

Editorial and Opinion Page



Along the Robeson Trail

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

One of our best sources of information about Native American culture at the time of European contact comes from the writings of early colonists. Sometimes these writings show us precisely how Native people of the day can be understood, by capturing the essence of the differences that existed between the two cultures. Sometimes these writings reveal exactly the opposite, by showing us how mistaken the colonists were in their interpretations of Native American culture. Some early writings actually do both at the same time — show us how to see, and how not to see, early Native American culture.

A good example of writings which do a bit of both can be found in the document called "Responses of Indians to Religious Questions." This record is the result of a formal conversation held in 1644 between representatives of the Massachusetts Colony and certain Native elders led by one named Masconomet. It takes the form of a series of questions and answers, with the colonists doing the asking:

Q: Will you worship the only true God, who made heaven and earth, and not blaspheme? A: We do desire to reverence the God of the English and to speak well of Him, because we see He doth better to the English than other gods do to others. Q: Will you cease from swearing? A: We know not what swearing is. Q: Will you refrain from working on the Sabbath, especially within the bounds of

Christian towns? A: It is easy to us — we have not much to do any day, and we can well rest on that day. Q: Will you honor your parents and all your superiors? A: It is our custom to do so — for inferiors to honor superiors (from Felt's History of Ipswich, Essex and Hamilton, 1834).

It seems clear from this work that in some phrases the Native elders and colonists were talking about the same things, but that in other phrases they might just as well have been speaking in different universes. Let's look at them one at a time.

In the opener, much is left unstated. The colonists really want to know if the Indians will become Christians and behave like Europeans. Masconomet really says he intends to defer to the English God because he has seen that there are bad consequences for not doing so. For example it was common for early colonists, faced with the epidemic decimation of Native people going on all around them, to say that their (the English) God was protecting them from the diseases, while the Indians were not being spared. Neither group knew at the time that Europeans had developed over long exposure a resistance to the diseases which Indian people did not have.

In the second instance, we see just how far apart the two worlds are in reality. The colonists want the Native people not to swear. The Indians live in such close contact with their traditional spirituality that they don't

even have a concept of swearing. For these Algonkian-speaking Indians, accustomed to living *pimdzawin*, the good and balanced spiritual life, there is probably no such thing as swearing in the European sense.

In the third instance, the colonists want these Native elders not to work on Sundays. This is fine with Masconomet, since as elder men in the traditional community they are accustomed to having younger folks (and for some tasks, women) do most of the hunting, fishing, farming, food and clothing preparation. Whether Masconomet means that *no one* in his community will ever work on Sunday remains unclear, and seems highly unlikely.

The last question probably seemed obvious to Masconomet. Of course they agree to honor their parents, and anyone they feel is superior in social rank to them. But the colonists undoubtedly also mean to say 'will you do what we tell you to' when they speak of "superiors." When cultures previously alien to each other come into close contact, it is frequently the case that people seem to talk by each other as much or more than they actually talk with each other. This often results in perceptions of "the other" which may have some truth to them, but which often miss the most important cultural realities.

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

A message from Yvonne Maria Leow

A spiritual wind is blowing across North Carolina with the "Voice of Truth."

The scripture says "All who have an ear, let them hear." The Holy Spirit comes in a Gush of Wind and its Voice is saying to ALL people, "Let peace reign in your hearts. Love thy neighbor as thyself."

We can be members of any Political Party and refuse to accept its UNFAIR, POLITICAL STRATEGIES WHICH ARE NOT FAVORABLE FOR ALL PEOPLE. The Scripture says, "Be Ye More Than A Conqueror." And "When Two Cannot Agree, They Cannot Walk Together."

There is power in prayer. "A Blessed new Chapter in the Book of Life."

A New Vision is presently appearing upon the Horizon. It is a Colorful Scenery. Yet, many eyes cannot see its true beauty. The Holy Created Rainbow beautifies the sky.

