

WOMEN Spirit

VOL. 2 NO. 3

— THE VOICE OF NATIVE WOMEN —

JUNE-JULY 1988

The Textbook Indian

Do you remember those savage, bloodthirsty Indians that we used to read about in school? How about the happy-go-lucky "children of the bush" that spent all day singing songs and playing in the bush? These are the textbook Indians. They are a tribe unto themselves, unfamiliar to us, but well known by all who have passed through the North American School system.

Native peoples have always been victimized by the school textbook. Our history has been slandered, distorted and ignored in the schooling of both Native and Non-Native North Americans.

In the late 60s and early 70s there was a lot of protest over the false information conveyed through the textbook Indian. In the last ten years, many positive changes have been made. There are, however, many problems still with the way Natives are portrayed in school textbooks.

School textbooks have always falsely stated that North America was "discovered" by Christopher Columbus. This assumes that the land here was uninhabited. Clearly, Native people were just part of the geography that the Europeans had to settle.

Of course, the real "trailblazers and pathfinders" were Natives, who knew every river and stream before the Europeans ever set foot on North American soil. Textbooks now at least acknowledge Native people as the "original peoples" of North America. Natives still are not seen as inhabitants of this land, though. They merely roamed around on it, unlike the Europeans who "settled" the land.

Textbooks have often described Native peoples as fierce and savage. These wild textbook Indians were inclined to

warfare and violence only out of a natural bloodthirstiness. European battles have explanations, and when won, are considered "victories". Native warfare, especially against white settlers, are considered Indian "massacres".

Textbooks have now eased up on guresome descriptions of Natives boiling up missionaries for dinner and scalping little-house-on-the-prairie-look-alikes. Children need no longer have nightmares about wild tomahawk-bearing Indians coming through their bedroom windows. Yet European "victories" against Natives are still glorified, and policies of assimilation and genocide are considered inappropriate for North American history textbooks. Violence and warfare between Natives and settlers is still interpreted according to a double standard.

The other textbook Indian that we know so well is the happy little savage. He leads a life uncomplicated by the vices of society. This is the friendly Indian that is seen giving away large tracts of land for a few "trinkets". This simplistic view of Natives teaches school children that Natives were naive and childish.

Although the happy savage is not as blatantly negative as the fierce savage image, it is equally as dangerous and misleading about the truth in Native history. This image also encourages children to believe that Natives were in need of care and government by a more "advanced" (i.e. European) society. Despite attempts to be more fair in textbooks, Native people are still portrayed as simple people that benefitted by all the "progress" that the Europeans brought.

Most significantly, there is a general lack of material about Native people in textbooks. Natives still only appear at the beginning of history textbooks as background material to the struggles of the pioneers. If modern day struggles of Natives are described at all, they are minimalized. Many books suggest that the government has showered Native people with annuity payments and benefits. It seems that if there is ever to be a true understanding of Native people, and of North American history, there are many changes yet to be made in textbooks.


Kim Anderson

Meegwetch!

A meegwetch from the hearts of everyone at the Native Women's Resource Centre to a lovely Toronto couple who so generously gave us a new vacuum cleaner, a typewriter (no more fighting over type-writer time, girls!), a playpen for youngsters who come to visit and a new Mr. Coffee, mere days after "old faithful" finally broke down. Hugs and kisses to you, kind folks, from all of us.

A thousand meegwetches!!!

**Native Women's
Resource Centre
New 1988
Board of Directors**

President: Dawn Smoke
Vice-President: Lidia Somers
Treasurer: Brenda Simon
Secretary: Wendy Julian
Directors: 
Jacqueline Rosen

Native Day Care Providers Needed

Work at home. We have the resources to help you set up quality licenced day care in your home. We need at least eight native women for the training program to start. Our children need you. For more information, contact Cindy at 963-9963.

TRAINING PROGRAM EXTRA INCOME EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN
PLAYMATE FOR YOUR CHILD THE SUPPORT OF TWO AGENCIES
TRAINING PROGRAM EXTRA INCOME EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN
PLAYMATE FOR YOUR CHILD THE SUPPORT OF TWO AGENCIES
TRAINING PROGRAM EXTRA INCOME EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN
PLAYMATE FOR YOUR CHILD THE SUPPORT OF TWO AGENCIES
TRAINING PROGRAM EXTRA INCOME EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN

Dear White Dove,

I really get hurt and upset when I get racist comments from non-Native people — especially pertaining to the name "SQUAW". What can I do or say to set that person straight?

