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Lumbee Tribal Elder Celebrates 80th Birthday

The pathways of the young are paved by the struggles of the elders. The truth of this statement brings to mind the name of one such elder. Mr. Raymond Clark is known within traditional circles as Spotted Turtle, patriarch of the Turtle Clan, but to his friends and community, he is more widely known, respected and revered as Mr. "Pete", advocate of Lumbee cultural awareness and instiller of Lumbee pride. While many newcomers embrace the so-called Pan-Indian movement and adorn themselves in Indian regalia to "play Indian" for the weekend, Mr. Pete has held true to beliefs and traditions passed from his Creek grandmother more than a half a century ago. He, his father and his grandfather practiced in secret the stories and traditions that gave continuity to the sacred circle of life, for they were Indian when being Indian wasn't cool.

Mr. Pete learned later in life that sometimes you will be called upon to practice what you preach. Caught up in the staunch etiquette precipitated by the sixties, Mr. Pete dared to wear long hair as an educator within the public educational system in the early seventies. Much like the Plains warriors who prided themselves in counting coup, Mr. Pete smiles proudly as he recounts his victory in the battle for this right to practice his culture, a battle that began more than fifty years ago.

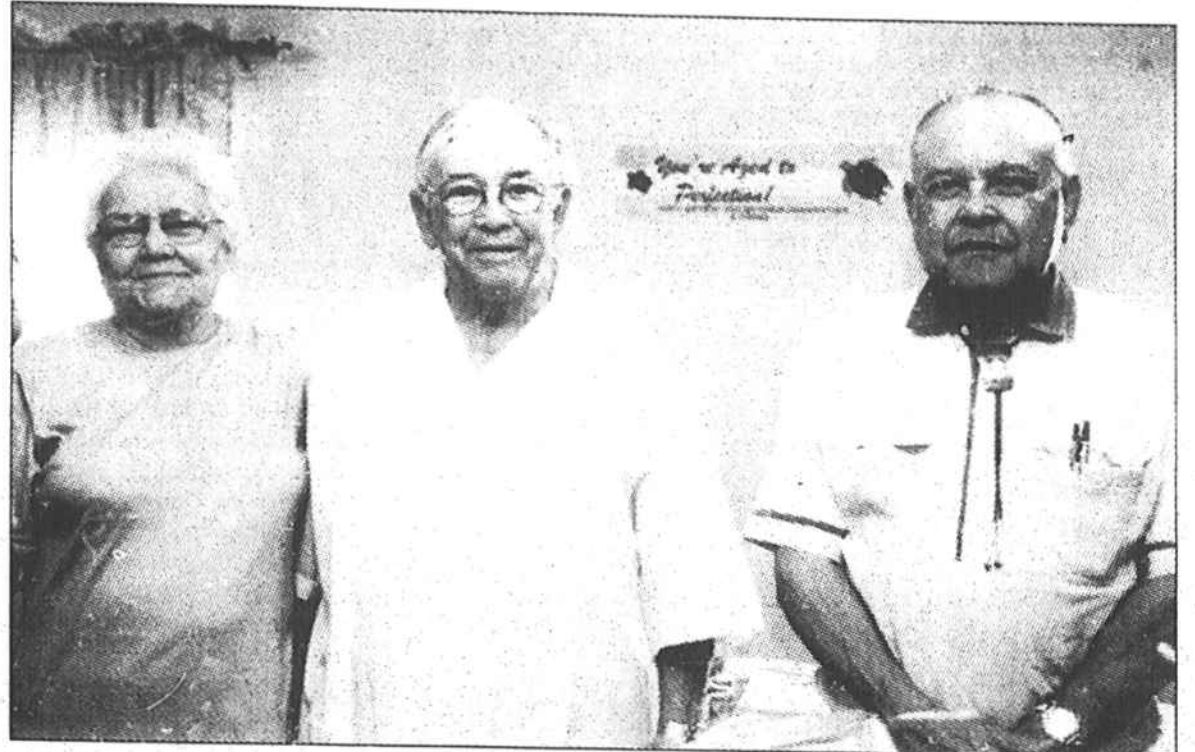
On Saturday, June 26, more than one-hundred friends and family gathered at Berea Baptist Church to pay homage to Mr. Pete in celebration of his 80th birthday. The Lumbee elder smiled as he heard the fondest memories of his sons Ray, Dennis and Mike. In each account the reverence and love for the old one was so eloquently expressed while their one consistency was that their father instilled in them the fact that they were in control of their lives and that they "could do anything." This one teaching has led the siblings to become one of Lumbee lands most successful trios. Ray, known as Littleturtle, is the owner of Turtlevision, a native corporation that educates both the Indian and general public of the culture of Southeastern Indians. Dennis, known as Red Turtle, is retired military and the owner of the upcoming, high-tech engineering firm McLean Research Corporation (MRC). Mike, known as Painted Turtle, was the first Lumbee architect, and oversees the architectural portion of MRC operations.

