

Editorial And Opinion Page



AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

Superintendent of Public Schools of Robeson County might be toughest job in America

Mama and I went to church again Sunday. We had a wonderful time in the Lord and were pleased when New Prospect's pastor, Willie Scott Jr., called all of us around the altar at the end of the service, including the students and teachers in our church family. We prayed for them and wished them great success during the new school year underway.

I prayed privately, too, for Supt. Dr. Barry Harding, who might have the toughest job in America. There are problems where ever he turns, and there is never a unanimous thought about anything. It's a thankless job too. He gets cussed at and out a lot.

Trouble is everywhere. He is assailed almost daily, as I see it, by the local daily newspaper which never seems to have anything good to say about anything, especially when color is part of the equation.

There are board members who do not wish him well. There are 6-5 votes from time to time that speak of acrimony and danger on every hand.

And now five of our six high schools have received their reports cards from the SDPI. They are low performing! It is just another wake up call, and I suspect that Dr. Harding and his cadre of staff, teachers and students will find a way to fix this problem too, as they have all the other problems that have surfaced. The problem was inherited, not created last week.

In the meantime, don't forget to pray for the Public Schools of Robeson County, and its leader--Supt. Dr. Barry Harding. Prayer is the first building block, the foundation of any good that might emanate from these troubled times.

The Fayetteville Observer becoming daily of choice for many Indian people

It's sad to say but the number one enemy of the Indian people, in my humble opinion (sic), is ourselves. The number two enemy is the **Robesonian**, the daily that speaks often with a forked editorial tongue when it comes to Indian people. The daily seldom gets it right and hardly ever writes glowingly about good vibrations in the Indian community. And when Indian leaders attempt

to explain, or justify their actions about this or that, it some how gets turned around and inside out. Their explanations become worst than the original sin. I have publicly suggested to all Indian leaders that they simply say, "no comment" when the county daily newspaper approaches them about anything, especially explanations or questions about their actions. I doubt our Indian politicians and leaders will listen but they ought too.

On the other hand, the **Fayetteville Observer** has become the preferred choice of many of us when we read the daily newspapers. They are, again as I see it, more professional and less caught up in the color of things. I often read glowing profiles on Indian people: the most recent one was a wonderful profile of Patriach Marvin Lowry in last week's issue of the **Robeson Extra**, an insert by the **Fayetteville Observer**. The article was entertaining and uplifting. There have been many wonderful features lately, including a recent one on Ms. Carrie Dial, a wonderful Indian lady from the Prospect community. There is much positive good in the Indian community to write about as the **Carolina Indian Voice** and the **Observer** have proven over the years.

Another failing of the **Robesonian**, as I see it, is the stark and very noticeable lack of Indian reporters and employees. The **Fayetteville Observer** pays attention to demographics. The Lowry piece and the feature on Ms. Carrie Dial were written by James Locklear, a reporter who just happens to be Lumbee. Ahem! Interesting, huh!

In Europe the plant the pimpernel is credited with the power to move against the current of running water and with giving someone second sight.

Million Dollar Settlement in Riverside, California raises interesting questions

To the Editor
I read on page 3A of the July 28th edition of the Fayetteville Observer, that "The city (Riverside, California) reached a settlement, reportedly in the millions of dollars, with the family of a 19-year-old black woman who was shot to death by police in her car." As I remember, the police were called because the car's engine was running; the windows were up, and no one could wake the woman. Can we agree that whether she was unconscious due to illness, intoxicated on alcohol, or high on drugs, she would have died of asphyxiation without help?

The last paragraph of the article read: "Officers fired 23 shots, hitting her 12 times, saying later that they did so because she woke up and lunged for the gun as they tried to break into the car to help her." This may sound like excessive force to people who have never fought for their very lives, as police officers are subject to do any time they are on duty, but not to me. I have fought for my life more than once, the last time against our neighbor's 120 pound "pet," which was determined to kill our pets and me for trying to stop him. Regulating the number of times you shoot to be socially acceptable does not cross your mind when you are fighting for your life!

