

ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director,
PSU Native American Resource Center

Now that the United States has entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement, it is especially fitting that we take a look at recent activities involving Indian people in Mexico. Even though Indian people here in the United States are still frequently subject to racial, economic and other forms of injustice, most Americans would say that the "Indian Wars" of the last three centuries are over. In Mexico that is apparently not the case.

In January of this year various U.S. news media briefly carried the story of an "uprising" in southern Mexico, in the state of Chiapas (that's chee-AH-pahs). The story went that "rebels" known as the Zapatista National Liberation Army had revolted, and were quickly defeated by loyal forces of the Mexican government. Our southern border was made safe from yet another allegedly-leftist "Liberation Army" and all was well in the world. On to the next news item...

But is that all there is to the story? Information coming out of Mexico from the International Indian Treaty Council and Amnesty International, a human rights organization, paints a somewhat different picture than we have been given by mainstream news coverage.

For a long time the Native people of the highlands of Chiapas state, mainly Tzeltal and Tzotzil Indians (closely related Mayan-speaking nations), have been struggling to keep their heads above the judicial waters. Their traditional homelands have been gradually taken away by non-Indian landowners and companies, and what little political power they once may have had has been eroded by fraudulent elections. They have appealed to state and Mexican federal governments for redress of their grievances, but have generally been ignored. People who made the most noise have been arrested, detained illegally (without access to legal counsel or communication with their

families), and often tortured. Some of these vocal proponents of Indian rights, including some non-Native friends of Indian people, have simply "disappeared."

Finally it seems that the people had taken all they could stand. Amnesty International reports:

"On 1 January 1994, a previously unknown armed opposition group called the Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional (EZLN), Zapatista National Liberation Army, took control of several towns in the state of Chiapas. By the end of the week, the EZLN, most of whose members seem to belong to local Tzeltal Indian communities, had retreated towards dense and mostly uninhabited jungle areas although heavy fighting between the armed forces and the rebels continued to be reported. On 5 and 6 January indigenous communities outside the city of San Cristóbal de las Casas were bombed from the air. On 12 January the government declared a ceasefire, although there were reports of continuing land attacks by the armed forces [government troops] during the following days. Early reports indicated a number of human rights abuses, such as the extrajudicial execution [killing by government agents without due process of law] of at least five rebels, and the torture of rebel and civilian detainees at the hands of the security forces.

"Chiapas has long been the scene of human rights abuses by the security forces in the context of land disputes and allegations of electoral fraud. These violations have included mass and arbitrary arrests, torture, ill-treatment and political killings... Very rarely have those responsible been brought to justice."

On 26 January Amnesty International sent an appeal for urgent action in the cases of three specific individuals — Severiano Santiz Gomez, aged 65; Sebastian Santiz Lopez, aged 65; and Hermelindo Santiz Gomez, aged 40 — as well as other

members of the Tzeltal Indian community of Morelia, state of Chiapas. These people had "disappeared" following arrest by government forces.

On 27 January Amnesty International reported that two other Indian people — Jorge Mariano Solís, aged 21; and Eduardo Gomez Hernandez, aged 22 — had been killed in an "extrajudicial execution." These two men from the Indian community of Las Margaritas had been arrested by local police, taken to jail, from whence they were taken by government troops, never to be seen alive again. A forensic examination of their bodies, verified by two members of the U.S. organization, Physicians for Human Rights, revealed that they had suffered multiple stab wounds. In the same report, nine other Indian people were reported to have "disappeared" following their arrest by government troops.

On 14 March Amnesty International reported that fourteen more Tzeltal Indians had "disappeared" following their arrest by Mexican army troops. In the same report, it was learned that the three Tzeltal men listed as "disappeared" on 26 January (see above) had been found dead. The Mexican government had acknowledged the detention of one of these men on 9 February, but by 13 February the government was denying that any of these three men had ever been detained by government forces, despite reports by 25 Indian witnesses who saw the men being taken away by the army.

Both Amnesty International and the International Indian Treaty Council continue to report fear for the safety of Indian people in Chiapas. The Indian Wars may be over in the U.S., but they're still being waged by our new trading partner, Mexico.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

News From Carroll Middle School

Many students enrolled in orchestra classes at Carroll Middle School continue to grow as musicians once the school day of school week has ended. They are involved in activities either as spectators or participants. Many of these activities involve Carroll students participating with orchestra students from other students in the school system.