Frustrated

Dear Frustrated,

Instead of stooping to their level of poor ignorance and immaturity, there are two ways in which to answer them:

1. Thank them for the compliment. In the Ojibway language "Squaw" (m'squaw) means "red". Let them know that you are proud to be part of the red nation, or

2. Ignore the comment. Our elders say when a person willingly causes hurt to someone else they will also be hurt, but ten times fold.

White Dove

Dear White Dove,

My two children have been really hyperactive in the evenings. It gets really bad just before bedtime. When in bed they are so restless that they have trouble going to sleep. When morning arrives they are so tired that they do not to get out of bed. What should I do?

Mama

Dear Mama,

The answer to the problem is to find a family activity which is very calming. An hour or two before bedtime, bake some cookies. Let the children read the recipes, measure the ingredients while you and your spouse supervise the preparations. And of course mama, you can put the cookies in and out of the oven. Save the clean up for when the children are asleep. There are many activities that you can do such as painting, drawing pictures, singing songs and the all-time favorite, reading books. Take turns reading — that is the greatest educational activity you can do.

White Dove



Native Dancing:

Greetings readers! Just a few lines to let you know about what's happening. Every Tuesday night (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.) we have been meeting at the Native Women's Resource Center to practice Native Dancing. We've been having a toe tappin' great time. Usually we use cassette tapes for our music — we have had the occasional visit from the Eagle Heart Singers. (Thanks guys!) We have been involved in making our own dance outfits. We've had a beading workshop to learn the different beading techniques. We are also learning how to make our own moccasins and leggings. The grand finale will be a performance in the International Children's Concert at the Cecil Community Center. We invite everyone to come out for our performance. The address is 58 Cecil Street, Toronto, Ontario. This will be held on Saturday, June 4th, 1988, at 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Christine

Native Community Health Worker (one-year contract position)

Anishnawbe Health Toronto is accepting applications for the position of Native Community Health Worker.

The successful candidate will be responsible for co-ordinating and assisting in planning AIDS prevention strategies specially designed for the various sub-groups within Toronto's Native community.

Qualifications: College diploma/university degree or equivalent combination of education and experience; sensitive to issues surrounding AIDS, confidentiality, sexuality, drugs use and grief; self-motivated; effective written and oral communication skills, and interpersonal skills dealing with both Native and non-Native individuals and agencies.

Personal knowledge of Toronto's Native community and services; knowledge of Native culture; ability to communicate in a Native language considered an asset, and understanding issue regarding AIDS.

Starting salary: \$28,000

Application deadline: 1 July 1988

Send resume with three references to:

**HIRING COMMITTEE
ANISHNAWBE HEALTH TORONTO
14 Vaughan Road
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 2N1**

Goodbye from Beki

We really haven't had a chance to meet unless you've dropped in to the Centre in the past couple of months and sad to say, I'll be finished working here at the end of June. I was hired for a three-month term as a family worker and I am happy to have been able to meet and work with some of you. I would like to thank the staff of NWRC for making me feel welcome and at home while I've been here. I will miss everyone at the NWRC though I will have a new baby some time in July and expect to have a lot to keep me busy then.

Since I've been here I've learned about the Literacy Program which helps adults to upgrade their skills in many areas. Kim or Christine would be glad to tell you more about their program if you call them at the NWRC. Also I've seen the beginning of new programs like the home daycare service, Anishnabe-kwe AA meetings, and the Children's Traditional Dance program. And then there's the Bingo, Saturday nights at the Wilson Bingo Hall. There are lots of good programs and activities going on here so get involved, it's lots of fun. If you're interested in finding out more about any of these programs please call the NWRC and ask for Cindy Maude-Community Worker or Christine Migwans-Literacy Program Assistant.

So to everyone, staff and friends of the Native Women's Resource Centre, I would like to wish a good summer full of fun and good times.

