

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## A Front Page Editorial

### Voters need to vote on the issues, not on what the Lewis boys think the issues are, or what someone said they heard Bobby Dean Locklear say

The political season is upon us, and voters are attempting to sort through all the campaign rhetoric and smoke for the truth. Someone recently said that there is the truth, and then there is what someone thinks is the truth. Sometimes the two are decidedly different. We have seen some of that in this political season, especially in the District 5 (Red Springs) County Commissioner District.

The voters in District 5 are wise, and are going to vote for either the incumbent, Bobby Dean Locklear, or newcomer, Raymond Cummings. The race is shaping up to be one of experience against promise, enthusiasm versus maturity, the known versus the unknown. Both are attractive. Native American candidates, both are well educated, with masters in their respective, professional field. It has all the trappings of a classic race. The problem is the campaign has been clouded by scads of mis-information about the tax valuation, and a statement that Bobby Dean Locklear reportedly made in reference to the tax payers of his district and the county. People in District 5 should be allowed to examine the issues, and vote for whom they wish. It's their call but...

There are some innuendoes floating around the district, and some would say even flat out half and whole untruths. Many of the half truths have been planted by the Lewis boys, and have been perpetrated on the rest of us. The truth is the new, county tax rate has not been set yet, and won't be until July 1, 1996 when the commissioners will determine what it will be. The commissioners have done this every year as long as one can remember. Every county in North Carolina does it the same way, including Robeson County. This year, the issue is compounded by the

fact that the county is in the middle of a tax valuation of county properties that is done every 8 years per state law.

**THE PROBLEM IS...** The problem is the tax valuation falls during the political season this year, and will be played out during the May 7 primary. That fact makes it especially interesting for the uninitiated. Bill and O.H. Lewis of *the Robesonian* have misled all of us about tax valuations of county properties, and have played on our emotions like we are adolescents in the first flushes of puppy love. They deserve our disdain, not our praise. The Lewis Boys should have reported on the matter responsibly, and not have shrilled and misled us so badly. It was some of the worst pieces of journalism (sic) we have ever seen in Robeson County. If you don't believe us, check *the Fayetteville Observer-Times* and *the Robesonian*; and compare their treatment of the same matter. Go to the library and check it out for yourself. One (*the Observer-Times*) is constrained, reasoned and factual; the other (*the Robesonian*) is shrill, and chock full of half truths and misrepresentations. *The Carolina Indian Voice*—joined the fray by writing a five part series of front page editorials about this same matter. We feel the editorials were helpful in sorting out the truth of the matter before us. Check it out. *The Robesonian* is a disgrace to the field of journalism, and have, as we see it, twisted the truth about how new valuations are arrived at. They have opted to attempt to lead us into a revolution without the facts, because we don't know yet what our valuations will be when the process has run its course, and the tax rate has been set. It reminds us of the "Yellow Journalism" of William Randolph Hearst and his

minions back in the late 1890s when they led the nation into the Spanish-American War for, as we see it, nefarious aims. We suggest restraint and common sense. Bill and O.H. Lewis, in our editorial opinion, are not to be believed.

The other matter we wish to raise with the voters in general, and the voters of District 5 in particular is a statement incumbent Commissioner Bobby Dean Locklear is reported to have made concerning the initial reaction to the first reports of the valuations. He is reported to have said that "If the old people can't pay their taxes, they ought to sell out and move out", or words to that effect. Locklear is a blunt man, no doubt about that. But he has categorically denied making such a statement and we believe him. First of all, common sense suggests he wouldn't have said it early on because the tax rate has not been set, because, for one thing, the valuations of the county tax properties are not complete. Too. Locklear's mother lives in his district too, next door to him to be exact. It is hard to believe that one would speak so harshly about a matter that could adversely affect his mother. Locklear denies making the statement, and voters need to know that as they prepare to go to the polls and decide which one will represent them on the county commission-Bobby Dean Locklear or Raymond Cummings. Truth is important.

The real issue is which candidate-Locklear or Cummings-can best represent the aspirations of the voters of District 5, and the county as a whole. That is for the voters of District 5 to decide. And we defer to their wisdom in the matter, having, hopefully, cleared away some of the political smoke and rhetoric clouding the campaign.

## First Thoughts on NAACP School Report

The NAACP has finally released its long anticipated report on the Public Schools of Robeson County. We find the 47 page report to be simplistic and not very helpful. We will be analyzing the report for you in the next few weeks. It ought to be fun because it is chock full of figures and graphs signifying not as much as you might think at first look. The report is titled "Racial Disparities in the Public Schools of Robeson County" and was done by a one man crew out of Lumberton, Monte Hill, a former political science teacher at Pembroke State University, actually did the research and wrote the report. It is full of bar and pie graphs and statistics galore.

The NAACP is the flatform for a fella named Rev. Franklin D. Bowden, president of the Unified Robeson County chapter of the NAACP. First of all, the chapter is not "unified" by any stretch of the imagination. Rev. Bowden lives in Cumberland County, so we have heard, and used to work in education in Robeson County. We'll find out more about Rev. Bowden in the next few weeks. We hope he doesn't have an ax to grind, or an ox to gore.

