

Editorial And Opinion Page

Hubert Stone and John Campbell, both are detrimental to harmony in Robeson County

As the sheriff's race heats up, rumors and innuendos are afloat. Some of them are quite interesting and some of them could hold a ring of truth. For instance, there are those who speculate that Hubert Stone is planning to take the Sheriff's position as well as change the complexion of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners. This last move is necessary, according to pundits who analyze these things, in order for Hubert, if elected, to serve a year and then hand-pick his famous son, Kevin Stone, to replace him. This would require action from the Board of Commissioners which explains why Hubert wants some of his supporters and friends on that body. Now, when you think about it, that would be typical Hubert Stone thinking. What better way to slap the Indians of Robeson County than to have his son, the murderer of Jimmy Earl Cummings, serve as Sheriff. That idea would not surprise some of us who have watched Hubert Stone's political actions for several years, both as sheriff and as a retiree. This idea gives me added incentive to continue to encourage voter registration and after registering, get to the polls and vote against the return of Robeson County to the "Stone Age."

There are other scenarios, but none are quite as devious as the one above. There are those who predict that Sheriff Glenn Maynor will get a sizeable amount of white votes. We hope this is so. It is a perfect opportunity to move away from race and move into elections based on a candidate's performance. Of course, when you compare Hubert's reign of terror and the negative publicity and charges of corruption in the Sheriff's Department with Sheriff Maynor's four years of service, right thinking and honest people will vote for Maynor, no matter what color. But we can all predict upcoming elections based on what we have seen in the past. Traditionally, whites vote for white candidates. We are confident that if anyone can change that, Sheriff Glenn Maynor is the man. He has been effective, fair and impartial in his hiring practices. He has been competent in his administration and he is honest. We don't need to say anything about Hubert's lack of integrity and principle. The public record speaks for itself on that issue.

An Indian Warrior Falls

Guest Editorial by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

More than the blood relatives of the Reverend Elias Rogers suffered a great loss when he made the great cross-over. Tribal communities throughout North Carolina, especially those in Robeson, Hoke, Scotland, and Cumberland Counties, too, shared their grief and sense of great loss of the mighty Indian warrior who chronicled many of his personal battles in his autobiography, **A Life of Discrimination** (Rogers and Barton, 1995).

The Tuscarora Indian's final battle was lost to diabetes on February 19, 1998. He was 69.

Battles weren't new to the late Rev. Rogers. Throughout his life he'd fought a few, particularly those born of racial discrimination in the workplace and in corporate America. Perhaps his most famous one was against Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, an electric cooperative based in Red Springs, NC. In 1967 Rev. Rogers became the first-ever minority elected to the board of directors of the membership co-op chartered in June, 1940. That election was the beginning of one of the most crucial episodes in the history of racial relations in Robeson and adjoining counties.

In 1970 Rev. Rogers ran for re-election. After seemingly having won the election, it was announced after the balloting that he had lost. Rogers challenged the board of directors. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the sponsoring agency of all electric membership co-ops, investigated and found that illegal proxies had been prepared and voted in the election. He was eventually seated in April of 1972. Four months later Rev. Rogers filed a Civil Rights Act law suit against Lumbee River EMC contending that defendants, the employees of the co-op, conspired to deny him a seat on the board of directors because of his race. Prior to the federal lawsuit that seated Rev. Rogers, the board was composed of all white members. The general manager was white, as well as the employees, with the exception of one Indian who was working on the grounds.

After a long and acrimonious struggle, Rev. Rogers settled his federal lawsuit out-of-court, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture ordered the electric cooperative to halt its long time practice of racial discrimination. There were to be sweeping and lasting change in the way LREMCO conducted official elections solely because of the unyielding fight of the lonely Indian preacher.

And though he fought a long, hard, and many-times lonely battle to obtain representation for minorities, it seemed always to be Indians who sought to unseat Rev. Rogers on the board of directors. Almost every opponent he had was an Indian. A man of great wisdom, he clearly saw the trouble that being a leader was that he couldn't be sure whether the people were following or chasing him. Every minority who has ever served on the board of directors of LREMCO, and each and every minority employee-including Ronnie Hunt, the current general manager, should be eternally grateful to the memory of the Indian warrior, Rev. Elias Rogers, who paved the way for such opportunities.

Until his death two weeks ago, Rev. Rogers carried the scars of many years of fighting and being attacked, and often shunned, by his own. He was a man of strong convictions with the courage to stand up for what he believed in, even if rebuked or scorned by people of his own race. But, then it can be truthfully said that some in and around Robeson County have a way of taking their best and brightest and using them, and when it becomes politically feasible, to cast them aside, to use them, to abuse them, to come up with anything that they can come up with as an excuse to be a barrier and put it in the way.

Thus the tragedy befallen Rev. Rogers. Thus, the shameful tragedy of Indian nations who fail to support their own warriors.

