

# Editorial And Opinion Page



## The time I quit drinking Hardees coffee, believing in representative government in Robeson County and playing Henry Berry Lowrie in *Strike at the Wind!*

I'll be 60 years old come October 1, 2001 and I am devastated about it. I am now relegated to playing Henry Berry Lowrie's daddy (Allen or "Papa" Lowrie) in our fabled outdoor drama, *Strike at the Wind!* every Friday and Saturday night through August 11. As most of you know, Henry Berry Lowrie's daddy and brother William are killed historically and in the outdoor drama too. Therefore, I get hauled in front of the beast (a building on the set of the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheatre, on the grounds of the N.C. Indian Cultural Center in the Red Banks community about 3 miles west of Pembroke) and am gloriously killed nightly.

Alas, I have lived so long that I have outgrown the possibility of acting the part of the hero, Henry Berry Lowrie. It makes me sad, but I still love *Strike at the Wind!* and invite all of my friends (and enemies too) to come out and see the show. It begins nightly at 8:30 p.m. There is usually a pre-show at 8 p.m. and the box office opens at 7:30 p.m.

General admission is \$8 with senior citizens \$6 and children (under 12) \$4.00. Call (910) 739-0516 for more information.

And Hardees has dared to charge \$1.01 (with tax, of course) for a large black coffee. I used to invariably walk around with a large cup of Hardees coffee in my hand, but not anymore! I refuse to pay a buck for a cup of coffee, no matter who makes it. Hardees has made a public relations snafu and lost me as a daily customer. I have my limits, you know.

And I have quit believing in representative government in Robeson County, especially since Indian Patrick Bullard was elected chairman of the county school board without a single Indian vote ... other than his own. And Terry Smith, a White ultra conservative, is the new vice-chairman. Have we lost our collective minds in Ol' Robeson? Ummm!

### Pembroke Resident Earns Degree from Southern Methodist University

DALLAS (SMU)-- Lawrence David Malcolm of Pembroke was among 1,630 students who received their diplomas at Southern Methodist University's 86th annual May commencement on Saturday, May 19, 2001.

Malcolm received a Master of Divinity degree with a major in theology.

The degrees awarded include 863 bachelor's, 458 master's, 280 professional (law and theology), and 29 doctoral degrees. The largest number of degrees awarded was the Edwin L. Cox School of Business, which had a total of 475. Other Totals were: Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, 397; Dedman School of Law, 397; Meadows School of the Arts, 272; the School of Engineering, 146; and Perkins School of Theology, 67.

SMU is a private, comprehensive university located in Dallas. It has an enrollment of about 10,000 students and a full-time faculty of more than 500. SMU offers undergraduate degree programs in Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, Meadows School of the Arts, Edwin L. Cox School of Business and the School of Engineering. Graduate and professional programs are offered in these schools and in Perkins School of Theology and Dedman School of Law.

# Editorially Speaking Patrick Bullards' legal residence?

The responses to last week's editorial were many and varied. Some folks felt that Patrick Bullard showed great shrewdness by obtaining white votes to become chairman and then voting for a Black and an Indian to become assistant and associate superintendent. Others felt that we have blasphemed and some felt that we were right. A few thought we were too hard on Patrick Bullard. Nevertheless, we continue to watch him and still have questions about his motives, political allegiances and legal residence. We firmly believe that he should abide by the law, if he is residing outside District 5. We do not believe, as we have heard, that anybody owes him inclusion of his new home outside the district into District 5. It seems a simple matter to us, if he is residing outside the District he represents, he is in violation of the law and should resign. If he is residing within the District, then everything is fine and legal. Bullard's apparent allegiance to Terry Smith and his cohorts makes us nervous and we stand on that. Again we say, if he is residing outside District 5 he should resign.

Recently he publicly denigrated other board members for not attending a workshop. These are the actions that keep us watching Bullard. As unfortunate as it is, the board of education votes most times five to five and the chairman must break the tie. Now it appears with a novice for chairman and a racist for vice chairman that anything could happen. We would hope that Bullard would use his new found power to bridge the obvious division between the board members. If indeed he is a friend and confidant of Terry Smith, he should be able to influence him in a positive manner. We are not impressed with either Terry Smith or Patrick Bullard's show of power or Bullard's public denigration of fellow board members. That has been Terry Smith's tactics since before he was elected. He is notorious for voting against a recommendation and then going to the daily newspaper to explain why. We do not wish to see Bullard become a pawn for Terry Smith. Neither do

