

Editorial and Opinion Page

Lumbee Educator Joins Call for Tribal Unity for Federal Recognition

Dear Miss Connee,

I want to support the recent call by Leon Jacobs for tribal unity in the face of the possible federal recognition. Leon is a widely respected leader. He is known by Indian people all over the nation. He has been the Tribal Manager for two different tribes, and has run Indian Housing on a national level for many years.

Leon's letter of August 7 reached my heart. It has broken my heart for the past few years that the two leading bodies involved in the Lumbee Tribe will not get together and work out their differences.

In retrospect, it was a mistake for LRDA to be chartered as a state corporation, and later to earn non-profit status under the IRS. But the thinking when LRDA was chartered in the late 1960's was not that the tribe could ever gain federal recognition. People kind of knew in the backs of their minds that we had been turned down for federal recognition in the 1930's.

The magnificent petition for federal recognition put together by Lumbee River Legal Services ten years ago documents how the name different kept the tribe from getting federal recognition in 1938. One faction wanted the name "Lumbee," the other faction wanted the name "Cherokee," and the sponsors in the Congress threw up their hands and did nothing. That is a crying shame. We should have had federal recognition for the past 60 years.

It is ironic that the something is

happening again now. It is a different script, with different actors, but the result is the same. It is the have versus the have-nots again. This time the have are the LRDA board, which has almost all the federal grant dollars, against the Tribal Council, which has almost nothing.

In 1977 a bunch of us were at the NCAI meeting in Dallas. An important thing happened at that meeting having to do with the tribe, and one having to do with me.

We all met in Judge Brantley Blue's room the second night, and had a general discussion. There were about 12-15 people in the room. Brantley said something about what a shame it was that we did not have federal recognition, and that we deserved it. I responded with the comment that the group which had gone to San Diego five years before had gone without a plan, with no contacts, in cold, with no preparation. That is why the vote against the Lumbee amendment was something like 55 tribes against, and only three for the amendment.

Brantley, who had been my uncle's best friend when they were boys, and W.J. Strickland said we needed a plan to bring about federal recognition. I told them that given ten years, and the right kind of work, we could bring the tribes around to support. Going into the NCAI meeting in 1972 with no preparation was an invitation to disaster. I had been on the West

Coast long enough to know that.

So I put a plan together. I made ten copies of it, and circulated eight copies in a very tightly controlled manner. All of them were marked not for reproduction. The plan called for the Lumbee leadership to reach out and cultivate the leadership of the other tribes. That did happen, after a fashion, over the next ten years. When the next vote by tribes came, in 1987 at NCAI in Rapid City, the vote was strongly in support of recognition.

So except for the anti-Lumbee tribes, which are pesky but not strong enough by themselves to defeat the legislation, tribal opposition has been removed. There is a good chance to move the legislation through both Houses of the Congress in short order. It is a shame that the Tribe is not ready to move on it now.

By the time I drew up the plan, I had been living on the West Coast for ten years. I had heard all the jokes, ribs, and teasers the other tribes had about the Lumbees. "You guys aren't real Indians." Crows would tell me "You don't speak your language."

"You guys aren't real Indians," they would say. "You don't have federal recognition."

"You guys aren't real Indians," they would say. "You have too much natural rhythm."

As I visited with Leon and his beautiful family at Ledyard, CT a couple of months ago, he shared his frustration over dinner with

me. "What can we do to get the two factions together to work this thing out?" he asked me. "I wish I knew, Leon," I told him.

So I was glad to see his letter to the editor. I want to echo his call for unity, for the two sides to get together and talk and work out a relationship. Has that happened yet?

Do we want to be the laughing stock of Indian Country? That's what we will be if this present situation continues. I want to appeal to both the Tribal Council and the LRDA Board of Directors to negotiate an agreement for federal recognition. Why not bring in a professional negotiator or facilitator to help the process along.

Does each side know what the other side wants? If not, just finding that out would be a start.

We have had a number of Lumbees working with the other tribes around the nation in the past 30 years. Leon Jacobs, Lirida Locklear in San Diego, Karma Torkleip in Seattle, Gene Brayboy and Dr. Bobby Brayboy in Indian Health Service, Mary Brayboy in Indian Education, and the late Jo Jo Hunt, among others, they have served as valuable contacts. They have almost totally removed the strong tribal opposition to Lumbee recognition which existed 30 years ago.

I am more frustrated about the Lumbee recognition situation than about anything else in my life. I hope it is resolved soon.