Of course a dog is an animal, not a human being. But my uncle was a human being, and one of the kindest to ever live, when he was sober -

mean as a junkyard dog when he was drunk. Sometimes officers would bring him to my parents and ask them to keep him out of the public until he sobered up, but at times he was so violent and belligerent, they had no choice but to incarcerate him. Sometimes when he was drunk, he was even violent to my parents - my father carried a visible scar to prove it. My uncle has been dead for many years, but if he were living today, and we were dishonored enough, we could give him an empty gun the next time he got drunk, and call the police. You can bet, in his drunken stupor, he would threaten to use the gun; they would have to shoot him in self-defense; and we could sue and become millionaires! - If our conscience would allow.

I have a few questions. Is it legal for a 19 year-old to carry a gun in Riverside, California? If the people in Riverside, who called the police, were not afraid of the woman with the gun, why did they call the police? Why didn't they rescue her themselves? Asphyxiation does not take long, whether a gun is visible in a car or not. Would you have called and waited for the police, or broken a window to unlock the car and help her? Were they afraid she was unconscious, or were they afraid she was drunk or high, and dangerous? After all, she was visibly armed. Were the responding officers the only ones to see the woman's aggressive action with her gun because those

who called the police, sensing danger, stood out of harm's way? And, did the lawyers who successfully played the "race card" in this case volunteer their services, or collect a considerable percentage of the millions of dollars in settlement?

By now, some of you have surely labeled me a racist. I assure you I am not, but I readily admit that I am prejudiced - prejudiced against drunks and drug users with guns, regardless of their sex or race. I cannot sympathize with drunks and drug users with guns, but I can empathize with law enforcement officers, who have only a split-second to make life or death decisions. I could sympathize with the loved-ones of an innocent person deliberately hunted down and shot by racist police officers. But I have no pity for people, regardless of race, who will extort their government of millions of dollars because dedicated police officers, while trying to rescue their relative in a life-threatening situation, had to shoot that relative in self defense. 23 shots by one officer would be excessive. 23 shots divided by numerous officers acutely familiar with the unreasonableness of armed drunks, and the violent nature of drug users under the influence, equals enough shots to save the lives of the sober, responsible people on the scene of the incident!

Think about it, please!
Robert C. Currie Jr.

Free Poetry Contest Open To Pembroke Residents

Owings Mills, MD (USA)--The International Library of Poetry has announced that \$58,000.00 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Poetry Contest. Poets from the Pembroke area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 250 prizes. The deadline for the contest is November 30, 2000. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

"Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner," stated Fran Campos, Contest Director. "When people learn about our free poetry contest, they suddenly realize that their own poetic works of art can win cash prizes, as well as gain national recognition," continued Campos.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style to: The International Library of Poetry, Suite 19909, I Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be 20 lines or less, and the poet's name and address should appear on top of the page. Entries must be postmarked or sent via the Internet by November 30, 2000. You may also enter online at www.poetry.com

The International Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

Thanks to "Strike At The Wind" Cast

The family and friends of Matthew Lowery wishes to thank everyone that participated in helping Matthew celebrate one more birthday celebration. The cast of "Strike at the Wind" has gone the extra mile to make Matthew's list of friend's grow longer. The first time Matthew met this group of people, they were not strangers, they instantly became his friends.

A simple thank you seems so small compared to all everyone has contributed to make Matthew's days a little brighter. Everyone's reward is still yet to come, because in Matthew's eyes, you are all angels sent from above.

Matthew is only a child that has learned to endure pain and cross obstacles like an adult. Matthew's wish to everyone is keep that "child-like-love" and hope alive and your dreams will be fulfilled. (Look at me, I celebrated one more birthday thanks to you).

Again, thanks and keep smiling and whispering a prayer so Matthew will be able to smile!

The family and friends of Matthew Lowery.

E-mail the editor at brayboyconnee@hotmail.com. Tell the Carolina Indian Voice what's happening with you. Or write to the Carolina Indian Voice at P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372. Telephone us at (910) 521-2826 or simply send us a fax at (910) 521-1975.

Taxed to the Max?

Learn More About Annuities

Tax-advantaged investing can take many forms, from tax-free funds and tax-deferred 401(k) plans to the brand new Roth IRA. IRAs and employer-sponsored retirement plans are very popular ways to help reduce taxable income, but there are dollar limits to these vehicles, and for many people they don't provide enough tax savings. If you can't save enough on your taxes and are looking for long-term, tax-deferred growth potential, ask your financial advisor about annuities.

What is an Annuity?

