

ALONG THE ROBESON TRAIL

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

Last week we met Simon Ortiz, the Acoma Pueblo writer who is visiting Robeson County to promote awareness of creative writing as a means of artistic expression and cultural survival in the Native American community. We were looking at Ortiz's short story "Kaiser and the War" (from *The Portable North American Indian Reader*). When we left near the end of the story, Kaiser had returned home in the gray suit the prison had given him, but he wasn't the same as he was before:

"My father said Kaiser was quiet all the way home on the bus. Some of the guys tried to joke with him, but he just wouldn't laugh or say anything. When they got off the bus at the highway and began to walk home, the guys went into song, but that didn't bring Kaiser around. He kept walking quiet and reserved in his gray suit. Someone joked that Kaiser probably owned the only suit in the whole tribe."

"You lucky so and so. You look like a rich man," the joker said. The others looked at him sharply and he quit joking, but Kaiser didn't say anything.

"When they reached home, his sister and nephew were very happy to see him. They cried and laughed at the same time, but Kaiser didn't do anything except sit at the kitchen table and look around. My father and the other guys gave him advice and welcomed him home again and left."

"After that, Kaiser always wore his gray suit. Every time you saw him, he was wearing it. Out in the fields or in the plaza watching the katzina, he wore the suit. He didn't talk much any more, my father said, and he didn't come around home any more either. The suit was getting all beat-up looking, but he just kept on wearing it so that some people began to say that he was showing off."

"That Kaiser," they said, "he's always wearing his suit, just like he was an American or something. Who does he think he is, anyway?" And they'd snicker, looking at Kaiser with

a sort of envy. Even when the suit was torn and soiled so that it hardly looked anything like a suit, Kaiser wore it. And some people said, "When he dies, Kaiser is going to be wearing his suit." And they said that like they wished they had gotten a suit like Kaiser's.

"Well, Kaiser died, but without his gray suit. He died up at one of his distant relatives' sheep camps one winter. When someone asked about the suit, they were told by Kaiser's sister that it was rolled up in some newspaper at home. She said that Kaiser had told her, before he went up to the sheep camp, that she was to send it back to the government. But, she said, she couldn't figure out what he meant, whether Kaiser had meant the law or somebody, maybe the state pen or the Indian Affairs."

"The person who asked about the suit wondered about this Kaiser's instructions. He couldn't figure out why Kaiser wanted to send a beat-up suit back. And then he figured, well, maybe that's the way it was when you either went into the state pen or in the army and became an American."

In this story Ortiz gives us a look at the philosophy and culture of Acoma Native Americans as they come into direct conflict with "American" philosophy and culture. The sheriff and Indian Affairs men think they should be able to buy the help of Acoma men in the search for Kaiser; the Acoma men know where their loyalties are. The government men want to be taken seriously; the Acoma men see them comically. Throughout the story Ortiz gives us rich ironies to enlighten our view of his people, and of the government men as well. His talent as a storyteller shines through clearly in "Kaiser and the War."

Ortiz is also widely known as a poet. His works have been published in separate books of his own and in several anthologies of Native American poetry. A collection of his works appears in *Harper's Anthology*

of 20th Century Native American Poetry (edited by Duane Niatum). In some of these poems we see again the author's sense of humor (for example, "The Creation, According to Coyote"). But in several others we also see a very different side of Ortiz — a side which is closely connected to nature and to the land and people of his home.

Take for example "My Father's Song":

Wanting to say things,
I miss my father tonight.
His voice, the slight catch,
the depth from his thin chest,
the tremble of emotion
in something he has just said
to his son, his song:

We planted corn one spring at
Acu—
we planted several times
but this one particular time
I remember the soft damp sand
in my hand.

My father had stopped at one
point
to show me an overturned furrow;
the plowshare had unearthed
the burrow nest of a mouse
in the soft moist sand.

Very gently, he scooped tiny pink
animals
into the palm of his hand
and told me to touch them.
We took them to the edge
of the field and put them in the
shade
of a sand moist clod.