1. As when people of all shades unite together in a peaceful, harmonious nature:

2. As various colors of flowers around our location are gathered together making a beautiful bouquet.

True Christians are as roses blooming in the garden of LOVE. (Almighty God is Love.) Then, the earth is beautified with love and peace, and the Christ Spirit guides the people on the "Road of Happiness."

Political Party Members: Democrats, Republicans, and those who are not affiliated with any political party: Please let us hold hands together, thus, increasing our mind power in Christian Faith; and live according to the Holy Word: "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings, NC House of Representatives for Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland Counties-District 87, has closed the doors against "Racial Barriers and Ill Feelings toward another."

Frances M. Cummings has the welcome sign to the entrance to the road to happiness where peace reigns supreme in the hearts of all who walk

on the Road to Happiness. Guns, knives, and sticks cannot win a battle of war. Prayer is a Christian's gun. The body can be injured or killed, but no person can kill the Christ Spirit which dwells within you.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21 "Let us walk honestly as in the day." Romans 13:113 "And let every soul be subject unto The Higher Power, for there is no power but of Almighty God." The powers that be are ordained of Almighty God. Romans 13:1.

My friends, please encourage your family and friends to be with us on the "Road to Happiness" and sing, "Glory Be To Almighty God." Hallelujah! Political Party Members: Democrats and Republicans: Please let us hold our hands together, increase our mind power in Christian Faith; and live according to the Holy Word—Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself."

Kindly pass this message on to your family and friends.

Yvonne Maria Leow

Reader says there is hope for HIV patients

Hope: (Greek definition) to be intensely expectant, to be confidently looking forward to something you expect to happen.

1 Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity (or love that brings about all of these) that puts hope in some powerful. It is one of the three most powerful elements in the universe. It is one of the three eternal and living substances that runs the entire kingdom of God.

Hope is the blue print. Faith is the

material. First you have to have the hope, then faith goes into action. Hope is the inner image faith becomes the substance of.

Being HIV positive I would like for you to realize there is hope. People are living longer, more productive lives. Even though there is no cure completely, as of yet- it looks very promising in the near future. As we have overcome other diseases in the past, we shall also overcome this. IF you have ever used IV drugs or

had more than one sexual partner, be tested. If you have any questions or need assistance in transportation or in obtaining medicines if you have tested positive, you can reach Brenda Hunt at the Tuscarora Tribe at 521-1861 or me at 628-6821. All information is confidential. Peace be with you!

To all I say, "Don't forsake your future because of present circumstances."

Brenda Jones
Volunteer for Tuscarora Tribe

Million Man March speaks to accepting responsibility



by R.D. Locklear

I taped most of C-SPAN's coverage of the Million Man March. Viewing the tapes later, I was glad I did.

The invitation list to the march was long—all black men, but very narrow—only black men. As an Indian man, I did not give the march a great deal of attention while it was being planned. While I have made vacation plans for June 1996, I didn't need to decide whether I was going to march in Washington, DC on October 16, A1995.

The march program featured scores of celebrities and speakers. The choice of many speakers was clearly designed to illustrate the breath of effort and support in the black community that resulted in the mass of peaceful black humanity on the Washington Mall.

Louis Farrakhan issued the call. Because it was a good idea, not because of the man, black men responded. Only 3 percent of the Million Man March participants, according to a Washington Post poll, marched as a show of support for Louis Farrakhan. At the end of the day in his own way, Farrakhan acknowledged that reality by saying, "You came not at the call of Louis Farrakhan, but you gathered here at the call of God."

Midway into the program I decided, if I had been a black man, I would have wanted to be at the march and that my mother would have wanted me to have been there too. My mother was a woman of wit and wisdom. Although their styles were different, Mama got it from her mother, Grandma Fannie.

Responsibility was a concept dear to both women, even though their choices and experiences expressed it in contrasting ways.

Grandma Fannie loved to mess with her chickens. She sometimes would comment about a hen being a sorry mother. While I didn't always understand why she said it, I understood she meant the hen was not taking proper responsibility for her chicks.

During the early 1970s, Mama had a tag on her car that expressed her desire for welfare. She believed people should work. Girls having babies, on welfare, and not working turned her off. Maybe I should say turned her on since it would get her on her high horse.

