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Reporter: 1990s to decide fate of American Indians

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - The next 10 years may prove to be the most crucial time for Indians since whites landed on North America's shores, a reporter said Thursday during a conference on Indian-media relations.

Rob Armstrong, a senior correspondent for CBS Radio, told the conference Indians will have to "play the game" in the coming decade to overcome the problems they face.

"The 1990s may prove to be the most pivotal period for Native Americans since 1492," he said. "Native Americans must move now or get swept away with the tide. I think it's a serious question, whether Indians will survive past the year 2000."

"Our most crucial years are coming up," said Tim Giago, publisher of the Lakota Times, an Indian-owned weekly newspaper based in Rapid City.

"A lot of important issues are coming up for Indian people, including the future of a number of treaties," he said. "There's going to have to be a grass roots movement of both Indians and non-Indians to keep those treaties from being repealed by Congress."

About 100 journalists, educators and others from at least 14 states with large Indian populations attended the three-day conference called "The Media and the American Indian." It ends today.

"Indians must learn to play the game," Armstrong said. "It took corporate America a decade to do that, and it has paid off tremendously. There has never been an organized effort on behalf of Native Americans to get the word out. That has got to change."

Armstrong, who covered the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee by members of the American Indian Movement, said Indian leaders must learn to adopt strategies public rela-

tions experts use to gain access to the media.

"Indians are almost an invisible minority," he said. "The term 'disadvantaged minority' in official Washington means blacks and, oh yeah, sometimes Hispanics."

"It comes down to one fact -- Indians don't have much political clout, and political clout is what matters in Washington."

On Feb. 27, 1973, an armed group of Indians with grievances about the federal government's handling of Indian affairs occupied the village of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The FBI, U.S. Marshals Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs police sealed off the village by setting up roadblocks. Before the 71-day standoff ended, two Indians were killed and a deputy marshal was wounded.

The event was a high-water mark for media interest in Indian stories, said Armstrong.

"In the '60s and '70s there were a lot more stories on Indian affairs," he said. "I think that had a lot to do with the timbre of the times. Wounded Knee was sort of a pinnacle for the coverage of Indian affairs... it too, did not last."

For the most part, the majority of stories on Indians that began to appear in the national media throughout the '80s were examples of "lazy journalism" and "cliched writing," he said.

"Indians have been and still are the victims of stereotyping," Armstrong said. "They're probably the most stereotyped of all minorities."

Giago said that no matter what happens, Indians are survivors.

"They've adapted," he said. "It's a very enduring culture. They survived troops coming to kill them, 100 years of federal bungling... they'll do whatever it's going to take."

Cheney offers B-2 cutbacks to committee

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Dick Cheney on Thursday called for slashing Pentagon plans for the B-2 stealth bomber and other sophisticated aircraft, citing a diminishing Soviet threat.

Cheney, pressed by congressional Democrats to cut military spending in response to rapid changes in Europe, testified his blueprint would trim \$2.4 billion from President Bush's \$307 billion defense budget for 1991 and would save \$34.8 billion through 1997.

In addition to cutting the proposed number of B-2 bombers from 132 to 75, Cheney said he intends to cut planned purchases of the C-17 long-range transport plane and the Navy's A-12 attack aircraft, and to delay purchases of the Air Force's Advanced Tactical Aircraft and the Advanced Tactical Fighter.

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., commended Cheney for "coming to grips with some things he clearly needs to come to grips with," but said he didn't go far enough.

The Democratic-controlled House is already debating a fiscal 1991 budget that would make significant cuts in proposed Pentagon spending. The Senate is working on its own version.

Cheney told the House committee, "Soviet military capability will continue to be robust but we can in fact afford to slow down the pace of developing and fielding the next generation of aircraft."

He said NATO faces "fewer enemy aircraft and a reduced ground threat" as a result of the dramatic changes sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

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Presents

1990 ASIAN FOODFEST

DATE: FRIDAY APRIL 27, 1990

TIME: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

PLACE: UNL CULTURE CENTER
(333 N. 14TH)

COST: STUDENT W/ID \$3.00
NONSTUDENT \$4.00

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!

COME AND ENJOY THE FINEST OF ASIAN CUISINE

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FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE RESTAURANTS

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Court

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to pay student fees next year.

ASUN president Phil Gosch asked the court to clarify the meaning of "regularly enrolled."

At UNL, he said, the average DCS student carries four credit hours of night classes, while the average full-time undergraduate carries 13 credit hours.

He asked the court to show flexibility in its interpretation of the constitution's eligibility requirements for the student senate.

David Cygan, a DCS part-time economics and accounting student, said that because Haughton was elected to represent a group of students who are part-time by definition, taking away her senate seat on the basis of her

part-time status would be irrational.

Cygan, who also is a Nebraska assistant attorney general, said most full-time students would not represent DCS students adequately because of their different circumstances.

Clark Sackschewsky, a second-year law student, testified against a flexible interpretation of the constitution by the court.

Sackschewsky said that adapting the eligibility requirements for Haughton's case could "flow over to other students" without the proper qualifications.

Instead, Sackschewsky called for a constitutional amendment to be voted on by the student body according to the constitution's rules.

"I support Haughton," Sackschewsky said, but "I would rather see an amendment and preserve the constitution."

Teachers

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fessor of psychology, said, teaching circles are groups of faculty members who give each other advice. Because graduate students teach, they also are encouraged to attend the circles, he said.

Bernstein said the circles are helpful be-

cause the peer evaluations are instrumental in identifying teachers' strengths and weaknesses.

Prior to the new program, the colleges were using only student evaluations to judge a professor's performance.

But student evaluations are not enough, Barrett said, and students can't judge the content of course material to determine if information is outdated.

Alcohol

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The Sensible Advertising and Family Education Act (SAFE), was proposed because the war on drugs has to begin with alcohol, said Mary Takach, legislative aide to the bill's cosponsor, Rep. Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Although President Bush has dealt with the problem of illegal drugs, Takach said, the president hasn't addressed alcohol problems enough.

According to Takach, the bill is designed to educate children about the dangers of alcohol. Advertisements glorify alcohol and give the public a clouded image of it, she said.

The proposal will go into subcommittee hearings at the end of May.

Fighting

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tee meeting Sunday, Gosch said.

The bill will be referred to one of the ASUN standing committees for review and brought before the ASUN Senate next Wednesday, he said.

Committee members agreed that the fighting words provision would be addressed by ASUN or the Review Committee again in the fall.

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs, said that even if the committee and ASUN could come to a "great consensus" on

a fighting words provision, procedures for implementation have not yet been discussed.

Griesen and the committee also briefly discussed a proposal to incorporate an "honor code" in the Student Code of Conduct.

Such an honor code, Griesen said, would make it a violation to not report a theft, assault or any felony offense committed by another student.

But there is not enough time to look at such a proposal in depth, which is a significant departure from the current code, he said.

Griesen said he also suspects students would view such a policy with "disdain." No one likes to be told they have to be a "snitch" on a fellow student, Griesen said.