

The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Clowers, President
Native American Leadership Fund
Albany, NY

In 1970, I was fortunate enough to be admitted to Stanford University. Right after I got to Stanford, the annual rankings of the universities in the U.S. came out—with Stanford at the top. Harvard didn't like it, and still does not, but there it is. Harvard is now number two, which is still high, but not the top. Sorry about that, Harold.

I was a senior at the University of California at the time I was admitted. My friends there—Lalvada Bover, Bill Schaaf, Jo Allyn Archambault— teased me for several weeks about going to Stanford.

"So you're going to be a Stanford Indian, eh?" they would say. "Ha, ha, ha." They thought it was cute. I didn't.

Most of us had been part of the Alcatraz occupation the year before, and were pretty sensitive to racial issues. I took the teasing lightly. I thought,

But late in the Spring, my wife Toni and I drove down to The Farm (what we call Stanford) to look for housing. On the way down, I told her about all the teasing, and the fact that the Stanford team was called the Indians. I remember being a little irate as we drove down the Bayshore Freeway.

"They have to change the thing," she remembers me saying.

We learned that the Stanford Indian symbol was more demeaning than it seemed. Tim Williams, who was Ronald Reagan's token Indian for his two terms as governor of California, spent his Saturdays each Fall in a dime store Plains Indian costume, replete with headdress, dancing around the infield and sidelines of the football field.

Also, a really ugly stereotyped Indian with a huge nose, feathered book bags, book covers, glasses, the newspaper, and hundreds of other items. Once I got to the campus and

saw all this, I was really dismayed. I was slightly depressed that whole Fall. Their were three of us graduate students that Fall, and 22 undergraduates. We immediately formed the Stanford American Indian Organization, and Lorenzo Stars from Pine Ridge was elected President. In the late Fall, he invited Tim Williams to meet with the students and discuss the Indian mascot issue.

The SAIO students had very early, in the first month, decided to ask the student government and the administration to change the symbol, since it was demeaning to Indian people. The administration would not address the issue.

Despite lack of attention from the administration, the undergraduate students carried the issue to the student government, forcefully. I egged them on. In the middle of the 1971-72 year, the student government voted to drop the Indian symbol and replace it with a color, cardinal (red).

At the same time, Dartmouth went through its own review, and dropped its Indian symbol. Then for almost 20 years, nothing happened. In the past few years, however, the Cleveland Indians, the Washington Redskins, the Milwaukee Bucks, the Kansas City Chiefs, and hundreds of high schools and college teams have been confronted by Indian people directly on using racist Indian symbols.

A few have dropped the use of symbols. But the big timers have done nothing. They would not call a team the New Jersey Jews, or the Miami Kikes, or the San Diego Chinks, or the San Francisco Spicks or the Los Angeles Niggers.

So why do they want to call their teams Bucks, Squaws, Warriors, and Chiefs? Do they know squaw is a woman's private parts? They need to change all these racist names, and give us Indians some respect.

Musicians Provide Soundtrack for Cornerstone of Turner Broadcasting's Native American Initiative

TBS Superstation and Capitol Records have announced that accomplished musician Robbie Robertson and an ensemble of Native American performers will provide the soundtrack for THE NATIVE AMERICANS, a six hour TBS Original production premiering October 10, 11 and 13, 1994, exclusively on TBS Superstation.

Robertson, who is of Mohawk descent, has written and produced much of the soundtrack to be released nationwide October 4 under the title The Native Americans featuring Robbie Robertson and the Red Road Ensemble.

Best known as a member of the landmark rock group The Band, Robertson's soundtrack experience dates back to 1976, when he composed "Out of the Blue" for The Last Waltz, the concert film on The Band's last live performance, directed by Martin Scorsese. Jonathan Taplin, The Band's first road manager, produced The Last Waltz and is executive producer of The Native Americans. Robertson released his first solo album in 1987 and, as a result, enjoyed a Grammy nomination, several Juno Awards (The Canadian Grammy) and a gold album in the United States. His love of music and interest in his Native American heritage dates back even further to his childhood visits to the Mohawk Six Nations Reservation. It was there that Robertson learned how to play the guitar and an appreciation for Mohawk tradition.

Of his latest project, Robertson says, "The Native Americans has given me an opportunity to do something that's been lurking under the surface for a long time, to make a record with other people with Native American connections. Because Native Americans were involved in all levels of production on the TBS documentary, I felt it was really from the heart and something I wanted to be a part of."