I remember the very softness
of cool and warm sand and tiny
alive mice
and my father saying things.

For more information about Simon Ortiz and his writings, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

REFLECTIONS

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Beautiful Weather
I always loved spring in Montana. But it never arrived until April or May. I still can't quite get used to such beautiful spring like weather as we have been enjoying this early in the season. Along with warmer weather, we have a lot to be thankful for. SPIRITUALLY speaking. As we approach Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter, let's try drawing closer to the God who has made a way for YOU AND ME to have New Life through His Son, Jesus the Christ.

"The Cold War is Over!"
A Broken Record?
"The Cold War is OVER!" "The Cold War is OVER!" "The Cold War is OVER!" To me this sounds like a badly broken record that should have been replaced LONG ago with a more accurate message!

I've read that our former ambassador to Yugoslavia (or his assistant) came up with the term everybody's now using, ETHNIC LEASING, which I believe tells only PART of the story about the warfare in Bosnia.

But who in this world is going to take credit for assuring everyone that the Cold War is ALREADY over? The first time I heard such a statement was when one of the network reports was interviewing people in Germany, as the Berlin Wall was being torn down. The reporter was SO excited. He said, "THIS means that THE COLD WAR IS OVER, doesn't it?" The German interviewer did not sound so sure.

But almost ever since, either that same statement (or the phrase "POST-COLD WAR WORLD") has been used whenever important foreign (or even domestic) policy is under consideration here in this country.

As I watched and listened to that early 1990 interview, I could hardly believe my ears. I remember thinking, "Doesn't that young man know that the Cold War was going on long before communists built the Berlin Wall to keep East Germans from escaping to the West?"

As I've said before, I've ALWAYS hated war. For most of my life, I've considered myself a pacifist. I was sure that God wanted us human beings to work together to build a PERFECT WORLD here on earth, a real UTOPIA.

I still yearn for that perfect world, where each person has an opportunity with every other person on this planet. According to what I've read, long before Bush and Gorbachev began talking about a "New World Order" in 1990 (a few months before the Gulf War began) THAT term was being used by groups such as the "elite" Council on Foreign Relations. It was the "ONE WORLD" idea that influenced me as I was becoming an adult. Apparently both terms mean essentially the same thing in practical terms. Several books, such as *Shadows of Power* and *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, explain where these terms originated and what those authors believe to be the REAL idea behind them — eventual relinquishment of authority from individual nations to some form of WORLD government.

In his introduction, Gary Allen, author of the second book mentioned above, set out to prove there was ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to the idea of a conspiracy taking place in this country. But in the process of doing research, Allen himself became a firm believer in a conspiracy to manipulate our leaders, our elections, and our daily lives that originated long before the Bolshevik Revolution. The international Communist Party has, however, reportedly provided one of the most HELPFUL methods of changing our American way of life to make it possible for this group of people to eventually gain complete control, according to people who believe this theory.

To learn the truth, I suggest doing what I FINALLY did, after 20 years of resisting: Start studying these things for YOURSELF!

As I mentioned before, my father was very distant, related to John D. (Dad) Davidson Rockefeller through the

Davidson side of the family (John D.'s mother). Daddy did not know (or appreciate) the Rockefeller family, who (I'm sure) never heard of their distant cousins living in Montana. The Rockefellers, beginning with John D., are believed by many to be among the manipulators who helped to promote communism in our country for their own hidden "New World Order" agenda. I sincerely hope that some of the readers of this column will start checking these theories out for YOURSELF, as I reluctantly did six and a half years ago. Perhaps you can tell me what I would LOVE to know for a FACT, that theories such as this one, and the possibility of our CIA having been actually DIRECTED in the last few years by the KGB and its successor, the SVR, IN NO WAY suggest that the Cold War is NOT over!

