



things to consider from Derek Lowry

Dear Editor:
Last week I had a friend to ask: "Have you stopped writing because you've moved back home? Or what's up, no one hears from you anymore?"
I smiled and said, "No, I just don't have much to say these days." Then he began to ask me about the Lumbees' effort for federal recognition and Dr. Michael Brooks' letter and some other issues. I told him there are times when a person should think things through before they speak about them. But as a Tuscarora I wanted to go on the record and wish you Lumbees the best with your efforts for clearing your status. I stated your situation that way because to me you have federal recognition, but due to the language in the same bill you receive no services because of your status as INdians.
There is an old saying that goes: "Some of the worst things that happen to Indian people they bring on themselves." In other words, some of the things that happen to us we cause them ourselves. There's an oral tradition that states one of the leaders in the early days of the Lumbee movement stated he didn't want a reservation. What he didn't realize was by telling the Bureau of Indian Affairs this he was actually saying to the BIA, "We don't want a trust relationship with the federal government," which is exactly what federal recognition is. I understand that this person had seen reservations during the war and in the fifties and I can only imagine the conditions he saw. And I agree, in part, that the last thing we need is a place where unemployment is high and health care is almost none existent, not to mention an education system that is substandard and the people accept apathy as a way of life.
Yet the most interesting thing about this oral tradition is this Lumbee leader owned large tracts of land and was afraid the government would come in and take his land and divide it among the poor Indian people who were sharecroppers. I often wondered whose welfare was he looking out for when he said, "We don't want a reservation?" Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying people should be handed things they don't work for. But I think we can agree from time to time we all need a helping hand to get us started.
You may not be aware of this but there is a rumor floating around in Indian country. The rumor goes that the Lumbees are willing to forego having jurisdiction over their people just to gain federal recognition. What this means is instead of having your own court system, your own educational or social service system, that you would allow the state to continue providing these services for you. More importantly, what this means is you will not have the special relationship of federal recognition. Let me shine some light on why thous would have other Indian nations up in arms. It is because right now many Indian nations are fighting to keep their sovereign rights, not turn them over to state government. Sovereignty is when the federal government watches over the affairs of Indian nations to make sure state or local government agencies don't treat Indian nations unfairly. If the Lumbee Nation turns it's sovereign rights over to the state of North Carolina what chance would any of the smaller Indian nations have of keeping theirs? This would send a shock wave through Indian country that would put us back to the dark ages and who would we have to blame? The Lumbee Nation. Some state governments would like nothing better than to get their hands on the rights of Indian nations to take control of their water and land leasing rights, their

tax exempt status, not to mention their gaming casinos. I hope and pray that this is only a rumor. I don't think the Lumbee Nation would want to be remembered as the Indian nation that helped to do away with sovereign rights for Indian people.
Did you know that a tribe with federal recognition supercedes State Government? Did you know neither state nor the county has jurisdiction over Indian nations? Let me put this as simply as I can. This means that if the Lumbee Nation had their own police force, neither the county nor state police could come on the land. This is the same reason we cannot go into England or any other country imposing our laws on them. Likewise you could have laws that once you enter your sovereign land you had to obey, no matter if you are Indian or not. You could have laws that go beyond county or state law. What am I talking about? Let's look at a couple of examples. The drug problem, for example. If every Indian who was caught with drugs could be forced to enter a drug rehab program. This could happen, if it was a tribal law. If this still didn't work, they could be forced to leave the reservation. And guess what? The county nor state government could do nothing about it, if it was tribal law. You can scream about rights. But we are talking about the Lumbee Nation's sovereign rights and no county or state court could supercede the Indian nation's law.
I don't know about you, but I am sick and tired of hearing about criminal rights. I know that it's true the county's police force is way undermanned and lacking funds to stop all the criminal activity that goes on in this country. But I ask you, what about the victims who go to work, pay taxes and try to provide for their families? What about their rights? Who is watching out for their rights? I say unless we get rough with criminals and either make them responsible for their actions or shame them into stopping, they will just continue. Maybe if they had to pay back everything they took, or if they killed someone, they were forced to work ten year for that family, it would get the message that the Lumbee nation is serious about lowering the crime rate. What if criminals were forced to wear something that said "I have committed the following crimes and can't be trusted?" Or, if every time a crime is committed an officer would go to their house and check for items?? It might have an affect.
The thing I don't understand is the apathy among the people. The feeling that nothing can be done. Some say it is because there are too many people on drugs or unemployed, going around committing all these crimes. I don't totally agree with that statement. I know people who have been out of work for months if not almost a year and they don't go around committing crimes. People steal because we don't try and stop them. And when they are caught, we just slap them on the back of their hands. I for one have had enough. I believe drastic actions call for drastic measures. Before I go I would like to suggest instead of looking at federal recognition as something that will continue the Lumbee problems, I think the Lumbee Nation should look at it as a way of solving some of the problems. Sometimes instead of the glass being half empty, it might be half full.
As always these are just my opinions and my only objective is to give you something to think about and to assist you in forming your own opinion. After all is said and done, no opinion matters more than your own, especially those you form yourself.
In the True Way,
Derek Lowry

