

T CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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Lumbee Tribal Council has very productive and successful meeting in Washington, D.C. with Congressmen and funding sources

by David P. Lowery

On January 23, 1995, members of the Lumbee Tribal Council departed from the Burnt Swamp Baptist Building in Pembroke for several meetings in Washington, D. C. They arrived in Washington at approximately 10:30 p.m. The Council roomed at the Appalachian House.

On January 24, the Council had a full day of scheduled meetings. The Council gathered at Congressman Rose's office to meet with Lumbee tribal attorney Dr. Arlinda Locklear. Dr. Locklear gave the Council a schedule for the two days that they would be in Washington. At this point the Council divided into two groups. The first group went to the organizational meeting, which was held at the West End Public Library in Georgetown. The second group went to Senator Helm's office to meet with Wayne Boyles, a member of Sen. Helm's staff.

The organizational meeting held at the West End Public Library was sponsored by NOUNA (The National Organization For The Unification Of Native Americans). The first half of the meeting did have its fireworks, but nothing was accomplished. The afternoon session was a little better. A draft resolution was prepared and signed by all Indian delegations that were in attendance. The next day this resolution was presented in the White House meeting.

The meeting with Wayne Boyles went very well. The Tribal Council was introduced to Mr. Boyles. Mr.

Boyles agreed to open dialogue with tribal attorney Dr. Arlinda Locklear. At 1:00 p.m., the Council met with Mac Brooks, Director of Community Block Grants Programs, Health and Human Services. The meeting with Mrs. Brooks went extremely well. This Community Block Grants Programs provide grants to state recognized tribes to aid in the alleviation of poverty. The Council in the very near future will be applying for these grants to help assist Lumbee people. At 2:00 p.m., the Council met with Sharon McCully, ANA (Administration for Native Americans). ANA administers programs for non-federally recognized tribes to promote the goal of economic and social self-sufficiency and to strengthen the ability of tribal governments to plan, develop and implement community determined programs. At 4:00 p.m. the Council met with Thomas Dowd, Director of JPTA. The Council was very pleased with how these meetings went. The one downside to the first day of meetings was the cold reception that the Council received from Congressman Rose. Mr. Rose later explained that it was simply a very bad day for him, and that he wanted to assist the Lumbee Tribal Council.

On the second day, the Lumbee Tribal Chairman arrived. Dr. Brooks and the Tribal Council attended the White House meeting with Loretta Avent, White House staff. The meeting was very spirited. All the tribes were allowed to sound off about the

problems with the tribes being recognized through the administrative process and also the problems that exist in the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs). Later on in the day, the White House scheduled another meeting for March 3, 1995. The Lumbee Tribal Government is hopeful that they will be able to attend this meeting.

Also, the Lumbee delegation had five other meetings scheduled. The first meeting was at 10:00 a.m. with Congressman Charlie Rose. Chairman Dr. Dalton Brooks and Speaker Lance Harding met with Mr. Rose. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Harding were satisfied with how the meeting proceeded. In addition, several members of the Council met with Eric Eberhard, Chief Counsel for Senator McCain, Republican Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Mr. Eberhard discussed legislation that Sen. McCain would soon be putting forth to reform the administrative recognition process. Mr. Eberhard informed the Council that he would stay in close contact with Tribal Attorney, Dr. Arlinda Locklear.

At 11:00 a.m. the Council met with Congressman Eni Faleomavaega. Congressman Eni promised his continual support of Lumbee recognition. Eni is truly a good friend to the Lumbee people. After lunch the Tribal Council met with John Merritt, a member of Rep. Rose's staff. The Council expressed the problems that had occurred be-

tween Rep. Rose and the Lumbee tribe. The Council felt that Mr. Rose was not very receptive in the prior day's meeting. They felt strongly that Mr. Rose's loyalty lied somewhere, else rather than with the Lumbee people. The Council expressed interest in having a better relationship between themselves and Rep. Rose. Mr. Merritt gave his word that he would stay in contact with Tribal Attorney, Dr. Arlinda Locklear. Later in the afternoon the Council met with Department of Commerce. The last meeting for the Council in Washington occurred at 5:00 p.m. Members of the Council along with Tribal Chairmen, Dr. Dalton Brooks, and Tribal Attorney, Dr. Arlinda Locklear, met briefly with Sen. Lauch Faircloth. Then the Council and the Chairmen spoke with Jonathan Hill, Staff Director for Sen. Faircloth. The Council expressed their appreciation to Sen. Faircloth for his past support. Mr. Hill assured the Council that Mr. Faircloth would do what he could to help the tribe towards federal recognition in the near future. The Tribal Council left Washington at 6:00 p.m. The Council arrived at home between the hours of 1:00 and 2:00 a.m. Members of the Tribal Government participating in these meetings include: Dr. Dalton P. Brooks, Lance Harding, Henry Brewer, Walter Lowery, Aggie G. Deese, Doreen Sampson, and Emma L. Locklear.



