

THE TURTLE SAYS
THE WOMEN CAN DANCE

by
Monica Herbold

I have marks on my back that look like women
therefore I am the reason the women got to dance
back in the ancient ceremonies.
My purpose in these ceremonies was to tell the men
that all the women get to dance –
not just the men.

WE ARE TSALAGI

by
Rachel Armachain,
Monica Herbold,
John Harlan,
Jennifer Holt,
Kelli Walkingstick,
and Kristy Maney

We are proud of our cultural heritage
Respectful of our ancient traditions
Passing on the great gift of remembering
We are Cherokee.

We are proud of our unique language
Respectful of our determined ancestors
Passing on the great gift of
Producing our crafts.

We are proud of our never-dying knowledge
Respectful of our wise Elders
Passing on the great gift of
Our spiritual beauty.

"We Are Tsalagi" was written by six students in Marijo Moore's poetry class: **Rachel Armachain**, a senior at Cherokee High, plans to attend college to major in creative writing. She also loves beading and weaving. **Monica Herbold**, a junior at Cherokee High, loves to write and dreams to one day do a lot of traveling. **John Harlan**, a senior at Cherokee High, loves to carve stone: "My granddaddy is teaching me to carve pipes in the old way." **Jennifer Holt**, an eighth grader, spends her summers on the Qualla Boundary with her grandmother learning about her Cherokee culture. **Kelli Walkingstick**, a ninth grader, loves to write poetry and design her own cards. She's also grateful that her parents "encourage me to express myself through art and writing." **Kristy Maney**, an avid reader who loves to write poetry, wants to study literature and art in college. She is a senior at Cherokee High School.