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"BUILDING COMMUNICATIVE BRIDGES IN
A TRI-RACIAL SETTING" 521-2826



NIEA Convention Scheduled Events

November 1 - 5, 2003 • Joseph S. Koury Convention Center • Greensboro, North Carolina

Saturday November 1	Sunday November 2 Tribal Day	Monday November 3 Youth Day	Tuesday November 4 Elders Day	Wednesday November 5 Educators Day
8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Pre-Convention Tours	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. 5K Fun Run & Walk (with Billy Mills) Pre-Registration \$15	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Convention Registration	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. NIEA Former Presidents and Educators of the Year Breakfast (by invitation only)	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Trade Show / Exhibits / Vendors
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Scholarship Golf Tournament Grandover Resort	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. NIEA Board Elections	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Convention Registration	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Convention Registration
12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Convention Registration	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trade Show / Exhibits / Vendors	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trade Show / Exhibits / Vendors	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 3rd General Session	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 4th General Session
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Exhibitor / Trade Show Set-Up	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies & 1st General Session Featured speaker Sen. Daniel Inouye	9:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. 2nd General Session	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Trade Show / Exhibits / Vendors	12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibit Tear-Down
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Gospel Sing & Stateside Gospel Choir and Special groups Free and Open to Public	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. NIEA Issues Forums A	9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. High School Student Day	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. 3rd General Session	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshop Session 6
	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Workshop Session 1	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. College Symposium	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Issues Forum D	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshop Session 4
	3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. NIEA Board Candidates Forum	1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshop Session 2	1:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Workshop Session 4	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Research Forum II
	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. NIEA / NC Local Planning Committee Welcome Reception	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Research Forum I	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 5	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 5
	8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Jana In Concert Preshow - Willie Lowry	3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session 3	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Cultural Feast	6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Awards Banquet
		6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. NIEA President's Reception	7:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. NIEA Pow Wow	9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Willie Lowry & Floyd Westerman in Concert
		8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. North Carolina Cultural Program Producer Scott Blanks	Free and Open to Public	
		10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. Youth Dance		

For additional information, please call Rosa Winfree at 704-933-0576; Ruth Revels at 336-420-9306 or Rita Locklear at 910-628-6829.

DIAL AUCTION COMPANY

ABSOLUTE AUCTION

Public Schools of Robeson County
Saturday, November 8, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.

Velcord Drive
Lumberton, N.C.

Held in Old Velcord Building off exit 19 from I-95

"Cars and Vans"

Partial List		
chairs	copiers	scales
desks	laminators	air conditioners
file cabinets	opaque projectors	sewing machines
computers/cases	VCR	computer storage cases
terminals	radio equipment	blinds
keyboards	projector carts	typewriters
monitors	audio equipment/printers	stainless sinks
stainless tables	stainless mixer	stainless stoves
stainless grills	stainless serving lines	Parks wood plainer
buffer	Rockwell bandsaw	table saws
Dewalt/Rockwell tablesaws	Delta saw	exercise equip.
air compressor	trailer house/tires/axles	lawn mowers
calculators	vacuum cleaners	podiums
overhead projectors	mop buckets	lab tables
tables	fryer	refrigerators
televisions	metal and wooden cabinets	milk box
paper cutter	steamer	popcorn popper
storage racks	steam cooker	vegetable cutters
gas furnace	lockers	ice makers
warmer	box fan/electric fan	84 Chevy Van 1/2 ton
87 Ford Van 3/4 ton	85 Ford Ranger P/U	80 Ford Van 3/4 ton
87 Dodge Mini Van	John Deere Mower F525	Industrial Fan
Farmall 140 Tractor (2)		

PLUS MANY MORE ITEMS

Inspections: Friday before sale from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and one hour prior to sale.

Items subject to be added or deleted.

Terms: Cash or approved check day of sale

Notice: All equipment to be sold as is--no warranty. All merchandise should be moved on the day of the sale.

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