

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Rep. Robert Sutton's Views From Raleigh on the Opening of the NC General Assembly and the Future of the NC Indian Cultural Center

The following is my perspective on events surrounding the opening of the General Assembly and the future of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.

When the 143rd Session of the General Assembly convened at noon on Wednesday, January 29, 1997 the true race to lead the House of Representatives began. This is important because it determines how the House will operate for the next two years. More importantly, who will chair committees, dictate debate and control the flow of bills through the House.

Prior to that date and time there had been significant behind the scenes maneuvering by both Republicans and Democrats. When it became obvious that the Republican margin in the House had narrowed to 61-59 in November, pressure on both parties to shore up support for its nominees for Speaker of the House intensified. It was suspected that some Representatives would switch over on the vote for Speaker to elect the Democratic candidate, Rep. Jim Black of Mecklenburg County. Others believed that the flow may go the other way, all so that prized committee chairmanships and so forth may fall (or remain) in specific party hands.

The pressure on the Republican members grew as Rep. C. Robert Brawley, Republican, Iredell

County, openly stated that he would support his long time friend Rep. Black. If that occurred, the House vote would split equally on the vote for speaker. That did not come to pass as Rep. Brawley, under heavy Republican pressure, remained loyal to his party. However, should that have happened leadership would be shared by dual speakers of the House would continue voting until one side of the other received a majority vote.

As an alternative backup the Democrats reportedly had a Republican member that had indicated his intent to vote for Rep. Black therefore causing a tie. However, he would only do so if the Democrats voted together. Since his name was far back in the alphabet, he had an opportunity to see whether Democrats stuck together prior to committing himself to vote with them. Once the vote was a tie, however, he would only do so if the Democrats voted together. Since his name was far back in the alphabet, he had an opportunity to see whether Democrats stuck together prior to committing himself to vote with them. Once the vote was a tie, the Democrats reportedly had another Republican that was expected to change his vote on the second round and vote to elect Rep. Black, the Democrat Speaker.

All Democrats were alerted to this plan but three (3) refused to stick with their party and "Rolled Over" and voted for the Democrats (their

party) to control committees and exercise leadership roles and responsibility. It is apparent from committee assignments that the three "Roll Over" Democrats was Rep. Dewey Hill, Democrat, Columbus County, who shares part of Robeson County. The House Democratic Counsel is considering some form of retaliatory response/action to the three disloyal caucus members.

Speaker Brubaker, upon re-election, gaveled the House to order. The first matter was consideration and adoption of the Rules. So that the General Assembly may operate, both House and Senate must adopt certain Rules which determine how things happen during the two years. Sparking concern among members was the announcement that proposed Rules which all but a few people had not seen at that point, would become permanent if passed and not temporary. Several members debated certain provisions in the proposed Rules. One provision makes it easier for legislation to be held hostage (pocket veto) and packing extra voting members of the majority party on committees. Most votes were among party lines. When asked by members why the Rules changes were made, Republican Majority Leader Leo Daughtry smiled and admitted, "So we (the Republicans) can win every vote with majority rule." Some references were made to the time when Democrats had the majority. For those

viewing from the gallery, it was evident that politics is a tough business.

Though the Democratic members lost on all but one procedural rule change, they had one success: Stephen Wood, Republican, Guilford County, decided to run for the Speaker Pro Tempore post (also known as Deputy Speaker). Considered an independent Republican, Wood had been bipartisan over the years. He nominated himself, to the surprise of many Republicans, and captured the Democratic vote plus that of several Republicans. Later that night his Republican legislative apartment mates kicked him out of their apartment. He was forced to find another place to live while in Raleigh.

So you may understand the composition of the House of Representatives, this session it includes two accountants, 17 attorneys, 36 business persons, 16 educators, 12 Realtors and 24 retirees. There are 10 freshmen and 11 members returning after an absence of a term or more. Twenty-three women serve in the House, as well as 17 African-Americans and one Native American.

