

Editorial and Opinion Page

Eddie Hatcher Speaks Out on the Elimination of Robeson County Human Relations Commission

I'm sitting here holding the "interim report" that was issued by Governor Jim Martin on June 8, 1988. This report, as described in an accompanying letter by Martin's Chief of Staff Phil Kirk, outlined the things that would be done for Robeson County as a result of the Takeover of the Robesonian on February 1, 1988. Phil Kirk states in the letter, "On February 1, I signed an agreement which resulted in the release of hostages from the offices of the Robesonian. As a result, you assigned several responsibilities to the Task Force composed of your General Counsel, Jim Trotter; your Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, Joe Dean; and me. Attached is the interim report on the activities of the Task Force."

The interim report lists the four original demands I made on the Governor, and eight additional things for Robeson County. On page seven of the report, the first action taken by the Task Force was the "Establishment of Tri-Racial Commission." Therein it states, "the community Relations Division of the United States Department of Justice requested the endorsement of the Governor for their efforts to organize a Tri-Racial Commission in Robeson County." The endorsement was given and the Governor wrote to each mayor in Robeson County to help in organizing the Commission.

So you see, the present day County Commissioners had absolutely nothing to do with the creation of the Human Relations Commission. They made absolutely no sacrifice whatsoever in bringing about this commission, which was designed to aid and assist Indian, Black, and whites in Robeson County. The County Commissioners and Indian and Black leaders in the county have done nothing but reap the benefits brought about on the lives and sacrifices of other. They are all eating real good but they didn't help work the fields.

Even while in prison I wrote letters and stated publicly that the HRC was providing no assistance to Indian people. There are many incidents and situations existing in Robeson County that should have been investigated and addressed by the Human Relations Commission but haven't been. I stated that Roxanne Hunt did not do the job she was supposed to do for the people and John Campbell has not done that either. From the beginning I have stated that the Director of the HRC should have a backbone and not owe any favors to any politician. And now, because of politics, pure and simple, the County Commissioners want to throw out the baby with the bathwater.

No one living and breathing can look me in the face and tell me politics didn't move the County Commissioners, especially the Indian Commissioners, to abolish the HRC. John Campbell dared to run against JoAnn Locklear for Clerk of Court and the Indian power structure, which didn't exist prior to February 1, 1988, is retaliating. And the white commissioners are agreeing to abolish the HRC for two reasons. One, Eddie Hatcher helped bring about the HRC and; two, there is no more discrimination in Robeson County, in their minds. But at the same time, the Indian commissioners don't want to alienate a lot of Black votes by attacking John Campbell personally and firing him, so they'll just abolish the HRC.

People, this is the bottom line, plain and simple. You can't tell me it was done for any other reason.

I can't believe Commissioner Noah Woods, with his education, would make such a statement regarding their vote to dismantle the HRC. He stated, "It could have been an outstanding commission. Its' something I'd hope this county could continue, but as of today, it hasn't done what it set out to do. My God, Mr. Woods. Everyone is not stupid. If you don't think it has done what it could, why didn't you correct the problem long ago? If it could have been an outstanding commission, why don't you put a Director in who would do the job they were suppose to do. Do you know how many people in this county don't even know the HRC exists? There are countless people in Robeson who don't know this. How does that speak for the HRC and the county commissioners? It says none of you were doing your jobs. That simple. You are blaming your employee for a sorry job that you supervised. So, because of your vengeance toward John Campbell and your total lack of concern for the Indian people and all people in Robeson, we will end up without a needed HRC that could help so many people if done right. Are you saying hundreds of years of oppression and discrimination have been solved in ten years?"

It is so important to have a commission at the local level to monitor and watch the problems in Robeson County. We need this. It is a fundamental basic issue. There is history here and we need this. But we need a true, honest, caring, aggressive Director. A Director who owes no one, is not afraid of anyone, and can talk to anyone--Indian, black or white; Democrat or Republican; powerful or weak. That is the director we need.