SRMC President Donald C. Hiscott (right) congratulated Sonya Oxendine, winner of the Drake distinguished Service Award for 1994, SRMC's highest employee honor.

Pembroke native receives SRMC's top employee award

Sonya L. Oxendine, an employee of more than ten years at Southeastern Regional Medical Center, has been selected winner of the John D. Drake Distinguished Service Award for 1994. The Drake award is SRMC's highest employee honor.

Mrs. Oxendine, who began her career at SRMC in 1985, was promoted in 1993 to her current position as unit preceptor of the Operating Room. Before that, she worked first as a staff nurse and later as nursing manager of the medical center's psychiatric unit. She is the eighth person to be named winner of the Drake Award which was established by the SRMC Board of Trustees in 1988 to recognize exceptional service by employees.

On presenting the award to Mrs. Oxendine at the annual service awards dinner, SRMC President Donald C. Hiscott praised her dedication to the job and her superior job skills.

"Regardless of the task at hand or information needed to complete the task, Sonya is there able and willing to help," he read from the text of one of the many nominations for the Drake Award made by her coworkers. "She has a very wide knowledge base in making sure that the Operating Room runs smoothly and efficiently."

Another colleague in the Operating Room described her as "an excellent nurse who works hard and goes beyond the call of duty to make sure that the staff is kept informed of new

equipment and procedures. She never hesitates to work over if the need arises or to come back as extra staff."

Additional qualities exhibited on the job by Mrs. Oxendine which have qualified her for the Drake award are: the setting of high standards for personal performance on the job; loyalty and dedication to the organization; excellent attendance record; respect by fellow workers; leadership displayed on the job; and a caring attitude to fellow employees and guests of the medical center.

A native and resident of Pembroke, Mrs. Oxendine and her husband Daira are parents of 2 children, Brandon, 18, and Ashley, 5. She is a graduate of Pembroke Senior High School and holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from East Carolina University.

As a recipient of the Drake award, Mrs. Oxendine received a gold watch and a framed certificate. Her name will also be engraved on a plaque which is permanently displayed in SRMC's cafeteria.

The Drake award was named in honor and in memory of John D. Drake, who retired a head cook for SRMC in 1984 after 38 years of service.

Previous winners of the Drake award were: 1988, Julia Harris; 1989, Addie Mae Caple; 1990, Beatrice Leggett and Vashiti Pittman; 1991, Thelma Jean Reeves; 1992, Paula McLean; and 1993, Shirley Thompson.

From This Side of the Aisle

by Bruce Barton

I'm back and I'm going to help Connee and the Carolina Indian Voice

I've essentially been gone from the *Indian Voice* since 1986 when I finished college and became a history teacher. It was a good choice. I'm very happy in the classroom. But the spiritual juices are flowing anew, and the urge to write some has emerged from some deep and dark place. I have some notions on how to help, and I'll share some of my ideas with you in the days and weeks ahead.

I'm 53 now, and wiser... I hope! We'll see. I figure I can squeeze in about 12 hours a week for the *Indian Voice*. So, I'll continue to teach at nearby Sweet High, and help the *Indian Voice* part time. Drop by. Let me hear from you.

One way I'm going to help is to establish a non-profit corporation called Friends of the *Carolina Indian Voice*. This will be a vehicle for those like me who want to get involved. I'll share in the days ahead, and I'll be contacting some more of you privately. The *Carolina Indian Voice* is under attack and needs help.

In the meantime, office hours at the *Carolina Indian Voice* in College Plaza will be extended on until 7 p.m., nightly so I can help Connee Brayboy, the editor and my baby sister, any way I can.

For the time being, I'm going to start up this column, "From this side of the aisle", and agitate some for the good of my people. More later about our plans.

Good News! Governor Hunt graciously grants me a pardon of forgiveness.

It's good news on this side of the aisle. Gov. Hunt has graciously granted me a pardon of forgiveness for a felony of breaking and entering, which occurred nearly thirty years ago in Orange County.

Other people might not be as tickled about it as I am. I'm tempted to lash out some of the folks who ranted and raved about ex-felons in the classroom, but I am going to try to hold my peace for a season at least. This is a time to be gracious and thankful to Gov. Hunt and all of my wonderful friends who helped me achieve this pardon.

