

Plains Indians join together to discuss education, culture

by Mike Barret
Nebraskan Staff Writer
The idea of bringing Plains Indian tribes together to work with colleges and universities was discussed at the conference on Indian culture and education on Tuesday.

Indians from throughout the nation met and discussed schools and schooling in their areas at Sheldon Tuesday. The meeting was sponsored by Tri-University. Speakers agreed that, though situations varied, Indian control of Indian institutions was the most important step towards solving the problems facing the native Americans.

"Our schools have been designed to scrub the Indian until he turned white and began to think like 'the rest of us,'" according to Dr. Robert A. Roessel, Chancellor of the Navajo Community College. "But they want to be Indian, they want to be proud. We have to learn to live with different people and to respect differences," he continued.

However, reservation schools, boarding schools and public schools have been trying to wipe-out Indian language, culture, religion and science, according to anthropologist Murray Wax. The wishes of Indian people have rarely been considered in planning or administering these schools, Wax added.

Roessel said that as a result adult Indians on the Navajo reservation in Arizona have completed an average of two years of formal schooling. Average annual income among the reservations' 130,000 Indians is \$680 per family. Ten per cent can't attend school because there are no facilities for them.

"Our people are seeking

their Indian-ness. They want to be an Indian, but what is an Indian?" asked Webster Two-Hawk of the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota. He also pointed out that whatever Indians try to do with education is subject to change by state and federal administrations.

Indians denied rights
"I don't see how Americans who believe in democracy can continue to deny Indian people the right to control their own education. How do you make democracy work when the dominant culture is controlling the education?" Roessel asked. He pointed to the Rough Rock demonstration school in Arizona and the Navajo Community College as examples of Indian-directed schools.

Leonard Springer of the Omaha tribe added that, "There has never been an effort to recruit an Indian student to the University of Nebraska. There has never even been a visitation. The University curriculum makes no serious effort to train teachers for reservations or communities or to communicate to a white community what Indian culture is like."

The problem remains unsolved in the majority of educational systems, speakers agreed. In Nebraska, Indian schools are governed by all-white or white controlled school-boards, Rueben Snake of the Winnebago tribe said. Indian history and culture should even be included in non-

Indian schools, Snake said. "The problem is not only in educating Indians, the problem is in educating some 200 million non-Indians. Indians had a culture with no locks on tepees or hogans, no conscription to force young men to fight their wars for them, no orphanages or old people's homes..." he continued.

Law Soens, organizer of a Notre Dame University project to apply the benefits of ex-

pertise in law, health and education to Indian needs, said that, "We used to practice physical extermination of the Indian. Now, through education, we are trying cultural extermination. We are now offering the Indian white-mans weapons."

Shirley Witt, a Mohawk from Albuquerque New Mexico, said of the growing Red Power movement, "I have total faith in young Indian people."



photo by Daniel Ladely

Indian images — words of the wind, the sun and the gods — came alive in the poetry of Simon Ortiz, a Pueblo Indian, read at the Indian Center Tuesday night.

Campus Calendar

Wednesday, Nov. 19
Nebraska Union
4 p.m.

- ASUN 4:30 p.m.
- Phi Chi Theta
- AWS Workers Council
- Union Hospitality
- Union Contemporary Arts 5:30 p.m.
- Engineering Toastmasters
- AWS, Congress 6 p.m.
- NHRRF-Family Project 6:15 p.m.
- Red Cross 6:30 p.m.
- Neb. Human Resources
- Research Foundation
- Kosmet Klub 7 p.m.
- Alpha Lambda Delta
- Builders
- Alpha Kappa Psi
- AUF-Independent Women
- IFC 7:30 p.m.
- German Club
- Math Counselors 8 p.m.
- Neb. Human Resources
- Research Foundation 9 p.m.
- Kappa Alpha Psi 9:30 p.m.
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Request prompts CSL talk on Athletic Dept.

Continued from page 1

Brown answered that in practice the Subcommittee was more of a help to student organizations than a regulating body.

Brown said traditionally his group is made up of four faculty members and two students who are appointed by the now defunct Student Affairs Committee as well as students appointed by ASUN.

Because the Student Affairs Committee is no more, the Student Organizations Subcommittee and the Publications Board lack student participation.

Prof. Jack Botts, chairman of the Subcommittee on Student Publications, said his board is in charge of the Daily Nebraskan and the

Cornhusker. He reported that at their October meeting the board considered the following:

- Complaint by the Athletic Department that the Daily Nebraskan's free distribution of the Cornhusker Special interferes with the sale of football programs by the Athletic Department.
- Chastisement of the Daily

Nebraskan's business manager for displaying a beer advertisement but, in effect, nullifying that motion by agreeing to a hands-off policy of advertising.

Next week's agenda includes discussion of a proposal on self-determination for students (see story on above), an AWS disposition, issue priorities and procedures for hearings.

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Preston Love got his B.S. in Economics in 1966, then trained at IBM.



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