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# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges  
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

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## A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL

### Statement Against Violence and Racism: The Deadly Duo

#### A STATEMENT AGAINST VIOLENCE AND RACISM: THE DEADLY DUO

Dr. Paul R. Givens was chosen as chancellor of Pembroke State University on May 11, 1979 to succeed Dr. English E. Jones who retired after 17 adventurous years as head of the university that is the result of the foresight of the local Indian community who began the school in 1887 because Indian children were denied the rights to public education. Pembroke State University had its beginnings as a reaction to racism. It was hoped by the Indian men of vision that the school might help eradicate racism; they would be surprised today to know that racism is still the major problem in Robeson County and on the campus of Pembroke State University. It is ironic but racism has developed tap roots that are most times covered up by societal graces and protocol but the racism is a reality and it erupts every once in a while like last Wednesday morning when a young college student complained that he had been assaulted on the PSU campus, as reported in the *Robesonian*, a daily newspaper quartered in Lumberton, by some Indian men.

References were made to "crazed locals" and "animals" and "savages." The references were offensive to the general Indian community; many Indian people complained about the negative labeling of a whole community for the supposed sins of a few. Others damned the *Robesonian* for unprofessional news reporting in putting the incident in the worst possible light without giving the decent, law abiding Indians a chance to be represented fairly.

And, as we see it, complaints are in order. The *Robesonian*, as we see it, emanates a crazy kind of 1860 democratic party mentality. The newspaper seems to infer that if we kill all the Henry Berry Lowrys in our midst everything will be all right and plantations will crop up uncontested in the country side. It just isn't so.

We have problems in Pembroke and Robeson County and the sooner we face up to them positively the better off all of us are going to be.

#### VIOLENCE BEGATS MORE VIOLENCE...

Violence is wrong period. Violence

begats more violence. A manis made up of heart and mind and soul; it takes all three to be human. Muscles are relatively unimportant in the area of human relations.

We must turn from violence, especially physical violence. We like the turn of a phrase, a rational argument, sensitive responses, a kindly disposition. We like a man (or woman) who stands for something over a long period of time, neither being tossed to and fro nor being subject to temporary whims of fancy. We must turn to weapons of integrity, trust, decency in order to win the war of life.

The Indian community is frustrated, saddened by the turn of events. Dr. Givens said in his installation address:

An important feature of this University is the make-up of our student body. Through perhaps the best State system of higher education in America, we see today a Pembroke State University where three races walk hand in hand without malice or discord. We have in this student body a model for the nation to observe - for in this tri-racial setting we have a showcase of brotherhood and sisterhood.

But the faculty and administration do not follow the lead of the students; more than 80 percent of them live elsewhere than Pembroke, mostly in the Lumberton area.

They (faculty and administration) drive into our community each day and teach the teachers in our schools what they are going to teach our children - yours and mine. But what they are teaching is not good enough for them; the overwhelming majority of them live in the Lumberton School District where their children are enrolled. They say, in essence, "We will teach your teachers but we do not want those teachers teaching our children..." That is condescension of the worst possible kind; it is rank racism. It stinks to the educational heavens.

They bemoan the relative inadequacies of the Pembroke and county schools, but the teachers (at least 80 percent) were taught by the PSU faculty who flee after dark.

We watch them sometimes in the evening fleeing... attempting to get back to Lumberton before dark to attend the movies, go out to dinner, attend the local PTAs, the boards of education, the city council meetings. They work diligently to make Lumberton and the

other places where they live better places to live. For instance, Dr. Ray Pennington, head of PSU's Physical Education Department, is also chairman of the board of directors of Lumberton's housing authority and redevelopment commission.

Yes, the kids get along fine; it is the grown ups (especially the faculty and administrators of PSU) who have reverted back to childish ways. The roles have been reversed; the kids do not speak in racial tones; the grown ups do.

#### ...THE LUMBERTON INFLUENCE...

Now that Dr. Jones has retired we are beginning to see a greater influence on the Pembroke campus by the monied interests in Lumberton. For instance, Lumberton Mayor Furman Biggs and others are taking an active interest in fundraising, etc. That's good and proper; PSU is a regional university now... not an Indian institution only. But, as we see it, we ought to lay down a few facts for those who might have some doubts.

