April, at 7:00 PM. The artist will be present to meet the public and comment on his works.

Karl Anthony Hunt was born in Robeson County in May of 1956. He is the son of the late Charles Edward and Clarice Mandy Hunt. He was raised by his grandmother, Mrs. Lena Jacobs, and graduated from Fairgrove High School in 1974. He now resides in Raynham.

Karl's work is at once simple and complex. Some of his pieces demonstrate a polished technical command of realism — as in the unmistakable lines of the representational drawings called "Cocoon" and "Feathers." Each stroke of pencil or charcoal shows a reasoned economy, no more or less than exactly what is necessary to express the desired form. Both cocoon and feathers all but move in the breeze.

Other pieces reveal the depth of his thinking about a particular subject

— as in the compound levels of meaning in the transcendent acrylic paintings called "The Intellectual Savage" and "Manifest Destiny: Aftermath." Here each caress of the brush on canvas conjoins in a union of ideas and images. The viewer is compelled to stop and ask: "What did he mean?" "What does it mean?" Perhaps even: "What does it all mean?"

Of the *Divergent Parallels* collection of works, Karl says: "To me the show is a reflection of things I have observed and thought in my life travels. As I meet people from other cultures and we share our cultures with each other, I see parallels in my mind. I find that if I tell what things mean in my culture, it has more significance if I draw parallels to other cultures. Take for example the piece called 'Reliquary.' It is a painting of a medicine bag — a container for sacred items in traditional Native American culture which is in some way similar to the reliquary casket of the Catholic church which also contains sacred items."

This seeing of connectedness between different cultures is something at which Karl excels. He feels that people all over the planet have much in common, especially in terms of their belief systems. It is mainly in the details that the

traditional cultures of this world differ. His artworks often suggest this connectedness by means of the symbols and images portrayed.

But not all of Karl's work is so serious. His mixed-media piece, "Casino Chiefs," shows us his lighter side. This red-white-blue-and-chrome construct seems to poke gentle fun at profiteering leaders whose idea of "economic development for the tribe" equates to personal advantages for themselves.

Taken as a whole, this collection of works announces Karl Anthony Hunt as a growing brilliance in the skies of Native American art. From simple pencil and charcoal lines masterfully arranged, to complex portrayals of profound ideas, this exhibit proclaims that art remains vital and robust in the Native communities of North Carolina.

Divergent Parallels: These Things We Hold In Common appears with the coordinating assistance of art agent Barbara Braveboy-Locklear, and will be on display in The Center through the end of May. The public is invited to attend the opening reception; refreshments will be served.

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.



Pembroke Housing Authority Activities

On March 27 the Youth Center sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth. The youth had fun playing games and finding eggs.

On Friday night, April 11 at 7 p.m. the Youth Center will sponsor a EULOGY program for "Mr. I Can't." The program will be conducted like a real Funeral with a full size casket.

The purpose of the Eulogy is for the youth to bury the phrase "I Can't." Everyone is invited to attend.

Starting on Friday night, April 25, at 6 p.m. and every 4th Friday night at 6 p.m. the Youth Center will sponsor family Bingo for the adults and the youth of Pembroke Housing Authority.

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