



by W. D. "Wiz" Locklear

Elders and Traditionalist Corner

Traditionally Speaking

Loca' E Esiki'Kv

(Painted Turtle)



Educational Opportunities for Native Americans

On occasion members of my family and I have been invited to talk to Native American pupils who attend Elementary school in Robeson and adjoining counties. What we have found is that there is a burning desire among the children to learn about their Native American heritage. I am encouraged by this realization but at the same time I am also discouraged. I am discouraged because teachers are not provided sufficient materials to teach the Native American children about their cultural heritage.

My question is "What happens to the Indian Education Funds that are provided to the educational system in Robeson and adjoining counties that have Native Americans students enrolled at their school?" If the answer is that the money is used to bring famous and/or well known Native Americans to the area for special occasions, then I say that is OK but not enough. I feel that it is also important to provide instruction to the predominately Native American student population on a daily basis. If this is not feasible, then instruction on a weekly basis should be the minimum offered to these students. As we all know the educational materials that are available to the wonderful teachers of this country are biased toward the contributions of the white race. Because of pressure from the African American community, educational materials are beginning to identify the contributions of African Americans to this country's history. As Native Americans we must insist that the text books also reflect the contributions of our people in the development of this country thus far and its continuing evolution. When there is Indian Education money available, we must ensure that this money is utilized to support programs that provide positive reinforcement throughout the school year not just on special occasions. Don't misunderstand me, I am not saying that the special occasions are not important because they are.

However, I am saying given a choice between positive reinforcement throughout the school year and a special occasion, then I would choose the former. Additionally, there are a number of local individuals who are successful and could be presented to the school children on some of the special occasions. This type of positive reinforcement is especially important because these leaders are members of their own tribe.

The contributions of Native Americans have had a major impact on the world as well as the United States and our children should know this fact. A few examples follow:

1. The drafters of the constitution and the other documents that define the democratic government of the United States were influenced by the government of the Iroquois League. The members of this league were operating under a democratic form of government while the colonies were still a part of the British empire.

2. Much of the food that is eaten by Americans was given to the people by Native Americans. Corn, peas, tomatoes, potatoes, squash, greens and many other foods were a part of the daily diet of Native Americans.

3. Many of the medicinal roots and barks that Native Americans used in times of illness were adopted by the colonist as medicine. One example is quinine, which was routinely used by the Natives in South America, to maintain good health. The quinine is found in the bark of the cinchona trees and shrubs.

These are some of the contributions of Native Americans, however, there are many others. Our children need this information because it will help build their self esteem.

In closing let's demand that our children get a comprehensive education that also discusses the contributions of Native Americans (Indian) and not one biased toward the contributions of European Americans (White) and African Americans (Black).

Red Earth hosts Indian film and video competition

Oklahoma's Red Earth Indian Center is currently accepting entries for the 1994 American Indian Film and Video competition. The best in Native American films will be featured during the 1994 competition scheduled Jan. 31 - Feb. 6 at the Red Earth Indian Center located in 10-acre Kirkpatrick Center museum complex, 2100 NE 52nd St. in Oklahoma City. The film and video competition is designed to recognize entries that preserve and portray the Native American way of life - past, present and future.

Entries are due by Jan. 17, 1994, and must focus on American Indian history, arts, culture, myths, social issues or evolving visions. Awards will be presented for both Indian Produced and Non-Indian Produced films in drama/short feature, feature film, documentary/short, documentary/long, experimental-visual art, animation/graphic art, commercial/promotion, and broadcast journalism categories.

All semi-finalists will be judged and screened at the Kirkpatrick Center Theater Jan. 31-Feb. 4 by judges of regional and national

reputation," said Patrick Whelan, chairman of the competition. "Winners and special merit recipients will be showcased on Feb. 5 and 6 during the seventh annual Red Earth Native American Fair."

The winners will be featured again during the Red Earth Festival June 10-12 in downtown Oklahoma City," he said. "We anticipate excellent representations of Native American film making, and invite the public to view these films."

Entries must be submitted on one-half inch VHS tape, and must not have been previously entered into the competition. Entries should be mailed to the 1994 American Indian Film and Video Competition, Red Earth, Inc., 2100 NE 52nd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111. Brochures detailing all entry requirements can be obtained by calling Red Earth, Inc. at (405) 427-5228.

The 1994 American Indian Film and Video Competition is sponsored by Red Earth, Inc., International Photography Hall of Fame, and the State Arts Council of Oklahoma.

Dear Miss Connee,

I was glad to see the story LRDA put in our Indian paper on their trip out there to Sin City, Nevada. I weren't sure that I understood it all, Miss Connee, so I had to git my boy that farms to explain it to me. The way he explained the LRDA story, they went out there in the Nevadas to either vote for someone or something. We figured that the LRDA spent about \$7,000 in our tax money for each of those votes. Miss Connee, Now, that's got to be some kind of record. Me and the wife have voted all our life, and it ain't cost us no more than a little gas money and a little time. Why, my boy could have planted all of Fairmont in tobacco during the time it took them to make those 3 votes.

