

# Spirit of Crazy Horse

Official Newsletter of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

LEONARD PELTIER  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 2005 SPECIAL  
EDITION

"In memory of the original founder of the Crazy Horse Newsletter Steve Robideau"

"My life is a prayer for my people"

Leonard Peltier

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## Words From Leonard

Geraldine Janis, Lakota elder, and Leonards' Auntie passed on to the spirit world on December 8, 2005. Geraldine will always be remembered as a strong warrior woman.

### " The essence of Leadership"

**A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. She does not set out to be a leader but becomes one by the quality of her actions and the integrity of her intent. In the end leaders are much like Eagles, they don't flock, you find them one at a time.**

### Eulogy

by Leonard Peltier, for his "Auntie" Geraldine Janis

Whenever an elder passes on, it is always a big loss not only for the immediate family but for the tribe, the nation. As we grow older we learn more knowledge, about our history, religion, culture and even more about the history and treatment of our Indian nations by our invaders. This is what we elders must pass on to our young people so that they will learn not only about the good things that life give us, but more about the bad things this life also give us.

Every little child loves a Grandma and Grandpa. Grandparents being those adults who care, love and cares for them, very much. So we mourn and cry, pray and wish the elder could of stayed with us a while longer. One such elder for me is Auntie Geraldine. For years since my imprisonment we stayed in contact, Auntie and her two sisters Evie and Lassane. They continued to encourage me to stay strong and never forgot to mention how much they appreciated and loved me for going to Oglala to help them. Not once did they believe all the lies, some people told about me or my Defense Committee, that it was all operated by white people and that the Committee had millions of dollars. So each time we wrote to one another they would ask if they could send a few dollars for cigarettes or other commissary items. When Evie and Lassane passed on, Auntie took it all upon herself to let me know some Oglalas still cared and would always be there for me.

Auntie had cancer I believe it was seven times and each time she would beat the disease. My prison brothers and I meet on every Saturday for our inipi, and each time my prison brothers and I attended our inipi we would pray and suffer to WakanTanka to restore her health and to let us take some if not all of her pain. This last time over one year ago now, we really prayed hard and suffered a lot as we always used no less than 60-80 Tunkishila in the inipi. But I guess Tunkishila said it was her time and he had to call her home. I feel bad for this loss, more than the ones who left before perhaps now because I too have become an elder or because I admired her strength and the love she showed to me. I'm not saying I did not miss or mourn the loss of others. Because I did and still do, but Auntie became special to me over the years.

I had just begun to collect Aunties stories of her life and experiences, the things she had witnessed as I had wanted to write a book about her and her life. But I am afraid this project may

have started too late, but we will see how much her daughter Aileen was able to collect. The reason for the book was I have always felt that the elders that participated gave so much during the times of the Reign of Terror and the Times of Termination.

If it had not been for people like Auntie and the so many others like her there would be no Oglala Reservation today. The people, the ones who were selling out from the Lakotas to other tribes and who were supporting this law and the BIA would have ended up owning all the resources and what lands the government would have allowed them to keep. The rest of our people would be living in some ghetto some place. Those of you who had owned land would have lost it a long time ago, because how were you going to pay State and Federal taxes without a job? Auntie and her generation were fed up with the discrimination, the injustice, the poverty, and the outright theft of Indian Trust fund monies and all of the other bad things that the Indian nations had to endure, so she became a fighter, a strong hearted warrior woman and she stayed that way to the end. She never ever once thought of going to the enemy and becoming a rat, an informer, or traitor to her nation, her own people like some of those who have become traitors to their own people. Auntie will go down in the history books as a strong warrior woman while the traitors will be remembered as the sewer rats that they are. I will do everything I can to make this happen, that our history be recorded and remembered correctly.

Our elders, and Auntie have never received the recognition they deserve as they put themselves, their families, in just as much danger if not more danger than any AIM Leader or warrior had in those tortured times. That was the time when the Oglala/Lakota nation and all Indian tribes were facing the real threat of being terminated. The government had written a law in 1953 called Termination and that was to be completed by 1985 to terminate all Indian Reservations.

