

a figure that PSU had already topped in 1980.

EDITORIAL PAGE

ASI SEE IT



by Bruce Barton

INDIAN STUDENTS LEFT OUT IN THE EDUCATIONAL COLD AT PSU, UNC SYSTEM

It's Catch 22, ironic, crazy even. Indians at PSU are presently counted as "other" or "white," depending on who you are talking to. It's enough to make an Oscar Sampson or L.W. Jacobs roll over in their graves, and make the rest of us stand up and take notice. As my father, Lew Barton, said on the eve of the celebrated and successful "Save Old Main Movement," it is evidence of the further "De-Indianization of Pembroke State University!"

Enrollment figures at Pembroke State read something like this: 24% Indian, 13% Black, and 63% White. If Indians were counted as "minorities," Pembroke State could rightly brag of the most integrated campus in the University System but, alas, that is not the way we are counted. For administrative purposes, Indians at Pembroke State University are counted as "other" or "white," depending on which federal agency is doing the counting.

I finally got my hands on a copy of the famous, or infamous, (depending on one's point of view) consent decree signed by the University of North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Education (formerly a part of HEW). And it is startling, and discriminatory to say the least, to the Indians on campus and in the University System.

The consent decree was forged out of an original suit brought by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) in which the Black-oriented organization charged the University of North Carolina with abridging their civil rights under the 14th Amendment. The consent decree, signed July 17, 1981, set the wheels in motion for an abdication of Indian rights, especially on the Pembroke State University campus. NO ONE SPOKE UP FOR THE INDIAN STUDENT! And the consent decree is simply a Black-White issue, with the Indian left out of the settlement. The Office of Civil Rights of the U.S. Justice

Department counts the Indians at Pembroke State University as "white"; whereas, the U.S. Department of Education, and the University System count them as "other." I don't know which designation offends me more. What about you? It's a sad commentary when we are lumped as "other" even though Indians of Robeson County are the educational fathers of what has become Pembroke State University.

The consent decree demands that the University System raise its enrollment of Black students at traditional "white" schools, and "white" students at traditional "black" schools within the System. Not a word is said about the Indians; they are simply left out in the educational cold.

Pembroke is counted as a "traditional white" university although it was originally begun for and by Indians. It was once the only place an Indian could get an education in Robeson County because non-Indians in Robeson County would not allow Indians to go to school with them. Yet, here we are today counted as "a traditional white" university; it's enough to make an Indian go on the warpath.

Under this decree, Pembroke State must raise its Black enrollment from 12.3% (in 1980) to 15.5% by 1986. That will be PSU's portion of a total gain from 11.2% Minority presence enrollments in traditional white universities to a prescribed 15% system-wide. Conversely, the white minority presence must be raised from its 1980 level of 7.4% at traditional Black universities to 10.6%.

It is interesting that Pembroke State, according to the 1980 figures, already had the most Black students on campus of the traditional "white" universities with 12.3% and must, under the mandate of law, raise that to 15.5%. Comparatively speaking, as a reflection of the 1980 enrollment figures show, the so-called liberal University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill only had 7.8% and was only required to raise their Black student enrollment to 10.9%.

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In Rome, generals sent home messages of their victories on laurel leaves.

Against PSU's Proposed Name Change

To the Editor:

At the present time I am a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Arizona in Education with an emphasis on American Indian Studies. However, first and above all, I am a Lumbee Indian.

Over the past months I've read in the paper a number of views regarding the name change of PSU to UNC at Pembroke. Not once has the Board of Trustees or the Chancellor of PSU presented a sound case that would convince me to support this change. One reason given has been that changing the school from PSU to UNC at Pembroke will possibly increase enrollment. How? I don't see how simply changing the name will increase the enrollment. This "increased enrollment" under efficient management, is accomplished in the area of student recruitment and retention.

Pembroke State was established as an Indian School of Higher Education by our forefathers. The name PSU is recognized throughout this country as an Indian school. By accepting a standard non-Indian name in lieu of "Pembroke State," we stand the chance of losing our identity with the only Native American University in the United States.

My father always says "When people are not doing their job, they place the blame on something else." In this instance, the Chancellor and Board of Trustees point to the name "PSU" as a cause of low enrollment.

Well friends, if you're going to buy this excuse as a valid reason for changing the name of PSU, let me sell you some beachfront property in Tucson, Arizona!!!

