

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

AS I SEE IT

by Bruce Barton



MY STANCE CONCERNING DR. PAUL GIVENS

I have thought about it for quite a bit: what is my stance concerning Dr. Paul Givens, the newly named chancellor of Pembroke State University.

Gene Warren, PSU's prolific word master (as head of PSU's Public Affairs Office), said recently, "Bruce, I am disappointed with you". Warren's disappointment seemingly is in response to some of the things I have written concerning Givens' appointment. Of course Warren has disappointed me on many occasions, too. But he does not write for Bruce Barton; Gene Warren writes for Pembroke State University. I write both sides of an issue; Warren does not. I like to please people but I do not write necessarily to do so. I write mostly to express myself, hoping, in the meantime, that I can articulate the feelings and aspirations of others. I honestly attempt to build communicative bridges between the multi racial ethnic bases in Robeson County and beyond. I also am guided by what I consider to be right and compassionate expression. I do not like to hurt people with words; I like to lambast the issues.

But, unlike Gene Warren, I am allowed to lance a wart if I see one. If Warren sees anything wrong on the PSU campus he is not allowed to say anything about it, if he expects to continue to work there. That's just the rules of the game; it does not mean that he is dishonest or anything, it simply means that his writing is one dimensional.

So, I am examining Dr. Paul Givens closely. And if that disappoints Gene Warren then he will just have to be disappointed. Disappointment is part of life too. Givens, if he accepts the job as chancellor, can expect scrutiny from the press. After all, he is getting paid in excess of \$40,000 annually to work in a fish bowl. People like me will keep him honest. He must guard against Gene Warren and others who will only say nice things about

him, whether he deserves syrupy things said or not.

So, I hope that Dr. Paul Givens will be a blessing in disguise. But he must understand that I suspect that he was appointed chancellor for purely racial reasons, not of his making but racial nevertheless. Two Indian candidates, Dr. Joseph Oxendine and Dr. James B. Chavis, were bypassed as chancellor in favor of Givens. Many of us consider the two Indian candidates to have superior qualifications.

And many of us believe William Friday chose him (Givens) mostly because he is an out of stater. Friday is a political animal, and he did not want to chance the political liability of a local entity with political muscle of his own.

In spite of all of that, we will try to be fair to Dr. Paul Givens. We will give him the benefit of the doubt, but we will not accept him foolishly and with no holds barred like our local trustees did when they assured Friday that they would support whomever he chose as chancellor.

No, here is our stance concerning Dr. Paul Givens. If he is a good and decent chancellor and pays particular attention to the Lumbee Indian heritage of Pembroke State University, we will support him with all the strength we are able to muster. If he comes tripping into town with condescension dripping from his jaws, we will fight him with all the journalistic weapons at our disposal.

ANTI-GIVENS RALLY PLANNED IN PEMBROKE PARK

Recently I received an unsigned letter telling of a rally Sunday afternoon in Pembroke's Park. The rally is scheduled for 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

The rally is "about the chancellorship at Pembroke State University." The letter also says, "It is time that we stand together..."

Locklear Honored at Reception

by Marvin Locklear

Dr. Curt Locklear Jr., was honored recently at a reception given to him by his family to commemorate his having received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Dr. Locklear was honored on the 19th of May at the Jaycee Hut, Pembroke.

Dr. Locklear and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curt Locklear Sr. received more than 175 family and friends who came to give their congratulations to the new doctor. There were hours of courtesy for the guests as they were greeted by other

members of Dr. Locklear's family.

Dr. Locklear graduated May 13 from Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine in Tuskegee, Alabama. He graduated second in his class with a 3.9 grade point average. This excellent academic record merited the title of Highest Honors for Dr. Locklear. He will begin practice with Dr. N.G. Baird in Lumberton in June.

Hostesses for Dr. Locklear's reception were Ms. Rose Low-

Prisoners Plan Walk-a-thon

ous when first approached about the walk-a-thon.

"There just had never been anything like this before that we could find in the state or even the country," Brooks said. "I looked it over and talked to them about it, then sent it up to the area office for approval.

