

Kids shoot back with creativity, self-expression

■ **EXHIBIT:** Collection of photographs taken by Native American children on display in EMU

By Regina Brown
Higher Education Reporter

When children pick up a camera, they capture the world through their eyes, said Jim Hubbard, founder of Shooting Back, an organization that teaches photography to disadvantaged kids. Hubbard spoke in the EMU Gum Room on Monday night to promote his most recent compilation of children's photography, *Shooting Back from the Reservation*, an exhibit and book of photographs taken by Native American children. The exhibition is on display in the EMU. Hubbard and a group of volunteers traveled the nation for two years conducting photo

workshops for children living on reservations. The exhibit first opened in Washington, D.C. two years ago, he said.

Hubbard enjoys working with children because they energize him, he said.

"I think kids offer a really unique and creative vision of things they see," he said.

Hubbard's first project involving children resulted in a book featuring photographs taken by homeless kids during the 1980s. He became interested in helping the homeless while working as a photojournalist in Washington, D.C. during the Reagan Administration. He began working with homeless kids because they inspire sympathy from the public, he said.

"One of the reasons I started to work with kids is because I discovered that people are not sym-

pathetic to homeless adults," Hubbard said. "I wanted to affect people's concerns about homelessness."

Hubbard and his team later began a similar project for Native American children. Photography, he said, gives children with few resources a means of self-expression. The goal of the project is to show others how disadvantaged children live, he said.

"We wanted to publish their plight through their own eyes and words," he said.

Hubbard believes photography serves to build self-esteem for kids and gives them a creative outlet, he said.

"The kids are rich, beautiful and creative," he said. "I think [photography] gave them a sense of self-importance. They feel validated, and they feel good about themselves when they receive

attention and appreciation."

Shooting Back is funded by donations. Unfortunately, said Hubbard, donations have been scarce for the past few years, and he is not sure he can keep the organization afloat. To counteract losses in funding, he has considered taking Shooting Back to another level, perhaps one that will allow him to serve as an advisor to others, he said.

"I'm looking for a way to expand based on previous successes so we can have an impact," Hubbard said.

Social groups across the country have begun to imitate Hubbard's work with children, and he will meet with some of them this month. He hopes to establish ties that will help him connect the groups in a way that will allow them to work together to raise money for their projects, he said.

Second pack of wolves relocated in Yellowstone

■ **LAWUIT:** A court hearing will determine the predators' controversial future in U.S. Park

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — Wildlife officials began releasing 11 Canadian wolves into pens at Yellowstone on Tuesday in the second installment of a plan to restore the endangered predator to the American Rockies.

Twenty wolves were flown aboard a U.S. Forest Service plane from Fort St. John, British Columbia, to Bozeman, Mont., overnight. Eleven were brought to Yellowstone, while the nine others were flown to Idaho.

Also Tuesday, a judge set final hearings for next month on a lawsuit seeking to keep more wolves from being reintroduced and to cut off federal funding for the animals already brought in.

The latest Yellowstone wolves were taken by truck, sled and snowcoach — a converted van on a snowmobile-type track — to their one-acre pens in the backcountry. All the wolves were to be in their pens by evening.

They will stay about 10 weeks to get them used to Yellowstone and reduce the chance they will try to return to Canada once they are released into the wild.

The nine Idaho wolves were to be released directly into the wild by Wednesday, although officials were still awaiting test results showing the animals are free of diseases that could endanger humans or livestock.

The wolves were shipped as part of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service campaign to reintroduce

the species to the United States. Wolves roamed Yellowstone until the 1930s, when they were wiped out by a federal program.

Last year, 14 Canadian wolves were released in Yellowstone and 15 in Idaho over strong protests from ranchers, who feared the wolves would kill their livestock.

In response, three lawsuits, which have been consolidated into one, were filed by the American Farm Bureau and other commodity groups, the Audubon Society and Sierra Club, and two residents of northwestern Wyoming.

The contentions by the three groups vary. The commodity groups say the relocation is not necessary because more than 52,000 wolves exist in Canada and northern Montana.

The environmental groups say the wolves deserve full protection under the Endangered Species Act. They are now designated an experimental species, meaning they can be killed if they are caught destroying livestock.

The residents, James and Cat Urbigkit, say the new wolves are of a different sub-species than the ones already there, and the gene pools should not be mixed.

The lawsuits will be heard Feb. 8-9 in U.S. District Court in Casper.

Fifteen more wolves are being held in British Columbia for transport to the United States late this week.

Federal officials describe the wolf reintroduction program as a success. The wolves released in Yellowstone last year produced nine pups. Two wolves

there have been killed — one was illegally shot; one was hit by a truck.

Livestock losses have been minor — two sheep confirmed dead, two missing. The wolf responsible was captured and returned to Yellowstone. The sheep rancher was reimbursed for the loss by an environmental group.

Federal wolf biologist Ed Bangs said that if the program's level of success continues, this will probably be the last year any wolves are brought to the United States.

Earlier plans, which forecasted higher wolf mortality and lower breeding rates, called for relocating wolves for three to five years.

Son given custody of father

■ **ASSISTED SUICIDE:** Judge rules against family's attempt to end Alzheimer patient's life

PETOSKEY, Mich. (AP) — An Alzheimer's patient should stay with the son who wants him to live, rather than with other family members who may try to take him to see assisted suicide advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian, a judge ruled today.

Gerald Klooster's son Chip earlier won temporary custody of his father, a retired physician, after learning family members had contacted Kevorkian. Today, Emmet County Probate Judge Fred Mulhauser continued that temporary custody order indefinitely.

The judge said that if he had ruled otherwise, he was not convinced that the other four children of Gerald and Ruth Klooster would stand up to their mother and keep her from seeking Kevorkian's help

for their 69-year-old father. The father has been found to be mentally incompetent.

"Ruth Klooster was very close to accomplishing her goal," the judge said, referring to assisted suicide. "Ruth has given no assurance that she will desist."

Some experts have called the case the first in the nation in which a person has gone to court to thwart the assisted suicide of a family member.

Mulhauser said again today, as he has in the past, that he wanted the family members to try to settle the dispute among themselves.

Gerald Klooster was sitting behind Chip Klooster when Mulhauser ruled. He showed no reaction.

"I'm just pleased for my father's safety," said Chip Klooster after the ruling was made.

Gerard "Chip" Klooster II lives in Petoskey, but the other family members live in California. Chip brought his father home in November.

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