

The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson County

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1989

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 16

25¢ PER COPY

Oxendine Named PSU Chancellor



Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine

Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine was elected Chancellor of Pembroke State University last Thursday by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. UNC President C.D. Spangler, Jr. presented Oxendine's name to the board for approval at a special April meeting in Pinehurst. Oxendine, who will assume his new post July 1, 1989 succeeds Paul Givens, who will retire June 30 after ten years as chancellor.

Oxendine, 59, is a native of Catawba College, he later attended Boston University, where he earned both his master's and doctorate. He was a teaching fellow at the university for two years.

Oxendine joined the faculty at

Temple University in Philadelphia in 1959. From 1974 to 1981, he served as the first dean of Temple's College of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance before returning to full-time teaching. Under Oxendine's leadership, the number of students enrolled in the college doubled from 600 to 1,200, and four separate academic departments offering programs through the doctoral level evolved.

Before beginning his doctoral studies, Oxendine was a public school teacher and athletic coach in Lynchburg, Virginia. He also served in the U.S. Army and for three summers was a professional baseball player in the Pittsburgh Pirates' minor league system.

Oxendine has authored three books and has contributed chapters to several others. A consulting editor for American Educators Encyclopedia, he is active in a number of professional associations. Among his many awards and honors are an honorary doctorate from Catawba College and the Alumni Award for Distinguished Public Service from Boston University.

Oxendine is married to the former Adrienne McNaughton of Philadelphia. They have two children: James Thomas, 21, a first-year law student at Syracuse, and Jean Marie, 21, a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill majoring in psychology and recreation therapy.



Shown last Thursday at Pinehurst where the UNC Board of Governors unanimously voted Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine (third from left) as new chancellor of Pembroke State University are: (left to right) Ruth Dial Woods, who made the motion that UNC President C.D. Spangler's recommendation of Oxendine as Chancellor be accepted; Wayne Evans, chairman of the PSU Chancellor Search Committee; Oxendine; Mrs. Oxendine; Rev. Joy Johnson, who seconded Mrs. Woods' motion; and Reginald McCoy. Woods, Johnson and McCoy are all members of the UNC Board of Governors.

and we're going to do it.

"One other thing. You all know something about the tradition, the origin of Pembroke State University. Growing up as a Lumbee Indian, I knew it as an all-Indian school. It started as an all-Indian school. It's not that now--and never will be again--and never should be. But we are going to remember that aspect of the University. We're going to have pride in the ethnic diversity of that University. No one is going to be hurt there. Everyone is going to be encouraged. We are unique. There's no other univer-

sity in the nation that has the kind of percentages, the kinds of diversity that we have. We are going to be proud of it. We're going to give visibility to it. We're not going to deny it. We're not going to allow anyone to be put down. I guarantee you that all groups are going to receive recognition. I intend to devote lots of attention to that.

"Just a few days ago, I got acquainted with the Board's recent policy on American Indians. I'm delighted with that. I ask for your continued support in that area. I will be studying that document

and studying the University over the next few months in an effort to develop clarity and ways to implement that policy most effectively--and I ask for your continued support for American Indians and other groups in that area.

"Mr. President, I commit myself to you and the Board and the University. I'm going to make you proud of me. I'm a team player. And I ask for your continued support at a Board of Governors, your support, Mr. President; and I thank you all."

RAF looks at the county's Affirmative Action Plan

by Connee Brayboy

The Affirmative Action Policy and Plan for Robeson County has no mention of when the Plan was adopted by the county. If the plan has no date of adoption, according to Mitchell Locklear reasonable to assume there is no implementation of the plan.

Locklear and Jennifer Mickles are employed by the Rural Advancement Fund's Justice Project. They are working toward the advancement of employment opportunities for minorities in the county. They have been compiling statistics on the racial and salary breakdown of county employees. Thus far, they have discovered that Blacks and Indians are woefully underemployed by the county. They discovered also that those Blacks and Indians who are employed by the county are among the lowest paid.

"It is not enough to realize the bleakness of the minority employment in the county," Mickles said, "we must understand why the statistics are so and work to correct the problem."

The logical step is to look at the Affirmative Action Plan itself, and the seeming lack of implementation of the plan. "The plan itself states that a 'Statement of Policy and this Plan will be communicated to all county employees and applicants,'" said Locklear. "The dissemination Policy covers seven points," Mickles interjected, "but it appears that the only one adhered to is the one that states all employment advertisements shall indicate that the county is an equal opportunity employer."

