

The Carolina Indian Voice

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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson County

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LRDA Endorses Oxendine For PSU Chancellor

The Board of Directors of Lumbee Regional Development Association went on record at the Feb. 27th board meeting endorsing the selection of Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine for the position of Chancellor of Pembroke State University.

Dr. Oxendine was one of the final three candidates for the position when last filled by the UNC Board of Governors and is immensely qualified for the position.

Pembroke State University has a unique legislative and historical legacy as it has sought to reach out to the local community in which it resides.

The LRDA Board recognized this legacy and expressed through its resolution the pride that is shared in the community by those who appreciate PSU's legacy and role for the disadvantaged and that there is a candidate of local community and educational roots who is qualified and stands ready to return to lead such a fine institution to further greatness.

The resolution of the Board also expressed that the selection of Dr. Oxendine would have an added benefit of reflecting greater state-wide equity in the number of minorities holding chancellor positions in the 16 UNC system institutions.

One of the roles of a university or institution is to help promote,

preserve and enhance the history, culture and traditions of the community in which it is located.

With this in mind, the Board in its decision expressed the ancient Indian proverb that to "understand who I am you must first walk a mile in my moccasins."

The endorsement of Dr. Oxendine acknowledges that he has walked in the local citizen's "moccasins" because his roots are in Robeson County and go back to a time when those "miles" were much more difficult to walk by the poor of all races.

His vast understanding educationally of the world outside Robeson and adjoining counties needs to be brought home to bear fruit for new greatness at PSU.

Dr. Oxendine is the former Dean and Founder of the College of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance at Temple University and is currently a professor in the Education Department of Physical Education at that institution.

The finalist will be selected by the PSU Chancellor Search Committee and presented to the PSU Board of Trustees who will present two or three top choices to the Chancellor of the UNC System. The Board of Governors will make the final selection decision.

Submitted by LRDS Staff

STRIKE AT THE WIND! HIRES NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

by David Thaggard, Office Manager
Strike at the Wind

Pembroke-The Board of Directors of Robeson Historical Drama is pleased to announce the hiring of a new Managing Director. Mr. Ken Conner will assume the Managing Producer's responsibilities for "Strike at the Wind" on March 1, 1989.

Currently, Mr. Conner is living in Winston-Salem, NC where he is employed with an audio-visual electronics firm. He also maintains an avid freelance career within various capacities of the professional theatre. He has extensive experience working as an actor, stage manager, designer, director, and producer. His acting credits include roles in: "Inherit the Wind," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Lysistrata," "The Philadelphia Story," and many others in regional productions and children's theatre tours. He followed his love for adventure to performance as Ivan Kuskov in "Cry of the Wild Ram", Alaska's only outdoor historical drama.

In 1986, Conner was hired as the Interim Managing Producer for the Winston-Salem Little Theatre at a time of severe financial crisis. His hiring came under the guidelines set forth by a management consultant after the crisis was realized. He succeeded in stabilizing operations with the cooperation of the Board of Directors and produced the extraordinarily successful "Peter Pan."

He is a 1980 graduate in Theatre from Radford University in Radford, VA, and has completed the "Managing the Arts" program offered through UNC-Chapel Hill. Mr. Conner is also an accomplished writer and has experience in advertising and public relations.

"I believe it is extremely important to understand as many of the different aspects of theatre as possible, whether from a performance or from a production perspective. The theatre is such an inter-related art form...there are so many variables that need to cooperate

smoothly to make a production successful. This cooperation is the 'magic' of live theatre," he said. "I found myself interested in so many aspects both production and performance that I could not limit my focus to any one area. This ultimately led towards management, which allows interaction with all the different areas," he said.

Mr. Conner also has an avid interest in the American Indian culture. He was co-leader of a transcontinental bicycle tour in 1976, and he had the occasion to stay with various tribes during the course of the trip. "I have always been fascinated with the rich, proud culture of the American Indian. Unfortunately, their history has been troubled with many difficulties. My studies and traveling made me very aware of, and sensitive to, the Indian perspective of life..."

Another point of interest is that Conner was the first white actor in an leading role with the North Carolina Black Repertory Company. (He played the "Doctor" in "Medal of Honor Rag".) He subsequently worked with NCBRC as production stage manager during four other productions.

"When I first learned of this position with 'Strike at the Wind', I was intrigued with the description of the Tri-racial community where the show is staged. Since then, I have learned there are some rather unique challenges associated with this historical drama--challenges revolving around the divergent cultural and ethnic influences within the community. Apparently, there is an active and concerned Board of Directors, strong community support for the show itself, and a broad cultural appeal for your audiences. I see a great potential for growth with the production as well as the ability to achieve national and international prestige. I look forward to meeting more people in the community, and the opportunity to work toward the future of 'Strike at the Wind,'" he concluded.

Methodist Church and Willie Scott, Jr., Pastor of New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church, will be the guest speakers. The public is encouraged to come worship. There will be special music each night. James H. Woods is pastor.



