

# Editorial and Opinion Page



## Maxton--Preference, Prejudice and Priorities

by R.D. Locklear

The firing of Maxton Town Manager Paul Davis has raised the question--what did race have to do with it? Any honest answer will admit plenty. The different circumstances and experiences of the races result in different priorities. Is this racial preference or racial prejudice?

Twenty years ago I was working as the Town Planner for the Town of Maxton. When considering the job, I met with two gentlemen who convinced me they wanted to make Maxton a better place to live--former Mayor John Moser and the late former Town Manager Morrison McKenzie. I consider my tenure in Maxton to be a very positive time in my life because I feel my work helped make the town a better place to live.

East Maxton looks today a lot like it did in 1975. Curbing and gutting ends with the city limits. Vacant lots and dilapidated homes are sprinkled between the substandard homes that are the community norm. Although the community has long wished to town sewer services, the services are not being provided. Some things have changed for the worse. The Locklear Sisters store is closed. My cousins are dead.

The original city limits of Maxton, Pembroke and Rowland were one mile squares determined by railroads. Pembroke has changed slightly, while Rowland is unchanged. Maxton has had many changes and has changed greatly, except in one quarter.

Maxton's city limits have been extended about a mile south along Austin Street to Hayes Pond Road

and about a mile west along US Hwy 74 into Scotland County. Smaller northern annexations have occurred along NC Hwy 71 and McCaskill Street. A similar eastern annexation has occurred along Rockingham Road north of the railroad. The original limits, however, in the southeast quarter that contains East Maxton remain the same.

Twenty years ago East Maxton was not a priority of the leadership of the Town of Maxton. Not enough has changed.

Last year I helped the Lumber River Council of Governments with the Enterprise Community application that included the Maxton area. Maxton Mayor Bob Midgette is an articulate and caring leader who literally is willing to get his hands dirty. As part of my work on the project, I met with him last year in downtown Maxton across from the old police station. He was working on a store front. During our conversation I realized that downtown revitalization was very important to him. His actions and his words were consistent.

Robeson County received designation as an Enterprise Community last year because of concentrations of poverty like East Maxton that exist in the county. The first major grant application that was developed because of the Enterprise Community status was an Entrepreneurial Empowerment Program seeking Community Development Block Grant funds. The Town of Maxton's part of the grant application was the Maxton Downtown Revitalization Project.

Was this project a reasonable request for federal funding? Yes. The grant application provided a

good explanation of the need for and the potential benefits of the project.

Was this project the best way to meet some of the needs of the low and moderate income persons concentrated in the East Maxton community? Since the project was not funded, I will say no.

During public forums held in the Spring of 1994, Maxton residents expressed a broad range of concerns. As a result, the leadership of the town was in a position to justify various projects to a similar degree. Choosing a Downtown Maxton project over an East Maxton effort reflected the existing priorities of the town's leadership. Was it a preference for Downtown Maxton that would benefit all of the community or was it prejudice against East Maxton that would benefit primarily the minority community?

The housing patterns of Maxton cause some decisions by the town government to have distinct racial impacts. Annexing Scotland Forest in the 1970s made the town more white and less black. Annexing East Maxton would have had the opposite effect. Although annexing Scotland Forest was a good financial move for the town, while annexing East Maxton would have been a poor one, race colored the views of many people on these issues.

East Maxton is a cancer that must become the top priority of the town's leadership. Until a vision of Maxton includes East Maxton and the southeast quarter, the real racial differences that have surfaced in response to the firing of Town Manager Paul Davis will continue to exist.

## Dr. Adolph Dial responds to editorial on PSU name change

Letter to the Editor

Your recent editorial, "Let PSU be PSU," was most intriguing. The most provocative idea you stated was that if it was good enough for PSU in 1971, it is good enough for us now.