we like for him to appear to be a "loose cannon." He should become knowledgeable of board policy and be an effective chairman and encourage fellow board members to get on with the business of education. We are watching especially the teacher transfer situation at South Robeson. We thought teachers worked where they were assigned instead of deciding their own location. While we agree with the right to appeal, we disagree with the public clamor and playing out of disgruntled employees in the daily newspaper. It is understood that the editor of the daily newspaper, while publicly denying that it is so, has a different standard for people of authority based on their color. We wonder if that much attention would have been given to the recent RCC debacle if there was not a fear by white conservatives (or racists) in our midst who feared that Johnny Hunt and Tom Jones, former board members of RCC might eventually end up with an Indian or a Black as president of that college. Fortunately population numbers being what they are, the eventuality of an Indian president and attorney at RCC is assured. These same sentiments, come into play with the board of education. We doubt seriously that a white superintendent would receive the scrutiny by the daily newspaper that Dr. Harding receives. What other explanation is there for front page coverage in the daily newspaper whenever a few whites with a token Indian or Black meet??? We believe it is part of the subtleties and nuances of local whites who continue to protest the loss of political power. With these thoughts in mind, we expect Patrick Bullard to do the right thing, in his personal and public life. We suggest editorially that the new chairman get busy and make sure that all policy relative to transfers are consistent and enforceable. Give teachers and other employees a fair and proper appeal process and don't be drawn into the trap of publicly questioning every decision after the fact. That doesn't seem unreasonable to us.... Something is seriously wrong at South Robeson and immediate action must be taken. Children's educational lives are at stake....

by the editor, Connie Grayboy.

### State Babe Ruth Tournament begins July 20

The 2001 State Babe-Ruth Tournament is being hosted by the Lumber River West Babe Ruth. The 14-year old division at Purnell Sweet High School will begin the Babe Ruth Tournament July 20 at 12:30 p.m. Other games will be played at 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Games are also scheduled for July 21, at 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., July 22 at 2, 4 and 6 p.m., July 23 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and July 24 at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

The cost for admittance is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students with children under 6 admitted free.

The following teams will participate in the Tournament: District 1-Pemo Stewart; District 2-North Wake; District 3-Tidewater Supper; District 4-Wayne County; District 5-Nash County; and District 6-New Bern.

# Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director- UNC-P Native American Resource Center

I just finished reading Delano Cummings' new book, *River Dreams: Tales of a Lumbee Warrior* (Signal Tree Publications; 2001). In a way it is a sequel to his earlier work, *Moon Dash Warrior* (1998). But in another way, it moves well beyond his earlier work and into the well-trodden-but-never-completely-explored territory of epic storytelling.

Epic storytelling has been going on for a long time. All traditional cultures, whether Native American or not, have always had storytellers. They entertained us. They taught us lessons. They bonded us together as a family, as a clan, as a culture. They passed along from generation to generation the oral traditions of our history, our identity and our spiritual selves which made us who we are.

In the written form, we can look back at least as far as Homer, that possibly-legendary epic poet of ancient Greece (*Iliad*; *Odyssey*) for the roots and patterns of good epic storytelling — the use of certain formal characteristics such as: beginning in the middle of things; passages with lists or catalogs; invocation of supernatural sources of guidance, such as a muse or spirit

guide; use of repetition as a way to strengthen continuity; dealing with dramatic heroic or legendary characters or events. It is a long-established form.

In more recent times, writers such as Marijo Moore and Gerald Vizenor have brought a Native American perspective and flavor to the form. And with *River Dreams*, Delano Cummings situates himself squarely among the storytellers.

The book opens right in the midst of things: "It is dark, and the wind is blowing through the trees. I can look down and see out over a jungle. I feel nothing, yet I can hear and see everything. I feel strong and powerful. I feel there is nothing I cannot do. What is going on? Where am I? Who am I? I remember. I am a United States Marine. It is 1966, I am 20 years old, and I am fighting a dirty Asian war. I am a long way from my home and my family and the land of the Indian (p. 1)."

From this powerful beginning, Cummings weaves in and out of reality and a series of dream sequences to tell his stories. He reaches into the distant and the more recent past, and also into the future. He incorporates Henry Berry Lowrie — 19th century

folk hero of the Lumbee — as well as un-named elders and young people, a red-tailed hawk and various other animals. The scope of the work is very broad, but it is all held together by good Homeric storytelling techniques. Even the dream sequences have a compelling credibility to them.

In one dream sequence Cummings writes: "I am a blessed warrior because I have seen the great light and I have been outside my own body. I have felt the powers surge from the graves of my forefathers into my body. I have heard and still hear the spirit voice of my long-ago grandfather talking to me, and I listen. I have experienced visions. I have a protector who watches me from above through the eyes of a hawk and gives me strength when I need it. I have talked with the animals, and I know the secret of life (p. 119)."

Delano Cummings says, and rightly so, that he is a blessed warrior. He is also a blessed storyteller.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (our Internet address is [www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum](http://www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum)).