Running Waters Singers from Cumberland County

Pow Wow Is Highlight Of Indian Unity Conference

by I.H. Hawk

Probably now more than ever before, more Indians than ever participate in pow wow activities in North Carolina and across the nation. I recently looked at the pow wow schedule and beginning in April, the pow wows begin and start winding down in November. At the pow wow at the Indian Unity Conference there was probably the best representation by various members and tribes that have ever been. It looked to me to be the largest number of dancers ever.

The excellent representation of our senior traditional dancers was most impressive. Ray Littleturtle was at his best as Pow Wow Master of Ceremonies and Traditional Guide. The success of any pow wow, however, is the primary responsibility of the Drum Group. The singing by the Running Water Drum is some of the best I have heard in a long long time. Running Water Drum sings in a Northern Style, so their songs are high pitched and their voices just

slice the air. I have watched this group for many years. Many of the group are competition dancers and winners in their styles of Indian dancing. When you hear them sing, however, you have experienced a very sweet and lovely audible treat. It has taken many drum sessions and a lot of practice to get to the level of accomplishment this group has attained. Backed up by the sweet voices of its women singers and with the fine drumming and singing of its men drummers, Running Waters Singers do a terrific job. Thank you so much, Running Water Singers, for your excellent help and strong commitment to traditional Indian singing on behalf of Indian nations in the state of North Carolina. You did a job well done. The group is from Cumberland County.

To cap it all off, the entire pow wow was dedicated to Princess Christie Woods. She said that it was one of the most exciting things that had ever happened to her. Truly, the pow wow was the high light of the 1989 Indian Unity Conference.



Pow Wow Master of Ceremonies Ray Littleturtle is shown with one of the featured speakers at the Indian Unity Conference, Jo Jo Hunt, Executive Director, National Advisory Council on Indian Education

LUMBEE FEDERAL RECOGNITION COUNCIL FORMED AT N.C. INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE

Recently a group of Lumbee Indian activists met together at the Indian Unity Conference in Fayetteville, NC. They began to discuss the issue of Federal Recognition. They pondered the lack of good strong interest on the issues of federal recognition among the Lumbee. Many of the group said that they had noticed an awareness of federal recognition by the Lumbee, but they had not yet detected a strong burning, fervent desire to participate, take part, be actively involved in the efforts for federal recognition. The group thought

that there was too much of a laid-back attitude by their fellow Lumbees. Realizing that the Lumbee Bill has already been before Congress once and did not pass with a very fervent effort on the first try, the group feels that it is imperative that the Lumbee Bill make it through Congress in its next attempt. Also, realizing that many in this group have many years of experience in Indian affairs, pow wows, pow wow consultants, and have contacts with Indians from across the nation,

they felt that it was time to combine their effort and expertise in a huge and massive form to ensure the fight for Lumbee Federal Recognition, Tribal Council Government, Tribal Constitution, and Full Fledged Federal Indian Status with full federal benefits. The Lumbee Federal Recognition Council not only sees the need in federal recognition, but is also aware of the need for Lumbees to become more active on the local front, poverty, unemployment, the breakup of the family, our children, continued progress in educational, political activism, and most importantly, of the need for a continued strong spiritual base. A little saying came out of the Saturday morning meeting of the Unity Conference. "If it is to be, it is up to me." By the grace of god and His Power and of His Might, if the Lumbee are to have federal recognition, it will be most certainly up to us and our united efforts as Lumbees. Support the Lumbee Federal Recognition Council, P.O. Box 2502, Pembroke, NC 28372.

by I.H. Hawk

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO BE HELD FOR JULIAN PIERCE & JOHN GODWIN

A County-wide Memorial Service will be held for Julian Pierce, John Godwin, and for those who have died violent deaths in Robeson County. The Candlelight Memorial Service will be held on Easter Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Prospect United Methodist Church. The Memorial Service is being sponsored by the Concerned Citizens for Better Government.

The loss of Julian Pierce and John Godwin caused great sorrow for Indian and non-Indian people. Their leadership and courage was a guiding light and inspiration to people throughout Robeson County and North Carolina. Their loss is still being felt today after a year of

turnout and confusion. Memories and stories of Julian Pierce and John Godwin will continue to grow with the passing of time. On the first anniversary of their journey to the Spirit World, the Memorial Service provides the opportunity to remember, to offer thanks, and celebrate their gifts and contributions.

Both Pierce and Godwin believed in the power of non-violent change. The Memorial Service will provide a time to remember those who have died from violence--the very thing they so adamantly opposed. This Memorial will serve as a healing force for the past, present and future.

The public is invited to attend.

Auditions for 1989 Season Of 'Strike at the Wind' This Weekend

Auditions for the 1989 season of "Strike at the Wind" will be held on Saturday, March 25 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sunday, March 26, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

All acting parts are available.

David Oxendine of New York, formerly of Pembroke, will return as director. Auditions for the 1989 season will be held at the Amphitheatre on the site of "Strike at the Wind." The public is encouraged to participate.

LRDA TERMINATES MISS NORTH CAROLINA PAGEANT FRANCHISE

by LRDA Staff

In 1975 LRDA applied for and obtained a franchise for Miss Lumbee to participate in the Miss N.C. Pageant, a preliminary pageant to the Miss America Pageant.

