

Editorial and Opinion Page



The Word on Washington

Congressman
Mike McIntyre

Is there anything on which Democrats and Republicans could agree and tackle together for the good of our nation? What one concern could unite these two parties quickly without bickering and delay?

Just ask all of our former Presidents and First Ladies, as well as our current President and First Lady, and you will get a resounding answer: "Yes! We care about our children!" And so they, along with several others of us who have served as volunteers over the years, came together in Philadelphia a few days ago at the birthplace of our nation's charter of freedom to plan and to work on charting the course for our country's children who are at risk.

As one of only five members of Congress selected by the Democratic leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, I had the unique opportunity to join these presidents and their wives at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. Chairman of this event was retired Gen. Colin Powell. His wife, Alma, along with Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore and a selected group of elected officials, joined hundreds of volunteers from across America to prepare for the challenge of helping our future generation of citizens — our children.

In rural areas as well as large cities, far too many young people are growing up without the kind of adult role models and relationships needed for success. As the organizers' mission statement said, "Far too many do not have adequate, safe places to learn and grow, and they are not getting a healthy start on the kind of education that creates real opportunities. And too many are unaware that giving through community service can make a difference in the lives of others and can be an enriching experience."

And so we worked! Miss America (Tara Holland) and I worked side-by-side shoveling dirt and spreading mulch for an inner city playground. We then joined Tipper Gore and members of the Philadelphia Eagles football team in building a park bench while Vice President Gore drilled on a jungle gym. In a couple of hours, a messy, ugly sandlot became an organized, pleasant play spot for kids.

In seminars and discussions afterwards, groundwork was laid for a new organization called "America's Promise" which will coordinate efforts between the private and public sector to reach our nation's youth.

Five goals have been set, and programs to implement them are already under way. They include:

- 1) Establishing opportunities for mentoring, tutoring and coaching young children so they have positive role models;
- 2) Increasing safe places and structured activities so that young people can study, play and receive

the necessary guidance to reach their full potential in life:

3) Assuring that adequate health care is available and that healthy behaviors are emphasized to our kids.

4) Forging new partnerships among businesses, schools and charities to provide young persons with summer jobs, internships and learning opportunities for marketable skills, including reading and mathematics; and

5) Providing young people with the opportunity to serve, so that they can become a part of the solution and give back as good citizens to their own communities as they mature into young adults.

Government programs cannot always provide the answers to our nation's needs, but through the energy and resources of volunteers, we can find solutions.

It is my hope that this summit will now be the springboard to encourage each American to take an hour, a day, or a week and respond to problems within his or her community with either time or resources. Our children and our nation's future deserve no less.

Straight From The Cookie Jar CRUISING IN PEMBROKE

Pembroke police were out in force Saturday night in regard to the cruising ordinance that is currently being enforced by the Pembroke Town Council. They were all over Union Chapel Road with their blue lights flashing. There were very few cars on that road I started to call the police department and tell them "what was going on" but I decided that since they think that they know it all to just let them sit there. Drivers were going to the stoplight passed Union Chapel Road at Jones Street, then CRUISING down through that neighborhood, going from there to Cornith Road and coming up beside UNCP. They were parking in the spaces at the church that I know as "the Gospel Hall" throwing trash, running into people's yard with their cars, running stop signs as people in the neighborhood try to sleep on Jones Street. There are persons that I have spoken with who said that this went on all weekend.

Frankly, ladies and gentlemen we have "gotten around the cruising population for years" now to keep them off of the main roads they have moved it to the neighborhoods where someone can get hurt". I don't know

of any child that plays out of their yard onto the Union Chapel Road or onto Highway 711. I do know of alot of children on Jones Street. Cruising has been going on for more years than I can count. We did it in High school and that was over 22 years ago. I know that some of the very people protesting did it themselves.

I don't know how anyone can stop these taxpayers from riding down the roads that they have helped pay for, do you? Since the Town Council of Pembroke doesn't own the roads of Pembroke. I do not see where they can fine anyone or take their drivers license. FREEDOM is one thing that our Constitution is based on and that is one of the reasons that the colonists left England, or wherever they came here from, so that no man would have the right to tell them what to do.

Sorta makes me wonder did they get off of the SPACE SHIP???

That has to be a better solution. Why not open up those parking lots and let the kids park and visit with each other? That sounds a lot more simple than trying to enforce cruising laws that seem to be a form of harassment. Think about it???

Vinita Maynor Clark

Summer Reading Program Schedule

Lumberton - Robeson County Public Library will hold Summer Reading Program from June 30 until August 1. The kickoff party will be held at the Lumberton Library, outside, weather permitting, on Friday, June 30. Come by the library to register for the program; have your tee shirt stencilled, pick up reading records, bookmarks, and materials. One time tee shirts will be painted in purple and blue.

Use the reading record to keep lists of the books you read. Prizes will be given for the first book, the tenth book, and for every ten books thereafter. Books read aloud by the librarian during story-time programs may be included in your reading record. Books may be counted beginning June 30, ending August 1.

There will be a magician at Lumberton, July 21, 10 AM and a magic show in Lumberton, 10 AM, August 1 to end the program. Story and activity times are: Mondays, Lumberton 10 AM and Pembroke 12 PM

ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL

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

Much attention has been given to the topic of federal recognition of Native Americans, especially as it concerns the Lumbee. Some people seem to believe that federal recognition would be the panacea for everything that ails many Native American communities — poverty, geographical and political isolation, substance abuse, poor health and so on. Other people, including some Native Americans, see federal recognition as an unnecessary and unwanted "stamp of approval" from the federal government. After all, what other ethnic groups in the United States are required to carry a government card to prove that they are who they say they are?

