

Readers' Forum

Reader says he doesn't need any help defining "truth"

Dear Miss Connee:
 You have a friend and he is at times not an uninformed guy either. But when he goes to telling me what truth is, well, I just have to pray for him. He started out in a recent article in Carolina Indian Voice, by using Webster to tell me what the word truth mean. Well, I know my last name is not "Piled High and Deep." So, he made a lot of things sound pretty. When I was old and foolish, without the Almighty, I would have fell for it big time. But now that I'm young and smart (that's what the Almighty will do for you) I know truth can be found in only one book. The Good Book. He was also afraid that everyone thought like me, which as we all know, will never happen. I even like way he took things I said out of context. That is an old trick people use to misrepresent your words. If he has a problem with the age of the name for the Lumbee people, may he can go back in time and do something about it. I can't help it because the name was given to some of the people of Robeson County forty years ago.
 But let me put this in plain English (now it might be plain Robeson County "Indian" English, so forgive me, Mr. Piled High and Deep): you don't have to burn down the barn just to get a few rats out. And I am not now, nor have I ever been, against the Lumbees. I worked hard at Lumbee River Legal Services. Mr. Cliff Oxendine and I recorded the Elders long before Mr Piled High and Deep or Ms. Hunt were around. This is what they told me: "up until about (at that time) thirty years ago, the Indian people around here had many different names." They said that no one really knew for sure where the name Lumbee came from. That was not so important

to them. One Elder did say that the decision to call the people Lumbee was made by a hand full of people (sounds familiar) and nobody knew much about it until it was already done (just like today). I then asked about the name of the river. I was told it depended on who you asked and what part of the county they came from. But most of them stated that it was called "Drowning Creek" for a good while, then the name was changed to Lumbee River. I will make this statement once again: If people in North Carolina want to call themselves Lumbee, that is their business.
 A couple of other things, Mr. Piled High and Deep, I was taught a long time ago that it is nice to assume, but one should be careful because you never know when you may make an A--our of U and ME. Theories, Mr. Piled High and Deep, are just what they are. In your own words, Mr. Piled High and Deep, "We seldom if ever arrive at the whole truth by looking at only a part of the story." So, please allow me to look at the whole story and allow me the right to make up my own mind. You know Hitler once said something to this effect: "If you tell a lie loud enough and frequently enough, the people will believe it." My Elders told me "At one time it was easy to tell the truth, it was written down in black and white, but now adays, any liar can write or type." As for me the only truth I believe in is written in Red and can be found in the Good Book.
 Now don't go to exercising again (jumping to conclusions), Mr. Piled High and Deep, I have too much respect for you or anyone else to call you a liar. I had a lot more respect for you when you were neutral. Then

again, it is hard to stay neutral, even if you are a non-Indian, living among the people will make you take a side when it comes to dealing with Indian politics. But my point is we all have heard this one side (yours) of the story, so let us hear the other side.
 All jokes aside, know that you are in my prayers and that we are all working toward the same goal. So it doesn't matter how old the name Lumbee is, or who came up with it first. I look at it this way, it doesn't matter if you call Him Great Mystery, or Almighty, Great Spirit, Lord, or Jehovah, the only thing that matters is that you call him frequently and distinctly and with patience. The most important thing is know why you call and that goes for the name you call yourself. Know why you are called Lumbee, Cherokee, Lumbee-Cheraw, Creek, Siouan, Hatteras-Tuscarora, or Indians of Robeson County. And, yes, study the other side so you will have something to compare it to. Don't be afraid to hear or allow the other side to be heard.
 In closing know that no matter what anyone else says, you are a real Indian and yes, you are a full-blood with twenty-two pints. If you are not full of blood, then you are dead. It is that simple. No one, not me or Mr. Piled High and Deep, has a right to tell you what truth is or what to call yourself. Just because someone has their own article doesn't give them the corner market on being right. I'm sure Painted Turtle and Wiz Locklear will tell you that. If I am wrong, they will tell you that also.
 In the True Way,
 Derek Lowry