Both Locklear and Mickles find the Affirmative Action Plan itself an interesting document. Locklear especially found this section interesting: LABOR FORCE EMPLOYMENT STATUS (ROBESON COUNTY 1973-1975):

"The labor force in Robeson County in 1973 was 36,310 comprised of 17,900 (49.5 percent) whites; 7,950 (21.9 percent) Blacks; 10,370 (28.6 percent) OTHER RACES; 160 (0.4 percent) Spanish-Americans. The total labor force participation was 42.8 percent of population. Employment in the area total 34,580 with 17,380 (50.3 percent) whites at work; 7,400 (21.4 percent) Blacks at work; 9,800 (28.3 percent) OTHER RACES at work; and 150 (0.4 percent) Spanish Americans at work.

"Unemployment in 1973 totaled 1,730 or 4.8 percent of the labor force. The unemployment rates by race groups were: whites-3.4 percent; Blacks-6.9 percent; OTHER RACES-5.5 percent; Spanish-Americans-6.3 percent; minority group-6.1 percent. The statistics provided are not indicative of isolated pocket situations of unemployment in the county, but reflect aggregate totals."

The Policy continues by saying: "Robeson County has a total permanent full time employment of 333 employees with whites constituting-201 (60.4 percent); Blacks-77 (23.1 percent); OTHER RACES-55 (16.5 percent)." Today's figures are 51.5 percent white; 20.5 percent Black; and 28 percent Indian.

"These figures," Locklear said, "are certainly outdated. I find it almost incomprehensible that Indians are referred to in the county's affirmative action plans as OTHERS."

In making recommendations to correct county employment problems, Mickles recommends that the county freeze hiring until an Affirmative Action Plan is not only adopted by the county commissioners, but also implementation has begun.

"The county commissioners really need to take a look at the affirmative action plan under which the county's hiring is done," Mickles said. "It is obvious that we cannot expect any real solutions until the Plan itself is evaluated by the county commissioners. When they evaluated the plan, I am confident they will make the necessary revisions to rectify the overall problems surrounding county employment. In addition to evaluation of the current plan," she continued, "there needs to be a comprehensive, workable plan that encompasses all people in Robeson County."

Both Locklear and Mickles are optimistic that the failure of the county to hire and promote minorities is something that will be rectified in the near future. Their first step will be to present their information to the Robeson County Human Relations Commission at their May meeting (the last Tuesday in the month). "We are not only going to ask the Human Relations Commissions to accept the challenge of working toward correcting the situation," Mickles said, "but we expect our elected officials (county commissioners) to be as appalled by the entire current plan as we

continued. "We are confident," Mickles said that the commission will be willing to take our statistics and make recommendations to bring the county employment percentages in line with the tri-racial population. To tolerate discriminatory hiring practices by the county is to admit that one segment of the population is entitled preferential treatment," she continued.

Locklear agrees with this assessment. "The Human Relations Commission," he stated, "as I understand it was formed to bring about better relations, communication and unity among the three races. It would appear impossible to unify races without correcting the basic causes of disharmony in Robeson County...such as unfair hiring practices."

What can you, as a citizen of Robeson County, do to improve relations in the county? Call Locklear or Mickles at the Rural Advancement Fund, 739-8200, and discuss the situation.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

The applications for the Miss Lumbee Pageant are now available. The pageant will be held June 30, 1989 at the PSU Performing Arts Center. Applicants must be Lumbee Indian and must be a high school graduate between the ages of 18 to 25 by the day of the pageant.

For additional information, please contact Patricia B. Locklear or Belinda S. Harris at (919) 521-8602 at Revels Plaza.

Deadline for applications is May 15, 1989.

Mission Church Revival

The Mission Church Revival begins April 23-28. Sunday service begins at 7 p.m. with nightly service, Monday-Friday at 7:30 p.m. Guest speakers will be Rev. Roy Clark and Rev. Edward Woods. The pastor is the Rev. Crites Oxendine. The public is cordially invited to attend. If you can't attend, then please be much in prayer for the unsaved and the revival itself. The Mission Church is located at Route 1, Pembroke.

"We've got to make a difference," says Dr. Joseph Oxendine

The following is the extemporaneous response of Dr. Joseph B. Oxendine when he and Mrs. Oxendine were introduced to the UNC Board of Governors by President C.D. Spangler, Jr. after Oxendine was elected April 13 as the next chancellor of Pembroke State University, taking office July 1, 1989:

"I'm pleased with this. I'm more than pleased. I'm delighted. I'm thrilled. It's a very emotional, personal time for me to consider returning to my home area."

