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# Carolina Indian Voice

Pembro

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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## Federal Acknowledgement: What It Really Means

The Federal Government's View on Whether The Lumbee Are Already Federally Recognized.

By Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks

This short article addresses itself to the following proposition: "The Lumbee area already recognized by the Federal Government as an Indian tribe, but denied the customary federal Indian benefits." The assertion is from a set of "true or False" questions in a Recognition Quiz developed by Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) as a means of giving the Lumbee community a better understanding of the issues surrounding the recognition legislation pending before the United States Congress.

Are the Lumbee denied the "customary" federal Indian benefits? The Robeson County Public Schools have received, and continue to receive, many thousands of dollars of federal Indian education funds because of the Lumbee children enrolled in the system. Why are the Lumbee apparently considered eligible for such Indian education funds by the Federal Government? The Federal Indian Education Act provides that any

Indian tribe recognized as such by its home state shall be eligible for such funds. The Lumbee have been recognized as an Indian Tribe by the State of North Carolina since 1885. The Federal Government views this state recognition as making the Lumbee eligible for federal Indian education benefits.

If one takes the view that "customary" federal Indian benefits means those under the administration of the

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) then beyond question the Lumbee are denied such benefits. The Federal Government does not consider the Lumbee eligible for any of the programs administered by the BIA. This denial of eligibility is based upon either or both of the following rationales:

1) The Lumbee are not federally recognized; and 2) The 1956 Federal Lumbee Act expressly disqualifies the Lumbee from such benefits.

Many argue persuasively that the Federal Lumbee Act recognized the Lumbees as an Indian tribe even though it also precluded the delivery of services provided to such tribes by the Federal Government. The Act itself refers to "the Lumbee Indians of North Carolina" and several times

describes the Lumbee as "Indians." In *Maynor v. Morton*, the only case interpreting the Lumbee Act, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit stated that

...the limited purpose of the legislation appears to be to designate this group of Indians as "Lumbee Indians" and to recognize them as a specific group (emphasis added).

It is argued that the United States Congress would hardly enact legislation describing a group as Indian and designating such group as the Lumbee Indians of North Carolina unless the individuals of the group were being recognized as a matter of law as Indian and the group itself as a tribe. The authoritative treatise Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law describes a tribe, in past, as being a "people distinct from others."

No agency of the Federal Government, however, accepts the argument that the Lumbee Act recognized the Lumbee as an Indian tribe. It is argued that the term "tribe" nowhere appears in the Act. That there may be a number of Indians recognized as a specific Indian group yet not recognized by the Federal Government as a tribe in determining the eligibility for customary federal Indian benefits.

## The McGruders Will Perform in Fourth PSU Annual Gospel Music Festival



This is the first in a series of articles about groups who will perform in the fourth annual Pembroke State University "Gospel Music Festival" Saturday, April 17, at 7 PM in PSU's Givens Performing Arts Center.

One of the most outstanding gospel singing groups in the nation The McGruders of Kennett, Mo. will be performing in the fourth annual Pembroke State University "Gospel Music Festival" Saturday, April 17, in PSU's Givens Performing Arts Center.

The pre-concert starts at 6:30 p.m. The festival itself begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for everyone and can be ordered by telephoning the Givens PAC box office at 521-6287 or 1-800-367-0778.

Lean on You, Lord," was recorded by The Florida Boys and became No. 1 on the national chart.

The McGruders experienced their first No. 1 song in December 1990 with "I'm Going Home With Jesus," written by Carroll McGruder. The list of their songs making the charts has been constantly growing, including "Special," which hit No. 16; "Saved by Grace," No. 17; "Blood Brought," No. 22 and "I Go to the Master," No. 12.

The McGruders consist of Carroll McGruder and his wife, Priscilla; Carroll's son, Eric, who plays the drums; Stan Cook, who sings baritone; Denny Long, who sings tenor and plays the piano; Greg Long, on bass; and Larry Carter, on guitar.

The McGruders attend First United Pentecostal Church of Kennett, Mo., which Carroll pastors. He is also superintendent of the board of Kennett Christian Academy, located at that same church. This is a school of 60 students from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Carroll earned his college degree at

Community Bible School in Rigdon, Ind., and received his Master of Theology and minor in Music Composition at Lighthouse Christian College in Beebe, Ark.

While pastoring in Idaho, Carroll and Priscilla started the Carroll McGruder Trio. Their work was strictly among their own denomination until 1986 when Carroll said, "We made the decision that we wanted to sing for everyone even if it wasn't a church-related situation. We felt that the message we were taking to people was as good for fairs as it was for church homecomings. So we

made the decision to sing for a broader spectrum of opportunities. About the same time that we were deciding that, we signed with Sonlite Records."