Ray Littleturtle was surely in his prime as MC of the day's festivities, while brother Denny brought chuckles from the group. Younger brother, Mike was more reserved than his two elder siblings, but in like character, oversaw that all things were in place and ran smoothly. The highlight of the day was when great-grandson, Kaya Clark, performed a traditional song in the elder's honor. At the

song's end the two embraced. Not a dry eye could be found.

Though Mr. Pete has had much family successes, he has never limited his wealth of knowledge to only family circles. For most of his life, he has sought to educate young Indians of the importance of the written word as a mechanism for the preservation of the spoken word. There are many of us who can attest to his positive influence within our lives. When asked if he thought there was a secret to life, Mr. Pete replied, "If everyone would live their lives by the Garden of Life, this world would be a better place to live." The Garden of Life he refers to consists of first planting 5 rows of Peas -- Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness and Prayer. Secondly planting 3 rows of Squash - Squash Gossip, Squash Criticism and Squash Indifference. Lastly planting 5 rows of Lettuce -- Let us be Unselfish, Let us be Loyal, Let us be Truthful, Let us be Faithful, and Let us Love One Another. This is known as Spotted Turtle's Garden of Life. For those who choose to become faithful gardeners, Mr. Pete promises a long life of health and happiness.

Mr. Raymond "Pete" "Spotted Turtle" Clark is an inspiration to all he encounters. The legacy he has built is tried and true and will stand when many others crumble. We cherish the eighty years that the Creator has blessed us with Mr. Pete, and give thanks for those which are to come.



Mr. Pete with his sister Ann Burelson and brother Barto Clark.

Burnette Interim Vice Chancellor

Pembroke - Dr. Glen G. Burnette, Jr. was selected to serve as Interim Vice Chancellor for Development and University Relations at UNC Pembroke.

Burnette has been the Alumni Relations director since 1988. In making the announcement, Chancellor Allen C. Meadors said that Burnette will serve in this new capacity until a national search is completed for the vice chancellor position.

"Having worked in the division for more than 11 years, I know that Development and University Relations is a dynamic area to be a part of," Burnette said.

"I am committed to the values of this great educational institution and look forward to working with Chancellor Meadors and the entire university community in this capacity."

D.G. Martin, the former UNC vice president for public affairs, agreed to serve as UNC Pembroke's interim vice chancellor the past six months.

Burnette earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNC Pembroke. He received a doctorate in higher education administration from North Carolina State University in 1997. He has served on many university committees during the past 11 years, including recently as the executive secretary of the Chancellor Search Committee.

Burnette also was the chairman of the UNCP Grievance/Dispute Resolution Committee. He serves on the Planning Council, the Outstanding Study Committee and chairs the Alumni Loyalty Scholarship Committee.

Before joining UNCP, Burnette worked in the Division of Compensatory Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

He is active in numerous professional and civic organizations.

Burnette and his wife, Kathy, and sons Gordon, 11, and Bradley, 3, live in Lumberton.

State budget gains final approval

Raleigh -- The General Assembly gave final approval Wednesday to a budget that dedicates 60 percent of the state's General Fund to education.

"Helping our schools is the best investment we can make in North Carolina's future," said Sen. David Weinstein. "This budget does what's right for our state by putting education first - without raising taxes."

House and Senate negotiators released a compromise budget Tuesday that increases teacher pay, maintains school accountability, expands Smart Start statewide and helps community colleges and universities meet the needs of a growing student population.

The \$13.5 billion budget also finishes the juvenile justice reforms started last year, preserves the environment, protects North Carolina's seniors and expands services for domestic violence victims.

UNC-Pembroke would receive a share of \$20 million in enrollment growth funds for UNC schools and \$3.5 million for graduate student tuition remission and wards. Local Smart Start partnership funds include \$183,012 for Bladen; nearly \$2.7 million for Cumberland; \$433,806 for Hoke; more than \$1 million for Robeson and \$449,680 for Sampson.

In addition, local schools would gain from a \$10 million allocation to the state's low-wealth schools. Bladen \$731,523; Cumberland \$3,545,823; Hoke \$1,930,214; Robeson \$6,020,380; Sampson \$1,454,936.

