



PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges  
In A Tri-racial Setting."

ROBESON COUNTY

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THURSDAY, JULY

## A Front Page Editorial

# The Carolina Indian Voice says 'No!' to County Schools Merger Vote

The state senate last Friday gave final approval to a bill that would let Robeson County voters decide whether to merge the county's five school systems...or not. The house had previously passed the bill on July 7 after inserting an amendment stating "...that student assignments made under this act shall be done with an effort to maximize the community school concept."

The bill provides for a merger referendum to be held March 8, 1988, with a merger of the five systems (Robeson County, Lumberton, Red Springs, Fairmont and St. Pauls) to be effective July 1, 1989 if successfully approved by the voters of Robeson County. Legislators (Senator David Parnell and Representatives Danny DeVane, Pete Hasty and Sidney Locks) prepared the bill at the request of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners.

As we see it, readers, this particular piece of legislation is a sham and the Carolina Indian Voice cries out, resoundingly, and, editorially, "No!" We editorially suggest that the voters (partially Indians) reject this unstatesman-like piece of legislative drivel on March 8, 1988.

Ask any citizen-Red, Black or white- of Robeson County: should all children receive a fair and equitable education? And the reply will be an affirmative and resounding "Yes!" But Robesonians (especially Indians) should not be expected to support a piece of legislation like this particular bill that robs them of electoral input and reduces the affairs of education to the electioneering shenanigans of the politicians.

First of all, Robeson County is subject to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and other federal legislation, because of past, proven racial discrimination. No law can be enacted into law that effects Robesonians electorally unless the U.S. Justice Department approves before hand. As far as we know, the bill has not been pre-cleared by the appropriate civil rights bodies, nor has there been appropriate public hearings concerning what is in the bill. No bill effecting a Robesonian's vote can arbitrarily be passed into law without public hearings and pre-clearance from the U.S. Justice Department.

Secondly, the Robeson County School Unit has 14,499 students; more than 50% of the 24,334 students enrolled in the five school systems. Lumberton has 4,227; Fairmont, 2,233; Red Springs, 1,827; and St. Pauls, 1,548 (according to the final average daily membership 1984-85 per the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. More current figures will not change appreciably, according to unofficial totals.)

In spite of the above information, the county schools' attendance zones would not be represented equitably and fairly, as we see it. According to the bill, the make-up of "The Public Schools of Robeson County" (the recommended name for the proposed merged unit) Board of Education would only include 5 possible Indians out of a proposed 15 member board. As we see it, Indians would be short-changed in the make up of such an interim board, and Indians should reject legislation that takes a whole-loaf (the present county board made up of 6

Indians, 3 blacks, and 2 whites has an Indian chairman, Dr. Dalton Brooks, and an Indian Superintendent, Purnell Swett.) and hands them, in turn, at the most, a third of a loaf.

The proposed interim board would include Dr. Gilbert Carroll (recently retired as superintendent of the Lumberton City Schools) and John Barker (presently chairman of the Lumberton Schools' board of education) as chairman. Guess who the "vice-chairman" is? You've probably already guessed- Dr. Dalton Brooks, the present chairman of the county school board. This is the red flag, editorially, as we see it. Indians and Blacks would once again, as history reminds us, be relegated to "vice chairman" this or "vice president" that. Condescension and patronization would once again be the law of the land. Children would not, as we see it, receive an appreciable improvement in their educational offerings under a system that would rob Indians and Blacks of less than they already have politically and educationally.

Thirdly, under this proposed bill, the legislators would be responsible for naming four members of an eventual 13 member board of education. Can you imagine the political shenanigans deriving from such an arrangement? The make up of any board of education should be chosen directly by the voters of Robeson County, as we see it.

Until the politicians (most notably the county commissioners, the respective boards of education, and the legislators quit playing political games with us, we recommend editorially that this latest legislative charade be rebuffed on March 8, 1988.

As we see it, the county schools system should continue to insist that city school systems like Lumberton return illegally-gained territories like Lakewood Estates etc. and incorporate themselves as part of a county schools system already in place.

And, finally, county commissioners and legislators should lead the people, and not follow in the wake of their provincial and discriminatory political waters. Our elected officials already have the tools to effect a fair and equitable merged school system: they should use the power we have already given them at the ballot box. In the meantime, many of us here in Robeson County refuse to be moved about like political chess pieces. We simply will vote "no" until a fair proposal is put upon the table.....unlike this latest piece of legislative sleight of hand that stinks to the high heavens.

And, as a final note, let the record show that 75% of the combined student enrollment of the five school units in Robeson County is non-white (specifically Indians and Blacks). The superintendent and majority of a merged board of education must reflect that reality: anything less is unacceptable. A districting scheme must reflect that 75%. If not, the merger plan is doomed and they must return to the drawing board to come up with a more equitable plan. If they do not do so, The Carolina Indian Voice says "NO!" to the upcoming county schools merger vote. We pray that you will concur with this editorial stance.

