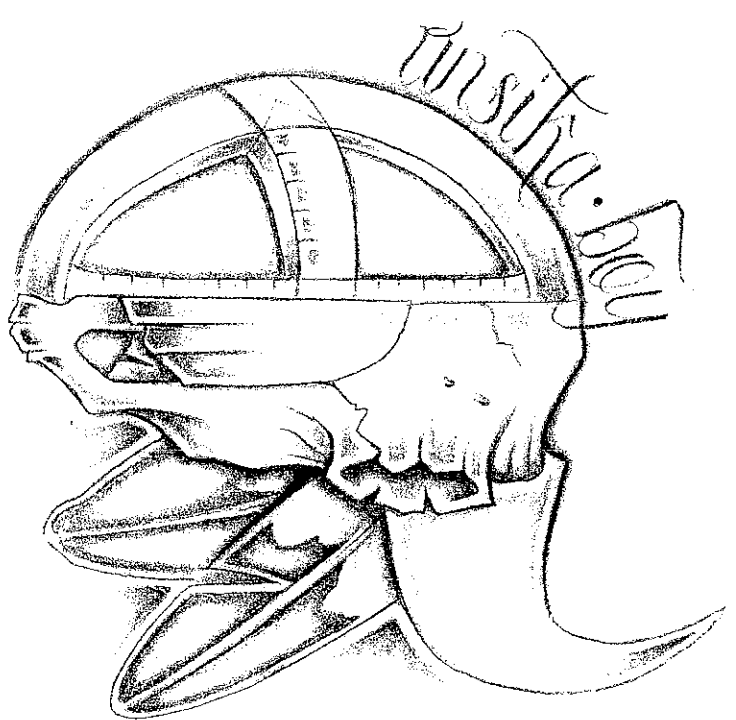


N A S C A

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2009

N A S C A
P.O. Box 2500
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**WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?
WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?**

Yah ee tah! I thank you for taking the time to read our summer issue of our unsika boy newsletter! The members of NASCA want to know what is happening out there in the community.

Most times I am asked, "why so & so doesn't come out anymore", "have you been in contact with what's his name", or my favorite, "I remember when this or that"! I generally have to assume what is happening with our supporters of the past, so I ask... Whats happening out there?

As I wonder through all my assumptions, I must stop and ground myself in the reality that life is difficult, both here & out there! Accepting that some of the past supporters have to deal with the economic changes, the responsibility of family, and how the NASCA members may reciprocate their support in such a state of affairs.

Since there is no upside to dwelling on what NASCA lacks honoring what NASCA has will definitely help our several volunteers who show their support. We have Mrs. Bran Kaye and Mr. Thomas Gannon, both of whom are professors of english from UNL. I am thankful to have them join us monthly for the NASCA Reading Circle & Writer's Group!

We will never know what is happening out there, unless we are directly told by the past supporters, but we can face what we are doing to honor our supporter we do have. Take a few moments after reading this article and assess how you honor our NASCA volunteers & supporters? What can you do to enhance this? And what commitment are you going to make to bring this about?

Taking the initiative in cultivating the relationships we do have is an objective of NASCA. Do your part and lead by example so that the newcomers will know how to continue NASCA's goals into the future.

From the Chairman....

PRISON MEDITATION II
By Antonio Laravie

You know brothers, everything changes. The Buddhist call this, "The Law of Impermanence;" nothing remains the same, everything is in a constant state of flux, nothing is exempt, everything gives way to change. Of course, we can resist change but even that will only work for so long and it will change to! Change is unavoidable, inevitable; we can accept the reality of change or we can hide our heads in the sand and hope to maintain the status-quo (prison bureaucrats are masters of maintaining the status-quo). Or we can embrace change and cultivate positive growth for our lives. I know that's a tall order since we are currently confined in an oppressive prison system. Still if we organize in the right way, who knows what we could achieve?!

