

The Carolina Indian Voice
Editorial & Opinion Page
 Send letters to the editor to:
 P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372
The editor reserves the right to edit libelous and/or lengthy letters

A Commoner Comments

by Robert Currie Jr.

Debating The "Old Rugged" Symbol of Love With Hate
 According to Phil Hudgins Dec. 19, 2002 editorial in *The Cheraw Chronicle* of Cheraw, S.C., the state of Virginia... has a 50-year-old law that bans burning a cross with the intent to intimidate. But some of the justices seem to question whether the law might punish just regular, unthreatening cross-burners.
 Justice John Paul Stevens said the law would seem to prevent someone from "burning a cross out in the middle of the desert somewhere." Then, with appropriate sarcasm, Mr. Hudgins questioned whether "hundreds of good little boys... have burned crosses out in the middle of the desert just to roast marshmallows..."
 From roasting marshmallows through campfires, on to simply burning trash or debris, outside fires are useful. But why would burning a cross be necessary, other than for the purpose of deliberate intimidation? Mr. Hudgins answered with "But we know that the Ku Klux Klan people traditionally burned crosses to let somebody know they didn't like him, maybe because of his skin color or his ethnic origin or his religious beliefs."
 Like Mr. Hudgins, I am hesitant for the Supreme Court... to make rules that take away what seem to be First Amendment rights. People... should be able to express their opinions, with some restraints, of course. And I would like to suggest a restraint, which should solve the problem. Allow anyone who wishes to burn a cross anytime they want to, as long as they do it on their own property. Yes, they could still intimidate a next-door neighbor, but not with hidden identity, as cowardly racists did in the past. Did they hide their identities because they are cowards? Not necessarily-it only took three or four of them to bomb a church; five or six to burn one, ten or twelve to beat up an elderly person or a teenager, or twenty, thirty or more to lynch a healthy adult. Now weren't they brave? Yes, that was sarcasm!
 Mr. Hudgins asked Santa... to give all KKK members and their sympathizers a special Christmas present: a nice bound copy of the Christmas story, emphasizing the part about the Christ Child's offering "peace on earth, good will toward men." May I add a copy of the precious song, *Jesus Loves The Little Children Of The World* to that request, emphasizing "red and yellow black and white, they are precious in his sight?"
 Mr. Hudgins' closing began with "Maybe they'll figure out they don't need to burn crosses, but rather mend fences. Maybe they'll figure out we have enough hate to deal with already. Maybe they'll see the light." Klan members claimed they were not burning, but "lighting" crosses. Still, the universally accepted symbol of Christianity was destroyed with each rally. But if any today want the legal right to "light" crosses, by all means, let the Supreme Court allow them that privilege on their own property! Where they can not cowardly hide their identity, even under hoods and robes. And where the reverence they claim for Christian principles will be nullified by their destruction of the "Old Rugged" symbol, so many of their victims hold so dear.
 Think about it please!

Gov. Easley to speak at Red Ribbon Ceremony

This years Red Ribbon Celebration, to promote a Drug-Free Community, will be held October 23-31, 2003. Governor Mike Easley has accepted the invitation of Palmer Prevention, Inc. to serve as the Keynote Speaker at the Red Ribbon Kick-Off Dinner on October 23rd at 4:30 p.m., to be held at the Southeastern Agricultural Farmer's Market. Individual tickets are available for \$150.00. In order to reserve a table or individual ticket please contact Alaina Hunt, Torrey Oxendine, or Thomas Norton at (910)618-1135.

