

Readers' Forum

Reader Discusses Federal Recognition

I really been struggling with this one, I have only written two articles that the Carolina Indian Voice didn't publish, and the last one was about two months ago. They typed it up but did not print it up. It's bad when you close your left eye and try to crop tobacco. Or even worse when sweat and tobacco juice falls in your left eye. Well here goes, not Clinton's three strikes and your out, but gitty up baby, in other words print this one.

Two nights ago, I went over to see a long time friend and probably one of the most knowledgeable individuals on Indians and Indian Affairs on the east coast. A long time leader in the American Indian Movement and activist, my friend has always kept a close watch on Indian issues. While talking to some folks on the telephone, he called names of personal friends in the Indian community that most people only read about. He knows Indians and he knows the situation.

I was wondering why he was wanting to see me, no one had told me he wanted to see me, I just knew he wanted to see me, a spiritual connection. When he got off the phone after his second conversation we started to talk. He told me that the federal guide lines had finally come out for recognition, a revised version, and that Lumbees would most definitely qualify. He wanted to know what was going on with the crew. I sorta gave him a somewhat rundown of the situation as best as I knew it and told him that I was thinking of cutting up my Lumbee card and mailing it back to the Lumbee tribe and the enrollment office.

Let me make it clear for you folks. I told him I got one word for the federal government. I told him that it started with a "K" and ended with a "F" and I believe I did something with the fingers on my right hand to show my appreciation. The federal

government is interested in making every person in America a ward of the government and America one great big reservation. They will tell you how many beans and how much hard tact or fat back you can have. That is all Indians get, beans and fat back, and a reservation. The federal government is trying to devise plans to control peoples lives from cradle to grave, they already do that for federal Indians, they want to do it for all Americans one day.

One and one half million babies don't make to the cradle each year thanks to the federal government. If the federal government has its way, there will be a lot more early graves for the old folks. You don't get something for nothing friends. If you give over the decision making process of your life to some one else, they will finally tell you what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. The productive and prosperous farmer who once raised hogs to supplement his farm and table, will now have to have hog parlors that he has to tend to seven days a week. Why he might be like the prodigal son, he would have to eat with his hogs. The animal rights people could get a law passed that what you feed hogs has to be fit for human consumption. I am being a little funny friend, but you know what, stranger things have happened like congress being exempt from every law it passes

Back to my friend, our conversation turned to the western Pequots of Connecticut. They had their first Pow Wow this year. Their competition money was the biggest in the history of America, \$300,000 dollars, 3/10 of a million dollars. They said they made millions on the Pow Wow. The Western Pequots have the largest gambling operation on the east coast. When the state of Connecticut talks about economic development

now, it is always in partial consideration of the casino operations of the western Pequots. They tell me that one member of the board directors of LRDA said that if Lumbees get federal recognition, he will be a millionaire within a month. My friend told me that if Tommy Dial was still living he would be a millionaire if Lumbees got federal recognition. I told him Tommy would be a billionaire within a month if Lumbees got federal recognition. See with Federal recognition you can apply for Casino licenses. What about I-95 and Southern organized crime? Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage. Only problem with gambling is that it does not produce any butter and eggs. What is does produce is something you don't want or do you? I finally asked my friend if the Indian soul is for sell? He said his wasn't, and mine's not either. I won't even talk about the constitution committee. When God fearing men stand before a God who knows no fear, they have to give an account for the deed done in the body while the breath of life still passed there in. Well, you decide my friend, what is Uncle Sam up to. I was born an Indian, I am an Indian, and I intend to die a "free" Indian. Not some programmed "Washington Red Skin" of the federal government. God made me free and that's the way he intended it to be. How much is your soul worth? Twenty four silver dollars and a hand full of beads.

The Bible say "what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Be careful my friends that you don't become like the federal government hog farmer. He didn't own the hogs, the hogs owned him. Funny how things got turned around, but it wasn't anything to laugh about.

Harold G. Dial
Maryland

Praying

Is there anything we CAN'T pray about? NO, I don't believe there is!

I still have one Indian child. But I myself am a Lumbee only by my marriage to Leon. So I am not as personally concerned with the new tribal constitution as most readers of the Carolina Indian Voice. However, I would like to encourage all Lumbees

to seek daily advice from our Creator concerning all issues, including this one. In our own limited wisdom none of us human beings can ALWAYS know what is best. But I firmly believe that the One who MADE us does! And I'm convinced that HE also knows better than you and I how to see things from the other person's point of view. Sometimes, I believe, it's necessary to try doing this (with His help) if we are ever to get our issues resolved. I'm saying this as a person who is not taking sides, but who sincerely cares about EVERYONE on all sides of this issue.

Current Events

If events around us did not keep happening so fast, maybe I could keep writing about the experiences that mean the most to me personally, like the recent celebration of Holy Week and Easter. However, I believe that those events are TIMELESS! Since they are central to our Christian faith, it's helpful to think about them all year long.

