

Respect Those Who Ask

The American Indian is believed to have lived a role of an unkind savage people, and this has been passed down from generation to generation. We now need a correct orientation toward our people. This has to be done by our people in the right manner, so that our image as an American Indian can be accurate.

I first came across these incorrect conceptions of our people back when I was a member of the Warm Springs Boy Scout Troop. We traveled a lot and everywhere we visited they asked us the same kind of mis-oriented questions about our people. The next time I ran into this type of belief was in our school (Madras) athletic program—they believed that just being an Indian made you a tough individual. My last experience was with a grade school (Nehalem) in Tillamook, and

this I'd like to say more about. The Nehalem Grade school counselor had asked us to make a trip over to their school and give an orientation of our reservation and school system. I accepted the offer mostly because of my past experiences with non-Indians. I realized that they know very little about our people, and that this was an opportunity to help clarify and give a correct orientation in this area.

I visited the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classrooms, five classes in all. Each classroom reacted in the same manner, interested. They were very honored to have a real American Indian in their school. Everywhere I went, the kids wanted to communicate whatever way possible, touch me, talk to me, mostly to get their own orientation of an American Indian.

Here are some questions

that they asked (students and teachers):

1. What kind of place do we live in? Teepees?
2. Do we still use smoke signals?
3. Do we scalp white people, yet?
4. Do we sleep on the ground still?
5. Do we still have Chiefs?
6. Do our children sit on the ground in our school?
7. Are our school buildings satisfactory?
8. Do we teach all Indian subjects?
9. Do we have an all Indian staff?
10. Do we ride horses to travel?
11. Do we know how to drive cars?
12. Do we eat with our fingers?
13. Are Indians mean and

tough?

14. What age do our Indian children start school (10 or 11)?

15. Do we still pray to a different person in the sky?

These types of questions were asked because these kids and teachers never got to communicate with someone who had a correct orientation of the American Indian (past and present), not because they are ignorant.

I have made a list of these types of questions and made them available to all our grade school teachers and staff. I have asked the teachers to do our reservation a favor and use the list as a guideline to give our children correct preparation to answer these types of questions and benefit from it, not get offended.

I have also started making arrangements to take some of our selected dancers down to the Nehalem Grade School. They will perform and get acquainted with the students from down there. They in turn are planning to come here to our school and give a presentation of their lifestyle on the coast. At that time we are planning to arrange a tour of our reservation's highlights.

The counselor from Nehalem Grade School and I set up a pen pal exchange by classroom grade levels.

This is just one area that is going to get correct exposure to our reservation. The more places we can do this, the more places our people will be respected or at least accepted.

Let me leave you with one thought that is in my mind. That is respect. Respect is one tribal trait that we can use in both the non-Indian world and on our own reservation. And benefit from it in both areas.

So let us respect them that ask, for it is they who have given us an opportunity to clarify our image in the world today, as a proud American people.

Delson Suppah
Community Liaison
Warm Springs Grade School

Warm Springs Student Honored

Jay David Lessert, the son of Lorraine and Waldron Lessert of Warm Springs, will be given junior honors for his outstanding academic record at Oregon State University. He has completed his first two years as an electrical engineering major with an almost perfect 4.0 grade point average.

He has been named a candidate for the OSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a national scholastic honor society. At this time, Juniors are being recognized for their potential, and this Spring, 246 Seniors will be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, an honor which is the highest campus recognition for scholastic achievement.

According to his father, Jay would have a perfect 4.0 grade point average if it were not for the one "B" he received previously. Regarding Jay's success as a student, his dad said that somewhere along the line his mother taught him that "learning is fun."

When it comes right down to it," said his father, "I give all the credit to Norma Ponsford, the teacher who taught him to read. I think it's important that good teachers receive some recognition."

Jay will be among other Juniors at Oregon State University to be honored at the traditional honors accolade dessert sponsored by the OSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

Chess players unite

Chess buffs should mark off Thursday nights on their calendars. Beginning December 2, the Community Center will host informal chess nights for all those who want to play the game for fun.

Children and adults are welcome to attend during the hours of 6:00-10:00 p.m. This will be a weekly event. Contact Lyle Rhoan at the Community Center for more information.

... About Your Social Security

People can get a report on the earnings credited to their Social Security record free of charge by calling or writing the Social Security office in Bend, according to John Fullerton, Social Security representative in Central Oregon.

"You do not need to pay anyone to help you get a statement of your earnings," Fullerton said. "Just ask at the Social Security office for a 'Request For Statement Of Earnings' post card. Fill in your name, address, date of birth, and Social Security number, then sign, stamp and mail the card. Social Security will send you a statement of earnings credited to your record at no charge. It is a good idea to check your earnings record every year or two to make certain that all earnings have

been properly credited to you."

Earnings credited to the worker's Social Security number build retirement, disability, survivors, and Medicare protection for workers and their families. The amount of the monthly benefit payment is based on the average earnings of the worker over a period of years.

The Bend Social Security office is located at 39 N.W. Louisiana Avenue, Bend, and the phone number is 382-6922, extension 276. A representative is at Warm Springs in the Social Services office in the Community Services building on the fourth Thursday of every month (except November when he will be there on the third Thursday) from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Kah-Nee-Ta
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ON THE WARM SPRINGS INDIAN RESERVATION
WARM SPRINGS, OREGON 97761

503-553-1112

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- ⇒ Fabulous New Years Eve Buffet for Two



- ⇒ 9 Piece Orchestra
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- ⇒ 5th of Champagne for Two
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⇒ Balloon Drop Prizes:

- (a) Free Weekend for Two - Lodging Only
- (b) Free Weekends - 1 Free with 1 Pay
- (c) Dinner for Two
- (d) Two for the Price of one Dinner
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- ⇒ New Years Day Hunt Breakfast for Two



- ⇒ Free Round of Golf or Tennis per Couple

Round Trip Bus Transportation, To
KAH-NEE-TA from Portland

- ★ No stags permitted in Party
- ★ Party attendance limited to first 200 Persons, or 100 Couples

- Room Reservations must be in by Dec. 1st, 1976
- All New Years Eve Reservations must be for 3 days - Period
- Packages should be purchased at least 30 Days in Advance - Deposit refunded if cancellation is made 15 Days Prior to Arrival
- Tickets will not be sold New Years Eve

- ★ Proper Dress will be required for the Party - Semi Formal preferably, Sport Clothes will be Permitted.

\$139.90 Per Couple

