

CHEMAWA POW WOW DRAWS LARGEST CROWD EVER

By LaVelle Walker, Gizelle Keluum, and Ms. LaCroix

May 6-8 marked Chemawa's cultural event of the year: the annual Chemawa POW WOW.

Sponsored by the Indian Club, the group raised over \$2,200 this year selling raffle tickets, donations, etc. Organization from early in the year contributed to this year's success. It had the largest recorded group for a Pow Wow in the history of the event.

The highlight of the first evening came when Miss Chemawa was named and crowned. Sophomore Rebecca David, Kootenai, was elected as Miss Chemawa for 1983-84. Misty Arcand, Blackfeet, was chosen first runner-up. Second place winner was Shawn Hostler, Grand Ronde and Yurok. Lena Ike from Warm Springs took third place.

Other contestants were Shawnie Sammaripa, Shoshone-Bannock; Sherry Saunders, Navajo; Pam Walawitsa, Tulalip; and Mona Chavez, Wind River Cheyenne. Finalists were chosen after the Miss Chemawa Pageant held May 3. The girls were evaluated on traditional and contemporary presentations, poise, friendliness, teacher evaluations, and interviews. They also were selected on points received from attending Indian Club meetings and selling raffle tickets. Involvement, respect for others and participation were key to this year's pageant.

Grand Entry and the arrival of Nathan "Eight Ball" Jim from Yakima, who was the main MC for the Pow Wow, began the second day's activities. This day was delegated to competition dancing rather than the total social dancing of the night before.

Girls Tiny Tots winners this day received \$50 while Tiny

Tot Boys received \$40. Boys and Girls Unlimited Divisions each received \$105 in prize monies.

A potluck was provided and served by Chemawa kitchen staff and a special \$200 salmon donation from the Warm Springs Reservation allowed participants to enjoy local feasting. A special word of thanks is extended for the fine efforts and warm hospitality of the kitchen staff in making this potluck feed for almost 3,000 people a success.

During the evening, special awards and community recognition were given to Vicki Belgard, CAEC alcohol and drug counselor, for 11 years of service to Chemawa and its students.

Awards and letters of commendation came from such places as the Oregon Governor's office, Navajo Nation and tribal chairman, Warm Springs reservation, YWCA, Children's Services for the help with many foster children Vicki has helped to raise, from Indian Club, Indian Health, Chemawa Alcohol Education Center Director, and many Northwest tribal leaders and groups.

"It takes a special lady to dedicate herself to 11 years of trying to show our young people a better way of life," said Miss Warm Springs upon presenting Vicki with a beaded bag.

As Vicki stood in utter amazement of all that was being presented to her. She began to cry. "Eight Ball" told her to get out there and say something: "You get out there and do the talking and I'll go cry for you."

Belgard said, "This is all so... amazing. It's something I've never dreamed of. I do love these kids, that's why I'm here. I love each of you, too. I

guess I don't know what's happening, but you have made me very happy."

After a special honor song done for Vicki and her family and friends, "Eight Ball" explained that in Indian country when someone does an outstanding job for her/his people, the Indian community honors them and recognizes those efforts.

Later that evening Arlie Neskali, one of the lead drummers and singers and student teacher at Chemawa was honored for his work in Indian education and commitment to the profession. Arlie was graduated from Willamette Univ. and hopes to find a teaching position at Chemawa. If that doesn't happen he said he will return to his home in Colorado.

Sunday's activities included Ladies and Mens Fancy Dancing Contests where winners each received \$215; Ladies and Mens Traditional Competition winners took home a purse of \$225; and the Owl Dance Open Competition winners shared \$110.

Mothers were recognized and a special honor song was played for them on this, their Mother's Day.

Chemawa alumni were later honored and several addressed the group saying that they have always been proud of Chemawa and still are. They encouraged the present students to accept the challenges of life facing them and not run away.

Mr. Watsulatez, who left Chemawa in 1927 because his family was having hard times, said life here was very strict then. He said they didn't want "us to speak our language or practice our culture. If we did, we would be punished. But now today you are encouraged to be proud, to learn your language and culture. It has turned around in such a short



Chemawa Indian School
pow wow

"LOST VOICE"

*I was once told,
I have forgotten many years ago.
Today I am everything of what once
was yesterday.*

*What will become of tomorrow.
Who will be there to lead my children on.*

*Will they understand the meaning of
our people.*

the power of being Indian.

*I am a lost voice,
my words echo off silent walls.
I tried*

*Oh, how I tried to make them understand
the reasons behind the light.
A positive energy that grows
inside.*

*Once when the world was young,
Earth Mother spoke to us in many voices.
We saw our Father in everything that grew
around us.
We had respect and honor,
We had only one another and sometimes
we had something behind us to guide us
on our way.*

--Emmy Bitt '83

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SENATE INVOCATION GIVEN BY BIGHORN

By Tracy Swimptkin and
Ms. LaCroix

To commemorate Oregon American Indian Week with a proclamation signed by Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh, Mr. Jacob Bighorn, Indian government and leadership teacher, was asked to give the invocation for the State Senate on May 17 at the Capitol. This request initially was made by Cathy Green, executive secretary of the Commission on Indian Service for the State of Oregon.

Ushering in this awareness was a proclamation signed by President Reagan declaring May 13, 1983 as National American Indian Day.

