

Traditionally Speaking
Loco' E Eastli'Ko (Painted Turtle)

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE

Lately, I have been reading the Fayetteville Observer with some interest, since members of our tribe have seen fit to use this publication as a forum to express their point of view instead of addressing the constitutional committee directly. Personally, I feel that the town meetings that are going on in the communities are more appropriate forums to discuss our constitutional committee's efforts. I am not implying that one should not comment on the committee's efforts in the local newspapers, what I am saying is that we should make our concerns known to the committee at the community meetings or the committee's meetings. I encourage all those that have concerns about any part of the proposed constitution to bring these concerns to the attention of any member of the delegation. I feel that they would welcome any or all comments of the tribal members. I have attended several of the community and committee meetings and have found the committee to be receptive to all opinions regardless of whether these opinions agree or disagree with the constitutional committee. This is how it should be. Forgive me if I reiterate information that you feel is common knowledge, however, I feel we must revisit this information. First, the constitutional delegates were chosen by their respective church communities to serve on this delegation and they owe allegiance to the LUMBEE-CHERAW people only. It is ludicrous to think that this committee should try

to satisfy anyone other than the LUMBEE-CHERAW people. Second, all of the meetings of the constitutional committee are open to the public, therefore anyone interested in knowing first hand what is going on with the committee need only attend the meetings. The delegation always allow attendees to voice their opinions at some time during their program. Anyone who has taken the time to attend the delegation's meetings knows that they are interested in the opinions of all the people not just a selected few. Third, the constitutional committee delegation is committed to educating the LUMBEE-CHERAW people about the proposed provisions of the constitution, so that they can vote for or against the constitution with a clear understanding of the intent of this constitution.

In my opinion it was misleading to imply that the LRDA board does not know what is going on with the constitutional delegation. I have seen board members at all of the meetings that I have attended and it must be remembered that the meetings are open to the public. I don't understand the logic of LRDA insisting that they review the constitution prior to the people voting for or against it. The funding for the constitution project was probably sent to LRDA to administer not for their use in controlling the delegates. Therefore, it is not an issue of the delegates using LRDA's funding because the money was for the benefit of the people. So I say to the LRDA board members and any other persons that have concerns about the process or the product to confront the delegates face to face, so that differences can be resolved.

Elders and Traditionalist Corner

Wisdom from the Country

by W. D. "Wiz" Locklear

I don't know if you read the Fayetteville paper, Miss Connee, but one of the LRDA boys had a lot to say about our constitution in that paper. Now, Mr. Bobby Dean Locklear is the Chairman of our Robeson County Commissioners. He's also one of them LRDA boys. Course, I didn't know he was Chairman of the LRDA until I read it in that Fayetteville paper Saturday. But I had always figured if he ain't, he might as well be. The people say he runs the place, along with Dobbs Oxendine, James Hardin, Bruce Jones, and Roderick Locklear. I reckon they believe, Miss Connee, that the people ought to be asking them for permission to write them a constitution and vote on it. That's what I'm figuring is the problem. I've been a wondering what they'll put on the people next, if they can tell people when to meet and what to do when they meet. Course, they tell me that they've shut down our Enrollment office, ordered Miss Ruth away, and locked the rest of them women inside. I reckon if you stand for the people, the LRDA is going to get rid of you or lock you away where the people can't get to you. Least ways, that's the way of 'Wiz sees it.

Now, I was mighty disturbed to hear Mr. Bobby Dean Locklear say in this Fayetteville paper that the LRDA appointed our delegates. According to everything I've seen and everything I've heard, our delegates were chosen by our Churches to write our constitution for the Lumbee people. And, from what I've read, them LRDA boys will get their chance to approve our constitution along with about 40,000 other Lumbees. Now I am a seen nothing that says they have to approve before the people, Miss Connee. They get their ballot when the rest of us gets ours. They can mark their ballot, and we can mark our ballot. Then, someone will add it all up and we'll know whether we got us a constitution for the people and by the people. Course, that's the American way, Miss Connee. Now, you don't get that kind of freedom over there in Cuba. Over there, the 'astro' and his boys makes the decisions for the people. But, here in

these United States we all get the same ballot and vote at the same time. That applies to our President, our Congressman, and I reckon it applies here to the LRDA.