Helping to write tribal Constitution is a worthy undertaking delegate says

TO THE EDITOR

Since July 1993, I have been in a most worthy undertaking. Its purpose is to write a Lumbee Tribal Constitution that will represent ALL Lumbee both equally and fairly. This constitution is comprised of approximately 40+ members who were chosen from Indian churches and Indian organizations not only in Robeson, but also Hoke, Cumberland, and Guilford counties. Baltimore, Maryland is also represented. Although this delegation is predominantly comprised of church representatives, the constitution will be written in a manner that will respectfully represent all Lumbee without regard to religious affiliation.
 This constitution will promote both accountability and moral integrity in our tribal government. It is imperative that our leaders be held accountable to the voting public while carrying themselves in a respectable manner. Is it not the LACK OF accountability and moral integrity that have contributed significantly to the decay of our present government systems? It is time that our leaders are held accountable for both their words and actions.
 Finally this constitution will allow the HAVE-NOTS as well as the HAVES fair and equal representations. This allows the voices of ALL the people to be heard rather than the voices of a few who drown out the multitude. If your community has not heard any information on this constitution, we strongly urge you to call the Lumbee Tribal Enrollment Office at 521-2462 for information on the delegate from your area. We offer community education for those who wish to be made aware of this constitution, what it means to you and

your rights as a member of the Lumbee Tribe. It is only through you, the people, that this constitution's power will enable our Lumbee Tribe to have a government foundation that will stand firm and support its people generation after generation.
 I consider it not only a privilege, but one of the greatest honors of my lifetime, to be a part of such a historical endeavor. For the sake of your descendants' futures, I beseech you to take your part in the history of your people. Support this tribal constitution through your suggestions, your criticism and your help in spreading the word of its existence.
 Truthfully Yours,
 Wendy M. Ledwell
 West Robeson UMC Delegate



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CLOSED	WED SAT	SUNDAY
Monday & Tuesday	LUNCH BUFFET 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$4.99 DINNER BUFFET 4 p.m.-9 p.m. \$7.99	DINNER BUFFET All Day 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dinner Buffet with One Order of Crab Legs \$12⁰⁰

Total deposits to the credit of the State of North Carolina or any official thereof \$ 1,029,907.65

PUBLICATION COPY - COMMERCIAL AND SAVINGS BANKS CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CONDITION (Including Domestic and Foreign Subsidiaries) STATE 035 (3/93)				
LEGAL TITLE OF BANK			STATE BANK NO.	
Lumbee Guaranty Bank			0368	
			FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT NO.	
			0531	
CITY	COUNTY	STATE	ZIP CODE	CLOSE OF BUSINESS DATE
Pembroke	Robeson	NC	28372	December 31, 1993

