

# WHAT NEXT???

We found it intriguing that the City of Lumberton would approve the Lumberton Tree Commission's \$7700 budget request but felt it necessary to cut the Southeastern Family Violence Center's budget from \$5000 to \$3000; a 40 percent cut. Why? Doesn't that seem to suggest something significant about Lumberton's priorities?

Perhaps the city council cannot see the acts of family violence for the forest

*'To plaque or not to plaque, that is the question.'*

Several citizens approached the Robeson County Commissioners to request \$5000 so they could purchase \$20 plaques for each Robesonian who participated in the Gulf War. The commissioners first approved \$2500 to purchase certificates. This caused some to storm (no pun intended) out of the meeting. They felt their sons and daughters were being cheated out of something that was rightfully theirs. Later that evening the commissioners reversed themselves and voted the full \$5000 for the purchase of plaques.

First we wish to make it clear we not only support all of our fighting men and women, but we also deeply appreciate their efforts and sacrifices. However, we do not feel the county needs to allot tax money to purchase a plaque for each Robesonian who served in the Gulf. The men and women who fought in Iraq did their sworn duty. They were well trained and paid by the U.S. Government to do just what they did and they performed magnificently. After all, that was and is their job!

One person became incensed because the county was not going to buy her son a plaque. She indicated she would buy him one or get her church to give her the money. That's exactly what she should do rather than extort money from the people of Robeson County. After all, the county commissioners were trapped. We understand no commissioner would publicly oppose this bad idea and we have grown to accept the lack of intestinal fortitude of our county commissioners. But the precedent of purchasing plaques, to honor those who have merely done what they were trained to do, is a dangerous one. After all, many of us had loved ones who paid the ultimate price in Bull Run, Wounded Knee, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam (to mention a few)...what about THEM...Don't they count!!! Are they not also worth \$20?!

The "bad faith" award goes to the Veeder Root Company of Elizabethtown. The company makes digital and petroleum counting machines and because of a downturn in the market, Veeder Root decided to lay off some employees. At least that's the rationale the company gave the laid off employees.

Veeder Root then turns around and lists the openings created by the lay offs with MegaForce Temporaries which in turn hires some of the laid off workers to work in their old jobs at Veeder Root. The employees, since they are now working for MegaForce, earn less for doing the same work and Veeder Root enjoys the advantage of having temporary employees without having to pay fair wages or benefits.

While we have singled out Veeder Root, the practice is not that uncommon. Several Robeson County industries also use similar schemes to avoid paying adequate wages and benefits. Some use this method and work individuals up to six months in a "temporary job" and then release that individual and hire another for the same "temporary job." It's not fair and one day the chickens will come home to roost!

The legislative committee of the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce recently met to make public its "stand" on several issues. Too bad no one seems to know where the chamber stands when it comes to the nature of Indians and their role and value to the development of Robeson County. Few have forgotten the map, widely distributed by the chamber, which unfairly characterized the Indians of the region as a band of hostile, uncivilized people.

Perhaps the Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce could be forthright enough to endorse the Lumbee petition for federal recognition and thereby send a strong, positive signal that the chamber does recognize and appreciate, not only the traditions and history of the Lumbee people, but also the value of their contributions to the growth and development of Robeson County. It would be a nice gesture.

N.C. Senator Dennis Winner introduced a bill several weeks ago which proposed to drop "at Chapel Hill" from the school name so that the school would be "The University of North Carolina." Winner defended his proposal by saying he was merely restoring the original name of the school at Chapel Hill. Needless to say the copycat universities (eg. UNC-C, UNC-G, UNC-W...) were very upset. If UNC-CH became "The University of North Carolina" then what would these other schools be called and how would they convince anyone that their reputations and recognition were built upon something

other than the name of the premier university in North Carolina. We will never know because Sen. Winner's proposal was withdrawn. It was a loser from the start.

Once again we are thankful for the wisdom and foresight of those individuals who opposed the name change for Pembroke State University. Pembroke State's reputation or recognition is not based on the "UNC name" connection. While PSU is a part of the university system, it enjoys its own unique traditions, reputation, and name. If Sen. Winner's proposal had been approved, Pembroke State University could have continued its long history of service with little notice or no negative fallout from the change. Those universities with "UNC" names would have had some serious adjustments to make.

Often times it's far better to honor one's history and remain true to the foundations which resulted in success and work harder to make a well deserved reputation rather than shortcut the hard work by grabbing another's name in the vain hope that some of the glitter will rub off on you.

Pembroke State University is not the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill--nor does it desire to be.