Pembroke State University is located in Pembroke, N.C. That's a fact that many Robesonians cannot fully accept. They attempt to circumvent reality by moving the school spiritually or financially or emotionally or psychologically... but the school remains in Pembroke... not Lumberton, or Red Springs or any other place. Pembroke.

Too, the Indian influence should be bolstered not diminished. The school has one unique feature only... and that is its Indian heritage, its Indian beginnings. That's the school's strength; not its weakness as some have implied. The Indians made the school; the school owes its life blood to its Indian connotations. Can the rest of Robeson accept that? And enhance the Indianness of the school? And showcase it? And still support it?

It is violent to diminish people, to lessen their influence when it is good and proper to enhance it.

It is violent to have a faculty of approximately 130 with one (1) Black member and eight (8) Indian faculty members. That is criminal, indeed. We need to scour the land for Indians and Blacks who can teach and administer on the university level and hire them.

It is criminal and violent that the last ten faculty members hired at PSU have been white.

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### WEST END ANNEXATION SUBJECT OF PUBLIC HEARING NOVEMBER 3RD

pointments are for two years.

Appointed to the recreation commission were Johnny Hunt, Rudy Locklear, Virli Brooks and Craig Lowry, Jacobs.

#### PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR NOVEMBER 3

November 3 is the long awaited date for the public hearing to "air" the proposed West End annexation by the town of Pembroke.

The public hearing will also allow a discussion of possibly revising the ordinance creating a board of adjustments.

And Bernard Lowry will seek an amendment to a zoning ordinance allowing a business development and LRDA will seek permission to set up an office complex in a residential area.

The council handled a number of routine matters, set a public hearing for November 3 to air a number of matters, including the proposed West End annexation, and announced a number of appointments to the recreation commission and the planning board. The meeting lasted less than an hour and the assault of the student on the PSU campus was not even mentioned.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Reappointed to the Planning Board were Wesley Revels, Clinton Thomas, Jr., and Mrs. Ruth Tidwell. The ap-



Mrs. Reba Lowry  
1906 to 1980  
by Gene Warren

Pembroke--Mrs. Reba Millsaps Lowry, 74, who taught at Pembroke State University longer than any other person - 40 years - before retiring as professor emerita of foreign languages in 1976, died at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill of heart failure.

A great lady of Pembroke, she had been in declining health for the last five years and been in and out of the hospital at Chapel Hill a number of times. She first became ill in 1975 when she had two operations and suffered a stroke which impeded her ability to speak, read and write. Mrs. Lowry determinedly sought to recapture these communication skills, but has been in poor health since her 1975 health problems.

She and her husband, Ira Pate Lowry, have a home less than a block from PSU, which she dearly loved.

In January of this year when it was announced that she and her husband were giving the first \$15,000 to pay for the carillon portion of a bell tower to be constructed on the PSU campus, she said with emotion in her voice: "Our first interest is the University. If there is anything we can do as a service to the University, we are happy to do so."

She was the first woman to join the PSU Chancellor's Club, which includes those donating \$1,000 a year to PSU. One of her dreams was to see a bell tower at PSU. A total of \$14,500 worth of tickets has been sold for a fund raising dinner next Tuesday, Oct. 14.

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

#### TWO ARRESTS MADE IN PSU ASSAULT CASE

Pembroke--Two arrests have been made so far in the so-called PSU assault case. Arrested but since released on bond are Alvin John Mercer, 19, and Craig Brooks, 18. They are charged with assaulting Ty Moore of Lumberton last Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 1, as he walked to a class in the parking lot of the PSU Performing Arts Center.

Moore, according to area news reports, is hospitalized with a concussion and possible rib injuries.

#### PLATE SALE PLANNED

The Wakulla Mission will have a plate sale Saturday, Oct. 11 at the park in Pembroke. Proceeds will go into the church building fund. The pastor, Rev. Tucker Dial, invites the public to attend.

