



CHEROKEE NATION

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FILE COPY

Wilma P. Mankiller

Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher

Deputy Chief

November 29, 1993

Dr. Roman Schweidlenka
A-8984 Kainisch 29
Austria/Europe

Dear Dr. Schweidlenka:

Thank you for your recent letter. Phillip Deere was a great friend and served as a mentor to me.

As to your question about Ms. Dhyani Ywahoo. There are three Cherokee tribes which have a federal relationship with the United States and are also recognized by other tribes as sovereign, the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the United Keetoowah Band, a landless tribe. Mr. Dhyayani Ywahoo is neither an enrolled member of any of these tribes nor is she recognized as a spiritual teacher of Cherokee people. In fact she is not recognized as Cherokee at all.

She does belong to a group of people, who have self identified as the Etowah Cherokee Nation. They do not have even a remote connection to the Cherokee Nation. I have never heard of Hugh Gibbs. I do know that prior to calling herself Cherokee she said she was of the Catawba Tribe and then later began identifying herself as Cherokee.

I have to admit I have not read her book but I have been told by others that I trust that it does not provide any accurate information about Cherokee spiritual life.

I hope the above has been helpful to you.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

WPM:mac