

Highlights

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The Voice of the **Taino People**®

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Smithsonian's NMAI Returns Taino Remains to Cuba

After 500 years the Taino Community Continues to Gain Recognition and Respect

BARACOA, CUBA - For the first time in over 500 years, the Taino descendant population of Caridad de los Indios will be recognized in a formal international encounter. On behalf of their community, Cacique Panchito Ramirez and the elders of la Rancheria, will receive the human remains of seven of their ancestors.

The remains, excavated and shipped out of Cuban territory from Taino burial sites by North American anthropologist Mark Harrington in the 1910s, will be returned to the community for proper welcoming ceremonies and reburial.

The remains were earlier repatriated to Cuba by directors of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. W. Richard West (Cheyenne), director of the NMAI, led a delegation from the Smithsonian that officially accompanied the ancestor remains to Cuba on June 19, 2002, after nearly six years of discussion and negotiation. On behalf of Cuba, the Foundation for Nature and Humanity, received the human remains.



Cuban Cacique Panchito Ramirez.
Photo: R. Múkaró Borrero ©

The discussion that led to the present repatriation and the opportunity of a proper final burial for the ancient Taino remains was generated on the Indigenous Legacies tour of 1997, when a member of the NMAI board, Taino elders from Borikén and several American Indian participants attended a workshop organized by Alejandro Hartmann, Ingrid Washinawatok and Dr. José Barreiro of Cornell University.

At the NMAI, professional managers Nicolasa Sandoval (Chumash), in the Communities Services department and Jim Pepper Henry, repatriation manager, were forcefully diligent in following up the case. In Cuba, Cacique Panchito, his elders and families, considered how to approach the requirements of a ceremony of that magnitude.

With the research of Alejandro Hartmann, in Baracoa, and Dr. Barreiro, the strategic advice of Tim Johnson, founder of the NMAI's Community Services department, and with the particular attention of Angel Graña and Eugenio Perez, of the Foundation for Nature and Humanity, they studied how the remains were excavated between 1916 and 1919, in caves near Baracoa, and elsewhere on the island.

Story continues on page 2



Taino Remains in Cuba

Whole "Cemies" (carved statuettes), even some carved into stalagmites were sawed into pieces and many other funerary and human objects, a bulk of thirty six large crates, left the port of Baracoa, without the country's actual permission, to be possessed for over eighty years in the United States by the George Heye Museum of the

American Indian, a major collector of Indian artifacts, arts and remains from the turn of the century to the 1980s.

With the advent of the U.S. federal repatriation law in 1989, a sister step to the mandate of the new NMAI -- now Indian-run and conceptualized -- the opportunity for enforcing a U.S. federal policy in a cultural-spiritual recovery of the Taino remains arose. For the Legacies network, it became an important and proper mission. Among others, we appreciate Suzan Shown Harjo, in her capacity as a former Museum trustee, who also encouraged the pursuit of proper disposition of these precious remains. Ms. Ann Roberts Rockefeller, another NMAI volunteer, also immediately encouraged that justice be done in the repatriation matter.

The repatriation of June 19th specified that the remains were to be reburied by the community of origin, the closest Indian relatives being the elders at Caridad de Los Indios, who agreed to carry out the ceremonies, in a special place, on their community grounds. •

Our news journals and other documents are now online at our website. Have you visited <http://www.uctp.org/> lately? Check it out and let us know what you think!

Indigenous Peoples Persist in Fight for Revocation of Papal Bull by Tony Castanha

HAWAII - In October 2000, a group of nine indigenous peoples and supporters converged on the Vatican seeking the revocation of the 1493 papal bull "Inter Caetera." This edict and the subsequent 1494 "Treaty of Tordesillas" signed between the Spanish and Portuguese crowns established Christian dominion over the globe and called for the subjugation of non-Christian peoples and their lands.

Based on the ideology of other 15th century decrees such as the 1455 bull "Romanus Pontifex," "Inter Caetera" declared that "barbarous nations be overthrown" and bestowed exclusive rights upon Spain to possession of all unknown lands "discovered" and to be "discovered," despite the fact that most of these lands had been inhabited for thousands of years.

