



PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE



PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 5-

20¢ PER COPY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1980

JOHN HENRY WILKINS HAS HIS DAY IN COURT

Judge Herbert Richardson finds him "Not Guilty"



John Henry Wilkins

ST. PAULS—John Henry Wilkins finally had his day in court last Thursday, January 24, 1980. And he was found "not guilty" by District Court Judge Herbert Richardson in a session of the St. Pauls District Court.

Wilkins had been charged August 5, 1979 with driving under the influence of a narcotic drug by M. Humphrey, a member of the N.C. Highway Patrol. Wilkins had been charged even though he registered "0" on a breathalyzer test.

The arresting officer had found a single librium pill lying in a coke tray after Wilkins had been stopped initially for an errant signal light that would not stop blinking. Wilkins says the pill had been lying in the tray ever since his father died January 11, 1978 "in case I needed it." The medication was given him by his father's doctor.

SOME BACKGROUND...

Wilkins was jailed briefly, "the first time in my life" and cited to St. Pauls District Court for an August 23, 1979 appearance. The case was postponed on a number of occasions, mostly for medical reasons.

Wilkins suffers from a number of ailments, including a high cholesterol count in his blood, compounded by high blood pressure and poor circulation. He has had a stay in Hamlet Hospital since his confrontation with Trooper Humphrey. Medically Wilkins is almost anemic and takes vitamins and a tonic daily, in addition to his other medication for his heart related problems. He is also a diabetic.

He lives in the Union Chapel Community with his mother and a sister who has been paralyzed since birth. A brother and a sister, both in their 40s, died in 1975 with complications related to high cholesterol, a trait shared by Wilkins. Wilkins seems fatalistic about the "fat" in the blood; he is 35. The "trouble" with the state trooper seems to have compounded Wilkins' "nerves." He is hardly able to do anything anymore.

Wilkins believes his stay in the hospital was complicated by his confrontation with Humphrey. As Wilkins remembers it, "He (Humphrey) sort of pushed me toward his car and I fell down..." Since then he has suffered from arm and shoulder troubles and the nerves on the right side of his face has suffered and caused him, as he sees it, to be in danger of losing his sight eventually.

JOHN HENRY WILKINS IS ANGRY

Wilkins is angry. He claims Humphrey treated him wrong. Wilkins, an Indian, does not take kindly to those who accuse him of "making a racial issue out of it." Says Wilkins, "I would feel the same way whatever color the patrolman might be; I just feel like I was

just tried to listen to me and been a little bit patient he would have found out I was right and that I didn't need to be put in jail and done like I was..."

Wilkins lost a scanner, two turn tables, a calculator, and some other equipment valued somewhere around \$1,000 when he was taken to the police station by Humphrey and his car left unattended.

Wilkins said, "I feel like somebody owes me for the stuff in my car; I asked Humphrey to tow my car in if he was going to arrest me..."

Wilkins, who is disabled, works sometimes, "when I feel up to it," on C.B.s and electronic equipment for friends and neighbors to earn a little extra money. He took a course in electronics offered by Goodwill Industries.

Wilkins says that he has been contacted by a Glenn D. Russell, a major with the internal affairs department of the highway patrol. Wilkins said, "I told him I was not in any condition to talk to him right now..."

Wilkins, who had attended church the morning of the day he was arrested, says, "I was treated wrong and I want the world to know it...if Humphrey had

From the time of the arrest Humphrey has not been available for comment. His superior, District Sergeant A.H. Campbell says, "We cannot comment on a case in public before it goes to trial. We have to protect Mr. Wilkins' rights and the patrol's rights too."

Rumors abound that Humphrey was reprimanded in the matter, but no one will confirm or deny the rumor.

Major Russell says, "Colonel John T. Jenkins has written Mr. Wilkins and advised him that 'appropriate action' has been taken in the matter." Citing state statutes Major Russell affirms that no information can be given out concerning "personnel", in this case M. Humphrey.