There are numerous rumors spreading about the immediate future of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Present law requires the Cultural Center Board to have raised 4.16 million dollars in cash or pledges by May 15, 1997 or all the Cultural Center lands West of Pembroke shall revert to the State of

North Carolina to be used for whatever purpose deemed appropriate by the state.

Realizing that the present board had not raised the required funds, I began a dialogue with Cultural Center Board leadership, N.C. Indian Commission leaders and Indian leaders throughout the state in an effort to avoid a reversion of the lands this coming May.

At this time the various groups are talking, discussing various options and evaluating each others proposals. In my plan to file a bill to seek an extension of the time to allow the board a reasonable time to again try and achieve their fund raising goal. The process is ongoing and too complicated to discuss in details at this time. However, you may rest assured I want the N.C. Indian Cultural Center to continue to grow and will do whatever it takes in the House to make it a success. I have the full commitment and support from the entire local delegation in this endeavor. Several key leaders in both the House and Senate have stressed their support for my proposed bill. They share my view that the NC Indian Cultural Center should remain in Robeson County and continue to be a viable entity for Indians throughout the state.

## Seventh Generation Warriors' Society Organizing at NC Indian Cultural Center

Native American youth ages 12-15 are encouraged to join the Seventh Generation Warriors' Society being organized at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.

The Seventh Generation Warriors' Society combines traditional values with problem solving methods to cope with today's pressures.

Are you looking for an alternative way to cope with the concerns in your life? If you are, contact: Alexis W. Locklear, Program Director, the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, One Recreation Center Road, P.O. Box 2410, Pembroke, NC 28372. Phone: (910) 521-2433.

## Activities Planned at NC Indian Cultural Center

Feb. 15-Artist Karl Hunt will be giving a class on Native American Pottery manufacture. Learn to make Native American Pottery with experienced artist Karl Hunt, and learn the ways of our ancestors.

"Young Drum" will play the sacred drum, and explain to today's youth the importance of it in today's society. Come experience the excitement of Native American music as we worship the Creator through dance and song. You are invited to bring your own Native American instrument and play along!

Feb. 22-Paleo Dwellings. Learn to construct the home of a Paleo Indian and learn more of the first people to inhabit the North Carolina Continent. Visit the Paleo Camp in construction, taste foods cooked in the open pit fire!

Upcoming events. Youth Rally, Skate night, canoe race, leadership training, youth against drugs and alcohol.

These events will be held from 12 noon until 4 P.M. on the above dates. There is no admission fee and the public is cordially invited.

## Robeson County Retired School Personnel to Meet

Robeson County Retired School Personnel will meet at the Calabash West in Lumberton on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 11 a.m. The election of delegates to the state and national convention will be held. All members are encouraged to attend.

## Local Student Teaching in Jefferson, NC

Emily Rose Crain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Lee Crain of Pembroke, NC is now student teaching at Ashe Central High School, Jefferson, NC. She is participating during the spring semester, January through May in the student teaching program at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. In this program students devote approximately fifteen weeks to student teaching in the teaching area in which they have been preparing.

Miss Crain is teaching Art, Grades K-12 under the supervision of Mrs. Pat Morrison.

Miss Crain graduated from Purnell Swett High School in 1992.

## Valentine Special Planned at Green Leaf Restaurant

The Green Leaf Restaurant at Exit Inn, 74-95 Exit 14, will be having a Valentine's special for couples. The special will run from Feb. 10-Feb. 15 from 5:30 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. The special will include 2 rib-eye dinners with baked potato or fries, salad, tea and dessert. There will also be a rose for the first 24 ladies. Men are encouraged to bring their favorite lady out and get her a rose with dinner for only \$19.95 a couple.

For further information call Carolyn Hunt or Myrtle Jones at 737-6330 or 521-8701 or 738-8248.

## Reunion to be Held

The Descendants of Weldon and Jennie Dial will gather on March 29, 1997 (Easter weekend) from 12-5 at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish, family photographs, family Bibles, etc. For more information contact Nora Dial-Stanley at 910-924-2867 or Katban Locklear at 910-521-2048.



