

Archive
Time For Native Americans to Get Busy
04/02/1998

I would like to call your attention back to WEN editorial of 2 years ago. We have been reminiscing of memories of the race relations meeting and platforms in Denver, followed by weeks of TV, radio, and newspaper attention here in Denver, Colorado; WEN was stired into immediate action. It's good to see the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News, as well as many other papers, starts printing about our people, especially the Traditional Oyate.

**URGENT FAX - PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO NEWSPAPERS, RADIO & NATIVE AMERICAN
ADVOCATES IMMEDIATELY**

Note: April 2, 1998, 2 PAGE EDITORIAL, 1 PAGE NEWS RELEASE
This Article was printed in various newspapers throughout the Nation, please distribute it. One paper, Park County Flume in Colorado, jumped aboard to help the Walking Eagle Network launch a "help campaign." Several papers, including Editor, PR Gregg of the Sicangu Sun Times, in Rosebud SD, titled the editorial:

Time for Native Americans to Get Busy

To: Editor (Please print my editorial in it's entirety)
From: Sandra Matchen, Walking Eagle Network
REF: Request for help - Native American Race Issues

Dear Editor,

I know the Native American community deeply appreciates Electra Draper for her excellent articles written in the Denver Post, on Sunday, March 29th, as well as all others who jumped on the bandwagon on behalf of Native Americans last week. It's about time someone took notice as to our TRUTH and Plights. Hopefully, people can easily see forced Assimilation of Native Americans did not, and is not working. Assimilation has almost led to genocide of this race with a mere 2 million of us left here. Please keep in mind that this figure includes mixed bloods as well.

Many non-Indian people tell me that they could not live with themselves if this race was eliminated. Well it has been happening and now some members of congress are pushing for our destruction and are holding most serious set of hearings on sovereignty since the 1950's. My question is, are the American People going to break more treaties?

During a KOA talk show and throughout the week, some people stated that Non-Indian people WON the war against the Native Americans FAIR & SQUARE! THAT IS ABSOLUTELY NOT TRUE! I am writing to refresh the memories of these confused people. Most people agree that slaughtering UNPROTECTED elders, women and children under the protection of the United States is NOT fair playing on the battlefield. Making treaties and repeatedly breaking them, and the bigotry that has followed is not HONOR. Forcing religions on a people with deep spiritual roots and outright lying is NOT morally right, regardless of Rights of Conquest. Most people can agree that both sides made many mistakes and that Native Americans lost mainly because of technology and trusting their enemies to keep their promises.

Another point: Spirituality is most important to the Native Americans. Over the centuries Christian people have come to the Indian Community trying to convert us by preaching that Jesus Christ stands for the Spirit of Truth, Love, Understanding, Fairness and doing the Right thing for our fellow human beings. This is why some have incorporated Jesus Christ teaching into their way of life. Some Christians get angry with Christian Indians because of how some interpret the Bible and refuse to "worship" the Man but want to honor and follow his teachings.

Where aren't the True Christians of the Bible in our plight for sovereignty and rights? Matter of fact, where are the African Americans in this issue, the ones who fought for civil rights? Where are the voices of the Asian Americans who have received so much tolerance and economic success from the American people? The Buddhists who are allowed to setup churches here? The Jews who received sympathy and apologies? The Hispanics, some who are allowed to invade our borders and then live here at taxpayer expense?

The Native Americans expected this attitude from the White race, surprisingly; a few of them seem to be helping us the most. Will the Democrats or Republicans stand up for us? Is this Government truly BY and FOR the people? It seems to me when there is talk about Government; people are talking about another entity. Is this truly one nation under good?

Today everyone is discussing us and giving their opinion about us without asking us what we want and need. Do you not wish to honor your ancestors, your mother and your father, which is written in your Bible and is one of the main spiritual rules of Native Americans? When Jesus Christ or your God comes again, and asks you how you helped Native people, will you be able to answer?

The Lakota People have waited centuries for the red, yellow, black and white races to come together in understanding for the benefit of our Earth and the human races and we pray hard for this unity. Our spiritual leaders have warned us that if this does not happen, then the forces of our Creator will destroy all of us for our greed and stupidity and we can see it starting to happen all over the World today. There are over two thousands religions out here, some for the force of good for the people and creations, and some are only into self and evil.

The only reason traditional oyate have survived to this day is that we pray hard for all people and have had advocates who are working on our plights. Our prayers and honor for our ancestors who walked before us show them we are thankful for their lessons, sacrifices and the paths they forged for us so that our World will be a better place. To simply give up, or give in, would bring dishonor to them. Not all people in this world want to keep slaving away so the rich can buy bigger houses or more cars, and go on weekend ski trips and vacations or step on the little people to get what they want.

You ask why children are in such turmoil today and why they are so disrespectful to Elders? Because they know the Truth and are watching all of us in this material world. Don't you see that they see the injustices, unfairness, bigotry, and lust for the almighty dollar? If you were an Native Elder reading our history to a child maybe then you would understand why so many of our young people are scared of, or don't want to live within this society. Many of our Elders are still in mourning and living in the past. The suicide rate among our young people is such a tragedy. I feel it is important for all of us to know that the youth who are watching us know they will inherit our mistakes. It is them who will determine whether or not we are respected ELDERS, ROLE MODELS and TEACHERS, or just OLD people.

I hope people get busy because NOW is the time and the Native American community needs all the help they can get to protect American promises and commitments of the past made to them!! It IS our inherited right!

Sandra Matchen, (Lakota)
Native American Advocate,
Walking Eagle Network (advocacy group)