An annuity is a life insurance contract that offers the additional advantage of tax-deferred earnings. The contributions you make to an annuity are not tax deductible, but the earnings on your account are taxable upon withdrawal. Annuities provide investors with a range of fixed- and variable-rate investment options.

- Fixed annuities provide a fixed rate of return and the principal value is guaranteed by the insurance company.
- Variable annuities offer a selection of investment portfolios, like mutual funds, whose returns will fluctuate with market conditions. Principal value on a variable annuity is not guaranteed.

Like IRAs and other retirement plans, money in both types of annuity accumulates through contributions and tax-deferred investment earnings. Unlike tax-deferred retirement plans, however, you can make unlimited contributions whether you have earned income or not and you can continue making contributions regardless of your age.

Taking Your Money Out

Withdrawal requirements are also less strict than most retirement plans. Some annuities allow you to defer mandatory withdrawals until age 85 or older, compared to 70 1/2 for traditional IRAs. You can generally select from a variety of payout options, including a lump sum, regular payouts over a designated time period or fixed payouts for your life or the life of your spouse.

Mutual Funds ARE NOT FDIC INSURED, MAY LOSE VALUE, ARE NOT BANK GUARANTEED.

Feature Article - Annuity Investing

A Tool For Estate Planning

An additional advantage of annuities is that your heirs can receive your annuity's insurance benefits immediately upon your death, without the inconvenience and expense of probate. If you've designated your spouse as the beneficiary, he or she may be able to maintain the annuity and its tax-deferred investment earnings, rather than receiving a cash benefit.

The Question of Fees

In recent years, annuities have become more cost-competitive than they used to be. Today, variable annuity fees are more in line with those of mutual funds, with an added expense for the death benefit provision. In addition, some annuities, but not all, have up-front fees and sales charges. All annuities have surrender charges and a 10% federal tax penalty for withdrawals prior to 59 1/2 years of age. When shopping for an annuity, compare annual fees, as well as the death benefit and sales charges, to make sure you're getting the best deal.

Evergreen Funds Can Help

Evergreen Funds offer more than 70 mutual funds. They also offer variable annuities in cooperation with Nationwide Insurance. For more detailed information about The Evergreen Family of Funds, including investment policies, fees and expenses, ask your financial advisor for a current prospectus. Please read the prospectus before you invest or send any money.

[Author] is a [title] with [name of b/d firm]. She regularly presents seminars on a variety of financial topics. [Representative will insert phone # here]



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He Loved Me All The More

There I was sitting on a beautiful shore,
Listening hard and praying all the more.
I knew my Lord was across the shore
And He was also listening all the more.
When I would whine He didn't love me less,
But loved me all the more.
Each time I did not make a score
He didn't love me less, He loved me all the more,
Then I asked Him not to let me whine
When my neighbors were unkind.
Just help me pray for them all the more
And put my trust in Him all the time.
Then He would love me all the more.

Now Lord, teach me to take one step at a time,
To pray more and not to whine,
And You will love me all the more.
When it's time to cross the shore
I'll be at rest forever more.
So please, Lord, forgive me when I whine,
Because You've been there all the time.
Now I will keep the faith as I cross the shore,
For You have loved me all the more.
Alleean H. Locklear



(NAPS)--To learn about the National Health Service Corps, a government agency, and how people get help from them, call 1-800-221-9393 or visit their web site at www.bphc.hrsa.gov/nhsc.



For information about collecting cord blood cells, call 1-888-CORD BLOOD (888) 267-3256 or get information on the Internet at www.cordblood.com.

For information on how getting older needn't mean memory loss, visit www.nih.gov/health or contact The NIH Word on Health National Institutes of Health, Bldg 1, Room 344, MSC 0188, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20892-0188.

The word boondocks comes from the Tagalog word *bandok*, which means mountains. Tagalog is the native language of the Philippines.

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To enter send one poem of 21 lines or less. Free Poetry Contest, PMB126, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028. Or enter on-line at www.famouspoets.com.

"This is our big contest of the year," says Poetry Director Martha French. "We trust our prizes will encourage new poets to share their talent." The deadline for entering is August 29, 2000.



The first bifocal eyeglasses were created by Benjamin Franklin.

In Japan the peach is the symbol of fertility.

In the Middle Ages, you were supposed to throw eggs at the bride and groom.

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