

Editorially Speaking

Tom Jones, President of the Black Caucus and John Campbell, Director of Human Relations...too much ado about nothing at the tax payers expense

Tom Jones, the president of the Robeson County Black Caucus, has recently been "sounding off" about many things. The most recent, of course, is that he wants the County Commissioners to erect a statue of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Robeson County Court House. He and the Black Caucus also want to rename a portion of Highway 41 from Lumberton to Fairmont after Martin Luther King, Jr. We are not opposed to officially honoring the contributions of Dr. King, realizing that he contributed greatly to Civil Rights legislation and equality for all citizens. We support these ideas. We do not, however, support the idea of erecting a statue to Dr. King with out tax dollars. If the Black Caucus has the money to erect such a statue, well and good. We commend them on their efforts, if they can put their money where their mouth is. And, of course, if our county commissioners are in to erecting statues with our tax dollars, we must respectfully request that one also be erected of Henry Berry Lowrie in recognition of his contributions right here in his native county. We do not expect, however, our commissioners to go there.

Along with Mr. Jones, of course, we have heard the voice of John Campbell, Director of County Human Relations and a member of the Board of Education. While we are not as distressed over Mr. Jones, we believe that Campbell has overstepped his bounds and should resign immediately as Director of the Human Relations. We do not believe that we, as tax payers, should continue to pay him a salary as Director of Human Relations while he seems to do no more than divide and denigrate citizens of the county. We support freedom of speech and encourage Campbell to express himself on every issue, rather real or imagined, but we do not encourage him to continue his crusade of divisive politics and cost us tax dollars. We suggest that Campbell resign as Director of Human Relations because we have not seen or heard anything positive and constructive from him. Surely, there is something good and positive happening in Robeson County. If not, he should get busy and find something. Perhaps he could suggest a coalition of three races whereby all of us could meet and agree on one issue and work towards that goal. Or perhaps he should stick to preaching the gospel. Whatever he does, we editorially ask our county commissioners to relieve him of the responsibility of Director of Human Relations. He has obviously fallen short

of accomplishing that. Perhaps positive Human Relations between the three races in this county is far fetched. We think not, but Campbell certainly has done nothing to change attitudes or to build bridges among the three races in the county. There is nothing wrong with an individual standing strong and bold for what he believes is right, but Campbell should after all this time, have found something right with something in our county. After all, he is in a position to work toward the resolution of racial barriers in the county. If Campbell is going to run the Black Caucus or the NAACP, we suggest that he do it on his own time and at his own expense. We can not imagine that he would be quite for one minute if any other race held the position he holds and behaved the way he has.

We are reminded of the death of Rufus Graham, member of the Robeson County Board of Education. We read then that Campbell was screaming and yelling about Graham's replacement. Everyone agreed that Graham's replacement should be Black. That was the right thing to do. But Campbell, from all reports, thought that it should be the Black of his choosing. We have a problem with that. He certainly has the right to build a political empire and to wage a power battle with his own people, if he so chooses, but he does not, in our opinion, have the right to do that at the expense of the tax payers. Maybe the Rev. Campbell should be as magnanimous and giving as he demands other people should be and graciously resign from the Human Relations position. It is getting to be embarrassing and mind boggling to some of us who pay his salary.

During the LREMC election, once again we heard from Campbell and Tom Jones. They accused Indians of being unfair and not allowing Blacks an opportunity to serve. First of all we suggest that Campbell should have known that the name of the cooperative is LUMBEE River Electric Membership Corporation. He tried to insult the Lumbee Nation by saying he thought the name of it was LUMBER River and not LUMBEE. We suggest that the Director of Human Relations in this county should have known the correct name of the local rural EMC. Secondly, there was a simple solution to having Blacks elected to that board. Bring enough Blacks to elect Blacks. We are amazed that both Jones and Campbell speak as if the Native Americans in

this county owe them something and as if we are the enemy. We owe them what we owe everyone else here, fairness and equality in positions. We have endeavored for many years to work with Blacks because most Native Americans realize that Blacks have also suffered and been denied equality and representation. Never, have we heard Jones or Campbell say "Blacks and Indians." They always say "Blacks" and the inference seems to be to heck with everybody else. We remind Jones and Campbell that Blacks comprise 24.9 percent of the population. We editorially endorse 24.9 percent of all jobs and positions in the county for Blacks. That is the right thing to do. We also endorse 28 percent of those same positions for Native Americans and 36 percent for the whites. That is fair.