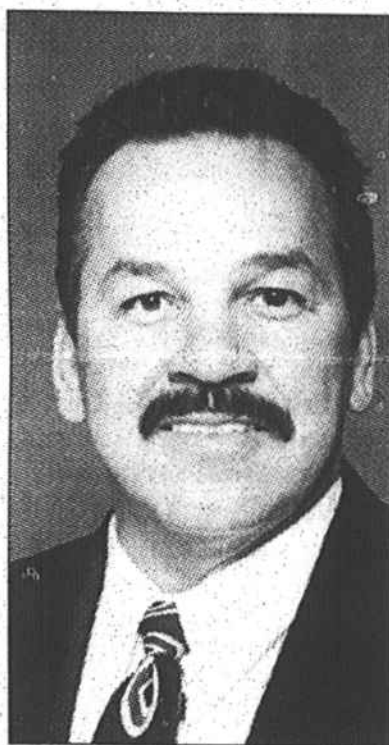
"While we are helping our state's young residents get a good education, we have also begun to plan for our growing population of senior citizens, who need to spend the final years of their lives happy, and with dignity," said Weinstein, D-Robeson.

North Carolina's seniors are the fastest-growing segment of the state's population. The budget adds 83 positions statewide to help senior citizens acquire homes; authorizes special financial help to seniors purchasing prescription drugs and expands an education program on insurance.

The budget - which now goes to the governor to be signed - also includes \$250,000 for the Indian Culture Center and \$500,000 for the Southeastern Farmers Market and Agriculture Center.

North Carolina Native American Youth Organization

Kalita Locklear, a Sophomore and Monica Dial, a Junior from Hoke County High School was recently elected to serve as Representatives from Hoke County on the North Carolina Native Americans Youth Organization at the annual meeting held at UNC-P at Pembroke, North Carolina in June of 1999. There were a total of 30 Native American students who attended the conference from Hoke County High School, thanks to the Hoke County Indian Education Director, Billy Jacobs and Coordinator, Larry Dial.



Gary Burnette

News conference on Indian Country Mortgage Lending Survey results.

Monday, July 12, 1999 at 12 noon PDT, National American Indian Housing Council 25th Annual Convention & Trade Show.

Location is the Sheraton Seattle Hotel & Towers, Cedar Room. Survey results help indicate which tribes are ready for mortgage lending, and emphasize that the tribal market is an underserved market. Results also include methods for dealing with obstacles to mortgage lending in Indian Country.

Chester Carl, NAIHC Chairman and Executive Director of Navajo Housing Authority, John Williamson, NAIHC Vice Authority, and Christopher Boesen, NAIHC Executive Director.

According to the General Accounting Office, from 1992 to 1996, only 91 conventional home purchase loans were made on reservation or trust land. Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data showed that American Indians were the only group that registered a decline in the rate of mortgage lending for home purchases for 1997.

At the news conference, NAIHC will announce results of this latest mortgage lending survey, conducted in June 1999. Survey results highlight:

- * Obstacles (real or perceived) to mortgage lending in Indian Country.
- * Methods tribes and banks are using to overcome obstacles and open new mortgage lending markets in tribal areas.
- * Steps tribes are tasking to prepare their members for homeownership.

UNCP professors using the Internet to expand teaching frontiers

Pembroke, N.C. -- The terror of oversleeping class may soon be a thing of the past in higher education. At least that's what Criminal Justice Professor David Vanderhoof believes.

Re-runs of some of his class may be viewed on the Internet. Just click on www.uncp.edu/home/vanderhoof/. With over 37,000 "hits" Dr. Vanderhoof's homepage is one of the busiest crossroads of learning on campus.

Lose your syllabus? Need assignments? Or quick biography of an Antebellum American author? Need research materials or help on your term paper? It's all there on English Professor Mark Canada's homepage, www.unp.edu/home/canada/.

Both professors are using the Internet extensively to expand their teaching, and both are creating new applications for Internet use.

Dr. Canada's Internet site, "All-American Literature, History and Culture," is a unique student-run electronic publishing project. Just click on www.uncp.edu/home/canada/work/allam/allam.htm.

"I like this project because it is a resource for my students, and students participate in writing and editing," Dr. Canada said.

Dr. Canada also engages his students in on-line forums, called "threaded discussions," in which the professor proposes questions and students provide answers which can be viewed by every other student.

"The Internet allows students to contribute to the educational process in a

Budget passes General Assembly in record time, according to Rep. Ron Sutton

Rep. Ron Sutton of Pembroke voted for a \$13.7 billion state budget Wednesday, June 30th, the first in 20 years to pass the General Assembly before the start of the fiscal year.

The compromise spending plan cleared the House on a vote of 105-10. The Senate approved the bill earlier in the day.

