

Reader's Forum

It's said "A rose by any other name, would smell the same". Well this may be in some cases but not in all cases, allow me to make my point. I travel from time to time across this great Indian Nation and I am often surprised at the comments I hear. I recall once, I was at an event and an Elder was looking for a place to sit. In the traditional way you call an Elder (Grandfather or mother, Uncle or Aunt) to show respect. Just like we did at one time with the term, Uncle or Aunt so and so, well some of us recall this.

This Grandfather was Cherokee and we started with some small talk, then we discussed the attend... the event. He stated that there was suppose to have been over two hundred dancers at the event. Then he said there would have been, if the competition had been open to those "Not Real Indians". I asked, "Grandfather what do you mean Not Real Indians"? He stated that there was a group of Indians in the eastern part of North Carolina, who have no language or traditions. I asked him how he knew so much about these people, he told me from a friend, who told another friend about them. I told him I didn't understand because I thought the Cherokee almost lost their language and traditions at one time. He then replied, "Well you know what I mean coming from Oklahoma". I told him I wasn't from Oklahoma. He then asked me to excuse him, he meant to say South Dakota. I told him I wasn't from there either. He then asked me where did I come from, I told him I came from where the Not Real Indians came from. I told him, I wasn't trying to be disrespectful but as I travel, I hear so much about who is and isn't the real Indian. I told him the Cherokee of Oklahoma, say there are no Real Cherokee in North Carolina, the Oglala say there are no Indians anywhere except South Dakota. He told me I had given him a lot to think about and he thanked me. When he left, a lady from South Dakota had overheard our conversation.

She stated her problem with our people is that we all wore ties and coats (another term for Apples) red on

the outside white on the inside. She wanted to know why they never see any of our Real People (another term for Traditional people)? She had a problem with the name Lumbee, I told her I was not Lumbee and that I agree the name came from a white man. I told her the history of the name Lumbee, which only came into being less than forty years ago. I told her I did not believe in the Lost Colony theory, which was also another whiteman idea.

Then I asked her was she Sioux, she said with a smile yes I am, I asked are you sure? She looked at me with a touch of anger in her voice and said of course, I'm sure. I said see how it feels when someone questions your Indian identity, even when it's clear to you. Then I told her from my understanding of her people the word Sioux wasn't in their language at all. Just like alot of the tribes they were named by someone else, that the word Sioux means enemy, which was the name I think the Pawnee used to describe them. That in her own language her people are called simply Lakota or Dakota, which means the people.

I told her if the people in North Carolina want to call themselves Lumbee that was their business. I also told her when you pray tonight be thankful that, when the whiteman came to this country he didn't come from the west instead of the east. Because the Native American people on the east coast would be saying they are no Real Indian people out west. I also asked her at the rate her people are going would there be any Indian people in South Dakota after four hundred years of contact with the whiteman?

I agreed with her about the tie and coat, but I took it a step further by saying all Native Americans have accepted to many of the whiteman's ideas of what an Indian is and what an important person is. She also thanked me for giving her things to think about. I thank her for having ears to listen with, and an open heart to accept another view point. But you know most of the time I have no problem being accepted as who I am, especially by people who know who they are.

In the true Way, Derek Lowry.

Reader says Glenn Maynor has paid his dues and deserves the Indian vote

Dear Editor:

As I sit at my desk reading "The Carolina Indian Voice," which I always look forward to doing, I have read Mr. Earlie Locklear's letter of December 16, 1993. How true his statements are!

I had hoped that the upcoming election would be a cause to help unite our people so that we could go into the May primary and elect Mr. Glenn Maynor as sheriff.

One may ask why I say Mr. Maynor particularly. I will be glad to share this with the readers. It is called putting it all on the line. And, I do mean all, as in everything. This includes, but is not limited to one's job, one's security, the privacy of one's life and even life itself. It means being willing to stand for the people and for what is right.

I will say to Mr. Lee Edward Sampson that he has not done or shown any of these qualities that I have stated above. So he does not deserve the Indians' votes. Mr. Sampson needs to answer this question: What has he done for our Indian people? When did he stand four our cause? Especially when it was not popular to do so. Did he openly support Mr. Julian Pierce when he ran for Judge when no one else was willing or had the nerve to do so? Julian put everything on the line. Where was Mr. Sampson? Where was he when we marched? I didn't see him. Where was he during the time all the rallies were held? I didn't see him.