"One of my favorite writers was Thomas Wolfe. As you know, Thomas Wolfe popularized 'You Can't Go Home Again,' in which he wrote about some of his friends and neighbors--not very complimentary things. If I had written those things about my friends and neighbors at Pembroke, I wouldn't want to go home either."

"But in a way, I never really left emotionally and spiritually from my home. It is a serious issue. Can we return home I grew up within a mile of the Pembroke State University campus and played basketball at the gym there so I have a special feeling for it. But if I attempted to return there believing that it would be the all-Indian university that it was when I was growing up, I'd be sadly mistaken. It has changed, it has grown, it has improved--and that's great."

"And I have changed from my youthful perspective. I feel as if I have worked for the past several decades to prepare for this role--and I'm looking forward to it."

"I want to thank several people. Wayne Evans, chairman of the Board of Pembroke

whom I got to know only recently. Wayne, I was especially impressed by the way in which you designed and orchestrated the search process. It was thorough. It was fair. It was intense. On the two occasions I met with the Pembroke group, they worked me over. It was intense. It was a good workout. As an old athlete, I like a good workout--and it was that. I met with the faculty, the community, the alumni, the Board of Trustees, the Search

Committee, and that was great. I was very impressed with the intensity, the fairness and the thoroughness of that process--and I thank you for doing it right. You really did."

"And so it was at the University level with Dick Spangler and his staff. I only visited Chapel Hill and his office last Friday, and I assure you they are not whimps there. They really interrogated me--thoroughly, fairly, and they did it right. And I appreciate that, and so I am delighted."

"I was told by D.G. Martin (secretary of the UNC General Administration) that I didn't have to make a campaign speech. Perhaps it already has been done, and I don't have to impress you that way. But I would like to take a minute to say that I have spoken to each of the constituencies from the groups I've met with in terms of a perception, a concept about the University and some aspirations I have about Pembroke State University."

"Those are that it is a great University, and I want to be greater. I want to be sure that the University has an impact on the community in which it is involved. I think we can do more. I'm going to insist that we continue to be an all-around University, a good teaching University, and I hope to recruit and promote good scholars who will reflect well on the University. And we are going to do service."

"My own real interest right now--and a primary interest--is that we impact on that community. The community needs the University. We need to upgrade the quality of public school education in that area. We need to impact on the social climate of that area. We need to impact on the cultural level and the economics of that area--and I plan for us to do it. I am going to devote serious efforts to that end."

"We've got to make a difference on that community--and I'm not speaking about the Lumbee Indian group only. We've got to make a difference on the total community, the county, and the surrounding counties of that area of the state. We've got to make a difference--"

COMMUNITY

A L E N D A R

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION AT PROSPECT SCHOOL APRIL 20

Registration for children who will enter kindergarten at Prospect School next year will be held Thursday, April 20 in the school library from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Children must be five years old by October 16, 1989 to be eligible for kindergarten. If your child is already attending kindergarten at Prospect School, you will not need to pre-register your child for first grade.

Parents need to bring the following information to register their children for kindergarten:

1. Child's immunization record (shot record);
2. A certified copy of your child's birth certificate;
3. Child's social security number; and
4. Tribal enrollment (for Indian children).

PSU ALUMNI TO MEET APRIL 20

The PSU Chapter I Alumni will meet Thursday, April 20 at the James B. Chavis University Center at 7:30 p.m. in room 213. All PSU alumni are encouraged to attend.

REUNION PLANNED

A Cruise Reunion is planned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the graduation Class of 1964. To learn more about the trip, please contact Olene Carter Sampson at (704)847-4245 at night or (704)373-3867 during the day. You may also write her at 2513 Clam Bed Court, Matthews, NC 28105.

TRAINING SESSION PLANNED

The Southeastern Family Violence Center is presently recruiting volunteers for its upcoming training session to be held at the Robeson County Public Library on April 22. The Center provides assistance to victims of family violence and needs volunteers to help in the office, on the crisis line, and in many other areas. Please call the office between 8:30 and 5:00 for further information at 739-8622.

WMU TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 22

The Burnt Swamp Associational W.M.U. will hold its annual meeting on April 22 at Bear Swamp Church, Pembroke, at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be Nancy Curtis, Executive Director, Women's Missionary Union of North Carolina.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

DEEP BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH REVIVAL

Deep Branch Baptist Church will hold revival services April 21-23. Sunday night's service will begin at 7 p.m. Services Friday and Saturday night will begin at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Chester Chavis and Rev. Romey Revels will be the guest speakers. Rev. James Albert Hunt, pastor, invites the public to attend these services.