Ben Chavis
Tucson, Arizona

Letters Sees Selfishness concerning Possible Merger of Educational Systems

Dear Sir:

You get what you pay for. Much has been said recently pertaining to the merger of the five school systems in Robeson County. Up until a few weeks ago the Lumberton City School System was doing so well with 68.2 percent of the state's local funding per pupil. All at once 100 percent of the state's local funding per pupil will not suffice or bring forth positive results because members of the Lumberton City Board of Education say they will lose influence and control if there is a merger of the five school systems. As I see it, the Lumberton City Board of Education is jockeying for position to set up guidelines and dictate policy for the remainder of Robeson County as far as better education planning. I will not buy their wares.

One board member stated he opposes the merger although he realizes it would be good for the children in the county. The children of Robeson County should be the primary concern of everyone in the realm of education instead of vying for position and or power. One member of the board says they (Lumberton) would have to give up a good bit. I do not think this person knows what is meant by merging the five systems into one. Merging would be the end of district lines and disunity which has led to discontent and contempt throughout Robeson County. Merging would mean that a six year old on the Robeson-Scotland, Robeson-Hoke, Robeson-Cumberland, Robeson-Bladen, Robeson-South Carolina lines would get the same total exposure to better education as the six year old in Fairmont, Red Springs, St. Pauls and Lumberton at the same cost to the taxpayer. You get what you pay for. One board member says a merged system is not likely to return a

dollar for a dollar spent. This of course depends on how said dollar is spent. If these dollars are spent to double the pay to active board members who offer nothing but negative dialect to a worthwhile and meaningful change to improve education in Robeson County is a total loss.

You get what you pay for. Sure there will be an added cost to implement a merged school system. The transition will be the most trying time which can be accomplished over a period of two years if our people are as professional as they would have us believe. With 75 percent of the state per pupil average of local funding the merger can become a reality and the business of better education will be underway at last.

How do we finance this improved educational system in Robeson County? We add another half-cent to the four and one half cent sales tax and channel all of this fifth penny into the school system. We bring the tax valuation to \$1.05 per \$100. After the merger is put in action, Robeson County can bring the funding per pupil to state level of 100 percent with minimal increases in tax revenue over a five year period. As I see it, the state of North Carolina is giving Robeson County a chance to improve their educational situation without the State of North Carolina interfering. If Robeson County fails to bring about this merger and the State of North Carolina brings it about, we will pay for what we get whether we like it or not. I do not favor a referendum at all. We have competent elected officials to handle this situation with professional expertise. Let us not totally disrobe our intellect with negative dialect on this most important issue.

John L. Godwin
Pembroke, NC

Sees Proposed Name Change at PSU as "Pseudo-facade"

Dear Editor:

The North Carolina University System serves to unify the state supported institutions of higher learning for financial and political reasons. The plan is considered one of the finest in the nation. The system is not without flaws. This collective entity has caused an identity crisis among its "elite members."

The UNC System is a "melting pot" of various historical heritages and identities. Some schools have more national recognition in certain fields than others. Yet, each university has a unique element about it.

Pembroke State has been asked to give up its unique identity. Pembroke State University is not the University of

North Carolina. Pembroke State University is a member of the University System of North Carolina. Pembroke State University has a culture heritage that is history. Pembroke State University has a faculty that serves the individual not the masses.

I see the name change as nothing more than a "pseudo-facade" (false front) for an unneeded recognition builder. Pembroke State University has a great deal to offer the nation. Some people need to remove their blinders. The foundation for recognition can be found in all that is Pembroke State University.

An Alumni,
Susan Carol White-Trivette
Laurel Hill, NC

Meeting postponed

Dear Mr. Barton:

As you probably know, the Committee on University Governance of the Board of Governors, acting on request of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, has decided not to have another public hearing on the proposed change of name at Pembroke State University until some time in April.

When the date for the hearing is set, you will be notified.

Cordially,
John P. Kennedy, Jr.



It was once believed that the Devil combs goats' beards for them once a day.



The first letter boxes were erected in Paris in 1653. They probably consisted of nothing more than a wooden box with a slit on top of it.

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RANTING & RAVING WITH Darryl Barton

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

THE STARS ARE OUT, FOLK!

I'm not all that into all this Astrology stuff. Heck no! The only time I was ever interested in which star was aligned up with which star was when gossip had it that star Michael Jackson was aligned up with stunning star Brooke Shields. Shucks! I like to gaze at stars like Brooke Shields, Linda Carter, Dolly Parton, and the likes. But your average, far-away star who hangs out in the sky and only comes out at night don't do a whole lot for me. Oh, no!