As professor emeritus and member of Pembroke State's Board of Trustees, and an open advocate of "UNC Pembroke", I believe that change is indeed apart of life. To say that we have a tradition as Pembroke State University, a name adopted in 1969 and continued by the UNC Board of Governors in 1972, is quite true. We also had traditions as the original Croatan Normal School, a name given March 7, 1887; as the 1911 Indian Normal School of Robeson County, as the 1913 Cherokee Indian Normal School of Robeson County, and, most assuredly, as the 1941 Pembroke State College for Indians. The "for Indians" was dropped in 1949 shortly after Pembroke State began admitting non-Indian, white students in 1945. I graduated from Pembroke State College for Indians in 1943.

Returning from the battlefield

of Europe in 1945 with six battle stars, I spent a year on the farm. When I applied for admission to graduate school at the University of North Carolina in the early 1950's, then-Chancellor House denied my admission because of race. I later received two graduate degrees from Boston University.

So much for the history lesson. Now for a little reality check. Your editorial implied that PSU had not changed since 1971 and that PSU might not be quite as much university as UNC Wilmington and UNC Asheville. We might be willing to concede that UNC Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, which offer doctoral degrees and have other research programs, may be a little ahead of us academically. PSU has, however, changed and grown dramatically since 1971.

In 1978, we added masters' degrees in professional education and several new undergraduate programs. We currently offer much in our nursing programs and Health Professions programs. We have a master's in Organizational Leadership and Management and a Master's in Business Administration.

We have grown and added to the point that the North Carolina General Assembly in 1995 upgraded our classification from Comprehensive University II to Comprehensive University I. Incidentally, the undergraduate degree in American Indian Studies, was added after 1971.

Other universities, including Fayetteville State, may choose to change their names, but it has traditionally been a matter of local choice with the University Board of Governors. We are proud of our accomplishments. We do not see that changing our name will change our heritage any more than changing our tribe's name from Croatan to Lumbee. Rather, it will enhance our community and add to our heritage in a most deserving way. Having another UNC in the UNC system in the lower piedmont will give our community, our tribe, and our university a progressive step in the right decision. We must operate on the famous abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison's philosophy: "Our country is the world - our countrymen are all mankind."

Sincerely, Adolph Dial

## Reader Endorses Madie Rae Locklear for EMC Board

This letter is being written to express my support for a candidate seeking re-election on the board of directors for Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative (LREMC). There is not enough space nor does the need exist to list all of the accomplishments of this individual in her capacity as a LREMC board member. The record of this board member speaks for itself. It reflects action taken with the best interest of all LREMC consumers in mind. This individual is also well known across the four county area as a person who never hesitates to assist an individual in need.

I have had the opportunity to witness first hand their many kind deeds. This candidate is none other than Mrs. Madie Rae Locklear. I fully support her candidacy for re-election and encourage all LREMC members to do the same. Special encouragement is given to all female members of the cooperative to cast their vote for Mrs. Locklear. She is currently the "only" woman serving on the board of directors.

"LET'S KEEP A WOMAN WORKING FOR YOU!"  
Sincerely,  
Janet Locklear  
Shannon, NC

## Warren Art Exhibit at PSU

Pembroke--North Carolina Russ Warren will exhibit his paintings beginning September 25 thru October 13, 1995 in Pembroke State University's Art Department gallery in Locklear Hall.

Russ Warren, teacher and horse trainer, has been a part of many important art exhibitions, including the 1984 Venice Biennale Via the Whitney Museum in New York City.

He has also been apart of the 41st Corcoran Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, and the Southeast Seven at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

The exhibition will be open to the public. There is an opening reception to meet the artist on Wednesday, September 27, 1995 from 10-11 a.m. in the Art Department gallery in Locklear Hall.

Refreshments will be served. All students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited.

Warren's exhibition was made possible by the Hodges Taylor Gallery located in Charlotte.