It is compelling that Indian people give honor and praise to the life of Rev. Elias Rogers. Those who failed to appreciate his life and work for civil rights can redeem themselves by giving this man the much-deserved honor and respect he deserves, albeit posthumously.

Let us learn from the life and times of Rev. Rogers. Indian people must learn to be kinder and loyal to Indian warriors who fight battles in order that their fellow brothers and sisters may serve with dignity.

Get a copy of **A Life of Discrimination**, the life story of Rev. Elias Rogers, in his own words.

Shed a tear for his suffering. Another for our shame.

Disaster Aid Application Deadline Approaching

Asheville, N.C. --- Time is running out for residents and business owners affected by the recent severe storms and flooding in North Carolina to apply for federal and state disaster assistance. Only about two weeks remain to apply for assistance in Avery, Mitchell and Robeson counties.

Application deadline is Monday, March 16, 1998.

If you have not already applied you may do so by calling the toll-free Tele-registration number, 1-800-462-9029 (TTY 1-800-462-7585). Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Making the telephone call and registering meets the deadline requirements for the disaster housing and Individual and Family Grants (IFG)

programs. If you were issued a Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loan application for your home, however, you must complete it and turn it in by the deadline if it is to be considered.

You do not need all the supporting documents when you submit the application. Deeds, income tax returns and other documents can be supplied later, but you must turn in the application form by March 16.

The SBA evaluates the application to determine if you are eligible for a loan. If you qualify for a loan you do not have to accept it but you will not receive further disaster aid.

If the SBA determines that individuals cannot repay a loan, your case is automatically referred to the Individual and Family Grant program.

Of course, as we approach the anniversary of the death of Julian Pierce, many people are expressing concern for the safety of our Sheriff, Glenn Maynor. We hope that our county has advanced beyond that kind of violence and Machiavellian behavior. Nevertheless, we must surround our Sheriff with prayer and watch as well as pray.

On another note: our illustrious Director of Human Relations, John Campbell, who also serves as an at large member on the board of education recently stated in reference to the superintendent's position that he thought the board should extend the dead line for applications because only nine people applied. Well, John, what's the surprise! If I did not live in the county, I would certainly hesitate to apply for employment here. After all, we must consider the negative image you have given to our county as you exercise your talents as director of human relations. Really!! Ask Hubert Stone, if he is going to support you for Clerk of Court and make him do so publicly. If I were you, that is the only way I would accept his endorsement and even then, knowing Hubert as I do, I wouldn't trust him to vote for me. Perhaps when the election is over, John Campbell, you will be smarter than you are now. Obviously, you are not exercising your ability to think clearly, if you think that there is going to be a white and black coalition in this county that will elect you and Hubert Stone on the same ticket. We are sure you will do your part and vote for Hubert and we are sure that Hubert wouldn't vote for you if you were the only name on the ballot.

We editorially ask you one more time, John Campbell, step down as Director of Human Relations. You are an embarrassment to the citizens as you demonstrated again recently by the asinine suggestion that we extend the deadline for applications for superintendent. At what point in time will you become concerned for the education of our children and show less concern for your own personal "Black agenda?" Then again, as we think about it, you and Hubert are a good combination. You have both embarrassed the citizens of our county and both of you are proficient at "opening the mouth and inserting the foot."

The Baltimore Experience

by Herbert H. Locklear

Finding Peace in Retirement

When one spends thirty seven years at one place of employment, as this writer has, that one is surely to have developed some sense of oneness with the place, the people, the environment of the job.

Then comes the day when separation, for one reason or another, is in order. The question yet to be resolved is how best to separate with promise and anticipation. Many studies and experts have ventured varying ideas how to accomplish a successful retirement. These plans and ideas include an accumulated amount of money. But, how does one find contentment in retirement, even without money?

Work represents much more to employees than merely a pay check. So does retirement mean much more than leisure with enough money to pay for it. Herein, lies the potential problem. Before retirement, employees day dream about the time of retirement. Then suddenly it is time. Separation is not as easy as the day dreams had envisioned.

Successful employment means self fulfillment, independence, self reliance, gives one a sense of being in charge. It helps to create satisfaction and a sense of belonging. These attributes, plus many more, are inherent in the routine and disciplines of work. When work has ceased, there needs to be a transference of these attributes to other endeavors, or separation anxieties may occur. So, what should one do?

Aside from expert opinion, retirement should be more about going to something new than leaving something old. Long before leaving the job for the last time, the employee should have some concrete notions about what is coming next. To this end, this writer offers a suggestion, from experience.

As God has freely given health and opportunity to work many years to meet ongoing needs, the retiree should seriously consider "giving something back." I suggest such a person go to their pastor and together carve out a meaningful and worthwhile volunteer activity to benefit others as the employee has been benefited over the years.

Again from experience, church and community work can easily fulfill all the attributes found in a career. And, such work can accelerate and intensify the satisfaction received. A cadre of such volunteers via the church communities will create a "salvation army" not to be defeated. Now you know! Now go to it!