The delegation, organized by peace activists Daniela Rocco Minerbi and UCTP Rep. Tony Castanha, seemed to have arrived at a particularly important moment in history as festivities surrounding the turn of the millennium and Vatican "Jubilee" were well under way. During this time, the Catholic church sought "forgiveness" and "atonement" and wanted to enter the new millennium with a "clear conscience."

However, the delegation's formal request for an audience with the Pope was turned down. A meeting with an official from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace was arranged, and the issue has been subsequently reviewed by the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences. The Committee has tentatively concluded that the "Inter Caetera" is "juridically not valid anymore."

The delegation has yet to receive the formal written results of the study, which should shed some light on a few important questions. For instance, from when did "Inter Caetera" become invalid? What was the meaning of its validity before this point? If "Inter Caetera" is no longer valid, what does the church have to hide in repealing it?

Indigenous Peoples continue to insist the Vatican publicly revoke the "Inter Caetera" papal bull. Delegates are now tentatively planning a return visit to Rome in October 2002. The revocation of this decree is the least the Roman Catholic Church can do to atone for the tens of millions who perished in its name.

With numerous crises on its hands, it's hard to see how the Catholic church has entered the millennium with a "clear conscience."•

Editor's note: For more information on the "Bull" you can email UCTP Hawai'i Liaison Officer, Tony Castanha at: castanha@hawaii.edu or visit <http://www.uctp.org/papalbull.htm>

GE FOOD - NEW THREAT TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The following article appears courtesy of the Environmental Research Foundation's, RACHEL'S ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH NEWS

The survival of indigenous people, within the U.S. and across the globe, is being directly threatened by **genetic engineering (GE)** of food crops.

In September, 2001, scientists discovered genetically engineered (GE) corn at 15 locations in the state of Oaxaca, deep in southern Mexico, a country that has outlawed the commercial use of all genetically engineered crops. No one knows how it got there.

Story continues on page 2



GE Food and IPs

(Continued from page 2)

In the U.S., genetically engineered corn has been grown commercially since 1996 and 26 percent of all U.S. corn acreage is now genetically engineered. The remote region of Oaxaca where the illegal GE corn was discovered is considered the heartland of corn diversity in the world.

Scientists had hoped to keep Oaxaca's rich diversity of corn uncontaminated by GE strains because Oaxaca retains the wealth of genetic varieties developed during 5500 years of indigenous corn cultivation. Scientists now say that aggressive forms of GE corn, let loose in Oaxaca, may drive native species to extinction, causing the loss of irreplaceable cultivars.

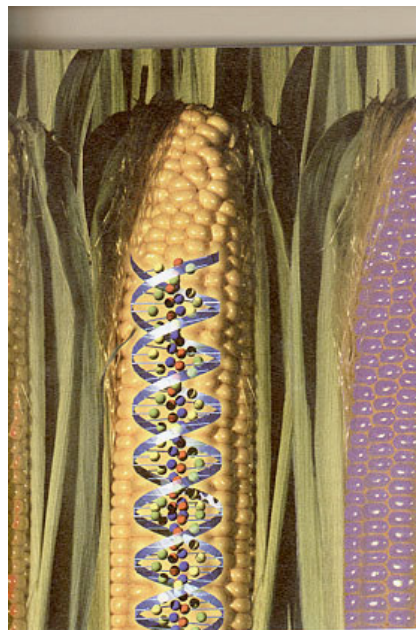
It is unclear whether the GE corn was carried deep into Mexico by birds, or was intentionally spread there by corporations or governments promoting GE crops.

All genetically engineered varieties of corn are owned and patented by transnational corporations. The only legal way to acquire such seeds is to purchase them from the corporation holding the patent. Such patents are called "intellectual property" and their enforcement under international law has been a major goal of "free trade" agreements in recent years. The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** contains strict protections for **Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs)**, and patented forms of life, such as GE crops, are explicitly covered by TRIPs.