"This budget reflects our commitment to children and education," Rep. Sutton said, "and I am proud that we approved it before July 1. That will save local government and school officials a lot of headaches. For the first time in years, they will know early in the budget year how much state money they will receive."

Passage of the budget before the beginning of the fiscal year also will allow teachers and state employees to receive their pay raises on time. In previous years, those raises were delayed in the General Assembly for weeks and even months.

Teachers will receive an average 7.5 percent pay rise, the third phase of a four-year plan to raise teacher pay to the national average by next year.

State employees will receive a 3 percent raise and a 125 one-time bonus.

Smart Start, Gov. Hunt's program

to prepare young children for school, will get an additional \$58 million in the fiscal year in the new budget.

Community colleges received their biggest boost in decades, including \$5 million for a need-based financial aid program, a 5 percent pay raise for faculty and \$10 million for other costs.

The House passed its initial version of the 1999-2001 spending plan in early June. The Senate passed a different version, and negotiators from the House and Senate worked out the differences between the two sides. This term the House is responsible for beginning the budget each session.

Rep. Sutton was disappointed that a property tax cut for the elderly and disabled was not part of the final spending plan. The House budget increased the homestead exemption, increasing both income limits and amount of property excluded from property taxes.

"There's always next year," Rep. Sutton said. "Overall, this is still a good budget, and I'm proud that it does not increase taxes."

House and Senate budget writers worked together for weeks in an effort to pass budgets as similar as possible. In addition, the leadership of both the House and Senate agreed to keep non-

budget provisions out of the budget.

In recent sessions, when the House and Senate were led by different parties, differences have dragged on for weeks and delayed adjournment. Now, Democrats have both chambers.

"The only way that you can arrive at the conclusion we have is with good cooperation," House Speaker Jim Black told reporters. "If the leadership of the two bodies want to work together, it can work."

While passage of the budget took a major item off the agenda, lawmakers still must deal with a higher education bond package, refund of the intangibles tax to those who did not protest and other items. Nonetheless, the leadership was shooting for adjournment by mid-July. That would be the earliest adjournment in recent years.

Several key items were in the budget including money for the Southeastern Farmers Market and for the North Carolina Indian Culture. Rep. Sutton indicates that he had several requests for funds in the budget but due to a tight money year, was thankful that the area received as much as it did.

by Wendy Moore-Cummings

variety of ways," Dr. Canada said. "The idea is to carry on classroom discussions outside of the classroom and to encourage collaborations."

Dr. Vanderhoof is also pushing the limits of the Internet. He gets e-mail from students as far away as Malaysia praising the website as "incredible" for their research.

"It would take a library larger than the one we have on this campus to house my Internet law library, and it is up to date with materials on legal opinions that were handed down yesterday," he said. "My students, at a university with fewer than 3000 students located in the middle of cotton and tobacco fields, have access to a law library that makes the lawyer in me cry with envy."

Dr. Vanderhoof also uses the digital video capabilities of the Internet to bring in visiting lecturers.

"I co-presented the Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture and Workshop at Santa Clara University right here form my office," he said. "I was a visiting lecturer in California and never missed a class."

Besides co-teaching a course at a West Coast university, Dr. Vanderhoof promotes UNC Pembroke by producing live websites of university events such as convocation, commencement and Brave's basketball games.

"We are the first university that I know of to make basketball games available live to Internet audiences," he said. "It has increased a lot of interest among other universities."

Profs. Canada and Vanderhoof are using the Internet in exciting new ways to enhance the quality and reach of their teaching.

"Just as there is an expectation that professors will have office hours, here is an expectations that they will have websites too," Dr. Canada said.

Senator Edwards Cosponsors Bill to extend Home Health Care Services

Washington - Senator John Edwards on Wednesday cosponsored legislation designed to expand cost-saving home health care services to Medicare patients.

"It is an old adage that says you can judge the values of a society by how it treats its elderly. This legislation has the goal of treating our elderly citizens with the respect, care and dignity that they deserve," Senator Edwards said.

Senator Edwards joined Senator Susan Collins of Maine at a Capitol press conference to announce introduction of the Medicare Home Health Equity of 1999.

"America's home health agencies provide invaluable services that have enabled a growing number of our most frail and vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries to avoid hospitals and nursing homes and remain where they most want to be - in their own homes," Senator Collins said.

The measure would clarify legislation that Congress passed in 1997 that was designed to reduce Medicare fraud and abuse.

There has been much needed cost cutting and streamlining of the health delivery system. We have extended the solvency of Medicare for years to come," Senator Edwards said. "There have been a number of unintended consequences, however, that have had a negative impact on the ability to reach some of our most needy citizens in a manner that is cost-effective, fair and humane."