



CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Dana Lowery follows in mother's footsteps as Miss Pembroke State University



Dana Lowery, Pembroke State University sophomore from Charlotte majoring in business management, was selected as "Miss PSU" over nine other contestants here Thursday night and thereby follows in her mother's footsteps as the winner of the coveted crown.

Dana's mother, the former Judy Locklear originally from Pembroke, captured the title in 1963 when this institution was still named Pembroke State College.

"My mother and father were here for this year's 40th annual 'Miss PSU' Scholarship pageant as were my older sister and younger brother," smiled the 5 ft. 7 1/2, 115-pound Dana. "They said afterwards, 'We now have two queens in the family'."

Dana said her mother helped her to prepare for the pageant. "She told me to be myself and relax. She also helped me with my walking," said Dana.

Both Mrs. Lowery and her husband, Dennis Lowery, graduated from Pembroke State University in '64. Dennis Lowery went on to become the chief executive officer of Continental Industrial Chemicals, Inc. of Charlotte, one of the nation's largest Native American owned companies. He has also served as chairman of the

PSU Board of Trustees. In 1979 he was selected as North Carolina's "Small Businessman of the Year." In 1982 he was awarded PSU's "Distinguished Alumnus Award," and last June he was selected as the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce's "Entrepreneur of the Year."

From the happiness he showed after his daughter won "Miss PSU" Thursday, this is one of Dennis Lowery's most joyful moments.

"All of my family rushed onto the stage to congratulate me and to take pictures after I was named the winner," smiled Dana. "They later brought me a cake to my apartment."

For winning the title, Dana not only was presented a crown, trophy and bouquet of roses, she was awarded a \$700 scholarship. She was sponsored by the Ambassador Club.

Her talent in the pageant was singing a song entitled "Nothing" from the Broadway Hit, "A Chorus Line", and also doing a monologue.

For the evening gown competition, she wore an iridescent gown; for the swimsuit competition, she wore a teal-colored swimsuit.

When her name was announced as the winner Dana said, "I couldn't believe it. I was shocked. I didn't expect it. There was a lot of

competition." She said this was the first time she had ever been selected a queen of any kind although she was first runner up last summer in the "Miss Lumbee" pageant at Pembroke where the photographers chose her "Most Photogenic".

A graduate of Charlotte's Independence High School, Dana attended Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, working toward a marketing degree, before transferring to PSU where she is a second semester sophomore. "I took a lot of business courses at Central Piedmont," said Dana. "I want to work for my dad and keep the family business, but I also want to own a woman's spa."

Dana said she wanted to transfer to PSU because her parents were PSU alumni "and we have a lot of family here. My grandparents, Barney and Stella Locklear, live here, and I'm real close to my cousins here. I like Charlotte because it's a big city, but I like Pembroke for its people -- the closeness of its people."

Dana's older sister, Shelley, 24, was a '91 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and is an account executive for her father's plant in Greenville, S.C. Her younger brother, Brandon, 16, also works at this father's business during the summers.

A member of the Native American Student Organization both in high school and at PSU, Dana's hobbies are reading, writing, drawing, traveling, and indoor skydiving. She is a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church of Charlotte.

First runner-up in the "Miss PSU" pageant was Jodie Brown, graduate student from Fayetteville. Second runner-up was Constance McCallum, junior from Rockingham. Tying for "Miss Congeniality" were Joy Alison Jacobs of Bolton and Christie Teague of Hickory.

Native American Bone Marrow Transplant Fund Assists With Marrow Transplant

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

"Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia!"

The three-word medical diagnosis becomes a death sentence for thousands of victims each year. Four years ago the painful words of the dreadful diagnosis resounded in the mind of one Robeson County man. They continue to resonate.

H.B. Bullard is a victim of the blood disease, and after hearing the diagnosis from his physician, the 42-year-old Lumbee Indian set out, not in despair, but in hope of educating himself about the life-threatening disease. He turned to the National Marrow Donor Program, a network of transplant, donor, collection centers and recruitment groups established in 1987.

Bullard learned that the program maintains a computerized data bank of tissue-typed volunteers who are willing to donate if matched with a specific patient. Its coordinating Center and Registry are located in Minneapolis, MN. The Center is Congressionally authorized and has a contractual relationship with the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.

In his quest, Bullard learned early on the odds of his finding a matched donor could be as high as one in one million. And because tissue type is inherited just like eye, hair and skin color, the best chance of matching was with someone from his own racial and ethnic background. His best chance of finding a perfect match was with another Native American.

He also learned that the opportunities for Native American patients afflicted with the life-threatening blood disease and searching for unrelated marrow donors were severely limited. As of March 1993, only 8,982 of the 821,680 donor volunteers in the National Marrow

Donor Program were Native American. Seventy-eight percent are Caucasian.

And of more than the 1,600 NMDP transplant, only seven Native Americans have been transplanted. Once educated on the benefits of the National Marrow Donor Program, Bullard began a campaign to educate others. He has coordinated every bone marrow drive in the Robeson County area. He speaks wherever people will listen. Subsequently, people have been moved to add their names to the National Registry in hopes of someday being able to give the gift of life to another. Bullard found still another source of support in Indian Solidarity, Inc., a Pembroke-based organization which addresses and supports issues affecting Native American people.

Early this year, the non-profit organization established the Native American Bone Marrow Transplant Fund to help defray medical expenses not covered by medical insurance in the transplant procedure.