Now the Nebraska parole board has been around since 1968, forty-one years. How do you suppose it's changed? One thing that hasn't changed is the number of parole board members, it's still five. The governor still appoints the members and this is all done according to the Nebraska Constitution-Article IV, Sec. 13 and Nebraska Statute §83-188. So the structure of the parole board has essentially remained the same for four decades. Why is this important to know?

In 1968-69 there were about 300 to 400 prisoners total; now in 2009 there are 4000 Plus prisoners; ten times what existed in 1968! With that kind of increase how do you suppose that fairs for our impartial review to determine who should be paroled or not? It seems to me the parole board is overwhelmed with the magnitude of that kind of Prison population increase. And in the foreseeable future that population will continue to grow!

Continue to next page

RECIDIVISM use to reflect how successful the parole board was, but as it turns out, they never were! To hide this fact, recidivism was changed from who violated parole and returned to prison, to who got out, discharged, and caught another prison sentence. I guess that measures how well parole is working.

I wonder with the actual recidivism rate, prisoners returning off parole, how much difference would there be if an inmate was randomly selected for parole, compared to one selected by the parole board members? I seriously doubt that the board would fair any better than if an inmate was just randomly paroled! Given that this were true, then why do we need discretionary parole when mandatory parole will work just as effectively, if not better? Really the truth of the matter is the current parole board is outdated, antiquated, a fossil that only exists to perpetuate it's own continuation, not to effectively serve the community.

One thing seems evident, the parole board membership will change when a new governor is elected and maybe that's part of the problem to. The parole board serves the governors office rather than rehabilitative goals for prisoners.

Change is a strange creature when it comes to the prison system but it is also a system where prisoners have a voice if we organize -- become politically active through our family and friends. Four thousand prisoners, even if 25% of that call the governor's office complaining about how the parole board operates, that will make a difference; even if 25% call the governor complaining about the director of corrections and his policies, that will make a difference.

So the real question is; "How do we organize for change? What do we do the make ourselves heard?"

What do we do brothers?

Aho, Mitakuye Oyasin

"WHO ARE YOU?"

WE CAME HERE TO GET YOU HIGH. REPPIN FOR THOSE SAVAGES WORLDWIDE, ON THE HUSTLE LIVEN CROOKED LIVES. TERRORIZE ENEMIES WE DON'T DIE, WE MULTIPLY BUT THRU SIDES WE DIVIDE. SO HOW ARE WE GONNA SURVIVE? YOU GOT YOUR SIDE, I GOT MINE. WE CROSS PATHS LIKE TWO MORTAL GIANTS WE CLASH AND CRASH. MURDER MAN DANCE, NO, WE DO A BRAIN BASH. VIOLENCE MIXED WITH DRUGS EQUALS DEADLY ENVIRONMENTS. CRIME SEQUENCE OPENS THE DOOR TO TRAGIC EVENTS. I'M BRINGIN INSANE BLOCC STREETS TO THE STAGE. I'M GONNA ROCC YOUR BOAT UNTIL IT HITS THE FRONT PAGE. LOOK AROUND CUZ THEZE ARE THE DAYS OF GRACE WHEN YOUR TRADITION IS BEING ERASED...

THERE MUST BE SOME TYPE OF WAY OUT OF THIS PAIN. MANY CHOOSE BINGE DRINKIN AND BIG SMOKIN WEED TRAILS. KNUCCLE HEADS TAKE AIM, STOP THE RANDOM CAPPIN. THERE SHOULD BE NO REASON FOR YOUR BLASTIN. WE ARE ALL SPIRITS DANCING IN BODIES BUT WHEN SOMEONE CHANGES THE MUSIC AND THE TUNE IS DEATH. WE DON'T DANCE INSIDE OR ARBORS, WE GET STONED, DRUNK, OR WIRED. IN MEMORY OF THOSE LOVED ONES EXPIRED. TO LEAVE LAKOTA LAND ISN'T EVERYONES DESIRE. CUZ WHEN MY PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR EXODUS ONLY RESULTS IN WHITE AMERICAN PREJUDICE. NOW TO AVOID THE PLAGUE OF POVERTY WE BECOME TERRORISTS...