And, here's another thing, Miss Connee. Mr. Bobby Dean Locklear said in the paper he was surprised that the people keep on meeting when they had told them there could be no more meetings. Now, Old 'Wiz don't know why he's so surprised about all of this. The people have been meeting and going about their business for more years than the LRDA has been around. I don't reckon they're likely to stop now just because them LRDA boys want them to stop their meetings. Course, I've tried to tell the people about this, but now I reckon they got Mr. Bobby Dean Locklear's word for it.

I reckon the people need to pray for these LRDA boys, Miss Connee. They've gone astray and forgotten about what it means to serve the poor, the needy, and the oppressed. And that is my own thoughts on the matter, though some people don't seem to want of 'Wiz to have no thoughts, or leastways they don't want me to write 'em down. Makes me think they've forgotten what it means to be humble, and they have forgotten about the ways of our forefathers. We need to return to our roots, Miss Connee, and we need to return to the rock least we fall into condemnation. The delegates writing our constitution understands these things and Old 'Wiz would rather be standing there with them and the people than some other people he knows.

But, you know, Miss Connee, I heard that those boys back there in the 1700s didn't send the U.S. Constitution across to the water for that king in England to approve. And, I reckon we won't be sending our constitution to the LRDA for their approval. If we do, of 'Wiz will be mighty disappointed cause it would be something like putting the fox in the hen house. You know, Miss Connee, the only thing we Indians can do is continue to trust the Lord and wait on him.

On The Pow Wow Circuit



The following list of upcoming powwows is not intended to be a complete list. Anyone having information about upcoming powwows not listed is encouraged to send them to: Wild Turkey, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372 or fax to (910) 521-1975

- * February 26, 1994, First Annual Native American Cultural Festival. Noon until 6:00 p.m., Cone Ballroom, Elliott University Center, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- * March 18-20 Pow-Wow Greenville, NC (410) 788-0689, (919) 257-1720
- * March 25-26, 1994 Annual Festival of the Four Holes Indian Organization (The Natchez Kusso Tribe). Call (803) 871-2126
- * April 1-2 NC State University Pow-Wow, Reggie Oxendine (919) 839-2214
- * April 9, Duke University Pow-Wow, Dana Chavis (919) 613-1942
- * April 15-17 Haliwa-Sapponi Pow-Wow, Hollister, NC (919) 586-4017
- * April 7-9 Raleigh, NC Pow-Wow, (410) 788-0689, (919) 257-1720
- * April 29-5/1 Harrisburg, PA (410) 788-0689 or (919) 257-1720
- * May 6-8, Metrolina Native American Association, second annual American Indian Festival and Pow Wow, 2601 East Seventh Street, Charlotte, NC Call Association 704-331-4818
- * May 7- Hoke County Schools Indian Education Pow Wow, South Hoke Elementary School Gym, Info: (910) 875-4106
- * May 13-15 Lumbee-Cheraw Spring Pow Wow, Robeson County Fairgrounds, Lumberton, NC For info: (910) 521-8602
- * May 21-22 Richmond Community College (919) 582-7071
- * May 21-23 Tuscarora Nation Pow Wow, Tribal Grounds, Maxton, NC. Info: 910-844-3352
- * May 28, Upper Mattaponi Spring Festival, Sharon School, King William, VA. Info: 804-769-2408
- * June 4-5, Machapunga Tuscarora Indian Tribal Association First Annual Native American Pow Wow, Moratou Park on the Roanoke River, Hwy 711 S Business, Williamston, NC. Info: 910-793-6117/910-975-1473 after 6 p.m.
- * June 16, 17, 18, & 19, Rebirth of the Traditional Spiritual Gatherings, a Tribute to the Great Spirit, Father of all Indian Nations, North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Call Spotted Turtle (910) 521-4178, Painted Turtle (910) 521-0020 or Wild Turkey (919) 521-2826.
- * June 24-25 Allentown, PA, Pow-Wow (410) 788-0689.
- * July 15-16, Charlotte Native American Community Native American Festival, Uptown Charlotte, NC 704-527-7187
- * July 15-17 Howard County, MD (410) 788-0689, (919) 257-1720
- * July 24, Cherokee of Hoke County and Maxton, NC Tuscaroras, Intertribal Festival, at Rockfish near Davis Bridge, NC. Contact Chief or Mrs. Edgar Bryant, (910) 875-0222.
- * July 30-31, Third Annual Pow Wow and Festival, Rising Water and Falling Water, Showplace, Richmond, VA. 804-769-1018, 804-443-4221.
- * July 29-31 Virginia Beach, (410) 788-0689 or (919) 257-1720
- * August 26-28 Baltimore American Indian Center Pow-Wow (410) 675-3535
- * September 15-17 Guilford Native American Association (919) 273-6676
- * September 9-10, Coharie Pow Wow, Clinton, NC. Contact 910-564-6909.
- * Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Indian Trail Pow Wow, Indian Trail, NC. Call Metrolina Association: 704-331-4818, Kingston Sanderson: 704-821-6361
- * October 7-8, Cumberland County Native American 13th Annual Pow Wow, Memorial Indoor Arena, Fayetteville, NC 910-483-8442
- * November 7-13 Great American Indian Expo (410) 788-0689
- * November 21-27 Native American Pow-Wow, Baltimore, MD (410) 675-3535