Recently some orchestra students gave up a Sunday evening at home to attend a children's concert performed by the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra students serve our community by performing at various functions. Recently they performed at Knuckles Elementary School, the Delta Jabberwock Pageant at the Carolina Civic Center, and an assembly at our school. One strings student, Vernice Lassiter, played at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

Many Carroll students auditioned for a position in the school system's orchestra. Esther Kwong made first chair and Kristen Herring made second chair in the "All County Senior Orchestra." Other Carroll students were also named to positions in the "All County Junior Orchestra." Some students are so committed to music that they perform in two different orchestras.

Just recently some orchestra students at Carroll Middle School auditioned for the "Eastern Regional All State Orchestra" at Duke University. The entire school orchestra will be performing at the Carowinds Musical Festival in Charlotte and the orchestra Concert Festival in Fayetteville this April.

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Lowry and Townsend to Wed at Berea Baptist Church



Dr. Welton Lowry of Pembroke, North Carolina announces the engagement of his daughter, Rose Marie Lowry of Pembroke to Larry Marshal Townsend of Raleigh, formerly of Pembroke, son of Mrs. Julia Townsend Bullard of Wakulla, NC.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Pembroke State University, East Carolina University and a doctoral candidate at Campbell University. She is presently serving as president of the North Carolina Association of Educators during a leave of absence as principal with the Public Schools of Robeson County.

The groom-to-be is a graduate of North Carolina Wesleyan College. He is employed by Southern Bell Telephone Company and is the Democratic nominee for the North Carolina House of Representatives District 15 in Wake County.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, May 14 at Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke, North Carolina.

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Prospect School Honor Roll

The honor roll for the fourth six-weeks grading period has been released from Prospect School. Johnny Hunt is principal.

Seventh grade Superintendent's Honor Roll
Brandon Emanuel

A Honor Roll
Mellisa Bine, Jacqueline Cummings, Crystal Bullard, Porsha Dial, Micheal Hunt, Jessica Lambert, Damien Locklear, Christy Oxendine, Melissa Revels, Eryn Sanderson, Mellisa Stricklin, Tyler Thompson.

B Honor Roll
Adrenia Clark, Ceneca Cummings, Katara Harris, Cathy Hunt, Beth Lane, Conchata Locklear, John Locklear, Kristin Locklear, Eugenia Dial, Kimberly Dial, Brandy Locklear, Scott Locklear

Eighth Grade A Honor Roll
Lechelle Chavis, Tadene Lowry, Sabrina Pickens

B Honor Roll
Christina Barton, Jessica Bullard, Christi L. Chavis, Deidre Chavis, Cindy M. Clark, Tonya Lowry, Rodney R. Locklear, Randy L. Locklear, Brian Jacobs, Teddy Clark, Joey Bullard, Derek Brewer, Ronald Sampson, Tina Hunt, Tara Jacobs, Starlet Chavis, Elizabeth Deese, Tara Deese, Karen Dial, Johnna R. Locklear, Kristina Locklear, Annie B. Lowery, Ashley Thompson, April Williams.



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Some substances that come through a mother's milk are handled poorly by infants, even in low doses, and should be avoided by nursing mothers. Included among these drugs are antihistamines, which can cause drowsiness, and decongestants, which can cause excessive crying and sleeplessness. Nicotine from smoking not only inhibits breast milk formation, but can also cause diarrhea, vomiting, rapid heart rate and restlessness in the baby. Alcohol passes easily into breast milk, and it does not take much to permanently damage a baby's brain. We care about the health of you and your family.
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Heart disease is the leading cause of death among Americans today. And while great strides have been made in the treatment of cardiovascular disease, the key to implementing these procedures is proper and timely diagnosis of the condition.

Southeastern Regional Medical Center's Cardiac Catheterization Unit is operated in association with

Duke University Medical Center, which is internationally

renowned for its achievements in the treatment of heart disease.

Our cardiac catheterization team is medically directed by Dr. Steve Royal, Southeastern Regional Medical

Center's staff cardiologist. He is also an active member of the Duke University cardiology faculty. This working association between both facilities provides for greater continuity of care for our cardiology patients.

Southeastern Regional Medical Center's cardiac catheterization services and our growing association with Duke University Medical Center is a

major step in our on-going effort to bring you state-of-the-art technology with that caring hometown touch.



Dr. Royal and assistant perform catheterization procedure in Southeastern's catheterization unit.

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