

# AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

Bruce Barton is on vacation and will return next week with his column, As I See It.

## Ralph Nader Encourages Civic Virtues

PEMBROKE, N.C. -- "Can you write a thousand-word essay on your citizen skills?" consumer advocate Ralph Nader asked an audience of about 550 at UNCP's Givens Performing Arts Center Tuesday night. "If you can't, you're looking at a big gap in your education."

In a speech entitled "The American Duopoly," Nader addresses America's civic versus commercial values, and the imbalance that exists in favor of big business.

"You've heard of Americans dying for their country," he said. "Have you heard of Americans who gave their life for their company?"

Nader detailed the struggles blue-collar workers all over the United States have endured, and cited examples of textile employees from North and South Carolina who died from cotton dust-asphyxia. He urged citizens to "roll up their sleeves" and "stand tall against injustice."

He said people must become "pen pals" with members of Congress and make sure these elected officials have the "moral courage" to make unpopular decisions. Nader criticized post-secondary education because it does not provide the "citizen skills" needed to make informed decisions.

Citizenship skills build a strong democracy, solve problems and foresee perils, he said. This can be done only if we have knowledge of history, a sense of civic respect, and empathy for future generations.

Nader emerged into the public spotlight with the publication of his book, "Unsafe At Any Speed" in 1965. It detailed General Motors' corporate decision to maximize profits by producing a defective car, the Corvair.



He has published many more books and is considered the most prominent leader of the U.S. consumer protection movement. Nader founded the Center for the Study of Responsive Law, the Center for Auto Safety, and the Public Interest Research Group. The L.A. Times also named him one of the 50 people who most influenced business in this century.

He accused American automobile companies of selling style over safety, and Nader said that until Volvo introduced the three-point seatbelt, there was little emphasis on building quality vehicles.

The 2000 Green Party presidential candidate has been accused of taking enough Democratic votes from Al Gore to give George W. Bush the presidency. But it does not

seem to worry him. "The two parties are becoming more and more look-alike," Nader said. "Voters don't think there is anything different about them. If a third party can't get onto a presidential debate, they can't get anywhere."

He made sure to tell the audience the North Carolina was the toughest state in which to get a third party on the ballot. 52,000 signatures are required by law here by a third party to get on the ballot.

The Distinguished Speaker Series continues Jan. 28 with Edward James Olmos, followed by Maya Angelou on Feb. 26 and Sherman Alexie on April 2. All lectures are at 7 p.m. at Givens Performing Arts Center and the cost is \$5.

by Andrea Vukcevic, a journalism major at UNCP

## Pembroke Twilight Christmas Parade

Pembroke Twilight Christmas Parade sponsored by the Town of Pembroke, the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, and the Pembroke Civic Club is planned for Thursday, December 13, 2001. Line up time at 3:30 p.m. and the parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. The parade line up area will be at the UNCP Pembroke Performing Arts Center and end at the Pembroke Elementary School. Criteria for the parade includes Marching Units, Bands, Queens, Floats, and the special attraction will be the Robeson County Sudan Tomcats Funny Cars and the main attraction will be Santa

## Teacher Assistant Scholarship Loans Increased

The Teacher Assistant Scholarship Loan will be increased from \$1,200 to \$3,500 per year to provide teacher assistants with additional financial resources to cover costs of attending school such as traveling to and from campus, childcare, books and supplies. The Teacher Assistant Scholarship Loan programs are designed for people who are employed full-time as teacher assistants in the public schools of North Carolina (with a minimum of one year experience as a teacher's assistant) or for individuals previously employed in the public schools of North Carolina as teacher assistants (for a minimum of five years of full-time experience) whose positions were eliminated. Recipients are obligated to teach one year in a North Carolina public school for each year of assistance they receive.

# The Church in the Forks

Sunday, October 28, 2001, was very special day for us at West Robeson United Methodist Church, we celebrated Homecoming, A Note Burning and Pastor's appreciation.

Prior to worship Service Rev. and Mrs. Marshall were presented, a corsage and boutonniere. They were also presented a plaque in appreciation of service for the year 2001 and a love offering for dinner at their favorite restaurant.

During his Homecoming sermon, Rev. Locklear, reflected on how we look forward to seeing old familiar faces at Homecoming and how our memories take us back to the faces of those who are no longer with us. A melancholy mood settled over the congregation as we walked down memory lane, and as Rev. Locklear talked of members who had gone home: Mrs. Sarah Hunt, mother of Aggie Deese and Myre Hunt, sister of Mrs. Fairella; Mrs. Gertrude Lowry, mother, grandmother and aunt of several members; Baby Simmons, son of Mark and Loria Simmons; Baby Paige Goins, daughter of Dewayne and Tina Goins; and Millie Jo Jacobs, sister of Tina Goins and Katie Jacobs, granddaughter of Mr. Everett, niece, cousin and aunt of many church members, there were not many dry eyes left in the congregation. We remembered all the tears, the laughter and joy that we have been through together, the things that have bound us together as a church family.

Homecoming worship service was followed by a delicious meal in the fellowship hall, were we continued to reminisce and talk of future plans for the church. Following dinner we all gathered for the Note burning. This note was the loan that was used to turn and old run down service station and garage into our fellowship hall. West Robeson United Methodist Church is now debt free.

We would like to extend a thank you to all those who were there to celebrate this history making day with us. Those who were not, missed a joyous and emotional day.

We would like to invite everyone to join us for our revival. It will be held for 3 nights, Sunday, November 25, with Rev. Dwayne Lowry; Monday, November 26, with Rev. Chip Bass and Tuesday, November 27, with Rev. David Malcom.