Wilkins was defended in the matter by Pembroke attorney Donald Bullard.

Wilkins is considering a civil suit to recover his losses, and for damages to his reputation. Wilkins says, "Some people in the community still are not sure that I am not guilty...they just remember the bad stuff like my arrest, etc."

by Bruce Barton

...AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. PAUL GIVENS

Sincerely regrets...Janie Maynor Locklear will not be allowed to speak at Old Main Rededication

Dr. Paul Givens, Chancellor
Pembroke State University
Pembroke, NC 28372

Dear Dr. Givens:

It was with sincere regret that I read in *The Carolina Indian Voice* that Janie Maynor Locklear will not be allowed to speak at the rededication ceremony of Old Main on February 16, 1980. Since you are not originally from this area, let me update you on Janie's importance to Old Main.

In 1973, when Old Main was burned, I was a junior at Pembroke Senior High School. Although I had never been in the building, my father spoke of it often as the only educational facility available to Indians during his youth. He was proud of his education and even prouder of the building. When the family heard that Old Main had been burned, dad was concerned, and I wondered if anyone else in the Indian community felt the way he did.

Later that week, some of the students from the high school went to admire Old Main for the last time, and that is when I encountered a young, vocal lady whom everyone called Janie Maynor Locklear.

She began to solicit help from local prominent Indian leaders in the community to make sure that Old Main was rebuilt. Since she was Project Director of Indian Education at Lumbee Regional Development Association located here in town, she staged protests to keep Old Main for the benefit of the Indian community. In the local newspapers, her efforts were publicized. The community saw the need for more involvement, and began to help Janie in her struggles to get Old Main rebuilt. I personally followed Janie's trials and tribulations through the news media, and I realized what an impact Old Main had on the educational status of our forefathers.

Janie became my mentor, for she had done exactly what I had always wanted to do: accomplished the feat of bringing our Indian people together, regardless of tribal affiliation. When the restoration of Old Main finally came to surface, the name who was congratulated for such a notable accomplishment was Janie Maynor Locklear.

When it was first announced that Pembroke State was to have a white Chancellor, I was heartbroken. I knew there was no way a Northern white could feel sympathetic to the Indians' needs in this community. Later when I read that you had visited various clubs in the community, predominantly Indian, such as Pembroke Jaycees, Kiwanis and others, I took back some of the thoughts I'd had. Perhaps your views would be Indian oriented and the University status as the first Indian college would be retained.

When I read that you were not going to allow Janie to speak at the rededication of Old Main. Sir, for my benefit and for the others who followed Old Main so diligently, please update your information on Old Main's burning and those who took it upon themselves to see that the building was restored, and at the top of the list you will see Janie Maynor Locklear's name. She has & will continue to do all she can for her people, and we cannot let her pride in them and their surroundings be put down by a non-Indian chancellor who feels she's not important enough to be put on the agenda on February 16.

Then, and only then, can I believe that you are interested in the good of all the people of the community and the betterment of Pembroke State University.

Sincerely,

Marilyn L. Locklear
Alumni
Class of 1978

WORKING TOWARD FEDERAL RECOGNITION

by Connie Brayboy

The term "Federal Recognition" implies various things to people. Some see federal recognition of Robeson County Indians as a way to receive more federal dollars. To Ed Chavis it means that the agency he works for (Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.) and other such agencies would not have to cease rendering services to the community.

"It takes too much of our time trying to prove to non-Indians that we are Indians. This is valuable time that could be better utilized by providing services to our people," Chavis said.

He is working with a new program at LRDA. He is Director for the Tribal Enrollment Project. The program is funded by a sub-grant from CETA. Chavis explained that tribal enrollment is only one of seven steps necessary to obtain federal recognition.

Said Chavis, "Tribal enrollment is good, not only for federal recognition, but will be something we can keep... something to prevent future generations from having to explain their Indianness in order to receive federal services. It is something that should have been done one hundred years ago."