This issue is not one about drug dealing. It's not about crooked sheriffs or corrupt officials. This is an issue of human rights. An issue of what is right. An issue of necessity. So, you may not like me. You may not like certain things I say or do. But I believe you like being treated fairly. To be treated equally and with respect. So, please call for the county commissioners to continue the HRC and put in a Director who will make it an outstanding commission.

I call on you, James Hardin. I call on you, Ruth Locklear and Dalton Brooks. I call on you, Milton Hunt and McDuffie Cummings. I call on you, Pembroke Town council. I call on you R.D. Locklear and Howard Brooks.

I call on you Dexter Brooks and Angus Thompson. I call on you Arnold Locklear, Ron Sutton and Arlie Jacobs. I call on you Rev. Billy Locklear, Rev. Bill James Locklear, Rev. Coolidge Cummings and Rev. Mike Cummings. And all Indian preachers. I call on you Mitchell Bosco Locklear. And you James Moore. And you Horace and Barbara Locklear. And you, McNeill family and Scott Sisters and you, Bell family. And you Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend and Rev. Welton Lowry. And you Curt Locklear and Fairly Woodell. And all of you. All of you who supported me openly. And you who supported me silently. And you who hated my guts. Please just try to stop this. You will not be doing this for me. You will be doing this for everyone.

More about Indian Housing

The guest editorial published in last week's edition of the Carolina Indian Voice contained an incorrect statement Tribes included in the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act are limited to the Lumbee, Haliwa-Saponi, Coharie and Waccamaw-Strouan The Person County Indians and the Meherrin are not eligible to apply through this legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity to again, encourage everyone to contact their representatives on the Tribal Council, as well as those on the LRDA board of directors, and request that both entities make a strong concerted effort to resolve the current controversy surrounding the housing monies. While it is clear the overall issue of who is the rightful governing body of the Lumbee tribe will not and cannot be decided before the deadline for submission of housing plans, there is sufficient time for an alliance to be formed between both entities and agree on a compromise to allow tribal members to receive the much needed housing benefits. Further, the issue of housing monies should be the number one priority for those purporting to represent the Lumbee tribe. This should be the focus, not which side is right or wrong.

Last week the call was made to persons of the business community and political leaders of the tribe. This week the call is made to the "grass

roots" people, tribal members who stood in line for hours in the heat of the sun to complete housing applications and others who took their valuable time to complete needs assessments requesting your input on how monies should be spent. These actions by both bodies were completed with no absolute guarantee the tribe would even receive the monies. Those of us who do not experience the luxury of living in decent and affordable housing should make every effort to contact LRDA and Tribal Council representatives. This may be the only opportunity we have to experience home ownership, as well as affordable and decent housing.

Lastly, I have received many telephone calls regarding the guest editorial published last week. For the record, the intent of my editorial was not to belittle or boost either the Tribal Council or LRDA. My intent was merely to inform tribal members of crucial issues surrounding housing monies the tribe or. When a tribe has the opportunity to receive approximately eight million dollars, it is time to put aside personalities and any other differences that may exist. It should be duly noted this eight million dollars is for the first fiscal year. The second fiscal year which could possibly be as early as October of this year, could possibly mean an additional eight million dollars.

By: Cynthia L. Hunt, Lumbee

Pembroke Housing Authority Activities

James Locklear was named Student of the Month. James is the 11 year old son of Deborah Locklear. He is in the seventh grade at Pembroke Middle School. He is actively involved in Youth Center activities and serves as a role model for the younger kids by volunteering to help them with assignments. We at Pembroke Housing Authority would like to congratulate James and his family on a job well done.

On May 8th, Youth Center participant, Ronnie Boothe attended a Braves game in Atlanta. Ronnie was selected because of his outstanding service during Clean up week over the Easter break. We are proud of Ronnie and appreciate his dedication in helping during Clean up week.