Under WTO rules, national governments are required to protect the intellectual property rights of corporations. In the U.S. and Canada, farmers have complained that they have become victims of gene drift, or genetic pollution, as GE crops have drifted across property lines,

contaminating non-GE crops with patented GE varieties. Genetic drift of GE crops to non-GE fields has, in fact, been well documented and even the GE corporations and their regulators in government acknowledge that it is a serious problem.

Now, however, Monsanto, a leading supplier of GE seeds, has cleverly turned the tables on the alleged victims of genetic pollution by suing them for stealing Monsanto's patented genes. In the first case that came to trial, in Canada in 2001, Monsanto sued Percy Schmeiser, an organic farmer who complained of genetic pollution.



Corn is a main target of GE food tampering.

Monsanto said that after 40 years of growing crops organically, Mr. Schmeiser had a change of heart and decided to raise a genetically engineered crop by stealing Monsanto's patented genes. Monsanto won and Schmeiser must pay. With this important victory in the bank, Monsanto now has similar lawsuits pending against farmers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Indiana, and Louisiana. Thus farmers that fall victim to genetic pollution may find

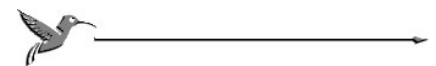
themselves sued for violating the intellectual property rights of a corporation and be forced to compensate the genetic polluter.

The purpose of patenting seeds is to prevent seed saving – the ancient indigenous practice of keeping seeds from this year's crop to grow next year's crop. Farmers who purchase GE seeds sign contracts requiring -- under penalty of law -- that they not save seed from one crop to the next. Thus farmers who employ GE seeds must purchase new seed year after year, making them dependent upon whatever transnational corporation owns the patent. Farmers who can't afford to buy seed each year will simply not be allowed to grow a crop. In free-market societies, such displaced farmers are free to move to a city where they are free to be unemployed.

Today's GE crops can't guarantee that farmers won't save seeds. Corporations intent on preventing seed-saving must hire agents to travel from farm to farm, reporting any unlicensed crops. Such monitoring is expensive.

To avoid the need for monitoring, and to gain 100 percent control over farmers, the GE corporations have developed a new technology -- terminator genes. Terminator genes prevent a crop from reproducing itself unless certain "protector" chemicals are applied to the crop. Any farmer using terminator seeds must buy the "protector" chemicals each year. As terminator technology spreads around the world, it will end indigenous agriculture, and much biodiversity as well. An estimated 1.4 billion indigenous people currently grow their own crops for subsistence, worldwide.

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GE Food and IPs

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In many instances, their land is being eyed for corporate "development" and GE crop technology offers a legal way to separate indigenous people from their land.

The ETC Group (www.etcgroup.org) of Winnipeg, Canada, revealed last week that two of the world's largest genetic engineering firms -- DuPont and Syngenta (formerly Astrazeneca) -- during 2001 were awarded new patents on "terminator" seeds, engineered for sterility. In 1999, Syngenta's (then Astrazeneca's) Research and Development Director claimed that all work on terminator technology had ceased in 1992, but the ETC Group found that the Director was either mistaken or dissembling: Syngenta's latest terminator patent was applied for March 22, 1997 and awarded May 8, 2001.

"Terminator [technology] is a real and present danger for global food security and biodiversity -- governments and civil society cannot afford to let 'suicide seeds' slip beneath their radar," said Hope Shand, Research Director of the ETC Group.

Despite the grim social consequences that seem likely to follow the widespread adoption of genetically engineered crops, few scientists have questioned the safety of the technology itself. The major GE corporations have insisted for 15 years that their technology is thoroughly understood, reliable, and safe, and government regulators have agreed (or at least remained silent).

Now a new report, released this month, asserts that the scientific theory underpinning the genetic engineering industry is dangerously outdated and wrong.[5] The new

report, by Dr. Barry Commoner of Queens College, City University of New York, says, "The genetically engineered crops now being grown represent a massive uncontrolled experiment whose outcome is inherently unpredictable. The results could be catastrophic," the report says.

