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Higher Education Bonds Deserve Voter Support, Sen. Weinstein Says

RALEIGH—The higher education bonds approved Wednesday by the General Assembly will help all North Carolinians and should be approved by voters, Sen. David Weinstein said.

"Our community colleges and universities are the cornerstone of our economy," said Weinstein, D-Robeson. "But too many of our campuses are handicapped by outdated laboratories, crowded classrooms and crumbling buildings. The bond package approved by the General Assembly will fix these problems—without raising taxes."

Wednesday, the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a \$3.5 billion higher education bond referendum to be placed on November's bal-

lot for consideration by North Carolina voters. Final legislative approval of the bond proposal is expected today.

The bonds have been endorsed by a host of education, government and business leaders, including North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry—the state's largest business group. State Treasurer Harlan Boyles also supports the plan and recently told legislators the state could afford to pay off the bonds without a tax increase.

The bond proposal provides \$2.5 billion for new buildings and repair and renovation projects at each of North Carolina's 16 state universities. An additional \$600 million is provided for critical building needs at each of North Carolina's 58 community colleges.

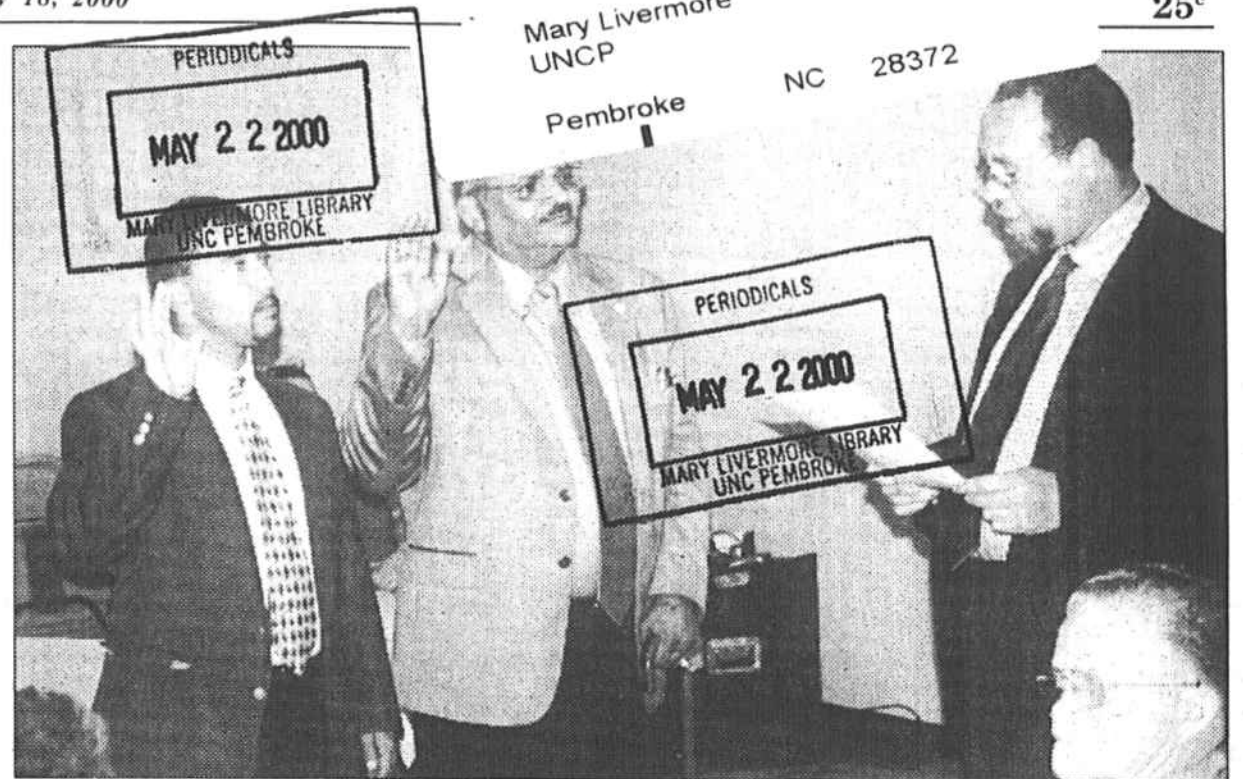
"The bond proposal is good for our state—and our communities. It takes care of our campuses' most pressing needs and does it with an affordable and fiscally sound plan," Weinstein said. "It deserves every voter's support."

North Carolina's community colleges face both increased enrollment growth-up to 15,000 new students over the next five years—and more than \$1.4 billion in building needs. The 16 UNC-system campuses estimate 48,000 new students to enroll in the next 10 years. At the same time, close to 800 buildings—especially science laboratories and classrooms—at all 16 UNC campuses are in need of renovation or repair.

