

NORTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

September 21, 1993

KIRKSVILLE, 63501

Wilma Mankiller
Principal Chief
Rt. 1, Box 168
Stilwell, Oklahoma 74960

*Glavin's
I can't go
but I would
like to give
him some
suggestions.
please
respond.
photo
[Signature]*

Dear Chief Mankiller,

I write to express my admiration for what you do for the Cherokee people and to ask if you would have the time to participate in a conference for increasing awareness of Native American cultures at Northeast Missouri State University.

I grew up in North Carolina, and from the time I was a child, my mother instilled in me an understanding of the plight of the Cherokee people. I lived and taught in Europe for seven years, and it was quite embarrassing to discover that most Germans know more about Native American history and culture than the average American. I returned to the states in 1991, and, shortly after, read an article about you in Parade magazine. Since that time, I have done as much reading as possible on Native American culture in general, and the Cherokees in particular. I have recently taken a position at Northeast Missouri State University and was appointed chair of a committee to organize a conference which has as its mission increasing awareness of Indian culture. I came to Tahlequah the Sunday before Labor Day and was disappointed that I missed your "State of the Nation" address. Fortunately, I heard a rebroadcast the following Monday on National Public Radio. I continue to be impressed with your low-key manner and ability to get business attended to in a compassionate manner. I think you are a great role model for future women leaders, regardless of race or creed.

I know you must be terribly busy, but if you or someone on your staff could send me some suggestions about people, topics, or activities which might increase awareness of the Native American experience, I would be most appreciative. I would be very happy if you could participate, but again, I understand how hectic your schedule must be. Although we haven't set a specific date for the conference, it will probably happen in September or October of 1995.

I spoke with the Vice President about the possibility of establishing scholarships for Native Americans, and he was quite enthusiastic. I understand that the Euro-American academic life may not satisfy those who desire more traditional modes of education, but I would be happy to pursue