

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Published each Thursday by First American Publications, Pembroke, NC

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1995

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

VOLUME 7

Recognition Committee of Indian Commission Recommends Adoption of Resolution in Support of Lumbee Tribal Council

by Wendy Moore Ledwell

The North Carolina Board of Education Building, housed in Raleigh, was filled to capacity levels, Monday, February 13th. Those in attendance included: members of the Lumbee/Cheraw Tribal Government and concerned tribal members, members of the Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) and members of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. The purpose of the meeting was to have the Recognition Committee of the Indian Commission to make recommendations on the resolution of the tribal council that requests the NC Commission of Indian Affairs to formally acknowledge the Lumbee Constitution as the government of the Lumbee Indian Tribe. Members of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs Recognition Committee in attendance were: Lonnie Revels, Guilford Native American Association; Pat Riddick, Meherrin Tribe; Leroy Scott, Lumbee Tribe; Earlene Stacks, Metrolina Indian Association; Tom Carter, Coharie Tribe; W.R. Richardson, Haiwe-Saponi Tribe.

The meeting was called to order by W.R. Richardson, newly designated Director of the Indian Commission. The first item on the agenda was the Lumbee/Cheraw Tribal Government's position as conveyed by Tribal Attorney Dr. Arlinda F. Locklear. Dr. Locklear posed two questions. First she asked: Does the commission have the authority to recognize the tribal government? Her answer was "Yes," due to the fact that through their by-laws they have already recognized LRDA as the Lumbee representative. In fact, the commission contended that they did not possess that authority then their authority to recognize LRDA is dissolved. Dr. Locklear added, "because the commission acknowledges LRDA, the commission cannot sit this one out." By doing nothing the commission would send a statement to the Lumbee people saying, "we

care not who you select as your leaders; we select your leaders for you." Secondly, she asked: Have the Lumbees selected new leaders? Again, her answer was "yes." She then gave an overview of the constitutional election process and the tribal elections provided therein. Dr. Locklear states, "What we have is a simple election. One side won; one side lost." She presented evidence of mandate through previous Lumbee elections, examples include: the election to change the tribal name to Lumbee was 2109 FOR and 35 AGAINST; the 1984 referendum, that gave LRDA representative authority (for federal recognition only), was 796 FOR and 32 AGAINST; the Lumbee Constitution was 8,040 FOR and 223 AGAINST.

The second item on the agenda was the LRDA position as conveyed by Executive Director, James Hardin and Board of Directors Chairman, Adolph Blue under legal advisement of Greg Smith, attorney for LRDA. Mr. Hardin began by proudly acknowledging LRDA's outstanding service rendered to the Lumbee people for the past 27 years. He added that LRDA has always represented the Lumbee people as a governing body, in that, LRDA's board of directors is elected by the people and as of the past week there are 45,000+ enrolled tribal members through LRDA Enrollment Office. Mr. Hardin contended that LRDA is the governing body of the Lumbee Tribe, in that, it fulfills the 4 major requirements of governance: 1. Promotes health and welfare of tribal members. 2. Identifies membership. 3. Represents tribe before other tribes and organizations. 4. Resolves disputes.

Mr. Hardin also added that LRDA is actively seeking tribal recognition through the executive process.

Mr. Lonnie Revels, Recognition Committee Member, asked Mr. Hardin if it was true that LRDA had

suspended their elections. Mr. Hardin abruptly asked, "Is there a problem with that?" Mr. Revels replied, "Yes, Mr. Hardin, I do have a problem when a body who suppose to represent the people denies them the democratic process." Mr. Hardin stated that the suspension was a mechanism to give the board time to implement the tribal rolls in their election process.

Mrs. Earlene Stacks, Recognition Committee member, stated that she felt that the problems that exist between LRDA and the tribal government are just a "family fight or family feud." She suggests that there should be some type of mediation between members of the two groups and that these mediations should rarely require outside intervention. She felt that the issues should be decided between themselves. Mr. Revels noted that if the committee hoped that this issue would go away and not effect them then he would say "let's sit tight... but it's not going to go away." Then Mr. Revels formally made the motion that the committee set forth to the full board for the approval of the resolution and also set forth hearings to amend commission by-laws to reflect this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Carter. Mr. Pat Riddick expressed his sincere hope that the two groups could come to some type of a compromise that would be in the best interests of the people. The vote stood as follows: Lonnie Revels, YES; Leroy Scott, NO; Tom Carter, YES; Pat Riddick, YES; W.R. Richardson, YES; Earlene Stacks, NO. The count resulted in applause and shouts from the audience.