On Friday, December 7, 2001 the West Robeson UMW will sponsor a Christmas Ball at the Jaycee Hunt in Pembroke. The proceeds from this project will go to support UMW mission projects. If you would like to attend this event and support the UMW please contact Mrs. Lucille Locklear at 521-0544 or Elizabeth D. Marshall at 844-5738.



Members of the West Robeson UMC watch as Rev. Marshall Locklear sets fire to mortgage note that Lay Leader Terry Marshall holds.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Adoption of Lumbee Constitution marks demise of Judge Manning in Indian Business

To all Lumbees,  
I'll be brief. Let me congratulate each of you who took the time to voice your opinion this week by placing a vote on the Lumbee Constitution. For those who didn't vote, don't complain. Although, as one Lumbee stated, we had to "hold our nose (pull out your hawk bill) and vote yes," we now have something we can work with and mold to protect the best interests of all Lumbee people. All I can say is that once this Tribal Government takes seat, they better hold on to their britches, cause "Amendments 17, A'COMIN" I do strongly urge those of you who had reservations about the present document to actively seek resolve through your amendment process, as I plan to. Finally, let me celebrate the demise of the Honorable Howard J. Manning, from the arena of Indian Business. May he never raise his ugly head there again.  
- Wendy Moore-Cummings

### Native Americans were first to suffer from biological warfare

Dear Friends,  
It has been a long time since I have written, but I wanted to share a few thoughts with you.  
First, I am deeply saddened by the World Trade Center tragedy I think about and pray for those families daily. I am also horrified to hear that some insane person or splinter terrorist group is sending the deadly bacteria, Anthrax, to news media organizations and politicians' offices. However, this is not the first time a biological weapon has been used against American people.

Anthrax in its natural, original form, was called Sheep Shearers' disease because this bacteria lived in dead animal hides and sheep's wool. The sheep shearer or animal hide handler could contact this disease through an open sore/wound. This "germ" was chosen for biological warfare for its ability to act quickly and severely.

Another biological warfare agent that many in the scientific and military communities are worried about is Smallpox. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta proclaimed that Smallpox is extinct or eradicated from the earth. However, for military (warfare) purposes, the smallpox bacteria has been kept alive in many labs around the world. Unlike Anthrax, Smallpox can be spread from person to person. Sufferers from Smallpox experience extremely high fevers and the entire body is covered with large puss-filled sores. Scientists

and some government officials are so worried about smallpox because this disease is no longer perceived by health care industries and providers as a threat to national health. Thus, Smallpox is no longer vaccinated against. Some scientists and government officials are worried that smallpox could be "weaponized" (made more potent and deadly) and used as a devastating biological agent. This is interesting to me because, as I mentioned earlier, this is not the first time a biological weapon has been used against American people.

In fact, Smallpox was used in biological warfare against our people 200-300 years ago. The Smallpox epidemic or plague (whatever our people called it) killed not 3, 5 or even 100 as Anthrax has done in Washington, D.C., Florida, and New York, but killed millions of American Indian people in North Carolina. Over 70% of our people (entire tribes) were completely wiped out. In the Northeast and Midwest (here als). Smallpox infected blankets were intentionally given to our Native American ancestors, brothers, and sisters (taken from individuals suffering from smallpox) to further annihilate the Native American population.

In conclusion, I view history as being cyclical. If we don't learn from the past, we are destined to repeat past events. I hope I gave you something to think about. Thank you for listening.  
Arvis Locklear Boughman

### Faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life

by R. D. Locklear II  
The statement "faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life" is a proposition of faith. Faith is said to be the basis for acceptance of something as knowledge without reason. It is the extension of knowledge through belief.

There are many aspects of the concept of God, such as, he is infinite and eternal. Two are particularly relevant to man's existence. First, God is love. The Greek word agape describes God's love as unconditional and unselfish, in contrast to the word eros which describes man's love as desiring and selfish. Second, God is good. He is offered as the final standard of goodness. Ethics and value theory in general are independent of religion, in that principles can be formulated without any mention of God. Yet they ultimately rest upon the character of God, who has endowed man with the nature whose fulfillment defines good. Meaning denotes definition of an idea. While purpose denotes direction, intent, cause and reason.

Human life deals with man's existence. It is an existential concept. It considers its causes and effects, its actions and reactions, its openness to influence. Human life has four planes. They have been likened to a square-the-checker of life. It is desired of men in the physical plane to be strong of body in the mental plane, to be brilliant of mind-in the social plane to be magnetic in personality-and in the spiritual plane, which is the base for the others, to have the significant attributes of the character of God, i.e., love and goodness.

There is an old Hindu legend that at one time all men on earth were gods. But the men so sinned that Brahma, the god of all gods, decided that the godhead should be taken away from man and hidden some place where he could never find and abuse it again. "We will bury it deep in the earth," said the other gods. "No," said Brahma, "because man will dig down in the earth and find it." "Then we'll sink it in the deepest ocean," they said.

**Veterans Day Parade**  
The Pembroke Chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars will sponsor a Veterans Day Parade beginning at 10 o'clock a.m. on Saturday, November 10, 2001. All participants will meet at the Pembroke Elementary School at 9 o'clock a.m. in order to be assigned their spots in the parade "line-up." The parade will go through town one

**Planned in Pembroke:**  
time and end at the UNCP Performing Arts Center. Schools, industries and civic organizations in Robeson and adjoining counties are encouraged to participate.

For further information contact Buddy Bell, Parade Chairman, 910-521-0887 or Gregory Cummings, Parade Co-chairman at 910-521-2784.



Church members surround Lay Leader Terry Marshall and Myra Hunt as they display the mortgage that was to be burned on October 28, 2001

Regelation is the process in which solid ice melts under pressure alone and refreezes as soon as pressure is taken away. A glacier moving along slowly melts and refreezes, slipping a little under pressure each day.

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