In his article, "The Cold That Came In With The Spy" (in *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, March 7-13, 1994) David Wise says, "If it's all true, the CIA officers were marionettes dancing to Moscow's tune." Wise goes on to say "Despite the professed shock in Washington that the Russians continue to spy on the United States, most political leaders understand that espionage did not end with the Cold War."

My question: What is ALL THIS if not a continuation of the Cold War waged against us Americans for most of this century?

Other Things
Of course I'd much rather leave all this speculating to the "experts," like I used to do. There are a lot of other things I'd rather do with my time. But I've decided that the only way to make sure that you and I will have a chance to do our own research in the future, is to do it now. Apparently the average citizen, using methods as objective as is humanly possible to do, has as good a chance to learn the truth as those so-called experts who go off on one tangent (like the belief that the Cold War is no longer a consideration) and stay stuck, unable to re-consider their pet theory.

Pediatric Pointers
By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

Have you ever heard the expression "there is a fungus among us?" Well, when it comes to Pediatric rashes, there truly is a fungus out there causing skin problems. This fungus is called tinea and is responsible for rashes that affect the scalp, feet, groin, and other parts of the body. This issue I will discuss two common tinea infections — athlete's foot and ringworm. Athlete's foot is a fungus infection seen commonly in the teenage years, especially among athletes, that affects the ball of the feet and toes. The fungus is often transmitted in tennis shoes and on locker room floors. The fungus gets on the feet and causes an inflammation and causes a breakdown of the skin. This leads to cracking of skin around the site of infection. The infected sites are usually very itchy. If not treated properly, sometimes germs get into the wounds and worsen the condition. The best treatment for athlete's foot is good hygiene and an anti-fungal cream like Tinactin. Letting the feet air out when possible is a good idea, it is probably a good idea to wash your tennis shoes regularly and wear sandals in locker rooms.

Ringworm is a common fungus infection of the skin. Along with eczema and impetigo, it is one of the three most common skin lesions I see in Pediatric patients. Like athlete's foot, it is an inflammation that occurs when the fungus is in contact with the skin. Ringworm usually begins as a small, dry, patch of skin that becomes red and itchy. Usually it remains as one lesion, but it can spread. Ringworm usually responds well to anti-fungal creams such as Tinactin or Lotrimin and good hygiene. Leczema can sometimes look exactly like ringworm, so if a good trial of anti-fungal does not work, try some hydrocortisone cream (Cortaid). Remember that ringworm is mildly contagious, so be careful around other kids.

Congratulations to Rosa Wintree and everyone in Charlotte who helped out on the Indian Education conference last week. Thanks to people like Amanda and Van Carter, Joe Roberts, Kendall Oxendine, Ben Chavis, Keri Bird, and Locklear Yvonne Davis. Pat and others, it turned out to be a good conference. Let's keep up the good work for the sake of our future — the children.

The Coach's Corner
by Dr. Ken Johnson

The ACC Tournament
There are possible upsets coming in the ACC basketball tournament. In spirit of Duke being seeded No. 1, Grant Hill's 17-point average and his making the First Team All ACC team just doesn't seem strong enough to lead Duke to the championship. And Carolina does not have a starter on the All-ACC team. Montross just doesn't seem to be much of a leader. He passes up chances to score jump shots from

inside the circle. He's just a "big, happy puppy dog." So these two teams have to contend with Bob Sura. First Team All ACC team, scoring average 10 points, 35 against Duke. Carolina plays Florida State on Thursday. Then if they win they face upset minded Georgia Tech. If they win that they may face upset minded Wake Forest 3rd in the standings.

Duke will have their hands full with Clemson's Cliff Ellis playing his possible last game.

Real leaders in scoring: Bob Sura, Florida State; Randolph Childress, Wake Forest; James Forest, Georgia Tech; and Joe Smith, Maryland. All ACC starters may pull some upsets.

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Irritating dust?
In reality, it isn't dust that causes so much sneezing and wheezing, but waste products of too-tiny-to-see **DUST MITES**. Since these mites live in dust, which settles from the air very quickly, bedding, furniture, and carpets are the dustiest places in your house.

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