## Local Scouts

### Demonstrate Good Will

The Webelos Den of Park 327 of Pembroke gave a special meaning to the Cub Scout Promise by giving a special Christmas to residents of Pemberton Place in Pembroke. The two patients were Lottie Chavis and Richmond Little.

A special bonus along with this good turn was that the scouts also completed their requirements for the Cub Scouts, God and Family Religious Award.

The Scouts shown in the photo are Stephen Chavis, Marcus Seals, Barrett Locklear and Matthew Blue, also shown is Richard Little.

A special thanks to Union Chapel Methodist Church and Bernie Locklear Fund and Mr. Roy Oxendine for their financial support in the project.

## Lumbee River EMC Awards Bright Ideas Grants to Local Teachers

Local electric cooperatives like Lumbee River EMC have long been involved in the educational life of the communities they serve. Lumbee River EMC participates in many community and educational projects, including the highly acclaimed "Bright Ideas" grant program. Seven teams of teachers were recently honored and presented checks totaling \$10,749.00. The grants will involve seven schools, 33 teachers and 2,419 students in a variety of educational projects.

The most recently round of grants was the third year Lumbee River EMC has participated in the "Bright Ideas" Grant Program which was launched by North Carolina's electric cooperatives in October 1994. The funds go to North Carolina teachers serving grades K-12. The Bright Ideas are just that—bright ideas proposed by local teachers to enhance the learning experience in their classrooms.

This year the grants were awarded to teams of teachers at seven schools in the four county area Lumbee River EMC serves. 64 applications were received, and winners were three teams from the Public Schools of

Robeson County: the team of educators were led by Teresa Locklear at Deep Branch Elementary-Montessori; Wilma Godwin at Purnell Swett High; and Kay L. Robert of Red Springs High. There were also three winners from the Hoke County Schools. The Hoke County educators include a team of teachers led by Verna Barnhill at Rockfish Hoke Elementary School, Donna Jackson and her team of co-workers from Scurlock Elementary and Mary Ann Prevatte and her team from Upchurch Elementary. Cumberland County was represented by a team of educators from Brentwood elementary led by Mary Anne Prevatte.

The "Bright Ideas" Grant Program helps teachers help themselves by funding innovative and creative teaching proposals in a variety of disciplines, including math, science and reading. "This is the kind of community projects co-ops like Lumbee River EMC have been involved in since their inception in the 1940s," said Ronnie E. Hunt, Lumbee River EMC's general manager. "It is what we mean when we say that we are committed to the communities we serve."

## Boy Scout Troop 27 Celebrating 59 Years

Boy Scout Troop 27 in Pembroke is celebrating 59 years of continuous service this month. The Boy Scouts of America are celebrating 87 years of service.

Boy Scout Troop 27-Pembroke was organized in 1938 by the late Gaston Revels. The late Walter Pinchbeck became Scout Master in 1940 and served in that position for 35 years. He retired in 1975.

Scout Master now of Troop 27 is Chuck Jacobs. He is assisted by

Francis Pinchbeck, assistant Scout Master and Hank Teets, assistant Scout Master. Teets is the grandson of Walter Pinchbeck and Francis Pinchbeck is the son of Walter Pinchbeck.

These gentlemen work with the Boy Scouts in Pembroke, ages 11 to 16. They now have 18 Scouts who meet every Monday evening at 7 P.M. at the Walter Pinchbeck Boy Scout Hut in Pembroke. Membership in Troop 27 is open to boys who are 11 to 18 years of age.

## Pembroke Native Elected to NIEA Post

Kerry D. Bird (Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota/Lumbee) was elected vice president of the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) at the 27th Annual NIEA Convention held in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is currently serving a two-year term on the NIEA board of directors. NIEA has 3,000 members nationwide.