In the spirit of sisterhood,
Beki Big Canoe

Volunteers

The Native Women's Resource Centre would like to welcome our newest volunteer, Hansje Fischer (pronounced Hannah). Hansje is a wonderful, dynamic person to have helping us here. She is helping to organize the fundraising drive and would be interested in helping to co-ordinate other interested volunteers. She is also out there nearly every Saturday night helping out at the Bingo.

Volunteers are needed, welcomed and appreciated as they can make a large contribution to the quality of an organization like ours. Only a few hours a week of your precious time can get you involved in the varied and valuable work that is done by the NWRC. Just call 963-9963 and let us know that you're interested in being a volunteer.

Ann Jacko New Assistant Manager

Hi, my name is Ann Jacko and I am the new assistant manager at the Native Women's Resource Centre. I will be assisting the administrator with the daily business of the Centre.

I am from Wikwemikong Reserve and my daughter and I moved to Toronto three years ago. My favourite sports are baseball, volleyball, swimming and jogging.

I've only been here since the third week of May and I find the women very friendly, helpful and easy to work with.

Hansje Fischer Volunteer

Hello, my name is Hansje Fischer. I am from Holland, a small country in Europe with lots of flowers, windmills, wooden shoes, the latter only to satisfy the tourists.

The Government in Holland sees to the need of the people, i.e., Housing, Food, Clothing, Medical Care and Social Assistance so there are no poor people.

Before I came to Canada I managed an Art Gallery and was a volunteer for a non-profit organization to preserve the natural environment.

Thanks to Dawn Smoke I was introduced to the NWRC and became a volunteer, helping Beki Big Canoe with the fundraising for a new building and Cindy Maude with the Saturday night Bingo game.

The people at the center give an awful lot and work very hard. Thanks to them I learn a lot and I hope to see more volunteers coming in the center to help out as it is very rewarding. Working here is most gratifying and is vital to the advancement of all native women.

My hours usually will be in the mornings.

TOT ZIENS (Dutch) Hope to see you in the centre.

Wife Assault

The Native Womens Resource Centre has published "A Guide For Native Women" which tells Native women how they can get help if they are victims of wife assault. Please call or write the Native Womens Resource Centre if you or someone you know would like a copy of this booklet.

Natives — The Law

On Friday, May 13, 1988, I attended a legal clinic at Osgoode Hall, given by the Law Society of Upper Canada. The topic of the day was: "Representing Indian and Native Children."

I consider myself very privileged to have had the opportunity to attend this clinic. Meegwetch to Maddy! The speakers were very impressive. They included among others: Judge Main, Judge Little, Wally MacKay, Director of Tkinagen Child and Family Services, Sioux Lookout, Rhys-Langen Jones, Barrister & Solicitor, Mary-Anne Kelly, Barrister & Solicitor and last but not least, Dr. C. Brant, a Mohawk and a psychiatrist from Shannonville, Ontario.

I already knew a number of these people through my work in family court. I had met Wally MacKay about five years ago when I was a candidate for a position with his agency. Dr. Brant is a brilliant and amusing storyteller. I loved listening to him speak. This was a very informative and instructive conference for me.

I also received a large binder from the Law Society, outlining the day's agenda. If you would like to borrow it to get a better perspective on what I am so enthusiastic about, just see me and I will gladly share the binder with you.

Marguerite LeTourneau
Family Worker

Fundraising

The Native Womens Resource Centre is launching a major fundraising campaign to raise funds for a new building. We will be applying to the Native Community Branch of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture under their new grants program for community centres, as well as to foundations, corporations and churches.

Our goal will be around 500 thousand dollars so you know we will be working very hard. The Fundraising Committee would be glad to hear from you if you would like to be a member or devote some valuable time and energy to this worthwhile project. Call the NWRC at 963-9963 if you'd like more information.

A Play: Fires of Transformation

Presented by VOICE: Violence Overcome in Creative Ensemble.

I'd like to let you know how I got into the play, Fires of Transformation. I came to the NWRC in January to look for a job. Cindy Maude, the community worker had an outline of the project which she showed me. I phoned Katherine Marielle, the director of VOICE, and I went to an interview and was accepted into the VOICE project.

The project is part-time. We started on February 8th. I've learned a lot through the process we went through in creating the play, which, with all the women's input was video taped and recorded. There are ten of us presently acting in the play. We are already performing at shelters and have been to one school so far.