It's sad when anyone who is supposed to provide moral leadership to a community falls. It's criminal when such an individual is providing this instruction for our young.

The Children's Bible Mission has long been at work in Robeson County, oftentimes without the knowledge or consent of the parents of school age children. But, since we are in the Bible belt many felt no overwhelming need to consult parents as the CBM had always had a presence here and they have always done well; until now.

CBM's leader in Robeson County was Dave Johnson. The children affectionately called him "Mr. Dave." CBM has now removed Dave Johnson from Robeson County 'for his safety and for treatment.' We cannot help but wonder what "treatment" CBM plans for the children of Robeson County.

In our view, religious education should remain a function of the church and the home unless a parent wishes to send their child to a private school which provides such instruction. Public education is having a hard time in providing quality instruction in traditional subjects like reading, math, and science. It has no place in attempting to provide religious instruction. Although CBM performed well for many years, the damage of one such incident cannot be gauged or ignored. Our innocence has been lost--time has wrought many hardships and changes--the time has come for CBM's presence in our schools to end.

Some feel federal judges are increasingly under attack. Over the past *twelve years*, three federal judges have been killed at their homes. To combat this problem, a group of federal judges submitted a proposal to purchase a cellular telephone and a home security system for every federal judge in the United States. This proposal would cost the taxpayers of this country approximately \$11.5 million.

From our point of view the idea of spending taxpayers' money on home security systems and telephones for judges is preposterous. Just a little over two years ago taxpayers coughed up a 40 percent pay raise for federal judges. They now earn a minimum of \$116,000. But even more troubling is the self-serving, callous disregard for others that this proposal represents. While judges might feel threatened, we wonder if they have ever talked with a law enforcement officer. Do they have any idea how many law enforcement officers are wounded and killed in the line of duty each year? Do they understand and appreciate the demands placed on the policemen who work in the streets of our cities each and every day? What remedy would federal judges suggest to protect law enforcement officers--should the taxpayer also buy every policeman in the United States a cellular telephone and a home security system or perhaps judges could guarantee policemen a little relief by insuring repeat offenders do some "hard time" behind bars without possibility of parole?

While we sympathize with the occupational hazards of being a federal court judge, we do not feel the taxpayers of this country need to be overly concerned with this problem. Neither should they subsidize efforts to relieve the fears of federal court judges. While the taxpayers' job might not be as dangerous, it is extremely stressful knowing that judges feel they are owed \$11 million when there is an obvious, less expensive, and simpler solution to their problem. If a judge is concerned with his safety, he can either purchase the necessary home security system himself or he can change jobs. It's that easy. It is our understanding that taxpayers do not mind helping those who are unable to help themselves, but those who can stand on their own two feet should do so. Judges should take a lesson and do a little more standing and a little less sitting--we've always admired someone who could think on their feet; so if safety is an issue, let's assist the front-line law enforcement officer first. He is the one at most risk and therefore the most deserving!

# Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knick, Director of the PSU Native American Resource Center

In the last segment, we saw that trade with Europeans was beginning to have sweeping effects on Native Americans. While trade was a perfectly natural thing for Indian people to do, and they had been trading with each other for thousands of years, the introduction of European trade changed things forever. One of the sources of trouble in the new Indian-European trade system was the basic difference in trade philosophy between Indians and Europeans. The Indian trade philosophy was that the economic benefits were only part of a complex network of social, political, and cultural relationships. In contrast, the philosophy of most European traders centered almost entirely on the economic benefits of trade; business was business.

An example of how this difference in trading philosophy produced tragic results can be found in the history of the Cheraw Indians. By 1670, the Cheraw were involved in trade relations with the Virginia colonists, from whom they got guns, horses, and other trade goods. The Cheraw traded some of these goods to the Catawba and their other Siouan-speaking kinsmen who were more removed from the Virginia colonial settlements. The Cheraw no doubt believed that they could depend on the Virginia traders as they would on their other trading partners; they had probably established the kind of kinship trading relations with the Virginians which, in the Cheraw philosophy, meant the Virginians were their adopted kinsmen and friends as well as their business associates.

But the Carolina colony, seated in Charleston (then called Charlestown), wanted to control the trading business with the Catawba and other Siouan groups on their northern frontier. Thus they passed a resolution in 1698 which prohibited the Virginians from trading with any of what the Carolians saw as "their Indians."

For a while, this competition between the Virginia and

Carolina traders pleased the Cheraw, because competition made trade goods cheaper and more readily available. But during the on-going competition, many Charleston traders became increasingly abusive to the Indians, especially to the Yamasee and their Muskogean kinsmen. Resentful of the many abuses, in 1715 the Yamasee attacked the Carolina traders in what came to be known as the Yamasee War.

