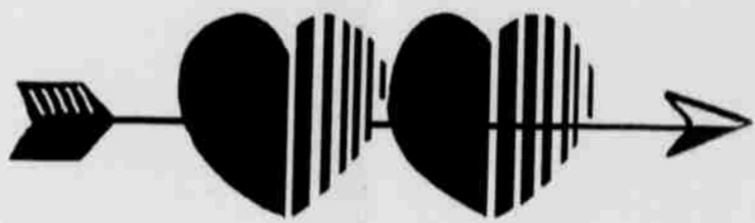




Happy birthday, Baby!

Happy Birthday to the woman in my life on February 12, Kim Medina. This wish is from your husband who loves you and cares very much for you. Also Happy Valentine's Day, on February 14, you will always be my sweetheart. And let's not forget our Anniversary on February 21. Happy Anniversary to us, on our many years together and many more to come. The month of February only has 28 days but we have alot to celebrate. I hope you enjoy your birthday and anniversary trip. I can't wait, it's going to be a blast and I'm looking forward to spending time alone with you.

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## Across the Wire....

### Rooney's comments show he is misinformed

NEW YORK (AP)—"60 Minutes" curmudgeon Andy Rooney offended Indian groups when he suggested that Indians making money from casinos don't do enough to help their own people.

Rooney, drawn to the topic by the New York Legislature's recent rejection of legalized gambling, said on Sunday's broadcast that most casinos on Indian land are under management that is "about as Indian as I am."

"Why don't the Indian casinos making hundreds of millions of tax-free dollars help their own people?" said Rooney, noting reports about Indians at the snowbound Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota.

Rooney also said that casinos don't produce anything except "piles of cash for sleazeball owners."

Keller George, a member of the Oneida Nation in upstate New York and president of the 23-tribe United South and Eastern Tribes, said Rooney's comments were "highly insulting and offensive" to Indians everywhere.

Many tribes run their own casinos or oversee non-Indian managers, he said.

Marge Anderson, head of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians in Minnesota, said revenue from its two casinos have helped build clinics, schools and homes.

"But Andy Rooney believes we are not doing enough. We should be taking care of every American Indian in the country," said Anderson, who complained in a letter to Rooney's boss, CBS News President Andrew Heyward.

"I'm sure I don't follow this twisted logic, because if it were sensible, then I would have to assume that Mr. Rooney is taking care of every wayward Irishman in the country," she said.

Rooney said his "sleazeball owners" reference was aimed at Las Vegas casino owners, not Indians. As for the rest of the commentary, he said, "I do not feel I have anything to apologize for."

"I do not think that that's the way American Indians are going to get themselves out of the trouble they have apparently found themselves in," he said. "I am perfectly sympathetic to the terrible things that have happened to them in the past, but I don't think casinos are a viable solution."

The commentator has been working for "60 Minutes" since 1978. He was suspended in 1990 over racist comments about blacks that he denied making. He has also angered gay groups for statements about AIDS.



Roberta Kirk recently accepted a position with the Smithsonian.

## Kirk takes position with NMAI

Tribal member Roberta Kirk is now calling New York City her home. Roberta recently accepted a job with the National Museum of the American Indian with the Smithsonian Institution in the collections research branch as collections manager assistant. She will serve as liaison between tribes in the United States and Canada in their repatriation visits to NMAI.

In her new position, Roberta will also assist in organizing the move of the Smithsonian's sizable collection from the collections office in the Bronx to the permanent facility in Washington, D.C. The permanent facility is expected to be completed in about three years.

The Smithsonian has amassed over one million artifacts from North and South America, including Canada. It will be her responsibility to maintain the spirituality of the artifacts, as well. To help her with that endeavor, Wasco Chief Nelson Wallulatum presented her with an eagle feather during a small ceremony before she left.

Roberta worked with the Mid-Oregon Indian Historical Society for over three years before The Museum At Warm Springs was completed. "It was a critical time" for the Society, says Roberta. She helped plan exhibit displays, videos, plus helped move the Tribe's collection to the permanent facility. Her work at The Museum helped her land her new job and also put her in touch with Smithsonian representatives, who requested that she serve as a facilitator at various workshops and conferences.

Roberta also worked with the Tribe's language program while it was in its infancy stage. She most recently was working as the Mutual Help Counselor with the Housing department.

Roberta assures her friends and family that the job in New York is just a two-year appointment. "It could work into something else. The two-year stint is livable for me. I won't be there forever. I'll be back. Eventually, I'll go to work at our Museum."

## Clinton proposes 6% increase in Indian allocation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Following through on a promise to tribes, President Clinton proposed a 6 percent increase in spending on federal Indian programs next year.

