

Editorially Speaking

Part 2-Race, Klan-Mentality, Subtleties and Nuances in Robeson

ALLISON REDFEARN, MD AND ROB REDFEARN

Recently Allison Redfearn a Lumberton doctor, wrote to us to explain she and her husband, Rob, where not now nor had they ever been racists. She stated that in a recent editorial I implied her husband and others are targeting certain racial groups to reform the political system of the county. She said she and Rob abhor racism of all types. Well, we are leery of the person who feels the need to say "I am not a racist." Her husband Rob was one of those who went nuts, in our opinion at RCC because they feared the color of the president there might change. Rob and his new age klan mentality friends went to great lengths with the politics, even assuring that RCC was placed on probation for accreditation. They blamed Johnny Hunt, an Indian and Tom Jones, a Black, for this happening. We assume they are now happy because Noah Woods, the Indian replacing Hunt, and George Zeigler, the Black replacing Jones, are apparently playing ball with this same group of klan mentality folks, including Rob Redfearn. Recently Woods and Zeigler voted to re hire I Murchison Biggs, a 76 year old, and the daily newspaper, who continues to encourage and provide a forum for those who demonstrate klan-mentality, would have us believe that the re-hiring of Biggs will help expedite re-accreditation of RCC. If accreditation of RCC hangs on the color of the attorney's skin and the color of the president's skin, there is something seriously wrong. But we understand the strategic planning. It was politics that caused probation at RCC and politics will bring about re accreditation. Especially since this klan-mentality group is demonstrating white control over there.

Dr. Redfearn says that her employees, family, friends, and associates would tell us that she and her husband abhor racism. I submit to you that she and her husband have no "friends" of color, only associates and acquaintances. Dr. Redfearn suffers from another age old condition, missionary mentality. She states that for the past five years she and her husband have done everything in their power to make Lumberton and Robeson a better place to live. What she

means is that she has bought a medical practice to Lumberton and she wants people of color to come to her office and spend their money. Her husband, so we've heard, is coming to Pembroke to open up a Dairy Queen. If he does, check his employees. Check their color, and most importantly, check their salaries. Will Indians make minimum wage while the superior race, in their opinion, is paid better wages? Monitor the employees at Dr. Redfearn's clinic with the same yard stick. After Rob gets to Pembroke, if he comes, check to see if he takes our money and deposits it in the Lumbee Bank or any of the local institutions who have Indians on the board of directors. Our bet is that he will take it to Lumberton and bank with his "real" friends and associates. These are the questions that tell the true story of a person's dedication. Check the color and the differentiations in salaries. After all, Rob Redfearn had no problem with this kind of administration at RCC. He has demonstrated to us his belief if a person is white, he is worthy of and entitled to a higher salary than people of color with the same credentials and some with longer seniority. We consider the Redfearns to be a part of the county's klan-mentality group. While attending RCC meetings, Redfearn not once questioned the inadequacies in salaries. Sorry, Dr. Redfearn, your husband's actions speak much louder than your words. There is always a problem when a person feels they must declare "I am not a racist." It is a sure sign they are. Personally, I don't intend to visit or take my children to Redfearn's Clinic, nor do I plan to spend my hard earned money with Rob Redfearn at a Dairy Queen in Pembroke or Lumberton.

Redfearn went a step further in her letter and said none of us were actually minorities. I don't know how things operate in Canada, but I do know she is in for serious trouble if she fails to acknowledge an Indian as an Indian. But then of course she said she had worked hard to make Lumberton a better place. Wonder where she churches and who visits her home? Wonder who she socializes with....? Wonder which bank is her primary institution? Other than the meetings necessary to help put minorities in their proper place, we'd wager

there are no Blacks or Indians in the Redfearns' social circle. She said in her letter she didn't think a person's race should be a primary concern in matters of hiring, public service, etc. What a joke. Why didn't she just be honest and say she didn't think people of color should be in these positions. What she finds deplorable, if she would be honest, is people of color playing the political game the way the whites have always played it and doing it extremely well!!! Fairness and equity, according to Redfearn's reasoning, is only applicable when it applies to whites. Editorially speaking, Dr. Redfearn, how often does your group meet? And what will you all do when the RCC president and attorney is Indian or Black? That time will come and the county will not float off into the Lumbee River, although we expect the missionary-types like you to return to where ever your roots are.

Let me address missionary mentality briefly. You know those are the folks who came to America over five hundred years ago holding the Bible in one hand and a roll of barb wire in the other. Dr. Redfearn falls into this category. "Give us all you have," they demand, "and we will ask for no more." (SATW line). They demonstrate an attitude today like Dr. Redfearn's that says "you people don't know what's good for you. You need us to lead and guide you." Well, get over it, Doctor, we survived before you and your bigoted husband (in our humble opinion) came here, and we will survive long after you all have moved on to your next mission!!!! Maybe when you leave, you can take some of your new found friends from the new age klan with you.

