• Drum groups sought for universal ceremony

Gyrations in dances conveyed messages to the spirit world, while the sound of the drum travelled through the universe with approval from a living world.

At the fall of man, at the spitting of the serpent's tongue, all other life ceased to speak, one by one, and the drums became our link in time.

We searched and were led to this land where an era was still innocent. We were to heed what the animals and birds had to say — and we listened and witnessed, one by one, as the world became reticent. Thus, our drums increased sacredly.

Thousands of years later, it is still a sad story. We don't cling to tradition and culture, because it is us. It is our past, our present, our future: Three words meaning eternity. This land made us what we are: One.

The Parade of Spirits to be celebrated annually, beginning with a thousand drums and increasing each year by another thousand, will give us 10,000 drums in the year 2000 — the end of this commitment.

To commemorate this universal ceremony, a magazine of photographs will be compiled after the dedication. All drumming groups wishing to participate in the initial rite are asked to send a photo of the participants.

Please include names, tribes and titles. For more information, please write to:

Orre Drumrite Walking Heritage
P.O. Box 221689
Anchorage 99522-1689

Bumper stickers stating: "Parade of the Spirits, 1000 Drums" are also available.

Russell Metoxen said, "It is not progress when we leave someone behind." The drumming ceremony is being organized for expressions and feelings such as this.

Our homeless street Indian needs to be led back to stability. Foundations are what are on the bottom, not who is at the top. Our street people are our foundations.

With respect, we must gently reach out for them. With no more Native American street people, we will be undefeated. Drummers, stand up and be counted.

Elizabeth A. Wells, director
Orre Drumrite Walking Heritage
Anchorage

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