Clinton's 1998 budget includes \$1.7 billion for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, an 8 percent increase over this year, and \$2.4 billion for the Indian Health Service, a 3 percent rise.

Other Indian programs, including housing subsidies, would rise 8 percent to \$2.3 billion. Congress cut the BIA's budget from \$1.65 billion in 1996 to \$1.6 billion this year.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt told tribal leaders recently that he would "be out on the point" fighting for more federal aid for them and that they should be exempted from spending cuts that are being made to balance the federal budget.

The extra money that Clinton has requested for BIA next year would allow tribes to maintain 1,250 more miles of reservation roads, hire 400 additional people for law enforcement and to repair an additional 75 homes for needy families, said Ada Deer, assistant Interior secretary for Indian affairs.

Overall spending at the Interior Department would drop \$300 million, to \$7.1 billion next year.

## Indians allowed to sue over \$\$ mismanagement

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge ruled that a lawsuit over the Interior Department's mishandling of \$450 million in Indian trust funds can be tried as a class action on behalf of 300,000 Indians.

U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth said all 300,000 account holders had a common stake in the legal battle. The original plaintiffs are five Indians who sued the government last year seeking an accounting of the funds and repayment of any missing money.

The Interior Department had opposed their motion to make it a class-action lawsuit, arguing that it wasn't feasible to list all the accounts, many of which would contain only small sums.

Lamberth's order, signed Tuesday, was released Thursday.

John Echolaw, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, called the order a "historic accomplishment for Indian country."

"Century-old excuses and stonewalling have been rejected by the judge and will simply no longer work," Echolaw said.

An Interior Department spokeswoman said the judge's ruling was just "one step in a long series of steps" in the litigation.

Audits have found no one knows exactly what is in the 300,000 accounts because of decades of lax management by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The accounts belong to individual Indians who receive royalties and other income from their land.

No attempt has been made to reconcile the accounts because the cost of doing the work has been estimated at up to \$280 million.

Besides that "enormous and grotesque" expense, there are too many records missing to come up with accurate statements, the Interior Department said in papers filed with the court.

Straightening out those accounts has taken a lower priority in the department to deciding what to do about 2,000 tribal accounts worth \$2 billion.

BIA cannot document \$2.4 billion in transactions involving those funds over the past 20 years.

The department is considering several options for settling tribal claims, including establishment of an economic development fund that tribes could use to start new businesses.

The largest single account, valued at \$400 million, comprises a court's award to the Sioux nation for its loss of South Dakota's Black Hills to the United States.

## Indian commercial fishery should be integrated

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—A draft federal report suggests the Indian fishing plan, which allows natives to sell salmon commercially, be integrated with the regular commercial fishery.

Parts of the report were leaked by the B.C. Fisheries Survival Coalition, a lobby group opposed to a separate Indian commercial fishery.

Lawyer Jim Matkin, who wrote the draft that was given to an industry "stakeholder" on Monday, said the final report is expected by the end of February.

Natives always have been allowed a food fishery, but the federal Fisheries Department decided four years ago to launch a pilot salmon sales program to allow some Indians to legally sell some of their catch.

But many commercial fishermen, non-native and native, have criticized the pilot program, saying it effectively creates two separate commercial fisheries.

The draft report makes at least two crucial recommendations — that the Indian pilot program be integrated into the current system and treated like a "fourth gear type."

The other three gear types are seine, gillnet and troller.

It also proposes an arms-length tribunal to replace the Fisheries Department as the body taking responsibility for allocating the fish quotas between seiners, gillnetters, trollers and natives involved in the pilot program.

Phil Eidsvik, spokesman for the B.C. Fisheries Coalition, said he hopes the review's final report will recommend scrapping the pilot sales program altogether.

Meantime, B.C. commercial fishermen have won the right to apply for permission to launch a class-action against the federal fisheries minister and fisheries officials.

The decision involves a lawsuit originally launched by three fishermen.

They claimed discrimination after the Fisheries Department closed the Fraser River sockeye salmon fishery last summer to all but Indian anglers.

The lawsuit said the commercial fishermen suffered financial losses because of the closure.

Their lawyer, Christopher Harvey, said the B.C. Supreme Court upheld the men's right to sue.

## Proposed nuclear dumpsite desecrates Indian land

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A coalition of Native Americans and their backers recently denounced state attempts to place a nuclear waste dump in the Southern California desert, saying the plan violated the sanctity of tribal lands.

The dump "desecrates it (the land). It completely abolishes everything the land has been to the Indian people," said Claudette White, a spokeswoman for the Quechan Indians, one of five tribes opposing the proposal.

Several dozen people, including cancer patients, protested the proposed facility during a news conference on the Capitol's West Steps.