Chavis predicts that it will take approximately three years to complete the necessary package for federal recognition. He has set his goal at 30,000 Indians he hopes to enroll into the Lumbee Tribe. He is convinced that a tribal roll will solve many problems for Robeson County Indians.

"A tribal roll will not mean that people will be placed on a reservation," he explained, "nor will it mean that land owners will be subjected to BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) control of their land. Tribal enrollment will merely mean that we are organized, and that, when federal recognition is granted, we may be entitled to federal services, scholarships, IEA programs, health services, etc. without having to explain to the federal government that we are Indians."

Although very dedicated to the project, Chavis admits to feeling some resentment toward those who insist that Indians prove over and over again that they are Indians. "It should be their responsibility to prove that I am not an Indian. I was born an Indian, that is something that the federal government cannot change. They cannot make an Indian. But because they have the power to stop the much needed services coming into this area, I am determined to complete the tribal enrollment and other necessary steps for federal

Sim Oxendine files again for County School Board

Sim Oxendine has filed to succeed himself on the Robeson County Board of Education. He is seeking his fourth term in that position. Since the districting of county school lines, Oxendine has represented District II, composed of Pembroke, Smiths, Union



Sim Oxendine

recognition. I am determined to be finished with continuously proving our Indianness."

Chavis further explained that due to pressure from other groups, the legislature is contemplating changing the definition of "Indian" as it applies to non-federally recognized Indians. "Originally," he said, "Title IV was intended to offer much needed service to non-federally recognized Indians. We are subject to a loss of Title IV funds, if the legislature decides to change the definition of Indian."

When the tribal roll is established, the LRDA Board of Directors will act as the tribal government. Chavis believes that this is best because the LRDA Board of Directors are the only-Indian elected officials. (The majority are voted on by persons in the area which they represent on the board.) Because the Robeson County Indians do not have a tribal governing body, Chavis feels that it is right that those who enroll be subject to the policies of the LRDA Board of Directors.

Chavis also has very definite ideas about what being an Indian means. Said he, "Indian is what is inside a person, not a matter of physical characteristics, etc. How one feels inside and how one treats those around him, that's what makes an Indian."

When asked about the opposition expected from those Indians in the county who feel that Lumbee is not a historic name, Chavis replied, "...No matter what tribal name one chooses to use, we are all from the same background...Again I say, who can prove that I am not a Lumbee? If, indeed, Indian's named the rivers after themselves, such as the Santee, the Pee Dee, the Catawba, ect. who is to say that the Lumbee were not a tribe? I find that the name Lumbee is just as historic and just as much a tribal name as those others. Again...let someone prove that I am not a Lumbee...I do not have to prove what I am...I am an Indian...a Lumbee Indian."

Chavis has begun enrolling Lumbee Indians already. He encourages all those who are interested to contact him at 521-8253 or 521-8252, or to stop by the Revels Motel Complex Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. He has also made himself available to any club, organization, etc. to address the issue. He is willing to explain tribal enrollment to any interested groups. He also welcomes any helpful suggestions or comments about his program.

Assisting Chavis in the program are: Wilma Benson, secretary; Jerry Lowry, Alton Lowry, Severo Kerns, enrollment specialists.

Oxendine released the following statement: "I am still committed to quality education for all students. I am a supporter of community input and believe that parental involvement is necessary to a good educational system."

"I have served on the board of education since 1972, and have always voted my convictions. Many times I have cast the only opposing vote to various issues. Although my vote was not enough to change things drastically, I am proud of the fact that I have never compromised my principles or my convictions."

"I feel that the children in the county school system need my support. I am dedicated to improved curriculum, fair and honest opportunities for all students, adequate facilities and more community involvement in the educational process."

"I sincerely solicit the support of the voters of Pembroke, Smiths, Union and Alfordville Precincts May 4, 1980."

