

Some Serious Questions for the UNCP Chancellor's Search Committee and other leadership

To the Editor:
The Indian community of Robeson County has been repressed, held back, undermined, under-developed, stymied, and frustrated for too long. I was so frustrated when I was 14 living under those conditions that I ran away from home. I left Pembroke for good when I was 16.

It is time for those conditions to be faced and dealt with. Our forefathers had a vision of what was good for their children and grandchildren. They strove mightily to accomplish these things.

Among their visions was decent food, presentable clothes, the best education their children could get, the right to vote, the right to worship freely, the right to have decent jobs, and the right to have a choice in occupation. Many of the older people just wanted to be able to make a living without having to work like dogs.

Many of these dreams were tied to the schools and to Pembroke State College. It was education that would let people have a decent job. Education would let them avoid hard manual labor for life. Education would let them be somebody. Education would let them have houses that were decent, that were painted. Education would let them have a car instead of a mule and wagon.

That's why so much emotion is tied into the UNCP campus. It is in many ways the heart and soul of the Lumbee people. If our dreams and aspirations are exemplified anywhere, it is probably on the campus.

The campus is integrated now. For the past 35 years it has had white and black faces on it. I remember how surprised I was in 1961 to visit with my best friend Hartman Brewington in Richmond when the PSC basketball team came to play RPI. There were blond white girls from Pembroke State there! It was disconcerting.

The campus now has to be one which serves the whole region. It is not the Indian Normal School any more. But it started as the Indian Normal School, and will always have some of the flavor of that great institution.

The current leadership on the Board and the administration have to respect the vision of the founders. They have to respect the roots of the university. They have to respect the fact that it is smack dab in the middle of the largest Indian community east of the Mississippi. They can not pretend it is just another institution, another assimilated campus of the University of North Carolina. It is not.

Question for the leadership: Can you find it in your power to acknowledge the founders of the University? Where are they honored? Are there any statues of them on the campus? Have any histories of them been commissioned? Are any academic buildings named for them? Are any athletic awards named for them? Are any photographs or plaques of them located on prominent display on the campus? Have any scholarships been named for them? Do you know anything about them?

In the selection of a new Chancellor, preference should be given to a

Lumbee Indian. The least the Board can do is let the selection process be fair. This individual should endorse the development of the Indian community to its full potential. It is time for action, not rhetoric.

The new Chancellor should start by initiating the development of a plan which would do this. Local leaders from every community should be included in this process. The tribal council should be included in this process. Church leaders from every community should be included. Educators and business people should be included. Non-Indian persons of good will should be included.

The process itself should be scheduled to take place over a year and a half or a two year period. This would give the planners time to collect information, collect data, survey people in the communities, set priorities, and recommend programs.

This plan should be designed to bring about the maximum development of the resources of the Indian people of the region. It should be designed to develop fully the intellectual resources of the Indian people.

It should include strategies for reconciliation and healing for the several communities in the region. It should spell out ways all the communities can work together for the common good. We have many more things in common than we have differences; the plan should build on these commonalities.

Question for the leadership: Could the power structure in the court house in Lumberton and on the UNC state board find the courage to back and help develop this plan? Will they identify the key players from every city and county in the region and bring them on board to help develop the plan? Will they come up with the resources to support her work of doing the plan?

The new Chancellor must be sensitive to racism and the impact it has had and continues to have on the total community, all groups in the community. When is the last time that a symposium on race relations was held at UNCP? The needs of the Indian community, including dealing with discrimination and remedying it, MUST COME FIRST ON THE PRIORITY LIST.

The Search Committee in 1989 was united. If they had not been, Dr. Joseph Oxendine would have been ruled out. Is this Search Committee united? It was a non-Indian who made the motion to include Dr. Oxendine on the list.

Is the board of UNC and the statewide administration ready to focus on the needs of the Indian community? Are they ready to acknowledge that there is an Indian community? Are the local leaders in Lumberton and Laurinburg ready to work with the leaders of the Indian community for the good of all people in the Piedmont? Are both ready to help develop the region, including all ethnic and economic groups in the region?

I hope so. Justice demands nothing.

Yours truly,

Dean Chavers, Ph.D.



Grandma Theresa's Special Boy

On November twenty-first, nineteen and ninety five, a baby was born destined to touch all of our lives.

He came into this world with many special needs, and planted within our hearts a very large seed.