Mama didn't spare deadbeat dads. I remember like yesterday an example

of her style from over 20 years ago. A young man my age commented to the gathering with pride that he had two children. His intent was to prove he was a man. Mama responded, "A boy can get babies. It takes a man to support them." Most of us knew he wasn't supporting his children and he shut up.

Responsibility. Beginning the transition in the Million Man March program, Ishmael Muhammad stated, "We move into what we came her for, that is direction, and to understand what it takes to assume responsibility."

Bab Law, a radio talk show host on WLII/AM in New York, emceed the responsibility section of the program. He began, "This is a historically significant day. We are here across ideological lines. We are here across theological lines. We are here because we have made a commitment to seek a common ground."

"This day will be meaningful based on what it is we take home. We come to a section of the program that deals with our own significant responsibilities. Listen carefully as we talk about how it is we have determined to assume a larger share of the responsibility for improving the quality of life in the black community

and we will do it ourselves.

"This is not a protest march. We didn't come here to protest or seek relief from anyone else. We came to turn to each other, to examine the content of our own characters. We came to turn to each other, to put our arms around each other, find what is in our hearts and in our history that we can use to build a safe, stable black community in this country."

Responsibility. During my youth, when bootleggers were the social center for too many of my old friends and classmates, I don't remember fathers taking an open, public stand for their children. I don't remember ever hearing in the 1960s and 1970s about 50 to 100 men in Robeson County standing on the road in front of a bootlegger on a Saturday night, giving meaningful testimony to their belief that where we were going was wrong.

Today drugs are a new challenge. Do you know of 50 or 100 men in the 1980s and 1990s in Robeson County standing on the road in front of a drug dealer's business or home in an eloquent statement of silence?

The men of Robeson County need to take greater responsibility for our youth.

Will we?

Pediatric Pointers

by Dr. Joseph T. Bell
Pediatrician with Robeson Health Care

Last issue we discussed infectious diseases and how they spread, and this issue we will talk about how to prevent the spread of these diseases. Remember, germs can be spread through the air, by direct skin contact or by ingestion through foods or liquids.

One of the most important ways of preventing the spread of germs is with good hand washing. This is especially true for germs that cause vomiting or diarrhea. Rinsing your hands vigorously with plain water probably works as well as using soap and water. Hand washing is especially important after using the toilet, changing diapers and blowing or wiping the nose after a cold. Always supervise young children when they use the rest room or wash their hands.

Clean contaminated areas with disinfectants. Disinfecting the diaper-changing area, cribs, strollers, play equipment will help limit the spread of intestinal germs at home and in daycares. Wipe off objects that have touched by children with colds, cold viruses can remain infectious for up to six hours on surfaces contaminated with nasal secretions.

Try not to smoke around children.

Exposure to tobacco smoke increases the frequency and severity of colds, coughs, croup, ear infections, and asthma. Discourage your child from kissing pets on the mouth. Pets (especially puppies) can transmit worms, germs that cause bloody diarrhea and other things.

Cook all meat thoroughly, especially poultry and ground beef. Under-cooked poultry is a common cause of diarrhea. Undercooked ground beef can spread a serious diarrheal infection caused by the E. Coli bacteria. After preparing meat for cooking, carefully wash your hands and anything that has come in contact with raw meat. Do not place cooked meat on the same platter from which uncooked meat was removed.

Keep your children's immunizations up-to-date. This is one of the most important precautions you can take to protect your child against serious infections. The recently introduced Hib vaccine, for example, has eliminated over 90% of cases of severe meningitis caused by the H. Influenza bacteria.

That is all on preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Take care and we will talk again soon!

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1995

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1	2	3	4	5	
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1	2	3	4	5	
\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	
3	4	5	6	7	
Under 2 yrs	2-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	Over 10 yrs	
1	3	4	5	6	
Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	Over 10 yrs	
0	1	2	4	5	
Less than 10%	10% to 24%	25% to 32%	33% to 49%	Over 50%	
1	2	3	4	5	
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