At present, 68 percent of U.S. soybean acreage, 26 percent of our corn acreage, and more than 69 percent of our cotton acreage have been genetically engineered. "[A]ny artificially altered genetic system, given the magnitude of our ignorance, must sooner or later give rise to unintended, potentially disastrous, consequences," says the new report.

The safety assurances of the genetic engineering industry are based on the scientific premise that one gene controls one characteristic. If this is true, then removing a gene from one species and inserting it into a new species will give the new species one new characteristic, no more and no less.

Unfortunately the theory that a single gene controls a single characteristic, while it may have seemed true 40 years ago, is known to be wrong today:

1) Genes are composed of segments of DNA, a long molecule coiled up within each cell's nucleus.

2) The 40-year old theory (developed by Francis Crick, who, with James Watson, discovered DNA in 1953), says that DNA strictly controls the production of RNA which in turn strictly controls the creation of proteins which give rise to specific inherited characteristics. Because DNA is the same in all creatures, this theory says that a gene will produce a particular protein (and a particular characteristic) no matter what species it finds itself in -- thus making it possible for the genetic engineering corporations to claim that inserting genes from one species to another will not lead to any surprises or dangerous side effects.

3) It was -- of all things -- the Human Genome Project that

revealed most starkly that Crick's theory was wrong. There are about 100,000 different proteins in a human and, if Crick were right, there should be 100,000 genes to produce these proteins. However, the Human Genome Project announced last February that humans have only about 30,000 genes. (See many articles in SCIENCE Feb. 16, 2001.) Thus there must be something more than mere genes controlling the development of proteins and the resulting characteristics.

4) Actually, scientists had known for many years (since 1981 in the case of human genes) that after DNA creates RNA, the RNA can split into several parts, giving rise to several different proteins and several different characteristics. This is called "alternative splicing." By 1989 more than 200 scientific papers had been published describing alternative splicing.

5) As cells split and reproduce themselves, their DNA molecule also reproduces itself, but sometimes errors occur in DNA reproduction. Special proteins repair these errors of reproduction, so genetic inheritance is not simply a matter of genes -- it's a matter of interaction between genes and repair proteins. Will these complex interactions always work reliably and identically when a gene is placed into the entirely new environment of a different species?

6) Proteins function as they do because of two characteristics: they have a specific chemical (molecular) make-up, and they are physically folded into a particular shape. The Crick theory assumes that a particular gene always gives rise to a single protein that is chemically identical and is identically folded. However, scientists now know that proteins get folded in a particular way by the presence of additional "chaperone" proteins. More protein-gene interactions.

7) Furthermore, during the 1980s, in searching for the causes of fatal "mad cow" disease, scientists made the startling discovery that some proteins can reproduce themselves without involving any DNA whatever -- an impossibility according to the Crick theory. These proteins are now called "prions" and, as Dr. Commoner points out, they reveal that processes far removed from the Crick theory are at work in molecular genetics and can give rise to fatal disease.

Story continues on page 5

GE Foods and IPs

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Thus the basic theory underlying genetic engineering of crops is quite wrong. Single genes are important, but they do not invariably give rise to a single characteristic in an organism. A gene's action is modified by alternative splicing, by proteins that repair errors in reproduction, and by the chaperones that fold the final protein into its active shape.

In nature, such a system works reliably within a species because it has been tested and refined for thousands of years. But when a single gene is removed from its familiar surroundings and transplanted into an alien species, the new host's system is likely to be "disrupted in unspecified, imprecise, and inherently unpredictable ways," the Commoner report concludes. In practice these disruptions are revealed by the vast number of failures that occur whenever a gene transplant is attempted.

Most ominously, the report points out, **Monsanto Corporation** acknowledged in 2000 that its genetically modified soybeans contained some extra fragments of a transferred gene. Despite this, the company announced that it expected "no new proteins" to appear in the GE soybeans. Then during 2001, Belgian researchers announced that the soybean's own DNA had been scrambled during the insertion of the new gene. "The abnormal DNA was large enough to produce a new protein, a potentially harmful protein," Dr. Commoner concludes.