But, I dare say stars Michael Jackson, Brooke Shields, Dolly Parton and the like probably don't fit into the sphere of astrology. Heck! Come to think of it, I bet 'ya ol' Dolly Parton has trouble a'fitting into anything the way she's built. Anyway, I dare say no star in the heavens could possibly outshine or out sparkle the dazzling Michael Jackson, the brilliant Brooke Shields or the well endowed Dolly Parton.

At the ripe ol' age of 33, you might say I'm at the stage in my life where I'm more interested in a couple more down-to-earth stars--ol' Father Time and Mother Nature. Heck! In astrological terms I guess you could say ol' Father Time and moody Mother Nature are perfectly aligned at this point in my life. Yea! Age has produced an eclipse in my life, complete with fall out. The fall out I'm a'talking about, folk, is hair. Yep! You guessed it, I'm a'going bald.

Now, I am afflicted with the same condition that plagues a lot of men--vanity. I therefore am not all that thrilled about waking up every morning and instead of worrying about brushing my hair, worrying about shining the top of my head like I do my shoes. Indeed, as each day brings about an increased amount of hair fall out, I find myself more and more interested in fall out shelters (or hats, as you probably know them as).

It would help me cope with my impending baldness if, when you meet me on the streets, you tried not to gaze at my new hairdo which consists of a really wide part down through the middle of my wild and unruly hair.

It's ironic. When I was a young'un I used to fall out with my "nappy" hair. I couldn't do a thing with it (and still can't for that matter). And my wild and uncooperative hair caused me problems most folk wouldn't believe. Like when a brisk breeze comes along. With a normal head of hair, the breeze will blow the hair causing it to stand up momentarily. Then, when the breeze dies down, the hair will lay back down just as pretty as you please. Not so with my hair. When the wind blows my hair, causing it to stand up, it will stand at attention unless I turn around real quick like and pray for another gust of wind or some such force (like a tornado or a blast from a shot gun, or the equivalent thereof) to come along and blow it back down.

Now, sure. That probably don't sound like much of a big deal to you folk with your limp and stringy hair that you couldn't make stand up if you soaked it in starch and ironed it. But it would probably seem a considerable bit more of a problem to you if you were like I was in the early 1960's--an over-sensitive yo' g'un living in Chapel Hill with dark skin who was already scared because he was different from his classmates and just didn't fit in. But, thank God! That was a way back then. Now, afros and "nappy" hair are the trend. So, me and my "naps" fit right in. And I can't help but grin as I see so many folk now scurrying off to beauty parlors, paying exorbitant amounts of money to have their hair "napped" up.

I guess what had me so screwed up as a young'un in Chapel Hill had a lot to do with my cruel light-skinned classmates. Young'uns (of all colors) can be so cruel anyway. Like one especially smart aleck who said my hair reminded him of the post office. "How's that?" I wanted to know, fishing desperately for a compliment. "Because," he smirked, "like mailmen, each of your hairs has a different route."

Or there was this other one who never talked about how long my hair was. With him, it was always how high or wide my hair was. And he didn't talk about cutting my hair. He talked about mowing it as if he was a'talking about mowing grass or something. Speaking of cutting hair, another one told a pack of snickering young'uns that I got my hair cut at Tar Heel Welding Company. The reason for this, he said, was because I needed a blow torch to cut it.

I just wish a smart scientist could get a grant to research and isolate the hormone responsible for growing hair under a man's arm. Then perhaps a concentrate of the stuff could be developed. And we balding fellas could put some of the stuff in a hyperdermic needle, give ourselves a shot in the top of our head, and presto! We'd have hair. Of course, there'd probably be some side affects. Like there'd probably be a musky odor to it. Or the top of our heads would probably sweat a lot. But who cares.

Speaking of "nappy" hair reminds me of a not-too-bright child who had some smart remarks to make to me about a gold baseball cap I got once from the NAPA Wholesale Auto Parts store here in Pembroke. "NAPA" is an acronym for a name brand of auto parts. So, the cap had "NAPA" in real big letters splattered on the front of the cap.

"Nappy," this bright child incorrectly pronounced the acronym "NAPA." "Shucks! I don't think I'd advertise it if my hair was as 'nappy' as yours."

We'll talk later folk. Meanwhile, keep looking to the stars!

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Many of you have heard people say from time to time that people just don't love one another as they did years ago. Well, we personally know different. There is a bountiful supply of that same kind of love in and around Robeson County. Many times we are all so busy in our daily activities that it takes a tragedy for us to stop and show that love.

So, from the very depths of our hearts, we just want to say thank you to everyone for all your expressions of love and kindness and may God richly bless each of you.

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