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Indians Lose Chance at the UNC-Pembroke Chancellor Position Unless...They rise up in righteous indignation!

There is a mean political streak in the Lumbee camp, as we see it. We just don't seem to feel good about ourselves anymore. And we have begun anew to beat up on one another. Maybe success (sic) has gone to all of our heads.

You know about the mess concerning the Lumbee Tribal Council/LRDA debacle. We cannot even agree to disagree, and psychologically need to have someone like Jurist Howard Manning, a conservative and white superior court judge, sort out our differences. My God, what in the world is wrong with us? Why can't we just get some Indian preachers together to serve as an ad hoc election commission and have a referendum about what we want to do as a people? Well, as we see it, that's asking too much for a Lumbee, if you ask us. Too, did you notice how many non-Indian lawyers were helping we poor, pitiful Indians fight among ourselves? LRDA had a passel of white lawyers, and the Lumbee Tribal Council did too, although one Lumbee, Arlinda Locklear, was involved on the tribal council's side. Where in God's name was the other Indian lawyers? It's just not in their best interest to get involved, as we see it. Ditto for Senior Resident Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks!

And now the Chancellor's Selection Committee at UNC-Pembroke has seemingly flipped its gourd too. The Indians have lost it, and it makes us mad as fire, editorially speaking of course. What in the world is wrong with us Indians? Education has seemingly driven some of us to ethnic paranoia. We have turned upon ourselves. We are politically devouring one another. We have met the enemy and it is US!

Roger Oxendine, local tobacco man, also doubling as chairman of the UNC-P Board of Trustees, chairs the Chancellor's Selection Committee. We want to introduce you to the selection committee he picked. Yeah, Roger Oxendine will have to share some of the blame for this fiasco because he's the one who picked this collection of naysayers. We remember when Bruce Barton, our former editor, for instance, asked to be on the chancellor's selection committee. He was turned down because, as some saw it, he was too out spoken and controversial. It might have been good to have someone on the selection committee who was not afraid to speak out for the Indian cause. Everyone on the chancellor's selection committee is so nice, and so proper and so unmmmm!

The selection committee is made up of 6 whites, 2 blacks, and six Lumbee Indians (sic). It makes you wonder what is happening in the Indian camp. Two or more of them, if we are reading the political tea leaves right, voted against adding Indian candidates to the list of twelve that is now on the table. It would have taken a vote of 5 or more for one or more of the Indian candidates to make the cut. None did. If no Indian made the cut, then some of the Indians on the chancellor's selection committee voted against their own people. That is mind boggling. Can you imagine this happening at any other school in the university system? We'll answer for you. Heck no! Fayetteville State will always have a Black Chancellor and N.C. State will always have a white one. Only UNC-Pembroke plays these silly mind games in which the end result is to kick your own people in their political teeth. How sad! How pitiful! Neither candidates Dr. Ray Brayboy, Judge Gary Locklear, Dr. Ruth Dial Woods or Dr. Freda Porter Locklear received enough votes to make the cut to 12 viable candidates. Notice that three of these Indian candidates have doctorates. REAL ONES! Have we all lost our collective minds? Are we going to allow this miscarriage of justice to stand?

What ever happened to Indian and Black causes! If we are reading the action of this committee correctly, neither of the two blacks on the committee voted for an Indian candidate either. Evidently some of the people on this board did not think that any of the Indian candidates were suitable or qualified to be chancellor of UNC-Pembroke, the only school in the system with a sizable Indian student population. According to information we have been able to obtain, the Indians on the chancellor's selection committee are Roger Oxendine, McDuffie Cummings, Dr. Zoe Locklear, Dr. Linda Oxendine, Dr. Cheryl Locklear and Ms. Angie Revels. If you see any of these Indians over your morning cup of coffee, or elsewhere, ask them how they voted. They ought not to mind telling their constituency how they voted, either for or against the Indian candidates.

One of the members on the selection committee was even heard to exclaim during the process that "I am apolitical." That is so hard for us to believe. You can't brush your teeth in America without being "political." The late and esteemed and very political Dr. Adolph Dial believed that politics was the art

of the do able. WE DO TOO!

Of course people have a right to vote like they want to. It still makes us sad, and we are concerned that the six Indians on the board did not see fit to keep an Indian(s) on the selection list. What's wrong with us as Indian people? We can remember when we had nothing, and it looks like we are busy giving back all of our recent good political gains because we are more comfortable psychologically as a people with nothing!