But I will say this: I was terribly offended at some of the intemperate remarks of RAE (Robeson Association of Educators) President, Richard Monroe, on the subject of ex-felons. Monroe is one of the reasons I am no longer a member of RAE. I am, as a matter of fact, now that I have my pardon, going to ask for the monies that I previously paid for NEA, NCAE, and RAE, dues, before I quit, to be returned to me. After Monroe's remarks, and the RAE's stand on this issue, I feel I am entitled to my money back. They knew I was an ex-felon when I joined their ranks. They took my money in bad faith. I want it back! Other than the above, I have nothing else to say on the issue of Monroe and RAE...for now!

The other reaction to the ex-felon issue that wounded me deeply came from a motion from the administrative boards of the First Baptist Church and Chestnut United Methodist Church, in Lumberton, in which they uncharitably lashed out against the hiring of ex-felons in the classroom. They never mentioned Jesus in their motions. That probably bothered me more than anything else.

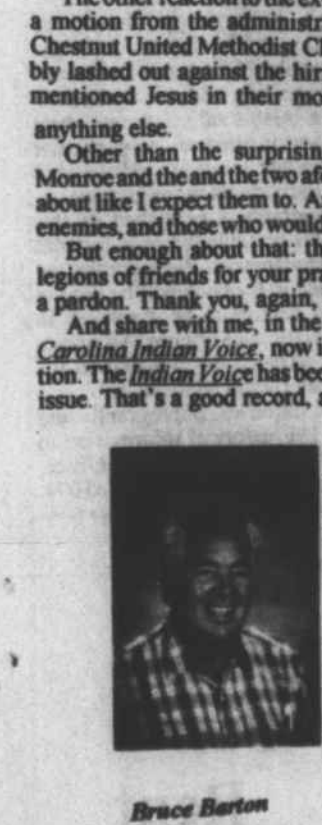
Other than the surprising negative and uncharitable reactions from Monroe and the and the two afore-mentioned churches, everybody else reacted about like I expect them to. And I'm not mad at any of them. I do pray for my enemies, and those who would spitefully harm me. It's good for me spiritually!

But enough about that: this is a time of rejoicing. I sincerely thank my legions of friends for your prayers and support in this successful petition for a pardon. Thank you, again, from the depths of my heart.

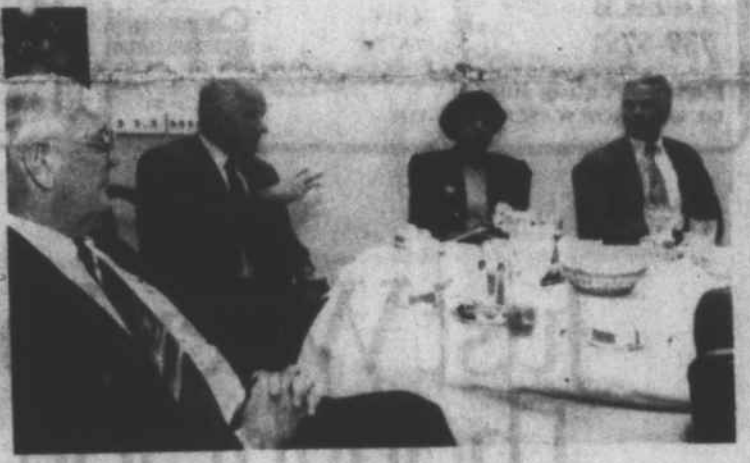
And share with me, in the days ahead, your ideas on how to revitalize the *Carolina Indian Voice*, now in its twenty-second year of continuous publication. The *Indian Voice* has been late sometimes, but has never missed a weekly issue. That's a good record, and worthy of help.

Council District meeting will be held

A forum will be held in the Saddle-tree community at Magnolia School on Thursday, February 21st in the school cafeteria at 7 p.m. The purpose of the forum is to share Lumbee tribal information with the people and also to give the people and opportunity to ask any questions. Any questions concerning the meeting should be directed to Tribal Council Representative Henry Brewer at 739-0712.



Bruce Barton



Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine of Pembroke State University recently hosted a luncheon to share PSU's concerns with area State Legislators. Seated left to right: Sen. J. Richard Conder, District 17; Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine; Rep. Frances Cummings, District 87; and D.G. Martin, UNC Vice President for Public Affairs

PSU Chancellor meets with local legislators

Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine of Pembroke State University hosted a luncheon yesterday to share PSU's concerns with area State legislators before the resume session in Raleigh.

Five legislators were able to attend the luncheon that was held on campus.

State Sen. J. Richard Conder, District 17; Sen. David R. Parnell, District 30; Rep. Frances Cummings, District 87; Rep. Ronnie Sutton, District 85; and Rep. Douglas Y. Yongue, District 16, joined Dr. Oxendine at the University Center.

