

# Elders and Traditionalist Corner

*Wisdom from the Country*

by W. D. "Wiz" Locklear

Well, our public elected officials have a talent for opening their mouths and putting their foot in it. First, our Sheriff had some things to say about our race of people in that fancy magazine (Wiz is speaking of the Gentlemen Quarterly, March edition). Then our Chairman of the Robeson County Commissioners jumps in to tell his people that they can't vote on their own constitution until it has been approved by the LRDA. Now, if I were a running for office, Miss Connee, I might take a look at our sheriff and our county commissioner and try not to repeat their mistakes. Course, once they're in office, there ain't too much you can do about them until election time rolls around again or, as in the case of our Sheriff, he gets an itching for another job.

Now, these delegates writing our constitution have in our constitution this thing called "recall". Now, the way this thing works, Miss Connee, it is: If we elect a man or a woman into tribal office and they just don't work out, we don't have to wait until the next election rolls around to get rid of them. We can get a petition together and with the right number of names on it, we can have us a recall election. If it passes, then we can elect us someone else to the office.

Ol Wiz likes this thing called the recall. I've seen us elect people into office and then when they get into office they forget about the people who put them there. Not all of them are like that, Miss Connee, thank the Lord. But, some of them are like that. That's why our delegates have this recall, to deal with the some who are like that. Course, you know, Ol Wiz has a feeling in his bones that if anything will work on keeping our people in line while holding office, it will be this recall.

Another thing our delegates have put in this constitution is that our tribal council can't put us in this gambling business. The way our delegates have fixed it, Miss Connee, is that if we want to get involved in that foolishness, we have to be approved by the people. You know, I've seen on the television about how these Indians out west are making big money with gambling halls. If we get our recognition, some of these boys will put us in this gambling business so fast your head will spin, Miss Connee. But, our delegates have fixed it where

no body can do that unless we all vote on it. That's the way it ought to be, Miss Connee.

Now, I reckon our delegates could have let our tribal council decide on this for the people, Miss Connee. But, our delegates must have felt that some things just need to go to the people for a vote. And, this here business about gambling is one of them. We have got us enough trouble, Miss Connee, without getting ourselves deeper into the pits. If you let the people decide, which is what our delegates are doing, we won't have to worry about the LRDA or anyone else putting us in the gambling business.

Well, they're saying, Miss Connee, that them LRDA boys are slipping off to Raleigh this weekend to figure out what they can do about this constitution our delegates are writing for us. I got me a feeling in these tired old bones, that they're up to no good, Miss Connee. Course, you know, while they slip off to Raleigh, probably on our taxpayers dollars, our delegates will be meeting in Pembroke. They ain't got no money for their meetings, Miss Connee, cause the LRDA cut them off of their money. Yet, we're all invited to their meeting.

Now, if Ol Wiz knew where they were holding their meeting up there in Raleigh, he might find a way up there and drop in on them. Lordy, wouldn't they be surprised. But, Ol Wiz has better things to do, Miss Connee, then wasting his time with foolishness. I might just drop in our delegates, though. I've heard that they're about finish writing our constitution and that we might vote toward the 4th of July. That's Independence Day for the rest of the country, Miss Connee. And, it might become our Independence Day too. Now, there's a thought, Miss Connee. I just might have to write about that in my next letter.

In the meantime, you need to tell the people to get out their Bibles and turn there to the book of Nehemiah, chapter 4 through 6. They say that's what the delegates read in their last meeting when they got word that the LRDA was stopping them writing our constitution. Now, that's about the best answer to the LRDA wanting to stop the people that I've heard in a long time. Y'all pray for our Church delegates writing our constitution.

## 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-Saponi 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, Moratoc 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 Carolina Native American Association (919) 273-8686
- \* 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

## Traditionally Speaking

Loca' E Esaki'kv (Painted Turtle)

IT IS ABOUT TIME THAT THE LUMBEE-CHERAW PEOPLE START WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE GREATER GOOD FOR ALL CONCERNED.

I am presently reading the book entitled "basic call to consciousness" edited by Akwesasne Notes and published by Book Publishing Company, Summertown, Tennessee. In my opinion the book has some valuable information that we should all be digesting as we seek our own constitution and federal recognition. This book discusses the papers submitted by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) to the Non-Governmental Organizations of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland in 1977. The message that was presented in these papers is that we as human beings are destroying each other, MOTHER EARTH, and ourselves. They attribute this as evidence that we are basically people who exist in SPIRITUAL POVERTY. Is that part of our problem here in Lumbee-Cheraw land? If so it is about time that we begin to make peace with our maker, our selves, and our fellow human beings. The PEACEMAKER who came to visit the member tribes of the Haudenosaunee gave them methods for making positive change in their lives. In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss the basic points that the PEACEMAKER gave the Haudenosaunee.

The PEACEMAKER pointed out that most governments are formed to establish law and order, however, the PEACEMAKER proclaimed that governments should be established to promote peace between all human beings. Peace was defined by the PEACEMAKER as being the result of a society establishing concepts that correspond to the words Power, Reason and Righteousness.

Righteousness refers to a philosophy in which the people use their purest and most unselfish minds. This phenomena occurs when the people's minds and emotions are in tune with the universal laws, and the intentions of the CREATOR. To quote the Haudenosaunee papers "The

principles of Righteousness demand that all thoughts of prejudice, privilege or superiority be swept away and that recognition be given to the reality that the creation is intended for the benefit of all equally - even the birds and animals, the trees and insects, as well as the humans.

Reason is the ability of the human mind to make righteous decisions about complex issues. The PEACEMAKER stated that we were given the ability to reason, so that we could settle our differences without the use of force. The PEACEMAKER "proposed that in every instance humans should use every effort to counsel about, arbitrate and negotiate their differences, and that force should be resorted to only as a defense against the certain use of force.

The following is a quote from the Haudenosaunee papers on Power "The power to enact a true Peace is the product of a unified people on the path of Righteousness and Reason - the ability to enact the principles of Peace through education, public opinion and political and when necessary, military unity. The 'Power' that the PEACEMAKER spoke of was intended to enable the followers of the law to call upon warring or quarrelling parties to lay down their arms and to begin peaceful settlement of their disputes. Peace as the PEACEMAKER understood it, flourished only in a garden amply fertilized with absolute and pure justice. It was the product of a spiritually conscious society using its abilities at reason which resulted in a healthy society.

This wisdom expressed in the Haudenosaunee papers appears to be wisdom that we the LUMBEE-CHERAW need at this critical period of our history. I encourage all who will to read this book "basic call to consciousness" edited by AKWESASNE NOTES and published by Book Publishing Company, Summertown, Tennessee, because it has a message that we all need to understand and practice.

Loca' E Esaki'kv (Painted Turtle)



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For more information, call Spotted Turtle (910) 521-4178, Painted Turtle (910) 521-0020 or Wild Turkey, % Carolian Indian Voice (910) 521-2826.