

22 July 71

JUSTICE FOR INDIANS

Dear Editor: *Penobscot Times*

In the past few years a new picture of the Indian has been projected, in newspapers, magazines, books, etc. This new image has shown the American Indian as being equal with non-Indians, if not economically then intellectually. In short, people are realizing the actual worth of Indian Culture and of the Indian as an individual.

The events of the past few months, however, make one wonder if the people of Maine view the Maine Indians as peers or as beings much inferior to the non-Indians. On one hand they pat the Indian on the back, tell him he's doing fine and should be proud, etc., and ask when the next Pageant is. On the other hand, when he gets into trouble with the law it's another story.

I am referring to the murder trial of a young Indian boy just recently ended. The young man, just 24 years of age, was on trial for murder. The trial lasted a very short time, mainly because there was not enough evidence against him to make it last any length of time. Yet, the members of the jury (who did not seem to be interested, one way or the other) returned a verdict of "Manslaughter"!

They were all very anxious to return home for the weekend. All in all, members of the jury remained in good humor throughout. One could hear their laughter all the way in the hall. I would like to have heard some of their jokes, they were probably as colored as the verdict!

The Maine Indian living on or off the Reservation can no longer hide his head in the sand. The Indian has always gotten stabbed in the back by his so-called "White Brothers." History does have a habit of repeating itself.

I would venture to say, had it been a non-Indian on trial for that crime, under the same circumstances, the case would have been thrown out of court!!

I am writing this as one Maine Indian to other Maine Indians. Isn't it about time we stopped playing dead? If we allow this incident and others like it to go by unchallenged, then we are indeed as ignorant as the non-Indian would like to think we are!

Donna M. Loring

Thursday, July 8, 1971

Feedback . . .

the readers speak

Red awareness

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Donna M. Loring
Indian Island
Old Town, Me.

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I am referring to the murder trial of a young Indian boy just recently ended. The young man just 24 yrs of age was on trial for Murder. The trial lasted a very short time, mainly because there was not enough evidence against him to make it last any length of time. What evidence against him they did have was purely circumstantial. Yet, the members of the jury (who did not seem to be interested, one way or the other.) returned a verdict of "Manslaughter"!

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D.M.LORING

Maine Times
13 Main Street
Topsham Me 04086

Printed whole articles!

Eastern Maine
Sunday Reporter
44 Central St.
Bangor Me. 04401

Portland Sunday Telegram
Portland Me.

✓ yes -

Bangor Dailey News
491 So. Main St.
Bangor Me. 04401

✓ No -

Penobscot Times
119 So. Main St.
Old Town Me.

✓ yes - whole articles.

✓ half teemed it, printed I still not right!

~~Summerset Reporter
Skowhegan Me.~~

Portland Press Herald
Portland Me.

✓ ?

THE BAR HARBOR TIMES
66 Main St.
Bar Harbor Me. 04609



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To the editor,

I am writing in response to your editorial cartoon on March 12, 2002. The cartoon was titled "Steve Meyers' View".

I am writing because there was something terribly wrong with the image and the very subtle message it sent.

No, I am not going to ask the paper to print an apology nor am I going to call for Mr. Meyer's resignation. (I know people who would). The reason I am not asking for his resignation or an apology is that Native people since Columbus have simply learned how to forgive.

There is a saying "a picture is worth a thousand words". In this case it's a cartoon. I would like to use some of those words to describe the picture I saw.

The picture was of Governor Angus King holding a can of poison marked VETO in big letters. (I wonder what that container with the skull and crossbones held? It was obviously something toxic like dioxin, mercury, and cadmium...)

There were small insect carcasses all around him. I think these were supposed to be roaches and they presumably depicted attempts at other gambling proposals. There were some images I did not see such as live roaches with the letters LOTTERY, HORSE RACING, OFF TRACK BETTING. I have never seen a cartoon with the Governor exterminating those depicted as insects!

I then saw a jumbo size insect perhaps eight to ten times the size of the others. The words CASINO PROPOSAL was written on its shell. The words YEWWHOoooo! With music symbols were depicted as coming from the insect. I cannot figure out what the meaning of this is except that when Native people are being made fun of they are mocked with similar words.

The good governor looks as though he was taken by surprise and getting ready to exterminate the jumbo insect with the poison canister marked VETO.

What possibly could be wrong with this picture! I will explain from my perspective as an Indian.

My point is Indian people are real people we are human beings with the same dreams and desires as anyone else and should never be dehumanized. This cartoon was dehumanizing. Ironically it was in the paper the day after the first ever "State of the Tribes Address". The Chiefs spoke to the entire Legislative body and to the entire State through the media. Maine Public Radio carried their speeches in their entirety.

They spoke to Maine people from their hearts and spoke the plain truth. They were genuine and honest, they offered their hands in friendship and spoke of partnerships and working together for the common good. They invited the people of Maine to a place they had never been before, into their hearts, their spirituality and their humanness.

There are people who will take advantage of our tribes casino proposal to make us look less than human. Some will even see a political advantage in using the Indian people of this state like a political football. I would like to think Maine people have progressed. I would like to think Maine people are smarter than that. I would like to think Maine people are fair.

The word casino has been synonymous with Indians ever since the success of the Pequot's casino in Connecticut. I know this is true in Maine because every time my colleague Donald Soctomah and I introduced a bill it was heavily scrutinized to make sure there was no casino involved. It has been this way ever since we were elected to represent our people in the State Legislature. The word Indian and casino are synonymous.

I wonder has anyone thought of equating words such as:

Indian and children, Indian and mother, Indian and father, Indian and family, Indian and home, Indian and partner, Indian and future, Indian and equality, Indian and dreams, Indian and human being?