H.D. Reaves, Jr., a member of the UNC Board of Governors from Fayetteville, and D.G. Martin, UNC Vice President for Public Affairs, also attended.

David F. Weinstein, Chair of the PSU Board of Trustees, reported on a meeting he and other board chairs had with UNC President C.D. Spangler. One of the highlights was a Times of London, England, report on higher education in the United States that rated the University of North Carolina the top state university system in the South.

Chancellor Oxendine expressed his appreciation to the entire legislature for their continued support of PSU and the other 15 constituent institutions of the University of North Carolina.

"Pembroke State is growing in size, stature and distinction," said Dr. Oxendine, "and as a result, is being elevated to masters Comprehensive University I standing. This is in recognition of our growth in the graduate programs and increased scholarship on the part of the faculty."

Chancellor Oxendine asked the legislators for their support this session in seeking \$5.8 million in state funding toward the PSU Regional

Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development. The Federal Government appropriated \$2 million last September for establishment of the center which will serve the southeastern and south central regions.

Congress is expected to appropriate \$4 million more towards the 70,000 square foot conference center which will be built on the PSU campus.

Chancellor Oxendine quoted Congressman Rose who Saturday night at the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce annual dinner stated that "When Congress begins support of a project such as this, they will see it through to completion. The total cost is expected to be about \$11 million."

Dr. Oxendine also told the elected representatives that the flexibility budget is very important to the University. The flexibility budget gives each institution the ability to transfer funds from one line item to another, both within the departments and within the institution as a whole. In the past, PSU had to seek prior approval from the State Budget Office for permission to transfer funds.

The Chancellor sought support in standardizing the reversion rate of all UNC member institutions. When the General Assembly authorized the flexibility budget for UNC, a provision required the campuses to revert a certain percentage of their approved budget to the state at the end of the fiscal year.

According to Neil Hawk, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, "PSU's four percent reversion rate is a high price to pay for flexibility. The Chancellor requested that all UNC institutions revert the same percentage."

Dr. Oxendine also requested that the legislators "be generous as possible" in supporting pay raises for teaching and non-teaching state em-

ployees. He made a special plea for non-teaching employees whose average annual salary increases over the past four years has only been 2.13 percent.

He updated the legislators on several programs including Teaching Fellows; Bachelor of Science in Nursing; the University's proposed birth to kindergarten undergraduate program, the PSU-Pembroke Elementary School partnership and a proposed day care center for University employees, students and community members.

The legislators were informed that the new administration building is nearing completion and is expected to be occupied beginning in May.

Dr. Oxendine also shared with the legislators plans to expand the Livermore Library by 17,000 square feet to meet the growing needs of the University.

The last project briefed to the legislators was PSU's control center for the North Carolina Research and Education Network. Housed in the Business Administration Building, the new center will be the University's link to the information highway.

Prophecy Program to be presented at Pembroke Adventist Church

Discoveries in Prophecy begins Saturday night, February 18 at 7 p.m. at Pembroke Adventist Church, located at the intersection of Highway 710 & Highway 711, Pembroke, NC. All seats are free. The live via satellite to hundreds of cities across North America!

The program will be shown on nightly through Feb. 26. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Georgia's Insurance Commissioners has Robeson connections

John Oxendine has recently been elected Georgia Insurance Commissioner. He is proud of his Lumbee ancestry. Oxendine is the son of Judge Jim Oxendine of Georgia. His uncle, Bill Oxendine of Pembroke, is a businessman and has served on the Robeson County Board of Education. "My father was born and raised in the town of Fairmont, in Robeson County, and I have relatives in Pembroke," Oxendine said. "I go as often as I can. I try to preserve my Lumbee heritage, and I'm very proud of it."

PSU Homecoming

Pembroke State University will celebrate homecoming the weekend of February 10-11.

Events for the week include:

- Friday, February 10
 - 7-9 p.m. PSU Alumni Reception, Ramada Inn, Cash Bar-Free hors d'oeuvres
 - Saturday, February 11
 - 10-11:30 a.m. campus tours, University Center
 - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. PSU Vintage Photo Exhibition, University Center
 - 2-4:30 p.m. Reception, Ramada Inn, Cash Bar-free hors d'oeuvres
 - 2:30 p.m. African American Alumni Program, Givens Performing Arts Center
 - 3 p.m. 50th Class Reunion (Class of '45), University Center, Room 251
 - 4th Class Reunion (Class of '55)
 - 5 p.m. Awards Dinner, University Center
 - 6 p.m. Women's Basketball, PSU vs Georgia College, Health and P.E. Center
 - 8 p.m. Men's Basketball, PSU vs Georgia College, Health and P.E. Center
 - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Homecoming Dance, University Center

For more information, contact PSU's Alumni Relations office at 521-6213.