From much of what has been printed in the popular press in recent years, it would perhaps be easy to come to the conclusion that the Lumbee are the only Native Nation confronted with life in the supposedly unhappy state of being federally-unrecognized. But is this true?

Current estimates have it that there are at least 115,000 (and possibly as many as 200,000) people in America who could be classified as "federally-unrecognized" Indians. Some of these are descendants of Native people who refused to sign what they saw as unfair

treaties with the government during the nineteenth century (for example, a small group of Chippewa people who lived in northern North Dakota). Others are people who migrated away from reservations and into cities generations ago and did not maintain "enrollment." A few are those who simply fell through the administrative cracks.

Many of these "unrecognized" people are enrolled members of the at least 133 separate groups (bands, tribes and nations) which the federal government does not accept as being "Indian tribes." Some of these groups are very small, with less than 200 members. The Lumbee happen to be the largest such group (somewhere between 35,000 and 50,000 people in the United States, most of whom reside in Robeson County, identify themselves as Lumbee).

Some groups are recognized by their respective state governments, but many others are not. Of these Native American people it has been written: "There is no simple explanation as to why some tribes were not recognized. Failure by the federal government to recognize certain Indian tribes has usually been the product of long-forgotten historical accidents, or of the belief that many tribes became

extinct. Whatever the reason for the non-recognized status of many Indian groups, one thing is certain: they have not vanished (Miller and De Jong, 1994; in *The Native North American Almanac*).

Why do these Indian communities remain "unrecognized?" Miller and De Jong argue that many of these tribes were small, peaceful and/or isolated and therefore not perceived as a threat by the government. Indian tribes which the government has not feared, or whose lands and resources it has not coveted, have typically been left "unrecognized."

Many of the federally-recognized tribes achieved that status by virtue of wars they waged against the U. S. government — wars which led to the necessity for treaties and reservations. It is ironic that Native American communities which were peaceful (or which were decimated by European epidemic diseases) would later be denied services by the government in effect because they did not (or could not) resist government incursions and control more violently.

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.



Tuesdays, Fairmont 1 PM and Proctorville 3 PM. Wednesday, Lumberton Film Hour 10 AM. Red Springs 2:30 PM and St. Pauls 4:30 PM. Thursday, Maxton 2 PM and Rowland 4 PM.

Notice of Public Hearing

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners is presently considering appropriation or expenditures pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1 to encourage the location of a manufacturing enterprise within Robeson County. This action, if taken, will be through the use of an agreement regarding economic incentive grants by and between the County and the new enterprise.

The hearing will be held on May 12, 1997, at 6:00 o'clock p.m. at Robeson County Housing Authority, Morgan Britt Park, NC Hwy. 72 West, Lumberton, North Carolina.

The public is encouraged to attend the public hearing.

Linda A. Hedgpeth
Clerk of the Board of Robeson County Board of Commissioners

Pembroke Senior High Class of 1976 Reunion

Location: Old Pembroke Senior High (now Pembroke Middle School)

Price: \$20.00 per couple (late fee: \$25.00 after deadline of May 30)

Dress: Semi-formal

When: June 27, 1997

Contact persons:
Dollar Bill Oxendine 422-8129
Ramona Locklear 521-0579
Iris H. Locklear 521-1179

Lumbee Guaranty Bank Common Stock Offering

Lumbee Guaranty Bank hereby announces the availability of 230,770 shares of Lumbee Guaranty Bank Common Stock at \$13 per share.

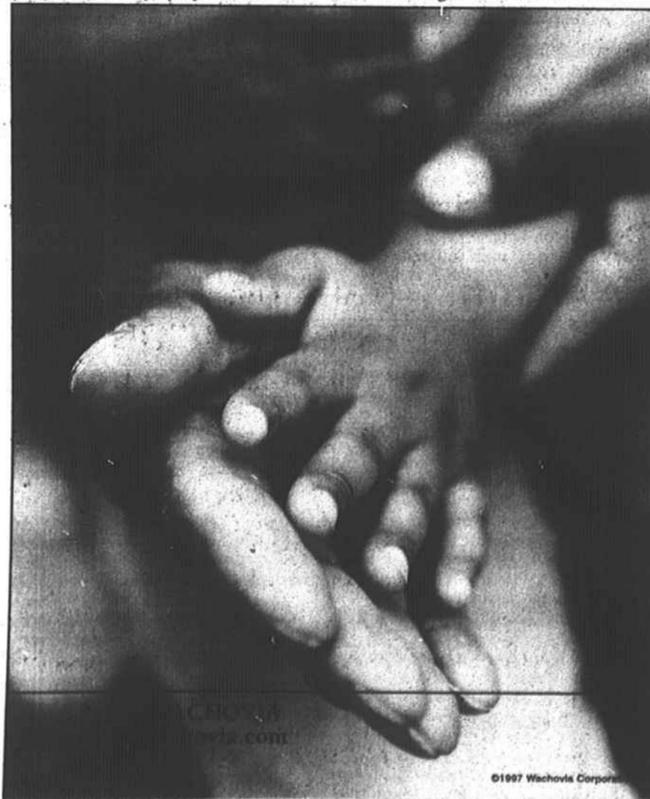
For more information, contact Lumbee Guaranty Bank Transfer Department at 205 West Third Street, Pembroke, by phone at 910-521-9707, or the nearest branch office of Lumbee Guaranty Bank.

This offering expires September 30, 1997 or when all available shares are sold.

Larry R. Chavis, President/CEO

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Your Winning Team

Grady Hunt & Brian Brooks
Let us help you with all your claims for automobile or work related injuries.

Locklear, Jacobs & Hunt
Attorneys at Law

203 S. Vance St., Pembroke, NC 28372
(910) 521-343