The \$600 million in community college bonds would include more than \$13.8

million for Robeson County College. The \$2.5 billion in university bonds would provide more than \$6.6 million for facility projects at UNC-Pembroke, including:

- Science Building: \$9,408,000
- Oxendine Science Building-Comprehensive Modernization: \$8,032,600
- Locklear Hall Classroom Building-Comprehensive Modernization: \$2,000,000
- D.F. Lowery Classroom Building-Modernization and Addition: \$1,950,500
- Business Administration Building-Comprehensive Modernization: \$1,059,800
- Moore Classroom Hall-Comprehensive Modernization: \$2,639,700
- Residence/Dining Hall-Replacement of Jacobs and Wellons Halls: \$7,700,300
- West Residence Hall-Comprehensive Modernization: \$977,300
- Jones Physical Education Complex-Comprehensive Modernization: \$8,243,700
- Replace Physical Plant Complex: \$5,656,000
- Modernization of Former Physical Plant Facility to provide Relocation of Auxiliary Services Complex and Student Bookstore: \$2,696,000
- Campus-wide Infrastructure Improvements: \$1,996,600
- Campus Water Distribution Upgrades: \$945,000
- Primary Electrical Distribution Upgrades: \$945,000
- Technology Infrastructure Expansion: \$2,798,500.



Leroy Freeman, center, and Rodney Hunt, left, is shown being sworn in to begin serving on the LRDA Board of Directors by Judge Jeff Moore. The swearing in occurred at a recent community meeting in Fairmont. Chairman Adolph blue is seated to the right.

Child Care Directions

Robeson County's Child Care Resource and Referral Agency can provide you with:

- Referral listings of 130 child care centers and family child care homes
 - Parenting information
 - Parenting workshops/Presentations to local groups
 - Resource Lending Library (Available for All RC residents with children 0 -5 years of age)
- Please call 671-8335 or email us at ccd@carolina.net
- There are no fees for our information or referral services

LRDA/Lumbee Housing Department (LHD) Rehabilitation Program

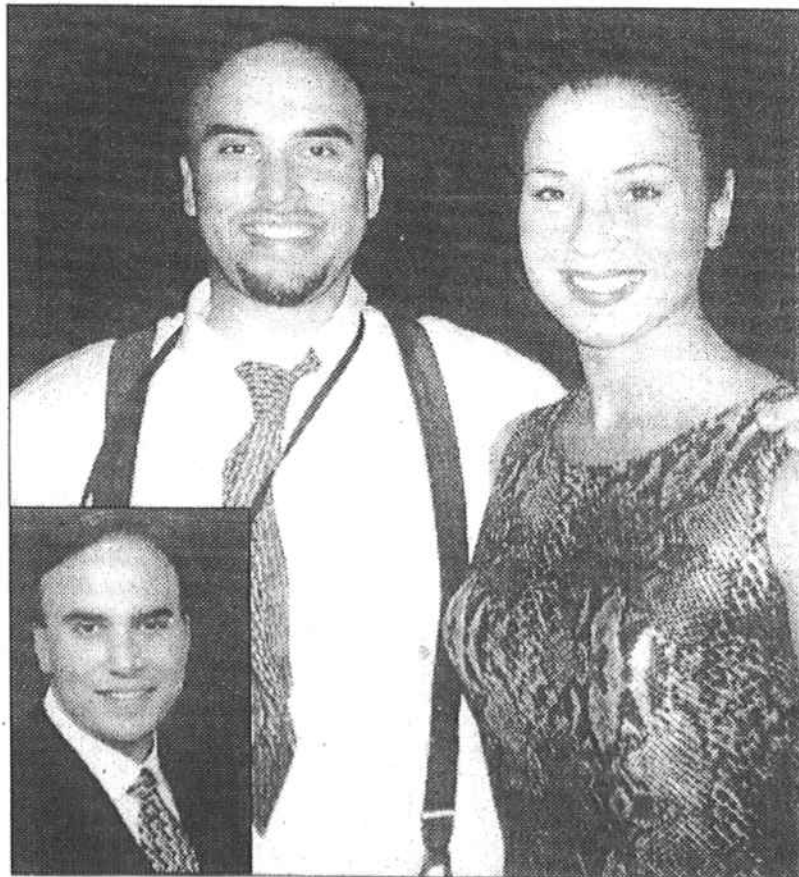
The LRDA/Lumbee Housing Department (LHD) operates a home rehabilitation program component. A major goal of the program is to increase family wealth through significant improvements in existing stick-built homes. Such improvements increase the real property tax and market value of each home. Policy requires that the appraised value of each rehabilitated home exceed the actual dollar amount spent on rehabilitation. This requirement, when coupled with policy governing how manufactured housing must be attached to the land, precludes the rehabilitation of manufactured housing including single and doublewide.

