



# TRIBAL NATIONS STAND PROUD

By our arts editor  
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**T**HE TRIBAL nations of southern New England are experiencing renewed awareness and pride in their old traditional ways, despite ongoing colonial pressures.

The state terminated the Indian District status of Gay Head and Mashpee, incorporating them into towns in 1870, against the will of the people. Herring Pond tribe became part of the town of Plymouth; and the Nipmuc were declared no longer a tribe in 1869. Laws, however, cannot change who people are—and so they continue.

Traditional governance with chiefs, medicine people, and councils has been reaffirmed.

Mashpee and Herring Pond established an annual powwow in 1921, holding it at Herring Pond the first few years before moving it to Mashpee. Now in its 14th year, the powwow is attended by many tribes from throughout New England. Nipmuc people established their powwow at Hassanamisco in 1924, on land never ceded to the U.S. Along with dancing, singing, drumming, and traditional foods, powwows maintain strong community and kinship ties.

The Gay Headers developed *The Legends of Maushop*, a play based on oral histories handed down generations about a giant who created the Cape and Islands. Community members reenact these ancient stories in Maushop's

old home on top of Gay Head's beautiful colored clay cliffs.

CALVIN COOLIDGE—former Governor of Massachusetts and U.S. Vice President—became the 30th President in 1923 after President Warren G. Harding died suddenly. Coolidge presided over the boom years of the “Roaring Twenties” and much of the Prohibition era. A man of few words, “Silent Cal” signed the act granting citizenship to all U.S.-born Native Americans in 1924. His presidency ended on the eve of the Great Depression, which hit people in Massachusetts hard, shutting factories and causing widespread unemployment.