What I wanted to get out of the project was to be more self confident and to learn to express my feelings right away. I feel I have been supported in reaching these goals. Now, I'm working here at the NWRC, full-time as the crisis worker. The work I do here is related to what we are doing with the play which is reaching out to women, whether in shelters or Native women here.

Betty Belanger

Aging from a Native Perspective

On April 21 a workshop was held on Aging:: From a Native Perspective which Anishnabe Health presented. I went to the workshop and found it very informative. I met many new people as I'm new on this job and I was glad to meet more people that we work with.

The workshop started with the traditional welcome which Herb Nabigon facilitated. Two elders were there, Joe Sylvester and Verna Johnson. I really enjoyed listening to their stories of some of their life history. It was interesting and had a lot of humour in it which made me think that it would be nice to be an elder. Joe and Verna said they are still busy though they are retired. They get a lot of visitors at their place.

Debbie Pegahmagobow, R.N., of the Native Community Crisis Team introduced Sheila Nasmith who is from the faculty of Social Work at U of T. Sheila gave us a brief statistical report on the population changes caused by people living longer and she told us there will be more elders from the younger generation so we need to start looking at planning for more old age facilities than we have.

Betty Belanger

BINGO

**Wilson Avenue Bingo Hall
525 Wilson Avenue West**

Directions: From St. George subway you go northbound to Wilson subway and catch the 96 bus. Get off at the first bus stop.

The Native Women's Resource Resource Centre are holding their weekly bingos every Saturday evening. For the next nine weeks, that is June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, we need volunteers to help sell extra game cards.

Wilson Avenue Bingo Hall sits approximately 600 people. There is a non-smoking area and air conditioning. As a volunteer you will be assigned to selling extra game cards to the players and when you have a winner you will call out the winning numbers loud and clear to the bingo caller. The prize payout person will then give you the money to pay the winner.

The following instructions will help everyone understand the procedures of running a bingo. This is dabber bingo.

Two Administrators

We need two volunteers to be there at 9:00 p.m. One person to count the regular games booklets and the extra game cards. The second person to prepare the floor sellers' cards so they will be ready when they arrive at 9:30 p.m. The same two people will be selling the booklets when the doors open. The booklets are \$8.00 for two strips, \$12.00 for 3 strips, \$18.00 for 6 strips.

Be at the Bingo Hall by 9:30 p.m. You will be given six different types of game cards to sell. You will be able to recognize the different game cards by the colours.

