

WHAT NEXT???

Lumbee Regional Development Association, a private non-profit corporation, recently elected officers for 1992. Adolph Blue was re-elected chairman; William Lowry, vice-chairman; Leroy Scott, treasurer; H. Dobbs Oxendine, Jr., secretary; and Bobby D. Locklear, member-at-large. There is nothing wrong with this slate of officers. We have a great deal of respect for Adolph Blue, especially, and have found him to be fair minded and a man of integrity. We have also been impressed in different ways by all the other members of the executive committee. Not dealing with personalities, however, we are going to discuss a scenario.

Just suppose this executive committee of LRDA became vested with all the decision-making power for the 21-member board. (Next week we will expound on the make-up of this board). If this executive committee is given the authority to make major decisions for LRDA, the private corporation, that might be understandable and acceptable. (But dealing with federal dollars could raise another point for another time). If the scenario stopped there we would have no major problems with it.

Problems arise, however, when this private corporation seemingly begins the process of handling public (in this case tribal) affairs. We have noticed some slight changes in wording and phrases from LRDA, a "social action agency." These changes cause us some concern. For example, recently we are told that Lumbee Industries, the profit-making arm of LRDA, has one hundred percent of its stock owned by LRDA. Now this board (Lumbee Industries) has applied for 8A certification on behalf of the Lumbee tribe. Lumbee Industries and LRDA are the same people. According to LRDA's own report, Lumbee Industries "is waiting to be designated by the Small Business Administration, in the near future, as a minority contractor for the purposes of federal access to contracting opportunities established for Indian tribe's participation." We have a problem with that. If these things are done "on behalf of the tribe," how about enrolled members of the tribe sharing in the profit? Have provisions been made for that? We raise these questions because, in our view, LRDA, a private corporation, seems to be getting ready to assume the rights and control that belong to the tribe.

We encourage LRDA to continue to prosper, bring about economic development, and buy what they can afford. We caution this same agency to be careful and not confuse their service at LRDA with authority to dictate tribal matters.

One board member has said they were authorized to "function as tribal council" by referendum. That may be a matter of interpretation. For our readers we reprint the referendum that was voted on in 1984.

SHALL THE ORDER authorizing the Lumbee Regional Development Association Board of Directors to act for the Lumbee Tribe on Federal Recognition until a Tribal Council is formed and elected by Lumbee Tribal Enrolled Members, be approved?*

We interpret that to mean just what it says, "to act for the Lumbee Tribe ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION until a tribal council is formed and elected by Lumbee Tribal Members..." We are not going to buy the already begun story that LRDA board members are elected as an excuse for them to begin transition into a tribal council. Some LRDA members were not elected and we will talk more about that in weeks to come. Those who were elected were elected to the LRDA Board of Directors, a private corporation with no members.

We do not accuse LRDA of anything. We simply feel

the need to shed light on what could become a potentially oppressive situation for Indian people, in our opinion. It is always better to avoid problems if one can. Sometimes persons in public positions need to avoid the appearance of problems.

Federal Recognition is coming. It is fated to become a reality. If not this time, then soon. That being so, we as Indian people should become informed about the rights of a tribe, what tribal recognition really means, the establishment of a constitution, the powers to be vested in the tribal council, etc. etc. Tribal recognition is extremely important and it is new territory for us as a people. The best cure for lack of knowledge on any subject is information. We encourage LRDA to help us inform and educate Indians on tribal recognition matters. We encourage LRDA to be inclusive and open. We still believe that people will make the right decision, if they have all the information. The collective wisdom of people has been demonstrated over and over again.

We will be writing more about federal recognition, LRDA and Lumbee Industries each week in this column... Maybe those of you who are represented by an elected board member at LRDA should contact your representatives for more information. We will be checking with the elected as well as the seeming permanent fixtures on that board.

It appears that our favorite missionary, Mac Legerton, and his Center for Community Action, are gearing up for another political fiasco. In the last sheriff's race, the good reverend was credited with supporting Mike Wood and drawing away just enough Indian votes to assure the re-election of Hubert Stone..... We cannot help but question when he will stop his charade of muddying the water and doing just enough to keep situations chaotic..... It is our opinion that he does this because it brings in the funds to help "rectify" these problems and empower the people..... The diversionary tactics we have witnessed by Mac Legerton and Co. causes us to remain skeptical of his intentions... Thus far we have seen nothing that gives us any confidence in his sincerity to help solve problems... We are always reminded of his sabotage efforts, as we saw it, in the Zabitoski killing and the games he played with the family of Jimmy Earl Cummings who was murdered by Kevin Stone... We remember the great fundraising drive for the investigation into the Julian Pierce murder.... We believe we are justified in our lack of confidence in this search for truth and justice.... The Center for Community Action and the good reverend has taught us to take control of our own destinies and seek our own solutions to problems.... We have a new mind set this decade... We will not depend on "bleeding heart liberals" who talk a good game but keep the green in their pocket.... We hope the good reverend will not attempt any drawing away of votes in upcoming

Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knisk, Director PSU Native American Resource Center

Study of the Indian people of North America reveals an enormous amount of cultural diversity. Attempts to make sense out of this great diversity, and thus to understand better what individual Indian cultures are about, are helped by using the concept of "culture area."

