

Readers' Forum

Encouraged Over Possibility of Lumbee Bill Passage

Never before have I felt such encouragement about the passage of our Lumbee Bill until May 26th when I read Sen. Faircloth's public support of it. I had heard several rumors, but as many of my brothers and sisters, I would not allow myself to get excited over a mere rumor of Sen. Faircloth's support. I had to see it in black and white! As I read the article, needless to say, my goose bumps had goose bumps!

First and foremost I would like to thank our heavenly father for hearing our prayers, for without Him, this would not have been possible. I ask him to be our support through the weeks to follow for we are not at our journey's end. I beseech all those who support this bill to be in prayer increasingly, for it is prayer that can make the impossible possible.

Secondly I would like to thank the tireless and relentless efforts of Dr. Arlinda Locklear, the SOLE lobbyist for our Lumbee Bill. Dr. Locklear has kept close contact with Sen. Faircloth's office over the past year. Despite the pessimism depicted in several newspaper articles, Dr. Locklear always kept an optimistic view of attaining the Senator's support. It must be noted that during this time Dr. Locklear was offered a government position by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. Dr. Locklear declined to accept this position simply stating that the recognition of her people was her first priority. Truly she

is a woman to be applauded by all! We as members of the Lumbee Tribe are indebted to Dr. Locklear and we should ALL strive to work together to give her entire tribal support for the work that is yet before her.

We also must thank Sen. Faircloth for his support and for his ability to see that our people truly deserve what is due them. We must all be in prayer for him for realistically he will suffer scrutiny from certain sects of the public for his support of the Lumbee Bill.

We cannot forget his courage in making this statement publicly so therefore let us support him in due season AT THE POLLS. Finally there were those who worked diligently behind the scenes, who assisted in attaining the senator's support. Their political strongholds within the Indian community gave our cause that extra boost it needed. I guess you could say these guys used up all their Easter eggs they had accumulated over the years to pull this one off! To you a heartfelt thanks.

Through the past century there have been many paths whose labors have helped to make our path toward federal recognition clearer. We must work in unison to insure there are fruits of their labors. Together let us press forward in achieving our ultimate goal - LUMBEE FEDERAL RECOGNITION!!

Proud to be Lumbee
Wendy Moore Ledwell

Reader Seeks Clarification on Lumbee Constitution

Dear Ms. Brayboy,

This is the second time I have written to the CIV to have my letter printed in your "Reader's Forum." Last December I wrote to state my opinion that the LRDA's role should be to administer tribal programs and not be involved in the tribal government. I thank you for printing that letter. It sounds like things have really gotten into a mess around the LRDA's role since I last wrote, which makes me feel more strongly about my original position.

That's enough about the LRDA from me. The main reason I am writing at this time is to get some clarification on the Tribal Constitution. I understand that a draft was written by the Constitutional Assembly, and that they are having community meetings to solicit input from the tribal members. I think this is great, and I am sure it will produce a Constitution that all Lumbees can be proud of. My one concern is this: what role do those of us living far away from Robeson County have in the development of the Constitution? Will we be able to vote on the Constitution too, or do you have to be at the Homecoming in

July to vote? And once the Constitution is adopted will only Lumbees residing near Robeson County get to vote on the Tribal Council?

These are questions that I have, and I am sure many of the other 10,000 or so Lumbees who live away from "home" have, but I have yet to see these issues addressed in your paper. My greatest fear about all this would be that those of us who are away from "home" would be looked at as second class citizens. I know that as an enrolled member I am supposed to have a "right" to participate in tribal elections, but will I have the "ability" or "opportunity"?

I hope that these issues could be addressed as the time for election draws nearer. I am in full support of the community meetings, and I wish the Constitutional Assembly congratulations. And let's not also forget the importance of lobbying our Senators to get the Recognition bill passed!

Thanks again for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Respectfully,
R. Andrew (Andy) Hunt
Kent, WA

Competitive Fund Helps to Bring 100 New Jobs to Hoke

North Carolina's Industrial Recruitment Competitive Fund is helping to bring up to 100 new jobs to Hoke County. The jobs were announced in April following a grant to Hoke Rubber Products.

Hoke Rubber Products, a producer of polymer compounds and a wire manufacturer, will invest \$7 million in the operation. The Competitive Fund provided a \$100,000 grant for machinery and site improvements.

Last year the North Carolina General Assembly gave Gov. Jim Hunt \$5 million for the fund to help recruit and keep jobs in North Carolina. Hunt has asked legislators for \$10 million for Fiscal Year 1994-95.

"This fund is working just as we intended," Hunt said. "It's helping bring good jobs to workers like those in Hoke County who haven't seen new jobs in a long time. We want to build on the jobs Hoke Rubber Products is bringing."

Hoke is one of nine economically distressed counties where the fund has helped create new jobs. Of the 4,363 new jobs the fund has netted since last August, nearly half have landed in economically distressed counties.

Twenty-two projects including new locations and expansions of existing industries have brought an estimated \$276.2 million in investment to the state. Additional Competitive Fund grants are being negotiated with companies that would provide an estimated 949 new jobs and \$299.3 million in investment. Those companies have not yet announced their plans.

Grants from the Competitive Fund are awarded after a state Commerce team headed by Secretary Dave Phillips recommends a project to the governor. Guidelines set up by the team and Hunt include using the grant to close deals and to encourage public private partnerships.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RULES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING ON LUMBEE CONSTITUTION

All Lumbee People, 18 years and older, may vote in the election of the Lumbee Tribal Constitution. If you are Lumbee, and 18 years of age on the day of voting, but will not be present in the tribal area, you may vote by absentee ballot. To receive an application for absentee voting, you must WRITE the below address to request an absentee ballot. In order that we may respond to your request in a timely manner, your letter requesting an application should arrive at the below address no later than June 15. In this letter, you should clearly print your full name, home address, home telephone number, and social security number. Although it is not required, we would appreciate you providing a self-addressed stamp envelope when you write to apply for an application to vote by absentee ballot.

