

Editorially Speaking

Editorial And Opinion Page



AS I SEE IT
Bruce Barton

Harvey Dial Jr., a great Christian example in life and in song MAXTON-Harvey Dial Jr. and I shared some things in common: we both love(d) gospel music and base(d) our lives on Christ and his example. Brother Harvey lived up to the example of Christ much better than I. I many times am irreverent and angry at the injustices around me. I fuss and fume and sometimes say things I ought not to say. I am imperfect BUT SAVED nevertheless, thanks to God's matchless grace as embodied in the life of Christ.

I often attended singings where the D & L Gospel Singers were on the program. They are a very unique group, one of the first Indian groups to record, and an institution within the Lumbee community. Harvey Dial Jr. was the leader of the group, more by example than any other way. He never screamed or hollered like I do when aroused, but his quiet demeanor set the tone for reconciliation. He led by example. Many of us followed him as well as we could with our imperfect selves.

And Brother Harvey died last Thursday (October 5) at his home after a long bout with cancer. He never fussed or carried on. He continued to smile even as death drew nearer and nearer to his bedside. He did not whimper: he was not afraid.

Brother Harvey Dial Jr. was 73 when he died. He will always be missed, in his home and church (White Hill Free Will Baptist Church), and where ever brothers and sisters gather to sing praises to the Lord. His example is ever before us and many of us will try to do better than we have done in the past. Amen!

Our prayers and best wishes are with

Lorna McNeill, MISS NORTH CAROLINA, ... as she competes in the 80th annual MISS AMERICAN Pageant October 10 - 14 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. ABC will show the pageant and announce broadcast time later in the week. The pageant will air on the 14th.

Lorna is now in Atlantic City taking part in the competition. Some 500 local supporters are expected to accompany her as she competes. Lorna, we wish you well!!!

Around Ol' Robeson



Saturday, October 21: Robeson County Honor Guard holds annual Steak/Chicken Dinner & Gospel Sing
LUMBERTON-The Robeson County Honor Guard will hold its annual Steak/Chicken Dinner & Gospel Sing fund-raiser October 21 from 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Lumberton Senior High School. Food will be served from 4 - 6:45 p.m. with the program and gospel sing from 6:45 p.m. - 10 p.m. Special guests include the Pierce Family, Sycamore Singers, Liberty Trio, Locklear Brothers & New Covenant. Tickets are \$25 per couple, \$13 for a single. The tickets can be purchased from any member of the Robeson County Honor Guard or call Edwin Matchett at (910) 843-5040.

Native American Dance classes at NCICC
RED BANKS-Native American Dance classes at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center community building begin anew Tuesdays from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. All ages are welcome, however, younger children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact N.C. Indian Cultural Center at (910) 521-2433.

Board agrees to continue training sessions
LUMBERTON-The school board of the Public Schools of Robeson County agreed Monday night at its board meeting to replace one of its two monthly board meetings with further board development training that is designed to improve the relationship between the superintendent and itself. Terry Smith, one of the two board members accused of immoral conduct by Supt. Dr. Barry Harding, actually made the motion to continue the training. Smith said, "I'm for anything that will help the board resolve some of its problems." The training is expected to last at least four more sessions and will be conducted at the Central Office in Lumberton.

Dr. Harding also was honored at the meeting with the announcement that he has won two prestigious awards, one the Friends of the Arts Award from the state Art Association, and the National Indian Educator of the Year Award from the National Indian Education Association. He will receive the award at the national meeting of the Indian organization later in the month in South Dakota.

Letter to the Editor

A Slick Attempt To Slide Away From The Sleazy Slime

I read an excellent Guest Opinion entitled "Gore showed political smarts by selecting Lieberman," on page 4A of the Aug. 9th Messenger of Hartsville, S.C. The writer, Hubert Osteen, definitely "showed political smarts" himself with his well-written editorial. Mr. Osteen wrote: "Vice President Al Gore, seeking to gain ground on George W. Bush in the presidential race, made a politically savvy move Monday when he selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate. At the same time, he began the process of distancing himself from Bill Clinton and an administration roiled by scandal and ethical lapses."

"I agree that Gore was"..."seeking to gain ground...in the presidential race..." but I feel that "...distancing himself from Bill Clinton and an administration roiled by scandal and ethical lapses..." was the greater motive in selecting Sen. Lieberman. As Mr. Osteen said: "The two-term senator was the first in his party to publicly criticize President Clinton for his sleazy affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky by declaring such conduct 'immoral.' That statement contrasted at the time with Gore's contention Clinton was a 'great' president when the vice president rallied to his mentor's defense."

Mr. Osteen also wrote that Sen. Lieberman's strongest suit "...is a solid reputation for honesty and principled behavior. That's what makes his selection such a refreshing one at a time when the Democratic Party is attempting to extricate itself from the slime of the Clinton years." When Hubert Osteen writes, truth flows

like a river! He closed with: "Gore,

demonstrating his political know-how in his choice, is also serving up a reminder to the voting public that he does not enjoy any linkage to Clinton. Such a choice cannot help but be beneficial to his presidential aspirations."

This is true, but this voter remembers that Gore was standing obediently and quietly in the background with the "So the president (no capitalization intended) made a little mistake, so what, the economy's good" Democratic majority, while Lieberman, practically a minority of one, did exactly what the Democratic majority would have done had a Republican president stooped so low.

