

The Reading Red Report

**Native Americans in the News:
A 2002 Report and Content Analysis on
Coverage by the Largest Newspapers
in the United States.**

Written by
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*Produced by the Native American Journalists Association
and
News Watch*

The Native American Journalists Association serves and empowers Native journalists through programs and actions designed to enrich journalism and promote Native cultures.

NAJA recognizes Native Americans as distinct peoples based on tradition and culture. In this spirit, NAJA educates and unifies its membership through journalism programs that promote diversity and defends challenges to free press, speech and expression. NAJA is committed to increase the representation of Native journalists in mainstream media. NAJA encourages both mainstream and tribal media to attain the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and responsibility.

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News Watch is a project of the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism of the San Francisco State University Journalism Department.

The project is a collaboration between the Native American Journalists Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the National Association of Black Journalists, the Asian American Journalists Association and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

News Watch is funded by a grant from The Ford Foundation.

Our mission is:

- *to promote healthy candid dialogue among journalists regarding coverage of people of color, lesbians and gays, and other communities which have been the victim of biased reporting or ignored by the news media*
 - *to examine both good and bad coverage in ways that help us learn lessons*
- *to seek out or develop resources which will help all journalists do a better job at covering our complex, diverse world.*

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Introduction

The Native American Journalists Association has long been concerned about mainstream news coverage of Native Americans and our communities. Our concern is based on a number of observations including a lack of coverage, uninformed coverage that perpetuates stereotypes and false perceptions, and gross inaccuracies.

This concern has summoned us to prepare *The Reading Red Report*. This past year we have taken it upon ourselves to conduct a content audit study of the leading newspapers in the United States. We partnered with News Watch and four seasoned Native journalists (Kara Briggs, Tom Arviso, Dennis McAuliffe and Lori Edmo-Suppah) to conduct this analysis.

It is important to note that the intent of this report is to merely give Indian country and the industry a solid overview of the type of news coverage reported during the past three years.

News Watch conducted the article searches. The following guidelines were adhered to:

- The search was performed using the Lexis/Nexis database.
- Keywords: Native w/2 American (w/2 indicates that these words need to be within two words of each other).
- Keywords were searched for in Headlines and lead Paragraph of each story.
- Dates searched: Feb. 1, 1999 through Feb. 1, 2002.
- Each publication was searched individually.
- Newspapers searched: The Chicago Sun-Times, Houston Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, Newsday, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

Our goal was to search the top ten newspapers in the United States. However, the Chicago Tribune produced no searches on Lexis/Nexis.

Articles were included if they focused on Native American issues. Stories were not included if they mentioned Native Americans as a demographic as part of a larger demographic (i.e. Minority enrollment in colleges, including Hispanic, Native American, African American and Asian American).

Obituaries were included if Native American issues were featured in the obituary. Letters to the Editor were included if they directly addressed a Native American issues (not the way they were written).

We are firm in our belief that the critical, yet fair, observations and conclusions offered here are impossible to ignore. Undoubtedly this report will prove to be essential to those working toward sound, complete coverage of this important beat.

This report gives us an unprecedented, unvarnished view of the industry's performance in this area. We are confident that this report will quickly become a must read for all journalists.

The Reading Red Report is part of our "Covering Native America" project, which is designed to educate mainstream journalists about the complexities and unique challenges of covering Native people. Education has always been an essential element of NAJA's mission. This report represents a significant contribution to this important work. "Covering Native America" is the brainchild of Kara Briggs and Karen Lincoln Michel, who are former NAJA presidents.

We are hopeful that *The Reading Red Report* will serve to assist in the improvement of news coverage of Native America. We call upon the industry to not only consider our concerns but to initiate considerable change in the way our people are covered.

Migwetch,
Mary Annette Pember
President, Native American Journalists Association

The Reading Red Report

**Native Americans in the News: A 2002 Report and Content Analysis on
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Today U.S. newspapers cover Native Americans.

That could be the headline.

It would denote significant progress over past decades when U.S. newspapers overlooked Native Americans and their issues, or worse told one-sided stories steeped in stereotype and racist innuendo. It would also recognize the critical success of the Native America Journalists Association's efforts to educate mainstream media through events such as UNITY '94, UNITY '99 and its own "Covering Native America" training program for non-Indian journalists.

But it would fail, as is so often the case, to tell the whole story.

