

Editorial and Opinion Page

Reader Disagrees With Article on Pastor

To the Editor
On December 19, 1996 an article appeared in the *Robeson Extra* about the Raynham Indian Church. This letter is in reference to this article. There are a lot of people who do not agree with that article. So, here is the way it was with us in the Raynham community 31 years ago. The article stated that we lived in shacks when the pastor first arrived here from Pennsylvania. We did not live in shacks. We lived in homes and had three meals a day and fed many people, including this pastor.

The article also stated that this pastor and her family was the first one to come down here from Pennsylvania and begin the church, but she was not. There was a preacher and his wife who came from Pennsylvania.

It is our belief that people are not suppose to give themselves praise for what they have done. They should let other people do it. But this pastor did not abide by that belief. She was seen in this article as patting herself on the back for what she had done.

I also wish to state that when she arrived, we did not live on the Department of Social Services or the welfare. The article stated that we were dirt poor when she came down here. If we were so poor, how is that one of the daughter-in-laws has a five dollar bill made in the 1928, she was born in? Even through all of the rough times, she still has it and keeps it all the time. There were rough times back then for everyone, but none of us died of starvation.

Thirty years ago there was a cotton gin, grocery store, Strickland's Grocery, Emma Bell Locklear's Grocery and Claud Gaines Store. The oldest person who lives in Raynham is Marry Watts and she still lives in the same house today. It is a six or seven room home.

A home is where love grows. Some people may live in shacks as the article stated in our community, or huts, but as long as love is there, people should let it be.

Thank You
Judy "Bit" Locklear
Raynham



Letters to the Editor School Board Places Politics

Ahead of Education

Letter to The Editor,
The Concerned Citizens of District 2, along with other interested citizens in Robeson County, had an opportunity to witness some of the PSRC's School Board Members continue to place politics ahead of education.

Some of the board members have no respect for the wishes of the people in their district, and they only want to satisfy the wishes of a few elected officials and their friends.

It was obvious that politics won the vacant seat on the board of education. However, the Democratic Process won the Citizens of District 2, as well as the citizens across the county, an opportunity to see how some of the board members operate. We can't help but wonder if this is the way certain positions are filled in the county and more capable individuals are being overlooked. We hope not.

One of the Concerned Citizens stated that she has children in the Public Schools of Robeson County and that we all want the best for our children. However, you would think that being a school board member, Human Relations Director, and a

pastor of a local church in Robeson County would be a "Conflict of Interest."

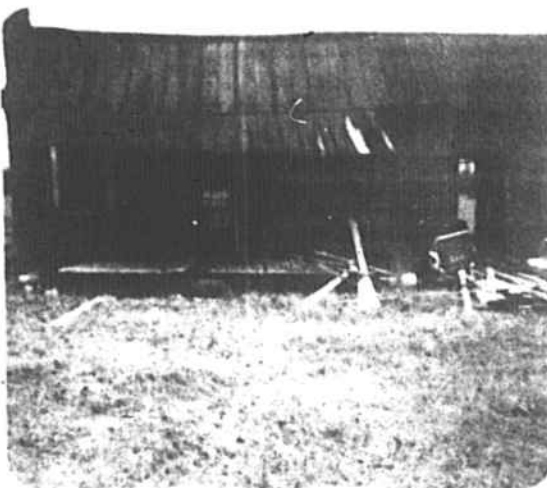
Those board of education members who allowed themselves to be swayed by others added more numbers to the Political Game that is being played in Robeson County. This should not be.

As a point of correction, our nominee, Dr. Neil A. Terry, is a registered voter in the Maxton Township, not in the Alfordville area as reported.

Our children are very valuable to us and are tomorrow's future here in Robeson County. We must protect their interest. What message is being sent to the children and adults of Robeson County if we continue to accept the "Examples" set by some of our school board members? We want our children to be high achievers; not to accept someone else's "Wrong Choices"; and to make their own "Right Choices."

The message that we want to send to our children is that they should strive for the "Best", and the "Best" they shall attain.

Concerned Citizens of District 2,
Flora Locklear



This is a photo of a Shack



And this is a HOME

An Ocean Cruise

Well, my cousin Joe Red Buffalo, has told me he has written his last article. I asked him why he had done that and he said he got tired of no one listening. I asked him did he really expect people to listen. He said he hoped for one or two and then he handed me his pen and said, "You try it, Cousin Sammy Two Moons." I told him I would rather be on an Ocean Cruise to the Bahamas.

Joe said that I was thinking about our Viking ancestry and teens cruising through Pembroke Jones Town Settlement in Scuffletown District.

I picked up Joe's pen and began to write. Every Lumbee has a shade of Viking ancestry, some more than others. Having this nautical tendency, they always seem to be compelled to be in a constant state of motion. Therefore, getting into a vehicle and constantly riding around is the natural inborn manifestation of this very minor genetic trait. What is missing is this pattern of the accent in ship building. Too much cruising and not enough of ship building.