In order to qualify for the program applicants must (a) meet low-income guidelines, (b) agree to use the rehabilitated home as their principal residence for

a minimum of three years, (c) own the property as evidenced by an executed legal instrument, (d) agree to encumber the property (lien or grant agreement) for the aforementioned three year period, and (e) agree to repay the grant amount in full should they sale or otherwise transfer the property before expiration of the three year grant term. The grant is fully forgiven at the end of the three-year term.

The grant agreement (Rehabilitation Agreement) is the document which creates the contract between the homeowner(s) and LRDA/LHD. It is a contractual agreement meant to protect the integrity of the program by discouraging fraud and abuse. The agreement constitutes no threat to honest people...they cannot lose their land or home to LRDA/LHD. Should a homeowner violate terms of the agreement, the grant amount would be subject to recapture which, if not done, would result in the creation of a judgment in the amount of the grant. LRDA/LHD has tremendous faith in our Lumbee people's honesty and integrity. Our Lumbee people do not violate even their spoken word...They always honor their written promises!

LRDA/LHD has received over 400 applications for rehabilitation from eligible tribal members. Many of those are our Elders who are living on fixed incomes. The need is overwhelming, and the project is funded for the rehabilitation of approximately 200 homes per year. The Lumbee Housing Department requests tribal members continued patience and understanding. We realize that many tribal members applied two years ago. We assure all approved applicants that with the award of the fiscal year 2000 grant in September that services will be delivered before the coming of another September.



Julian Pierce, Jr. graduates

Julian Pierce, Jr. (inset), shown above with his twin sister, Julia from Claremont, Virginia, graduated from the Medical College of Virginia, Campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, Saturday morning, May 13, 2000. He earned the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

He will serve his residency for three years in Memphis, Tennessee and will specialize in internal medicine.

Julia is an attorney and they are the children of the late Julian Pierce and Pat Jackson of Claremont, Virginia.

Tribal Officials Seated On LRDA Board of Directors

Lumbee Regional Development Association announces two new members recently elected to serve on the LRDA board of directors. Mr. Leroy Freeman and Mr. Rodney Hunt were sworn in on April 21, 2000 at a dinner hosted by Mr. Freeman in Fairmont.

Mr. Leroy Freeman was elected to fill a seat for district one (1) which is Fairmont, Orrum, Marietta, Sterlings, and Thompson. Mr. Freeman is President of the Osterneck Manufacturing Plant in Lumberton NC, and has been active in politics in the county, and at the state level.

Mr. Rodney Hunt was elected to fill a vacant seat in district three (3) for Lumberton, Wisharts, and East Howellsville. Mr. Hunt is employed with the United Parcel Service in Fayetteville, and is new to the political scene. Mr. Hunt filled a seat on the board previously held by Mr. Herbert Oxendine.

Both Mr. Freeman and Mr. Hunt expressed concern for expanding services to Lumbee citizens. One of their goals while serving on the board of directors is to seek federal recognition for the tribe. Mr. Freeman is co-chairman of the Lumbee Federal Recognition Committee along with fellow board member Leon Jacobs. Mr. Rodney Hunt was also added to the Federal Recognition Committee by the Chairman of the LRDA board.

UNCP stands to gain \$56.6 million from bond issue

PEMBROKE, N.C.—Roger Oxendine, chair of UNC Pembroke's Board of Trustees, strongly encouraged fellow board members to support a bond referendum in November that could net the university \$56.6 million in new construction funds.

The board learned in its quarterly meeting Thursday that a key legislative caucus approved UNCP's construction list that includes a new science building and a new residence hall.

Also on the list are major renovations to the Jones Athletic Complex, West Residence Hall, D.F. Lowery Building, Oxendine Science Building, Business Administration Building, Moore Hall and Locklear Hall.

Both sides of the General Assembly are considering a November vote on \$3.1 billion in revenue bonds. \$2.4 billion is slated for UNC and \$700 million for the state's community colleges.

"This is not going to be a walk in the park," Mr. Oxendine said. "I encourage you to do everything you can to assist the passage of this referendum in November."

UNCP's list includes over \$6 million in infrastructure needs, including technology, water and sewer and electrical systems.

In other action, the trustee board authorized Chancellor Allen Meadors to negotiate a cooperative agreement with a Georgia real estate develop-

ment company that wants to build student apartments.

Located on 13 acres of land across University Drive from UNCP, the apartments would house 336 students and would be given to the university after 30 years.