## WINS GOLDEN POET AWARD



o'clock, at the Las Vegas Hilton, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Then, during our Golden Banquet at 7:30 p.m. after John Campbell has presented a special program in your honor, you will participate in our fabulous Golden Parade, complemented by the World of Poetry Orchestra. The evening promises to be so spectacular, World Television will be there to record the event.

Many poets are coming to our convention alone; many with guests. Either way, we can accommodate you. I have enclosed a copy of our May-June newsletter which outlines every detail of our convention. In addition, it will show you how to register, how to make hotel and airline reservations-all at special convention discounts.

There will be so many poets and celebrities to meet, like Milton Berle. There will be so many wonderful things to do, so many things to experience and learn. As a Golden Poet, you'll want to pick one of your best poems to enter in our Convention Poetry Contest. I am almost 80-years young and it would do my heart good to see you win one of our ten \$1,000 First Prizes, or indeed our \$15,000 Grand Prize, and be crowned our Poet Laureate for 1987. It could happen. Just ask Jeanne Losey who won last year!

"If I can be of further help, please let me hear from you. In Love and Admiration,

EDDIE-LOU COLE Poetry Editor

Smith wrote the poem CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE from her experience from the Santa Claus point of view to the true meaning of Christmas-which is Christ. The poem is dedicated to her parents, Thurman Locklear of Pembroke and the late Velma Sampson Locklear.

Helen Smith, poet, is shown with her GOLDEN POET AWARD.



CHRISTOPHER HUNT



The Torch Run from Lumberton to Red Springs was coordinated through the Lumberton and Pembroke Chambers of Commerce. Greg Cummings, President of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, served as chairperson for the Torch Run through Pembroke.

Jeff Cushing, a 1975 graduate of Pembroke State University, and the track and cross country coach at Lumberton High School, organized the Lumberton runners. Between towns each runner carried the torch on mile, then relayed the torch to the next runner on the list.

In June the Olympic Festival Torch was carried by jet from Colorado to Wilmington. It is being carried in zig zag fashion across North Carolina and is scheduled to reach the Triangle Area in time for opening ceremonies of the U.S. Olympic Festival '87. The Olympic Festival develops future Olympic stars.

Shown holding the torch, left, is Greg Cummings, president of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce. Holding the torch, right, is Milton Hunt, Mayor of the Town of Pembroke. [Photo by Hunt's Studio of Photography, Bill Hunt photographer]

## PEMBROKE ADOPTS \$1,183,565 BUDGET No Tax Increase, Modest Increase In Utility Rates

Pembroke- The Pembroke Town Council met on June 29, 1987 and adopted its 1987-1988 budget totaling \$1,183,565. The present tax rate of 73c per \$100 valuation remains unchanged, although a "modest increase," as town Manager McDuffie Cummings termed it, of 14 percent in utility rates was approved. Cummings noted that the complete loss of General Revenue Sharing and funding of the town's Law Enforcement Retirement System as approved by the General Assembly during its last session precipitated the increase in utility rates. Additionally, each employee of the town was given a five percent cost of living increase.

Cummings concluded in his budget message that "efforts toward revitalization of our commercial and residential areas in our town continue to be a financial goal. For these purposes, but not included in this budget, is a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$598,741.00. It is important that commercial, residential, and industrial growth continue, and that state and federal resources be used to assist with its development when they are available. The budget was officially acted into law by Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt and Councilmen Henry Ward Oxendine, Vernon Oxendine, J.C. Thomas and Larry T. Brooks.

## 20 North Carolinians Named Board of Governors Medical Scholars

Chapel Hill--President C.D. Spangler, Jr. of the University of North Carolina has announced the selection of 20 winners of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Medical Scholarships for 1987-88.

Established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1974, the scholarship program is designed to improve opportunities in medical education for minorities and needy students. This year's winners include fourteen black students, three white students and two Indians and one Asian.

Scholarships may be used for study at Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University, Duke University School of Medicine, East Carolina University School of Medicine, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. Each scholarship provides full payment of tuition and mandatory fees plus an annual stipend of \$5000.

The 1987-88 Board of Governors Medical Scholarship

recipients and the institutions they plan to attend are as follows: Alan Dickens of Greenville and Kiara Eily of Roxboro will attend Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University.

Paul Edwards of Fayetteville will attend Duke University School of Medicine. Neal Brickhouse of Columbia, Quentin Eaton of Greenville, Victoria Grady of Durham, Drew Jones of Durham, Jeffrey Strawn of Marshville, and Scott Waguespack of Greenville will attend East Carolina University School of Medicine.

Trella Cooper of Winston Salem, Angela Ferebee of Carrboro, Willie Guion of Durham, Robert Hatch of Durham, Christopher Hunt of Pembroke, Michael Isley of Greensboro, Anthony Jenkins of Selma, Angela Moore of Southern Pines, Connie Phillips of Fayetteville, Danny Silver of Hollister and Ellen Smith of Durham will attend the UNC School of Medicine at Chapel Hill.

Christopher Hunt is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade C. Hunt Pembroke.