The committee's recommendation will go before the full commission at the Indian Unity Conference, March 16, in Fayetteville. The tribal government is well aware that their work is not complete and the battle is not yet won.



J & O Trophy Winners

Trophy winners from J & O Tae Kwon Do of 208 Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, are shown left to right: Crystal Henderson; Little Ryan Locklear; Justin Bullard; Misty Henderson. Standing is O.J. Henderson (Sabunim) instructor and operator of J & O. These students competed at the Rick Labean's Tournament in Bennettsville, South Carolina on February 11, 1995. They won six first place, two second place, and two third place trophies. Congratulations guys! Good work!

Plans for Centennial Celebration Underway for Town of Pembroke

The Committee planning the Centennial Celebration for the Town of Pembroke met Tuesday night and finalized further plans for the celebration slated for March 8.

Local artist, Delora Cummings, whose teacher at Purnell Sweet High, was commissioned to do a painting that will capture the essence of Pembroke's 100 year history. Prints for this painting will be available.

In other matters, a committee was formed to write the history of the town.

For further information, contact Councilman Greg Cummings at 521-0190 or Councilman Harry Oxendine at 521-9429.



Tribal Chairman Brooks Responds to Negative Ad in the Robesonian

This is in response to the paid announcement in the Robesonian, dated February 12, 1995/

Let us begin with the election for the Tribal Government, this election was the result of a constitution that had been adopted by 8,044 Lumbee Indians. 233 voted NO to the Constitution. The election placed the Tribal Council and the Chairman as the legitimate government for the Lumbee-Cheraw people. We (the Tribal Council and the Chairman) set-out to create a government and to research all available information that defined a constitutional government.

The Tribal Council and the Chairman have been working daily to find their direction in the development of a constitutional government. Many of the issues of setting-up structure is difficult and confusing. But what we (the Government) do understand is that the Constitution provides the mission, a broad statement of fundamental purpose that embraces the social, cultural, intellectual, spiritual, aspirations of Lumbee people.

One of the first responsibilities of the Chairman was to inform all Federal agencies and State agencies of the Lumbee-Cheraw Government.

The Federal agencies respond by declaring that if a Government exists, then that Government has ultimate authority. This means that the Government must be knowledgeable about all programs and projects directed to State recognized Indian people. The problem the Lumbee people have to decide is that does the Lumbee-Cheraw Government represent the Lumbee people or does LRDA? It is my opinion that the election deter-

mined that question.

I have written LRDA two letters. The first letter invited LRDA to a Tribal Government meeting to discuss ongoing Indian programs, their purpose, their finding, their effectiveness; the other letter was written asking LRDA to consider inviting the Tribal Government to discuss Indian issues, involving projects, programs and the future opportunities to find ways we could work together. As of this writing, I have not received a reply.

The advertisement mentioned that Lance Hardin, Aggie Deese, Doreen Sampson, Emma Locklear and Arlinda Locklear went to Washington. The Tribal Government was invited to attend a Washington Conference that President Clinton arranged primarily with the encouragement by Congressman Charlie Rose. The Tribal Council wanted to go a day earlier to visit senators and representatives and departmental agencies.

The Tribal Government representatives paid their own way. They wanted to find out more about Indian programs and what the Government could do to receive them. The representatives were told that Indian programs, in their opinion, should go to the Indian Government. According to the Federal agencies, all Indian programs should be signed off by the Lumbee-Cheraw Government. This, from what I can understand, is the law.

What is my Agenda? My agenda is finding expression for the aspirations of Indian people, it is promoting their safety and security for now and the

21st century, it is creating an Indian Government whose motto is righteousness and truth. The powers I expect to receive is the power to serve and love people. My family and I have been servers, for we have the gift of serving and helping people. I do this without charge. I really thank the Lord that he gave me an education and a job. I work hard at my job and I work hard at helping people everywhere.

What is my approach? My approach is to dialogue with all Indian groups to find ways to help and support Lumbee Indians and other Indian people in North Carolina and Indian people everywhere. My desire is to be creative, developing those partnerships, and cooperative linkages that will provide for successful programs in education, health and human services, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being for ourselves and our posterity.

