

EDITORIALS...

JAMES A. HUNT CASE RAISES QUESTIONS

Red Springs-Hoke County Commissioner James Albert Hunt pleaded guilty to reckless driving last week in connection with an alleged high-speed chase in July. Four other charges in connection with the incident were dismissed.

Robeson County District Judge Charles G. McLean fined Hunt \$100 and ordered him to be on good behavior for two years.

Hunt said he pleaded guilty on the advice of his attorney "to get it out of court and get it out of the news."

"This was just the easiest way out," Hunt said. "Most anybody could get a speeding ticket, and that's what this amounts to."

The charges grew out of an incident last July 30 during which a sheriff's deputy allegedly chased Hunt at speeds up to 100 miles an hour for a period of 20 to 25 minutes.

Deputy Mitchell Norris has alleged that at about 11 a.m. he saw Hunt in a car that was speeding along Rural Road 1754, about three miles north of Rennert. Norris said he followed the car several miles into Hoke County until he lost sight of it at an intersection about two miles east of Fort Bragg. Norris said he recognized Hunt as the driver.

In addition to the reckless driving charge, Hunt had been cited for speeding in excess of 100 mph in a 55 mph zone, failure to stop for a blue light and siren, a stop sign violation, and driving left of center.

But there's more to it than this. A state trooper, A.J. Beason missed a court appearance as a potential witness in the case and said he failed to show up because his truck broke down. His absence caused at least one postponement in the case. On Wednesday [the day following his missed appearance] Beason testified in the Robesonian, telling a reporter that "He [Hunt] thinks I am going to lie for him, but I'm not

going to lie for anyone." Hunt had thought that Beason would be a witness for him.

Hunt has inferred subtle racism in the matter, and it makes you wonder if there isn't something to his assertion.

Two questions remain. What in God's name was a Robeson County Sheriff's deputy doing chasing a Hoke County resident into Hoke County for? It seems to us that Sheriff's Deputy Norris was over zealous to say the least. And what was a state trooper doing missing a court appearance, then telling his side of things to a newspaper reporter the next day? It makes you wonder!

It seems that Hunt has been amply chastised. It will be interesting to see if the sheriff's deputy [the one chasing cars into Hoke County] and the state trooper [the one testifying in the newspaper] will be reprimanded by their superiors. It seems to us that none of the participants in this petty mess has anything to be proud of, especially the law enforcement people. They ought to know better.

JOSH BROOKS TRIBUTE DAY

We commend Josh Brooks Tribute Day to all our readers, and encourage everyone to come out to Pate Stadium [on the Scotland High Campus] in Laurinburg and honor the memory of little Josh Brooks by helping others to live.

The big day is Saturday, November 3, with various activities, including a celebrity auction, and an appearance by Country Music Star Razy Bailey, beginning at 10 a.m. with a parade in downtown Laurinburg. [See details elsewhere in this issue.]

Little Josh Brooks was the brave little boy who died after a liver transplant earlier this year. His name and memory denotes bravery and dignity. And the sponsoring organization, the Josh Brooks Living Memorial Transplant Association, is his living testimony.

RANTING & RAVING with Darryl Barton

GIVENS GIVIN' INDIANS THE SHAFT

Well, folks! Danged if it don't look like Indians have been manipulated and used against their fellow Indians once again in order for certain white folk to get what they want. It's sad. But true!

I'm referring to the 13-member Pembroke State University Board of Trustees voting unanimously Friday to endorse changing the name of the school. I believe 5 of the 13 Board members are Indians.

I believe it has been Chancellor Paul Givens' pet project every since taking over the reins six years ago to change the name of PSU to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

"Croatan Normal School," the forerunner of Pembroke State University, began in 1887 with a \$500 appropriation from the General Assembly. You see, because of the Constitutional Revision of 1835, Indians of Robeson and adjoining counties were officially recognized as "Free Persons of Color." Their rights were disenfranchised. Our ancestors lost the right to vote. Were not allowed to bear arms without a special court permit. And, possibly worst of all, no monies were appropriated for schools to educate the Indians. Our ancestors suffered 50 years of imposed ignorance. That's why the Indian camp was excited in 1887 when the "Croatan Normal School" was made possible by the \$500 appropriation. But, there was one stipulation in the legislation; local Indians would have to furnish the building in which the all-Indian school would be housed. As usual, my ancestors responded to the challenge. Local Indians donated time, labor and materials and the dream of a school for Indians became a reality.