A "culture area" is a geographic region in which Indian cultures have a lot in common, whether in language, social structure, means of making a living, or whatever. Within these culture areas, there are a number of distinct tribes or nations, but they share some cultural traits.

One of the culture areas we have already discussed (in previous segments of Along the Robeson Trail) is the Eastern Woodlands. We have spent a good deal of time and ink talking about Eastern Woodlands, because the Indian nations of North Carolina all fit into this culture area. The Lumbee, Saponi, Waccamaw, Tuscarora, Cherokee, and many others were all traditionally Eastern Woodlands farmers living in permanent villages. But what are the other culture areas of North America?

The Arctic culture area is the farthest north. It extends from northern Alaska across extreme northern Canada, all the way to Greenland. The people who live there are generically called Eskimos, although many groups prefer their own tribal names, such as Inuit, Inupiak, Netsilik, and so forth. These Arctic cultures were traditionally very well adapted to the cold, with clothing and housing appropriate to the climate. They were mainly hunters, especially focusing on seal and caribou, but also including many other locally available animals.

South of the Arctic is the Sub-Arctic culture area, which consists of most of what is now Canada. Here again there are elections... We hope that one day he will prove us wrong in our opinion of him as a person with a personal agenda of raking in grant money that benefits a select few.... It is our opinion that he does this at the expense of Indian and

are a great many tribes or nations, including Alaskan groups such as Ahtena, Tanana, and Kutchin; the Canadian Athabaskans such as Hare, Great Slave, and Dogrib; and the Canadian Algonkians such as Cree and Ojibwa. These sparsely scattered nations were traditionally hunters and gatherers, who became heavily involved in the fur trade with Europeans after Columbus.

Along the coast of Southern Alaska, down the Canadian west coast and into coastal Washington State is the Northwest Coast culture area. Some of the nations include Tlingit, Kwakiutl, Haida, Makah, and Skokomish. These more densely situated nations are well known for their highly elaborate art forms, including carving (i.e., "totem poles"), weaving (i.e., the so-called "Chilkat" blankets, made from mountain goat and sheep's wool by Tlingit and Tsimshian people), and a wide variety of basketry. In traditional times, these mainly coastal people depended heavily on fish for food, but some groups also took sea mammals such as seal and whale. They also collected wild plants, roots, and berries in season.

Critics of the "culture area" concept rightly point out that a lot of diversity can be lost when lumping Indian nations together in this way. But "culture areas" continue to be useful, especially as a way to begin studying Native Americans. In the next segment of Along the Robeson Trail, find out about some other culture areas, including the Great Basin, Plateau, and the Southwest. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

Black people... We hope he will do something soon that will allow us the opportunity to publicly say we were wrong about him... We hope he will do this, but we are not going to hold our breath.

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President George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20505
and tell him to sign the Lumbee Bill. Thank you very much.
Dr. Dean Chivers
Albuquerque, NM

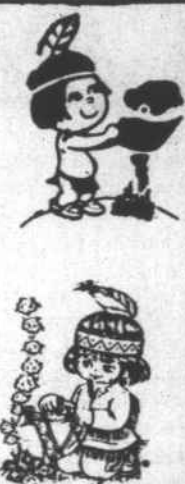
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News about nicotine gum
Nicotine gum may be useful for many who are quitting smoking, but if used incorrectly, it may cause side effects that outweigh its benefits. Nicotine gum should only be chewed until it releases some flavor, after which it should be "parked" in the cheek so the nicotine can be absorbed into the bloodstream through the mouth lining. Swallowed nicotine from continued chewing irritates the stomach, and can result in dizziness. And nicotine gum should never be chewed by women during pregnancy, or by those with heart problems. Your health is our business. We care about you!

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LRDA Gives 291 Christmas Baskets to Needy Families
The Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA), through the generous donations and goodwill of the community and staff, served 291 families with the Christmas food baskets.

Applications were taken until December 16 and screened for income eligibility. On December 20, the staff put the baskets together which included chickens, canned goods, candy, fruit, juices, and other useful items.

The LRDA Board of Directors and staff wish to thank the following individuals/organizations for their contributions:

The Bonner Foundation
County Commissioners Johnny Hunt and Noah Woods
Pembroke Jaycees - Jodie Revels
Lowery Ltd. - W. Wendell Lowery
Dobb's Enterprise - H. Dobbs Oxendine Jr.
Mayor Milton Hunt
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