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Pembroke Housing Authority are conducting a Youth Summer Sports Program beginning June 8th. There are 60 youth enrolled and they will learn four sports skills which include softball, wrestling, swimming and soccer. The theme of the camp is "Going for the Gold." Awards will be given weekly for achievement as well as at the end of the camp. The camp will begin each day at 9:30 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m.

PHDEP staff held a community interest meeting for residents and community leaders to discuss the application for the 1998 PHDEP Grant. The meeting was targeted to identify the needs and concerns of resident and community leaders on developing safer living environments in public housing. Residents who attended voiced their ideas about changes that they would like to see take place. For example, security shacks located in

every area of public housing and stricter vehicle registration enforcement. We would like to thank the residents who came out to voice their opinions about how to make public housing a safer place to live.

Pembroke Housing Authority staff attended the Carolina's Council of Housing and Codes Officials spring workshop in Wilmington on May 11-13. The workshops are designed to update public housing personnel on current legislation and offers several new program ideas that can be used in all housing authorities. The next workshop is scheduled for the fall.

YOUTH CENTER ACTIVITIES

The Youth Center has added two new activities to our programs which include Kids Time for Christ and Palmer Drug Abuse Prevention Youth Sports Recreation Project. Mr. Herman Oxendine teaches Bible study every Thursday. We are very proud to have Mr. Oxendine teaching our youth the important lessons for living according to God's word.

Palmer Drug Abuse Prevention is holding a sports recreation program with the youth every Thursday. The kids really enjoy learning sports skills in correlation with important drug prevention education. Several of our programs have been postponed until school begins in August. They are as follows: Jennifer McLamb POPS and Karl Hunt Cultural Awareness Class. However, Ms. McLamb will move POPS to the Youth Sports Camp. We look forward to Ms. McLamb's participation in our camp and also anticipate Mr. Hunt's return to our Youth Center in the fall.

Documentary on County to Air June 13

Takeover: The Trials of Eddie Hatcher was recently awarded a Director's Choice Award at the Charlotte Film and Video Festival. The documentary was produced by Taylor Sisk and David Hardy.

"Takeover" was also awarded a Special Juror's Award at the North Carolina Film and Video Festival in November 1997.

In addition, the Independent Weekly and the Center for Documentary Studies will air "Takeover" on Friday, June 12, 8 p.m. and again Saturday, June 13, 2 p.m. at 1317 West Pettigrew St., Durham. Admission is \$6.00. Call the Center at 919-660-3663 for more information.

The documentary combines interviews with Hatcher as well as several key figures in Hatcher's decade-long ordeal stemming from his hostage-taking seizure of the Robesonian newspaper in 1988.

David Hardy 919-481-0000

Eddie Hatcher

HUD And

Manufactured Homes

John Tallbird Marshall

Hud is seeking recommendations for revising the roofing requirements for manufactured homes designed for high-wind areas. Recommendations received will be reviewed to determine if applicable Federal Standards and regulations should be revised. Comments may be forwarded to: Regulations Division, Room 10276, Office of General Counsel, HUD, 451 7th SW, Washington, DC 20410-0500.

Also available for those interested is a Publication, "Interpretive Bulletin" 1-2-98 pertaining to the safety standards and construction of metal roofing designs for manufactured homes designed for high winds.

This bulletin is available from CD Publications, CDS 98221, 5PP, 8204 Fenton St., Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. E-Mail cdpubs@clark-nct.org can be found in the Federal Register, 5/12 p. 26386, 5/1 p. 26392

MEETING!

Indian basketball research project

Moore Hall

UNC-Pembroke

June 18, 1998

7 p.m.

Important decisions will be made at this meeting about writing the book, the symposium, the banquet and much much more!

If you played, coached or cheered "Indian" basketball between 1939 - 1967, come on out and join us.

