



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

January 13, 1993

Mary Ann Worklan
Program Officer
MacArthur Fellows Program
The John D. and Catherine J.
MacArthur Foundation
140 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1100
Chicago, Illinois 60603-5285

Dear Ms. Worklan:

RE: Louis W. Ballard

In my view John W. Ballard does not qualify for the MacArthur Award. While he is undoubtedly talented, his work does not have the originality, spirit and creativity which would qualify him for a MacArthur award. Further it concerns me that though Mr. Ballard is of Cherokee and Quapaw ancestry he has had little involvement in the cultural, social or political life of Cherokee people. In fact, I have encountered him only once during 15 years of intense involvement with Cherokee and other tribal activities.

John Trudell, an incredible original thinker and poet who does a kind of an "Indian rap" or poetry set to music comes to mind as someone who would qualify for an award. I may nominate him. He is so unconventional and nomadic (I have not seen him wear shoes for over a decade), I am not sure I can track him down to get enough basic information to nominate him.

I hope the above has been helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief