

# The Way I See It

by Dr. Donn Chavers, President  
Native American Scholarship Fund  
Albuquerque, NM



## PLAYING POLITICS WITH OUR CHILDREN

As I write this, I am frustrated. Yesterday over 150 Indians and other interested parties attended a meeting with the President, Provost, and Vice President of the University of New Mexico. This was our seventh or eighth meeting with them in two and half years.

All of this is over one thing - what is the University going to do about the horrendous 83% dropout rate of its Indian students? Dr. Richard Peck, the UNM President, started off the meeting with a pledge that he was committed to addressing the problem of Native American retention.

But that is the same pledge he made to James Lujan, Gene Leitka, and me two and a half years ago. We three went to see him after Dr. Ted Jojola, an Isleta man who is head of Native American Studies at UNM, compiled a report showing the dropout rate for Indian students was 83%.

This horrible result was not a statistic. It was made after following all 4,615 Indian students who entered UNM from 1973 to 1984. Only 803 of them, or 17%, had earned a degree. The report was made in 1988.

Dr. Jojola is to be commended for doing this heroic piece of work.

It is nothing to be happy about, because of the terrible findings. But we do need to know what the status of our young Indian people is.

We went to see Dr. Peck because we wanted the University to develop a plan to address this real problem. I had to make an appointment a month in advance to see him, since he is a busy man. But I cut short my visit to Lumbec Homecoming to come back to Albuquerque to see him.

He gave Jim, Gene, and me good greetings, and promised us he would deal with the problem. His Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Orcilia Zuniga-Forbes, would take the lead on the project, he said.

This promise was made on July 11, 1991. Nothing happened until October, when I got frustrated and called Orcilia. She said "Oh, I'm glad you called. We are planning a meeting for December 6, and we want you to come."

So I had to cut short my trip to the NCAA meeting in San Francisco to make that meeting. We then met four times in a five-month period. Since then we have met three more times. So yesterday was the eighth.

Unfortunately, some of the tribal leaders present said they had heard the same promises two years ago, four years ago or even ten years ago.

The Indian dropout problem has been with UNM, and with at least six other colleges that I know about, for decades. Few if any of them have done much about it.

It is about time they did. As Francis Tafoya from Eight Northern Pueblos stated, he thought this eighth meeting in two and a half years would have started with a planning document for the tribes to review. Instead, we spend from 9:30 to 3:30 listening to basically the same things we heard in December 1991.

Instead of a plan, Orcilia promised to put an Indian Advisory Council together. I think when you want to stop something from happening, or to kill it, or to delay it, you form a committee. The committee can then "study" it, or determine the "feasibility" of it. Often, not much else will happen coming from a committee.

I hate to say it, but Dr. Peck and Co. appear to be playing politics with our children's lives. I don't know what it would take to get them to deal with this difficult problem, and be determined to do a better job of retention of Indian students. If you have some ideas, dear reader, I would like to hear from you. Send your letters via CIV, or call and they will give you my address.

# The Coach's Corner

## Two Fine Golf Tournaments

Both "Super Ball Tournaments." It's like playing "give-away-checkers." You play your ball from where the best shot lies. So in my case you play your drive about 100 yards ahead of where your drive landed. And that was true Saturday in the Ronnie Sutton Super Ball-Garry Strickland-280 yard drives; David Lowry, the same distance; and Mickey Strickland-300 yards when he connected. Mickey did eagle the tough par 5 dogleg and that was the most satisfying shot ever. I thought we were going to win with that but we ended up with a 67, five under par. Not bad at all. It was a great tournament and Grady Hunt and staff off did themselves. Chancellor Oxendine was in it along with Dr. Welton Lowry, a truly fine sportsman, a fine minister. It is just great playing a tournament with these gentlemen.

The PSU tournament was also exceptionally fine. Mac Porter, also a long ball hitter and in our foursome was Todd Reisman, Don Bullard and me. We had 65, but the winners had a 60. Lacy Gane's golfers were better than ever. Mac MacIntyre, class of '66 was in the finals and lost to Bob Clark in a sudden death play off. Both tournaments had exceptionally good golfers.