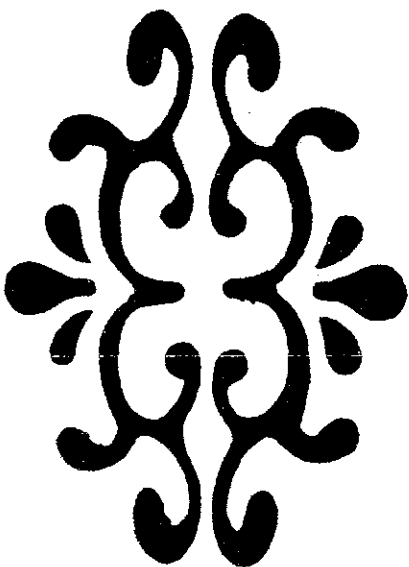
WE SLANG DRUGS AND TOTE GATS ON THE CORNER TO GIVE NOTHING BACC. VICTIM BEHIND THE LINE OF "NO NEW TAX". IF YOU G WALK OR GUN TALK, THERES TOO MICH DIVISION, FIND A NEW WAY OF LIVING OR IT'LL STOP. THEY'RE OUT THERE RUNNIN DANGEROUS WITH BAD AIM. HOW LONG WILL YOU LAST UNTIL YOU GET SLAIN? LIFE GOES ON THEY'LL FORGET YOUR NAME. YOU CAN CLEAR THE MIND BUT THE SPIRITS BAD. TENDENCIES TO GET MAD FAST, GRAB A SNAKE AND STAB. SO IF YOU WANNA CROSS ME, DON'T COME ON MY S-I-D-E. WE THE FUGGEN CRAZY. YOUTH ON THE STREETS WHO TERRORIZE FREELY. YOUNG WITKO, YOU SAYS PSYCHO, DELIVERING A METAL HAIL STORM.

IN THE BATTLEGROUND SIRENS TEL THE STORY OF A DRADLY SHOWDOWN. EARDRUMS ARE RATTLED BY THE SOUND. NO LONGER IS IT ONE ON ONE, IT'S GRAB YOU GUN PULL THE TRIGGER BACC AND YOUR WORK IS DONE. WHEN THE BULLETS TEAR THRU FLESH, WHAT YOU THINK IS THE OUTCOME? STREET WARS WHERE MEDALS ARE SCARS OR DO YOUR CRIME AND SPEND LIFE BEHIND BARS. IF YOU GOT LOYALTY THAN YOUR DEFENDING WHATS YOURS. TRYING HARD TO TAKE NO LOSS, BUT AT WHAT COST? MAYBE TOMORROW I MIGHT NOT BE ALIVE SO TONITE I WANT TO BRING ENEMIES SORROW. I PUT IT DOWN FOR THE BLOCC WITH THOSE SAVAGE MANIAC, THIRSTY FOR THAT WARPATH...

WHY DON'T PUNKS LIVE OTHER LIVES INSTEAD THEY'RE OUT HERE BRINGING A SAVAGE HAVOC IN THE HEAD. UNTIL A WITKO SHOOTS ONE DEAD. A HARSH FUNDAMENTAL, BROUGHT ON BY A FUGGED UP MENTAL. WHO'S GOT A GUN? IF SO YOUR LIFE IS A WITKO ONE. WE GOT A SIMPLE STRATEGY, CALLED ASSAULT AND BATTERY. RUNNIN THRU THE WARZONE IN CLIQUES OF THREE. FIND ENEMIES TO MAKE THEM ALL BLEED. IN THE BATTLEGROUND, IN THE DRAMATIC STREETS AND TRAGIC SHOWDOWNS. ENEMIES TAKE A LOOK AROUND....