A content analysis of nine of America's largest circulation newspapers -- The Chicago Sun-Times, Houston Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, Newsday, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post -- from 1999 through 2001 found 1,133 articles dealing with Native Americans and Native American issues.

The Chicago Tribune was to be the tenth newspaper surveyed, but the newspaper's archives could not be accessed. Some of the stories that appeared in the newspapers came from The Associated Press and other news services. The Wall Street Journal had the fewest stories with 43 during the survey years.

Most stories appeared on the front pages of the nine newspapers, or on local news pages. Stories also appeared throughout the suburban, arts, sports and travel sections and obituary pages, indicating an expanded awareness of the importance of Native Americans within mainstream U.S. society.

The best stories simply reflected good-quality and fair-minded reporting; writing and editing applied to Native America. They treated Native Americans as people rather than historical figures. They explained to readers the unique status of the 560 federally recognized tribal nations as sovereign governments within the United States. They acknowledged the depth and diversity of Native American communities.

Many stories, particularly in the arts sections, considered Native America in empathetic rather than confrontational tones. Often, though, attempts to summarize the history of U.S. relations with tribes slipped into bland generalizations because reporters lacked knowledge of federal Indian law, tribal histories and local geography.

Most coverage resulted in national news stories.

The majority of Native American coverage fell into three topic areas: casino gaming by tribes, mascot team names and "on the res" datelined stories.

"On the res" topics accounted for 225 stories, or 20 percent of the total found. This was in large part because of the 103 stories The New York Times produced in this category.

A preponderance of "on the res" stories were from Pine Ridge, S.D., or Window Rock, Ariz. At best, they provided information about communities many readers know little about. At worst, they reinforced stereotypes about barren

landscapes, family feuds and poor yet mystical people, the kind you might see in an old episode of "Northern Exposure."

"On the res" stories also belied 2000 Census data that most Native Americans lived in cities, not on reservations. So many stories in The New York Times were datelined Pine Ridge that a reader might not have realized that New York City's 87,241 Native American residents make up the largest urban Indian community in the nation.

New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston are among the 10 cities with the largest urban Indian populations. Only Newsday in New York regularly covered city-dwelling Native Americans.

Casino stories ranked second with 145, or 13 percent, of stories found. The Los Angeles Times and The New York Times covered the topic extensively because of controversial approvals of new tribal casinos in their states.

Casino gaming is changing rural America and bringing employment, if not always wealth, to long impoverished tribal nations. It is a story of historic proportion as tribes use casino revenues to help recover from 500 years of oppression. Many tribes also are using their new prosperity to build partnerships with neighboring communities, to recover cultural artifacts and to cope with the new hostilities that prosperity can breed.

But most casino stories were focused on government process. They contained comments from government bureaucrats who expressed suspicions of tribal enterprises. They turned potential stories about economic successes into redundant and sometimes negative accounts.

Headlines on casino stories were especially problematic. Too often, they toyed with the "clever" wording of 1950s Hollywood Westerns such as "circle the

wagons." Attempts at clever word play or inappropriate gambling metaphors around a racially-charged topic smack of prejudice, and erode what's left of news organizations' credibility in the eyes of Native American readers.

Mascot stories were the third most common found with 116 examples or 11 percent of coverage. The Chicago Sun Times' coverage of the University of Illinois' Chief Illiniwek mascot accounted for 42 of the stories on the topic, and 43 percent of that newspaper's reporting related to Native Americans.

Played against the backdrop of a community in which teen boys are some the most likely people in America to commit suicide and where Native American women are highly likely to be abused by men of other races, the dehumanizing effect of mascots has profound significance.

The lawsuit over the U.S. Interior Department's century-long mismanagement of billions of dollars held in trust for Native Americans was the topic of 62 stories. Half of the trust fund stories appeared in The Washington Post.

The suit, filed in 1996, brought the history of America's theft of Native American lands into contemporary focus.

But have journalists at these nine newspapers done all they can to convey the significance of the trust case to readers? It involves hundreds of thousands of acres belonging to Native Americans, billions of dollars and, perhaps, the worst example of government mismanagement since the 1920s Teapot Dome Scandal.

Already, average Americans felt the fallout of this case when a federal judge ordered the shutdown last year of the Interior Department's Web sites. In time taxpayers may feel more impact if the government has to repay more than \$10 billion of royalties.

