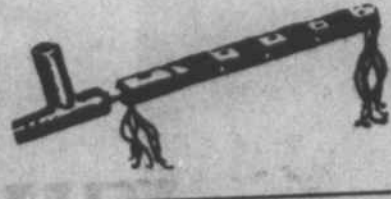


Editorial and Opinion Page



From This Side of the Aisle

by Bruce Barton



Congrats to Dr. Ray Brayboy
Dr. Ray Brayboy has received the Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding service to gifted children in North Carolina. Dr. Brayboy, now superintendent of Wayne County Public Schools, received the prestigious award March 18 at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented in Winston-Salem. Congrats, Dr. Brayboy! All of your many friends in Robeson County applaud you.

Why is Everyone Against LRDA? (sic)

There it was, again, Indians bemoaning and advocating in the pages of the Robesonian. This writer, Edith Strickland of Rowland, wondered in a letter to the editor in a recent issue, "Why is everyone against LRDA?" Well, the answer is, of course, that everyone is not against LRDA, a social action agency quartered in Pembroke. LRDA, as Ms. Strickland rightly notes, has done many good things for Indian people. They have no doubt about it. I applaud them for the good things they have done.

But that's not the rub, the bone of contention. The issue is this: who represents the Indian people of Robeson and adjoining counties in legal matters, as the tribal government? Over 8,000 Indians voted for a tribal government, not necessarily against LRDA. The problem is LRDA will not relinquish the reins of government, pass the torch of leadership to the duly-elected tribal government peacefully. I cannot support LRDA in their hardball resistance to tribal democracy, but support them, of course, in their right to continue and flourish as a non-profit corporation registered with the good state of North Carolina.

The truth, too, is that LRDA has suspended elections until 1996, and have become an oligarchy. They receive monies-tax monies-in the name of the tribe, but do not answer to the Indian electorate. That's wrong! I can't support the trampling of democracy underfoot, as LRDA is doing.

LRDA also, through the auspices of a for-profit Lumbee Industries, owes Indian business people, and others, scads of money, maybe as much as \$300,000. At the self same time, they're talking about building a \$ million dollar administrative building. That's wrong. Reasonable people can't go along with that. No one should waste tax monies, nor borrow any funds in my name...or yours...unless we agree.

LRDA's leadership has been approached and they have played hardball, rather than publicly come clean with the people. The die is cast. I'll support them when they're in the right; and I will now, from this day forward, oppose them publicly when they're wrong. Ditto for the tribal council now, foolishly I think, looking to the Robesonian to tell their side of things. Umm.

Like Ms. Strickland, I also believe Mr. James Hardin, LRDA's executive director, and Dr. Dalton Brooks, Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe, have the capacity to be "good men." They need to start talking and doing good, or by golly, we'll call for a pox on both their houses.

Richard Monroe is Teacher Recruiter Without My Blessing
RAE's (Robeson Association of Educators) loss, I suppose, is the Public Schools of Robeson County's gain. Former RAE President, Richard Monroe, has relinquished the reins of leadership at RAE to take a position with the PSRC as a special assistant at the central office in the area of teacher recruitment.

In my humble opinion, he has the job without my blessing. I did not support him as RAE president either, resigning, in part, as a member in protest against Monroe's mean-spirited stand against ex-felons. Since I was well known at the time as an ex-felon before Gov. Hunt pardoned me, I took it very personal when Monroe wrote some mean and hateful things about ex-felons, then repeated them publicly at a school board meeting. He's one of the reasons I quit RAE. I am in the process of asking RAE to give me my monies paid for dues back. I believe RAE took my monies in bad faith, and the right thing to do is return my hard earned money to me.

I'm a teacher and don't necessarily want Mr. Purnell Swett, the superintendent, or any of the board, mad with me. I am on record in support of Mr. Swett, but I reserve the right to disagree with this action as a matter of conscience. I will live with the outcome, holding to my tattered copy of the United States Constitution all the way. I am a loyal teacher, not a blind one: I support the PSRC, but do not give up my right to disagree agreeably when my heart leads me to do so.

Local students named Chancellor's Scholars

Three Robeson County seniors have been named Chancellor's Scholars at Pembroke State University for the 1995-96 academic year.

Brandi Leigh Bullock, a senior from St. Pauls High School, Melissa Britt, a senior from Fairmont High School, Shannon Denise Chavis, a senior from Purnell Swett High School, have been named Chancellor's Scholars.