Kerry is the son of Ms. Glenda R. Bird (Lumbee) and the late Kenneth D. Bird (Dakota) of Pembroke. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and prior to attending graduate school, worked as project director for the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

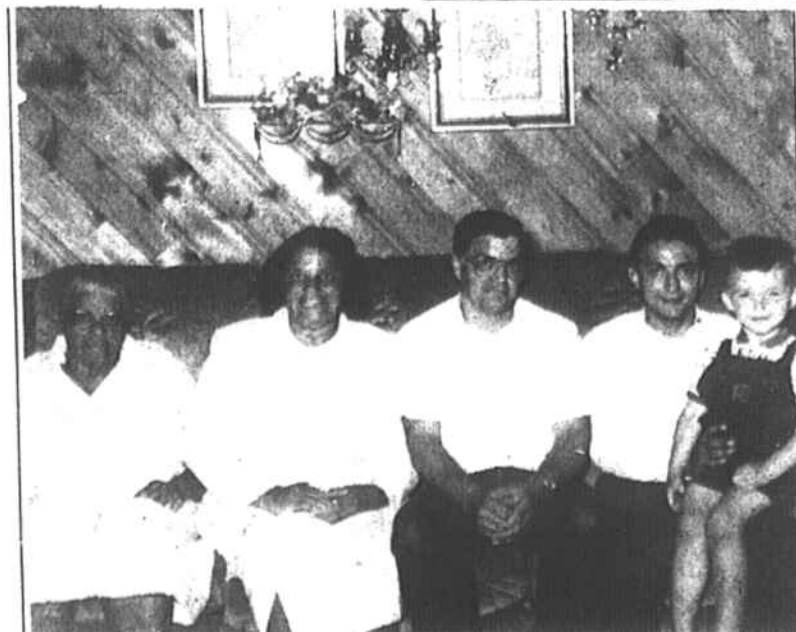
In his role as vice-president of NIEA, Kerry sees his role as being an advocate for the inclusion of state recognized Indian tribes in Indian education programs, funding, and new initiatives.

Along with his duties of serving on the NIEA Executive Committee,

Kerry will chair the International/Indigenous Affairs committee this year. He will also serve on the Legislative Affairs Committee, Awards Committee, and the 1997 NIEA Convention Committee.

Kerry recently participated in two days of lobbying on Capitol Hill with other board members and staff for NIEA where they were promoting the 1997 National Education Agenda for American Indians and Alaska Natives to members of the 105th U.S. Congress. While in Washington, D.C. he also attended the Presidential Inaugural Ball.

Kerry is currently a second year master's degree student in the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri where his field concentration is social and economic development. He is a recipient of the Kathryn M. Buder Scholarship for American Indian Students.



## Five Generations!

Shown above are the five generations of the Catherine Locklear family. Shown left to right are: Catherine Locklear of Lumberton; her daughter, Tessie Blue of McDonald; her son, Donnie Blue; and his son, Donovan Blue, both of Raleigh.



## Rep. Sutton attends Education Consortium

Representative Ronnie Sutton, Democrat of Pembroke, recently returned from Point Clear, near Mobile, Alabama, where he had his first meeting with the Eisenhower Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education Board of Directors. Recently appointed to that board, he was attending the Regional Coordinating Board meeting February 4th and 5th. The federally funded Consortium's purpose is to promote improvements in education reform and an emphasis on mathematics and science education.

The Consortium consists of members from throughout a six southeastern state region. The regional board, commonly known as SERVE (Southeastern Regional Vision for Education) consists of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida. There are board members from each state on the regional board.

## Teaching Fellows Finalists Announced

Seven students in the Public Schools of Robeson County have been selected as 1997 Regional Finalists for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Awards by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission. Marcus Andrew Hunt will represent Purnell Swett High, Mia Lynn Chavis is a student at South Robeson High, William Curtis McGirt, III and Sakika Denise Mitchell are students at Fairmont High and James Lawrence Burney, Montoya S. Regan, and Shanita Wendette Wooten are students at Lumberton Senior. These students will go on to regional screening at UNC-P on February 15th.

As many as 400 high school seniors are selected each year as Teaching Fellows who receive \$5,000 a year for their college education for a maximum of 4 years when they agree to teach in North Carolina public schools after graduation.

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