

Latest rip on Native Americans gets slap

Unwilling to negotiate, Arizona officials got what they had coming to them from local Native Americans.

The Yavapai Indians of the Fort McDowell reservation blockaded 25 to 50 FBI agents and U.S. marshals inside a casino for eight hours last Tuesday in protest of statewide raids on reservation gambling.

Bingo is allowed on reservations via the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988; the act also permits casino-style gambling in states where similar gambling is allowed off the reservation. Permission for gambling depends on tribes and states, granted by a negotiated contract.

Electronic games, including video gambling machines, were put in the negotiatory category last week by new federal rules now taking effect. Refusing to negotiate, officials asked the federal government to intervene.

And intervene they did. Agents seized about 750 video machines at four other Arizona reservation casinos without resistance. They met their match, however, at Ft. McDowell, where Indians used everything from pickups to earthmovers to resist the intrusion.

The confrontation ended when all parties agreed to a 10-day cool-off period. Seized machines were left locked in trailers in the casino's parking lot.

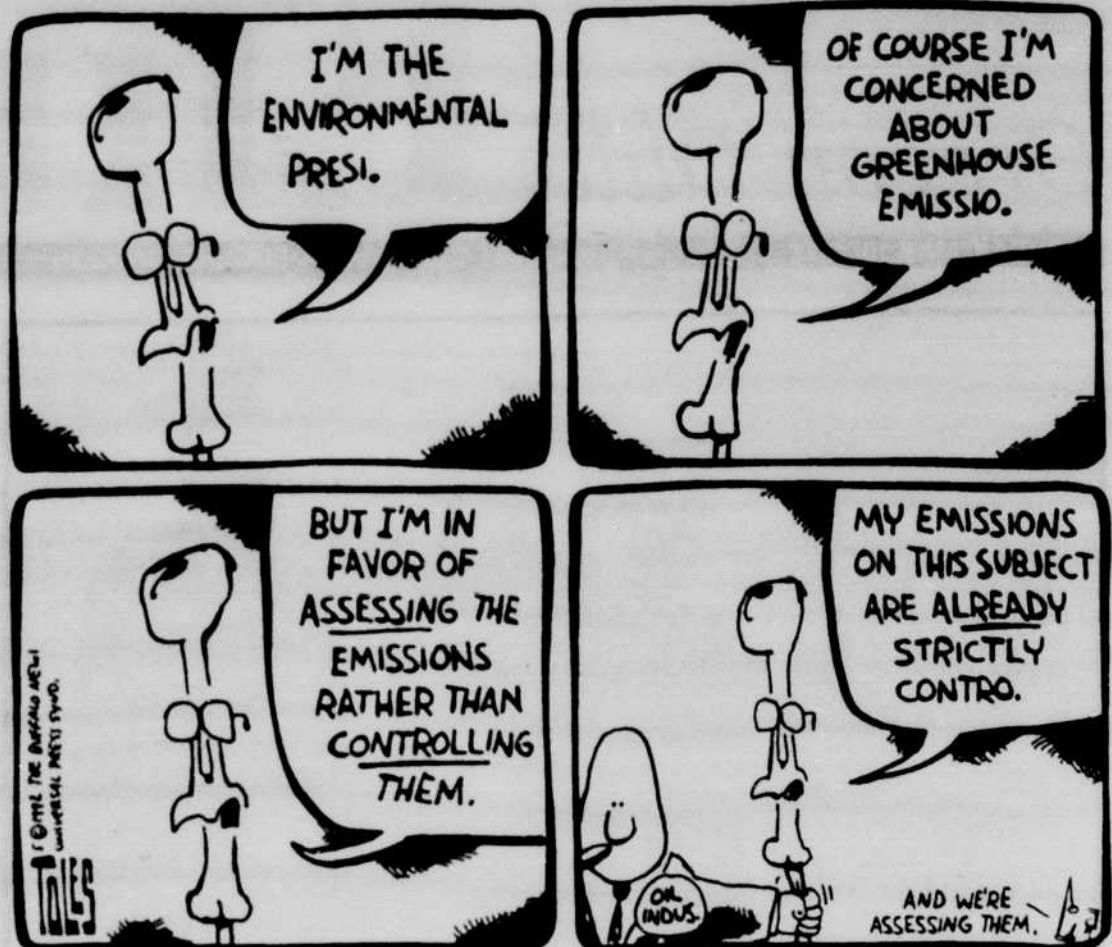
For one thing, it's sickening to see one more set of rules slapped on Native American people — on their reservations. Originally, these parcels of land, ever whittled down by American legislation, were set aside for Indians to live on according to their rules.