The real tragedy in this is that if Vice President Al Gore had taken the moral and ethical stand that he is now obviously attempting to adopt from Sen. Joseph Lieberman, rather than "...rallied to his mentor's defense," he would not need to "...distance himself from Bill Clinton and an administration roiled by scandal and ethnic lapses..." and "...the slime of the Clinton years." The voters would respect Al Gore himself for having taken a moral stand; he would have two years of presidential experience to campaign on; and our nation would have been spared the embarrassment and expense of the impeachment proceedings! He would be using his "political smarts" in something more productive than a slick attempt to slide away from the sleazy slime.

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

Vote "yes" for Higher Education Bond issue on Nov. 7
The Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper encourages our readers to vote "Yes" on November 7 for the Higher Education Bond Issue. The bond issue means \$13.5 million for Robeson Technical College to continue its phenomenal growth, and more than \$56 million for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke for critical building and infrastructure needs. Both schools are bursting at the seams, and the money will be well spent, as we see it.

The bond issue will also be good for our local economy, and continue to provide expanded educational opportunities for our children and some of we adults too. We respectfully ask you to vote Yes! on November 7 concerning this very important issue.

And we ask for a "YES" vote for our Tribal government on Nov. 7
We also ask for an affirmative vote in reference to our tribal government on November 7. We sincerely and respectfully ask you to vote your choice for a tribal councilman (or woman) and chairman. It is your business who you vote for. We just want you to say "YES" to tribal government and "YES" to the need for a constitution on the same ballot.

It is also wonderful to have 80 candidates running for the 23 council seats and the chairman of the Lumbee people. We continue to look to Chairman Jim Lowry and the LSD Commission to set some parameters for the governing body to be elected. It would be a shame not to have some guidelines relative to how long this first body will serve and what document will empower them to operate. These are issues that can and should be addressed by the LSD Commission prior to the November 7 election. This is just one way to ensure that the upcoming election will not be challenged and that we can hold the election and afterwards get on with the business of putting a document before the people within a realistic time frame. We are sure that our LSD Commission is working on these issues and will appropriately resolve them prior to the election.

Nevertheless, we encourage tribal members to get involved in the establishment of YOUR tribal government. Consider the candidates. Talk to those who are asking for your vote. Make informed decision. Vote on November 7 for your choices for tribal council and chair.



FREE THINGS TO SEND FOR
(NAPS)—To learn more about mental illnesses and treatments, visit the American Psychiatric Association's website at www.psych.org or write American Psychiatric Association, 1400 K St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.



To find out how luxurious a

Lumbee Tribal Council drops appeal; tribal election set for Nov. 7

PEMBROKE-Vice-chairman Linda Hammonds said it best on the steps of the old Pembroke High School building where the original constitution was written: "It seemed appropriate to come back where it began to make our announcement."

Hammonds, along with a number of Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians Tribal Council members, including tribal chairman, Rev. Jerry McNeill, gathered Monday evening (Oct. 9) on the steps of the historic building in Pembroke (now headquarters for the Indian Education Program of the PSRC) to announce that they had instructed their attorneys to drop the appeal pending in their lawsuit against Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA). The lawsuit, filed in 1995, sought a court order that the 1994 referendum held among the Lumbee Indians on the adoption of a tribal constitution was valid. The constitution had been adopted by a vote of 8,040 in favor and 223 against. The dispute wound up in the courtroom of Superior Court Judge Howard Manning who ruled in January 1999 that the election was invalid because of procedural defects. The Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians then appealed Judge Manning's ruling.

In spite of the appeal, the Lumbee Tribal Council cooperated with others on the Lumbee Self-Determination Commission (LSDC) eventually set up by Judge Manning to determine the wishes of the Lumbee electorate as to what kind of government they wanted, if any, and also to assess whether or not they wanted a tribal constitution. After many months of meetings, the LSDC has scheduled an election on November 7 for Lumbee voters to choose tribal councilmen and a chairman. They will also vote on whether or not they want to have a tribal constitution.

Ms. Hammonds said, "Now that a process is in place that will put the Lumbee people in control of the issue, the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians can dismiss its appeal."

Chairman McNeill stated, "Our goal has always been to guarantee the Lumbee people's right to decide themselves what their government will be—a right that Judge Manning agreed belongs to the Lumbee people. That has now been accomplished." Speaker of the House Delton Oxendine agreed. Oxendine noted, "We are now convinced that the November election is locked in, that neither LRDA nor anyone else can do anything to stop it. The appeal was our insurance policy that, if anything went wrong with the commission, the Lumbee people would have another option. We can cash in that policy now."

McNeill, and the other council members present, called upon all segments of the Lumbee community to participate in the November election and urged all Lumbee to vote. McNeill, and the other officials, expressed confidence that Judge Manning will certify the results of the November 7 election "and put the long-standing dispute behind us as the Lumbee people determine their own destiny in the election on November 7."

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FirstHealth Family Care Center Grand Opening & Fall Festival!
Saturday, October 21, 2000

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Family Activities!

- Health screenings & information booths
- Games & contests
- Face painting
- Train rides
- Kids' Moonwalk
- Facility tours

Entertainment & Guests!

- Turtle Vision Native American Dancers
- Gospel singer Charles Bell
- Health & Fitness aerobics demonstrations—floor & water
- Pembroke Elementary Concert Choir

Free Gifts & Prizes!

- Free T-shirts to the first 500 attendees
- Free pumpkins (while supplies last)
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