We are a little tired of the President of the Black Caucus, Tom Jones, and the Director of Human Relations, John Campbell, accusing Native Americans of "taking and wanting everything." We want our share. We want you to have your share. We are also a little tired of the latest effort by these two to threaten Native Americans. Jones was quoted as saying it depends on how the commissioners vote on the proposal to erect a statue to Martin Luther King Jr. as to whether, in essence, the threat was, the Blacks will vote for Glenn Maynor for Sheriff or Jo Ann Locklear for Clerk of Court in 1998. We had hoped that we had all learned a lesson about promising a group of people's votes, no matter what color. Ask us to support an effort based on whether it is the right thing to do or not. Don't threaten not to vote for people for positions based on what other elected officials do. If Jones nor Campbell votes for Maynor or Locklear, we still editorially stand against spending our tax dollars to erect statues and we editorially encourage our county commissioners to consider what benefit Campbell is as director of human relations in this county. If he has a proven record of building bridges between the races and helping to ease racial tensions in the county, by all means give him an extended contract. If he does not, we editorially request that you dismiss him forthwith and find a better use for our tax money. Enough is enough. Perhaps the concept of a Human Relations Commission was a good idea that didn't work. Or perhaps the Director made a concerted effort to see that it failed. We suggest to you that, if that were his intention, he has succeeded.

Thus Saith God

by Rev. Ted Brooks

Sex, Morality and the Protestant Minister. What Sexual Standard should the Clergy obey?

"Ditch." Matthew 15:13-14. "But he answered and said every plant which my father (Heavenly) hath not planted shall be rooted up. Leave them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind and if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

In the above scripture the Pharisees were offended because Jesus had spoken of that which defiles a person.

Folks today don't want you to tell them what defiles them. They have gotten into the church and nothing is going to stop them from acting like followers of Christ. Jesus simply replied "Let them alone. Every plant of person which my father has not planted shall be rooted up. They are leaders of the blind and if the blind lead the blind, both are going to fall into the ditch."

Jesus is saying every religious leader and his false doctrine shall be destroyed. Matthew 7:21. This refers to those who are willfully spiritually blind, those who have not and did not allow God to outright kill their

body of sin. Bro. Paul wrote knowing that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed that henceforth we should not serve sin. Romans 6:6. When I see folks still sinning, I know they are not dead in the body of Christ. I know they have not made the decisions about sin that it must be killed.

The problem with blind leaders and followers is the blind can't come to the moral decision about sin, to decide that Jesus Christ died for the sins of this world, so sin must die out in me. Sin, my friend, is not to be cured or suppressed or counteracted, but crucified. You alone, my friend, must make this decision. You may be religiously convinced of what you are doing with your life as a Christian, in your own affair. But Jesus is saying hear (any plant (person)) who has not died to sin is going to be rooted up. Rooted up means there will be a judgment day. Revelation 20:11-15. John said I saw a great white throne and I saw the dead small and great stand before God and all

the books were opened and another book which is the book of life and the dead were judged out of those things which were written, according to their works.

There, my friend, no one will be accepted and none rejected. Daniel 7:9 declares "I watched till thrones were placed or cast down and the Ancient of Days did sit and here I saw the thousands upon thousand, millions were gathered there to be judged." Those who had made the blind leaders their guide and the books were opened: I beheld then because of the voices of the great words spoken of the horn, I beheld till the beast was slain and its body destroyed and given to burning flames." Daniel 7:9-11. "Then a large class to whom the doctrine of eternal torment is revealed and you are driven to the opposite error.

You have been told of God' wonderful love and regardless of what you do, you are still saved and you can't believe a compassionate God would consign his creation to the fires of eternal burning hell. So following the blind, you concluded the soul is naturally immortal, so you have concluded that all will be saved.

