

# Editorial and Opinion Page



## Pembroke High School Class of 1948 holds 50th Reunion

The class of 1948 of Pembroke High School recently held its 50 year reunion at its graduation place, the old Pembroke High School building. Twenty-two class members and fourteen special guests were present for this historical and exciting event.

The class relived some of the special moments of their secondary school days. They also held a memorial service for members who have passed away and listened to class members recite some of their personal experiences during the last fifty years. The Class of 1948 also made plans to hold a joint reunion with the classes of 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1959, 1951 and 1952 during the year 2000.

Daphne Jones, Helen Lowry, Ruth Dial and Johnny Allen Locklear hosted the event. Lindy Martin is the Reunion Coordinator.

Shown are members of the class of 1948 who attended. Seated left to right: Mrs. Daphne (Lowry) Jones, Mrs. Maggie Lois (Brooks) Mercer, Mrs. Eula Mae (Dial) Noriega, Mrs. Faye (Maynor) O'Connor, Mrs. Louise (Ransom) D'Antonio, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Jones) Cline and Mrs. Gladys (Hunt) Hobbs-Standing left to right: Mrs. Treva Lee Stewart, Mr. Eryle Ransom, Mr. Herbert (Simpson) Lowry, Mrs. Lucy (Cummings) Lowry, Mr. Johnny A. Locklear, Mr. James Luther Oxendine, Mr. Josephus Locklear, Mr. Herbert H. Lloyd, Mr. James C. Dial, Mrs. Lorraine (Chavis) Scott, Mr. Robert Earl Jacobs, and Dr. H.L. "Lindy" Martin.



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## Pembroke Kiwanis Report

The Pembroke Kiwanis Report "Charter Night" was observed at the Tuesday night meeting held at the Jade Garden Restaurant with George Kenworthy presiding. Members of the Lumberton Kiwanis Club were present. They were the chartering Club in October 1961, so the Pembroke Club is 37 years old. Albert Hunt was with the original club and has been the treasurer these past 37 years quite a record. I have done the publicity chairman's job since 1964, that is 34 years and over 1800 Kiwanis Reports, been past President and received a nice plaque for my reporting. Not bad, huh? Over the years meetings were held at the College, the Charcoal Restaurant which burned down, the Town and Country Restaurant and Chef's Seafood Restaurant. Wives enjoyed the fine Chinese meal. Dr. Martin Brooks was the first president. Albert Hunt spoke of the many fine past members and events of the State Babe Ruth Baseball Tourna-

ment. The club's pancake suppers, fund raising projects. Mitch Lowry, Ray Lowry, Furney Lambert, Ed Teets, and Ken Johnson, all spoke of past events. Dr. John Rim was College Circle K advisor and has been a member for 26 years. Lumberton Club members also spoke of past memories. Speakers have been from all walks of life. From professors, to school teachers and principals, to police, fireman, to political parties, to church ministers, to beauty queens, football coaches both college and high schools, basketball coaches both high schools and colleges, the new UNCP athletic director, Danny Kenny, Judge Dexter Brooks, music people. The club has helped charities, individuals, Girl and Boy Scouts. All one has to do is get a Kiwanian to sponsor your bid to join a real good outfit.

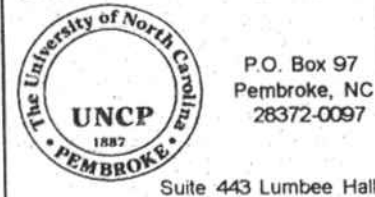
Invocation - Albert Hunt; Song Leader, Mitch Lowry; Program, George Kenworthy. Reporter, Ken Johnson.

### Public Forum for alumni & community

Thursday, Oct. 29  
7 p.m.  
Nadeau Lecture Room  
#134 Jones PE Building  
UNC Pembroke

The purpose of the forum is to provide opportunities for interested persons to express their perspectives to members of the Search Committee on characteristics desirable in the next Chancellor of UNC Pembroke and their vision for the University's future. Contact Dr. Glen Burnette, executive secretary of the Search Committee, 24 hours in advance to be placed on the agenda to speak. Call (910) 521-6802.

Chancellor Search Committee



## I'm not a bad apple, folk

### Ranting & Raving



Garry Lewis Barton

(Note: A few years back, when the body of the father of basketball superstar Michael Jordan was discovered in a pond not far from McColl, a local resident wrote a letter to the editor which appeared in the newspaper in Bennettsville where I work. In it, he said some unkind things about Indians from Robeson and surrounding counties. It "riled" me, so I answered him in a 'Ranting and Raving' weekly column that then appeared in the newspaper where I work. It follows in its entirety.)

According to news reports, McColl native Ken Allen said, "As soon as they found his (Michael Jordan's father's) body, everybody knew it had to have been done by somebody from (Robeson County) - in North Carolina. Those people are always using that road for a shortcut between here and the Maxton area."

"Those people..."

I am a Robeson County Indian, born and raised there by a loving, gentle and kind Indian mother. She and I are both one of "those people" referred to by Mr. Allen.

Unfortunately, our reputation many times precedes us wherever we go. And, apparently, many times where we don't go too! The tone of Mr. Allen's remarks insults me. I didn't kill James Jordan. Neither did my mother, or any other of my family and friends.

Yet, all of us -- the good, the bad and the ugly too, seem to be lumped together under one bad banner in the eyes of seemingly prejudiced folk like Mr. Allen.