The other problem with the report is it doesn't take into account the

unique status of a county that is truly tri-racial. The county is about 25% Black, 40% Indian, and 35% White. That has to be taken into account when one considers the status of the schools, and the makeup of the student and faculty bodies. Bussing as a solution to our ills in Robeson County borders on insanity. Also, Bowden and his research man, Monte Hill, a white guy from Lumberton, doesn't tell us how we are going to set a reasonable criteria. Using the figure of 45% or more as racially segregated at each school is not reasonable. We suspect, also, that Rev. Bowden and Monte Hill seem to have a problem with counting Indians as minorities as defined by the Office of Civil Rights. Indians are not chopped liver; they too are minorities in the civil rights equation. Honest!

The one problem the report has unearthed is the fact that the school system has not hired many Blacks since 1989, a mere 5.9%. That is a serious problem, and needs to be put into perspective or explained by school officials. On first flush, it looks to us that the pool for qualified blacks is small, and not evidence of any evil intent by the school system. The area of personnel has always been the province of a Black, at least

for the last 20 years or so. The present associate superintendent in charge of personnel is Dr. George Wylie. The school system has also been quite aggressive in looking for Black candidates for employment, and probably will survive scrutiny by the NAACP, the Office of Civil Rights, or any other reasonable body for this reason. What is needed is qualified candidates for employment in Robeson County education, no matter what their race. Teachers are hard to find period, no matter what their color. The NAACP might have some possible solutions in this area. We hope so!

So, what we have so far is quite interesting. The Unified (sic) NAACP Branch in Robeson County has sponsored a report damming the public schools of Robeson County. The president, Rev. Frank Bowden, lives in Cumberland County and the report was written by a White fella, Monte Hill, out of Lumberton. And the report uses a simple Black-White rationale to attempt to explain a situation much more volatile than that. That equation, not truly factored in by Hill, is the Indian factor. How are you going to explain away the Indians? More next week. Right now, we say, as the plot thickens, only in Robeson!

## Lumbee Tribe's Spring Cultural Festival to be held this weekend

Lumbee Tribe's Annual Spring Cultural Festival and Pow Wow will be held at the Robeson County Fairgrounds on HWY 41 April 26-28 th.

Thousands of visitors are expected at the event to witness traditional eastern and western Indian dances, crafts, music and foods. The event is open to the public.

Sponsored by Lumbee Regional Development Association, the Spring Festival is the Lumbee Tribe's way of promoting Indian cultural and maintaining its heritage, and share it with the general public.

The event is also the tribe's contribution to the promotion of the culture and art forms of Robeson County, which assists in attracting tourists and industry to the region.

The festival also allows hundreds of Indian artists to market and sell

authentic handmade crafts which include fine basketry crafts, silver and turquoise jewelry, stone carvings, paintings and leather goods, just to name a few.

The public can purchase these foods and help expand and maintain a vital economic element of tribal communities.

Spectators and visitors to the Spring Festival will also observe traditional Native American dances that predate the arrival of Columbus.

Male dancers in elaborate dress of eagle or hawk feathers will compete for cash prizes in the traditional dance divisions.

Women will compete for cash prizes in leather, buckskin or cloth fringed regalia. Children will also compete in various dance categories.

Over 25 tribes will be represented

at the event from across the east coast and several western states.

The festival will run Friday night, April 26-28th. In the event of rain, either day, will be moved indoors in the fairground's exhibit hall on site.

James Hardin, Executive Director of LRDA stated that "this is quickly becoming one of the largest Native American cultural festivals on the east coast and is an educational and fun event that the whole family can enjoy."

The after church festivities on Sunday will also feature food vendors for those who might want to have lunch on the grounds and enjoy the afternoon final rounds of the Indian dance competitions.

For more information call 910-521-8602 for trader and event schedule information.

## Volunteer and become part of a 50 year tradition

Fifty years ago when Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation began running power lines to its first 1,000 members, it wasn't unusual to see local farmers with their horses or mules working side-by-side with co-op employees. Often farmers would stop in the middle of their chores and volunteer their time and equipment to help set poles and pull lines. It was this spirit of member involvement that provided LREMC with the grass-root support it needed to bring electric service to rural North Carolinians.

Today, LREMC provides service to more than 38,000 homes and businesses along nearly 3,900 miles of line. While members are no longer involved in erecting poles and lines, their support is still vital to the success of member and public awareness ac-

tivities. You can support your co-op by joining fellow members in the newly formed Volunteer Committee.

Any man or woman interested in volunteering time and talents to help with LREMC activities is invited to an Open House on May 2, at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Springs office on highway 211. Refreshments will be served and volunteer opportunities explained.

If you need directions or would like more information, please call Volunteer Coordinator, Linda Locklear, at 843-4131.