This is part two of a series of editorials on klan mentality, subtleties and nuances in Robeson. Next week, we will take a closer look at the strategic planning of Dr. Rob Redfearn and share some new found information about the possible local ownership of the daily newspaper and why the editor is allowed to denigrate and attack people of color with no repercussions from the owners. These editorials are solely the opinion and information gathering of the editor, Connee Brayboy.

Free Puppies offered



Bitsy Oxendine of Redman Road, Pembroke, is shown above with a litter of puppies that she is giving away. Anyone interested in one of these free puppies is encouraged to visit Bitsy at her home on Redman Road.

Sixteenth Festival of Trees to "Celebrate the Spirit of the Season" in a New Location



From left, planners are florist Billy Davis, Festival coordinator Ann McLean, volunteer Sharon Herndon, and Miriam Edwards, Hospice of Robeson director.

"We are so excited that we have been able to relocate this year's Festival of Trees celebration to a larger facility," said Ann McLean, SRMC director of marketing and Festival coordinator. The annual holiday event to benefit Hospice of Robeson's services for terminally ill patients and their families will kick off its 16th year Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Osterneck Auditorium of the Townsend Building at 102 N. Chestnut St. The new location is directly across the street from the Robeson County Public Library.

"We are looking forward to the new, more spacious format for our tree display," she said. "The size and design of the Osterneck Auditorium will allow for a more festive atmosphere and give us more space to show off the beautifully decorated trees. Billy Davis of Flowers by Billy and Sharon Herndon of Parkton have done a great job of laying out our new floor plan."

In addition to the new location, this year's festival will also offer many new components. "We'll have more space for a larger Santa's Shop," said McLean. "We'll be able to offer more crafts, gift items and, for the first time -- fresh bade goods. We'll also be selling refreshments for the enjoyment of Festival visitors!"

A decorated tree on display in the lobby will give visitors new ideas for trimming their trees at home. "We'll also be offering extra ornaments from this tree for purchase by our visitors," she said.

Activities have also been planned with the younger set in mind. "We made arrangements with Myre McLees, so that children who attend the Festival can also take part in arts/crafts and storytelling activities at Exploration Station next door," McLean said.

Some funds raised by the Festival will benefit Camp Care, a camp for youth ages 8 to 16 who have experienced the death of a loved one. "The Kiwanis of Robeson will again sponsor the Camp Care tree and former Camp Care kids will decorate it," McLean said. Other proceeds will also go directly to Hospice of Robeson for patient and family needs, including medications and sick-room supplies.

Local residents are invited to help with the Festival in a number of ways. McLean and her staff still need sponsors and decorators for the 25 trees to be displayed at the Festival. Sponsors, including individuals and businesses may donate in one of four sponsorship categories. Members of clubs and civic groups may join together to select a theme and decorate one of the trees. Volunteers from the community are being asked to play the baby grand piano, located in the auditorium, during the Festival's hours of operation. For more information about donating, decorating, or volunteering at the 16th annual Festival of Trees, call McLean at 671-5577.

Native American Church Benefit Gospel Sing Scheduled in Raleigh

Triangle Native American United Methodist Church will hold its second gospel singing on Sunday, September 30. "Our first gospel singing held in July was a tremendous success and we look forward with great anticipation to God blessing this singing even more. We are so excited about our gospel sing. Through these functions we are bringing our community together as one family, raise community awareness about American Indians, and it is a great way for us to raise money for our building fund," says Pastor Sylvia Collins. "We are also truly blessed and appreciative of the support from fellow friends and families and excited about all of our special singing groups. Returning again in our Lumbee royalty, Miss Lumbee, Jammi Lowery and Jr. Miss Lumbee Johnna Edmonson, to participate and support this event". Featured groups include Community Men from Prospect, Friends in Christ, Pleasant Grove UMC Choir, Prospect Choir, and the Raleigh Church of God Choir.

The gospel sing will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be held at the Administrative Building of the Methodist Home for Children, located at 1041 Washington Street in Raleigh. Hot dogs and drinks will also be provided as part of the fund-raising event.

Triangle Native American United Methodist Church formally began Church service July 1, 2001. Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m. and worship service immediately follows at 11:00 a.m. The public is cordially invited to attend church service and gospel sing.

For more information, call Pastor Sylvia Collins at 919-467-9957, Doris Hunt at 919-553-4365, or Darlene Jacobs, 919-779-5044.

When you burn the candle at both ends, it goes out too soon.

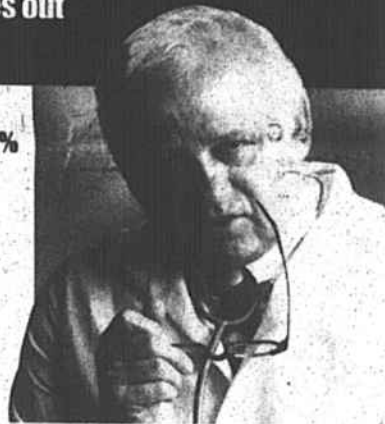
Sleep deprived Americans have a 70% higher death rate.

A lack of sleep can cause marital strife, poor job performance, and more. California Department of Health statistics show that people who get less than the recommended amount of sleep have a 70% higher death rate.*

Highways are a particularly dangerous place.

