

WHAT NEXT???

It is very interesting to watch the sweeping tide of so-called conservatism...these guys basically wanted to get government off our backs but somehow that desire manifests itself in an entirely different manner which results in even more governmental intervention and control...the most intimate and private parts of our lives are no longer inviolable.

Years ago de Toequerville noted Americans' odd contradiction between 'the desire to carve his own destiny without outside interference and his fear of holding opinions that might isolate him from the majority.' Somehow conservatives have tapped into this contradiction and, while publicly proclaiming less governmental interference, have actually promoted more. If one dares to disagree with conservative spokesmen, one courts the wrath of such groups as the Congressional Club. One needs only to look at recent Supreme Court decisions to realize the impact of conservative opinion...more censorship in the press, art, books...more intervention in reproductive rights...more decisions permitting greater governmental intrusion into private matters...even more decisions allowing police the power to stop individuals and make frivolous searches without the benefit of a search warrant.

Men such as Jesse Helms and Ronald Reagan ran on a ticket dedicated to reducing the intrusion of government into our private lives...we have witnessed the results of such promises and while many so-called conservatives now probably relish the turn around, in the not too distant future, they too will realize the potential for undermining a constitutional, democratic government. We only pray conservatives wake up before it's too late!

White politicians are learning harsh lessons in today's social and political arena. The very foundation of our

country's greatness is built upon the principle that freedom lies in the acceptance of necessity. Such an idea promotes compromise and to insure the growth and greatness of America, compromise must be possible. A threat to our country comes from those individuals who feel they are morally superior and correct and therefore refuse to consider an alternative viewpoint. While this might frustrate some white liberals, American Indians know very well from harsh experience the destruction and never ending threat of such unreflecting, judgemental "righteousness."

Some of our county commissioners fail to see the value of re-districting. A few aimed to perpetuate their own careers as "public servants." Some were successful...others were not! Those who were unsuccessful in gerrymandering and thereby insuring re-election were upset because they were not guaranteed re-election. And so some individuals appeared before the public to register their complaint...the public took notice and even without redistricting...some politicians doomed their own careers.

...Doubting Thomas? President Bush's selection of Clarence Thomas for the U.S. Supreme Court is rapidly coming under even greater fire as a result of revelations claiming Thomas sexually harassed a former employee.

While Thomas might weather this storm, we remain even more concerned with President Bush's tendency to recommend, appoint, and select the marginally qualified or character-flawed for high governmental positions. First Bush picks Dan Quayle, then Robert Gates for the head of the CIA, now Clarence Thomas.

Clearly, in our opinion, if Bush continues the pattern of making such tragic selections for high governmental positions, then our country stands a better chance than average of collapsing from within.

Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knick, Director PSU Native American Resource Center

Another issue facing Native Americans today concerns the use of stereotypes. A stereotype is a fixed notion or conception about a person or group of people, such as the one which says that all Scotsmen are frugal with their money. And Native American people have been subjected to their share of stereotypes in the 500 years since Columbus was discovered. Many stereotypes persist today.

One of the most common stereotypes about Indians is that they are stoical (pronounced: sto-ick-el), which means "indifferent to joy or suffering." This stereotype comes in part from the classic photographs of the late 1800's depicting famous chiefs with serious expressions on their faces. People who accept this stereotype about Indians would probably be surprised to find out how important humor is in Indian communities. And they might be surprised to discover that open expression of strong feelings is also part of Native American life. While it is true that Native Americans have had much to be stoical about during U.S. history, the stoical stereotype doesn't hold up in the real world of Indian communities today.

Another common stereotype about Indians is the image of the "loner." There are countless examples from art and literature which show a lone Indian, usually described as a "chief" or a "brave" or a "warrior," but sometimes a "princess" is included as well. The oftentimes depictions of the "End of the Trail," with an Indian

sitting on a horse (both usually with their heads down), fit into, and in part are responsible for, this "loner" stereotype. People who imagine "the Native American" as a loner would be surprised to find out how important family and kinship are to most Indian people. And while it may be true that Native Americans sometimes find themselves alone in a big city or on a college campus far away from their home community, it is equally true that Indian people often seek out other Native Americans in those circumstances. Even when the immediate family or kin group is not on hand, there is often another group, such as a Native American Student Organization or an Urban Indian Center, to provide that sense of "belonging" which is so important in most traditional cultures.

Some stereotypes about Indians have even been accepted by other Indians. One of the most common of these is the stereotype about what kind of headdress a "chief" should wear. Thus we see Indian men from Maine to Florida wearing the feathered "war bonnet" which would only be appropriate for the highest ranking chiefs in Plains cultures. The notion arose among non-Indians that in order for a man to be considered a "real Indian chief" he had to wear this style of headdress; over time, many Indian people came to believe it too. The trouble with this and other stereotypes is that most often they spread less than the truth.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

The Coach's Corner

By Ken Johnson

THE MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

The American League begins play Tuesday night in the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Manager Tom Kelly, according to Jack Morris, has kept the team focused. The "worst to first" come back of the Twins is due to the fine pitching of Erickson at 19 games won. Morris won 18, Tapani at 16 wins, and Jeff Reardon's 41 saves and Aguilera's 40 saves. And they got great hitting from All Star Puckett, Hrbeck, Gagne, Gladden, all contributed including Davis' 28 homers and 91 runs batted in.

The Toronto Blue Jays with All Stars Joe Carter and Roberto Alomar and Center fielders Devon White, the speed of Devo White and Alomar makes them tough as they beat the Twins in the noisy Metrodome with a 6-3 record but this means very little in the play offs. It is anybody's series.

The Pittsburgh Pirates and the Atlanta Braves as the

under dogs promises a great series. The Braves may win it, Deion Sanders doing an heroic job with the undefeated New Orleans Saints and his speed on the base paths will be something to behold. One wonders how he will do for Atlanta. I hope Steve Avery 3.38 ERA, Glavine 2.55 ERA and the whole pitching staff can hold off Pittsburgh as they have better statistics--Example- Catchers, Olson-Atlanta .241; Slaughter- Pitts. .295; First base Bream- Atl. .275; Merced, Pitts. .275; However, Treadway, Atlanta 320; and Pendleton, Atl. with his .319 are higher averages than Pittsburgh. Bonilla, Pitts. .302, Justice atl. .275. Shortstop- Bellard, Atl. .249; Bell, Pitts. .27

However, Breaks intensity, desire, drive cannot be compared with statistics, so pitching and errors play a greater role in who wins.

Minnesota looks the best but then Toronto can also do it. Win.

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