Lumbee River is a member owned, not-for-profit, electric cooperative, overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership, serving 38,000 families and businesses in the Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke and Scotland counties.

## North Carolina Consortium on Indian Education plans

### Spring meeting

North Carolina Consortium on Indian Education  
SPRING MEETING

PLACE: PEMBROKE INDIAN RESOURCE CENTER  
WHEN: SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1996  
TIME: 9:30 A.M. til 12:00 noon

## Tuscarora Nation to host Pow Wow

The Tuscarora Nation of Maxton, is will hold their annual pow wow on May 17-19 at the pow wow grounds. The gates will open on Friday, May 17 at 5 p.m. The Grand Entry will be at 7 p.m.

On Saturday morning there will be a parade in Maxton beginning at Jones at 10:30 a.m. Grand Entry on Saturday will be at 12 p.m. There will be drumming, singing, dancing and ticket raffles. A gun will be raffled off on Sunday evening.

On Saturday evening there will be entertainment by a blue grass group beginning at 8 p.m.

On Sunday morning there will be a church service. The Oxendine boys will be singing, grand entry will be at 12 p.m. There will be home cooked barbecue, chicken, fry bread and many other goodies.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The price per person will be \$2. Children six and under are free. Senior citizens will also be admitted free. Day money will be given to the dancers.



Left to right: Melanie Locklear, president-elect; Rebecca Freeman, outgoing president; Tom Squier, new president of Chi Sigma Iota and Dr. Sam Gladding. (Photo by Frances D. Squier)

## Tom Squier Installed as Chi Sigma Iota President

The Phi Sigma Chapter Iota held their spring banquet and induction ceremony April 14th in the Chancellor's Dining Room at Pembroke State University. Chi Sigma Iota is the National Honor Society in Counseling and Phi Sigma is the local chapter at Pembroke State.

Chi Sigma Iota is an international academic and professional honor society that was established in order to promote scholarship, research, professionalism and excellence in counseling, and to recognize high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in counseling. Membership in Chi Sigma Iota is open to graduate students in counseling who have a 3.5 grade point average or higher with 9 hours completed in their degree seeking program. Pembroke State University offers Masters in Counseling degrees in School Counseling and in Service Agency Counseling.

New members inducted included: Pamela Bradley, Melanie Locklear, Leah McCallum, Wendy Paroli, Karla Shinnars, Mary Helen Walker, Miriam Williams, Tina Wolford, Lisa Godwin, Judith Ivory, Sherry Reaves and Caryl Waits. Hoke County Veterans Service Officer Tom Squier was installed as President for the 1996-97 academic year and Melanie Locklear as President-elect by Professor Deb Preston of

Pembroke State's Psychology Department and faculty advisor to Chi Sigma Iota's Phi Sigma chapter. Locklear is the former director of the Palmer Drug Abuse Program centers in Pembroke and Lumberton.

Speaker for the banquet was Dr. Sam Gladding, himself a past president of Chi Sigma Iota and a professor at Wake Forest University. Dr. Gladding is the author of several books on counseling including a textbook called *Counseling: A Comprehensive Profession*. He spoke on "Creativity in Counseling," comparing counseling to the arts.

"Creativity is the essence of counseling and at the heart of counseling," he remarked. "What is needed is the novel, not bookish response to the client and the problem, something new and something different." Each client is different and must be dealt with as an individual according to his views. "Creativity lets us see that the whole thing may be serious, but it's not hopeless! We have to affirm people's uniqueness as individuals, yet confirm their connectedness to the universe and other human beings around them." Local counselors and other individuals interested in Chi Sigma Iota can obtain more information from Dr. Preston, Psychology Department, Pembroke State University, Pembroke, N.C. 28372 OR BY CALLING (910)521-6240.

## Benefit gospel sing planned

A benefit singing for Bro. Jerry Bethea will be held Saturday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at Prospect School in the gym. The sing will feature the Pierce Family, the Tylers, and the Blood Bought Quartet. Refreshments will be sold. The sing is being sponsored by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

## Gov. Hunt appoints two to Rural Electrification Authority

RALEIGH-Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Alice E. Wilson of Tarboro and Harrelton Woodell of Pembroke to the N.C. Rural Electrification Authority. Each will serve a four-year term.

The authority is responsible for securing electrical and telephone service for rural areas of the state. The governor appoints all five members of the board.

Wilson is the president and bookkeeper for A.E. Wilson, Inc., and Samco Gas, Inc. She has served as the chairman of Edgecombe County Farm City Week Chairman and the president of Edgecombe County Democratic Women.

Woodell is the president and chief executive officer of L & W Line Company, Inc., a minority cooperation owned and managed by Lumbee Indians. He graduated from Robeson Technical College.



## Correction

In last week's edition of the Carolina Indian Voice, the ad for Rep. Ronnie Sutton incorrectly identified him as the Representative for District 87. In fact, Rep. Sutton represents District 85 and has never represented District 87. That District is represented by Rep. Frances M. Cummings. Our apologies to Rep. Sutton.