Thus genetically engineered crops threaten not only the agricultural systems and the cultural survival of all indigenous people, but also the food security and safety of all people everywhere. •

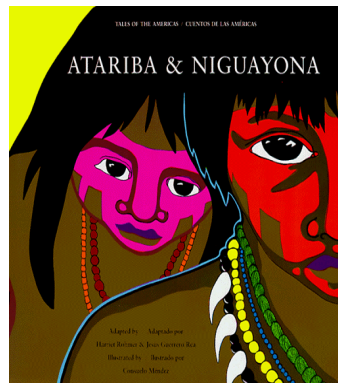
UCTP Gets Web Award

The internet website of the United Confederation of Taino People, <http://www.uctp.org/> has been reviewed and chosen to bear the **2002-2003 Golden Web Award**.



The award is an initiative of webmasters and designers in over 145 countries worldwide, members of the International Association of Web Masters & Designers. In recognition of this achievement we would like to offer a special thanks to UCTP Webmaster, **Glenn Welker**, for all his hard work in maintaining our site. •

Book Announcement



Atariba and Niguayona: A Story from the Taino People of Puerto Rico

by Harriet Rohmer, Guerrero Rea Jesus, Jesus Guerrero Rea, Mendez Cast, Rosalma Zubizarreta
(Translator)

ISBN: 0892390263

Revised edition (February 1988)

A Taino Indian story about a young boy and his search for the healing *Caimoni* tree. Colorful illustrations, Bi-Lingual: English and Spanish. ♥

Peltier denied parole as new FBI documents released

By **CONNIE PARISH**, Times Staff Writer

Despite another failed attempt to persuade a hearing officer to recommend parole for Indian activist **Leonard Peltier**, a lead attorney thinks he will be released before 2008.

Ramsey Clark, U.S. attorney general in the Johnson administration, discussed the case after Tuesday's hearing with a parole examiner. Clark and Washington, D.C., attorney Carl Nadler argued in Peltier's behalf at the U.S. Penitentiary, where he is serving the 27th year of two life sentences for the murder of two FBI agents.

Agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams were killed during a fire fight at the Pine Ridge, S.D., reservation on June 26, 1975. Clark and Nadler, as well as other supporters, contend Peltier was convicted on flimsy evidence, while FBI officials continue to insist he is a cold-blooded murderer who should never be paroled.

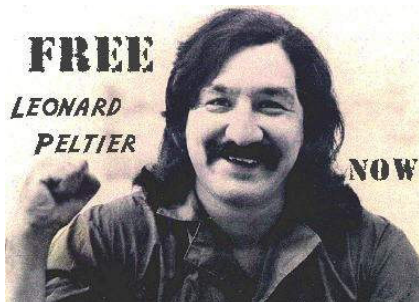
Also arguing for Peltier's release Tuesday was Paul Berg, who taught school at the reservation from 1971-76, in the midst of confrontations between the FBI and the American Indian Movement. Berg keeps a picture of Sarah Wounded Foot, one of his 15-year-old students who was "murdered (by an FBI agent) and tortured for one to two hours before she died."

Apparently several of her family members were involved in the American Indian Movement. The special agent responsible for her death pleaded to manslaughter, Berg said, "and I hear he was out in four to six years." Another friend who worked at the school with him, Hobart Horse, was run over by vigilantes and eventually died of numerous gunshot wounds. The six who killed him also served short sentences.

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Peltier Denied Parole

Horse, whom he described as "proud of his Vietnam service," was "marginally involved in the American Indian Movement," Berg said. "My testimony today was basically that a two-tiered system of justice is being operated here," he said. If the victim is white, law enforcement or otherwise part of the power structure, Berg contends the system goes all out to convict and hold the one blamed for the murder. On the other hand, accused killers of Native Americans don't get the same treatment, which he thinks leads them to believe their lives are meaningless. Clark calls the denial of parole a "pitiful failure not to take an opportunity to do something right for the indigenous people.



