

The Public Speaks out on Search for UNCP Chancellor

Pembroke, N.C.--About 75 alumni and concerned citizens appeared at the public forum Thursday evening to give their views on the selection of the next leader for UNC Pembroke.

The Chancellor Search committee, which hosted two public forums this week, will meet next on Nov. 9 to meet with executive search firms to begin a nationwide search, committee Chair Roger Oxendine told the gathering.

Speakers, most of whom were alumni, seemed to be of two minds.

Some like Bruce Barton, a graduate and co-founder of the Carolina Indian Voice newspaper in Pembroke, said the new chancellor should be a Lumbee Indian, consistent with the university's 11-year history as a school founded for American Indians of Robeson County.

Others like State Rep Ron Sutton looked to the future, saying that changes must be made at the university to revitalize it for the next millennium.

"Whoever you get as chancellor, whether he is black, brown, red or white, they should bring a big broom when they come. They must make a change."

Rep. Sutton, who had attended the final day Thursday of North Carolina's longest legislative session in history, said the new chancellor must be able to compete effectively for state money.

Mr. Barton said there are approximately 150-200 Lumbee Indians with master's degrees and another 40-50 with doctorates, and a search firm is not needed to find qualified candidates.

"I am concerned that you will not consider all the Lumbee," he said. "I am concerned that sensitivity to the community not be discounted."

The Rev. Jerry McNeill agreed with

Mr. Barton, calling UNCP "our school."

"This is not a matter of racism," Rev. McNeill said. "Our school is open to all qualified applicants."

"As the newly elected chair of the Lumbee Tribal Council, I feel it is my job to protect and preserve our native heritage," he said. "Do what is right for our ancestors of the past, our people today and our children of the future."

Lonnie Revels, a Greensboro businessman and UNCP graduate, recalled a history of racism that continues.

"We (Native Americans) were left out of the 1982 consent decree," Mr. Revels said of the UNC agreement with the federal courts that it would strive to desegregate its historically minority and white schools. "I can guarantee that the next chancellor of (N.C.) A&T will be black and the next chancellor of (UNC) Asheville will be white."

"I'm asking that this committee to look at a Native American as the new chancellor," he said.

There were other views of the characteristics that the next chancellor should bring to the job. Some said the next UNCP leader must lead the university out of an enrollment slump, and others went even further, saying the next chancellor must lead the region out of an economic slump.

"You have two communities here - the immediate community and the larger community of potential students," said Giles Hopkins of Aberdeen. "Out of 70,000 people in Moore County, I estimate only 5,000 know UNCP."

"The next chancellor here should have the qualities of Leo Jenkins, the late president of East Carolina, who brought all of northeastern North Carolina together," Mr. Hopkins said.

Joe Sandlin, former president of Southern National Bank and UNCP's distinguished executive in residence, said UNCP is the only hope to bring the region out of its economic slump.

"UNCP's future depends on its ability to establish and strengthen its links to the southeast region's business, education, government, health and the arts community," Mr. Sandlin said.

"The university is the one link that can bring this community out of the economic slump."

"We must get the Regional Center (for Economic, Professional and Community Development) off the ground," he said. "We must also get someone who can raise money."

Other speakers like Jo Ann Chavis Lowery rejected any bias in the chancellor selection process and focused on the qualities of leadership a new chancellor should have.

"In selecting our new chancellor, do not allow any bias to cloud your decision for a candidate or against a candidate," Lowery said. "I tell people I meet... the first thing you must do to get to know me is forget that I am Indian and female; the second thing you must do to get to know me is never forget that I am Indian and female."

"I believe that we can have a new leader for the new millennium that satisfies all our needs," she said. "If that person happens to be white, Black, Indian or other, that is OK."

In all, 16 people addressed the Search Committee. At the conclusion Chair Roger Oxendine thanked the group for its input.

"I can tell you it's going to result in a national search for a new chancellor," Mr. Oxendine said. "But, I can tell you we will look locally as well."

"We are looking for qualifications," he said.

The Church at the Forks

by Erwin Jacobs, Member West Robeson United Methodist Church

Greetings from West Robeson United Methodist Church at the forks of 74 and Harper's Ferry Road. It gives me great pleasure to write again and keep you informed about the activities at our small place of worship.