Constitution Assembly of the Lumbee Tribe
P.O. Box 3056
Pembroke, NC 28372

Reading Program to Begin June 14

The Robeson County Public Library's Summer Reading Program, entitled "Dive Into a Book," will kick off on June 24 and will run through August 6. Registration will begin on June 24. Children ages 3 to 12 are encouraged to join us for stories, crafts, songs, games, films, and summer reading fun!

Schedule: Mondays: Lumberton, 10:00; Pembroke 2:30, Tuesdays: Proctorville 9:30, Fairmont, 11:00, Bedtime Story (in Lumberton) 7:00; Wednesdays: Film Hour (in Lumberton) 10:00, St. Pauls, 2:00, Red Springs 3:30; Thursdays: Toddler Time, for ages 18 mos. - 36 mos. (in Lumberton) 10:30, Maxton 2:00, Rowland, 3:30; Saturdays (July 2 - August 6): Biggs Park Mall in Lumberton Stories, balloons, magic, and more from the Library and Phil Sessoms, 11:00 - 12:00. The bookmobile will be open at the mall from 10 to 11 and from 12 to 12:00.

Friday, June 24: Come by the main library in Lumberton from 3:30 to 5:30 to register for the Summer Reading Program. Bring a plain t-shirt to have screen-printed!

Friday, August 5: Come to the main library in Lumberton at 4:00 for a magic show and prizes! Please call the library at 738-4859 if you have any questions.



Health Clipboard

by Robert M. Chavis, PA-C

Concerns of Women
Amenorrhea Ya'tah a'h, Da'go t'ah, Hello, (How's it going?) Well, it has been a very busy month for me. I just returned from San Antonio, Texas. My National Medical Education conference was held there this year. Boy, the city of San Antonio is clean and good looking for a big city. The down town city area was over taken by thousands of health care providers this week. The vacation was great, but I ended up working harder at the conference and longer hours getting medical enlightenment than if I had stayed in Arizona.

Now, let's talk about the topic Amenorrhea. What is amenorrhea? This is the medical word for when girls or women do not have their menstrual cycle or period of that time of the month as some might use to refer to the menstrual cycle. The state of having amenorrhea is normal before puberty (before females sexual changes in young ladies). Amenorrhea is normal also during pregnancy, and early breast feeding, and after a hysterectomy (which is the surgical removal of the uterus, the female baby carrying device) and after menopause. There are two types of amenorrhea. #1 Persons who are at adulthood yet never had a menstrual cycle. This is called primary amenorrhea. #2 Secondary amenorrhea is when a person had a cycle at one time in her life and now for six months is without a menstrual cycle.

There are many reasons of amenorrhea. A good physical exam and a thorough history should be obtained by the medical provider in order to find the most likely cause of an individual's amenorrhea. The causes can range from physical to psychological. Some medicines can cause amenorrhea. These medicines include birth control pills, tranquilizers, hormone drugs, and anti cancer medicines. A rapid weight loss from a diet, a rigorous exercise program, or from the syndrome of Anorexia Nervosa can cause amenorrhea. Even excessive weight

gain, which increases the estrogen female hormone will cause amenorrhea. If a lady develops a lot of stress in her life or becomes distressed, or has any other mental disorders she may stop having a menstrual cycle (amenorrhea). Diseases of the thyroid, and the syndromes that develop from thyroid problems cause amenorrhea. Genetic disorders that change the DNA code which changes the way the body develops causes amenorrhea. Amenorrhea can be caused by tumors on the ovaries. Healthy individuals sometimes develop amenorrhea. The reason they have no menstrual cycle (amenorrhea) is due to low body fat, and stress, which in turn makes changes in the female hormone levels.

The diagnose amenorrhea the medical provider finds the problem causing amenorrhea. Amenorrhea itself is only a symptom of some other problems of the body, be it a disease or a physical defect of the female organs. The two most common causes are pregnancy or menopause. Diagnosing starts with a good history and physical exam, then blood tests and hormonal studies are performed to diagnose the cause of amenorrhea. Treatment depends upon the cause.

Female organ defects should be corrected if possible. Some women may just need to gain weight. If the problem is due to stress, depression, or an eating disorder then comes the need for psychological counseling. Treatment may need to consist of hormone therapy. You may be able to correct amenorrhea yourself by reducing stress in your life or by gaining a little weight. When the problem still exists or if you have an adolescent girl that has no menstrual cycle by age 16 she should consult a medical provider. The medical provider should also be consulted if your menstrual cycle is missed for 3 or more months. Amenorrhea sometimes corrects itself, if the cause is breast feeding, or from the use of birth control pills, or associated with changes in weight, or from other medicines, or if its stress related. Amenorrhea itself is

not dangerous, but the cause of amenorrhea may be dangerous. Also if hormones are the problem women may have bone tissue loss which makes it easier to break a bone. Symptoms of amenorrhea include: failure to begin menstruation by around age 16. Failure to menstruate at regular time intervals. Menstrual cramps and pain without bleeding. Now what can you do to avoid amenorrhea? Women can keep an ideal weight and a sensible amount of body fat (18-20% of the total body weight of fat). Exercise in moderation, most of the problem here is with long distance runners, swimmers, and ballet dancers, do not smoke and use alcohol or if you do please do so in moderation. Please keep reading for more on women's health in future articles.

Thank you and many blessings be with your family, and remember to keep the family important.



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