"TROUBLESOME"

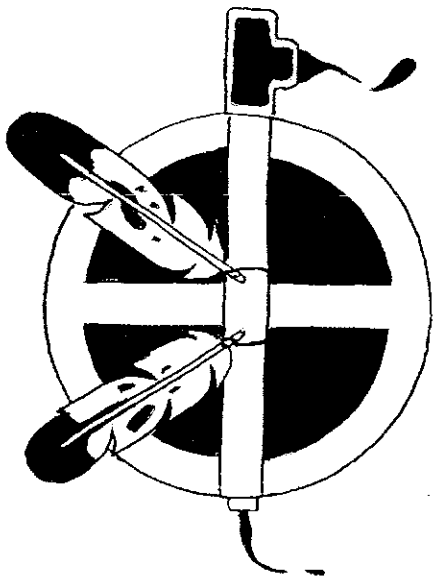
TRAVIS RUNNINGBEAR-NSP



WORDS FROM THE ELDERS

"What is so disheartening is the amount of people in the outer ring, the circle of darkness where people live without direction. They need to be able to put things in order, to know their cultural and their family history, to recognize and to keep the limits in this life to realize the time and preparation needed for the balanced, meaningful life - what we call canku luta, the red road."

From: Severt Young Bear; "Standing in the Light"
* who journeyed to join the ancestors *



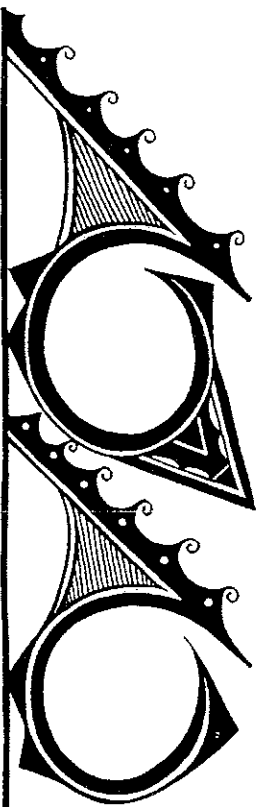
THIS IS HOW HE SEE'S IT

"Oh, teach me, teach me, Great White Father. Teach me how great my people once were. Teach me the reverence my people once had for Mother Earth. Oh, Great White Father, teach me of my people's cunning war tactics, teach me of my people's warrior societies and tell me of great battles my people have fought. Oh Great White Father, keep from my ears the atrocities committed upon my people for I do not wish to be haunted by nightmares. Oh Great White Father, in your wisdom, keep me ignorant of the way you have dealt with my people, for I would not want to be plagued with thoughts of revenge for my ancestors. Oh Great White Father, teach me, teach me, to stay focused on arts & crafts. Teach me what a honor it is to fight in your wars on your behalf. Oh Great White Father, teach me of how great a honor it is to be your spies, teach me. Oh Great White Father, teach me, of what great honor it is to be the enforcers of your laws. Oh Great White Father, teach me, teach me, teach me to be the blood and sweat your nation is built upon.

Oh Great White Father,
Can you teach me?

BY: Paige Parker
Omaha, Ponca,
Winnebago, & Nez Perce

Representing much Nations!



THE TRAIL BEHIND US

It has been a learning journey since I arrived at NRP before the new millennium. I have had the honor to meet several spiritual leaders either stopping through to help at ceremony or volunteering. The messages they have brought echo through the cell door slamming and oppressor's taunts.

I would like to share something Mr. Ted Phelps shared a few or so years ago. He greeted us with teases and laughter that eased everyone's minds as we all got ready for ceremony.

He shared about his travels and something he has been sharing everywhere he was welcomed. He spoke of the Red Road and our walk on it. He spoke of the clutter that follows behind us; he asked, "what have you left there for the generations to come?"

It was something I only briefly thought about before; what have I left behind that my nephews & nieces and their childrens will have to maneuver through?

Mr. Phelps described the types of clutter making it more difficult for the generations to travel behind us; the empty beer bottles, used syringes, and the rest of the trash we leave behind. He spoke that these things are making the path very narrow and more difficult to follow for them to come. He described the cluttering as

creating a winding effect, which he encouraged us to make our path straight for them.