Bonanza Cards 50 cents

**Sponsor's Special (pink) 50 cents*

**Jackpot (purple) \$1.00*

Warm-up Cards (Aqua) \$1.00

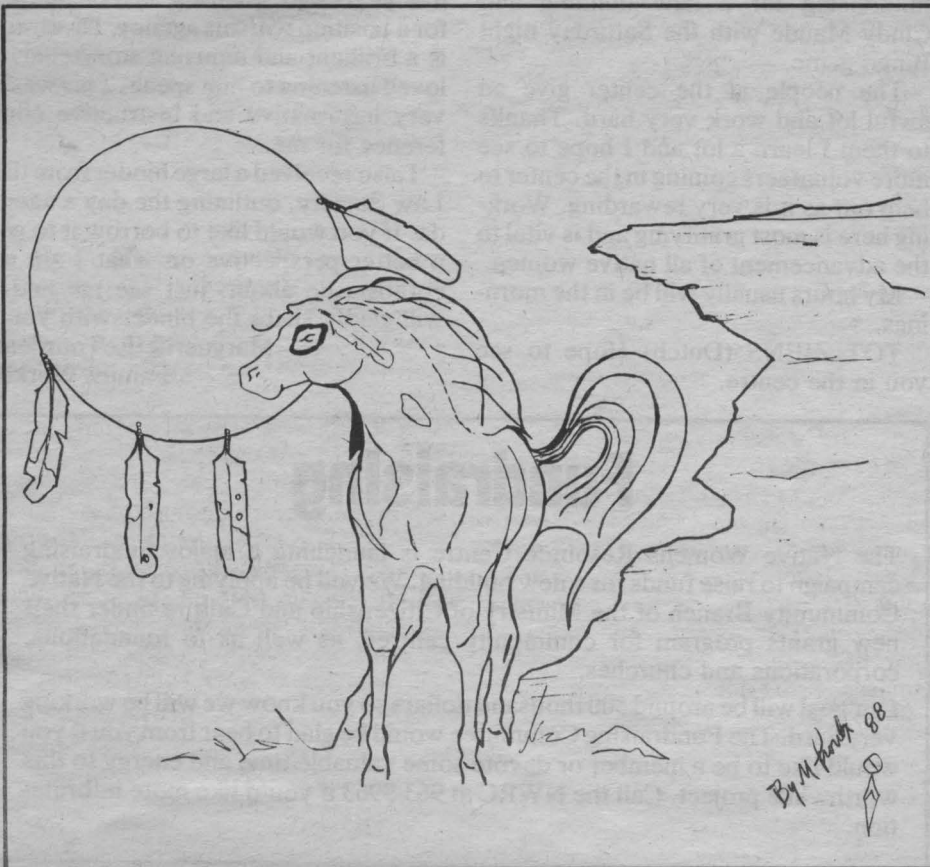
Wilson Avenue Special (Brown) \$1.00

Nite Owls (Lime) \$1.00

**Also in the booklets*

Special Night for Volunteers

All the terrific volunteers who help out Saturday nights will have their names entered in a draw and **four** of you will have a night of BINGO on us!!! That's \$30.00 worth (approximately) of cards, games, fun!!! JACKPOT \$1000.00. As well, volunteers please remember that we will provide rides home, so call Cindy to arrange the night you want to volunteer.



Good news about latchkey kids!

Every noonhour, 12-year-old Ian heads six blocks home from his Toronto school and fixes his own hot lunch—macaroni or a grilled cheese sandwich—while his parents work. After school, Ian usually starts his homework or listens to records. If he visits or entertains a friend, he calls his mother first at her nearby office.

Ian Hunter (a pseudonym) has spent two hours a day alone since his mother, Joanna, resumed secretarial work two years ago for the first time since he was born. "He's proud of his competence," Joanna says.

More than 60 percent of all Canadian mothers with school-age children now work outside the home. Some working parents cannot find reliable after-school programs for their kids; others can't afford them. These factors are creating a new generation of latchkey kids. In 1981, approximately 672,000 youngsters either cared for themselves after school or were tended by a school-age sister or brother, according to Statistics Canada surveys. But the actual numbers are likely far greater than any survey can reveal.

"Parents feel so guilty they often won't admit to leaving kids untended," says Elizabeth Ferguson, co-director with Mona Stephens of the Toronto-based Kids Connection, Canada's first telephone counseling service for latchkey children. Loneliness troubles latchkey kids who, forbidden to leave the house or invite pals in, have only a blaring TV for company. Fear threatens others who need reassurance about mysterious clunks in the furnace or parents who are a half-hour late as darkness falls. Sadly, many latchkey kids don't confide their fears to parents, who seem preoccupied with workplace concerns.

The good news is that sound planning and straight talk can ward off these hazards. Here's how to foster that I-can-do-it feeling in your latchkey child:

Make sure your child is ready for self-care

Look for signs of responsibility and overall trustworthiness. Likely candidates usually remember household tasks, arrive home at the appointed hour, complete homework on time and keep parents informed of their whereabouts. Above all, they like being on their own. Hesitant children should not be pressured into independence.

Make sure your child is safe
Latchkey children need a list of essential phone numbers centrally posted: parents' jobs, a trusted relative or friend, emergency number for police, fire department and ambulance. Kids should learn what to do if they smell smoke (home fire drills are a must) or come home from school to signs of a break-in. They should be taught never to admit visitors (some parents make an exception for young friends whose families they know), and never to let telephone callers know they are home alone.

Prepare an emergency kit
Tucked in a secure place, the kit should include a flashlight for electrical failures, bandages, adhesive tape, sterile gauze dressings, a pair of blunt scissors and packets of alcohol wipes to use as antiseptic. Many parents add a fare for public transit and coins for a phone call. Kids Connection urges that latchkey children be familiar with first aid.