PEDIATRIC POINTERS

by Dr. Joseph T. Bell

In past issues we have had the chance to discuss different types of childhood rashes. Some of these included atopic dermatitis (eczema), chicken pox and roseola. This week I thought it would be good to discuss another common rash called impetigo. Impetigo is the most common skin infection in children. It is a contagious infection of the top layers of the skin that begins as a blister or pus bump and then drains and scabs over. There are two classic forms of impetigo: the bullous (blistering) and nonbullous forms.

Bullous impetigo is the least common form of the two. It is caused by a Staph germ and is characterized by the presence of blisters. The blisters are soft and transparent. The blisters usually rupture in 1-2 days, leaving scant crusty scabs. This rash usually appears on the face, buttocks and chest.

The nonbullous impetigo rash usually starts as a red bump in a traumatized area (scratch, insect bite, etc.) The bump rapidly turns into a thick crusty, honey-colored scab. This form of impetigo is found mostly in exposed areas such as the face and extremities. A type of Strep germ (like the one in Strep throat) is the cause of

nonbullous impetigo. Since impetigo lesions are seldom painful, the diagnosis may be delayed for days or weeks. Fever is usually absent. Without treatment, impetigo tends to remain stable or become slowly progressive over several weeks, and in most cases it will spontaneously heal. Occasionally, the sores may become chronic with skin ulcer formation. Only rarely will impetigo lead to other complications such as cellulitis or kidney disease.

The treatment of impetigo depends to some degree on how many sores are present. If the lesions are not widespread, your doctor may prescribe a topical antibiotic ointment to go directly on the rash. For more widespread impetigo, an oral antibiotic, such as Keflex or Erythromycin, may be prescribed. The rash should resolve within 7 days after starting treatment. I usually tell parents to use warm, soapy water to clean the infected skin. Remember, these sores are contagious, so until they dry up with treatment, the patients should be careful around other kids and adults.

Well, that's enough on impetigo. Take care, and we'll talk again next week!

Have you been fired or laid off from your job?

Have you been denied unemployment benefits?

Before you go to a hearing before an appeals referee on your own, contact:

Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc.



E. Main & 2nd St.
Pembroke, NC

(910)521-2831 or Toll Free 1-800-554-7852

All Services Free of Charge to Eligible Applicants
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Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Bill Cosby and Michael Jordan

It was quite a thrill to have a celebrity like Bill Cosby come to our town!

I first remember him doing a funny "take" on Noah and the Ark, a tape that we listened to. By now everybody knows this funny man, who is well-educated and can be very serious.

In at least one way his visit to Pembroke reminds me of a NON-comedian who spoke to a smaller group here in Pembroke in the '50s. (Leon told me about this) Dr. E. Stanley Jones, a well-known spiritual leader in the Methodist Church, came, as I understand it, at the invitation of Pembroke College President Dr. Ralph Wellons. Both men had been missionaries in India.

Let's remember Bill Cosby and his family in our prayer. What happened to his son, Ennis, was much harder on that family, I'm sure, than what happened to my boys. The trial of the young man accused of shooting Ennis will be another time of grieving. Of course, the young man on trial also needs our prayers.

Worshipping Outdoors

Now that it's warm I've discovered a better way to start the day with God. Actually, I don't know why I haven't made a practice of this each spring, summer, and fall for years.

Recently I've been going outside and sitting on the porch steps to read "The Upper room" or "Our Daily Bread." Even with most brightly colored blossoms gone, being surrounded by God's calm green world can be very reassuring. Although I know Christians need to gather together regularly in the "House of Worship," I also feel close to God in the midst of the natural beauty He created.

For me, praying (the wonderful privilege of talking things over with the God of the multi-verse) is easier in a setting like this, away from any mundane everyday problem still hanging around the house from the day before. Also, much of the Bible take son greater meaning in such an outdoor setting.

Just five or ten minutes in the morning can set the tone for our entire day. And remind us to rely on our Creator hour by hour, all day long!

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