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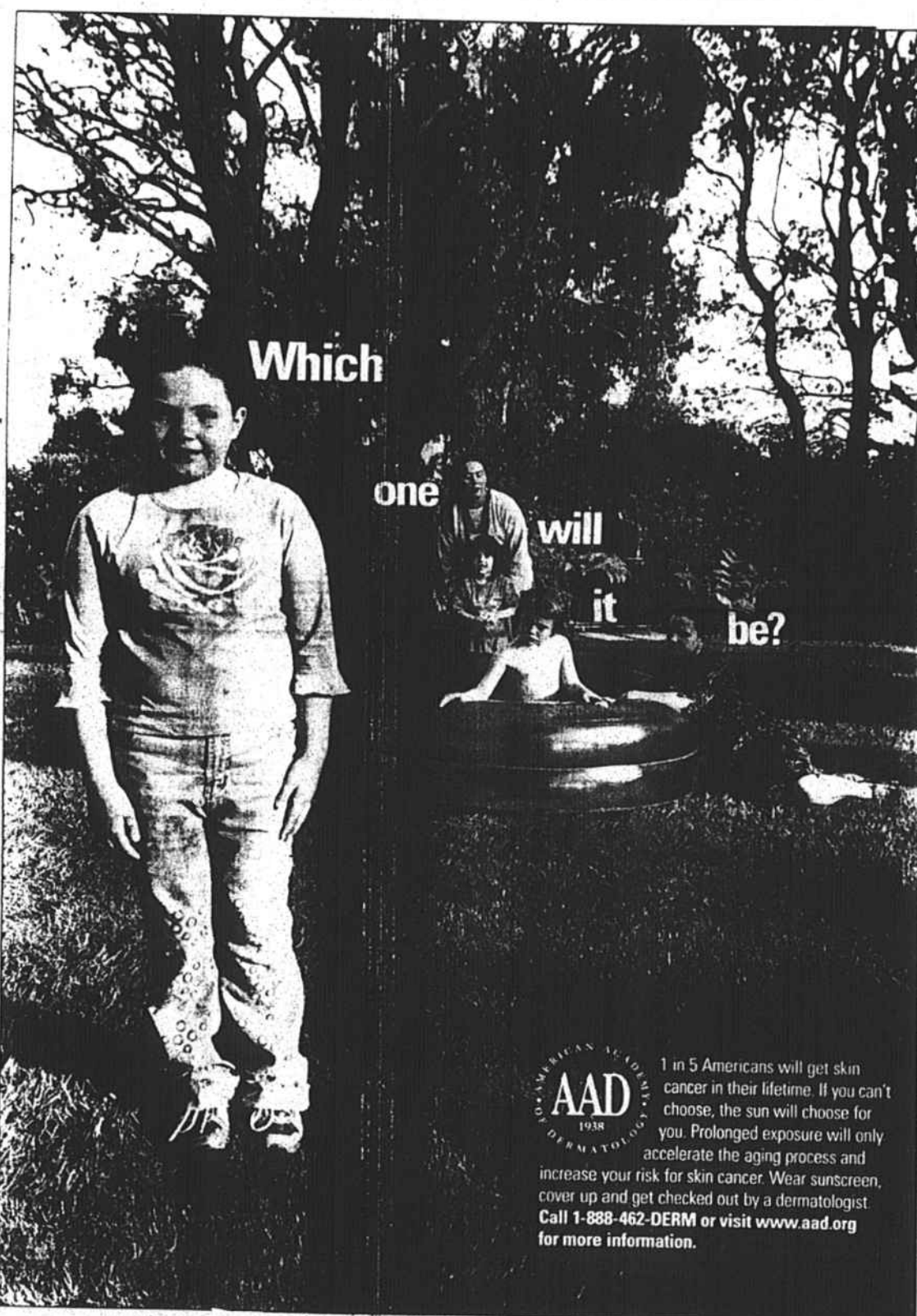
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Teacher of the Year for Robeson



Felicia Hunt

by Casey Jones
 Ms. Felicia Hunt, marketing teacher, was selected Teacher of the Year for Robeson County for 2003-2004. She attended UNC-P and received her BS degree in Business Administration. She is a HSTW coordinator, Making Schools Work Coordinator, State Employees Credit Union Advisory Board member, and was SIT chair person in 1999-2001. Ms. Hunt has been teaching school for eight years. "Special thanks to the PSHS staff and student body for helping me

receive this great honor. My accomplishments are possible because of the wonderful people that I encounter on a daily basis," stated Ms. Hunt.

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Robert Locklear

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