# Along the Robeson Trail

facing the Lumbee today. Many of artists have been reaching back into these issues have grown out of the archaeological and early historical varied historical relationships with accounts for inspiration for their non-Native Americans, or out of contemporary artworks. Some details relationships with other groups of of the old ways simply would not be Native Americans. Some of these available today if they hadn't been realized that traditional Native issues echo the same concerns which recorded by some outside researcher. have faced human beings everywhere since the beginning of time.

relations between Indians and non- change the traditional cultural ways of Indians has to do with the fact that the people they studied, sometimes certain people want to learn about just by bringing non-Indian cultural Native American culture. Most of ways along with them on the study. these people are non-Indians, but There is definitely some truth in both responses to this have differed. Some increasingly they include Indian of these perspectives. people as well (for example, many students currently majoring in late 1990s, want to study Indian American Indian Studies at The culture? Part of the answer is the same University of North Carolina at as always: to preserve cultural Pembroke are themselves Native traditions lest they disappear. But Americans). But why do so many there is another, deeper, part of the people want to learn about Indian answer. To understand it, we have to culture, and what are the impacts of look at culture itself. their wanting to do so?

cultures is of course not new. For conservative force. There were more than a century people have been important changes from time to time, systematically recording things about but for the most part culture was Native American life - styles of effective in helping people deal with clothing and housing; details of their environment precisely because it medical practices and hunting remained basically the same over long ceremonies; structures of language and social order. The primary stated every continent, these words have been motive in recording all this repeated: "Do it this way, my son (or information has usually been the wellintentioned notion of preserving and have always done it - this is the way understanding Indian culture. But have our elders taught us to do it." This other contemporary issues facing the the good intentions of researchers conservative tendency of culture Lumbee is part of our effort to see the always been sufficient to prevent a worked very well. negative impact on the people being studied? The answer depends on whom America doesn't always operate that further into the contemporary issues

Some Native American people today are quick to point out that cultural change in America than was American Resource Center in historic information recorded years ago by non-experienced in the previous five Old Main Building, on the campus of Indians has been essential in recent centuries. Nowadays, very few things The University of North Carolina at

There are a great many issues For example, recently several Lumbee

as quick to point out that those early One of the issues resulting from researchers themselves did much to

But why do people today, in the

For thousands of years, human The desire to learn about Indian culture has been basically a periods of time. In every culture, on daughter), because this is the way we

However, modern culture in century we have seen more dramatic information, visit the Native efforts to revitalize Native cultures. remain in fashion for long. Some of Pembroke.

the rapid changes in our culture have had, and continue to have, devastating effects on the environment, not to mention the de-humanizing effects of our fast-paced lifestyle.

Meanwhile, many people have American culture was more stable, Other Native Americans are just more in harmony with the environment. And in a modern society where everything changes, for many people it is comforting to hold onto, celebrate and strengthen the good things which remain.

Of course Native American Native groups have chosen to close some of their ceremonies - as well as their personal lives - to outsiders, and have stated that they don't wish to be studied. And it is clearly their right to do so. But other Native groups have stated that they realize that they have something important for America to learn, and that they are willing to share the goodness of their ways with a needy world: "if you come to share in our vision, you are welcome." The Lumbee Wild Game Festival, heldeach November, is a good example of this approach.

Lumbees have been confronted with the fact that other people, sometimes other Native people, want to learn more about their particular form of Native culture. In some ways, they are still coming to terms with this issue. An understanding of this and Lumbee in context.

In the next segment, we will look way any more. In just the twentieth facing the Lumbee. For more





Maxine Blue, NP-C

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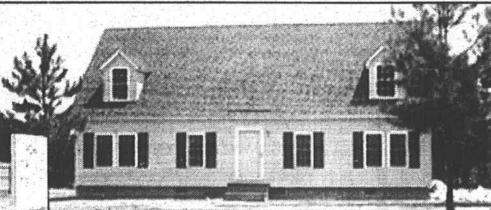
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