"Leonard Peltier is the longest-serving prisoner from the Indian wars and they admit they didn't prove who shot the agents." Even if Peltier were guilty of first-degree murder, "which he isn't," Clark quickly adds, "26 years is excessive under the circumstances, especially considering it was a fire fight." He's hopeful the 30,000 pages of documents the FBI recently released to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee will provide new ammunition in their fight for Peltier's release.

Denis Moynihan, acting coordinator for the Lawrence organization, said the 11 boxes of documents are just part of what the FBI has. Several of Peltier's attorneys and key supporters plan a "working

weekend" beginning July 20, poring over the pages. They will present a benefit forum for the public from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on

July 20 at the Plymouth Congregational Church. Clark said there are "dozens of things" the attorneys hope to uncover in the pages released through the Freedom of Information Act. For example, "There's a lot of evidence agents, including Coler and Williams, had an arrest warrant for a guy named Little Jimmy Eagle and came out and checked with someone the night before (the fatal fire fight)," Clark said.

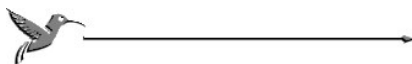
The government has argued the agents were looking for Peltier and that Peltier knew it, which Clark disputes. The former attorney general also thinks it likely they may be able to prove the FBI "fabricated evidence" to convict Peltier, in which case he thinks the government would "no longer protest his release."

But even if that doesn't happen, several avenues are open for his release, Clark said. They plan to appeal the parole recommendation on several grounds -- Peltier's failing health and the fact that his "good works continue."

And there's always the continuing attempt for a presidential pardon, he said. "We've detected weaknesses today that we've seen repeatedly," Clark said. "I think we'll get him out before 2008 (the date for a full parole hearing, rather than just one examiner, which occurs every two years). But every day hurts."

He added, "This is such a tragic injustice for the people involved and such a tragedy for the country that in the 21st century we still have such a multi-tiered system of justice." •

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If you are Taino, Arawak, or Carib and would like to take part in our UCTP Population Census and Registration Project, please visit our website or write to our U.S. postal address.

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The Taíno Language

As per the request of our readers, in this issue we have included more Taíno words translated in English and Spanish, which your family can practice.

1. **Anón:** Fruit - Fruta del árbol del mismo nombre (Anonasquamosa)
2. **Arike:** Cord made from a palm fiber - Cordel hecho de una tira de yagua
3. **Amoná:** Mona island - La islilla la Mona
4. **Barakutei:** Solitary - Ave, animal o persona sin companero, solitario.
5. **Biha:** Achiote Seed or tree -El árbol llamado en Puerto Rico achiote. (Bixa orellana). La semilla del fruto servia sola, o mezclada
6. **Bohike:** healer - curandero/a
7. **kaguaio:** Little lizard - La lagartija
8. **kaimito:** type of Fruit tree - Arbol frutal (Chrysophyllum caimito)
9. **kanoa:** Canoe
10. **koroho:** Type of palm - Una especie de palmera. (Cocos crispa.)

Until next time, keep practicing.
Han Han'catu (yes, so be it - asi-sea) •

Community Bulletin Board

Important Notices...

As an extension of the LVTP news journal initiative, the UCTP invites you to join our **new online information** and resource list-server hosted at Yahoo.com. To **subscribe** to this **online news list**, please just send an email to:

Taino_News-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

The **Taino News List** is also part of another UCTP website which files

all the previous news postings by month. If you would like to access this website, you can visit:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Taino_news

Special Recognition and Announcements...

Congratulations to UCTP Southwest Liaison Officer, **DeAnna Rivera** who is working with the **Native American Rights Fund (NARF)** this summer before returning to Law School at the University of Arizona. DeAnna's achievements are a wonderful example for our entire community!

Congratulations to **John Brown Ayes** on his recent art exhibition at the Melvin Art Gallery in Florida.



John Brown Ayes with on of his works at the Melvin Art Gallery in Florida.

