### DOING THE RIGHT THING

One time I found some money on the school bus on the way home. It was five dollars, a lot of money in 1955. As soon as I got home, I told my mother about my good luck. "You'll have to give that money back, son," she told me. "Someone else has lost it and needs it." We had always heard "Finders Keepers, losers weepers." I guess that was my philosophy of life about that money. It had candy, soda pop, movies, and hamburgers written all over it. But the next day I had to turn that money in to the office. Mr. Elmer took it, and told me a girl had lost it the day before on the first bus.

(We rode the second bus). The money was laying right between the seats, and to this day I don't know why someone else didn't see it before I did. The girl who lost it was going to put it down as her first payment on her yearbook, or graduation gown rental. She was very happy to get it back. We all have had similar experiaces. And we have not all done the right thing all the time. We have had plenty of people telling us what the right thing was, however. One of the most influential ones for me was my Aunt Dimple. She was my grandfather's sister, Dimple Revels. But we saw a lot more of her than we did of my grandparents. She and Uncle Lonnie lived right across the swamp from us, less than a mile away.

One time I was mad at my mother about something. I was saying some bad things about her and our disagreement. I don't remember what the subject was any more. it was so long ago. But I do remember Aunt Dimple told me, "Just remember, Dean, she is your mother." That comment stopped me in my tracks. It made me think,

then and a thousand times since, before I said something about somebody. That comment was a wise one. It was about doing the right thing

We all know the right ming is to build peop tear them down. Yet it is very easy to yield to th temptation of passing on a good, juicy piece of gr If we stopped and thought that at least 90% of go vicious rumors, half truths, outright lies, and char assassination, we would not pass along very much of the things we hear about people. But we seldom stop and think before we pass it along. But for the past several years, I have taken what I though of as a perverse pride in sitting on rumors.

When I hear one, I take pride in not repeating it to anyone. At first I thought I could not do it; many pieces of gossip are too juicy. But after practicing it a few times, I learned I could stifle the urge, and keep it to myself. Probably most of that ability I owe to my mother and to Aunt Dimple. It is just a shame that I did not apply it always in my earlier years. Maybe one of the reasons we do not always do the right thing is that we do not

A few years ago, I looked up the word "wisdom" in the dictionary. It told me wisdom was knowing what was right from what was wrong. It also told me that wisdom was not only in the abstract, but the ability to tell right from wrong in the real world. Until that time, I had thought of wisdom as being something revealed to sa wise men and women, and the old. But it is not. It is something that all of us need. When we do the wrong thing, we are being unwise. When we do the right thing, we are being wise.

- 1. In The Line Of Fire starring
- Clint Eastwood
- 2. The Firm Tom Cruise
- Jurassic Park Jeff Goldblum
   The Coneheads Dan Aykroyd
   Weekend At Bernie's 2
- Andrew McCarthy
  6. Sleepless In Seattle Tom Hanks
  7. Dennis The Menace Walter
- 8. Cliffhanger Sylvester Stallone 9. What's Love Got To Do With
- It Angela Bassett
  10. Rookie Of The Year Thomas

The Carolina Indian Voice-Call 521-2826

# Pediatric **Pointers**



I'm writing my article this week from the Dallas Fort Worth Airport. We just flew in from Denver and I am (as ver been through the Dallas Fort Worth airport? If you aven't you are lucky! If you have been through it, you now what I'm talking about. I had the honor last week I speaking at the augual Native American Family Cam sored by the Native American Caucus of the United Methodist Church. This year the camp was at Estes Park, Colorado, located about 70 miles north of Denver in the spectacular Rocky Mountains (ever seen snow apped mountains in July?)! Even more spectacular than the view was the family camp itself, with Native Americans from all over this country in one location trying to do something constructive for the future of Native people. From the 84 year old sisters from Cherokee, to the beautiful 4 month old from Michigan, they came together as one—Seminole, Creek, Seneca, Potawattomi Lumbee, Navajo, Nanticoke, Coharie, Cherokee, Ottawa, Kiowa, Choctaw, Sac and Fox, and more. It was

I was asked to speak at the camp on medical issues secific to Native Americans, and I spoke primarily about Diabetes, Obesity, and fetal alcohol syndrome. At the keynote address I told the audience that we as Native people really hurt ourselves by what we put in our nouths; if we could control what we eat and drink, our health would be much better. Better nutrition and exercise is a great way to control diabetes and obenir-

exercise is a great way to control diabetes and obesity and limit the adverse effects they have on our bodies. Of course, decreasing alcohol ingestion would help lower the high rate of alcoholism and fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) in our communities. As mentioned in one of my March articles, FAS is a birth defect caused by ingestion of alcohol by the mother while pregnant. It may be the leading cause of mental returnation in this country and has its highest rate among Native Americans.

We must remember our responsibility to the unborn child by educating our communities and outporting any individual with a drinking problem. I also had the pleasure of working with the Native American Bone Marrow Donor Program at the Family Camp. As I mentioned in one of my April articles, there is a critical need for Native American donors for leukumin patient in need of a bone marrow transplant. Remember, it is a potential cure for these patients with leukemia. So let's potential cure for these patients with leukemia. So let's roll up our sleeves, get over that fear of needles, and get registered! My wife and I are. If you can't he a donor for health reasons or age, a money donation would be great, also. For details, call 1-800-654-1247. Reme ber, some patients don't have the time to wait while you decide whether or not to be a donor!

Well, that's a small sampling of what was happening the family camp this past week. Again, it was great to see Native Americans from across this country discussing not only spiritual matters, but also health care issues that effects our communities.

God bless H.B. and Shirley Bullard and Carol Carlson of the Bone Marrow Donor Program, the James Jones Family (let's go fishing)!, Oscar Jacobs, Mary J. Bell, Dr. Sam Wynn, Cynthia Abrahms, The Church Family from Michigan, the group from Cherokee, the Nanticuke lady with the beautiful voice, Rev. and Mrs. Bob Mangum, and especially the Native American Caucus and the United Methodist Church. Keep up the good work! Well, looks like it's finally time for our plane to board. Hey, where is my daughter? I'd better go! See you next

- 1. Magazines: How much did TV Guide cost when it was introduced in
- 2. The 50 States: Which state has the longest coastline?
  3. The Presidency: What are the
- requirements to become president of the United States?
- 4. History: When was V-E Day? 5. Nicknames: Who was known as the "Vagabond Lover?" 6. Medals: What phrase is on the
- Victoria Cross?
- 7. Movies: Who starred in "Walking Tall?"
- 8. Music: Who recorded the December, 1969 number one hit single, "Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye?"

Valour," 7. Joe Don Baker, 8. Steam residence, 35 years of age; 4. May 8, born citizen, at least 14 years U.S. I. 15 cents; 2. Alaska; 3. natural-

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