#### REVIVAL PLANNED AT PEMBROKE CHURCH OF GOD

Pembroke Church of God will hold a revival October 15-19. State Evangelist Rev. Millard Maynard will be the guest speaker. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Rev. Jack Hunt, pastor of the Pembroke Church of God, extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

#### REVIVAL PLANNED AT LIBERTY HOLINESS CHURCH

Revival will begin at Liberty Holiness Church, off Highway 211, Greenville Acres Area, Lumberton, Oct. 12th and will continue nightly through Oct. 17th. Evangelist Rev. Roy Clark will be the featured speaker. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. Pastor of Liberty Holiness Church is Rev. Melvin Bell, who extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

#### HOPEWELL METHODIST CHURCH REVIVAL TO BEGIN

Revival services at Hopewell Methodist Church will begin Oct. 12 and continue nightly through Oct. 17th. The Rev. Grady Cummings and the Rev. Steve Locklear will be the guest evangelists for the week. There will be special music each night by the home choir and visiting choirs. The public is cordially invited to attend. Rev. James H. Woods is pastor.

## VERDICT EXPECTED TODAY IN JAMES CALVIN JONES MURDER TRIAL

LUMBERTON--The second-degree murder trial of James Calvin Jones was presented to jurors Wednesday afternoon, but they failed to reach a verdict and were recessed until this morning.

The thirteen men and women met for an hour-and-a-half late Wednesday afternoon, but were dismissed at 6:15 after they failed to decide whether Jones was guilty or innocent of the charge against him. If convicted, Jones could receive a life sentence.

Robeson County District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt reduced the charge against James Calvin Jones from first- to second-degree murder. Jones, 38, was convicted of first-degree murder in October 1977 and became the first man sentenced to death under the state's rewritten capital punishment statute.

The Supreme Court overturned the conviction and ordered a new trial in February 1979 on the grounds that Britt made improper comments to the jury during his closing arguments.

The district attorney reportedly told jurors that if the jury erred in their decision, "the defendant has the right of appeal. The state doesn't have that."

The Supreme Court found the comment was prejudicial to Jones. Jones is charged with the shooting death of Jimmy Locklear, then 68. The day Locklear was killed, Jones was away from the Robeson prison unit on a six-hour pass. He was at the unit for violating parole gained while serving an armed robbery charge.

Britt refused to say why the charge against Jones was reduced.

### "Mr. Jim" Chavis and Brantley Blue honored



Ken Maynor, executive director of the Lumbee Regional Development Association in Pembroke, said, "One of the things I am really proud of that resulted from Indian Heritage Week was the special recognition shown Mr. Jim Chavis and Mr. Brantley Blue, two remarkable Indian leaders." Both died in 1979.

A painting of Brantley Blue, the articulate Lumbee barrister, who spearheaded so many legislative battles in behalf of his people will hang in "Old Main" on the PSU campus.

Blue was one of the leaders of the "Save Old Main" movement.

The painting was done by Craig Locklear, a young Indian artist employed by the county Indian Education project. Shown speaking in behalf of the Blue family at the recent unveiling is Adolph Blue, Brantley's brother.

The painting was a project sponsored by LRDA. Speaking in honor of "My dear friend" were Lew Barton and Adolph Dial.

### SAM DIAL SIGNS WITH RCA

PEMBROKE--Sam Dial, Pembroke's well known mayor protem said today that he had signed a "part time" contract to "do sales and promotions" for RCA's music and recording division in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dial has been active in the music and promotion business for many years and had the franchise for "juke boxes" for a number of years. He was named Music Operator of America in 1966. He is presently employed by the department of transportation.

Dial is considered the "father of Pembroke's low rent housing" effort and Dial Terrace is named in his honor.

Dial noted that he is negotiating with "all three major television networks" to do a weekly variety show featuring Native Americans with possibly himself as the host.

### JAMES E. "JIM" CHAVIS (1896-1979)

American Indian Educator, Religious Leader, and Defender of Human Rights

Contributions  
-Red Banks Settlement (and Joe Brooks)  
-Recognition of Original 22  
-Co-Founder of the Henry Berry Lowry College

-Recipient of the Henry Berry Lowry Award (1975)  
-First Indian Appointed by Governor's Office to the North Carolina Council on Aging

Carnell Locklear spearheaded the effort in honor of "Mr. Jim" Chavis. The historical marker which stands on

the PSU campus fronting Highway 711 tells its own remarkable story of "a man who worked for his people."