Never once did I hear him stand up to make a statement. I wonder if the price was too high then. Mr. Sampson should answer these questions for everyone to hear. Why does he now run for Sheriff? Could it be because Mr. Stone is stepping down and he will not have to face Stone, or upset Stone, by running against him? Wonder why he didn't run for the job four years, or even eight years ago? Perhaps Mr. Sampson was like some who were afraid to stand with Julian when the costs were great. But, when it doesn't cost too much, people are there with their hands out. Is this what Mr. Sampson is about? Or is he being used and doesn't know it? I can't believe Mr. Sampson could be that dumb.

I understand he had a meeting with some of the leaders. After they explained the damage he could cause, he still refused to step down. I believe he knows in his heart that he can't win. So why is he doing it? It leaves one to wonder.

Mr. Maynor has paid his dues. He has done and has shown everything that I have mentioned. Four years ago Mr. Maynor showed his true hand. Has Mr. Sampson done likewise?

Let me say to the good people of Robeson—just hoping will not get Mr. Maynor elected. We lost last time by just a little over 300 votes. I will call for work on all our parts. Everyone must vote. If someone is known who

is not registered to vote, please don't wait, get them registered! Then they should get to the polls. Every vote counts. One person does make a difference. We should let no one divide us any longer. We should send a message that it will not work this time.

I know I don't live there anymore. So why am I writing this letter? Because I care deeply and I have paid my dues. I was there when it all got started in 1986 when so few people wanted to help, I was there. I was at the rallies, the march, went through the name calling, the voter registration. I met with the lawyers and worked for a public defender. Where was Mr. Sampson? When Mr. Sampson has paid his dues, when he has put it all on the line, then and only then will he be entitled to the support of his people. But, as of now he does not deserve the people's support. Nor will he get it.

He should come back when he has proven himself worthy as a champion for our people and not as a divider so others can conquer.

Let's work hard together to elect Mr. Maynor as the first Native American Sheriff of Robeson County. He has proven that he will put everything on the line.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jimmy L. Hunt
Baltimore, MD

Red Cloud's Prayer

"O GREAT SPIRIT, I pray you to look upon us. We are your children and you placed us first in this land."

"We pray you to look down upon us, so that nothing but truth shall be spoken in this council. We do not ask for anything but what is right and..."

"When you made your red children, O Great Spirit, you made them to have mercy on them. Now we are before you today, praying you to look down on us, and have pity on your poor red children."

"You are the protector of those who use the bow and arrow, as well as those people who wear hats, I hope we do not pray to you in vain. We are poor and ignorant, but our fathers have told us that we would not be in distress if we asked you for assistance."

"O Great Spirit, look down on your children and take pity on them."



Educational Notes

PSHS Athletic Banquet held

Pumell Swett High School held its fall athletic banquet December 16th. John Lowery, booster club president and Master of Ceremonies began the banquet with a warm jester and reflections of the past year of the school's sports accomplishments.

Rev. Dough Locklear gave the invocation and afterwards dinner was served to athletics and guests.

Royce McNeill, athletic director introduced the coaches of the various fall sports; Jean Williams, volleyball coach presented awards to Faith Dial with the Coaches Award, Christina Lowery as Most Improved and Trina Locklear and Christina Oxendine as all-conference and Christina Oxendine as MVP. Al Parnell, tennis coach, presented the coaches award to Emily Love, most improved award to Misty Locklear, lowest stroke to Tara Locklear.

Richard Thomas, golf coach, presented the putting award to Chasity Chavis and most dedicated to Hannah Lowry. Girls cross country coach, Jim Adams presented MVP female runner award to Vanessa Locklear, MVP male runner award to Jeremy Brewington most dedicated award to John Bret Sampson, and most improved award to Patrick Jones. Football coach, Mark Heil, presented awards to Jeremy Jones, MVP offensive, coaches award, David Oxendine, most improved, Jonathan McKay, best all-around, Adam Spaulding, headhunters, Johnny Lowery and Ernie McPhater, roadrunner award, Dennis Smith, MVP, Dennis Smith and the Tommy Martin Award, Kemp Revels.