These old timers who use to hull out a canoe with an ax have no time to pass on skilled techniques to the young ones that are coming along now. When the old timers were young

bucks, most of the roads were all dirt. Why it would take you just a half day to get to the Pembroke Jones Town Settlement. Yes, it just takes too much time to teach canoe making these days, let alone rigging one with a sail for the shade of Viking ancestry.

Hold on a minute. I hear something outside. What? What is this? What are you young'uns doing? You young'uns are tearing down my house and you are going to make a boat. I better find something for you young'uns to do before you really do tear down my house.

Let me call the activities chairman at the church. We got to get a meeting on this and soon. You kids stop that now. No, I don't know the difference between the bowl and the stern. Boy, now I really do need a vacation.

And what this means is that we church people need to build a student center. The Burnt Swamp Association has 3 1/2 acres of land to put it on. Then maybe the young'uns will quit cruising and go to talking to each other.

Cordially yours,
Cousin Sammy Two Moons
and Rev. James Dial

At 16, You Thought Only One Card Carried So Many Privileges.

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*After February 14, 1997, there will be a \$5.00 enrollment fee

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A message from United National Indian Tribal Youth

ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL

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

(Author's Note: The series focusing on *Native Heritage: Personal Accounts by American Indians 1790 to the Present* [edited by Arlene Hirschfelder] which began two weeks ago will continue next week, following this special announcement.)

The Native American Resource Center is pleased to announce a new exhibit of art works by Ms. Alceon Jones (Lumbee). The exhibit is entitled *Faces at the Edge of the Forest*, and will be featured in The Center during the months of February and March. A reception to celebrate the opening of this new show will be held at 3:15 PM on Thursday, 13 February 1997. The public is invited, and refreshments will be served. The artist will be on hand for brief comments about the collection.

Ms. Jones is a native of Robeson County and a graduate of what is now The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (class of 1970). She is the daughter of Wilbert and Margaret Bullard. She is married to Robert W. Jones, and the mother of five children. She was formerly employed as a multi-

media arts developer with the Indian Education Project (Title III) of the Robeson County schools. She currently serves as visual arts specialist with elementary students for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Ms. Jones works in mixed media, using various kinds of materials and techniques. Some of her works combine ink, colored pencil, shaped paper, clay, feathers and other materials. Her creations are best described as "delightful." They demonstrate her own delight — her obvious sense of joy and pleasure and playfulness — in art and in life itself. They reveal to us Alceon as the Trickster in tribal legend. They also evoke delight in viewers who are frequently dazzled by her vivacious use of color and design.

Her series of paper-based masks is both aesthetically pleasing and thought provoking. The title piece of the show ("*Faces at the Edge of the Forest*") incorporates human and animal forms which appear to be gazing at us from within a forest-edge. They bring to mind the words of the

Chippewa writer, Gerald Vizenor: "We are bears on that slow burn at dawn, down from the wild treelines to our tribal agonies in the city. We are bears in the rain this morning, the picture of the bear and the bear in the mirror. We are more than word, more than a word beast, we are remembered in stories. We return to the heart in stories, a return to nature... We are squirrels out on a thin branch, and we run in the dawn with the leaves. The tricksters of the tribe teased us down from the ceremonial birch and pines in the mountains, down from the treelines to new sanctuaries in the wild cities (from *Dead Voices*)."

Faces at the Edge of the Forest is without question one of the most uniquely creative exhibits we have had here in The Center. We hope you will join us for the opening reception on February 13th, and anytime until the last week in March to enjoy this fine new exhibit.

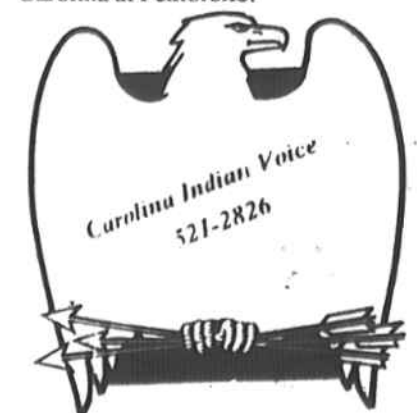
For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Pembroke Housing Authority Activities

Pembroke Housing Authority's "Helping Hand" 4-H club awarded the following residents during the month of December with Yard of the Month. The winners were Mr. Donald Locklear of Chavis Park, Ms. Adrea Timmons of Locklear court, Mr. Willie Hardin of Strickland Heights, Ms. Thelma Smith of Dial Terrace and Ms. Debra McMillian of Maynor Manor. Congratulations to these outstanding residents.

On February 1, 1997 Amy Woods Youth Center Coordinator for Pembroke Housing Authority attended

the North Carolina 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Conference in Raleigh. She was awarded the State After School Award for the South Central District. She received a beautiful 4-H plaque. There were only four awards given for the state of North Carolina. Amy Woods is an exceptional 4-H leader who leads by doing. She has provided outstanding leadership to the "Helping Hands" 4-H Club. Her insight and abilities have enabled her to facilitate programs to build self-esteem in her club members. She is dedicated to providing opportunities for participation. That's the way to go Sweet Amy.



Say you read
it in Carolina
Indian Voice.