These shrinking micro-dots on the U.S. map don't even constitute a shadow of what was originally negotiated between the Indian people and the new kids on the block. Now, through constantly increasing regulations, what is left continues to be assimilated into the larger infiltrative structure.

The tangle of federal rules and limits continues to grow, crushing increasing numbers of people who live in this country, both Indian and non-Indian. The mere fact that Arizona officials refused to negotiate shows and tells too much. It, along with the government at large, cares too little about the very people it's supposed to serve and honor.

Valuable jobs will be lost via the paring down of the casinos — a fate reservations, not to mention the rest of the country, can ill afford. But even more is lost with the government's repetitive failure to consult with these people: trust and hope.

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COMMENTARY

Clinton best choice for president

By Jennifer Oetter and Elizabeth Cage

Bill Clinton represents a chance for real change, a chance to replace a president blind to the problems of America with a president who has a vision, who can see a future of racial and social equality, of freedom for all people and of a revitalized economy.

Clinton knows reversing the tide of the Reagan/Bush era will take more than just criticism, it takes a plan of action, and he has that plan. It's time for voters to take a stand, to elect a president who is pro-active, one who will act to solve problems before they reach epidemic proportions — not a reactive one who only responds when forced.

The real test of character for a person is the ability to stand up time and time again against unfounded accusations with dignity and pride. Clinton has been the focus of many of these character assassinations, and has responded with thoughtfulness and honesty in each instance.

We don't need to defend Clinton; anyone who has read anything on the so-called character issues knows these stories were a cheap attempt by Republicans fearful of the swell of support Clinton has received.

Clinton's record in Arkansas is exemplary. His most dramatic success has been in the area of education. Arkansas schools were once described as the worst in the country. Now, they spend nearly 80 percent of the state's general fund on education and achieved the highest graduation rate in the region.

On the environment, Arkansas is ranked fifth in the nation in per capita spending for environmental programs, according to *City and State* magazine. In January 1988 the Arkansas government created what were considered the most innovative and progressive clean water standards in the entire nation,

and the results were dramatic: 81 percent of the state's waters are swimmable, and 97 percent are fishable.

The Economic Outlook Center of Arizona State University ranked Arkansas seventh in the nation in job growth in 1991. In addition, Clinton has handed in 11 balanced budgets in a row.

Clinton stands for freedom of all the people. He pledges to support and sign the Freedom of Choice Act to make the right to choose a national mandate not subject to the whim of the Supreme Court — something George Bush is definitely not fighting for.

Clinton has a plan, an idea, a vision to help students gain access to federal financial aid for a college education. He has a plan to help all people receive dependable health care, not just a fortunate few with the ability to pay skyrocketing health insurance bills.

Clinton has a plan for real action on the AIDS epidemic. He has a strategy to reform the government to eliminate some of the bureaucracy. Clinton has a clear record of improving race relations in Arkansas, and has an agenda to do the same nationwide. It is the same one he's proposed all along, not some half-thought out reactive plan he was forced into enacting because of public pressure resulting from violence in Los Angeles during an election year.

Clinton has a plan to increase tax fairness for all people, not a flat tax that sounds good in theory but actually forces the poorest 20 percent of taxpayers to pay 26.2 percent of all taxes.

All of these agendas have been debated, refined and per-

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fect by Clinton and his staff. They are not just whims; they are well-thought out policies he intends to enact upon entering the Oval Office.

Specifically, his plan for all students to have access to a college education would give federal loans to any student interested in going to college that could be paid back either as a small percent of income or as national service in the form of a police officer, a nurse, or a teacher.

Since Clinton announced his bid for the presidency of the United States this past summer, he has run a campaign based on focusing on the issues, not bludgeoning the competition. Clinton knows that if people are willing to go past the media's presentation of a candidate and actually look at the issues, they will find a solid record of public service, a sound platform, and a man who is anything but untrustworthy — a man of conscience and honesty.

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Jennifer Oetter and Elizabeth Cage are co-organizers of Students for Clinton.

COMMENTARY POLICY

Commentaries should be between 750 and 1,000 words, legible and signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified upon submission. The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit for grammar, style and length.

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