

Stanley R. Linscott
903 South 7th St.
Richmond, Indiana 47374
Tele: (317) 966-6678
Oneida Tribal Roll #9642

Received
5/7/93

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For Wilma Mankiller
Wilma Mankiller, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
PO Box #948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Chief Mankiller;

The enclosed newspaper article, tends to disturb me very highly. I and some of my friends have on occasion also gave classes to schools in the immediate area. We have submitted lesson plans, etc. In my case I had to research almost all of my information, I have only recently been placed on the Oneida Rolls. I will explain later if necessary.

The gentleman in question (Mr Yates) is sponsored by the Indiana Arts Commission, which is the necessary factor supposedly to sanction giving classes about the Indian heritage. Mr Yates at one time worked for one of the local factories in the area. After making a flute he found that he could be paid for giving classes. Having checked with the Indiana Arts Commission, I was led to believe that his only credentials was the fact he was colorful and interesting.

I do not mind that the gentleman is being paid, and if what he says is straight, However, I am not Cherokee, I DO have many friends that do speak the Cherokee tongue. I seem to remember that the Miami is a proud nation, and to my knowledge they are NOT extinct, and I seem to recall they came from Wisconsin, to Indiana. An amazing thing all this time I believe my relatives and friends when I was told a sqaw was an Indian woman or wife. I am sixty years old and I hear all this time I was wrong. EVEN Websters New World Dictionary refers to the word SQUAW an Algonquin American Indian as a woman or wife?? I or my friends do not have the proper credentials evidently to satisfy the Arts Commission. Our problem, WHICH is to get the word out that the INDIAN does exist, and that we do not object to Mr. Yates or others like him being paid to keep alive OUR fine Heritage and Traditions. But PLEASE at least check out their TRIBAL Affiliations, ie Roll Number and tribe, And have them put out the CORRECT information.

I am writing to you and the Mr. Barlow, Chief of the Ottawa (Miami), Mr. Bearskin, Chief of the Wyandotte (Miami) and Mr Taylor, Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokees. Should the Great Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation inform me I am wrong, I will then notify my friends of my error, and I will write the Indiana Arts Commission of the fine job they are doing. I do not believe they will check my credentials in Praise.

Respectfully
Stanley R. Linscott
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Oneida #9642

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