Oh, my friend, old folks use to say if dying was all, just dying, it wouldn't be so bad. Blind leaders will tell you those who leave this world in sin die perhaps in a state of inebriation (dies with the scarlet stain of crime unwashed from the robes or dies without making a confession or following the blind. You better settle it now, my friend. Those who have chosen Satan as their leader, I have been controlled by His power and not prepared to later enter the presence of God. Pride, deception, licentiousness, cruelty have become fixed in our character. You will not enter heaven to dwell forever with those whom they have despised or hated on earth.

Truth, my friend, will never be agreeable to a liar. Meekness will not satisfy self esteem and pride. Purity is not accepted to the corrupt. Disinterested love does not appear attentive to the selfish. What sort of enjoyment could heaven offer those who are wholly absorbed in earthly and selfish interests?

Do you think for a moment that if you were to die right now after you have lived a life of rebellion against God, you would suddenly be transported to heaven and witness the Holy State of Perfection that exists there? Every soul you come in contact with in heaven are those who are filled with love. Every countenance is beaming with joy and every song of music you hear in heaven will be melodious songs rising in honor to God and the Lamb and the ceaseless stream of light flowing upon the redeemed from the face of Him who sits upon the throne. Do you really believe those whose hearts are filled with hatred of God, those who hated the truth of holiness, do you really believe you could justly leap in with the Heavenly Choir and sing the praises of God?

Do you really believe a person who has followed the blind, been leaders of the blind, could endure the glory of God and the Lamb? No, my friend, the years which have been granted to you, that you would form

a character for heaven, a mind which was your train to love purity, you have never learned the language of heaven. You remember where Daniel saw him, it will be to late, listen, my friend, a life of rebellion against God will be persons unfit for heaven. The purity of heaven is holiness and peace. It would be torture to those who have lived in rebellion to God. The face of God would be a consuming fire. You would long to flee from God's holy place. Those who follow the blind would welcome destruction that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. The blind has fixed his destiny. It has been fixed. It is your choice. You have excluded yourself from heaven. Like the flood and the fire of that Great Day, God declared to Abraham the wicked are incurable. God knows that he blind have no disposition to submit to divine authority, so Jesus declared let them alone. Every plant not planted by my father will be rooted up or will be brought into judgement. When once you have been rooted up, it will be too late to turn the current of their thoughts in the opposite direction, too late to turn from transgression to obedience, from hatred to love.

What are the standards of a true leader—one who can help you to live a Christian life. The last prophetic words of David the Spirit of the Lord spoke by me and its words were in my tongue. The god of Israel has spoken said the Rock of Israel spoke to me. He who ruled over man must be just, ruling in the fear of God, and he shall be as the light of the morning, without clouds as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after the rain. II Samuel 23:3-4.

Can I ask you a question. Does this describe your preacher? Does he far God? Are these persons you are afraid to be seen with him or her or is his life the morning without clouds? No embarrassment?

Clouds are fornication and adultery. Immorality is to be rebuked. In I Corinthians 5:1-3 Bro Paul brought it to the attention of his followers saying, "You are puffed up over your gift and power so full of strife and contention related to your parties and favorite teachers, you have neglected the discipline of the church. Had you considered the greatness of the crime, you would have mourned and acted to put away the tormentor. (You ought to have mourned that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you."

Five things to do. Paul is saying when you first heard of it, months or years ago, he should have been excommunicated. Bro. Paul was saying the person should be judged (1) by the authority of Jesus Christ (2) Gather in church conference (3) Agree with my Spirit (4) Use the power of Jesus Christ (5) Deliver him to Satan

Ditch
Pastor, Preacher, Minister, Clergy. I do not write this to shame but as my beloved sons I warn you. I Corinthians 4:14. When Solomon had runned all the stop signs of God, he concluded Proverbs 6:28 for by the means of an unchaste or whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread. You

cannot take fire in your bosom and not expect to be burned. "But who so committeth adultery with a woman lacked understanding. He hath destroyed his own soul." Proverbs 6:32. There was a time when Solomon said I had the whole loaf and because I took fire in my bosom I have fallen into this ditch. The eternal soul in this ditch are they who tarry long at the wind, they that go to seek mixed wine for the Harlot is a deep ditch. Proverbs 23:27. If you want to know how you have become a blind leader and a follower of the leader of the blind, here it is. How to get our Jacob, when he had sought his own way, robbed his brother of his birthright, went out toward Rod-dan-aram. In this ditch he came to a place where the earth was his mattress and the sky was his cover. A cold grown with a stone for a pillow. But God let down his ladder of mercy and Jacob climbed out. How? He made some vows to God.