Establish clear ground rules
When should homework be completed? What about the small household chores—emptying wastebaskets, doing dishes—that build responsibility and break the monotony of a solitary afternoon? If you leave the house first each morning, what must your child remember to do before going to school? (Make a list.)

Your youngster's after-school check-in phone call is essential, as is *your* call if you're going to be late. All latchkey kids need to know how long their parents will be absent each day. Three hours should be the maximum, say U.S. educators Lynette and Thomas Long in *The Handbook for Latchkey Children and Their Parents*.

Guard against loneliness
Make an arrangement with another latchkey family—your youngster can visit theirs one day a week, and vice versa. Or find a weekly sports or arts class and walk the route with your child before the first lesson. Ferguson adds that for any lonely youngster, a dog can be a "royal welcoming committee."

Look for ways to show your child comes first

For Joanna Hunter, who leaves the house before Ian, concern means a phone call as soon as she reaches the office. For other parents, it means a flower on the table or an affectionate note on the fridge door. Invariably, it means time together in the evenings—for cuddling, talking and, above all, listening to your child's worries.

RONA MAYNARD

CRIMES OF THE OFFICIAL TERROR NETWORK TRIBUNAL

NATIVE PEOPLE TESTIFY THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1988

AT BLOOR STREET UNITED CHURCH

The Group of Seven Economic Summit will be held in Toronto June 19th to 21st. These seven western, industrial nations are the United States, Britain, Canada, Italy, France and West Germany. Their leaders will meet to strengthen their ties and economic fortunes. Their greed relies upon domination and abuse of human and natural resources. Their policies affect the majority of the world's people and are directly responsible for the destruction of Mother Earth. Their agenda revolves around a display of their wealth and power and the ways they intend to preserve their power.

The Popular Summit is a people's response to the outrageous abuse of power by these nations. The Popular Summit is made up of hundreds of groups who are coming together in protest. Native people, environmental groups, human rights activists, women's rights groups, ... are just some of those who will be exposing the injustices and suggesting alternatives to the nightmare.

The Crimes of the Official Terror Network Tribunal will be held from June 9th to 12th at the Bloor St. United Church. The Tribunal will be an enquiry into human and environmental rights violations by the Group of Seven nations. These "leaders" of the world will be on trial for the crimes they commit against people and the earth. Native people in Canada and the United States have lived with these crimes since the "wasichu-takers of the fat" first came to Turtle Island. Many Native people will be speaking out about these crimes at the Tribunal. Come out and listen and show your support for these brave people.

Tribunal inquiry into the human and environmental rights violations of the Group of Seven — crimes of the official terror network tribunal.

The Struggle of Leonard Peltier is being presented on Thursday, June 9 in the afternoon. The exact time is not confirmed as yet but will likely be held in the late afternoon. The testimonies will be divided into a two-part format:

one, the American abuses and wrongdoings will be heard, then the Canadian side will be heard.

Speakers include — from the American side:

Ellen Moves Camp: Lakota elder, veteran of the historic liberation of Wounded Knee in 1973, witness to and target of the U.S. government's repression on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota;

Russel Redner: American Indian Movement and International Coordinator of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Kansas City;

Ward Churchill: Creek and Cherokee Metis, co-ordinator of American Indian Studies at the University of Colorado; co-director of the American Indian Movement of Colorado; author of more than 80 articles of American Indian affairs and co-author of *We Will Remember: FBI Operations on the Pine Ridge Reservation 1972-1976* — a soon-to-be published book;

Lew Gurwitz: Leonard Peltier's longtime U.S. defense attorney and dedicated activist/speaker on crimes against North American indigenous peoples.

From the Canadian side:

Warren Allmand: Liberal federal member of Canada's parliament and former Federal Indian Affairs Minister and Solicitor General in 1977 at the time of Leonard Peltier's extradition from Canada to the U.S.;

Art Solomon: Ojibwa elder and longtime prison abolitionist activist; recipient of two honorary doctorates from Canadian universities and amongst the first people in Canada to work on Peltier's struggle in 1976.

Vern Harper: Still to be confirmed.

Frank Addario or Diane Martin: Two of the Canadian lawyers on the LPCDC Defense Team One of our lawyers will be testifying on the legal/international violations of the false extradition. The testimony, in advance of an upcoming legal strategy on Peltier's case in Canada, will give for the first time some idea

as to potential legal action in this country.