Carolyn Coronado, chairwoman of the organization's Health Committee, says Indian Solidarity is trying to meet a need in establishing the fund. Last spring, the organization sponsored a fund raising plate sale to help in building the fund. The Health Committee, along with organization members, continues to be involved in coordinating screening tests campaigns to recruit others to become bone marrow donors. "Many people are willing to be volunteer donors once they've learned of the need and have a simple blood test to determine if they match a patient looking for a donor," Coronado says.

"Donating bone marrow does not mean that one donates a bone. It means one donates marrow in a simple

surgical procedure involving anesthesia. Donated marrow completely replaces itself in a matter of weeks," she explains. The costs of a bone marrow transplant range from \$150,000 - \$300,000.

Last week H.B. Bullard received the news he'd prayed for during the past four years. Through the National Marrow Donor Program he heard that a perfect match had been located from a volunteer donor in Germany.

The match becomes a "living gift of life."

As the Robeson County man prepares to depart for his scheduled appointment at the Emory Clinic in Atlanta, Georgia, a cloud - in the form of a need for additional medical funds - hangs over his case. Through fund raising efforts of Indian Solidarity, \$1500 was raised to help defray costs in Bullard's behalf. The organization is committed to raising additional funds and is in need of tax-deductible donations from concerned citizens, according to Sam Kerns, Indian Solidarity board chairman. The organization is appealing to area businesses and religious organizations to assist in providing additional funds for the Native American Bone Marrow Transplant Fund.

Coronado adds that it is of critical importance that the National Marrow Donor Program reach members of minority communities.

"There is the urgent need for volunteer donors so the same hope can be offered to all Americans in need. Congress has made available special funds especially for minority volunteer tissue typing."

Those willing to make a charitable donation to the Native American Bone Marrow Transplant Fund may do so by making a check payable to: NABMTF c/o Indian Solidarity, Inc. P.O. Box 2460 Pembroke, NC 28372

Helping Indian Children Learn



When Agnes Hunt Chavis began her teaching career in North Carolina's Robeson schools, it was a school system divided. Not only was the district segregated into Black and white schools, but Indians, too, had their own facilities one of which was Chavis' school.

Over the years, Chavis worked tirelessly to help her young Indian students both in and out of the classroom. In recognition, a teaching scholarship has been established in her honor.

Chavis is one of two women whose names comprise the new Dial-Chavis Student North Carolina Association of Educators Scholarship. (Harriet Caligan Dial, a UniServ director for NCAE, provided the initial endowment money.) This \$5,000 award will be given annually to a college junior or senior who plans to teach in the public schools.

Chavis is a long time Association activist. During the 1993 NEA Representative Assembly, NEA's American Indian and Alaska Native Caucus recognized her by presenting her with an eagle feather, a symbol of leadership.

When I first started teaching first grade in 1951 in Rowland, North Carolina, I was fortunate to have a very nice building to teach in. But working conditions were primitive. The 324 students who attended the Ashpole Center School (grades 1-8) were mostly children of Indian tenant farmers.

For starters, we eight teachers didn't have money for basic expenditures. I remember bringing in a record player from home and buying, out of my own pocket, construction paper and newsprint for the children to write on. A lot of things that would be considered throwaways in some households like magazines and newspapers proved to be great sources of lessons for us. My own home library had more resources than did the entire school library!

Students and teachers were forced to do fundraising. We'd have bake sales and go to merchants asking for donations so that we could buy expensive "extras" like 16mm movie projectors.

One of the biggest obstacles to school attendance was clothing. Many

children didn't have appropriate clothes to wear. So we sponsored a weekly sewing night and invited parents to help alter clothing donated by a local church for the youngsters. Teachers brought in their sewing machines and put them in the teacher's lounge. Students were fitted on Fridays, and we worked three to four hours on Tuesday nights making the alterations.

The parents were only too glad to help. They viewed education a something important.

Another area that lacked funding was sports. I coached the basketball team in the afternoon. Because the kids who practiced after school missed their buses, I was responsible for driving them home. We made a night of it. I would have them come over for dinner all 12 to 15 of them and we'd have a good time talking and eating.

The school day was supposed to go from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., but I'd put in much longer hours. Lesson planning, in particular, was time consuming because we didn't have copying machines. We had a hectograph machine a precursor to the mimeograph that operated by hand. It would take about 30 minutes to get 30 copies made. So preparing materials for my classroom of 54 students took up a lot of time.

I got a lot of satisfaction in working in a small school system where we were close knit.

During the evenings when I wasn't coaching, I'd teach adult education courses at Robeson Community College to some parents of my students. It was heartening to see that as the parents progressed, so the students progressed.



James Albert Hunt is sworn in on November 15 by Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors President Lucy Cummings. Mr. Hunt, of Route 1, Red Springs, was elected to represent District 7 of Hoke County on the cooperative's board of directors during the organization's annual meeting of members held in October.

Attends Conference

Wendy Lowery, a sophomore at Lumberton Senior High School was among the many students who attended a Conference entitled "A Catalyst for Positive Social Change!" held UNC-Chapel Hill, November 12-14.

The students attended seminars, and culture related activities. The seminars were based on Multiculturalism, Student Rights, and A Global Change.

Have a safe
and happy
Thanksgiving



Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation General Manager Ronnie Hunt presents a check for \$575.00 to Mrs. Madie Rae Locklear, member of the LREMC board of directors. The money was raised by the LREMC Women's Committee through a quilt raffle for the co-op's member assistance program, "Help A Needy Friend", of which Mrs. Locklear serves as chairperson.