Taíno Educational Video Programs continue to be available free! NYC's **Manhattan Neighborhood Network** is currently sponsoring the video streaming of our Taíno and Indigenous Educational Series produced by **Roger Atihuíbancex Hernandez**, in collaboration with the UCTP. The programming airs every Monday night at 10:30pm (EST) via the World Wide Web. Just tune into **Channel 67** on the **MNN.ORG** website to download and view the weekly thirty-minute installments. If you cannot get

the show online, **VCD** copies can be ordered, which can be viewed directly on your computer. For more information, please contact: rjhny@yahoo.com ...

Happy Birthdays...

Our July, August and September Birthday wishes go out to **Carmen Borrero- DeJesus**; **La Voz** Publisher, **Roberto Múcaro Borrero**; **Robert Luis Borrero**; **Frankie Borrero Jr.**

Editor's Note: The staff at 'La Voz' looks forward to hearing from all of you, and we thank you for your comments, suggestions, and inquires. To submit items to the **Community Bulletin Board**, please email your request to the Chief Editor at rjhny@yahoo.com

Did you remember to renew your annual subscription to "La Voz del Pueblo Taíno"? If you already have then maybe you would consider sending another subscription as a gift to a relative or friend. You can even contribute a subscription to our DOC Educational Outreach Program. A \$10 dollar donation can go a long way in keeping our community together!

UN Earth Summit 2002

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD - Johannesburg Summit 2002) will take place from 26 August to 4 September 2002 in South Africa. The Summit hopes to bring together tens of thousands of participants, including heads of State and Government, national delegates and leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other major groups such as Indigenous Peoples to focus the world's attention and direct action toward meeting difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security. The UCTP plans to be represented at this historic gathering. ■

CALENDER OF EVENTS

• United Nations International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Date: 9 August, 2002 • Place: United Nations Headquarters, NY

Sponsored by the NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the UN Department of Public Information, this is the eighth historic commemoration of the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Master of Ceremonies for the event is UCTP Rep. Roberto Múcaro Borrero and the day's activities will feature Native American Drums, Aboriginal Music with Cameron McCarthy, and a presentation of Native Hawaiian Dance and song by Halau Kumana. The opening of a photographic exhibition focusing on the Indigenous Peoples of Papua New Guinea "Where Mask still Dance" will also take place. For more information contact ngo_ip_undecade@yahoo.com

• United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development

Date: 26 August – 4 September 2002 • Place: Johannesburg, South Africa

At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the international community adopted Agenda 21, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development. But the best strategies are only as good as their implementation. Ten years later, the Johannesburg Summit presents an exciting opportunity for today's leaders to adopt concrete steps and identify quantifiable targets for better implementing Agenda 21. For information see: http://www.johannesburgsummit.org/html/basic_info/basicinfo.html

• VIEQUES Walk-A-Thon FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE

Date: 26 October 2002 • Time: 9am – 7pm • Place: Begins at 125 St., Manhattan, NY

Hundreds of people will participate in what will be a spectacular show of solidarity with the people of Vieques, Puerto Rico. You don't want to miss an exciting sport event, traveling through the streets of Manhattan, New York City, which will call for peace and the immediate halt to the U.S. Navy bombing of Vieques. Look for the UCTP Delegation. For information contact the Vieques Support Campaign at (212) 677-0619, (718)601-4751 or by e-mail viequessc@yahoo.com

• Amerindian Heritage Month

Date: September

Our relatives in Guyana and elsewhere will be organizing various activities in recognition of this state sponsored observance.

• Anti-Columbus Day Actions

Date: October 2002

Keep on the lookout for the various UCTP sponsored events calling for an end to Columbus Day in the Americas. Events include the Transform Columbus Day activities in Colorado, the Burning of the Papal Bulls in Hawaii and the Anti-Columbus Day Rally in Syracuse New York. For information about these and other activities, contact the UCTP at uctp_ny@yahoo.com

**The Voice of the Taino People
C/O UCTP Office of International Relations
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