Today I am more aware of how my choices effect my family and loved ones. The ignorance of my past cannot be changed, but today I can give the guidance to enable my relatives successful maneuvering through what I have left behind.

Mr. Phelps said that this is what he come to share and will continue to share that season. I in turn share this with the intent that it helps develop an awareness to help promote the good health and good help of our relatives.

By: Michael J. Sims

DINE' and Chairman of NASCA
since 2006. He sings with
the OYATE WANJI SINGERS and
spends his spare time at
hobby creating much art!



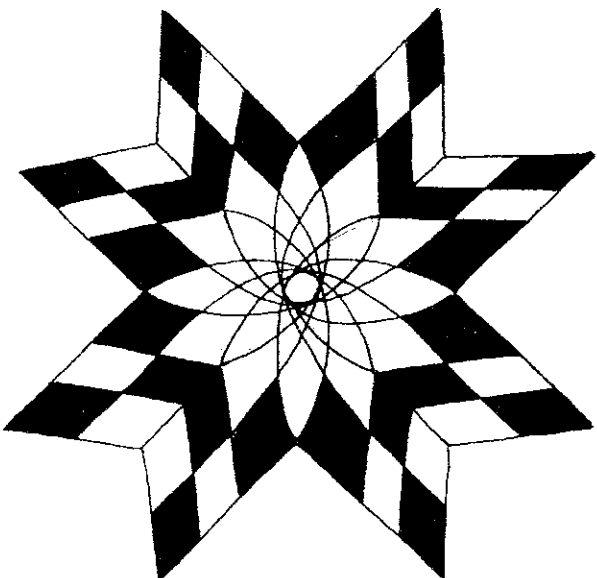
THE WORDS OF C-LOS CARIAGA

Believers of the past alas we do remember
Protected by our homelands and one another
Understanding who we are the product of our Earth
Each creation stories justifies the origins of
our Birth

Since the beginning one with the land Manifested
from dirt reflection of the sand
Ordinary people in solidarity to plan freedom for
all the children every woman and man
Together like a fist is how we'll make our stand
We gotta FIGHT

Make some changes in this life
There's no excuse for wasting time when it's
vital to unite

We never needed their direction or society of
deception not to mention their greed and selfish
acquisition - white judicial systems,
politicians, and Christians, churches and
missions, the constitution and bibles, the
declaration of Independence nearly ended our
survival. Because it's not who we are or suppose
to exist -
Not intended for us ever
The INDIGENOUS.



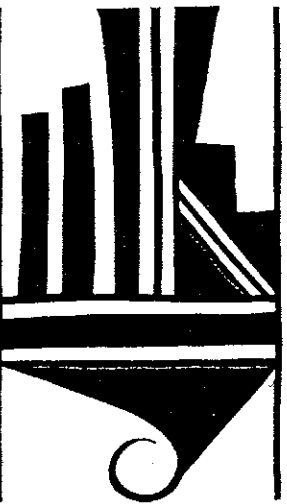
Together we are all connected the story of people
resurrected
Bound by the wicked accounts inflicted
enslaved by the hate thats never ended
trapped by a man without a spirit
never understood the worlds existence
murder and rapes its mother's children
values little of the life were living
all of the blood that we have given
defending in the ways that shows us reason
barely in the state of being human
continuing through the passing seasons
always been in time of crisis
haven't been freed from your devices
warriors have died through sacrifices
woman were the strength that kept us alive when
government came with a new set of lies then
soldiers attacked killed all in sight
christians condemned our soul inside
settlers encroached then multiplied
greed is the enemy we still fight
with culture the answers shall arise
determining purpose grants is sight
truth is the only hope through our eyes!