This is how we Indians git us a bad name for business, Miss Connee. Some of us just don't know the value of money and we don't use good common sense when it comes to handling things. Now, I wouldn't say too much about all of this except this here is the public's money. Seeing how its the public money and I'm part of the public, I would like to say that the LRDA needs to be handling our public money a little bit better. They could have taken that \$20,000 spent out there in the Nevadas to have helped our people. They could have fixed that headstart center up there in Smyrna for our little children. They could have paid some of our young people's college bills and helped our old people out some.

Also, I'm thinking the LRDA is wrong about the Jones man looking after our interest. The people here don't elect him to no office to be representing our interest. Some folks would be mighty upset to know that LRDA spent \$7,000 of their tax money to vote the Jones man in a position over the Indians. The way I look at it, any man wanting to shut us up in a corral ain't going to be looking after our interest, Miss Connee. But, I reckon that if he is going to be out there looking for hoeses to round up, Nevada is a good place to go.

But, folks, the real voting happens up there in Washington, and not out there in the Nevadas. About all they do out there is gamble. If they didn't have this gambling out there, maybe our people wouldn't have took a whole week to make their three votes. But its up there in Washington where they make the laws and thats where we'll going to git our recognition, Miss

Connee. Now if Miss Arlinda, Locklear or Mr. Charlie Rose says they need us to march up there, we need to git together and go help them. I've heard that Professor Adolph Dial will go with us. Well it would be honor for a poor uneducated farmer like myself to go up there with a man like Mr. Dial. My wife said I couldn't go less I git me a new suit, though. You know, I've never met a Senator or been to Washington, Miss Connee. But I told my wife, they're no better than us and some of us might be better than a whole lot of them, sort of like some of the LRDA crowd. Now, we need to git together and be thinking about how to git up there if Miss Arlinda or Mr. Rose needs us to go.

Well, Miss Cynthia and our delegates have been meeting with the people to help explain the constitution. I've been keeping my eye on them and I got back me a report that says the legal service people are upholding them all the way. You know, lawyers believe in people knowing their rights, so it makes good sense for them to uphold our delegates on educating our people about their constitution. People have to know their rights if they're to remain free people. And, our people have made progress because they have been free people, Miss Connee. That's why I git troubled when I think of the Jones man wanting to shut us away in a corral like a bunch of hoeses.

When I was coming up, the people here had Mr. Harker Barton to go to for help. Back then, we didn't have us any trained lawyers amongst us, but Mr. Harker Barton was as knowledgeable a man on the law as you would want to meet. Yes sir, I'm mighty pleased with our Legal services people for helping us to learn about our constitution. They stood up for what is right and that counts a lot in Ol Wiz's book. That's why I would go up there to Washington if Miss Arlinda and Mr. Charlie Rose were to need me up there to march for our recognition. Like the folks over there in the legal service office, they're standing for what's right. And, I'll have to say one thing for the LRDA. They made the best decision they'll probably ever make in gitting Miss Arlinda to work on our recognition and constitution. When our delegates git ready for us to vote on our constitution, Ol Wiz will be right there to cast his vote. And, Ol Wiz's vote ain't for sale, Miss Connee.

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Only in Robeson



It is so good to be back home for the holidays. I don't know what keeps pulling me back but every time I finish up a job out of town I get in my old trusty pick-up truck and back to the 'res' we go.

Some times I think what keeps me here is the politics. Politics is so exciting in an Indian community. Everybody is a candidate of some sort, from the Native American church to Tribal Chairman. Which brings me to what I'm thinking... candidacy. ELECT JOE FRYBREAD! Don't

that sound good? It's got that ring to it like bar-b-ques, pig-pickings, rallies and parades. I'm getting cranked up now! I need to decide what office I want. I finished the eighth grade. I own some real estate, I'm over 21 years of age, I pay taxes, I'm employed as a sheetrock worker, I can read and write and I don't have a bad criminal record. I'm qualified!

I could go after the tribal judgeship or a council seat. I wonder which one pays the most...? Them folks that's got them jobs don't need the money.

That could be my platform... give a poor man a chance.

Maybe I will run for tribal police so I can drive one of them new, high powered cars. I bet I would look good in a brown uniform with all that black leather. Speaking of leather, if elected I would have all my policepersons ride Harleys and I would have mine dressed with a side car.

That's what I'm going to do. Run for tribal police.

IT'S MY RIGHT TO RUN IF I WANT TO!

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Admission: \$1, Children 6 and younger free. (All proceeds go to support the powwow.)

This will be a traditional Indian gathering. All participants who can contribute to a community feeling of brotherhood and sisterhood are welcome. Sponsored by Akwekon, the Native American Club at NCSM

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