Bullock is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Danny Bullock of Lumberton. She is majoring in elementary education.

Britt is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Britt of Lumberton. She plans to major in biology (medical technology).

Chavis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Huey J. Chavis of Lumberton. She plans to major in biology (pre-medical).

Chancellor's Scholars at Pembroke State University receive \$3,000 a year to attend PSU. This almost covers the full expenses of a student living on campus with a full-meal plan.

Chancellor's Scholars take special courses, do a Master's type thesis, and receive special honors at commencement.

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director
PSU Native American Resource Center

The Native American Resource Center is pleased to present a new photographic exhibit entitled *Recollections: Lumbee Heritage*.

This exhibit is the result of a cooperative project involving the Native American Resource Center, the Mint Museum in Charlotte, and the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. It was originally shown at the Mint Museum, and has now begun a tour of other sites in the state.

The exhibit features two sets of photographs. One is a collection of images from earlier days in the lives of the Lumbee. These photographs were assembled last autumn from numerous people in the Lumbee community. They reflect a wide range of topics and activities which have been put together under the following themes: Lumbee relationship to balance; Lumbee relationship to each other, community and family;

Lumbee relationship to the land; and Lumbee relationship to the nation.

When this first set of photographs was being collected, oral histories about the people and places in the pictures were recorded by Lumbee writer Barbara Braveboy-Locklear. In most cases this enabled us to provide a more full cultural and historical context to the photographs. These oral histories, when they are available, help the viewer to understand not only what is going on in the picture but also what the picture symbolizes.

The second, and smaller, set of photographs consists of modern pictures taken by Lumbee photographer David Oxendine and Mint Museum photographer Robert West. These images serve several purposes. They show contemporary Lumbee people, including several elders and Miss Lumbee, helping the

viewer to see the continuity between Lumbee past and Lumbee present. They also show the process of collecting old photographs and oral histories.

But the intention of *Recollections* is not to capture all there is to know about the Lumbee, nor to show a picture of every deserving Lumbee. No exhibit could do that. Many photographs had to be left out in the selection process, in order to make the exhibit manageable and transportable. What the exhibit does intend to do, and what it ably accomplishes, is to provide a glimpse into Lumbee heritage through images and words.

Recollections: Lumbee Heritage will be on display in The Center from 7 April through 24 May 1995. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

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Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

One of the things that has been obvious in the preventive care of children is that breastfeeding is the best nutrition for an infant. Most moms and dads know that breastfed not only helps with the bond between the mom and the child, but also reduces the number of infections the child has during early childhood. One thing you may not be aware that I read about recently was that breastfeeding can even improve the intelligence of a child.

In a recent medical study I read, approximately 500 children were followed up over a nine year period of time. Approximately 130 of these kids were breastfed and the rest were formula fed. At time years of age they were all given a test to look at their cognitive skills or their ability to reason. The study concluded that breastfeeding had a beneficial affect on the neurologic development of children. This was thought to be due to the fact that breast milk contains certain fats that are vital in the development of the brain during early childhood that is not commonly present in most milk formulas. Another interesting story that relates to breastfeeding is the fact that research-

ers have made a link between breastfeeding and a reduced risk of breast cancer in those women who do breastfeed. The study looked at patients who were less than 75 years old who had breast cancer. The results of the study showed an association between breastfeeding and a reduced risk of breast cancer for premenopausal women as compared with the risk of women who have born children but did not breastfeed. The study also showed that the longer a woman breastfed the lower the risk of breast cancer. All too often we focus only on the benefits of breastfeeding for the infant. This study reminds us that there are benefits for the mother as well.

For those parents who are having children in the near future, remember that breastfeeding is the best method for feeding a young infant. Of course, this is a choice that has to be made by the parents together. Even if an infant breastfeeds for a short period, like for instance 2-3 months, this is better than not having breast milk at all. That's all on breastfeeding. See you next week!

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1	2	3	4	5
\$1,000	\$1,001 - 2,000	\$2,001 - 3,000	\$3,001 - 4,000	Over \$4,000
1	2	3	4	5
Under 2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	4-6 yrs.	7-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.
1	2	3	4	5
Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	Over 10 yrs.
0	1	2	3	4
Under 10%	10% to 20%	20% to 30%	30% to 40%	Over 40%
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