The Tribal Government wants to be accountable for improving funding, for being creative about what a government can do by working together with Federal, State and Local agencies to create a viable enduring Government.

Remember Indian people need each other. The Government needs the experience of LRDA and their wisdom about government functions. The Tribal Government, the creation of the people, offers an opportunity to address Indian problems in an open forum which is the Indian way. It is also the Indian way to be trustworthy, honest, and not to malign other Indian people in the media. ("Love one another, for Love is of God.")

by Dr. Dalton P. Brooks, Chairman, Lumbee Tribe

Tribal Council Meeting planned for district 21

A meeting for tribal members of District 21 will be held on Tuesday, February 21, at Tabernacle Baptist Church Fellowship Hall on NC 711 at 7:00 p.m.

This meeting will give members an opportunity to voice any concerns, ask questions concerning their tribal government, and offer recommendations.

For further information concerning this meeting, call Councilman Lance Harding at 738-8829.

Parkton School News



Leslie Melvin, a fifth grade student at Parkton Elementary School, was recently awarded a set of World Book Encyclopedia. Leslie received the set as a promotional program sponsored by World Book Encyclopedia with the set being donated by Lee Schmitz, company representative. The program is called "Company With a Heart," and is awarded to a family who will benefit from the use of a set of encyclopedias in the home.

Say you read it in the Carolina Indian Voice

Piney Grove School News



Recently at Piney Grove School Mrs. Emanuel's and Mrs. Locklear's kindergarten class decorated the cafeteria bulletin board for the month of February. The students decorated the board with pizzas and toppings they made. The bulletin board observes Valentine's Day in a nutritious way. Shown is Mrs. Emanuel's Kindergarten class.

Sen. Parnell to Chair Senate Commerce Committee

Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight has appointed Senator David Parnell of Parkton to serve as Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. The Commerce Committee will oversee legislation affecting all areas of business in North Carolina including: Banks and Thrifts, Public Utilities, Manufacturing and Labor, Economic Development, and Travel and Tourism.

Senator Parnell is a small businessman who knows what it takes to create jobs, balance the books, and get things done. His extensive experience in both the business world and in the General Assembly make him an ideal choice to lead the Senate Commerce Committee," said Senator Basnight.

Senator Parnell added, "I look forward to reviewing legislation that will strengthen North Carolina's business climate and create more high-paying jobs for our citizens. Our continued economic development is very important, especially in the rural ar-

reas of our state. No matter where you live in North Carolina, I want you to have the opportunity to get a good job and provide for a better life for your children," said Senator Parnell.

David Parnell is a Democrat representing the 30th Senate District. He is currently serving his seventh Senate term and he served four previous terms in the House of Representatives. Parnell is a graduate of Parkton Public Schools, Oak Ridge Military Academy and Wake Forest University. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945-46 and is the owner of Parnell Oil Co., Inc.

In addition to the Commerce Committee, Senator Parnell will serve as Vice-Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice & Public Safety, Vice-Chairman of the Pensions and Retirement/Insurance/State Personnel Committee, and as a member of the Finance, Judiciary/Election Laws, and Transportation Committees.

Hypnotist visits PSHS

by David Lowery

Jim Wood, the famous hypnotist, visited Purnell Sweet High School to spread enthusiastic smiles among the administration, faculty, staff and students on January 26, 1995.

Wood picked a couple of faculty members and students to hypnotize. Among these were Mrs. Pearson and several seniors.

The hypnotist asked each their names and what they wanted to focus on during hypnosis. Some chose to build self confidence, some chose better study skills, motivation, quit smoking, quit nail biting, and athletic enhancement.

To get the volunteers hypnotized, he told them to concentrate on a red light in front of them. As they watched the light he told the audiences all of the experiences he encountered. He hypnotized right at a million people, including some famous people like the Judds, George Strait, the Seattle Supersonics, professional basketball team, Cheap Trick and many other people across the United States. Through hypnosis, the volunteers experienced lying on the beach, riding a roller coaster, flying an airplane, flying as ducks, gyving becoming cheerleaders, and several other imaginative experiences.

Wood's performance kept the attention of the crowd as the audience responded with lots of laughter, and assisting whenever possible.



Carolina Indian Voice!

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Pembroke, NC

Like Father, Like Son



CHOOSE TRADITION NOT ADDICTION

Know the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse

A message from UNIV and the National Institute on Drug Abuse