PEOPLE AND L AND THINGS... C E S

OPEN HOUSE PLANNED AT HILLY BRANCH VOC. CENTER

The Hilly Branch Vocational Center will have open house February 4, for the benefit of parents and the general public. The open house hours will be 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. during the day. The evening hours will be 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

The parents and public are cordially invited to look at the vocational programs and facilities. Parents are especially urged to discuss student progress with the school faculty. Stacy Locklear is principal of the Hilly Branch Vocational Center.

PURKEY RESIGNS POST AS DIRECTOR OF RCCC

The Robeson County Church and Community Center's Board of Directors held their monthly meeting Thursday night. Chairman Adolph Dial presided.

Miss Betty Purkey, executive director, tendered her resignation. After five years with the center, she has been offered a position in another state. She will remain at the center long enough to assist in orienting her successor.

PARENTS NIGHT PLANNED

Pembroke Senior High School will host a Parents Night January 31, 1980 from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. Parents are urged to attend and use the opportunity to meet with their children's teachers to discuss their semester performance.

Refreshments will be served in the school library.

CONCERNED PARENTS AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Concerned Parents and Teachers Association of Pembroke Elementary School will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday night, February 7, 1980 in the school cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. All teachers and parents are asked to be present. An informative program is planned and refreshments will be served.

PSHS CLASS OF 1975 TO MEET TO PLAN REUNION

Pembroke Senior High School Class of 1975 will be having a meeting to plan their class reunion on Feb. 10, 1980 at 3 p.m. at the home of Gregg Bell, Cherokee Street, Pembroke. For further directions call 521-4622. All class members interested in planning the reunion are urged to attend.

MORE FULL TIME STUDENTS ATTENDING PSU THAN LAST SPRING

More full-time students are attending PSU this spring semester than a year ago, according to PSU registration figures.

This spring, 1,793 full time regular students plus 93 full time graduate students are registering for a total of 1,886. This is 26 students higher than the 1,860 full time equivalent students (whose taking the full number of hours credit) who attended a year ago.

As for head count (the number of students taking courses regardless of their number of hours), a total of 2,132 are attending PSU this spring. Of these 1,958 are regular students, and 174 are graduate students.

PSU HOMECOMING PARADE

Pembroke State University's Homecoming parade will be held February 16, 1980 at 11:00 a.m. thru downtown Pembroke.

GRAND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

James Monroe Chavis, Director of Lumbee Regional Development Association's Talent Search, urges students to come by his office at the LRDA Annex building for applications for grants under the Indian Fellowship Program. The deadline for applications is March 11, 1980.

The purpose of the grants is to enable Indian students to pursue courses of study leading to (a) post-graduate degree in medicine, law, education and related fields; and (b) graduate undergraduate degree in business, business administration, social sciences, and related fields.

North Robeson Parents seek Halt to Rex-Rennert High School Site

Compiled from Area News Reports, Interviews and Research

Magnolia—More than 150 parents and sympathizers met here Monday night to map out opposition to the construction of a consolidated high school at the Rex Rennert School site. The new construction, ticketed at some \$1.4 million by county school officials, would combine Parkton and Magnolia School into North Robeson High School.

But a new element surfaced at the meeting as organizers informed those present that they had met with the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union in a related move. According to Ronald Hammonds, a member of the Robeson County Board of Education, and a Concerned Parent of North Robeson, the civil liberties union has agreed to enter the matter in behalf of the parents. The Civil liberties organization would investigate county school lines for evidence of racial and economic discrimination.

Saying he put his position as a parent ahead of his position as a school board member, Hammonds said he felt existing problems involving school district lines and economic factors have created another form of racism and discrimination.

Hammonds said that he believed district lines were now used to exclude and group together students on a basis of income and race.

Mrs. Linda Hammonds, his wife, and a teacher at Parkton School, said Monday she and others in the group had met with NCCLU representatives. Leading the discussions was George Gardner, director of the NCCLU. Gardner said his group would look into racial distribution among the population in relation to the county's five city school units and the county system.

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