

To the Editor:

Perhaps Mike Baird had a bad holiday season. What else can explain his strange and distortion laden article in yesterday's Caller Times? ("Tribal Leaders Rebut Confederation, 1/5/06). Readers interested in further discussion of this issue are encouraged to go to my website at <http://www.flma.org/gcic.html>, which will also include an unedited version of this letter. In the meantime I will rise to the bait and will correct some of the falsehoods and misrepresentations his article contains and perpetuates, although I will of course NOT rise to his bait of criticizing the Indians he mentions in his article, something which I suspect may be his ulterior motive.

These are the facts:

- 1.) There ARE members of the Gulf Coast Indian Confederation who are members of federally recognized tribes.
- 2.) The Confederation's efforts at enforcing NAGPRA are far from over, so Mr. Baird's characterization of the matter as "unsuccessful" are wrong.
- 3.) Federal recognition is not a prerequisite under NAGPRA to seeking the law's enforcement, or to requesting repatriation.
- 4.) NAGPRA is a civil and human rights law that is not conditioned on land ownership. NAGPRA's provisions, in fact, have been enforced on private land.

I suggest that Mr. Baird may wish to get his facts straight before attempting to pit Indians against one another in such a sad and lame fashion. Indians have seen this nonsense many times before, and the Confederation, unlike Mr. Romero, will not publicly criticize other Indians for Mr. Baird's enjoyment.

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