It's stereotyping, folk, when I'm pre-judged because of the actions and behavior of some of my ancestors, or a handful of bad apples among my people. That's wrong. Judge me on my own merits, please. If Demery, the Indian implicated in Jordan's death, is convicted, must I help him pull his time simply because I am an Indian too? Well, from the nasty tone of Mr. Allen's offensive remarks, he, and others like him suffering from the same warped mind set, must think so.

That's about as bad as a lady (and I use the word loosely) I heard talking to another lady after James Jordan's body was discovered and a Robeson County Indian was implicated in his death. "They (Robeson County Indians) are worse than niggers," she hissed. "They're nothin' but half-niggers anyhow."

I'm used to such blatant prejudice and discrimination. I don't get mad anymore. Instead, I subscribe to the sentiments my grandpappy once expressed: "Son, when you find a man a fool, leave him a fool." Grandpappy didn't elaborate, but I suspect that applies to women too. If so, I dare say that lady is still a fool today -- not a "half" fool, but a 100% one.

But I'm not so dumb as she to believe that simply because she might be a fool, all white folk are. It has been my experience that fools are not necessarily color coded.

I refuse to apologize for my people. If there's any apologizing to be done, perhaps others should be doing it to us.

The Bible says we are conceived in sin and shaped in iniquity. Iniquity means wickedness and the Bible used it in that context. But iniquity also means gross injustice. In that sense of the word, Indians of Robeson and surrounding counties have certainly been shaped in iniquity. Subjected to gross injustice from our conception, my ancestors had to fight to survive, earning the reputation of responding aggressively to the least slight, insult or injury, whether real or imagined. This character trait, that many white folk consider a flaw, has enabled us to withstand the terrible and unmerciful onslaught of the white man and his subsequent insatiable appetite for the lands once belonging to the Indians, being granted them by the King of all Kings, God, long before white folk introduced land deeds, titles and such that made it appear legal for them to take our lands.

Our turbulent history taught us we must fight for our very existence. Or suffer the same fate that befell the vast majority of the rest of the Indian race, which is almost total annihilation.

There are some 50,000 Indians from Robeson and surrounding counties. I oftentimes wonder if part of our bad rep has anything to do with the fact we are a glaring example to white folk of the ones that got away.

My ancestors were survivors. And so are we. Instead of being run over and squashed by the cruel and unmerciful white machine that mowed down so many Indians all of us almost became as extinct as the buffalo, my ancestors were intelligent enough to conform and adopt some of the ways of the dominant white race. In fact, long before the advent of the Civil War, my ancestors were living in wooden houses and farming for a living while other Indians were still living in tee pees and fishing and hunting for a living.

It's small wonder we have had to fight for our Indian identity and heritage, and everything else we have accomplished, for hundreds of years. We were caught up in a no-win situation: adhere strictly to our Indian ways and traditions and be annihilated like the rest of our fellow Indians; or conform to some of the ways of the entrenching white folk and be ostracized for being different.

Well, folk, I'm here to tell you that being different is a heck of a lot better than being dead.

And I don't need to be officially or legally recognized by my neighbors, the state, or federal government to know, and feel confident knowing, that I am an Indian. I am. If others, including the federal government which once again recently failed to pass legislation giving us full federal recognition, are too blinded by prejudice or other considerations such as monetary ones, to see it, that doesn't mean I'm not an Indian. It means my detractors are blind.

I am extremely proud of being an Indian from Robeson and surrounding counties. And I resent folk trying to throw all of us into one basket that is labeled "bad apples." There's good and bad apples in all races, Mr. Allen.

In fact, if some of you haughty folk would stop chunkin stones at my apple tree long enough to look around you, you might discover that there are bad apples on your side of the fence too.

Indeed, Mr. Allen, you might discover you are one of them. We'll talk again folk.

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## Governor and Mrs. Hunt honor outstanding volunteers in southeastern North Carolina

Hamlet - Governor and Mrs. Hunt presented the annual Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteers Service for the Southeast region on October 12. A total of 173 awards were given to individuals, groups and businesses at the Sierra Christian Center.

"I am proud to honor each of you for your dedication and commitment to helping others," said Hunt. "North Carolina has a long-standing tradition of volunteerism and I thank you for keeping the Tar Heel volunteer spirit alive. Through your work you are creating a brighter future for our children."

Linda Povlich, Director of the Governor's Office of Citizen and Community Services, was Master of Ceremonies. Joseph Grimsley, president of Richmond Community College, welcomed award recipients and their guests to Richmond County. The invocation was provided by Rev. Dwight Williams, Minister of First Presbyterian Church in Rockingham. Entertainment was provided by the

Richmond Senior High Chorus Show Choir, under the direction of Debbie Price. This group of 28 gifted young people performed an "American Medley" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Jeanine Wall, Richmond County contact, assisted Governor and Mrs. Hunt in the presentation of the awards.

The Governor's Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service were first awarded in 1979 by Governor Hunt, and 1998 marks the 20th consecutive year that citizens have been honored for giving exemplary service to their communities on a volunteer basis.

Hunt has proclaimed 1998 as the Year of the Volunteer and has challenged county leaders to lead the effort to help match 40,000 mentors with at-risk children by Year 2000. Since January, more than 20 counties have answered the Governor's call by hosting their own volunteer summits to identify community needs and develop plans to meet those needs, and nearly 40 more local summits are planned.