Jews and Christians

Although we celebrate our new year at very different times of the year, Jews and Christians have many things in common. JESUS was, of course, a Jew. We often say that Christianity grew out of Judaism.

When I visited Temple Beth-El in Lumberton during the High Holy Days in September several years ago, I immediately felt a sense of fellowship with the Jewish congregation, as they were using the same scripture passages we Christians have in our Old Testament. In December Jews observe the eight-day festival of Hanukah, around the time that Christians are celebrating Christmas.

Then there is Maundy Thursday, when we Christians observe Jesus' "last supper" with His disciples.

Actually, this supper in the "upper room" began with the Jews' annual Seder meal, a "Passover" observance using special foods as reminders of how the Hebrew people were to show the death angel to pass over those houses with blood from an unblemished lamb spread above and

Respect at Drastic Low

I am writing in response to an article I read the other day about the lack of respect in the world today.

I agree, respect is at a drastic low, and it saddens me.

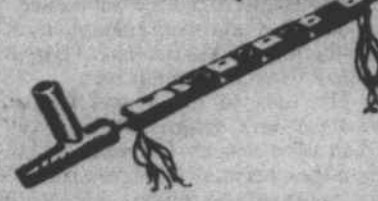
Native Americans through the years, have generally had great respect for all things. That was one of the many things they couldn't understand about the Europeans, who generally had a great lack of respect.

People cannot just one day decide to be respectful, if they have no respect, or be a person or morals or integrity, if they have none, or Holy unto the Great Spirit All Mighty God unless they are changed on the inside. The only way this change can truly come about is to accept (the Son of the Great Spirit) Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

This is not a set of law to confuse people, but a relationship with Jesus Christ. The King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and Chief of Chiefs! (Romans 6:23) "For the wages of sin pays in death; but the gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.

I thank my Father God through Jesus Christ for giving me good physical eyes. But I thank him more for opening my spiritual eyes.

Neel (eagle Eye) Hickman
Chocowinity Tribe



on both sides of the door. Otherwise the first-born of each household was to die as a final attempt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people leave Egypt and return to their own land. (Did you see "The Ten Commandments" on Easter evening?)

Through the years I've participated in a number of Maundy Thursday observances (including eating this special Passover meal when Jim Oliver was pastor of First United Methodist Church). However, this year I came to understand more clearly than ever just HOW the "Lord's Supper" grew

out of the traditional Jewish observance celebrating a very important time in Hebrew history.

As our pastor, Ron Dietrich, conducted a worship service, beginning with an observance of the Passover, he pointed out what each dish in the Sedar meal represented as a reminder of the Hebrew people preparing to go out from Egypt on their way to Israel.

Then he explained how Jesus (on the night that he was later betrayed) passed around to his disciples the very same kind of unleavened bread that was required for the Passover meal, telling the disciples that it represented his body (which would soon be broken), then the same kind of wine they had just drunk to celebrate the Passover, saying that it represented his blood (which would soon be shed).

In First Corinthians we find the apostle Paul telling the Corinthian church that Jesus had commanded: "Do this in remembrance of me." We Christians have been doing this down through the centuries.

From now on, as I take the bread and "wine" during the "communion service" I will remember Jesus and his disciples gathered around the table at that first "Lord's Supper," how Jesus celebrated Passover with them and THEN explained (with the bread and wine) what he was about to do for ALL of us!

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REFLECTIONS

by Alta Nye Oxendine

My main reason for headings is so that readers can skip down and choose where they want to begin reading. Also leave out parts if they like.

Prayer Reminders
After all these years, I think I've FINALLY found a place for my personal prayer requests (people and things to pray for) as well as other important prayer reminders. ONE MORE use for those EXCITING (to me) sticky "Post-It-Notes!" I'm so glad the man who invented them, in order to keep his place in the hymnbook when he was singing in the choir) happened to be working at a place like 3M, where he could experiment until he found JUST the right combination of paper and "glue" to work for him (AND for people like me).

I can cut the notes in half for the names of PERSONS to pray for. Of course, some reminders need the whole note. Now I've started sticking these notes on my window shade just above the sink—one place where it's hard to keep from seeing them during the day. Whenever I know that one or two people need special prayer on a particular day, I can make their names more conspicuous with a magic marker

or set them aside in a special spot. This way I can "zero in" on asking God's help and guidance each time I see their name throughout the day. A man might come up with a very different kind of "prayer request place," like a particular spot in the garage or something he could carry with him to and from work to keep names and other prayer reminders handy.

In my 66 plus years I've come to know so many people in Robeson County, out West, and other places, that up to now, I've never been able to figure out a system to even keep up with those people who have PERSONALLY asked me to pray for them (and their families) over the years.

Of course, the Prayer Journal ordered from Chuck Swindoll has a lot of places for prayer requests each week, as well as a column for recording "ANSWERED PRAYERS!" Looks like I need to use both places, in order to remember to KEEP communicating with the ONLY ONE with enough WISDOM, LOVE AND POWER to direct our lives in the way each of us needs to go.

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