Bighorn and several of his students were invited to participate in the official signing of Gov. Atiyeh's proclamation and to participate in some of the activities planned for this recognition week. Some of those activities included special Indian art and basketry displays, Indian Child Welfare Act information and displays, and Indian spiritual leaders who gave the daily invocations for the legislatures.

Gov. Atiyeh complimented Indian people for their example in working for a "harmonious existence with life's forces and providing an inspiration for future generations."

"Their enduring reverence for nature provides guidance for the conservation and protection of the natural beauty of our state. Continually adjusting and adapting, they make important and innovative contributions in areas such as education, business, and government, serving both themselves and all of Oregon," proclaimed Atiyeh.

After the signing of this proclamation, Rebecca David, Misty Arcand, Shawnie Sammaripa, and Indian Club advisor Vicki Belgard presented the Governor with a beaded medallion.

Bighorn pointed out that he was personally impressed with the Governor's good words and respect for Indian people, and his sincerity and interest in the maker and meaning of the medallion given to him.

Myron Jim, a senior, said that this experience made him extra proud to be an Indian and excited that non-Indians were showing so much concern.

In his prayer to the legislature Bighorn prayed for unity with all life:

Tanka' sils (grandfather in Lakota)

Creator of us all. We come to you in sincere humbleness, to seek your guidance and your blessing. We are pitiful in our human condition, for we know so little of the simple mystery which can bring true peace and harmony to all the living things of thy Creation.

We ask your forgiveness for our sometimes inadequate care of your Creation. We humbly beseech the Power of your Holy Spirit to descend upon this place... and this moment:

— to release us from ourselves,

— to allow our Spirits to experience the Oneness with YOU, and to instill a deeper awareness of our personal responsibilities to each other.

We thank you for the infinite wisdom of your plan for each and all of us; and we pray for your special influence and continued blessings upon the elected leaders assembled here and the plans they may enact.

We pray this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

Rebecca David Wins Miss Chemawa Crown for 83-84

By LaVelle Walker

Rebecca David, a sophomore here at Chemawa, was selected as MISS CHEMAWA for 1983-84. She competed against seven other candidates also from Chemawa.

Rebecca, 16, is from the Kootenai Tribe in Northern Idaho. She started dancing at the age of ten and won the title of Miss Kootenai 1981-82 while in Montana. She ran for this title because she felt it would be a good experience for her and that she would get a chance to travel around during the summer and share some of her experiences while at Chemawa.

While nervous, Rebecca thought that the pageant was a positive experience and a lot of fun.

Her hopes for the future are to find a summer job, return to Chemawa, and hopefully graduate from here. College is part of her plans too, but she is not sure what she wants to do at this point.

Rebecca competed in the Miss Inter-Tribal competition May 14 and took first runner up. She said that she tried there, and will continue to work hard during her reign to spread only good words about Chemawa and encourage serious students to come to this school.

When asked what she could do to help younger people, Rebecca said that she would try and get them interested in their traditions and tell them to keep working at getting a good education. She said too that she really enjoyed the Pow Wow, the way people treated her with such concern and respect, and how the whole weekend was organized so that people could dance, visit and enjoy themselves.

"I was so surprised to get this title because everyone was so talented and did such a

good job. I will work hard to help make Chemawa known to all the people I visit," she concluded.

Junior Misty Arcand, 17 year old Blackfeet from Browning won the title of first runner-up Miss Chemawa. Misty was born in Billings on August 18, 1966. She started dancing at the age of eight but has never won any titles before this. During the Inter-Tribal Competition in Portland May 14 Misty took third place honors.

When asked why she ran for the title, Misty said that it was a good opportunity and experience for her to learn more about her traditional ways and good way to share some of her experiences while a student here at Chemawa.

Arcand thought that the pageant went well and that it was well organized.

Misty said that she too was surprised in being chosen for such an honor, but that it made her feel good inside and that she will work very hard by attending all the activities sponsored by the school and work while she is away from the campus to encourage young people to stay in school. She said what she hopes to offer the new students is someone that they can turn to if they need help.

Should Rebecca David leave Chemawa or something happen Misty would assume the duties of Miss Chemawa.

The other candidates were Shawn Hostler, Yurok and Grand Ronde, who took second place; Lena Ike from Warm Springs who took third place; Mona Chavez, Wind River Cheyenne; Shawnie Sammaripa, Shoshone-Piute; Sherry Saunders, Navajo; and Pam Walawitsa, Tulalip.

During the pageant, Sunny Dooley — Miss Navajo Nation, a judge and honored

guests, entertained the audience by telling a few jokes, a legend, and singing a love song which meant, "In each direction I walk, may I be surrounded in beauty." She said that she was very proud of the contestants because "performing in front of peers has to be the most difficult experience.

Everyone knows you and can find fault." She said that Chemawa should be proud of the fact that so many tried and risked and that the girls should be proud of themselves and of the school.

Lauren Star, Miss Warm Springs, also entertained the audience with a legend about

Eagle Boy and the Stick Game. She said that the moral of the story was that people should never gamble away anything as valuable as our lives on such things as alcohol, drugs, etc.

Some examples of the modern talent displayed by the girls were a wonder in dance by Sherry Saunders;

legends told by Shawn Hostler and Mona Chavez; a poem read by Misty Arcand; a dance routine done by Shawnie Sammaripa; the Lord's Prayer done by Rebecca David; and public speaking by Lena Ike.

Congratulations to all those who worked so hard. Everyone was a winner.

