

## Readers' Forum

### Concerned About General Statute on Social Workers

I am employed as a social worker I am proud of my career choice and believe social work makes a positive impact on all communities in North Carolina including your county.

This editorial is due to our concern regarding general statute 90 B, which empowers the North Carolina Certification Board for social work to "certify" social workers in North Carolina. We believe professional development for social workers is imperative as is development for all professions.

However, we strongly disagree with the idea of being required to have 18 hours of social work related courses from a "council on social work education accredited school" in order to sit for the social work exam. This requirement effectively belittles and discredits the 75% of department of social services social workers in North Carolina who have degrees in Psychology, Sociology, Early Childhood Education, Development Psychology, Mental Health Counseling, Geriatric Counseling, Adolescent Counseling, Behavior Management, Etc. Courses in these areas even for the "18 Hours of Social Work related courses" which are accredited by the Southern Association of colleges and schools are not recognized as adequate by the North Carolina Certification board for social work as training to sit for the lowest level social work exam. Some cultural elitists will argue certification is voluntary. BullPie!!! It is voluntary in the same way membership in the private clubs used to be voluntary. One was not forced to join those either. Those who joined did so with the approval of the cultural elite, or political elite or academic elite. In some ways the council on social work education has become the academic elite and dictates to local, state and national social workers by entwining themselves in certification boards such as the one in North Carolina disguised as "Protectors of the profession". Our legislature made a good intentioned mistake in 1983 when it effectively allowed the council on social work education control of all social work curriculum in our state through N.C. Statute 90B. Fortunately, the mistake can be corrected by amendment.

Further, NC division of social services training is not recognized by

NCCBSW as adequate training for a social worker to sit for the exam even though the department sponsors hundreds of hours of required and voluntary courses in social worker. So, one can be a social worker III, employed by counties who use state funds to pay social worker III wages -- and be certified by the state personnel office as eligible for social worker III classification -- and still not meet NCCBSW Base Education certification level requirements to sit for the base social work exam.

I wonder how much of this nonsense is related to most DSS clients being poor, or to most DSS social workers being in some minority category, or to most social workers not subscribing to political correctness and psycho-babble or to DSS social workers taking a family centered approach to solving problems.

The aforementioned concerns prohibit thousands of social workers in North Carolina sitting for the base level social work exam. We are not talking about automatic certification. Opportunity to sit for the exam and pass or fail on our own merits is our goal.

Investigation of DSS records will show 75% of social workers are adversely affected by NC Statute 90B because of the accreditation mistake made by the general assembly in 1983

Yes, the decision to recognize only council on social work education accreditation and the council's hidden agenda was a mistake. Not recognizing southern association of colleges and schools accreditation for social work training was also a mistake. Fortunately mistakes can sometimes be corrected.

I represent a group of 23 social workers across North Carolina who request you call your legislative representative in Raleigh at 919-733-4111. Ask Him or her to sponsor a bill to amend NC statute chapter 90 B. Request your legislators to remove council on social work education from the statute and substitute the most respected accreditation body in the south -- the Southern association of colleges and schools. This legislation has the potential to affect every citizen in your county. Your help is needed to make a positive impact on this statute.

Sincerely,  
Wesley E. Taylor  
Social Worker

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### Reader Wonders if Elders Would Be Pleased With Indians

Dear Connee,  
Well summer is almost here and school will soon be out. I really do look forward to spending more time down home. I guess I'm not cut out to be a city fellow. I keep praying the Almighty will open a door for me so I can return home. One thing I have noticed is the older I get the less time I have to do the things I would really like to do. I would love to return to "Strike at the Wind" before I get to old and play the part of Henry one more time. I'll never forget the one thing that help me with that part was I always asked myself what did Henry do or what would he have done in this situation. Which brings me to the reason I'm writing, what would some of our Elders say if they would come back from the past. Would they be happy with things the way they are now the communities, the schools, our leaders and yes our churches?

Now I in not saying the past was some kind of golden period that I would like to return to. Although it may sound like it, what I am saying is I now have a better appreciation for the past. I have a greater appreciation for a lot of things now that I see them through the eyes of a child of God. I've read alot about the Lumbee Bill lately and I may not be Wiz Locklear, then again no one maybe but let me share with you some things I know. I know we Tuscaroras and Lumbees are all in the same boat, no matter what and alot of other people across the state. As far as Federal Recognition goes

whatever happens it will effect alot more than just LRDA or the Carolina Indian Voice. So all this finger pointing between LRDA and the Carolina Indian Voice and the fact Faircloth supports the bill it really doesn't add up to a hill of beans. When you get to the bottom line the bill will go through IF IT IS THE WILL OF GOD. And if you're spending your time politicking and finger pointing you better think twice who is it helping? If you want something to happen spend time with the one who makes things happen. Sure all these things are important because it is true God does help those who help themselves but I for one feel we have done all we can do. It's time to put it in the Almighty's hands and leave it there. The funny thing is when you compared it to the Almighty what we do it really don't add up to much. For man's most righteous deeds are like fifty rages to the Almighty.