Yes...I am sad and hurt by her passing, but I know that the suffering is over on Mother Earth. I know in my heart WakanTanka will accept her to the world above. I know her friends/sisters Evie and Lassane, and her husband Uncle Spot will meet her on her journey to the Spirit world and guide her home and so will all the others who fought for the nation and have also passed will be there for Auntie. Auntie will be recognized by them for her bravery and strong stand for the Oglala nation. They will all be there to welcome her home. I know they will prepare a big feast and sing welcome songs for days as she reaches her new home.

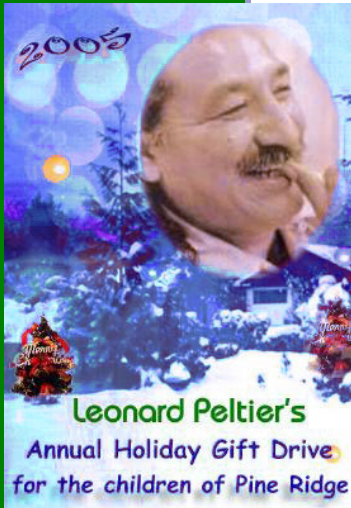
I will miss you Auntie, but since I too have become an elder myself, my time is nearing to be there with you, so until Wakantanka calls me home I will continue to fight for our people in your name.

Your nephew,  
In the spirit of Crazy Horse

Leonard Peltier



## Leonard Peltier Yearly Toy Drive



Thank you Leonard Peltier supporters! Due to your generous donations and ongoing commitment to the Leonard Peltier Pine Ridge Yearly Toy Drive many families received gifts! Many thanks to Roger and Dean, our crew from Illinois who for the past five years have volunteered their time and services. They drove from Illinois to Pine Ridge/Oglala and delivered the gifts and items by December 24<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to express our appreciation to Roslyn Jumping Bull, who has coordinated the Leonard Peltier Yearly Toy Drive for over twenty years. This year Geraldine Janis- daughter, Eileen joined Roslyn and helped with the distribution of gifts and items. On behalf of Leonard Peltier, and the LPDC we would like to express our appreciation to everyone who helped in making this years Toy Drive a success!



Our trailer getting ready for the trip to Pine Ridge!

Dean, getting ready for the long trip to Pine Ridge and Oglala!



Final Destination- Oglala

## Today's genocide *By Tamra Brennan*

### Today's genocide

*By Tamra Brennan*

Tribal disenrollment and the blood quantum issue are spreading throughout "Indian" Country like a deadly cancer, eating away the cells of our existence.

Tribal gaming has brought us the dominant cultures disease, greed. Before the existence of tribal gaming, tribes suffered from poverty, unemployment, apathy and no sense of a brighter future to come. The sudden wealth that some tribal members have experienced has forced them into a new realm they have never known. Some California gaming tribes pay their enrolled members amounts up to \$45,000 a month in gaming revenues. Tribal gaming has ignited old family feuds and corrupted leadership in several cases. If tribal members do not agree with council decisions they risk tribal disenrollment, in a few cases it has been entire families. This leaves more revenues available to divide among the remaining tribal members, and has become a lucrative benefit adding thousands of dollars in their corrupt pockets.

Many of these reservations have non-Natives running their tribal councils. These people are part of families that were adopted into the tribe many years ago and have taken control, disenrolling families that have been on the reservation for generations. Many of the California Tribes have been severely affected by this epidemic, with approximately 1500 disenrolled tribal members and many more currently being threatened.

Several tribes have diversified their economy and have succeeded in benefiting their people. Many have invested millions of dollars in developing programs to care for elders, children, preserving their culture and language. Unfortunately, for some the other side is greed, which has resulted in tribes turning on each other, family feuds, hate, drugs, violence and attempted murder in several cases.