Yours Truly,
Dean Chavers



Shown left to right Teresa Freeman, Jeremiah Jacobs (child), Christopher Jacobs, Destiny Tubbs (child), Melissa Jacobs, Haynes Graham, and Etta McMillian.

Waccamaw Siouan Village Dedication Ceremony Held

The North Carolina Indian Housing Authority held its Dedication Ceremony for the Waccamaw-Siouan Village on August 25, 1997 at the Waccamaw-Siouan Development Association. The event was a joyous occasion with families receiving keys to their new homes.

The NCIHA's dedication was the first Mutual Help Homes for the Waccamaw-Siouan people. "The Mutual Help Program (MHP) is for Native American families of low income status to have the opportunity to own a home via HUD dollars," states Dave McGirt, Executive Director, NCIHA. "In this program, families enter into agreements with the housing authority based on 15% of their annual income. Compare this to our rental program where payments are based on 30% of family income and you have a great program for natives to own a home. Families must meet certain HUD income and family requirements to participate in the program," added McGirt.

This project is a 12 unit development built on scattered sites

where the families choose the location (this can be done on family land) of their home. The development is being done in phases and 3 families have already moved into their new homes.

Speakers at the dedication included Haynes Graham Sr., Board Chairman of the NCIHA Board of Commissioners, Lila Spaulding, Board Member of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, Ossie Jacobs, Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe Elder, Rosco Jacobs, Vice Chairman Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe, James P. Jacobs, of the Cumberland County Association of Indian People, H.B. Surles, Coharie Intra-Tribal Council Member, Priscilla Jacobs, Chief of the Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe, C.W. Williams, Chair of the Columbus Board of Commissioners, Sammy Jacobs, Columbus County Board of Commissioners Member, Dempsey Herring, Columbus County Manager, Ray Lowe, retired Columbus County Administrator, Dave McGirt, Executive Director of the NCIHA, Gregory Richardson, Executive Director of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stanley Knick
Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

(Author's Note: After this timely announcement, we will return to discussion of the prehistoric context of the Lumbee.)

Along with cooling weather and the arrival of the fall semester comes Indian Heritage Week. This series of events is held each year during the third week in September, and is aimed at celebrating the proud Native American heritage of this fine educational institution.

This year's events begin on 16 September with Indian storytelling in the Performing Arts Center at 10:00 AM. The storyteller this year will be Barbara Braveboy-Locklear. Public school teachers and students of preschool through grade five are encouraged to attend (teachers should call Ms. Daystar Dial at 521-6282 to make reservations for their classes). There will be no admission charge, and the general public is welcome. This event is sponsored in part by the Robeson County Indian Education Project and the Performing Arts Center.

Also on the 16th will be our annual campus powwow, held in the quadrangle beside Old Main Building beginning at 4:00 PM. Grand entry will be at 5:00 PM. Featured will be traditional Native American music and dance, arts, crafts and foods. Host drum will be Stoney Creek. Head male dancer will be Bo Goins, and head female dancer will be Brandi

Warriax. Master of Ceremonies will be North Carolina Indian Commissioner Ray Littleturtle. This year's powwow will also have some delightful musical visitors.

Our special musical guests at the powwow will be the international recording group Ulali (pronounced: you-lah-lee). Ulali features three Native American women: Purafé (Tuscarora), Soni (Maya/Apache/Yaqui) and Jennifer (Tuscarora). These women deliver a mystical and sweeping sound which blends traditional and contemporary indigenous music. They appeared on the soundtrack of the Turner documentary series, "The Native Americans," and with Robbie Robertson on the "Tonight Show with Jay Leno." They have performed throughout the Americas and Europe, sharing the bill with such artists as Indigo Girls, Buffy SaintMarie, Floyd Westerman, The American Indian Dance Theater, Sting, Richie Havens, The B-52's, Jackson Brown and John Trudell. They were featured on the Smithsonian's CD entitled "Heartbeat: Voices of First Nations Women," and will be on the up-coming release "Aboriginal Women's Voices." Their album, "Mahk Jchi" is available nationwide.

Indian Heritage Week activities will continue on Wednesday the 17th with the showing of a feature film, "Dance Me Outside." This excellent

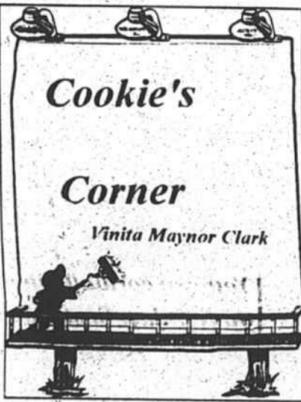
film is a seriously funny look at modern life among a group of young adults living in an American Indian community. The film will be shown in the Chavis University Center lounge at 8:00 PM. There will be no admission charge.