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The Way I See It
by Dr. Dean Chivers, President
Native American Scholarship Fund
Albuquerque, NM



We used to have a great fishing hole behind our house. It was wet in the wintertime, and in the end of the summer it dried almost completely up. It was actually a swamp which drained into the Lumbee River by way of Moss Neck. When the rains came in the summer time, the fish would come up it, for miles, looking for places to nest, I guess. As it dried up in the Spring, we used to fish it. Sam Steele, my cousin, Donald Godwin, another cousin, and The Brayboys (Bobby, Tim, Junior, and Ray) and others went with me to the woods many a hot day. We could dig all the worms we needed in the woods. So all we needed was a grubbing hoe, a tin can, and a cane pole and line. We mostly tied a dead limb on the line for a bobber, or used a medicine bottle cork. Our favorite spot was a deep hole which had a dead tree in the middle of it. We would throw our bait around the tree, and wait. Upstream from the tree was a clearer place, but the fish would take your bait off if you fished there. We caught eels, crawfish, catfish,

and once in a great while, a black bass. Mostly what we caught, and wanted, was bream. The biggest ones we caught were about the size of your hand. But they were really good to eat. One night just before dark, I baited my pole up with three or four worms, cast it out, and stuck it in the bank firmly. The next morning I came back to check it, and found a huge catfish on the line. What a surprise! Up to that point, it was the biggest fish I had ever caught. It was three or four pounds. Daddy skinned it that day, and we had it for dinner that night. I was 10 or 12 at the time, and must have talked about that fish for weeks. One of the biggest scares I had as a boy was going to that fishing hole. I was barefooted, and walking down the path fat, dumb, and happy. I looked down, and right in the path was a moccasin snake. I almost stepped on him with my bare feet. But God spared me, and I was able to back up and not disturb him. My bare foot was within a foot of that snake. The sun was shining on

that spot, and he was warming himself. One time we had a flood, about 1955. I believe about the time of the hurricanes came along. The water, which normally moved along about a mile an hour, was rushing along at four to six miles an hour. My brother Mike and I went swimming in that water that day. We played and splashed as if we had our own swimming pool. It was a relief from the heat and the humidity. But my favorite memory of that fishing hole is the time I went fishing in it with a bean hook. This may sound like a Paul Bunyan story, but it is true. It was about August, and the holes were almost dry. I happened to go through the woods, and saw lots of fish swimming in the last hole with water in it. All I had was a bean hook, so I broke a limb for a stringer, and proceeded to knock a couple of dozen fish out of the water with the bean hook and put them on the stringer. Everybody was really surprised when I came in with a string of fish and no fishing pole. Some of them still don't believe I caught those fish with a bean hook.

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