Chancellor Meadors told the board that a combination of public and private housing will make the growth of the university possible. He said the university actively recruited the developer after viewing its projects at other universities.

The board also accepted a letter of resignation from fellow member Fred George of Laurinburg. He was appointee of Gov. Jim Hunt with three years remaining on his term.

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Charles Jenkins said UNCP will graduate its largest class in history this year with the 223 that graduated in winter ceremonies and the estimated 350 that will graduate Saturday.

Dr. Jenkins, who will retire June 30 after 14 years of leading the Office of Academic Affairs, was praised by the Board of Trustees.

New Student Government Association President Veronica Hatton, who will take a seat on the board in September, was introduced. Outgoing President Phillip Bowman attended his final meeting and was praised by the board as an "advocate" for his fellow students. Ms. Hatton is from Cary, N.C. and Mr. Bowman, Fayetteville.

P.S.R.C. announces auditions for the musical production "Stuart Little"

"Stuart Little", the musical, auditions: Studio One, the summer Performing Arts Workshop of P.S.R.C. will hold auditions for a brand new production of "Stuart Little", a musical about the lovable little mouse who adopted a human family for his own. Based on the novel and the new movie version, this delightful show offers speaking roles for over 20 characters. "Stuart Little" will be the final production of the Studio One workshop which runs from June 12th through July 2nd. The auditions are open to any young person ages 9 to 13, and will be held on May 23rd and May 25th at 7:00pm at the Robeson County Public Library, located in downtown Lumberton. No prior stage experience is necessary. To arrange an audition or for further information, please contact the studio's director, Ms. Joy Martin, at 910-671-4703.

The Gospellettes' Anniversary Sing

The Gospellettes gospel singing group from Pembroke invite the public to attend their Anniversary Sing Saturday, May 20, 2000, at 7 p.m., at Faith Baptist Church, located on Highway 710 between Pembroke and Rowland. Featured groups along with the Gospellettes will be The Singing Scots from Lumberton, the Johnsons from Stedman, and Willing Vessels from Mt. Airy.

Cultural Fest 2000 will be held during Lumbee Homecoming

Cultural Fest 2000, a major event, will be held at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center during Lumbee Homecoming. It will include activities, entertainment, crafts for sale and demonstration, and fun for the entire family.

The Cultural Fest, presented by the N.C. Indian Cultural Center and Harold "Iron Bear" Collins, will begin on Friday, June 30, with a Traditional Opening Ceremony and Pow Wow with dancers and drums from across the state.

Several Indian traders, with a wide variety of Native arts and crafts for sale and to demonstrate, will be a part of the Pow Wow and the entire weekend of exciting activities.

On Saturday, July 1, the many activities will include fishing and golf tournaments, a pig cookin' contest, pie and cake bake-off, jam, jellies and preserves competitions, and other food and beverages which will be on sale. There will also be boat rides, pool events, quilts competitions, and many other items for sale.

Fort Bragg will provide parachuting, flying jets, a military marching band, a helicopter and artillery activities on the site.

Also, on Saturday, a main feature of the Cultural Center presentation will be entertainment by the "Power Team Live Guinness Book of World Record Breaking Event." There will also be strong man competition and bench press events. Harold "Iron Bear" Collins will be the main feature of these events.

Saturday evening, two main attractions will take place. The ever popular outdoor drama, "Strike at the Wind!", the story of Henry Berry Lowry and the Lumbee people, will open for a full season at 8 p.m. at the Amphitheater at the Indian Cultural Center.

Also, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, at the Performing Arts Center, on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, another must-see program, "JANA" IN CONCERT, featuring Jana Sampson, Lumbee Indian of Charlotte, and nationally known country singer, will take place. Tickets for these two outstanding events will be on sale at the "Strike at the Wind!" box office and other places throughout the Pembroke area, and at the Indian Cultural Center.

The Grand Finale of the opening of "Strike at the Wind!" will be a spectacular fire works display. To conclude Cultural Fest 2000, there will be a special church service on Sunday in the Cultural Center Amphitheater, beginning at 11 a.m. Gospel singing will be included. This event is free and open to the public.

Everyone is invited to come out and support these activities at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center during Lumbee Homecoming.

The Cultural Center belongs to all Indian people, including those who will come "home" to visit. Help make this event a success, and you will be helping make the Cultural Center a success.

The gate fee to all events at the Indian Cultural Center, with the exception of the drama, "Strike at the Wind!", is \$5.00 per person with children under six admitted free.

Volunteers are helping to make this event possible. Many more are needed. If you would like to volunteer or be involved as a vendor, dancer, or in other ways, please call (910) 521-2433, or (910) 521-8339 or for additional information.

All events and activities will take place in a drug-free atmosphere.