Shortly after the Yamasee began this organized conflict, the Cheraw and some of their Siouan kinsmen (Catawba, Wateree, and others) attacked the Carolinians from the north, driving the colonial traders from the Santee Valley. The Cheraw thought, since the Carolina traders were waging a kind of "trade war" against the Virginia traders, that they would be able to continue trading with the Virginians for guns and ammunition while attacking the Carolinians.

But the Cheraw's trading philosophy was not the same as the colonists. Soon after the Indians attacked the Carolina traders, the Virginia colonial government placed a ban on trade with the Cheraw, and sent reinforcements and supplies to Charleston. When the Cheraw sent representatives to Williamsburg to discuss re-opening trade with what they saw as their old kinship/trading partners, they found Carolina traders sitting alongside Virginia traders at the bargaining table! The Cheraw's expectations, based on the old Native American philosophy of trade, were clearly not met. The Cheraw found themselves caught in the middle of conflicting trade philosophies, without ammunition, and were consequently defeated.

In the next segment of Along The Robeson Trail, find out more about the effects of trade on Native Americans in the early historic period. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

## Reflections

by Alta N. Oxendine

### MOTHERHOOD AND MIXED EMOTIONS

"Help me be a mother, Lord, to my two boys. A REAL mother who looks beyond their clutter and their noise."

This is the beginning of a little poem I put together when Donny, Gordon, and their sister, Wanda, were all in their teens. I could have said the same thing (and I surely should have prayed these thoughts over and over every day) when my boys were still pre-schoolers.

Wanda Kay was not the little lady I had dreamed that my daughter would be. Instead, she was a tomboy-- as much out of necessity as inclination, I'm sure. But she tried, from the time she was two, to understand an unusual Mom who often felt that no one else really did.

Not so the boys. Or, if they did, they were not going to let me know. So these two "bundles of energy" had wills of their own which constantly seemed to clash with their mother's plans for them to behave like little gentlemen.

And when they left that July night to help their daddy sell the farm vegetables, we didn't take time to say "good-bye." After all, we'd be seeing each other the very next day, and for years and years after that. (How thankful I am that their daddy and I took time for a brief, non-verbal farewell.)

The way things worked out, our family was unfinished. We were not ready for what took place as they were nearing Pembroke and home the next day. We hadn't had time to get our relationship resolved.

Of course, maybe we never would have. But I like to think we would some day. I'm so thankful that my mother lived long enough for the two of us to go through that painful, but necessary, process of reconciliation and understanding. This winter, after her 94th birthday, Mother and I used my visit to her home in Montana to finish resolving old misunderstandings. Now I appreciate her more than ever before!

Because I didn't get to do this with Donny and Gordon, I suppose my tendency these past 11 years has been to fill my mind with other things instead of dwelling on them. But there are special times in my memory.

### My Flag Day Boy

Just before Flag Day every June my mind goes back to June 14, 1960, and my first experience of bringing a baby into this world. I'm so thankful, in spite of everything, to have had the privilege of being a parent to my special "Donny Noy" for just over 20 years. (As I think back over each of those years from 1960 until 1980, I'm sure that there never was and there never will be any other baby boy/young man exactly like Donny.)

How I wish I had somehow let him know every time I was proud of him. I wish I had not been afraid to say, with words or with actions: "Donny, you have a mother who loves you and believes in you; And she always will." Yes, Donny, I always will!

## School News

Robbie Renee Locklear of Route 3, Lumberton received a bachelor of science degree during commencement exercises at Wake Forest University May 20.

Virginia Governor L. Douglas Wilder spoke on "The Stress of Success."

Nearly 700 undergraduates received degrees. Another 467 graduates received degrees from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Law, Babcock

Graduate School of Management and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Wake Forest is one of the nation's highest-rated universities. U.S. News & World Report has ranked it the best university of its category in the South four straight years. Four Wake Forest students have been named Rhodes Scholars in the last six years. The university was founded in 1834.

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**A bear hug for Dad**  
Have you been puzzling over how to express your love for that special Dad on FATHER'S DAY this year. Whether you get him more cologne, or a new tie, or something with a duck on it, don't forget to give him something that can also affect his health...a good old bear hug.  
Medically speaking, a good hug can cause the brain to stop releasing stress chemicals, and activates a relaxation response, which is healthy for Dad and for everyone around him!  
We salute the Dad's in our community this Father's Day, and wish them all the best of health!  
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