### Delayed? Get Paid

(NAPS)—If you were one of the nearly 12 million people who suffered flight delays last year, you should know that you could have been compensated for your inconvenience.

In 2000, more than 450,000 flights were delayed in the United States, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. There's no indication things are going to get any better. The FAA estimates that the total number of passengers in the United States will increase from 700,000 this year to more than one billion in 2010.

Travelers might not be able to avoid delays, missed connections and lost or delayed baggage, but they can protect themselves from losses due to these occurrences. They can buy Access America travel protection, and be reimbursed to cover accommodation and travel expenses due to a delay of at least six hours. One of the covered reasons for travel delays is bad weather. Last year weather caused more than two thirds of delays.

In addition, insurance plans provide coverage for lost baggage and for baggage delay.

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element of Access America's travel protection plans comes into play when people need travel help, or they need to take advantage of the company's medical, dental or medical transportation coverage. They can pick up a phone and call the office that never sleeps. Access America's helpline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Call 800-284-8300 for information on travel insurance or visit the Web site at [www.accessamerica.com](http://www.accessamerica.com).



The first automobile service station opened on December 1, 1913 in Pittsburgh, PA. It sold thirty gallons of gas the first day.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# People Helping People in Times of Need



To the Editor: There are many conflicting emotions following any kind of tragedy. The tragic loss of our home recently by fire has left us going through various emotional stages. Yes, we are saddened by the loss of our personal belongings and years of accumulation of material things, but we are acutely aware that material things can be replaced. And in the final scheme of things, only the spiritual and eternal things have any real value. Our home, like many of yours, was a sanctuary for us. It was there that we had lived for many years, raised our two wonderful daughters and suffered the loss of our only son in infancy. It was there where many prayer services were held as I battled with the consequences of cancer and recovery. It was there that friends and family came to encourage us and to pray with us. The house itself is lost, but the memories and recollection of both

the good and bad times we've gone through as a family remain in our hearts.

This house was precious to me for a very significant spiritual reason. While meditating and praying over having cancer and preparing to go into treatment, God had mercy once again and extended a special miracle in my life. It was there, in our bedroom, the same room where my son died, that God allowed angels to come down and sing to me. This was his way of assuring me that everything was going to be all right as I underwent chemotherapy. It was these singing angels that lifted me up spiritually and prepared me for the ordeal ahead of me. In this house, through personal trials and tribulations, I learned to trust more completely in God. These spiritual matters and the closeness of my son, though departed, are the things that I will miss.

God has no other hands to minister through except yours and mine. We are instruments only of his use and can be used only as we submit daily and sometimes hourly to him. As we adjust to the loss of our house, I wish to thank all of you, friends, family, neighbors, people I don't know personally, and the many churches who have come once again to our aid. Your generosity can only be provided through the grace of God. We are especially grateful to the Smithtown and Prospect Fire De-

partment for their prompt and efficient response. Jimmy Goins of North Carolina Insurance Service went beyond the call of duty. He was not only our insurance agent, but also a friend in a time of need. The Robeson County Environmental Department and the Robeson County Inspection Department responded swiftly to assure that we had the necessary permits so we would not be without a place to stay for an extended period of time. Terry Pate of Terry's Repo was willing to rent us a mobile home. Most other repossessed mobile home places wanted to sell theirs. Mr. Pate responded to the need and we are grateful. My fellow board members from Lumbee River EMC have shown compassion and assistance. I am touched by their expressions of support. So many people have responded that it is impossible to call all your names, but know that we are grateful. As recipients once again of the many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness, words are inadequate to express our appreciation. Material things can be replaced, there is no replacement or substitute for love, concern and acts of thoughtfulness. It has helped us through another hard time in our lives. We are grateful to all of you and solicit your continued prayers and we pray for God's continued blessings on you. Thank you so much!

Sincerely yours,  
MADIE RAE LOCKLEAR  
Prospect Community

### Raffle Winner

The winner of the Toby Carter Drum raffle was Hayse Allen Locklear.

The family wish to Thank all who participated in making the raffle a success.

Thanks also go out to all those prayer sent to the Creator on Toby's behalf.

### Lumberton Junior High School Has Open House

Lumberton Junior High School Open House will be held August 1, 2001, from 2:30 p.m. through 5:30 p.m. Students and parents will be able to tour the campus and meet teachers.

### "I nearly ignored the ad that ended my crippling pain"

"My doctor told me that my age, being overweight and working long hours all my life had taken its toll on my joints. He said all I could do is take pain pills and try to learn to live with constant pain. My hands hurt so bad, I couldn't even put my billfold in my back pocket. I even had to sleep in a chair because it hurt to lay down in a bed. Then I noticed on the booklet I threw in the trash how an 84 year old man with worse problems was now pain-free. I had to try. I'm 92 now and have been pain-free for seven years."



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