On Thursday the 18th there will be a lecture entitled "Contemporary Issues Facing Native Americans," presented by Dr. Stan Knick. This discussion will be held in the Chavis University Center, room 213, at 2:30 PM.

On the evening of the 18th, there will be a dance beginning at 10:00 PM in the Chavis Center Lounge. The DJ will be Otara Mills. Admission for UNCP students will be \$1 (guests \$3).

Indian Heritage Week activities are coordinated and sponsored by the Native American Resource Center and the Native American Student Organization, and are supported in part by the UNCP Office of Student Activities, Lumbee Regional Development Association and by a grant from the Grassroots Arts Section of the North Carolina Arts Council.

Join us for any or all of these events as we keep the spirit of Native American heritage alive here at The University. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.



A Tribute to "The Peoples Princess," Diana

Many of us were saddened by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Her death not only left a emptiness in Britain but indeed the entire world. The world including her two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, are still in mourning. It has indeed been a long time since a person was loved and cherished so much. Her death reminded me of when I was small of "the shot heard around the world. Many young ladies for once in a century had a princess as a "role model".

Princess Diana was not content with being a "figure head" like the rest of The Royal Family. She had a quest in life that she stated on a television interview. She said "Someone has got to get out there and love her people". A person is

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14th Annual Indian Trail Powwow/Cultural Festival

Sept. 26-28
Metrolina Native American Assoc. Non-profit (3C) Organization, serving 10 counties in the Metrolina Area, proudly presents the 14th Annual Indian Trail Pow-Wow, September 26-28, 1997, at the Indian Trail School, in the Indian Trail, NC.
Over twenty-five Artist and Traders, Dancers, Singers and Drummers from all over the US and Canada will be performing through out the event.
The Pow-Wow opens Friday, Sept. 26 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday we will open at 11 a.m. and close at 9 p.m. On Sunday, open at 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donations at the gates will be appreciated.
Thank You in advance for your support in the effort to inform the public.

Red, White, Black and Yellow

by John "Tall Bird" Marshall

What do these colors mean? To the true Indian Traditionalist they represent many things, a few of which being: the four directions, the sun, spring and summer showers, the night, long snows, sacredness, life death, purity, the bloodshed of our people, and much more.

But to all people, these four colors have much to do with mixed race classifications. How do mixed race classifications affect us as the Lumbee Nation? How does it affect us as individuals? Are we true to our race? Do some of us slide into a different classification or society solely for the privileges and benefits offered by other races? Many may have difficulty in determining exactly which race classification we should be.

It is not for me to answer these questions for others. However, as individuals, we must answer these questions for ourselves.

I have heard it said, "Some are Indians only one weekend a year." How shameful! To those people I ask, "Where is your pride?" "Where is your heart?"

By answering these questions ourselves, we can strengthen the movement of unity among our people, i.e., diverse groups, organizations, businesses, and, yes, even as a tribe.

In the year 2000, under the Clinton Administration, Americans will be allowed to classify themselves by checking-off (in the appropriate space) multiple racial categories. Will this divide us further? Will it unify us and provide us with greater unity and strength? Your guess is as good as mine.

The racial and ethnic categories will include American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, White, and Hispanic.

Many American Indians will have to search their hearts laboriously before deciding which classification they will check. Again, I ask, "Where is your heart?" Only there will you find completeness.

In speaking of unity, harmony, and race classifications, I am reminded of other articles written to the "C.I.V." appealing for harmony and unity within our Tribe

Such articles have been written by Leon Jacobs, Dr. Joseph Bell, Ronnie Sutton, and Many others that are too numerous to mention.

To all these concerned Indian Citizens, I applaud you! More than ever before, the people are calling for community unity and support for federal recognition.

To our tribal, community, and state officials, hear our words. Our people have spoken!

To Congressman Mike McIntyre, thanks to you and your staff for supporting the "HR 1154 Bill," a new approach to the "Indian Federal Recognition Administration Procedures Act of 1997". If passed, this Bill will be instrumental in obtaining federal recognition of all qualifying American Indian Tribes.

Do your part today, write Congressman Mike McIntyre encouraging his continued support in federal recognition and in the "HR 1154 Bill". Address your letters to Congressman Mike McIntyre, 1605 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-3307 or Fax to (202) 225-5773
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