If you refuse to let go of your spiritual pride, saying I am clean and without transgression, I am innocent. Neither is their iniquity in me, you are rich and increased with goods, having no need of anything and know not that thou are wretched and miserable, poor blind and naked. (Job 33:9) In Revelation 3:17 that ditch will always be home. Again, old folks use to have an old saying if it was just dying, it wouldn't be so bad. But there is a judgment seat. Think about it



I hoped that you received a smile the other week with my memories of the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!"

I missed all of you last week due to the death of my cousin and my friend, Gerald Maynor. He had a Dr. in front of his name, but I never called him that because to many he was a doctor, but to me he was my cousin, Gerald was a humble and meek person who never wanted you to talk about anybody and didn't want to hear them talk about you. His death was rather depressing. But then, I have a bipolar manic major depression disorder anyhow, so the circumstances didn't help much. You know that doctors say that this is no cure for this disorder. But, I guess that they do not know God, and He can do anything. Jesus made the blind man see and the cripple man walk, a bi-polar disorder is nothing for him. I know that my father didn't raise me to quit either, I can only console my cousins telling them how I accepted that my entire family was gone. And for me acceptance of things we can't change and faith in God works.

Tell me folks, what do you think of them placing a statue of Martin Luther King Jr. at the courthouse? Who came first and gave the voting right to the people of Robeson County "regardless of color?" I think his name was Henry.

Has anybody told you that they love you today? Well, I do.

NC Indian Senior Citizens Conference Set November 7-8

The 17th Annual NC Indian Senior Citizens Conference will be held November 7-8 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux in Fayetteville. The conference theme is "Indian Elders: Voices of the Past and Future."

The conference is sponsored by the NC Indian Senior Citizens Coalition, the NC Commission of Indian Affairs United Tribes, and the NC Native American Youth Organization.

Special events include a health fair, quilt contest, cake contest, recognition of the state's oldest Indian ministers, and the Miss Indian Senior Citizens Queen Pageant. The banquet and pageant will be held the evening of Friday, November 7, and will be emceed by the Rev. Mike Cummings of Pembroke. Entertainment during the banquet and pageant will be provided by the NC Native American Youth Organization and the Coharie River Boys of Clinton.

"This conference is the only statewide event held solely for the Indian elders of North Carolina," said Gregory A. Richardson, Executive Director of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. "It is a great opportunity for Indian elders

from across the state to come together in unity to celebrate their Indian heritage and to be proud of the accomplishments and contributions they, as Indian people, have made to this state."

Conference registration is \$45 for senior 55 and older and \$55 for those under 55 years of age, and covers a light reception, a banquet, a T-shirt or hat, and all workshop materials and activities. Individual tickets to the conference banquet may be purchased for \$20. Registration deadline is October 31.

For more information, contact Darlene Jacobs, Community Services Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs at (919) 733-5998, 217 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603. Or Bonnie Ammons Cumberland County Association for Indian People at (910) 483-8442 or their local Indian organization.

The NC Commission of Indian Affairs, in the Department of Administration, was created by the General Assembly in 1971. More than 80,000 Indians live in North Carolina, giving the state the largest Indian population east of the Mississippi and the seventh largest Indian population in the nation.

PEOPLE ARE SWEET ON THE FRESH TASTE OF HONEYBEE.



NOW IN PLASTIC CANS.

When New Year's Day was changed to January 1, some people still celebrated it on April 1. These people came to be known as "April Fools."

This Community Just Keeps Getting Healthier.



Florence H. Bassi, M.D., has joined the medical staff of SRMC and is associated with Carolina Eye Associates in Lumberton. A native of West Virginia, Dr. Bassi's practice includes general ophthalmology as well as laser surgery of the eye, and she is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Bassi is a graduate of the West Virginia University School of Medicine. She completed an internship at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA, and residency training in ophthalmology at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

Florence H. Bassi, M.D.

We can all feel good about each new addition to the medical staff at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Every physician brings years of education, specialized training and personal expertise to our highly diversified health care team—and to our community.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest doctor. With your arrival, there is a significant improvement in the general health of this community.



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