Please note: As well as the above speakers, who have never before come together in the same place, there will also be **Vernon Bellcourt**, who will be testifying on indigenous peoples' struggles worldwide;

Karen Paul, of the Native Womens' Association of Canada, who will testify on the forced sterilization of Native women in North America;

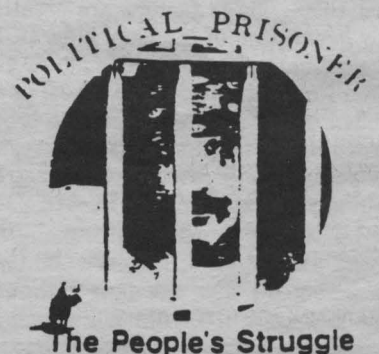
Henry Lickers/Jake Swamp: Akwesasne, who will testify on the environmental and health destruction of the Six Nations peoples because of pollution and damage to life and environment by corporations;

Steve Fobisher: Former Chief of Grassy Narrows, who will testify on the mercury poisoning and destruction of life and peoples on Grassy Narrows near Kenora;

Millie Redmond of Council Fire in Toronto, who will testify on poverty and homelessness amongst Native Peoples;

Ben Michel: Innu from Labrador, who will testify on the environmental damage and destruction to his peoples' lives and livelihood because of NATO military aircraft manoeuvres in Labrador.

Be at the rally "People Before Profits" which happens on June 19th at Queen's Park at 11 a.m. Native people's rights and views of the earth must be represented. Let's join with this caring coalition of people who are determined to stop the madness of the Group of Seven.



Popular Summit

May 20-June 18: A Series of Cultural Events including a variety night at the Ralph Thornton Centre May 20th, a cabaret at the New Theatre Centre on Lippincott May 30th, and an afternoon music festival on Toronto's Algonquin Island June 4th. Partisan Gallery is staging an exhibit featuring artists' concepts of how they would graffiti the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Contact: Jack Nissenson 960-5744.

June 9-12: Crimes of the Official Terror Network Tribunal. An enquiry into human and environmental rights violations by the Group of Seven Nations. Over 130 witnesses will come forward with evidence in six areas of global state violence. Witnesses include ex-CIA agent Philip Agee, Innu Elder Penote Ben Michel, and Canadian author/activist Claire Culhane.

Contact: The Alliance for Non Violent Action 533-9507.

June 13-19: "Students For A Just World" Tent City. The University of Toronto Popular Summit Coalition will set up a tent city/teach-in to protest the use of U of T campus for the G-7 Hart House dinner.

Contact: Student Christian Movement 979-9629.

June 17-21: Summit Citizens Conference. A series of public forums and workshops featuring prominent Canadian and international speakers discussing free trade, global disparities, the environment, development, common security, demilitarization, and building movements — a time for social solidarity.

Contact: Summit Citizens Conference 971-5015.

June: The Real Toronto Tour. The flip side of the prosperity coin. Visiting journalists and others will be shown the real Toronto, where homeless people have died, and people line up at foot banks.

Contact: Kevin Barrett, Basic Poverty Action Group 598-4521.

June 19: The Rally: Under the broad theme of "people before profits" issues such as racism, disarmament and development, hunger/health/homelessness, free trade and jobs, and native people's claims will be addressed by speakers and performers.

Contact: Gary Shaul 533-6135

Are You?

Afraid of your partner?
Frightened for your children?
In need of friendship and support?
Feeling alone? Confused? Helpless?

You are not the only one.

There are many women just like yourself.

You are not to blame. Your partner has to take full responsibility for any action or violent reaction. No one person has the right to abuse you, degrade you, beat you, make you feel like you're small, a nobody . . .