The state seeks to place the dump in Ward Valley, a stark, 35-mile long area just west of the Colorado River in San Bernardino County. The dump, a series of unlined trenches on a 1,000-acre site, would handle low-level nuclear waste, including radioactive refuse from power plants, hospitals and research centers.

Environmentalists, Indian groups and others oppose the proposal. They contend it is dangerous, would damage the desert ecosystem and represents "environmental racism" against the tribes who have traditionally lived in the area.

The administration of Gov. Pete Wilson says the facility would be safe, and has already licensed an Idaho-based company, U.S. Ecology to build the dump 18 miles from the Colorado River near Needles.

"California has done everything it can to comply with federal law and develop a waste disposal facility necessary to safely dispose of low-level radioactive waste," said Kim Belshie, director of the state Department of Health Services.

The federal government has ordered additional soil and water testing at the site, delaying the project. Wilson last week sued the federal government to get Ward Valley approved.

## Year as Miss Warm Springs a great honor for Sunmiet

### To my Warm Springs Community,

My reign as Miss Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is officially over. The only thing I can tell everyone is thank you. You gave me such an opportunity that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Nothing could have made me more honored than the fact that I could represent all of you for the past year. Because of this I was able to travel and have opportunities that I may never have been able to come across.

I had the opportunity to travel to Alaska for the National Timber Symposium and experiencing a new culture and finding relatives I never knew existed. Attending conferences, where I met many new friends and was able to gain more knowledge on topics such as leadership and education has been a real growing and learning experience for me. I discovered I had a lot more knowledge about my tribes and Indian politics than I had given myself credit for. In realizing this and seeing people do listen to what I have to say, has aroused an interest in becoming more involved in what goes on in Indian Country. These are things I can do that are important for all of us.

The people I have met made me see, for the first time in my life, that I really do have a special gift to give. It is the gift that you, the people I am closest to, have always tried to tell me I had, but I never listened until now. My self-confidence has grown, I have a stronger sense of who I am, where I am going and the messages I want to share with people. For the first time I could actually speak to an audience and not be deathly afraid.

I can't begin to express all the gratitude I feel for all of you that have been so supportive and encouraging. So many people took part in making my year special. I especially thank Tedi Tanewasha, if it weren't for her I would never have run for Miss Warm Springs last year. My special thanks also goes out to Irene Towe and Orthelia Patt. They were my teachers. Combined, I learned some Wasco words, sign language, customs that went along with different events, dressing and

wearing the proper attire for the traditional Warm Springs and Wasco ways. I would also like to thank our Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath, he was always willing to be my escort at various parades and the Miss NCAI pageant. I made a life long friend.

My thanks and appreciation also goes to Anita Davis who was always available to sing the Lord's Prayer for me, she is blessed with a beautiful voice, Adeline Miller and Eileen Spino who taught me the Indian Charleston, Ellen Thompson who explained how some of the dances came to be, to Brenda Scott, Rita Squiemphen, Aunties Margie & Wimpy, Kathleen Heath, Joanne Smith and my faithful dance fans Mickey and Frances Brunoe and all those who always took the time to inquire as to how I was doing.

To my Grandmas, Grandma Phare, Coty Soules, Gladys Thompson, and Bernice Mitchell, I thank them for their wisdom they shared and their everlasting faith in me. To my grandpas, Grandpa Minnick, Sid Miller and Garret Soules, thanks for letting me know how much you care. I am especially thankful for my Grandpa Phare, he was my lifelong encouragement, he not only gave me much of my regalia, he also taught me the importance of taking care of what I have, pride in myself and from who and where I come from. He shared my joy with me when I received this title, his encouragement gave me the strength to continue on. I dedicate this past year to He and my Grandma.

To all the children and young girls who came up to say hi, ask questions or just be near, I hope I made you all feel welcome and left you with a dream that you might one day want to pursue this title. I thank the Tribal Council for seeing an importance of a Miss Warm Springs and providing the scholarship and budget for this title, the secretaries that did all the work, I appreciate all you did. To Susan Guerin my committee person, we learned together and you had some excellent suggestions, your kind personality made it

enjoyable to work with you. Good luck, you are a valuable person.

I thank the former Miss Warm Springs' for sharing their experiences with me. Lana Shike-Leonard, for always saying hello and telling me what a good job I was doing, Starla Green, for offering any advice or help if I needed it, Lyda Scott and Merle Kirk for being so willing to

offer a smile and a kind word. I would like to thank my family for their support and allowing me to interrupt a year of their lives with the traveling and commitments that became a family affair.

Most of all I thank the community. It meant so much to me every time someone came up to say hello or



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