"To me it shows rehabilitation," Brooks said. "A lot of the guys we have here are here because they put their own wants and needs over those of their fellow man.

"This sort of thing shows that they're thinking about someone else and not just centering on their own needs," Brooks said. "I think it's good for the community and for the men."

"We figure this is a way for us to reach out to the community," Burch said.

The prisoners are seeking sponsors who will pay 25 cents or more for every mile a prisoner walks. They also hope area residents will donate baked goods and lemonade for rest stops along the 10-mile walk.

"One thing about cakes, though," Burch said. "They've got to be sliced up. Prison rules.

"Another thing, too," Scott said. "This isn't a gun camp (medium security) any more. Anyone who'd like to come out and watch, we'd be glad to have."

The walk is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Title 1 Meeting Set

There will be a meeting of the ESEA Title I Advisory Committee to the Robeson County Board of Education on Tuesday, June 5, at 2:30 p.m. in the Planetarium class room. Assistant Supt. Albert C. Hunt urges all members to attend and notes that they will be brought up to date on the 1979-80 Title I Project as well as asked for their advice and suggestions.

Members of Dr. Locklear's immediate family present for the event were: Mr. and Mrs. James Sheffield, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Thomas Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Milton Locklear, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Locklear, Mrs. Thomas Smith, Ms. Marcia Locklear, Lindsay Locklear, Anthony Locklear, his uncle, Monroe Lowry, his great aunt, Mrs. Essie Mae Oxendine and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James Clennie Lowry.



Mr. Wade Hunt, principal, Mrs. Rosemary Seibert, and Mrs. Curt Locklear Sr. are congratulating Dr. Curt Locklear Jr. at the reception. Dr. Locklear's Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Curt Locklear Sr. are looking on. (Marvin Locklear, photo)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Questions Policy of Biblical Recorder

Dear Sir:

I went to Russia in 1961 as a private citizen to see how Russia and its people differed from America. There was very little travel between the two countries in 1961. August 14, 1961 saw the Berlin wall begun. In the fall of 1961 the 100 megaton bombs were being set off by the Russians. Bomb shelters were on display for sale in Gastonia's Akers Center.

May I share the most important thing I remember about this four day visit. I saw people standing in small groups looking at something on the wall. I asked my guide what they were looking at. She replied they were reading the newspaper. They were reading what the government wanted them to read, where they wanted the newspaper read. Can you imagine reading your paper in this manner? I lifted a silent prayer of thanks for living in a country where I can express

myself and read the expression of others when and where I chose.

I have found one exception.

The Biblical Recorder, our Baptist newspaper, restricts expression and questions on certain subjects. The Recorder especially likes to print letters and editorials that raise questions about other religious organizations with problems. However, I have found the Recorder will not print expressions of concern about its own advertising policy.

Why does the Biblical Recorder censor the concerns and expressions on this matter. The editorial policy says the Recorder does not speak for Baptist of North Carolina. It says every Baptist speaks for himself. I want this privilege.

Harrill Jones
1104 East Ozark Ave.
Gastonia, N.C. 28052

Why Street Signs Are Late

TO: Mayor Reggie Strickland
Pembroke, NC

FROM: W.J. Sherrill

The delay in your getting your Street Name Signs is due to hold ups in getting materials. All purchases such as the blades are ordered through Purchase and Contract bids. Further delays are caused by the manufacturers in shipping the materials to Prison Enterprises.

All orders received have been placed with Prison Enter-

prises and will be processed in that order as soon as materials can be obtained. Mr. Lewis, Sign Shop manager, informs me that in some cases this will mean a 3 to 4 months hold up.

Sign orders for Warning and Regulatory Signs should be shipped to you by state trucks within 5 to 6 weeks from the date the order is placed.

Please bear with us until we can get your signs to you. If this creates any problems for you please contact me at (919) 733-3083.

Gospel Sing News

Dear Gospel Fans:

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. It will soon be time to meet and see you again, June 2nd to be correct we are looking forward to talking with you on this 1st Saturday night singing at Deep Branch School.