Taking Another Look

These key stories certainly deserve coverage. But when they are the most-frequent and best-played stories that readers find about Native Americans, they skewer public perceptions about tribal nations and Native American communities.

Taken alone, they barely skim the surface of contemporary Native America.

One of the most important, and least reported, stories of Native America is the efforts of tribal elders and linguists to save the remaining 175 tribal languages, many of them near extinction. Los Angeles Times reporter Robert Lee Holtz explored the issue in a three-part series titled "Islands of the Mind: How Language Shapes Our World," published in 2000.

Holtz wrote, "There may be no more important a testimony to the visceral importance of language than the government's systematic efforts to destroy all the indigenous languages in the United States and replace them with English."

Olympian and Native American Jim Thorpe was considered by many to be the greatest athlete of the 20th century, but was the subject of just two stories in the study period. "Body and Sold," a Scripps Howard New Service story published in 2001, explained how Thorpe was stripped of his Olympic gold medals during his lifetime. After his death in 1953, Milan Simonich wrote, with the dateline Jim Thorpe, Pa., that town purchased Thorpe's body in a failed scheme to boost tourism.

The athlete's sons are appealing to the town to let his body go home to Oklahoma.

Katie Thomas wrote in Newsday about pollution from a General Motors plant seeping into a St. Regis Mohawk reservation swimming hole where children no longer were allowed to swim. The story, which ran in March of 2001, was

followed up a few weeks later with a story about how the tribe worked with the state of New York to deal with the problem.

Across the nation, tribes are building significant working relationships with state and local governments, but that seldom is reported in large, mainstream newspapers.

Sam Howe Verhovek of The New York Times wrote in August of 2001 a story titled, "Where Mozart, a Tribe and Parallels Meet," describing a small Manhattan musical company's collaboration with the Kalispel tribe to bring Mozart's Magic Flute opera to the reservation's open air powwow grounds in the Northeastern corner of Washington state. Tribal members and opera singers shared performance duties. A powwow drum and singers were the chorus.

Verhovek began, "The setting is not the Metropolitan Opera House. But it is no less spectacular."

Challenging assumptions

Many journalists and readers rely on their elementary school lessons to inform them about Native Americans today.

The problem is with biased textbooks in which Native Americans are treated as historical figures who lived on the Great Plains and hunted buffalo.

The miseducation of America resulted in prejudicial news coverage for Native Americans. Many journalists unwittingly pass on their lack of knowledge through word choice, limited sourcing and repetition of outdated scientific theories.

Stories in these nine newspapers referred to the prehistoric migration of all Native Americans from Asia over the Bering Land bridge, a theory disputed by the origin stories of tribes themselves. Some tribes describe other migration routes; many others speak of creation on this land. Journalists should look beyond Western

science and Judeo-Christian traditions to tell the stories of the aboriginal peoples of the Americas.

Other stories such as Newsday's "Indian Ruins Reveal Signs of Cannibalism" in 2000, wrote about scientific reports without allowing Native Americans to respond.

Contemporary Native Americans in the Four Corners region disputed the report and objected to scientists branding an entire people with cannibalism based on one finding, which could have had many other explanations. Many science stories still disregard Native American experts.

Native Americans sources can be found in universities, government and industry. They also work in elementary schools, police departments and tribal enterprises.

The challenge for most of us internet-happy journalists is in taking the time to find the sources that exist in every community. Most tribal knowledge, though, is still shared in face to face talks, sometimes called oral tradition. Native American communities are wary of journalists, particularly those who drop in expecting to be met by a public relations officer willing to give them guided tours.

Building relationships with credible sources in Native America takes personal effort on the part of journalists. It takes stepping out of the daily newspaper routine, and approaching the subject matter as an avocation rather than a one-day report.

Need for Style

Newspaper readers of all races are bothered by faulty word choices, misspelled names and inaccuracies of all kinds. Native American readers are no exception.

Today new and broader style directions also are needed, and could be developed by the Native American Journalists Association in cooperation with other news industry organizations.

Newspapers need to carefully consider the use of words such as "discovered" in relationship to the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark's trek across the continent approaches.

Newspapers are also lagging behind current language usage by Native Americans and Native American media.

The terms "Native American" and "American Indian" should be used in U.S. mainstream newspaper stories. Use of "Indian" alone generally is discouraged. However, it may be used in quotes, and also in terms such as "urban Indian."