The only remaining solution is for the UNC-P Board of Trustees to refuse the winnowed down list unless it has viable Indian candidates added to it. Why Not? They do have that right. Will they have the courage to do it? Probably not. That's the sad part. Our Indian leadership is tired of the fight and wishes to throw in the towel. How sad!

Nevertheless, we publicly call on the UNC-P Board of Trustees to reject the winnowed down list of twelve, or at best, add one or more of the Indian candidates to it. It's the only fair and reasonable way to do it. Which of the Indians voted to keep Indian candidates on the list, and which ones voted not to? Did they have a political ax to grind? You do have a right to ask them!

While you're at it, ask the blacks on the board to explain their vote too. They are Thomas Jones, Jr. and Larry Rodgers. Jones works for an all Indian board (his company is owned by Lumbee River EMC), and Rodgers, a track coach at UNC-P, has lived in the Pembroke area most of his adult life, even serving a stint as President of the Pembroke Jaycees. It seems like they would have been sensitive to an Indian candidate, they were not!

The whites on the board are Dr. George Walter, Dr. Suetlen Cabe, Bob Bleecker, Ben Gersh, Ms. Jean Hodges and Thomas Martin. They owe us an explanation too.

In the meantime, contact the members of the UNC-P Board of Trustees, and ask them to do the right thing. ADD INDIANS TO THE SHORT LIST THAT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO CHAPEL-HILL. Attend the next meeting en masse. Raise sand about this terrible turn of events. Let those in positions of power know how you feel about it. Or just do nothing. Remember that EVIL MEN triumph when good people do nothing. Bad policy results. Poor selections are made. We've told you about it, to the best of our ability, as we see it. Now what are you going to do about it?

Through Native Eyes Cast Meets

In an undisclosed location in a neighboring county this past Saturday the cast and crew of the movie *Through Native Eyes* met for the first time. The meeting began with the joining of hands and a short prayer. Everyone was very glad to see who made the final selection and others were surprised that their friend had not. Director Van Coleman took center stage and welcomed everyone, congratulating them that they were going to be a part of history. "If you have an ego, an attitude or a chip on your shoulder, you need to leave it at the door," he said to the actors.

"This is going to be some hard work and it is not going to be easy but the end will truly justify the means," stated Robert Locklear who has been cast in the role of Henry.

"I want all of you who have been in the outdoor drama to help the others who do not know the ropes," said Harliss Smith who is a Strike at the Wind veteran who went on to say "you know what it is like to face the mosquitoes, stand in 100 degree heat and not get paid for it."

Making the final cast selection out of the over 375 that auditioned were Strike at the Wind veteran cast members Robert Locklear (Henry), Mychalene Deese (Rhoda), Janet Graham, Harliss Smith, Marcus Locklear, Chris Hardison, Teresa Cummings, Margaret Freeman, Carnell Locklear and Vinita "Cookie" Maynor-Clark.

The first reading of the script proved to be interesting to everybody. Many details that have been ignored in a historical perspective are found in this script. All of the cast members had a good feeling about the movie.

Readings will continue in a closed rehearsal until the actual filming of the movie later on in the month.

by Vinita Maynor-Clark

Diverse Groups Pledge to Help Increase Indian Housing Lending

National Community Reinvestment Coalition and National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders agree to partnership with National American Indian Housing Council to jumpstart mortgage lending in Indian Country.

Washington, D.C. (02/04/99) At a news conference hosted by the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC), the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) and the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL) joined in a commitment to partner with NAIHC to help reverse Third World housing conditions in Indian Country.

"The time is right for such a partnership," said NAIHC Chairman Chester Carl. "Between 1992 and 1996, only 91 conventional mortgages were made in Indian Country, and not many have been made since. Compared to housing nationally, Indian Housing is 10 times as overcrowded and 6 times as substandard," he added.

With NCRC, NAIHC announces two initiatives:

Joint training for Indian Housing officials on use of Community Reinvestment Act

Joint advocacy efforts to preserve CRA

NCRC will work with NAIHC to train tribal housing entities on the use of the CRA as a tool for making banks accountable for lending in tribal communities.

