

Began in July of 1983, the Indian Time is a news journal dedicated to reporting on what is happening in Akwesasne and our Sister Iroquois communities. The news policy at Indian Time insists we try to give our readers as truthful reporting as we can. We encourage and invite opinions different from ours. We are committed to a free and open press at Akwesasne. We believe in the unrestricted flow of information to our people. By this means, we have the ability to make intelligent, informed decisions about our collective future. Indian Time is a product of the people of Akwesasne. It is your newspaper - printing stories about you. Please feel free to contact our Kanatakon offices in the Akwesasne Communications building if you have concerns, compliments, complaints, or plain old curiosity about the material printed in Indian Time. Niawenkowa, Akwesasne for your support.

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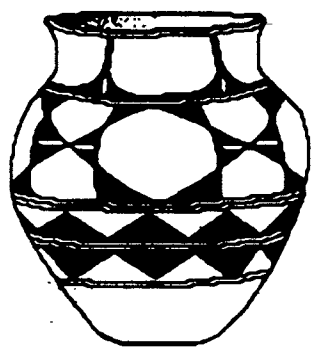
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To the Editor,

It is that time of year again. The time of year when everyone begins to wonder and some people get tense. This is also a time for a few bad apples to start their conniving for their own purposes.

What time of the year is it? Tribal election time. Nominations are just three short weeks away. But enough time to work together to turn this community around 180 degrees!

I was a little skeptical that things would never change around here. That is, until the April tribal meeting. I was elated to walk in and see the biggest crowd I had ever seen at a tribal meeting. I was also happy to see our elected officials looking more than a little nervous.

But the best part was when the people came together to challenge the constitution! I had heard that one tribal member was only questioning the validity of the constitution. The hell with the validity, let's challenge the whole damn thing, including every person sitting on that council!

Barbara Lazore was right when she stated, "We need a clean slate!" As a matter of fact, I don't think any of the six should ever be allowed to run for tribal office again! One community member

To the Editor

Dear Mr. Kimbell:

Like many other Mohawks of the Iroquois Nation I was astonished at the insensitivity of the CBC T.V. commercial where actor and actress Tom Jackson and Tina Keeper were holding an Iroquois Medicine Mask and putting it over their faces as if it represented a meaningless plaything. You, Mr. Kimbell of all people should know that the false face is represented in the Haudou Medicine Society and is much a part of our current cultural and spiritual way of life. The false face mask is not something to make fun of or show off in public because of the respect that we have been taught towards the natural life. The medicine mask is worn by the Haudou Society members representing the connection between the human and the natural world.

As a faithkeeper for the Wolf clan, I have been reminded that we, as Mohawks have an obligation to remind each other of our responsibility to present our peo-

person who has gotten nowhere with the tribe, then this is something to think about.

One fact remains, we need to come up with one strong candidate, not seven or eight or we'll be right back in the same boat as last year. To get the ball rolling, I'm for one chief and two sub-chiefs. Also, you need someone who is strong enough to butt heads with our glorious governor. Not one who says he does, just because it's a few months before elections! (Right, Phil?).

I would also like to see more input from the traditional side of the enrolled members. Possibly a candidate from that side we know will put his or her heart and soul into this position of honor.

I realize that the traditionalists do not abide by elective rules, but our reserve is in dire need of help, that many believe only a traditional sense of value can provide.

In closing, I would like to say that I know it's easy to sit back and say, "I won't be missed at the election, what's one vote going to matter?" I've been guilty of that once or twice myself. Think about it when it's time to cast your vote.

Sincerely praying for a better community!
Lisa A. Sears

ple, history and culture with dignity and honor.

Today in our communities after many years of battling with the museums, anthropologists, governments bureaucrats and attempting to better educate the general public we have been successful in treating our Iroquois culture with more dignity and awareness. The medicine mask is no longer looked upon as a "hocuspocus witch doctor" mentality.

Today in our longhouse ceremonies Mohawks from all different denominations bring their families to participate in the ancient ceremonies of the Haudenosaunee. The commercial promoting the "National Aboriginal Achievement Awards" was not only offensive and demeaning to our culture but you have set back years of public education awareness in regards to respect for our native beliefs and traditions.

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asked me if we wouldn't be violating their constitutional rights? Do they care about our rights? Did they care about me and my right to make a living from my Bingo Hall? No way! All they did was spit in my face and turn me away.

Just think, if we do this the right way, the people could have their community back. Not just the way it was, but even better.

Just think, no more closed door sessions with six people making decisions for the whole community. No more, "Oh, we've settled that and signed this and you had better just shut up and take it, because we don't care what you think anyway." Isn't that what we're getting right now?

No more "We were elected by you, the people, we make the decisions, not you, because we were elected.

But first, we do need a plan. Do we want 3 chiefs and 3 sub-chiefs? This is something every enrolled member has to think about in the next few weeks.

Next, we would need to come up with a candidate who will answer to the community as a whole.

I'm not going to lie, I'm voting for the man or woman who gives the businesses back to the private sector. So, if you are a business

person who has gotten nowhere with the tribe, then this is something to think about.

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"Kanontakeron"
Michael Mitchell, Director
North American Indian
Travelling College