On the fourth of October a former pastor and his family came home to help us celebrate Founders Day. Rev. Herbert Lowry, Sis. Connie and their two lovely children, Jordan, and little Miss Altman, were our guests for that occasion. My, how those children have grown in the last few years.

Rev. Lowry brought the message entitled "Grasshoppers do not eat Grapes." What an unusual message, one might say. Well, in his sermon as he began to preach (yes, preach! He has gotten stronger!) about the Grasshoppers being satisfied eating the leaves of the grapevines and the birds also, God's other creatures, getting fat from the juicy grapes. There was a comparison to some Christians wanting to just enter into the promised land and others working here on earth for the Lord. A bit strong one might say. Look around you at all of the churches and different denominations with only a handful of people using their talents God gave them. All of the corruption of things taking the young lives of our youth while parents will not take them to church.

God has been very good to our communities surrounding us in Robeson County. As I ride along the highways and other rural roads, I am disgusted at the trash people have dumped out of their cars. One may say it is not my job to ride to a dumpster and deposit my garbage (you know, that is why you can ride into other counties and the side of the highway and rural roads look so good and clean!) That is a sin and God gave us this earth to keep it clean and beautiful.

The youth wanted to do something for the church. So on Sunday, October 18th, they put on a delicious breakfast for everyone before Sunday School.

Bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, juicy flaky biscuits, coffee, citrus juice and honey rolls. We thank you, Sister Jackie Deese, for a lovely breakfast.

On October 15th Sister Elizabeth picked up senior citizens for a delicious seafood luncheon at Shell's in Pembroke. (Boy, how I love their hush puppies). Thank you for caring.

The church visited the Dial's Rest Home the 11th. I was out of town so I missed the fellowship with the folks there. They look so much forward to hearing the songs and gospel brought to them as they can't get out and go to church. One lady remarked to me one visit that she would love to go to her church every Sunday had she a way to get there. A kind word and handshake means so much to those people. We can go to them but they are house bound and can not get out and go as they did in their younger years.

Our pastor and his family members put their mother, Mrs. Delphie Locklear, to rest Sunday, the 18th, at White Hill Freewill Baptist Church. His brother, Mr. Stanford Locklear, delivered a very moving eulogy and so moving to a packed church. She passed away on his birthday, October 16th. It was a celebration with tears of joy for everyone because she was out of her sickness and gone to be with her savior and Lord. What a testimony she left behind to her loved ones, especially her grand and great grandchildren.

The church youth is planning a weiner roast soon, around Halloween. I hope to have some more interesting news in the new future to share with you the glad tidings that God has bestowed upon our church.

There will be a singing the 29th

(fifth Sunday evening at 7 p.m. -November). We welcome you to come and worship with us in song and praises. Several groups will bring the music. Some have committed to us for this occasion. Liberty Baptist Church, off Wire Grass Road in Lumberton, the Friends and Family of our church to name a few. We hope to fill the sanctuary to capacity as we did the last time.

I look forward to sharing the good news with you in my articles. Will say may God bless you real good until next time.

Erwin Jacobs,
Church member



The most celebrated diamond is the Koh-i-noor, which was presented to Queen Victoria in 1850 by the East India Company.

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...From the Desk of the Superintendent by Dr. Barry Harding

This coming Saturday is a big day for the Public Schools of Robeson County. We have two events planned which we feel have the potential of providing a good bit of impetus for education in our county.

The day gets underway with a breakfast meeting to which we've invited the pastors of every church in Robeson County. Every one that we could find an address for received an invitation to join us at the Lumberton Junior High School cafeteria for a discussion of education. If a pastor did not receive an invitation because we didn't have an address, he or she is still invited. I might mention here that it's very important to us that those ministers who plan on attending - and I hope that that's all of them - let us know before Friday so that we can make the proper preparations for food. If they'll call Mr. Lanes McLean at 738-4841 extension 320 or Ms. Linda Locklear at extension 288, we can make arrangements to accommodate them.