## Letters to the Editor

### Reader believes tribal attorney has special self-interest reasons for supporting EMC candidates

Arlinda Locklear and her friends Ronald Hammonds and Cliff Sampson have shown their true colors in their vicious attack on the "Help a Needy Friend" program of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation. They have presented distorted and false information about the program that benefits low-income people in efforts to make it look like an abuse of government funds.

Locklear and friends show that they have special, self-interest goals that are far more important than services to needy people.

Arlinda Locklear is a highly paid, high stakes, Washington, D.C. based lobbyist who has made big bucks off political causes in Robeson County. Very seldom does she leave her \$250,000 home in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. to help low-income people for "free." She has been known to do some work on a "pro bono" basis, but only when the case promised to bring her much positive, public attention, in my opinion.

Ronald Hammonds is a very wealthy farmer who operates a multi-million agribusiness operation in the Saddletree area. I have heard that he has a bad record when it comes to serving poor people. Hammonds offers no discounts, to my knowledge, to low-income farmers for his hay, and his

prices are among the highest in the area.

Cliff Sampson operates a multi-million dollar rest home complex near Pembroke, but no poor people live there for free. If you can't pay for services, or the government can't help you, then you have to find another rest home.

Arlinda Locklear has been well paid by her many clients to represent their interests in Washington. Most of the clients, like Lumbee Regional Development Association, have found that when she is not on your payroll, then she won't continue to support you or your cause, and that she will quickly move on to other clients. She may be hired by your opponents to work against you.

During the past year, the Lumbee Cheraw Tribal Council and its supporters have devoted a major part of their group efforts to raise money to pay Locklear's expenses involved in working with them. As a matter of fact, Arlinda Locklear is one of the few clients served by the Lumbee Cheraw Tribal Council, and she definitely is not poor.

The people that Arlinda Locklear endorses in the upcoming LREMC Board elections have a bad record, in my opinion, in providing service to poor people. The fact that they are attacking a very successful program that pro-

vides major benefits to poor people, and kicking it around like it's a "political football," lets you know where they stand on welfare and poor people.

Both Hammonds and Sampson were soundly rejected in their last attempts to get elected because members of their communities overwhelmingly voted against them. Both candidates have voiced right-wing, extremist views when it comes to welfare and services to the poor. If you really want to know where these candidates, and others endorsed by Arlinda Locklear, stand, then you should talk to middle class or low-income people in their communities. They will gladly tell you the true facts about these people.

Arlinda Locklear has a very selfish interest in the outcome of the LREMC Board elections. I have heard, if her friends are elected then they could hire her to do lobbying work for the electric utilities corporations in Washington, D.C. This is a job for which she would be well paid. Maybe this is the main reason that Arlinda is "donating" so much of her very valuable time to what they call their worthy efforts to better serve the poor, ignorant people of the LREMC service area.

Ben Jacobs  
Red Springs, NC

## Tuscarora Tribe helps hurting humanity

Brenda Hunt, Case Manager of the Tuscarora Tribe's Heh-nch project, the only community-based program providing supportive services to individuals living with HIV and AIDS in Robeson County recently attended the National Native American AIDS Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She participated in resource sharing and on-going programs serving Native Americans nationwide living with AIDS. We need more Brenda Hunts who work so diligently with the tragic problem of AIDS, yet she does not have nearly enough time to reach all Native Americans in Robeson County who are stricken with this tragic disease.

The most tragic part of all this is the ignorance surrounding the problem of AIDS. That is to say, many people are too willing and eager to judge or condemn rather than extend a caring and compassionate hand in this struggle to save lives.

Being HIV and a native of Robeson County, I know the need to

public awareness. Personally, I feel we need more family counseling, affordable housing and resources available to assist people like me. Due to the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS, individuals who are involved with behaviors such as IV drug use and multiple part-

ners are obviously reluctant to be tested. This is interesting to me because I too did not want to admit that I might be HIV positive. Nevertheless, in the long run I am thankful that I learned that prolonging my life with medical treatment is possible and that has made all the difference.