Many of the disenrolled tribal members have filed lawsuits with the courts, have requested investigations from the B.I.A. and other agencies, only to continually be rejected or told it is a family issue not a federal issue. The disenrolled tribal members are left with nowhere to turn and to defend themselves. This amounts to modern day cultural genocide and is resulting in what we have been fighting since 1492, only now, it is self-administered. We are falling into what the dominant society has been attempting to accomplish for hundreds of years, to conquer and divide. All Native people will be affected by this in the end. Our ancestors fought against genocide with hundreds of thousands giving their lives to protect the way of life for the people. They would be disgusted and appalled with this disease that is tearing us apart. Our survival as Native people will only be achieved through unity and living as one people inhabiting Turtle Island. Tribal gaming should have strengthened tribal sovereignty, brought financial freedom to the people and given hope for the future generations. Instead in too many cases, it has brought disunity, greed, and spiritual sickness.

Some of these cases of tribal disenrollment have developed due to blood quantum issues.

Tribes can change their guidelines on what percentage constitutes being a tribal member. For generations tribes have mixed with other tribes, whites and many other ethnicities. A tribal member or entire family can possibly be disenrolled due to this change in policy, even if they have resided on the reservation for generations, and can attest to their lineage.

There have been dozens of cases of tribes being denied federal recognition by the B.I.A. because they can not prove their blood quantum. There are full blooded Natives that cannot get a tribal card because they either are not from a Federally Recognized Tribe, or they have mixed Native blood and do not have enough "blood" from one specific tribe to enroll. In these cases the bottom line is, you are told by the government, you are not recognized as being indigenous. Why is the B.I.A. still governing and determining who is and who is not Native? Biologists assert that to adhere to the blood quantum policy is undoubtedly a self imposed recipe for extinction. If tribes were to maintain the required blood quantum of their members from genera-

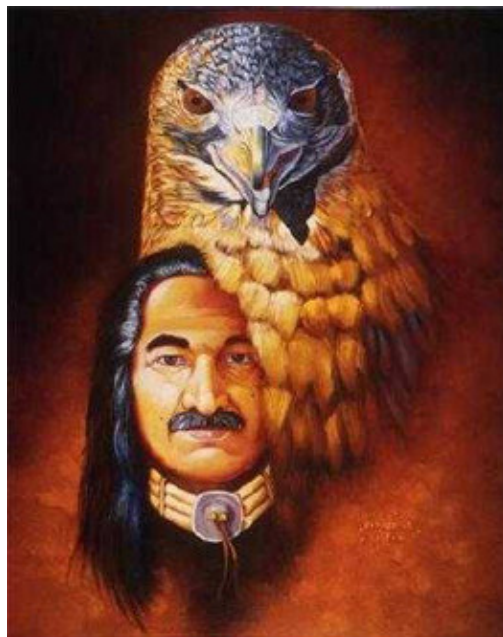
Many of the disenrolled tribal members have filed lawsuits with the courts, have requested investigations from the B.I.A. and other agencies, only to continually be rejected or told it is a family issue not a federal issue. The disenrolled tribal members are left with nowhere to turn and to defend themselves ...

tion to generation, they would have to intra-marry (marry within the tribe) in an ever decreasing pool of people with the “appropriate” blood quantum level, giving rise to genetic diseases that would surely finish us anyway. So here is a very clever catch-22 imposed by the federal government with the sure outcome of our extermination. To prevent this, the only option is to change this policy and take control of how we determine who belongs to each of our Nations. Many eastern tribes have people who are full blood tribal members and have lighter features than many western tribes. There are people that have been mistaken as being “white,” by other native people, when in fact they are not. If someone is part white, African American or Asian, does that make them a non-Indian? How is telling a mixed blood or non-tribally recognized person that they are not Indian, any different than the racism that has happened to all Native people for 513 years? My response to that is simply, “I’m part white but can’t prove it.” It is bad enough that we continue to fight for our rights and what we are entitled to with the government, why continually fight each other and aid in our own extermination? Today we are still suppressed, ignored and our cultures disrespected. The insidious division in Indian Country over tribal gaming, disenrollment issues and blood quantum issues could ultimately destroy us. We need to rise above all that colonial nonsense, take a good look at what is at stake, and unite as one people, one nation to become stronger and more powerful.