POETRY

Reality expresses the truth of our matter -
Presently were losing while cradling every root
of our culture
Grandfather were desperately trying surviving
breathing
Only persevering to preserve the meaning of our
reason for being
The dreams you granted to us understanding
purpose of living
Fulfilling prophecy becoming who our ancestors
want us to be
Facing difficulty lateiy in our history
Courageously we fought sought
Through adversity
Tragically defending our spirit against the
savagery
The enemy murdered our families systematically
Attacking our women, elders, and children
Inhuman in nature heartless no compassion souls
detached from all factions of this creation
Taking all without implications of any
consequences that will follow
Thoughtless desecration the duration
Of suffering of the people shall cease become
released from bondage
Breaking free empowered never bowing to our knees

Look for more in the next
issue of the unsika boy
newsletter!



*Leap into the abyss of the unknown
Risk everything
Abandon what is killing your spirit/your breath
Even when you don't know what comes next
Be willing to risk it all*

*Leave behind a way of life
That you know is wrong
Embrace what your heart knows is right
Then allow the power of your breath to flow*

*Learn to listen
To the voice of the mystery
That speaks with the language of dreams*

*Nothing is more important than
To be human completely:
With fear and trembling, with awe
And wonder, with joy and laughter,
With love and sorrow, with death
And living*

*Trust and believe
Like brings new dreams
Dreams that come from the blessing
Of the mystery
Dreams that rise up into the light.*

*(Dedicated to my daughters, Antonia Laravie
& Tomassina & Confidence)*

*the grass is green
rain clouds off in the distance
morning dew sparkles
sparrows dart here-and-there
spring, all is forgiven*

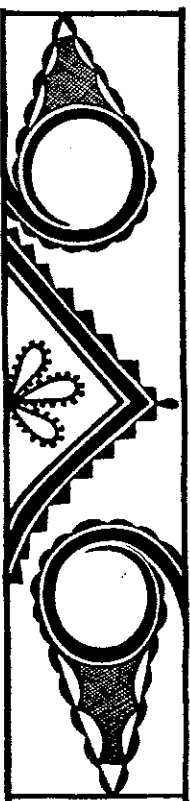
*Antonia Laravie
March 20, 2009*

HOW PRISONERS ARE TREATED

AWAKENING..... A Moment of Clarity

The realities of my life are merely an allusion to the nightmares that haunt my soul because of past decisions that scream with 1,000 sighs of despair and pain

Shawn Denney



The current thread about prisoners rights, ect., brought to mind a short little book on the subject written by a judge some years ago. The title is **MAKING IT RIGHT** by Dennis Challeen.

An excerpt:

We want them to be responsible... So we take away all responsibilities,
We want them to be part of our community... So we isolate them from our community,
We want them to be positive and constructive... So we degrade them and make them useless,
We want them to be trustworthy... So we put them where there is no trust,
We want them to be non-violent... So we put them where there is violence all around them,
We want them to be kind and loving people... So we subject them to hatred and cruelty,
We want them to have self-worth... So we destroy their self-worth,
We want them to quit being the tough guy... So we put them where the tough guy is respected,
We want them to quit hanging around losers... So we put all the losers under one roof,
We want them to quit exploiting us... So we put them where they exploit, each other, and
We want them to take control of their lives, and own their problems and quit being a parasite... So we make them totally dependent on us.

I think this guy knows what he's talking about!

Editor

RTC WAGON

Mark Sevier
Chris Mesteth
Joe Highpipe
Justin Lantave
Jamie Picketpin
Jonathan Twiss

Hang in there Brothers!

CALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

I want to extend this call for your support. The support is intended to sustain the spiritual practice of the Native American Faith Community here at NSP.

We are allowed donations of Sage, Flat Cedar, Sweetgrass, Bitterroot, Can Sa Sa, & Kinick Kinnick. In order to receive donations, persons must first contact Steve Marsh, (402)479-3383, to either arrange drop off or mail in!

To you brothers that are here, we need monetary donations to "Native American Spiritual Fund". Any amount will be appreciated. We are calling on each and everyone of you to take responsibility, if we had the liberty we would go gather the medicines, so by donating we will be doing what we can in place of our shortcomings.

Thank You all for your support, however it is available!

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JUNE 29, 2009
FROM THE EDITOR.