Sleep problems put drivers at risk for microsleeps. Uncontrollable waves of fatigue where you nod off at the wheel. Each year drowsy drivers cause at least 100,000 crashes, killing more than 1,500 people and injuring another 71,000.**

Sleep help is available. New treatments are helping millions of Americans get the restorative sleep their bodies crave. Now they're rested, happier and more productive, too. Burning the candle at both ends is not only dangerous... it's unnecessary.



Talk to your doctor or go to our FREE Risk Assessment page on the web.

NATIONAL SLEEP FOUNDATION

WWW.SLEEPFOUNDATION.ORG

* 70% higher mortality in a 9 year follow-up period for people getting 6 hours of sleep or less per night. Wingard, D.L., Berkman, L.R. Mortality risk associated with sleeping pattern. Sleep, 1983, 6(2): 102-7.
** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1999.

Preachers incur expenses with funeral services

Recently while assisting on a funeral, the family was gracious enough to donate a love offering for my services. It was unusual for this area. Most times, we assume that a pastor is supported by his congregation and that compensation should include conducting funerals. This is as it should be, but for those who are not full-time pastors, there is some expense involved in assisting with a funeral service. I was touched by the remembrance by this particular family and thought it might be nice to remind others that preachers should be appreciated and compensated for their time, expenses and efforts. There is the expenses of gas, wear and tear on the vehicle, cleaning bills, not to mention the time involved, when a preacher is called upon in a time of bereavement.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. James D. Clark
Pembroke, NC

Great Lakes ChampionPow Wow Sept. 22-23

The Detroit 300 Great Lakes Champion Pow Wow will celebrate Detroit's Native American heritage. The cultural celebration will include drum and dance competitions, a large "traders market" of traditional arts and crafts, and special events for the family in honor of Detroit's 300th birthday.

This is an alcohol and substance free event.

The event will begin on Saturday, September 22, at 11 a.m. and go until 9 p.m. then again on Sunday, September 23, at 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Admission prices are: adults \$7, children 12 and under \$4 and seniors age 50 and over \$4.

It will be at the Fairgrounds Park at Michigan State Fairgrounds (8 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan.)

For general information all 1(800)-DETROIT or visit www.detroit300.org.

Editorial And Opinion Page



AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

UNC-Pembroke College of Education gets another exemplary rating

UNC-Pembroke's teacher education program has received another exemplary rating as part of the state's performance report. As a matter of fact, UNC-P received the third highest score in the state, a 138 out of a possible 150.

Dr. Zoe Locklear, Dean of the School of Education, seemed pleased and said special emphasis was placed on preparing teachers for the Praxis exam and other tests. She's a hard worker and Chancellor Allen Meadors rightly credited the work and dedication of Dr. Locklear and the education faculty. You go, girl!!!!

Look for "Telling Our Own Stories" column from the Lumbee River Fund

... beginning October 18. The "Telling Our Own Stories" column will appear in the Carolina Indian Voice every two weeks. The main goal of this column will be to inform the community of the Lumbee River Fund's activities, provide some new and interesting information about Robeson County Indian history and culture, and provide a way for individuals and organizations to get in touch with the LRF and tell their stories.

It sounds like fun and I am looking forward to this new column exclusively in the "Indian" newspaper. The Lumbee River Fund supports the study and preservation of Lumbee Indian history, culture, religion, education and political life and was begun by a grant to UNC-Pembroke by celebrated author Josephine Humphreys, who most recently wrote

Nowhere Else On Earth, a novel from Rhoda Lowrie's vantage point.

Contact Malinda Maynor, LRF coordinator, at 910-521-9513 or mmaynor@nc.rr.com or you can contact me c/o the Indian Voice or by calling me at 910-521-2054 or by e-mail at bartonb2.ica@robeson.k12.nc.us.

The Lumbee River Fund also offers free training in oral history, family history, and archival preservation. Let's talk!!

Seminar on Federal Contracting in the Information Age to be Held at UNCP

A seminar particularly focused on minority-owned, Native American businesses that are interested in government contracting will be held on Thursday, September 27 at UNCP's Chavis University Center, Room 213. The seminar, titled "Electronic Commerce Training: Federal Contracting in the Information Age" is targeted for an audience of current or potential government suppliers who want to stay a step ahead of the competition in securing new business opportunities by tapping federal contracts using electronic technology.

The registration fee for the seminar is \$10.00, which will include lunch, breaks and parking with all other costs absorbed by the cosponsoring agencies. Completion of registration will be conducted from 8:00- 8:30 a.m. with the seminar beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 4:30 p.m. Interested persons should contact UNCP's Regional Center at 522-8410 for further information and to register or may submit e-mail to: sylvia.pate@uncc.edu. Attendance is limited to 50 individuals; therefore registration prior to the day of the seminar is suggested.

The seminar is cosponsored by UIDA Consulting Group, Inc. (an American Indian Procurement & Technical Assistance Center), The Small Business & Technology Development Center, NC Procurement and Technical Assistance Center, Laurinburg Electronic Commerce Resource Center, the Tribal council of the Lumbee Tribe and UNCP's Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development.

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