So I think if our Elders would come back they would ask have you prayed over it, have you asked the ONE ABOVE. I don't have faith in alot of people but you know the GOOD BOOK say a I only need to have faith in the Almighty not man. Man will let you down but the Almighty will never let you down because he couldn't be the Almighty if he let you down. No I don't think our Elders would be overly impress with the way things are, our nice homes or big titles. They would see the way we treat our Elders and our

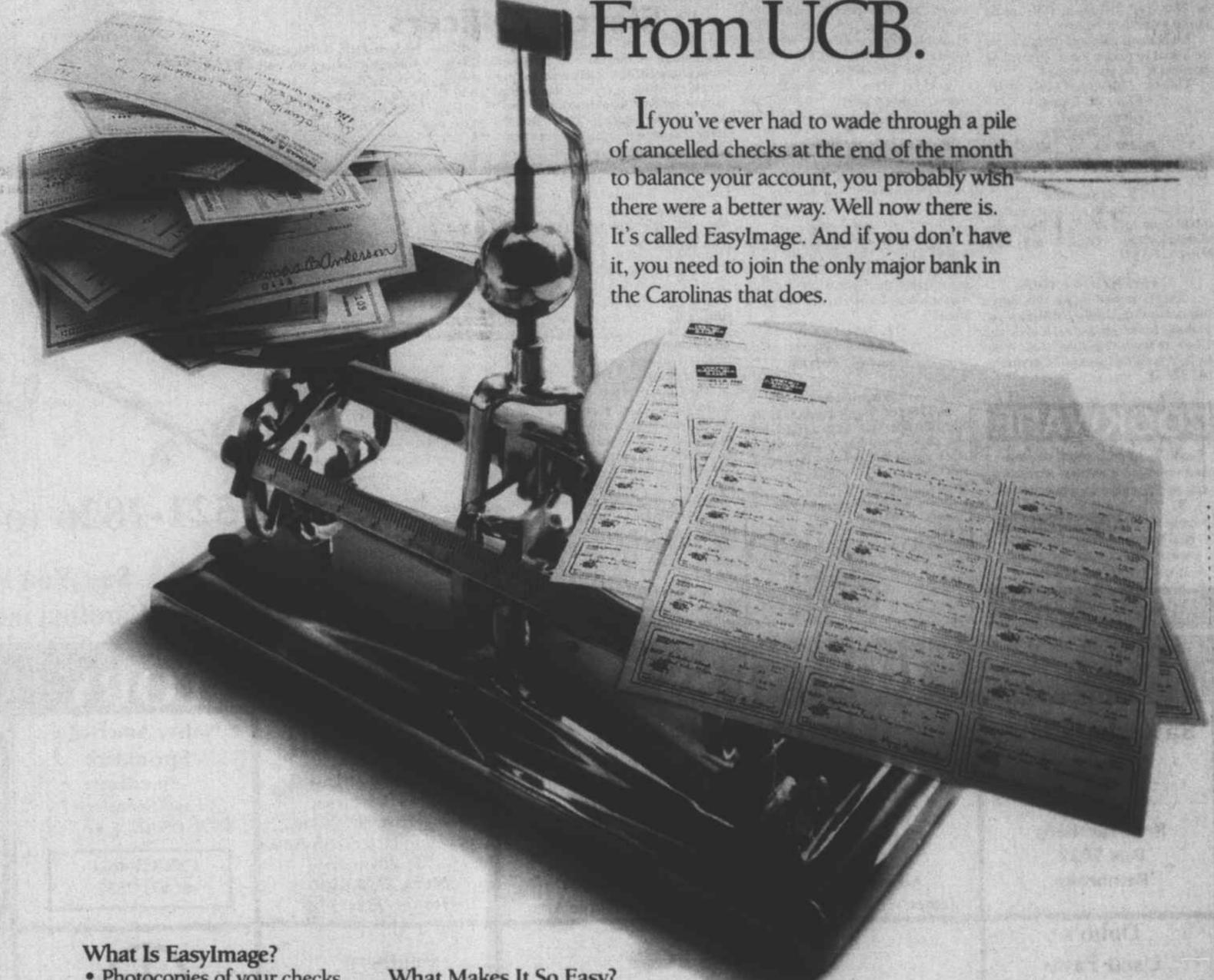
children and wonder if we were raised right. They would see some of the things going on in our communities and wonder if anyone really cares and how did we become so selfish. They would remind us of a time when the schools were an important part of the community and Teachers where look up to. They would tell us they respected Preachers if for no other reason than the God that is in them. Which is the same reason we would respect Christians not because we think they are perfect but because they have been forgiven. Now days we have an attitude. "They put their pants on the same way I do". If that is true why aren't we all about the business of the Almighty. Concerning our Churches, I think they would tell us it's true a man's home is his castle, but the house of the Lord is just that. If we learn to keep the man out of the Church you can keep the World out and if you let the spirit in, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit will be there, which makes a Church, a Church. Well June can turn out to be one of the darkest or brightest periods in Robeson County Indian History, will see and only if we pray will it be bright.

I leave you with this "Walk in the shadow of no man, but walk in the light of the Almighty". Pray and fast people, Pray and fast.  
In the True Way

Derek Lowry  
Greensboro, NC

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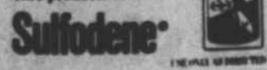


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