Our hopes are that we'll have a large turnout so that we can discuss ways that churches can work with our school system to improve education for our young people. We know that there are many churches which already have programs in place for that purpose. Some churches have members of the congregation who volunteer their time tutoring - a very worthwhile effort. There are churches who offer recognition of

young people in their congregations for certain accomplishments made at their school. There are other innovative programs which we won't try to enumerate here. What we hope to do Saturday morning is to engage those pastors who are willing to do so in discussion so they can give us an idea of what they may be doing at their churches. It may be that they are doing something which other churches may decide to undertake also.

Additionally, we want to talk frankly with regard to what they feel we might try to do better and what they feel they can do to help us in our work. We realize that ministers and their churches are in a unique position to help us in ways which are not available elsewhere. As vitally important members of the community, they have much to offer and we feel it's to our advantage to listen carefully to what they have to say. At the same time, it's possible that we might have information which they might find useful in planning other programs at their churches. It's an ideal way for us to be able to have a useful dialogue about a subject important to both of us. We do need to know if they're coming, though. Consequently, it is important that they call today.

Then, in the afternoon, everyone in the county is invited to our first "Showcase of Schools" at Biggs Park Mall between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Each school in our system will have a booth manned by principals, assistant principals, teachers, students and volunteers who will demonstrate and explain the various programs which have been implemented to enhance the educational process at the school. It's an effort that we're making to let parents and others see what is going on at all the schools in the county. Parents thus have the opportunity to

obtain first hand knowledge about the school their child is enrolled in. It is also an opportunity for those parents to be able to check out the booth of the next school which their child will be attending upon being promoted.

In addition to school personnel, we're hoping to have members of each school's PTA there to help present the story of their school to the visiting public. These are people who have more than a passing involvement with the school being, as they are, already more familiar with what their child's school is doing than, unfortunately, is the average parent. They are thus able to discuss with visitors what the booth is offering in the way of information from a parent's standpoint. Also available at the booths will be brochures, flyers and book marks for visitors to pick up and read information about the remarkable turnaround in the number of exemplary schools we now have. The schools are justifiably proud of that accomplishment and it's expected that their booths will exhibit that pride.

I hope that everyone in the county, whether or not there are any school children in their family, will visit Biggs Park Mall Saturday to visit the booths and enjoy the entertainment various schools will be putting on during the "Showcase of Schools." The schools are proud of what they've done during the past year and we know you will be too.

The Pembroke Kiwanis Report

The weekly meeting was held Tuesday evening at the Jade Garden Chinese Restaurant with Pres. - elect Todd Jones presiding.

Patrick Bullard, Program chairman for the evening presented Mrs. Michelle Fontaine, Administrator of the Whispering Pines Nursing Home in Fayetteville. The Nursing Home bases its entire program on the "Eden Alternative, The Eden Alternative, is a very positive way of doing and caring of it's sixty-six residents. We see long term care as "Habitats for human beings." They don't come to us to die, they come to us to live. So Dr. William Thomas devised the "Eden Alternative," a method to avoid boredom, helplessness and loneliness for the elderly. Dr. Thomas is a graduate of Cortland State University. My Almamater and he was a mayor of Cortland, N.Y. his "Life Caring Method," is being advocated nation wide. It involves using pets, dogs, cats, and birds, children visitations, plants in all the rooms dared by the patients themselves an educated staff in the wisdom of the "Alternative method." This makes for a healthful environment, a happiness for the elderly person. As a result the person needs less medication and is able to live longer. The home has all the medical services plus Medicare. The Home is located on Country Club Drive in Fayetteville. They welcome visitors and wish to visit groups to explain the Eden Alternative Plan of care for the elderly.

Song leader - Ed Teets. Invocation - Clay Maynor. Reporter - Ken Johnson.

Did You Know?

(NAPS) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages people with diabetes to talk with their doctor about getting a flu shot this flu season. People with diabetes are about three times more likely to die



from complications of the flu and pneumonia than people without diabetes, yet half of them do not take this easy, safe and inexpensive preventative measure.

Snofrisk, a tempting alternative to butter or margarine, is made from a blend of pure Norwegian goat's milk and a bit of cow's cream. It makes for a soft, mellow, yet delicately tangy mixture.

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