"Native" alone has come into common usage.

It is unacceptable to use "native American" with a lower case "n" in native. Native peoples must be allowed to define their own names in the same way other racial or ethnic groups have defined their names.

But the only truly accurate terms are specific names of tribal nations, whether they are names of the 560 federally recognized ones, the many other tribes seeking recognition from the U.S. government or the multitude of tribes throughout the other countries in the Americas.

The Native American Journalists Association, which represents more than 800 Native journalists in the U.S. and Canada, welcomes the participation of non-Indian journalists and mainstream media in its Covering Native America Seminars and its annual convention.

Assessment of Articles

The following is a breakdown of the eight newspapers -- The Chicago Sun-Times, Houston Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, New York Daily News, Newsday, The New York Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post. found 1,133 dealing with Native Americans and Native issues.

Considering that The Wall Street Journal has surprisingly filed a low number of stories (43) in the past three years we will only make mention that the majority of their stories focused on mascots and gaming.

The largest category was national, or what we call "DATELINE: On the "Res" stories. There were 225, or 20 percent of the total content. This was in large part because of the high number of New York Times stories in this category: 103.

Casino stories came in second, with 145 or 13 percent. The Los Angeles Times and New York Times covered this issue extensively, because the controversial casino approvals were taking place in their states during the period of this study.

Mascot stories came in third, with 116, or 11 percent, followed by local stories, with 94 or 8 percent, museums, with 81 or 7 percent, and the Indian Trust Fund, with 62 or 5 percent. More than half of the Trust Fund stories -- 33 -- were in The Washington Post. (The trial takes place in its circulation area.)

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Of 105 stories, seven did not count -- they were either sports stories (Notah Begay wins a golf tournament) or repeats.

Of the remaining 98 stories, nearly half (42), or 43 percent, were about the mascot issue, sparked by the University of Illinois' Fighting Illini team name. (One story about a 1999 protest quoted a sign carried by an angry fan of the team name, "The Fighting Whites" which would become a good story in 2002 when it became the team name of a mixed-race intramural college team in Colorado).

The next highest category was entertainment (books and movies) with 9, followed by: museums, including a story about Native American Studies curriculum: 7, or 7 percent.

Curious: 7 (Indians trek to Texas to gather peyote; 2 Indian gardening stories, 1 "Native Wisdom" in weather prediction; a Native popcorn recipe; 1 "pre-Columbus prayer vigil;" a Sacajawea-Lewis & Clark cross-stitch kit, and a very strange "missing link" Chinese crossing the Bering Strait to become Indians.)

DATELINE: On the "Res": 6, or 6 percent. (two of these stories also involved U.S. National Parks; one was about Alaska Village kids discovering TV; another about

buffalo economic development project at “Cheyenne River, Sioux Nation,” as the dateline put it. None was staff written.)

Local Indian stories: 4, or 4 percent. (a powwow and visit to Chicago’s National American Center)

Lawsuits: 4 (national and local suits)

Casinos: 3, or 3 percent.

Remains: 3 (including story about Jim Thorpe’s remains)

Code Talkers: 3 (in 1999, Navajos were already knocking the movie; one of these, btw, was about the Comanche Code Talkers)

Indian Trust Fund: 3, or 3 percent.

Celebrity profiles: 2 (Sherman Alexie and Notah Begay)

Washington policy: 2 (Tobacco funds and long-distance surcharge)

Tour/Travel: 1 (Navajo)

Questionable heds: Grave Concerns Near O’Hare (Burial Site); Powwow Can Unite Chief’s Warring Factions (Mascot); Time to forget the Chief and start focusing on a No. 1 seed for the Illini (mascot); Could be time for another powwow on this issue (mascot).

Shame on you: Unfair led: A third-generation German immigrant, Clarence Borries has farmed the pale gray soil here for most of his 72 years and can remember hearing stories about the Indians who once roamed the countryside. ... Now Borries and two dozen other Downstate landowners must confront other ghosts of the past in a federal dispute involving a 2,250 member Indian tribe (in Oklahoma).

NEWSDAY

Of 78 stories, two don’t count, for total of 76.

Local Indian stories comprised the largest category: 18, or 24 percent. Many of these were about area powwows. Several were very good stories about local Native people; a 50 percent increase in Native population in New York City and other census stories.