*Tamra Brennan is a Mixed blood Cherokee, and manages [www.NDNnews.com](http://www.NDNnews.com), she also raises funds for the ONTRAC foster care kids program in Pine Ridge, please check out her website for details on how to contribute.*

## CaféPress

*See our new designs at our official online store at <http://www.cafepress.com/leonardpeltier>*



Cradled in snow  
frozen fast food  
wrappers  
the new generation  
fed  
parked in front of  
K-mart  
wind whipping  
clear plastic bag  
is answer  
to question of  
shattered drivers  
side  
window

## Chief Big Foot Death Pose And The Pawn Shop Receipt By Luke Warm Water

Chief Big Foot Death Pose  
And The Pawn Shop Re-  
ceipt  
By Luke Warm Water a/k/a  
Kurt Schweigman (Oglala  
Lakota

“Kit was glad to leave South  
Dakota behind and cursed  
its name.  
He said that if the Commu-  
nists ever dropped the  
atomic bomb,  
he wished they’d put it right  
in the middle of Rapid  
City.”

-- Sissy Spacek’s character  
Holly Sargis,  
from the movie  
‘Badlands’ (1973)

Cradled in snow  
frozen generations  
Lakota kids crying  
in the back seat  
of a rusted nest  
one-eyed Chevy  
like baby birds  
mouths open  
end of civilization  
on the ice bone wind  
fast forward  
beyond hangovers  
splintered mixed bloods  
pretending to be ghosts  
while  
shopping mall medicine  
men  
medicine women  
purchasing the herbs  
tinctures of ointments  
at health food stores  
sporting pony tails  
braided so perfect  
fixing up the sure fired  
remedy

to get into the souls  
of a mid-life crisis  
America  
curing themselves  
along the way

Cradled in snow  
frozen fast food wrappers  
the new generation fed  
parked in front of K-mart  
wind whipping  
clear plastic bag  
is answer  
to question of  
shattered drivers side  
window

Cradled in snow  
thick “buckey” Rez accent  
tongue that never truly  
graced  
once beautiful language  
plastic beads, cloth, silk  
diligently intertwined  
for a ribbon shirt  
of the red bandana protest  
1970 something on the  
“Knee”  
awaits the pawn shop  
next to K-mart  
in 100 years  
this ribbon shirt will sit  
proud  
in the Smithsonian  
as the Little Big Horn war  
shirts  
sit today

Cradled in snow  
frozen tears  
church on top of  
burial ground  
bird on tombstone  
from Rapid City tourism  
flying due south by  
southwest  
celebrates



rape of a mountain  
4 great white grandfathers  
then rape of another moun-  
tain  
some Polish sculptures  
vision  
of the greatest Lakota war-  
rior  
Witko Shunka Wakan  
(Crazy Horse)  
who never had  
his image  
trapped  
inside a glass photography  
plate

Cradled in snow  
Chief Big Foot’s death  
photo  
carved in my mind  
as the sound  
of the pawn shop  
cash register  
eats and pukes money  
uniformed cashier  
writes earnestly  
on a small notepad  
soldier of sales  
he stops and asks for  
my signature  
which I give then receive  
cash loan  
he initials the paper  
tears it off  
he keeps the original  
mine is a copy

I am then handed  
my newest treaty

**Leonard Peltier Defense Committee**  
**December 2005 Special Edition**

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Please see our [website@www.leonardpeltier.org](http://www.leonardpeltier.org) section *support* for an article by Jose Felix Tobar-Arbula “Northwest Territories”

## Greetings Internationalist:

1. NYC Jericho & national Jericho are requesting that you join us in signing the petition for the **RIGHT OF THE BASQUE PRISONERS TO BE RETURNED TO THE BASQUE COUNTRY FROM THE SPANISH AND FRENCH STATES.**

2. Join NYC Jericho and ProLibertad and others  
on Jan. 7th from 11:30 to 2:30  
at a picket of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN  
824 UN Plaza (345 E 46th St.)

<http://new.PetitionOnline.com/Basque/petition.html>