Pat Mitchell, senior vice president of TBS Productions, notes, "Because

he is such a recognized and respected name in the music world, Robbie will undoubtedly draw a new audience to this landmark series. His music is outstanding and lends a whole new dimension to our six hour documentary series."

The Native Americans will include 12 tracks, some instrumental and some with lyrics, performed by such artists as sisters Rita and Priscilla Coolidge along with their niece Laura Satterfield, Kashtin, The Silver Cloud Singers, Douglas Spotted Eagle, Ulali, and Jim Wilson. Robertson's son Sebastian also lends his talent on drums, and daughter Delphine provides background vocals. "Mahk Jchi (The Heartbeat Drum Song)," a song written and performed by Ulali, aka Pura Fe, Soni and Jen, is used for the opening sequence for The Native Americans. Other tracks used in the documentary include Coyote Dance and Words of Fire, Deeds of Blood.

TBS Superstation's The Native Americans is the cornerstone of Turner Broadcasting, Inc.'s company wide Native American initiative The Native Americans Behind the Legends Beyond the Myths. The initiative includes TNT's Lakota Woman and CNN Special Reports The Invisible People, both airing this fall, as well as the already successful Turner Publishing book The Native Americans, which has sold over 400,000 copies since its debut last year. The documentary, airing in three two hour segments, is being executive produced by Jonathan Taplin with Sam Hurst as supervising producer. Oren Lyons (Onondaga), John Mohawk (Seneca) and Alfonso Ortiz (Tewa of San Pueblo) are three of the several key Native American advisors who have contributed to the overall development of The Native Americans. John Borden, George Burdeau (Blackfeet) and Phil Lucas (Choctaw) serve as directors of each segment, with Hanay Geiogamah (Kiowa) and Michael Grant as writers. Joy Harjo (Creek) narrates the series.



Pembroke Kiwanis Report

The weekly meeting was held Tuesday evening at Linda's Restaurant. President Buddy Bell presided.

In charge of the program was Vandell Sweet who presented Dr. Bruce Walters, Testing and Technology director of the Robeson County School System. Dr. Walters is a graduate of Pembroke State University. He received his doctorate from South Carolina State University.

The Information Highway for the school system of Robeson County was Dr. Walters' presentation.

"The Information Highway will add an estimated \$2.7 billion to the state's economy by 2003. In addition it can be used in the class rooms of up to five different high schools all at the same time. The teacher can get to know all of her students as the system provides two way communication. Information can be obtained from libraries all over the globe, as well as from class rooms world wide. The highway will be able to enable universities specialists to listen to heart beats of scan x-rays of patients miles away. The costs will be up in the millions, financed by the state and the telephone companies. Students will be able to see the 21st century version of the traditional field trip from all over the world. And scientists can respond to questions from the students from all over the world. Students will be able to see places they normally would not be able to go."

The Information Highway will be important for the justice system, industry, schools and colleges. It will bring equity to poor school systems. The benefits will be in governments, health care and economic development. And hopefully better international cooperation.

Invocation-Garth Locklear, Reporter-Ken Johnson.

United Methodist News

Imagine switching off the TV set one evening a week just to pray together as a family.

What if all the people in your house designated meal time as family time—the time when you talk over the day's events?

What would happen if, every Sunday after church, children visited relatives or friends, and parents were left alone to talk about their hopes and dreams for their family?

A new manual developed by the United Methodist Church encourages families of all types to set aside time for regular devotion, discussions and expressions for love.

Claiming Our Time With God and with each other is a devotional guide for families, edited by Marilyn Magee, head of the Office of Family Ministries, a unit of the denomination's Board of Discipleship here.

The workbook, said Magee, offers guidelines for family members

who want to strengthen their prayer life together, and who want to incorporate Christian values into solving problems.

The manual offers poems, brief orders of worship, including one to celebrate new babies in the house, and a prayer for those affected by a divorce, anecdotes, activities and discussion starters.

Selections were solicited by Magee's office in a 1993 survey of ministers, Christian educators and laypeople.

She said she hopes the book will encourage families to spend more time together talking about feelings, sharing family stories and working through crises in a Christian context.

Copies of the 54-page manual are available for \$5 each from Office of Family Ministries, Board of Discipleship, PO Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37202. (615) 340-7190.

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