

Moving "Strike at the Wind" to Lumberton is not the answer to the county's problems or the drama's

Dear Editor:
Sometimes it is best to sit and listen before one speaks. And I have been doing a lot of listening. I listened to the people who said moving "Strike at the Wind" would be good for it. I wonder who "it" is? Could it be, maybe, someone besides "Strike at the Wind"? I heard someone say it is Randy Umberger's suggestion. If so, I spoke with Randy personally and what he said is that he wanted "Strike at the Wind" to be operated in a professional manner. Should I believe that only the people in Lumberton can deal with "Strike at the Wind" in a professional manner?

It is a shame that the town of Pembroke did not get together and built restaurants and motels, and really get behind "Strike at the Wind." I heard some people say the drama will draw more people if it is closer to Interstate 95. I have one thing to say to those people: GET REAL! If you do something right and promote it in the right way, no matter where it is, people will come. Just wait, if the drama moves to Lumberton, you will see signs up and down I-95. You will hear about it on tv and read about it in the newspapers. You will hear about all the money it is making. But it will all be going into the pockets of people in Lumberton.

I think back to how hard some of us worked that first season. I think about all those people who have crossed over to the other side who were associated with "Strike at the Wind." How would they react to hear that something they worked so hard for is being moved to Lumberton? I can't understand. Some of the things we let go of are the things we should hang on to. And the things we should let go to, we hang on to. Is it because we are ashamed of our past? Or is it our people?

We are descendants of people who care deeply about where they came from. I hate to say it, and I thought about it for a long time, but when I read a friend of mine come out and say it, maybe it is true. I really did not want to think I was right. I wanted to be wrong because it is like the good book says: "To a fool his way of thinking is wise. But a wise man seeks counsel." I am always asking others what they think. It is sad to say, but many of us agree: our people are afraid of success. I know for awhile I was afraid of being called someone who is above his raising. Then I thought of our ancestors. We lack a lot of the values of our ancestors.

The greatest thing killing our people is not drugs or disease, it is apathy. We don't care anymore. We don't care about what our children do on Sunday. Or where they go. When it comes to a cause, we would rather walk in the shadow of a man, than in the light of the Almighty. Some of our people use leadership positions just to get what they can for themselves. They don't care. Why? Because the Almighty is not first in their life. I know to a degree we are all selfish, but if we put our life in order, we could make a better future for those to come.

I think about the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center project and how a few people have stood in the way of its progress. I keep asking why. Mark my words, time will be the victor on this issue. You can stand in the way of many things for quite a while, but you can not stand in the way of right forever.

Think about it. The Cultural Center would give our young and our old a place to go and sit and talk. It would be a place to share our heritage. Our young would learn of the strong values our ancestors had.

And more importantly, they would learn how we are regaining them.

When I look at Pembroke State University, I don't see it as it is now, but I see the roots from which it came. I see those people who worked hard to bring it into being. I look at all those big, wonderful churches and think the same thing. As a people, we have done many great things. It is true that we are still doing some things right. But we could and should do a lot more. We have people with unbelievable ability and talents. We can overcome anything, even all the bad press we received a couple of weeks ago. I feel sorry for those two young men who allowed a few hours to destroy their lives.

I also believe that if every church in Robeson County would fast for a day, lift every drug dealer's name up in prayer, there would be no drug problem in Robeson County. I remember hearing about a group of men from the Prospect community who called a prayer meeting because there had been no rain for quite a while. The thing that impressed me was that they brought their raincoats with them as a sign of their faith. Within three hours, the rains came. Those are the kind of people we come from. Those who when they faced a problem too big for them to deal with knew someone they could call on who is bigger than anyone or anything on this earth.

I would like to conclude with a challenge to all the churches in Robeson County. Let's fast for one day and take the following Sunday and pray all the bad out of Robeson County. If we would undertake this the same way the men from Prospect did about the dry spell, and the way our ancestors did to bring Pembroke State University into being, it

could bring tremendous results. I don't know if we should pray until the job is done. If we would do that, there would be no drug problem in Robeson County. But in the life I have led Governor Martin, to get drug out of Robeson County, you have to be serious. So serious that you would put major funds into our educational system and offer our people better paying jobs. Building more jail houses is not the answer. This problem is too big for now. True, for right now, it is the only answer we have. That is because we have not gone to the one who has all the answers. I would also be true that we would not be able to reach everyone. But I don't feel we should make it easy for them not to listen. Don't get me wrong. I am not talking about running people of town, just the bad in them. We need all our people working together. The bottom line is we can all change and improve. Some of us just need a little more time and work than others.