We have some great news as you know for two months we have been talking to you over at the school where our singings have been held about our anniversary. Well, it has been decided to have our First Anniversary on August 31, Friday night and Saturday, September 1, 1979. We are looking forward to this. One of our guest groups will be the singing Echoes from Cleggland, Tennessee on Friday night, August 31, at a place to be named later. Our guest singers for Saturday night have not been decided on yet.

We trust that every singing group of this association (the Southeastern Gospel Singing Association) will be present for this great event. We are going to try to give you some of the very best gospel singing.

Our membership members of the Association will have a privilege to use your membership cards for the first time and it will be a pleasure to permit you to use them. We

hope to have other groups soon so you can use them often.

The D & L Gospel Singers of Pembroke, one of our groups of this Association are listing their appointments for the month of June as follows:

June 2, Mt. Carmel Church of God, Dunn, NC. June 3, Laruel Hill Baptist Church, Marion, N.C.; June 9-10, Raxon Revival Center, Jacksonville, Fla. June 16, Smithfield, Nc. June 22, Kinley High School, Kinley, NC. June 23, Penticola Lighthouse, Wilson, NC. June 24, Crestwood Baptist Church, Smithfield, N.C.

Any time any of our groups are in your area, try to attend.

Participating in this first Saturday night singing at Deep Branch will be The Felix Deal Family of Fairmont, NC, The Simpson Quartet of Lumberton and other groups.

I know you will be pleased to hear these fine groups. They will bless your souls. As all the groups have done in the past, they will bless you. Now, remember, there is no charge and you are invited to attend. Now remember on June 2, 7:30 p.m. at Deep Branch School. We hope to see you.

Rev. Grover Oxendine

MT. AIRY NEWS

—by Violet Locklear—

Rev. Mike Brooks delivered a wonderful message on Sunday morning at Mt. Airy Church. Special music was by the Young Adult Ladies who were accompanied by Rev. Mike Cummings.

Our pastor delivered the message on Sunday night. After service they loaded the bus and went down to MacDonalds for refreshments.

Visitors were Rev. Mike Brooks and children, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel D. Locklear, Jullia Bullard, Jennings R. Bullard, Nichole Locklear, Nannie Jones, Joann Locklear, Rev. Joseph Oxendine, Rev. Robert Locklear, Mrs. Joy B. Locklear and children, Jerry Cummings and many more.

All graduates received Bibles by Mr. John L. Carter donated by his daughter, Mrs. Mazeline Dusan of Jacksonville, Fla. High school graduates were Ray Bryant, Jeffery Revels, Myra Griffith, Marina Clark. College graduates included W.D. Oxendine who has received his masters degree and Reggie Strickland and Marion Lowry. This has been a custom of Mrs. Dusan for a number of years.

Mrs. Rockie Jane Locklear still remains a patient in McCain Hospital. Her condition is improving slowly.

Mrs. Emory (Nora) Locklear of Fayetteville has returned home from the hospital. Visiting her last week were Mrs. Goldie Lowery and Odella Locklear. The Locklears are members of our church.

A plate sale was held Saturday, May 26 at the Mt. Airy Church Community Building, sponsored by the Mt. Airy Jaycees. All senior citizens, all sick and handicapped, were donated a free plate. I know the Jaycees appreciate your cooperation with them. We'll have more as to the number of tickets sold later on.

Mr. Greg Maynor, one of our new members, will be leaving this Saturday for a week at Ridgecrest in Youth Ministry Conference. We hope it will be a successful week for all those going for churches in our

association.

As Memorial Day passed and time rolled back the memories of many of our friends and loved ones who gave their lives so bravely that we may live, let us nobly remember those who laid themselves between our country and her foes. As I passed a cemetery the other day, I stopped and looked at a grave. The thought came to me: it could have been my son. I only had one but he had to go and fight for his country. And I can never thank God enough for sparing him and allowing him to come back. That day will always serve as a reminder to a lot of people.

