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Features Native Americans speak out

Christina Haworth Staff Writer

There are approximately 7 Native Americans in our midst who were raised on the Kuwala Indian Boundary, otherwise known as the Cherokee Indian Reservation, who can give an inside perspective to life on a reservation in 1992. Their home is located in Cherokee, North Carolina. All Native American students that were asked said that their lives would have been significantly different had they not grown up there.

The Native American Cherokees at Guilford are: seniors Tara McCoy and Lori Parker, junior Connie Huntsmen, second-semester sophomore Sean Ross, and first year students Shannon and Brandon McMillan and Tyson Sampson.

When Native Americans are spoken of, even in today's culture, some people still tend to associate them with teepees and tomahawks. By talking with them, however it is easy to see that their lives are not like the movies.

"Cherokee has two sides to it." said Shannon McMillan. "One side is a tourist town: the other is for year-round residents. A lot of traditional Indian things can be seen

Alex Stoesen Special to the Guilfordian

Ever wonder about the origins of the names of buildings around campus? Take "Duke Memorial

Hall," for instance. It seems only appropriate to ask why we don't get rid of that name, and place on it the name of the person James B. and Benjamin N. Duke intended to memorialize with the building — their sister, Mary Elizabeth Lyon. (Her portrait, strangely not vandalized and intact, is on the first floor across from the elevator.)



Brandon McMillan, Lori Parker, Tyson Sampson, Connie Huntsman, Shannon McMillon, and Tara McCoy

in the tourist parts. For example, when you first enter the res' you can see teepees and sometimes stereotypical clothing such as headdresses and moccasins being sold. Although some people may think it, I do not make spear heads for a living. My town is in ways just like many others. Many kids work at McDonalds. We are not sheltered form the rest of the world, and we do not need passes to leave or

come and there are certainly no border guards."

Shannon's twin brother, Brandon McMillan, commented, "We don't live in teepees. We live in a brick house and have cars just like any other American family.

The reservation is set up so that the town of Cherokee is the center of it all. and other smaller communities branch off from it. "It's kind of like a small city that has sub-

urbs," said Shannon. Brandon remarked, "There is a big sense of community, a lot of bonds are formed. It is pretty easy to tell who are the natives and who are the tourists because it's a small enough place that basically everybody knows everybody.

When Shannon graduated as valedictorian of his class he was in the town paper. "Not everybody knew that I was going to Guilford, but quite a few did. Cherokee is a small place.

There are a lot of pride and bonds rooted into the Cherokee community. "When I'm away from the reservation I miss the closeness that I share with my family and friends. I think from living on the reservation I formed a lot of strong bonds and values," said Lori Parker. "A lot of pride is focused on sports. We are very proud of our athletes," said Tara McCoy.

Some people believe that there is a lot of drinking on reservations. Brandon McMillan thoughtfully responded, "The drinking problem on the res' is no bigger than it is anywhere else. It is just noticed more for the simple reason that we are Indians and a stereotype for drunkenness is cast on us.

Shannon commented, "The number of violent crimes is defi-

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nitely less on the res' than elsewhere.'

Their native tongue, traditional costumes, and dancing are still part of the community. "It's not that big of a deal, but some people, especially the older folks, still go to powwows and follow them nationally. There is a really big powwow in New Mexico called The Gathering of The Nations. I've been to some, and participated in a few exhibitions for the public, but I've never worn a feather in my hair. Most of the Indian movies are set in the 1800s', we are not like that anymore," said Shannon.

"I am proud to be an Indian." said Tyson Sampson. "I like to greet people with the Indian Greeting, Shi-yo. I am a full-blooded Indian. We are alive, we are nothing of the past, I have my culture and my pride. My pride has been formed by the older generation, and the pride will live forever. I'm in college for myself, and for my people. They need me and whatever I do with my life, I want to glorify my people and hold them up and in some form or fashion to thank them for allowing me to be who I am.'

Shannon concluded, "I'm proud to be an Indian but also proud to be an American."

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The structure should really have been named Lyon Memorial Hall, but, in its original version, only the words "Memorial Hall" were placed above the east entrance. Perhaps it was too much in the gay nineties to give Mary Elizabeth that much recognition. Unfortunately, she didn't get any recognition in the 1960's either, when, in the forlorn hope for tapping further Duke largess, the college applied the current name to the renovated building.

(I'll never forget my amusement, when, at the dedication, and in the presence of some of the Duke descendants, the Quaker luminary D, Elton Trueblood recalled that the original building had been known once as the "ugliest building in the state." Actually, having once been the dean of this college, Trueblood knew better, since the original Cox Hall was far uglier.)

In the 1890's, the Duke brothers specifically forbade the use of their name on the building fearing that such publicity would only bring more money-seekers to their doors. They clearly intended it as a memorial to their sister. Unfortunately, that is not what has happened.



ARTIST The Sundays Dandelion Fire Ween Ned's Atomic Dustbin **Darling Buds** Soul Asylum Alice Donut Mudhoney Supreme Love Gods Lulabox Levellers Drunken Boat Techno Sounds of Berlin Mommyheads Helios Creed Chainsaw Kittens Throwing Muses Birthday Party Lovechild **Opus III** Pigface Jacob's Mouse Cows Chinny Chin Chin Meat Beat Manifesto Bleach Swales 2 Unlimited Thousand Yard Stare Kingmissle

WQFS Top 30

Compiled by Louisa Spaventa and Becky Browning,

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