Nyesh Tah
(Thank You)
Derek Lowry



An Aid to Locating Vital Statistics

Vital records are just that...vital. We need access to them.

In this age of bureaucratic documentation, everyone has need of copies of records of birth, death, marriage or divorce. An application for benefits from the Veterans Administration or Social Security, a passport or marriage license requires not only the information in the records but usually copies of the records themselves.

All these records are stored permanently by municipalities, counties, states and the Federal government. We all know this, but where each document is kept is frequently unknown.

The Consumer Education Research Center, a national non profit consumer group, found there was little uniformity on where the records were available and the costs. In some states, birth records are kept by the city and in others by the county or state. To further complicate matters, often older records are held in different places than current ones. In addition, the addresses where the records are kept are changed quite often.

The consumer group found many people had difficulty in locating the

Season from home reminded me during a phone conversation yesterday that my family and I have been out here in Oklahoma over 3 years! It's hard to believe it has been that long! When we moved out my daughter was only 2 weeks old. What an ordeal! And during that time she had what all parents and Pediatricians dread - infant colic. All you moms and dads who are dealing with or have dealt with infant colic, I can empathize with you!

In our society, the typical pattern of crying during the first few months of life consists of a gradual increase until about 6 weeks of age is about 2 1/2 hours per day. The loose medical definition of infant colic is crying or fussiness, in an otherwise healthy child, for more than 3 hours per day and occurring more than 3 days per week.

No one knows for sure what causes colic (sometimes called "gas" or "wind" colic). Some commonly heard theories include (1) allergens in milk or lactose intolerance, (2) abnormal movement of the intestines or excess gas production, (3) an immature nervous system, and (4) parental anxiety sensed by the infant. I could be some of all these theories

combined, no one is sure. The thing to realize is that there is no single remedy for infant colic that works for all cases. Changing formulas, using gas drops, placing the infant on a rocking wheel, burping - all these and more have been tried, with some success in some cases but not all cases. My suggestion is to first check to see if the infant is hungry, then try a pacifier, stimulate the baby, hold the baby or lay the baby down to sleep. Going through this checklist quickly to see if the baby will stop crying will pacify him. From my experience, gas drops only work about 50% of the time and are expensive, so think carefully before starting them.

The best thing about infant colic, even in bad cases like my daughter's, is that they eventually outgrow it, usually around 3 months of age. If you suspect that your baby's fussiness is not colic, see your doctor.

Well, that's all on colic. If you get a chance, check out the Coharie Pow Wow in Clinton, NC on September 9-10. I'm sure they'll be having a good time and all our neighbor tribes need our support.

See you Next Week!

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Revival Planned at Friendship

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, located on Pembroke-Prospect Road, Pembroke, North Carolina, will hold a revival September 12-17, 1993, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The evangelists will be Rev. Everett Woods and Rev. Chalmers Kerns. Pastor Coolidge Cummings invites the public to attend.

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INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK 1993

at Pembroke State University

September 13.....**Great American Indian Dancers**
7 PM, Performing Arts Center

September 14.....**Indian Stories and Legends**
by Jacque Garneau (Western Band Cherokee)
10 AM, Performing Arts Center
Public school classes welcome
No admission charge

September 14.....**POWWOW**
4 PM until.....Campus Quad, beside Old Main
Traditional Indian music, dance, arts, crafts & foods
Head Male Dancer.....Otara Mills (Hallwa-Saponi)
Head Female Dancer.....Becky Locklear (Lumbee)
Host Drum.....White Tail Singers
No admission charge

September 15.....**"Last of the Mohicans" (movie)**
8 PM, Moore Hall
No admission charge

September 16.....**N.A.S.O. Dance**
10 PM, Chavis University Center
PSU students \$1 / guests \$3

For information call (919) 521-6282.
PSU Indian Heritage Week events are sponsored by Native American Resource Center, Native American Student Organization, Performing Arts Center, Office of Student Activities, Student Government Association, Lumbee Regional Development Association and by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Section of the North Carolina Arts Council.