DATELINE: On the "Res": 12, or 16 percent (including a Lakota-Black Hills, a California tribe living without electricity or phones, Carlisle boarding school, two-part series on St. Regis Mohawks, two Denver-Columbus Day stories.)

Casinos: 9, or 8 percent (debate on whether Pataki should or should not approve Indian casinos)

Entertainment: 7 (including basketweaving, food concession, "Native American home furnishings")

Mascot: 7, or 9 percent

The Curious: 4 (Cannibalism, search for Pocahontas remains, "missing link" Indians descended from Europeans and "Native American Indian Month".)

Remains: 4, including "Fire chars Indian ruins"

Museum: 3, or 4 percent

Trust Fund: 3, or 4 percent

Obits: 3

Washington policy: 1 (HUD and Smoke Shops)

Travel: 1

Questionable heds: Tribes try to profit from power crisis, Lost Princess (on search for Pocahontas remains)

Bad led: In Western states from Montana to California, American Indian tribes are trying to cash in on the power crisis that has afflicted California this year.

Curious led: We were lying around on rocks like lizards in the hot desert sun, listening as our Navajo Indian guide described the ancient tribal rites of his people.

Argh: Welcome to TheTribe. You have to earn the feathers for your headdress in Chief Colorful Butterfly's classroom. And sometimes if you're naughty, you get your feathers plucked. (2nd Grade class celebration of Native American Indian Month.)

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

35 stories.

Local Indian stories were the largest category: 9, or 25 percent. These included a photo caption on a powwow picture, several stories about Native American heritage festivals, and a sweat lodge in a county jail.

National: 8, or 23 percent, including gas pipeline stories. (One is a foreign story on Germans' love of Native Americans.)

Casino: 6, or 17 percent

Mascots: 2, or 6 percent

Entertainment: 2

History: 2

One each, or 3 percent, for museum, lawsuit, Washington policy (Indian gas royalty), remains, trust fund and travel.

Tacky hed: Lakotas' Last Stand

LOS ANGELES TIMES

128 stories.

Casino: 31, or 24 percent (This was during controversy over referendum on tribal casinos.)

Local: 27, or 21 percent (Los Angeles has largest urban Indian population in country, though many of these stories were about nearby tribes, rather than local

Native American Center or inner-city Indians. Included in this category are some census stories and two crime stories about embezzlement charges and illegal campaign contributions involving two tribal leaders.)

National: 17, or 13 percent

Entertainment: 13

Remains: 10

Museum: 9, or 7 percent

Trust Fund: 6, or 5 percent

Mascot: 5, or 4 percent

History: 3

Curious: 3 (cannibalism, A ‘Shopping’ Trip through the woods reveals ingredients for a Native American Meal, and a strange story about a high school sports rivalry and the death of a high school athlete who’s death was “blamed on Red Cloud’s alleged practicing of bad medicine,” under the headline “Little Big Rivalry.”

Washington policy: 2

Lawsuit: 1

Travel: 1

Tacky hed: Name Flap Ruffles Feathers

Insensitive: Giving full name of DQ University, when one of the name’s is sacred and never should be uttered.

THE WASHINGTON POST

237 stories total, minus 20 that didn’t count--- 217 stories categorized.

The national news category contained 43 stories (20 percent) of various topics of national interest, from a well written feature about an orphaned Native American

searching for her roots, to fishing rights and U.S. oil drilling in the Yukon infringing upon caribou grazing patterns.

Mascots: There were 40 stories (18 percent) devoted to the mascot issue, most of which centered upon discussion of the Washington Redskins. But there were some stories focusing on local high schools that were banning racially related mascots. One story had the headline “A Blanket Ban on Indian Names Blatantly Offensive.”

Trust Fund: The trust fund issue had 33 in depth stories (15 percent) considering various aspects of the Trust Fund issue.

Local Stories: There were 14 local stories (6 percent). The topics were varied, ranging from American Indian Heritage month stories to coverage of the local powwows. There were also coverage of local tribal issues in nearby areas.

Entertainment: 13 Local notices for Native American “shows” and book reviews of Ian Frazier’s “On the Rez”, Sherman Alexie’s “The toughest Indian”. Indigenous’ new album review.

Museums: 12 (6 percent), anthropological and archeological finds, also several stories about a local Mall display in Washington. Also donations to museums from local tribes.