For support, help, information,
Just someone to talk to,
Call us at 963-9963

or

HELPLINE — 863-0511

Attention Women



Wendo Self-Defence Training Classes
1 Hour Free Introduction: Debbie Chard
Wendo Instructor
When: Tuesday, June 28th, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Native Womens Resource Centre



I feel more confident now that I have taken the Wendo Self-Defence. I have prepared myself. I learned how to fight back if I were ever to be attacked on the street or in my own home. It is reassuring to know that I have the skills and techniques to protect myself. It was a fun, learning experience. In my class I met women who actually save their own lives because they had taken Wendo before. There are subsidies available too!!! I only paid \$5.00. My classes were every Wednesday night for nine weeks, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

C. Maude

If you need babysitting call me: 963-9963



(416) 972-1551

Indigo Treasures
from AFRICA to
the AMERICAS
CLOTHING — ART
— JEWELLERY — ETC.

168 Brunswick Ave.,
(corner of Harbord Street)
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2M2

The Proud Inca

You really should go yourself to experience the profound quality of Peru. Writing on paper does little justice; however I will attempt to reflect as best I can. Initially I was asked to attend, along with another Native woman, Donna Loft, as a delegate for an Indigenous Women's Conference to be held in Peru. I responded eagerly and felt honoured to be selected for such a significant occasion. Apprehension mounted as the time grew near.

Finally I was setting foot in Lima, the capital of Peru. My first two days were a 'plunge' as we had no guide and no interpreter. Fortunately I was able to relate familiar sounds from basic Spanish I learned 20 years ago. We laughed a lot as we marvelled at the beauty and of our naiveté.

Our next adventure was Cusco, another urban environment and capital of the Incas. Amazing to say the least! We visited many surrounding villages which was the saddest part of my stay. As a regular tourist one would only observe superficial perceptions. We had the unique experience of visiting the surviving Native peoples homes up in the mountains.

In comparison to our country we need to be more grateful. Those Native peoples, if lucky, are allowed the status of a peasant. Can you imagine? A peasant in your own inherent land? They endure the effects daily as they strive to cook a decent meal of potatoes over fires made of excrement. No health care, no welfare, no employment, except for the merchants who profit from

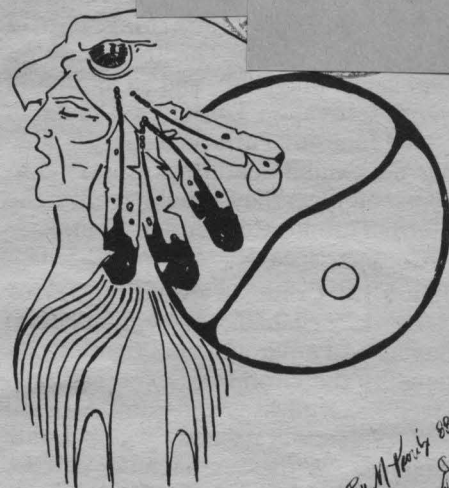
the Natives backbreaking handmade goods. Unbelievable but true.

On to the conference itself. What eloquent, ambitious, proud women! Their homemade dresses so colorful and distinctive. Like our people they have many diverse languages and tribes. Generally speaking, their philosophy is parallel to ours.

Honouring the land seemed to be the key to their survival and it was interwoven in all their expressions. They are starting to organize to strive for their own empowerment. This requires a lot of support from outside resources, for they are so strongly and intently oppressed under very extreme colonial forces.

I could rave on forever about the knowledge bestowed upon me and lessons I learned of their strength, endurance and amidst all this these women retain their dignity. I am committed not to forget and to do what I can here in Canada. I also have many pictures of

the magnificent mountains and each place we visited. It is truly and experience that is not to be easily forgotten.



New Board of Directors

The Native Womens Resource Centre has had a recent change in its Board of Directors. Dawn Smoke is now President and Lidia Somers is Vice-President. And we would like to welcome Jacqueline Rosen as a new director.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Keep informed on Native Women's Issues!

*Subscribe to Women Spirit.
And why not give a subscription*

to a relative or friend? ☐ One year \$10 ☐ 1/2 year \$5
☐ one year for a friend \$10

Name

Address

Postal Code

Readers! Our funding has run out. We need your help. Without it, Women Spirit will be put to rest. So please subscribe, write us or come down and visit. With your support we can continue. Remember, we are the only Native women's magazine in Canada.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Native Women's Resource Centre.

Funding for this newsletter was donated by the Ontario Women's Directorate.

Ad space available
\$25.00 for 1/4 page
\$50.00 for 1/2 page
\$10.00 business card size