With NAIHC, the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders will launch a 3-part program:

Educating bankers about successful models of lending on tribal land, including the creation of a clearing-

house of information.

Creating emphasis on the importance of this market through conference panels and through publications.

Providing technical expertise to NAIHC from its members.

Carl, who is also Executive Director of the Navajo Housing Authority, said, "We welcome the expertise of both MAAHI and NCRC and their members. We hope this collaboration will be a catalyst for the changes necessary to make mortgage lending routine in Indian Country. I pledge to help tribes remove those barriers that exist on our side of the fence."

NCRC CEO and President John Taylor said, "We pledge to help Native Americans in their quest for decent, safe and sanitary housing, utilizing the Community Reinvestment Act. Other groups have used it effectively to ensure that mortgage lending and housing development happen where it is needed most."

NAAHL President Judy Kennedy said, "Our members are expert in community lending and we are dedicated to expanding our efforts in Indian Country. We hope our collaboration with NAIHC will break down the barriers that have impeded progress in the past."

Statistics show that although a few lenders have begun to make loans in Indian Country, the opportunity is there for much, much more loan activity. The need for homes is also undeniably great.

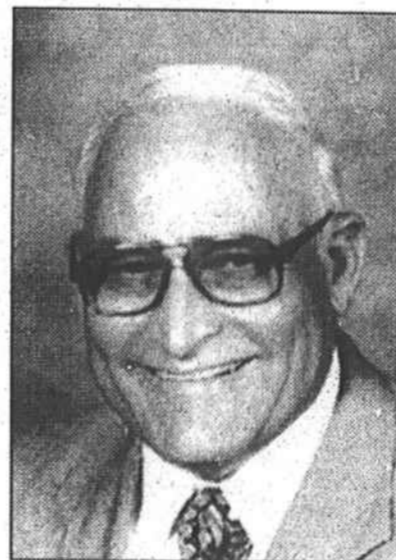
* The 1997 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data, which tracks loans by ethnic group, showed that Ameri-

New Officers Named at Pembroke Housing Authority

Pembroke - The Pembroke Housing Authority elected new officers on Thursday, January 28, 1999, for the calendaryear 1999. Elected to the position of Chairman was Joel Garth Locklear of Pembroke, North Carolina. Mr. Locklear was originally appointed to the Board of Commissioner on January 17, 1993, and successfully re-appointed on January 17, 1997, for a five-year term ending January 17, 2002. Mr. Locklear was previously elected Vice - chairman and served for calendar years 1997 and 1998. Mr. Locklear is owner and operator of Garth's Detective Agency of Pembroke, North Carolina.

Elected to the office of Vice - chairperson was Olivia M. Revels of Pembroke, North Carolina. Ms. Revels was originally appointed to an unexpired term that ended January 17, 1995, at which time she was re-appointed for a five year term to expire on January 17, 2000. Along with her husband, Mrs. Revels is co-owner and co-operator of Revels Funeral Home of Pembroke, North Carolina.

Outgoing Chairman William E. Locklear served as Chairman during the years 1993 through 1998. Under his leadership, some of the Authority's major accomplishments included adding two units for the elderly; converting four units to handicapped accessibility; installing central HVAC systems in ninety-eight units, mostly for the elderly; establishing on-site security for Strickland Heights; and many other accomplishments too numerous to list. Underscoring his appreciation for the support received from his fellow commissioners, Mr. Locklear gracefully turned the gavel over to Mr. Garth Locklear, pledging to continue his support and work for Pembroke Housing Authority.



Joel Garth Locklear



Olivia M. Revels

Cutting the Ribbon and opening the Doors to Education and a Brighter Future at the new Pembroke Library

On February 5, 1999 a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place in front of the new Public Library of the Town of Pembroke. Their was a variety of representatives from various organizations who were present to be their as the Mayor of Pembroke, Milton Hunt, Secretary Betty McCain, Head Librarian Mrs. Mattie Locklear, Director, Robeson Public Library Robert Fisher, Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings cut the red ribbon tied across the doors of the library. As we walked into the library,

their was a sense of welcome and the desire to browse and enjoy the surroundings. The inside of the library was easily understood as the open space made it easy to find what you were looking for. The overall message from the individuals who spoke was for children and parents to continue a productive relationship with education and doing activities together such as going to the library together. Education was conveyed as the key to alleviating the darkness of ignorance.