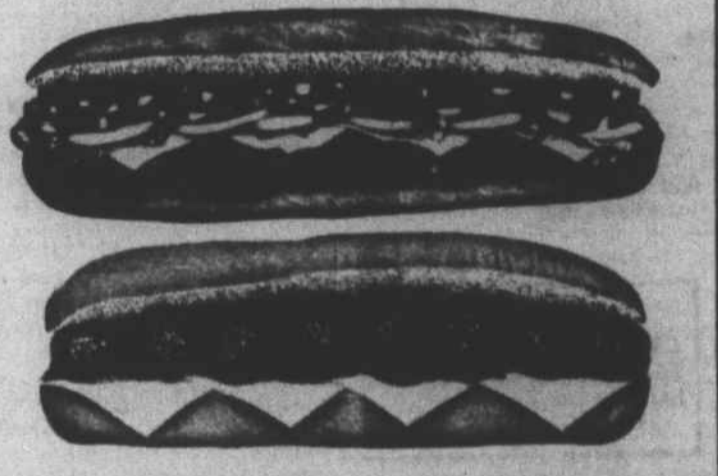
		Dollar Amounts in Thousands			
		Bill	Mill	Thou	
ASSETS					
1. Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	a. Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin		1	855	1.a.
	b. Interest-bearing balances			None	1.b.
2. Securities			15	025	2.
3. Federal funds sold & securities purchased under agreements to resell in domestic offices of the bank & of its Edge & Agreement subsidiaries, & in IBFs:	a. Federal funds sold		4	600	3.a.
	b. Securities purchased under agreements to resell			None	3.b.
4. Loans and lease financing receivables:		18	726		4.a.
a. Loans and leases, net of unearned income			233		4.a.
b. LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses			None		4.b.
c. LESS: Allocated transfer risk reserve					4.c.
d. Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve (item 4.a minus 4.b and 4.c)			18	493	4.d.
5. Assets held in trading accounts				None	5.
6. Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)				338	6.
7. Other real estate owned				5	7.
8. Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies				None	8.
9. Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding				139	9.
10. Intangible assets				659	10.
11. Other assets				41	11.
12. a. Total assets (sum of items 1 through 11)				None	12.a.
b. Loans deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j)				41	12.b.
c. Total assets and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823(j) (sum of items 12.a and 12.b)				41	12.c.
LIABILITIES					
13. Deposits:	a. In domestic offices		37	149	13.a.
	(1) Noninterest-bearing	3	367		13.a.(1)
	(2) Interest-bearing	33	782		13.a.(2)
	b. In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs			None	13.b.
	(1) Noninterest-bearing		None		13.b.(1)
	(2) Interest-bearing		None		13.b.(2)
14. Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase in domestic offices of the bank & of its Edge & Agreement subsidiaries, & in IBFs:	a. Federal funds purchased			29	14.a.
	b. Securities sold under agreements to repurchase			None	14.b.
15. Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury				None	15.
16. Other borrowed money				None	16.
17. Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases				None	17.
18. Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding				None	18.
19. Subordinated notes and debentures				261	19.
20. Other liabilities				37	20.
21. Total liabilities (sum of items 13 through 20)				None	21.
22. Limited-life preferred stock and related surplus				None	22.
EQUITY CAPITAL					
23. Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus (No. of shares outstanding)	None			None	23.
24. Common stock (No. of shares a. Authorized	1,000,000			454	24.
b. Outstanding	226,795			1	25.
25. Surplus (exclude all surplus related to preferred stock)				2	26.a.
26. a. Undivided profits and capital reserves				None	26.b.
b. LESS: Net unrealized loss on marketable equity securities					26.c.
27. Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments				3	27.
28. a. Total equity capital (sum of items 23 through 27)				None	28.a.
b. Losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j)				3	28.b.
c. Total equity capital and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j) (sum of items 28.a. & 28.b)				3	28.c.
29. Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, equity capital, and losses deferred pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1823 (j) (sum of items 21, 22, and 28.c)				41	29.
MEMORANDA: Amounts outstanding as of Report of Condition date:					
1. a. Standby letters of credit. Total				60	MEMO 1.a.
1. b. Amount of Standby letters of credit in memo 1.a. conveyed to others through participations				None	MEMO 1.b.

NOTE: This report must be signed by an authorized officer(s) and attested by not less than three directors other than the officer(s) signing the report.
 I, We, the undersigned officer(s), do hereby declare that this Report of Condition has been prepared in conformance with official instructions and is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief.
 SIGNATURE OF OFFICER(S) AUTHORIZED TO SIGN REPORT: Linda M. Chavys, Cashier/AVP
 DATE SIGNED: 1-28-94
 AREA CODE/PHONE NO.: (910) 521-9707
 SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR: [Signatures]
 SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR: [Signatures]

(MAKE MARK FOR NOTARY'S SEAL)
 State of North Carolina, County of Robeson, 28th day of January, 19 94.
 I, [Signature], Notary Public, do hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.
 My commission expires 8-21-95.

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