

## Man Of The Unknown

Pulitzer-Prize winner N. Scott Momaday is the headliner at Oregon State University's "Nature and the Sacred" Symposium.

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phy, and let loose with a sly remark here and there. At question time, nobody asked him where he gets his ideas or how he decided to become a writer. They asked instead how his stories applied to their lives and about the apparent contradiction between the power of words, which comes from what is revealed, and the power of mysteries, which comes from what is hidden. He is an advocate of both.

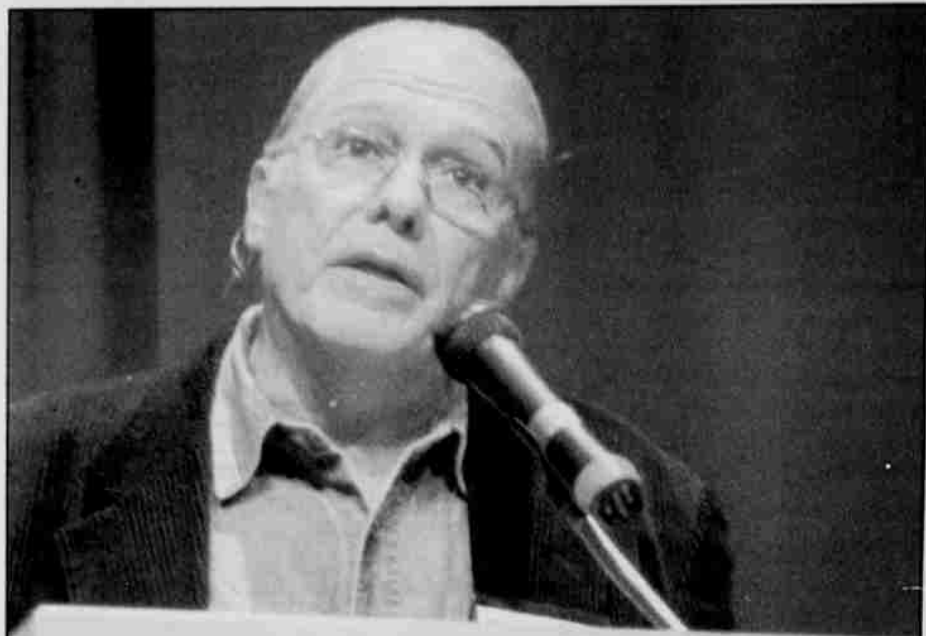
He told a story explaining the gash marks on an old, venerable tree stump. He said that he had told the story many times before. He set the scene with the simple statement, "This story took place

and the mystery of it, he said, takes on a special power.

Then, in his way, Momaday said that he once tried to tell that story to some grade school kids, but when he finished setting it up with the line, "This story took place when dogs talked," a little girl piped up: "Those were the days!" and the rest of the story lay in ruins.

He said that he still harbors a grudge against that little girl.

"One thing I was very impressed with," said Peters, "is that more than one student and more than one community member said later that hearing his talk had inspired them to revisit their own efforts at writing. For me, any person who's a public figure that can create that sort of inspiration in others is a na-



**"For me, any person who's a public figure that can create that sort of inspiration in others is a national treasure."**

**~ Kurt Peters about N. Scott Momaday**

when dogs talked," and went on to tell about a young boy pretending to be a bear and chasing girls around. In the story, the boy actually turns into a bear and the girls run away even faster. They pass a tree stump, the one in question, and the tree stump says that he can save the girls. They just have to jump on.

They do, and the tree stump rises in the air as the bear comes by. The bear slashes at the girls and makes the marks in question across the stump.

The stump continues to rise and the girls become the stars of the 'Big Dipper' constellation. "You'll never look at the 'Big Dipper' in the same way again," he said.

But being a man of mystery, he added that the part of the story that intrigued him most was the young boy who turned into a bear. The story goes no further in that regard,

tional treasure."

Peters is an OSU Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Director of the Native American Collaborative Institute (See *Smoke Signals*, July 15, 2004 issue) at the university.

Momaday's awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters award, the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement and the Premio Letterario Internazionale "Mondello," Italy's highest literary award. Currently Regents Professor of the Humanities at the University of Arizona, he is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds twelve honorary degrees from American colleges and universities, including Yale University, the University of Massachusetts and the University of Wisconsin. ■



**Power In His Words** — Kurt Peters, Director of the Native American Collaborative Institute at OSU, introduced Momaday. Momaday's awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Institute of Arts and Letters award, the Golden Plate Award from the American Academy of Achievement and the Premio Letterario Internazionale "Mondello," Italy's highest literary award.

Photo by Ron Karten

## Financial Officer Reports On Tribe's Budget

■ With money issues front and center, November's General Council meeting is mostly confidential.

**By Ron Karten**

The November General Council meeting was held on Sunday, November 7, at the Tribal Community Center in Grand Ronde. Here are the highlights:

Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl Kennedy called the meeting to order. Tribal Elder Cordelia Kneeland, Kennedy's mother, offered the invocation.

Tribal Financial Officer Larry Kovach gave detailed information about the budget, but because it is confidential, it will be described in the Tribe's *Council News* publication only.

Tribal members expressed support for Saint Michael Catholic Church that is now in need of funds.

Comments also reflected on gar-

bage found in road areas and in the woods, specifically the rock quarry area, all a reflection on Tribal character.

Tribal member Butch Labonte commented on the use of road signs for target practice, and the safety hazard that poses.

The \$50 door prizes went to Ellen Fischer, Dorothy Leno and Pearl Lyons. Trevor Aaron won the \$100 prize.



**Financial Officer Larry Kovach**

Photo by Ron Karten

for a Community Development Block Grant application due on December 13.

■ Important information about this \$500,000 grant are available from Planning Manager Kim Rogers, 503-879-2250.

■ Tribal Restoration dinner and powwow is scheduled for Sunday, November 21, 2004, in the Tribal Gymnasium and Community Center. Dinner is set to begin around noon with the powwow to follow. Contact coordinators Jackie Provost or Dakota Whitecloud for information.

■ The next General Council meeting will be Sunday, December 5, 2004, at 11 a.m. in the Tribal Community Center.

■ Per capita payment date is Friday, December 10, 2004. ■

### Announcements:

■ The Tribe is seeking suggestions