That was then. This is now.

Dr. Karkeys

The calendar says it's time to give thanks. The metaphorical crops are in and the allegorical roof is patched, so the big bag of rice will stay dry and we'll have enough carbohydrates to fuel the long ponderings of winter.

When Europeans first landed on this continent, they had the good grace to thank the residents for helping them through those first

hard years of ignorance. We should still be grateful to those indigenous inhabitants of New England and the Virginias for the trust they showed that the new settlers could understand how and why the land would give food and shelter. To share and show trust that a stranger has the wisdom to aknowledge the gift of sustenance and its source is in itself a gift. This was a sign of respect which the settlers and their descendants violated industriously Let us survive that we may show gratitude rather than greed and strength rather than power.

The civilization most of us know grew on the heels of retreating glaciers and swiftly began commanding food production rather than hunting and gathering. No longer subject to natural variations in food supply, populations grew and went to war with their neighbors to command more territory for crop production, allowing further population growth.

It has taken a mere 10,000 years for this activity to cover the arable land on the planet with little change in the crops, some refinements in the techniques of war, and advances in weaponry (now there's an oxymoron) that poison and threaten our very existence. The religious and political support

mechanisms for this behavior filter into our individual lives with violence and intolerance toward those who do not share one's beliefs, skin color, language, or economic perspective.

Witness the fudamentalist, whether Christian or Moslem, in his insistence that his version of the law of his God overrides any "lesser" laws, such as our Bill of Rights and Constitution.



BASEBALL

The series is over. Capt. Outrageous and Hanoi Jane go to Canada. And it's over the first true World Series. But as sure as the rain and snow of winter will bring Monday Night Football's meetings and violence to televisions in taverns across America, the spring will come in Arizona and Florida, and the Cub's will come back to Bill's. .





Witness the open hand of Catholicism, urging large families in the face of poverty, the fingers curling around the offerings of the faithful so that the hand becomes a fist of gold and prayer becomes secular power.

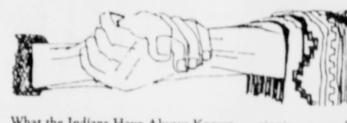
Witness the faces of merchants and bankers in the stained glass windows of Dutch churches where commerce replaced spirituality and the increase of profit replaced the Protestant's "good works"

One can see by their effects who is served by "religious" practices that encourage intolerance. poverty, and greed. Avatollah or Evangelical, Bishop or Industrialist, the powerful do not share the concerns of the many. Indeed, they have more in common with each other than with their followers. The Reagan to Noriega to Ayatollah triple play and our loan kickbacks to Saddam Hussein are but recent examples of the exercise of power at the expense of the people.

We have come a fair piece since we lost our ability to talk to the animals. We have come around the globe and left our mark virtually everywhere, from heavy metals in the oceans' depths to trash on the pale surface of the moon.

We should be immeasurably grateful that we are still alive, and that we, the people, still have the power (if we stop giving it away) to cease doing evil to each other and to our wonderous and thus far forgiving home, this heaven, this earth.

America Discovers America



What the Indians Have Always Known

peoples of this land. There is a common environment, creating vast cities and belief that he called these people "Indian" because he believed he had found India. It and created problems such as over-populais important to realize, however, that at tion and pollution. Other peoples lived that time, India was known as "Hin- within the environment. They used their dustan" and the people of that country experience, common sense, observation were known as "Hindus."

generosity of these people. He was welcomed into their tribal councils and impressed with their unusual form of government. Each member of the tribe was allowed to speak, and was listened to respectfully. Because of their generosity and openness within the tribe as well as with the newcomers, Columbus (who was a citizen of Spain and spoke in Spanish) called these people "una gente en Dios," which lence, hatred and anger with violence, means "a people in God."

If we are truly to become "en Dios," then we must re-establish our relationship tive peoples understand that each life has and act as we do. We must learn to share Earth, by communalities such as language, environment and heredity. We must live feel pride in themselves. as individuals and learn to respect and apbeauty of life.

Mending the Wounds

sary of what has been called "the Discovhave a unique perspective on this "discov-

to this part of the world. Many people society, celebrating our unique and wonfrom many continents came here for many reasons. Each culture brought unique ways of looking at life and unique strengths and cover or rediscover life, home and direcweaknesses.

Interaction between these vastly dif-This article reprinted from GROUND

ferent societies affected everything in each society. Some thought in straight lines, with a beginning and an end. Others thought in circles; infinity, no be-

ginning, no end. Some believed they had In 1492, Columbus met the native the right to manipulate and dominate the amazing technologies. Many lost balance and even humility to discover and live by Columbus was impressed with the the natural law. Some of these people lost balance as well, attracted and confused by the visible power of the straight-line thinkers, they lost touch with their own wisdom.

Too often in our mutual history, differences have been met with intolerance, misunderstanding and abuse. For five-hundred years, we have been in conflict with each other. We have been meeting viohate and anger. It is time for this long civil war to end, the wounds to heal.

If we are to live together in peace, we to life-ALL LIFE. We must make peace must learn to respect differences and not with the native peoples of this land. Na- get caught in forcing another to think, feel a unique function. We are individuals, knowledge and listen to each other. Each bound together by the Universe, by the individual has a unique gift to offer our community. Each individual is entitled to

We are individuals, bound together by preciate difference. Differences are the the Universe, by the Earth, by communalities such as history, language, environment and heredity. Each of us must define for Next year marks the 500 year anniver- ourselves our role in the community and what responsibilities go with each role. ery of America." The American Indians Each person must learn to respect and tolwere here to welcome Columbus and we erate different ideas and different methods.

When we have learned to value the different gifts of other lifestyles, we will Columbus began the mass migration truly be able to create together a pluralistic derful heritage.

There is hope for those who can distion for the future for all humans. This is literally our last chance. It's time for America to discover America.

by James Yellowbank