Casino: 12 (6 percent), Oneidas betting on Mexican casinos, to settlements and legal claims from tribes to the fed govt.

Remains: 12 Ishi’s brain, ke

Lawsuits: 7, prison race policy on religion struck down

History 7 : The buffalo nickel, Sacajawea coin, Historical account of
CARLISLE SCHOOL

Washington Policy: 4

Code Talkers: 3

Obits: 3

Drunks: 2 Two stories about Native American Alcoholics who find their way to sobriety via their native roots.

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

36 stories.

Entertainment: Contained 10 stories total, more entertainment stories than anything else. Book reviews, plays, art exhibits. Headlines tended to be quite tacky, “EXHIBITION GOES TRIBAL”, the same exhibition was sponsored by Phillip Morris with the statement “(peacepipe anyone?)” following, another headline read “good and bad medicine, spiritual strife on an Indian reservation”, another headline read “love without reservation”. Also one of the plays was about the life of a stereotypical drunk homeless Indian in the city.

Casinos: 9 stories, 25 percent. Most concerning casinos in the surrounding areas. Mostly conflict stories.

Local: 6, 17 percent-- Stories about local Indian happenings and issues, pow-wow, local burial grounds, cigarette sales on res, celebration of local extinct tribe. The cigarette sales story had the headline “A Smoke Signal of the Times.” Another read: “Circling the Wagons Upstaters fighting Cayuga Indian Land Claims”.

Mascots: 1, 3 percent

Museum: 1, 3 percent

History: 1 Students learn history lessons about extinct Indians, (another dead Indian story)

National: 2, 6 percent

Curious: 2 Meter claim disputes.

Lawsuit: 1

USA Today

83 entries, 9 didn't count. Total: 74

National: 34, 46 percent, including several stories on Notah Begay's DUI conviction, and piece that he was 1st full-blooded Indian to participate in a tour.

Also a dying Indian story with headline "Way of life could fade with whale population

Mascot: 14, 19 percent

Entertainment: 6

Sports: 5, including a Native American archer in the Senior Olympics and a stereotypically simple reservation mother who overcame fear of flying to watch a daughter play in basketball game.

Trust Fund: 4, or 5 percent

History 4

Casino: 3, or 4 percent

Remains 2

Washington policy: 1

Museum: 1, or 1 percent

Obit: 1

Travel: 1

NEW YORK TIMES

519 stories

Most national stories -- 103, 22 percent. Many of these were shorts. But many too were in-depth, really good, DATELINE: Res stories about tough Native issues,

such as loss of population in Great Plains, new Hopi radio, high number of Indians in Special Ed programs, lack of doctors in Alaskan clinics, Yakama booze ban, high number of stillbirths on Washington reservation, tribal colleges such as Nebraska Indian Community College and Institute of American Indian Art facing closure because of lack of federal money, Canadian tribal women fighting tribal council graft.

Casino: 72, 15 percent

Museums: 47, 10 percent

Entertainment: 26

Washington policy: 19

Lawsuits: 17

Remains: 13

Trust Fund: 12, 3 percent

Local: 16, 3 percent

Obits: 9

History: 8

Mascots: 7, 1 percent

Basketball: 6

Travel: 6

Curious: 3 (Native method of cooking tree sap, a wedding sweat lodge, “Native” spa treatment.)

Tacky hed: U.S. plan would sacrifice baby eagles to Hopi rituals.

Kara Briggs (Yakama) is a reporter for the Oregonian in Portland, OR. She covers urban development, low income housing, immigrant communities and Native American issues. She he is a past President of NAJA and UNITY Journalist of Color, Inc. She previously worked at the The Spokesman Review and The Wausau Daily Herald. She has been a journalist for 13 years.

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Dennis McAuliffe (Osage) teaches at the University of Montana, Missoula. He is the editor of reznnet, which is an online publication written by Native youth. He is a former editor at the Washington Post. He is also the co-founder and instructor of the American Indian Journalism Institute at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion. He is the Secretary of NAJA.

Lori Edmo-Suppah (Shoshone-Bannock) is the editor of the Sho-Ban News. She recently completed a Freedom Forum 2001-2002 Journalist in Residence at the University of Idaho School of Communication. She is a former NAJA President. She received the NAJA Wassaja Award in 1995.