Cherokee Author/Poet MariJo Moore to Read in Fayetteville

Cherokee author/poet MariJo Moore will present a reading from her collected works: *Spirit Voices of Bones, Stars Are Birds And Other Writings*, and *Crow Quotes on Fridays*, March 27th, starting at 8:00 P.M. at Books-A-Million, 1920 Skibo Road, Fayetteville, NC. Ms. Moore has traveled widely teaching creative writing workshops and presenting lectures on topics such as "Dispelling The Stereotyping Of American Indians" and "The Healing Power Of Words." Her writings have appeared in numerous publications including: *Indian Artists, National Geographic, Indigenous Woman, The North Carolina Literary Review, Red Ink, and Native Women In The Arts.*

"The crisp, clear and evocative poetry of MariJo Moore is leading the way in raising American Indian poetry from merely ethnic reflections to a universal form of expression."

- Vine Deloria, author of *God Is Red and Custer Died For Your Sins*

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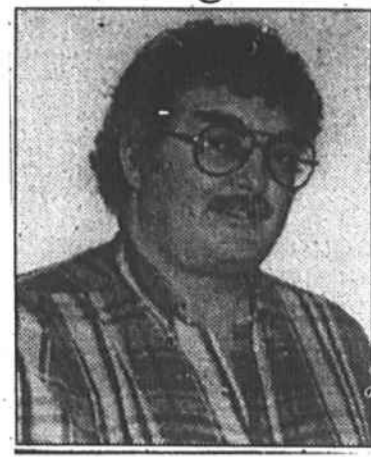
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The content of what character?

Ranting and Raving



Garry Lewis Barton

Folk, I liked ol' Martin Luther King, especially his purported desire to bring about badly-needed change in a non-violent way. Unfortunately, everyone did not share his sentiments about non-violence because someone killed him in a most cowardly and violent manner. I especially liked what ol' Martin said about dreaming about the day when all men will be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. Of course, he must have been talking about when Jesus comes again to take His believers to live with Him in Paradise. Because until then, folk will continue to judge folk by their differences more than any other yardstick.

Anyhow, could you imagine judging President Bill Clinton by the content of his character? Hah! The ol' boy has been involved in some kind of scandal each year he has been in office. The latest involves Monica Lewinski who claims she engaged in a sexual relationship with Clinton working as an intern in the White House.

Sadly, his alleged scandalous behavior seems more the norm than the exception in our nation's Capitol.

Ol' Martin talked about climbing to the top of the mountain, too. And I don't know if what he was talking about would be applicable to hills. But I do know if one climbed to the top of Capitol Hill and hazarded a look all he'd probably see would be more sin and corruption. In fact, that seems to be the glue holding the Capitol together. Meanwhile, the moral fiber barely holding this country together continues to unravel at an alarming rate.

No, folk. Our President can't be judged by the content of his character. There's a difference in being a character, which he apparently is, and having character, which he apparently doesn't.

Yet, according to the polls, Clinton is more popular than ever. Since we can't possibly be judging him by the content of his character, we must be judging him by the content of our bellies and pocketbooks.

That's right, folk. The economy is in better shape now than it's been in a long time. Yet, I suspect this is due more to what former President Ronald Reagan did while in office than anything "Dollar Bill" Clinton has done. It just took longer than Reagan anticipated for the dollars deriving from policies he implemented while in office to "trickle down" from Capitol Hill to the pockets of poor folk like you and me.

And "Dollar Bill" is getting the credit. His adoring public seems to be shortsighted, folk, unable to see anything past the bulges in our bellies and pocketbooks. And that's a sad commentary on the sad state of the Union.

But Garry's Rule of Logic says that anything that trickles eventually dries up. Rest assured, as soon as the trickling down money dries up to an occasional drip, folk will be able to see beyond their bulging bellies and pocketbooks. And they'll turn on "Dollar Bill" just as sure as grits are groceries.

Until then, our only hope rests in Hillary who seems to condone his scandalous behavior.

But she should learn a lesson from the other First Ladies. Remember former First Lady Betty Ford who tried to teach folk to "just say no" to alcohol? And former First Lady Nancy Reagan who urged us all to "just say no" to drugs?

First Lady Hillary would do a better service to her country if she would teach her husband to "just say no" to engaging in sexual activity with anyone other than herself.

Until the trickle dries up, or Hillary decides to take a stand about "Dollar Bill's" propensity to lay down with anything in a skirt, his future behavior should be viewed with arched and incredulous brows. Especially by future hopeful White House interns. In fact, my advice to 'all is if President Clinton saunters up to you in the White House talking about putting you in a "staff position," beware because he could just as easily be talking about putting you in a compromising position.

It's sad, but Clinton seems to have set morality back hundreds of years; right when we thought it was safe to leave chastity belts relegated to posterity, it seems we need to bring them back to protect female co-workers and acquaintances from our President's galloping libido and randy and raunchy behavior.

We'll talk again folk.

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