# Health Clipboard

by Robert M. Chavis, M.D.

Diabetes is a disease that affects a large group of Native Americans. This disease is still growing among Native Americans in the USA. Unfortunately high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, eye and nerve damage usually go hand in hand with diabetes. Research shows that the high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease has started before diabetes if found (diagnosis). The eye and nerve damage is generally related to the duration in years you have diabetes. To make things worse diabetes affects the entire body and decreases the lifespan. Native American tribes across the country have an increase of people that are obese (even overweight) that was not seen as much years ago. Diabetes no longer affects only the middle aged and the elderly, but is increasing found in the young native American nation wide. The Native American community must become aware of the increase in diabetes and learn how to prevent this disease. We must educate our people on how to deal with diabetes before and after getting the disease. Dietary modifications need to be learned. Behavior changes need to be set in place dealing with eating, exercising and obtaining medical treatment when necessary. I hope the coming series of articles on Diabetes will help to start this process.

of Diabetes, Type I (sometimes called insulin-dependent diabetes) and Type II (non-insulin dependent). Obesity is a major risk factor for the development of Diabetes. This usually goes along with Type II Diabetes. The disease is found in this people. These people generally have Type I Diabetes. Diabetes is a disease in which the body cannot properly burn certain foods for energy. Especially carbohydrate foods like sugars and starches that are found in breads, french fries, cereals, pancakes and found in other foods. Insulin a hormone (substance) produced by the pancreas in the body is needed to change glucose (which is blood sugar) and other foods into energy for your body. In Diabetes insulin is not produced in the right amounts or sometimes not produced at all. The result of this problem is a build up of glucose in your blood stream. Glucose is the name of the sugar that has built up in the blood stream. Excess glucose in the blood damages the blood vessels, nerves and almost every organ of the body. I must close this first piece on Diabetes. But think about this, Diabetes is the 3rd leading cause of death in the USA and the number 1 cause of blindness that cannot be repaired.

Hazho'o' nanina'. Be careful; be good. Until next time Robert M. Chavis.

Currently there are two main types



## Your Bible And You

By Daniel Davis



Glorious indeed is the salvation offered in your Bible. Here are glad tidings of deliverance not only from the penalty of sin, but also from its power. And the good news is for everybody, everywhere, in every age.

Under no condition should you feel that you are left out, that this rich provision is not for you.

Your Bible says: "God your Savior... will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all." (I Timothy 2:3-6)

Over and over again this great truth is repeated. Says the apostle Paul to Titus: "The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." (Titus 2:11)

"We see Jesus," says the writer to the Hebrews, "who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death... that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man." (Hebrews 2:9)

When Jesus died on Calvary He reconciled the world unto God (II Corinthians :19). He paid the price of sin. He bridged the gulf that sin had made. After that there was no excuse

for anybody to be separated from God any more.

He made it possible for sinful race to come back into full fellowship with its Maker. As Son of God and Son of man He became "the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)-the way back to the Father, back to God, for all men, for all time.

The glorious transaction is summed up and crystallized in that most exquisite of all Scripture passages: "God so over the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

There it is again-that wonderful whosoever!

How it must have touched the hearts of the first disciples! For "whosoever" meant fishermen as well as rabbis, tax gatherers as well as priests, little people up in Galilee as well as the lords of the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem. It took in the lame, the blind, the cripple, the leper. It left out nobody who wished to be included.

And you know what, it even includes you and I here in Robeson County. No matter who you are, or where you live, no matter how much money you have or don't have- Jesus has a gift of love for you. Won't you take that gift for your very own?

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**On The Pow Wow Circuit**

The following list of upcoming powwows is not intended to be a complete list. Anyone having information about upcoming powwows not listed is encouraged to send them to: Wild Turkey, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372 or fax to (919) 521-1975.

\*March 25-26. Edistos Indian Cultural Festival. American Indian artisans, traders, authentic traditional and fancy dancers. Field Gym adjacent to Football Stadium, South Magnolia Street, Summerville, South Carolina. Contact: (803) 871-3453 or 871-2126.

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