Speaking of his group now, Carroll said, "We came together and felt like we wanted to do service for Jesus Christ There is a need for gospel music to be an instrument of restoration—for people to be restored to full fellowship with Christ, and that's what we'd like to do. Through the



## Pembroke State Coed Described as only Native American Doing Live TV News

"To the best of our knowledge, she is the only Native American female doing live television news in the nation."

So says Dr. Oscar Patterson, Pembroke State University's director of telecommunications, in reference to Tasha Ann Oxendine of Pembroke who is a co-anchor of WPSU-TV, the University's public TV facility. A senior majoring in broadcasting, she is the daughter of Annie R. Oxendine of Pembroke.

Each Thursday at 10 a.m., she does live news from the WPSU-TV studio which is carried on Channel 62 over the Cablevision Industries (CIV) of Red Springs. CIV serves

approximately 5,200 homes in parts of Robeson and Hoke counties. This same news show is videotaped and shown that same day at 4:30 p.m. over WFCT-TV, Channel 62, in Fayetteville with a potential audience of 330,000 in 13 counties.

"I enjoy anchoring, but I enjoy reporting more," said Oxendine, a Lumbee Indian who says she has been in the "live" broadcasting program for two years and started co-anchoring this semester.

She says she would like to do an internship with WBTW-TV in Florence, SC which is about an hour's drive from PSU. "When I go into broadcasting as my career, I'd like to

power of the Holy Spirit, we'd like to be a restoration vehicle for people to actually get to know Christ rather than just know about Him."

Carroll McGruder's parents sang country music and then gospel music while he was a child, and he joined them in singing at age 10. From the time he was 15 years of age, he

preached. He became a church pastor in his early 20s.

Now he is bringing his group to Pembroke State University for the fourth annual PSU "Gospel Music Festival."

For more information about the festival, telephone (919) 521-6213.

do both: reporting and anchoring," she said.

Oxendine says Dr. Bob Britton, PSU professor of speech, has helped her a great deal with her announcing skills. "He has shown me different techniques to strength by voice and deepen my voice," she said. She also praised the coaching Dr. Patterson has given her in developing her TV skills.

A female television news personality she admires is Katie Couric of NBC-TV's "Today" show. "I like her style. She's smooth and professional. She does not fall into a stereotype. Most women take a backseat to men on such shows. She holds her own with Bryant Gumbel," said Oxendine.

An '87 graduate of Purnell Swett High School near Pembroke, Oxendine was there a member of the Literary Club and marching band. She also won Spanish Club honors. Her hobbies are painting, skiing and photography.

## Tickets on Sale For PSU Gospel Music Festival

Tickets are now on sale for the fourth annual Pembroke State University "Gospel Music Festival" scheduled Saturday April 17, at PSU's Givens Performing Arts Center.

The pre-program performance featuring the Pembroke Men's Chorus begins at 6:30 p.m. with the concert starting at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for everyone. Performers include The McGruders of Kennett, Mo., Quinton Mills of Hollister, and The Lumber River Quartet of Lumberton. Ticket outlets include: Lumber River Christian Supplies and Ron's Bibles and Books, both of Pembroke; The Christian Book Store of Lumberton; The Gospel Music Store of Laurinburg; Red Springs Christian Supplies; and WSTS Christian Radio of Fairmont.

Tickets are also available at the Givens PAC box office, telephone 521-6287 or 1-800-367-0778. Festival chairman is Harold Jacobs, music director of Prospect United Methodist Church.

## Location of News Stands For Indian Voice Newspaper

The Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper is published each week on Thursday by First American Publications. Newsstands are available in the following location for your conveniences:

Pembroke: The Pantry, Pembroke Amoco, the Post Office, Jake's Convenience Store on Union Chapel Road.

Red Springs: Colony Plaza, in front of Doris' Styling Salon.

Lumberton: Fuller's Old Fashion Barbecue, Dobb's Travel World, Sundo Oil on Highway 41, Rob's Convenience Part on Highway 72, Mt. Airy Superette on Highway 72.

**Campbell SOUP Company**  
**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!**

Plant Manager, Dennis Krupinski, right, presents Dwayne Locklear with a plaque honoring him as Campbell Soup's Employee of the Year. Dwayne was selected the total plant employee of the year after having been selected Employee of the Year for the container dept.

Dwayne has worked for Campbell Soup for 4 years and is a Class A mechanic in the container department. He and his wife and 2 children live in Pembroke where he is active in the community. He restores cars, coaches a T-ball youth baseball team, and works with the youth in his church.

**CONGRATULATIONS DWAYNE**

Dwayne is married to Evonia Barton Locklear and they have two children, Donald and Christian. He is the son of Donnie and Mae Locklear.



521-2826