Mrs. Stella Maynor returned home last Friday from Southeastern General Hospital where she underwent surgery. Hope she has a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Buck Locklear went on a business trip to Tabor City, N.C. on Monday.

Mr. Robert Locklear is a patient in Durham Hospital. He underwent surgery on Wednesday. We hope him a speedy recovery. Please remember him in your prayers.

Also, Mr. J.H. Locklear, who is undergoing treatment twice a week, for they are two of our main leaders of our church.

I certainly appreciate the different ones who had guts enough to stand up against our chancellor selection. We appreciate someone who acts something good in us, who calls forth our best qualities. We know justice did not come out in that decision. We are not dismayed by what seems unjust and unfair. For we now are living in such days. We have the faith to know that God's law of good works to make things right. It may not be as soon as we would like, but just be patient Pembroke. Victory will be ours if we pull together. As far as Friday and the other politics! Pow's, hope to see their decision go down the drain. Fast, fast, fast. As for Friday, if he were a decent man, something this incident would not have happened.

UP FROM DUST & DARKNESS

by Lew Barton,
Third Century Artist

IRONY OF THE SITUATION

Dr. Joseph Oxendine and Dr. James B. Chavis are eminently qualified to assume the Chancellorship of Pembroke State University. A nationally known athlete is a tough candidate to rule out, even if he didn't have all the other qualifications to back it up. (which he has) And as for Dr. James B. Chavis, he couldn't be better qualified if he had deliberately educated himself for that specific post. In fact, some people say he did just that with the encouragement and as a protégé of the retiring chancellor. Both have had vast administrative experience, one at PSU itself and the other as a dean at Temple University. The Indians would have been happy and fortunate to have had either, but like any other red-blooded American community, there were those who preferred one and those who preferred the other.

And why not? We are human, too. We should not be expected to have unanimity of opinion like a herd of sheep.

Both of these candidates were Lumbees. And I was extremely happy that we as their people were able to offer not one but two superbly-qualified candidates instead of one. I remember the time when we couldn't have offered one for consideration.

I saw our first Ph.D., a personal friend of mine (I was his protégé), rejected even as principal of a high school because of dirty, rotten, stinking politics. He served for a time as dean of faculty at PSU. But he never forgot that rejection as Principal of Pembroke High. He pined away and eventually died-of cerebral hemorrhage.

Our people have not forgotten that, nor double-voting, nor Old Main, nor a hundred other miscarriages of justice. Oh, yes, we all feel strongly about PSU, and any Lumbee who is turned away because of raw, pure racial prejudice. After all, we have a long history of oppression.

Our own kin gave birth to that institution after being thrown out of white schools and denied any form of education for half a century. We preached the gospel of education among our people. We nurtured

ed that institution with loving care, as a mother hen watches over her chicks. While white institutions of the area floundered and died, we kept ours going, largely through personal sacrifice and sheer energy of spirit. No one has ever told us that Indians had never before created a university from the word go. We luckily didn't know Indians can't build a university; and so, by God's grace and through His benediction, we built one. It was and is our pride and joy.

How happy we were to be able to offer an institution of higher learning when integration came! In fact, we had admitted whites and other Indians even before integration. We ourselves had the foresight and daring to have removed from our official name, the words "for Indians."

Thus did we make our contribution to the community at large. Many took advantage of the excellent school that Pembroke State had become. But instead of accepting our proffered hand in friendship, thru brotherhood and in the name of humanity, others gave us the back of their hand. For them, it was all or nothing.

But we survived. Just as we will survive this crisis. We will survive this just as we did on Roanoke Island when the English departed us and reckoned us dead.

But we are a people of dignity and understanding. We shall survive with honor-not in the smirking way a recent letter-to-the-editor opportunist puts it.

Dr. Givens has stated that there will be no discrimination against Indians under him. And I fervently hope not. If worse comes to worst, I hope we will retain our dignity and our dedication. As Dr. Martin Luther King's followers used to sing, we too shall ultimately overcome.

God hasten the day when our people will no longer suffer discrimination in connection with the very institution they chartered! But above all, grant us grace and good sense to accept whatever is your will in this matter. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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