## local bulletin

### PEMBROKE POST 205 WINS BUT FORFEITS GAME AND SEASON

Although Pembroke Post 205 pitcher Marlon Hunt limited Fayetteville Post 202 to five hits, three runs, and struck out 16 in a 4-3 Pembroke win last Thursday night, the season came to an abrupt end when a Fayetteville protest that Hunt had pitched more than the 12 innings allowed by the American Legion within 72 hours was upheld.

Hunt's nine innings, combined with 3 1/2 innings last Tuesday night, put him over the American Legion 12-inning limit for 72 hours or three consecutive games, forcing Pembroke to forfeit the game.

Consequently, Pembroke ends its season with a 14-10 mark instead of getting a chance to win the rubber game of the best-of-five series later in Fayetteville. Fayetteville, 19-5 after the forfeit, wins the series 3-1 and will meet Hamlet Post 49, a 3-1 winner in its best-of-five series with Moore County Post 350, in the second round of the Area II Western Division playoffs.

"It's just a hell of a way to get knocked out of the playoffs," Post 205 coach Ronnie Chavis said. "I'm numb. I hate to see the kids knocked out of the playoffs because of the coach's stupidity. We all know the rules. I know the rules."

### LEE MCRAE FASTEST AT WORLD GAMES

Zabreb, Yugoslavia-The track events got underway Tuesday in the World University Games.

Competition began in the men's 100 meters with Lee McRae, a former West Robeson High School star, winning his heat easily in 10.41.

### JOHNSON WINS SEAT ON UNC BOARD

Raleigh-Former Representative Joy J. Johnson of Fairmont, and a former member of the N.C. Parole Commission, has been appointed to the minority slot of the UNC Board of Governors.

Johnson, a Baptist minister, was chosen for the prestigious position and replaces incumbent Rev. E.B. Turner of Lumberton.

### AUCTION AT TABERNAACLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEHALF OF WAYNE SWETT

An auction will be held Saturday night, beginning at 7 p.m., at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Highway 711, near Lumberton. The auction is being held to help Wayne Swett secure enough funds to attend the U.S. Special Olympics at South Bend, Indiana.

### GOVERNOR APPOINTS BIGGS TO RTC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Governor Jim Martin has appointed H. Franklin Biggs, Sr. of Lumberton to the Robeson Technical College Board of Trustees. Biggs replaces Jane B. Silver, and will serve until June 30, 1991.

Biggs majored in law and economics at Wake Forest College, and is the former owner of Biggs Mutual Insurance Agency and Biggs Coin Laundries.

He is a member of the Lumberton Rotary Club, North Carolina Retail Merchants Association and North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry.

The RTC Board of Trustees advises the administration on policy matters and adopts the rules and regulations which govern the school. Eight of the 13 members are named by the Board of Governors and four are appointed by the governor, with the president of the student body serving as an ex-officio member.

### COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

The Robeson County Recreation and Park Commission first round County Little League North District Tournament scored as follows:

- Brisson Drug defeated Jones Texaco 8-2
- Mueller Steam defeated Allenton Dodgers 15-4
- Wachovia Bank defeated Lumberton Nissan 13-0
- Central Tire defeated St. Pauls Amoco 17-1
- Robeson Plant defeated Progressive Savings and Loan 7-0
- St. Pauls Plant defeated Parkton A's 10-0
- UCB defeated Parkton Dodgers 7-0
- Rex Rennert, Reds defeated St. Pauls Drugs 7-1.

### PSHS CLASS OF 1982 PLANS REUNION

The 1982 graduating class of Pembroke Senior High School is planning a five-year reunion. Class members are asked to send their name and address by July 31, 1987 to P.O. Box 41801, Fayetteville, NC 28309, or call (919)864-7921 Monday-Thursday after 7 p.m. for more information.

### LOCAL STUDENTS IN CANCER SCIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM IN BUFFALO NY

Two juniors from PSU are taking part in the 34th annual "Summer Research Participation Program in Science" at Roswell Park Memorial Institute, the New York State Health Department's comprehensive cancer center in Buffalo, and the first and one of the largest cancer research centers in the world.

The students are Lorie Ann Sampson of Route 2, Pembroke and Ann D. Locklear of Route 1, Rowland.

The program, which began June 8 for college students and June 22 for high school students, exposes the students to an atmosphere of intensive research by combining actual laboratory experience under staff supervision, with lectures, seminars, and scientific talks.

Dr. Edwin A. Mirand, Associate Director and Science Program Director, said that Lorie Sampson and Ann Locklear are two of 70 students who were selected from more than 400 throughout the United States "on the basis of demonstrable aptitudes in science and an imagination and discipline in methods of scientific investigation."

Lorie is concentrating on purification of DNA from paraffin embedded human tissue of desmoid tumors at Roswell Park and is looking forward to applying this knowledge in furthering her career as a biomedical researcher. Lorie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sampson.

Ann, who is studying to be a biomedical researcher is concentrating on uric acid oncology research, at the Institute. She is the daughter of Ms. Judy Locklear.

Joint support for the high school program is provided by the New York State Department of Health, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Science Foundation.