One that has grown with each passing day and will continue to grow in such a quiet way.

This seed has grown into a very large tree, sturdy and strong without any disease.

Many of the limbs hang low to the ground, this is where his dear family is found.

Mama Bill and Daddy Bran - they make this tree ever so grand.

Papas Bobby, Julian and Monk - they hang so sturdy, there close to the trunk.

Grandmas Theresa, Sylvia, and Mema Florence with outstretched arms - always there to protect Kendron from harm.

Big Pa Revels helps anchor this tree Kendron always filled his heart with so much glee.

Further up the big tree trunk are sprouting twigs, all in one big lump.

Taylor, Trevor, Zachary, Kelsey and Cade their sweet aroma never to fade.

This special tree is so very high, filled with blossoms that have kept it alive.

The doctors and nurses who have treated his needs and like everyone else came to love him so much indeed.

Diane, his special companion each day always made sure he was more than okay.

Scottie was always by Kendron's side, there for his wishes he would always abide.

The top of this tree sways gracefully with the wind, filled with all of his very special, dear friends.

Friends that are here today to offer comfort and love assuring us all he is now in heaven above.

This beautiful blessed tree he has left in our care. It's bountiful fruit we all will share.

Cause on November 21, 1995 a blessed Kendron forever changed our lives.

In memory of Kendron Locklear, son of Brannagan Locklear and Billie Jo Dial.

Thanks so much for your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Still pray for us we need it.

The Family

Sen. Weinstien makes statement on tobacco settlement

Statement from Sen. David Weinstien on the tobacco settlement legislation passed today by the House and Senate:

"This was our last chance to give tobacco farmers and tobacco-dependent communities the help they need and deserve. If we didn't pass this bill today, all the settlement money would have gone to the General Assembly, where everyone would want a piece of it and farmers wouldn't get a dime."

Background

The Senate voted today to set up a nonprofit foundation to dedicate half of North Carolina's \$4.6 billion tobacco settlement to tobacco workers, farmers, quota holders, and communities whose livelihoods have centered on tobacco.

The other half of the settlement money will go into two trust funds - The Tobacco Families Support Trust Fund and the Public Health Fund.

The Tobacco Families Fund would give direct payments to tobacco factory workers, farmers and quota holders who have been hit hard by instability in the tobacco industry.

The Public Health Fund would give more than \$1.1 billion for the state's pressing health needs, such as preventative care and teen smoking prevention.



(NAPS)—Working Woman magazine (www.workingwoman.com) recently sponsored a study with Hewlett-Packard Company (www.hp.com) to learn more about how men and women use technology.



To learn about shopping for furniture online, you can visit the website at www.furniturepoint.com.

Fun facts about Universal Studios are at www.universalstudios.com.

A new service at www.icat.com can help small businesses set up shop for free on the Internet.

INDIAN VOICE

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Happy Birthday

Kalia Novelle Hunt, the daughter of Sean C. Hunt and Bess Locklear celebrated her first birthday on March 13, 1999, with a party at the home of her paternal grandparents, Douglas and Olivia Hunt. Kalia's maternal grandmother, Cathy Locklear, along with other relatives, was also present to help her celebrate. The theme of the party was "Winnie the Pooh." Receiving lots of presents, Kalia had a most enjoyable first birthday.

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CONNIE BRAYBOY,

author of
**PEMBROKE IN THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY**

WILL BE AT The Indian Education Resource Center (formerly the Pembroke "Indian" High School) on March 23 to autograph her new book and meet the public.

Everyone is welcome. Come out and meet our newest Indian author as she shares her insights and photographs about Pembroke in the Twentieth Century.

Pembroke in the Twentieth Century, written by Connie Brayboy, the editor of the Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper, uses a wealth of images to bring the history of Pembroke in this eventful century to life.

WHEN? Tuesday, March 23, 1999

WHERE? Indian Education Resource Center (the former Pembroke "Indian" High School is located between the UNC-P Chancellor's residence and the Subway)

TIME? between the hours of 3 p.m. until 6 p.m.

THE BOOK IS PUBLISHED BY ARCADIA PUBLISHING
2 CUMBERLAND STREET, CHARLESTON, S.C. 29401

This reception is co-sponsored by the Indian Law Unit (Lumbee River Legal Services); Indian Education (Public Schools of Robeson County); and the Town of Pembroke

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