I am involved with the North Carolina Aids Minority Speaker Bureau. Mr. Rozier, the administrator in providing outreach counseling and alternative test sites for possible opportunities to be tested. If you have any questions please contact Ms. Brenda Hunt of the Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina at (910) 521-1861. To all I say, "Don't forsake your future because of present circumstances." I am a volunteer with the Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina in their efforts to serve humanity and I am living with AIDS. May life be better because I am helping others.

Brenda Jones  
Fairmont

### Correction

Last week we ran this letter from Brenda Jones who has HIV. We misprinted her last statement. We reprint the letter with the correction. Our apologies to Ms. Hunt.

## The Carolina Indian Voice

PEOPLE ARE SWEET ON THE FRESH TASTE OF HONEYBEE.



NOW IN PLASTIC CANS.



Madie Rae Locklear has been an advocate for the economically disadvantaged, especially the elderly and the handicapped. She has a proven record of dedication and commitment to helping those who are less fortunate than others. As a wife and a mother, she understands the difficulties that occur in maintaining a household budget. She is the only woman serving on the 12-member board. Keep a woman working for you. Re-Elect Madie Rae Locklear on October 3, 1995 at the PSU Performing Arts Center.



Re-Elect  
**Madie Rae Locklear**  
To the EMC Board of Directors  
At-Large  
October 3, 1995  
PSU Performing Arts Center  
Registration 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
**Keep a Woman Working for You!**

## Reader believes EMC consumers need Madie Rae Locklear because of her compassion

To the Editor:  
I am not a political person. I have been a hard working citizen of this county. I have been employed by John-Mansville for 19 and 1/2 years. I was laid off and a period of hardship began for me and my wife and our two children. After my lay-off from John-Mansville, my health began to decline. I have always suffered from epileptic seizures, but they became much worse after my lay-off. My condition deteriorated so that I began having seizures to the extent that I could no longer hold down a job, even if I had not been laid off. During this bleak period in our lives, doctor bills began to pile up as I was sent from one specialist to another. My wife was employed part time and the only income we had was her part time earnings. Medication to control the seizures was not always successful. Having to try different medications only added to our financial problems at home.

Finally, my wife heard that help was available to us through the Red Springs Neighborhood Ser-

vice Center, sponsored by Four County Community Services, Inc. We called there and got an appointment with the supervisor, Madie Rae Locklear. I cannot say enough good things about the way she responded to our need. You all know that we Indians are a proud people. It is very difficult for us to ask for help. Nevertheless, circumstances dictated that we get help. Ms. Locklear responded to our situation with great compassion and sensitivity. We had been to the Department of Social Services, it was a very dehumanizing experience for us. Ms. Locklear never made us feel like we were less than anybody else. Indeed, what she did was explained the benefits that we were entitled to and helped us to apply and receive them. Eventually, I was able to receive my disability and resume a symbol of normalcy for my family. I am deeply grateful to Ms. Locklear for her assistance. I know that some people say she gets paid to do this social work. I disagree. There were many times when she interceded for me and my family with agencies when

she was not on the job. There has never been a time when we called her at home that she did not respond with kindness and concern.

As I said, I am not a political person. But the tone of this EMC election has really bothered me. I have heard rumors and read half-truths and what I feel are out right lies relative to Ms. Locklear and her contributions to EMC. I feel that the least that I, a concerned individual, could do is publicly say that she should be re-elected to the LREMC Board of Directors. Not for herself, certainly, but for the many consumers on those lines who are like I was, in need of a compassionate, concerned person to help them with their problems. Sickness has no preference. Anyone can be where I have been. It doesn't take long for hospital and doctor bills to add up. God is able to deliver us and how does he work? The only way He can work, through people like Ms. Locklear who realize that serving God is translated into helping your fellow man.

Charles (Boss) Brayboy