Royce McNeill presented awards to all senior athletics and to athletics with academic success with scores of 85 and above. Richard Thomas was presented with an award as being chosen as "Coach of the Year". Mr. Cann Chavis shared his concerns and support of the school and athletes, and presented a scrapbook of the various newspaper articles and other football season information of Pumell Swett High to coach Heil after Mr. Cann received a standing ovation from the audience.

John Lowery gave a special thanks to everyone and principal Bill Brewington ended the banquet with encouraging remarks to all the athletes.

Christmas entertainment held at PSHS

Pumell Swett High School ended their final day before Christmas vacation with special entertainment from various groups and clubs Friday, December 17.

John Hodges, social studies teacher, Jerry Shooter, science teacher, and performed and sang various Christmas selections. Clubs that performed included the Spanish and French club, Dance teacher, Stanley Reynolds dance student danced to several selections.

New Resource Officer at Swett High

During a Christmas social with exchanges of gifts and delicious food among faculty and staff members of Pumell Swett was introduced to Mr. Kelvin Locklear as the new school resource officer on December 16.

Kenneth Sealey, supervisor and chief investigator introduced Kelvin Locklear and his qualifications as a new officer. Ronald Simmons, also a force and school resource officer, attended the social event.

Kelvin is a 1987 graduate of West Robeson Senior High. He worked as a dispatcher for Pembroke Police Department and as a public housing officer in Lumberton.

PSHS seniors to order caps and gowns

Balfour Representatives will be on campus Friday, February 4, 1994 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for seniors to order their caps and gowns for graduation. Please make arrangements to be there, this is for one day only. Thank you for your cooperation.

Unforgiven

When They Pulled out of Saigon
They thought the enemy was left behind
Home to the motherland
A greater foe they would find.
No marching bands, no parades, as it should have been done.
No cheers, no pats on the back. No mention of well done my son.
Their participation by force not choice How were they to have known.
They would be abandoned by their own country.
They were in this conflict alone.
It wasn't agent orange or a sniper's bullet that sentenced them to die.
Tried and hung by a jury of their peers America--You and I.
So search your soul and remember
Let us not forget We still owe a homecoming celebration
For Our Vietnam Vet.

By: Wendy Moore Ledwell

More Families Qualify for Tax Credit---But Must File to Receive it

by Douglas Sea and Kimberly King

Tax season is again upon us, bringing with it some of the same tensions of years past. But for many moderate and low-income families, federal income taxes can actually allow for an income credit. If you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, you could receive from \$1,434 up to as high as \$2,364, depending upon your circumstances. Qualifying families must have worked, earned below a certain income level and have a qualifying child at home.

For the 1993 tax year, the maximum allowable income for the Earned Income Credit or EIC has increased to \$23,050. Last year in North Carolina, almost 500,000 families filed for the EIC and received \$476 million.

The EIC is easy to request and receive, yet many eligible families still do not file for this important benefit. They are either unaware of the EIC or of the recent changes that may now mean their family qualifies.

Even if you owe no federal taxes and no taxes were withheld from your wages you can still receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. If your family does owe taxes, the EIC will help to offset the amount owed. If the EIC is greater than the amount owed, the IRS will send you a check for the difference. But you must file to receive it.

To apply for the credit, families must file a federal income tax return Form 1040 or 1040A. Families may not use Form 1040EZ. In addition, married couples must file jointly.

You may also consider the Advanced Income Credit for your 1994 taxes. This allows taxpayers to receive their credit in disbursements in their paychecks throughout the tax year.

For help in preparing your tax return, the Internal Revenue Service offers free assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). For the VITA site nearest you, call the IRS toll free number at 1-800-829-1040. You can also listen to a recorded message with additional EIC information 24 hours a day by calling 1-800-829-4477. Request topic 402.

We'll Treat You Like An Old Friend...

In Fact, For Many, Our Dr. Frank Worlax Is Just That

There's good reason for many in Robeson County to consider Dr. Frank Worlax as an old friend. After all, he is a native son. Born and raised here and educated at Pembroke State University. His medical education took him to Duke University for a period of time, but after completing his internship and residency there,

Dr. Worlax came back home. Since 1979, he has been in private practice. And since March, he has focused his skills here at Doctor's Urgent Care Centre. Here, he is able to care for friends, family and neighbors when they need him most... whether it's day or night.

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