However, true to the character of white folk who stole the Indians' land, an intense campaign was undertaken almost immediately after the school began for local whites to take over the school. The school underwent a long list of name changes. Each name change took the school one step further away from its rich and noble Indian roots.

A CONDENSED BACKWARDS GLANCE

In 1911 the school's name was changed to the "Indian Normal School of Robeson County." Thirty years later, in 1941, it was changed to "Pembroke State College for Indians." In 1949, the "for Indians" was dropped and the name was shortened to "Pembroke State College."

For twenty years following renaming the school to "Pembroke State College" I feel that an intense campaign was undertaken to de-Indianize the school.

Then, in 1969, "Pembroke State College" received university status and became "Pembroke State University." This was the beginning of the white-washing of the once all-Indian school, as far as I'm concerned. Then, alas, in 1972, "Pembroke State University" became a part of the 16-member "University of N.C. System." And this sealed the school's doom. Practically all traces of Indian-ness began to disappear from the campus. A liberal coat of white was applied to the whole university.

And, as far as I'm concerned, since Paul Givens took over as Chancellor of the University 6 years ago, the white-washing of the institution has become almost complete.

You see, the way I see it, a number of white folk--and a smidgen of pitifully misinformed Indians (many of whom don't live around here)--seem to think that one final red stain

Remember folks: These views are mine. They are not necessarily anyone else's. Heck! They ain't even necessarily visual! Just my rantings and ravings, I guess!

remains to tarnish the white image of Pembroke State University. That stain, as far as I'm concerned, is being associated with the Town of Pembroke. You see, Pembroke is the heart of the Indian community around these parts and is the fastest-growing town in Robeson County. The more Pembroke progresses, the more attention is drawn to the smidgen of Indian-ness that remains at Pembroke State University. Folk can say what they please. But I feel that this is the whole heart of the matter as far as the name change is concerned. It appears a handful of folk seem to have trouble differentiating between the word "Pembroke" and the word "Indian." They equate one word with the other. When they think of Pembroke, they automatically think of Indian. Or, when they think of Indian, they automatically think of Pembroke. I feel that this is why Chancellor Givens and cohorts want to take the "Pembroke" from in front of "Pembroke State University" and put it behind the university, making the name "THE UNIVERSITY OF N.C. at Pembroke." Not "PEMBROKE State University." Heck! It appears to me that the whole university would like to put its rich Indian past as far behind it as humanly possible.

So, symbolically, Givens and folk seem to be sending us cloudy and contaminated smoke signals. Symbolically, they are telling us they want the University to become as far removed from its rich Indian past and roots as possible.

Not because they are mean-spirited people. Heavens, no! It's a matter of good business sense to them, I believe. You see, over 59% of the enrollment at PSU is white. It makes good business sense to cater to the millions of white folk in the state. After all, only 24% of the PSU enrollment is Indian. And there are only some 60,000 Indians in the whole state.

The only danger to this is that far too often while looking forward to the future, if one fails to occasionally glance backwards at where he came from, his character and integrity suffers. Such, I feel, is the case with Pembroke State University.

Now, I ask you: Will you join me in turning a deaf ear to the strange smoke signals emanating from the University? We can do this by calling our legislators and voicing our opposition to the name change. You see, if the UNC Board of Governors recommends the name change, when it meets in November, to the legislature, as I'm sure it will, the cause will be all-but lost.

Or will you become complacent and whitewashed like the Indian members of the PSU Board seemed to do when they went along with Givens? I personally do not ascribe to these folks' seemingly sad and erroneous delusion that minorities need to be led around like puppets on a string.