This franchise contract was the official entry process for a representative from Robeson County to be in the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

The franchise also had other covenants in which it required that since the Miss Lumbee Pageant was a preliminary pageant to the Miss North Carolina Pageant, Miss Lumbee could not in turn participate as a contestant in any other local, state or national pageants during her reign.

On February 27, 1989, the Board of Directors of LRDA voted to terminate its franchise with the North Carolina Pageant Association for the Miss Lumbee Pageant.

This franchise termination means that the 1989-90 Miss Lumbee will not be in the Miss North Carolina Pageant, but will be a contestant in the Miss Indian North Carolina Pageant and possibly also the Miss Indian USA Pageant held in Washington, D.C. at the Lincoln Performing Arts Center which is emceed by Bert Parks, formerly of the Miss America Pageant.

The Miss Indian USA Pageant offers over \$60,000 in prizes and awards for the winner, who travels nationally representing all Native Americans.

By withdrawing from the North Carolina Pageant, LRDA was informed if another entity in Robeson County picked up the franchise, girls

of all races can compete for the Miss Robeson County crown.

How will this affect the Miss Lumbee Pageant? Basically very little initially. The plan is to adopt the theme for the Miss Lumbee Pageant that the Miss Indian USA Pageant uses. The theme is "She Walks in Two Worlds."

The Miss Lumbee Pageant will move to implement this theme gradually over the next three (3) years which will require contestants to be judged using modern and traditional Indian elements such as dress or talent.

For example, in the Miss Lumbee Pageant for 1989 only an Indian dress category may be added as the only "She Walks in Two Worlds" element. In 1990, a traditional talent and dress may be required as well as modern elements.

All of this is in preliminary planning stages currently with the 1989 Miss Lumbee Planning Committee and nothing is concrete yet as to any point or category changes for 1989.

However, if a new point category is added such as Indian dress, LRDA will make available to contestants' consultants in this area.

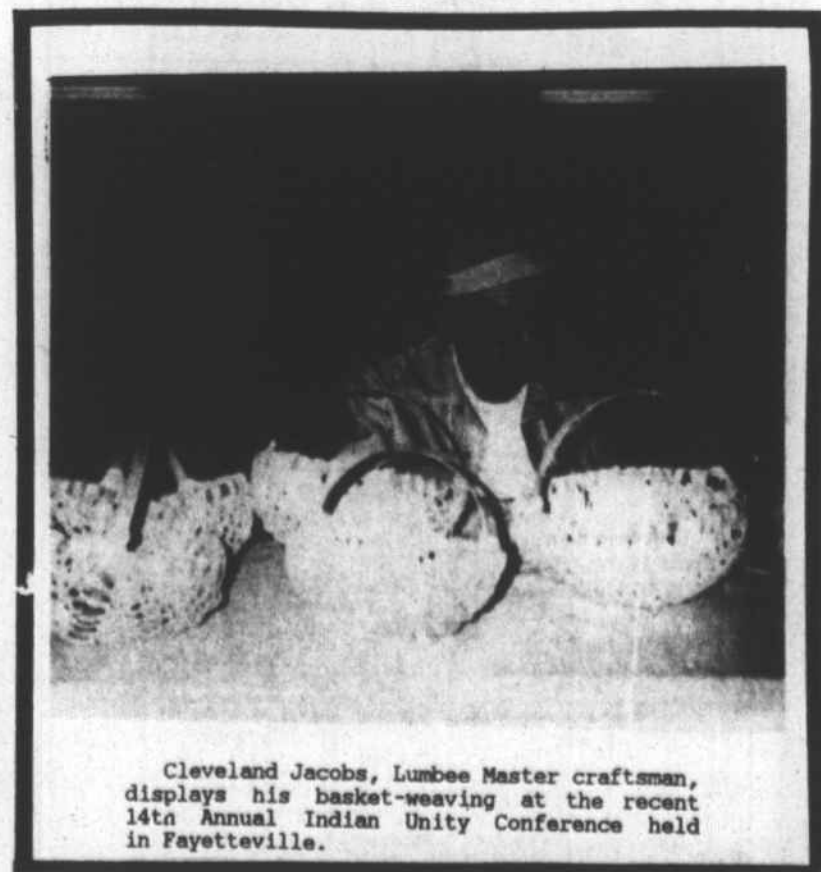
With the tribe moving toward Federal Recognition, LRDA's decision directs that the Lumbee reach out to enhance greater Lumbee involvement in events that other Federally Recognized Tribes participate in to bridge the cultural gap and identify with other Indian nations that make up what is known as Indian country.

Revival Planned At New Bethel Holiness Methodist Church

Revival services are planned at New Bethel Holiness Methodist Church beginning March 26-31, 1989. Sunday night service will begin at 7 p.m. and week night services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Evangelists Robert L. Mangum, pastor of Prospect United

Methodist Church and Willie Scott, Jr., Pastor of New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church, will be the guest speakers. The public is encouraged to come worship. There will be special music each night. James H. Woods is pastor.



Cleveland Jacobs, Lumbee Master craftsman, displays his basket-weaving at the recent 14th Annual Indian Unity Conference held in Fayetteville.