Heck! I dare say, if Indians of Robeson and elsewhere don't wise up, we run the risk of hanging ourselves with the same string folk have been using for centuries to manipulate us around with. That string, my friends, is ourselves. Think about it!

For the record, here is a list of the Indian members of the PSU Board of Trustees: James Hammonds, Albert Hammonds, Burlin Lowry, Ira Pate Lowry and Grady Oxendine.

As far as I'm concerned, the action of the Indian members of the PSU Board of Trustees voting to recommend the name change adds credence to the old saying: "One rotten apple spoils the barrel."

It's sad. But it's true. Indeed, we are our own worst enemy. We'll talk later, folks.

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

We Cannot Know Where We Are Going If We Don't Know Where We've Been...



So fittingly we honor our Pioneer Fathers

AS I SEE IT



by Bruce Barton

PEMBROKE IS HOME OF PEMBROKE STATE UNIVERSITY

Pembroke is the economic and spiritual capitol of the legendary Lumbee Indian community--and it is also home of Pembroke State University. And PSU Chancellor Paul Givens has problems with those two facts. But he can't escape reality. The name is Pembroke State University, not Lumberton University...or some other, as Givens see it, more melodious sounding place. Too, Pembroke State University's founders were Indians of Robeson County, and no one else. One cannot know where he (or she) is going if they do

not know where they have been. The university's future is wedded to its past. And anyone who attempts to deny that fact is playing a fool's game. The school was initially begun to educate Indians because non Indians did not want us to go to school with them. And we Indians pronounce it "Pem-brook" as the Elizabethans used to say it. I just wish university officials would quit casting aspersions on the name of our town, face reality and put their energies and talents into improving the quality of the school, buttress up the pitiful school spirit, and become part of the community fully by developing a teaching school, deal

resolutely with the housing situation, and happily support Pembroke. We Indians ain't going anywhere, and neither is the school.

Count me as one of those opposed to changing the name of the school again. It is time to quit this silly name game mess and get on with the task of building a quality regional university that all of us can be proud of. Changing the name will not improve the quality of the school; changing the name of the school will not improve attendance at sporting events; nor encourage recalcitrant faculty members and administrators to live in and support the town that hosts the place where they make their decent livings. Only a resolute determination to improve the quality of life can do that, and that includes Pembroke--a good and decent place to live and work and play.

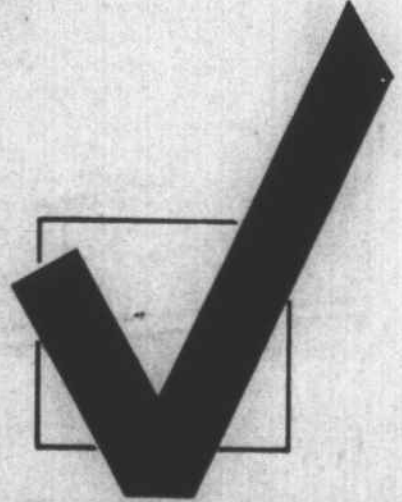
The fact that an Indian made the motion to change the name of the school does not make it acceptable to the majority of us. We know it is subtle racism asserting itself.. and Indians forgetting their noble heritage. It is simply, as I see it, another case of an Indian being used to do a non-Indian's bidding. Count me out!

And where is Pembroke State University located? Why Pembroke, of course. And Pembroke is where it will stay. Always.

A Clear Choice... For A Better Tomorrow

JOIN US

- 1. The Team
2. The Record
3. The Ability



EDMISTEN for GOVERNOR

Exercise Freedom, Vote Tuesday

BE SURE AND VOTE ON TUESDAY. The election Tuesday will not be complete and as meaningful as it ought to be unless you vote. Your vote does count, make no doubt about it. And, of course, vote for who you want to. The tricksters, pollsters, and ideological screamers have had their say. It is our turn now. Tuesday, November 6, is an important day for all of us. Exercise your freedom. Vote!



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