



Corporal Benjamin Magante, advocate for American Indian Veterans works to improve the quality of life for his people.

Veterans Administration Comes to the Rez

Victory for American Indian Veterans

by Rose Davis

As a respected Elder of the Pauma Reservation Benjamin Augustine Magante Sr. is an affable, mild mannered gentleman with an easy smile. However, he is not reluctant to point out that he has been a fighter for social justice all of his life and he has a strong resume to back up this claim. He has been involved with Indian politics since 1958.

Born in San Diego, Ben moved to the Pauma Reservation at the age of three.

When he was seventeen youthful mischief, that would be considered a minor nuisance by today's standard got him in enough trouble to bring him in front of a judge. The judge told his mother that he had two options either go to Anthony House (the then juvenile hall) for a year or join the military. He and his mother chose the second option. In an instant Ben Magante was off to North Carolina by way of Fort Ord and Fort Bragg, compliments of the U.S. Army

This was an educational and culturally expansive period for Ben. He explains, "For the first time I

was exposed to the Jim Crow South. Even in uniform I was not allowed to eat in the main part of restaurants and was segregated along with my Black companions. We had to ride in the back of the bus and drink out of "colored only" water fountains. Needless-to-say, I did not have a problem hanging out with my Black friends. My God Mother was Black and lived on Webster Ave. in San Diego. We had a great time."

Mr. Magante was a dedicated soldier and member of the 82nd Airborne Association. He gained the rank of E4 Corporal. He spent sixteen months in Soul Korea in the Infantry. When he was rotated back to the United States he was under orders to never mention or talk about his experiences in Korea. "We were called the Silent Warriors. No one ever heard what went on in the Korean war because we were sworn to secrecy."

Ben Magante's involvement with Indian issues has been intense and always with an eye for the greater good of his people, particularly his fellow veterans. He is past Chairman of his tribe and is currently President of the San Luis Rey Water Authority and sits on many other boards. In all of

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AIVA HONOR GUARD

Virgil Osuna, Santa Ysabel USA; Abel Rodriguez, USA, 82nd Airborne; Adam Rodriguez, USA 82nd Airborne; Anon Wilson, Santa Ysabel, USA; Irvin Morales, La Jolla, USA; David Duro, Pala USA; Kyle Feldt, Pala USA; Lalo Rodriguez, USA 82nd Airborne; Liz Kolb USA Rincon (not pictured); Felix Pena, Mesa Grande, USMC

by Rose Davis

The political savvy that brokered the deal to bring the Veterans Administration to the San Deigo Reservations gave birth to AIVA (American Indian Veterans Association).

Ben Magante realized that he needed an organizational foundation supporting the efforts to negotiate with the VA.



Thus AIVA. Starting out with about seven veterans the organization has grown to over sixty members.

Not only does AIVA lend support to organizational efforts but they also meet community and social needs such as Bingo events and gatherings. One important aspect of the organization is the creation of an Honor and Color Guard.

This volunteer group provides their services for funerals and special events to bring dignity and honor to the service men and women who have demonstrated their commitment to our country.

Under the direction of Captain Virgil Osuna, Santa Ysabel, the color Guard or Honor travels through the area when their services are requested.

America's Finest City Needs Help Mayor Bob Filner In The Cross Hairs

He Needs his Day in Court

No he has not stepped down and we pray that the ancestors give us the strength and wisdom to assist him through this attack.

Our personal belief is that he has been set up so that he can be taken down. His mission has been counter to the land developers and monied interests that don't want to give up their power and control.

Filner wants to preserve the land for the people. The developers want to transform our historic downtown public tidelands and waterfront into Miami Beach. It is where the Kumeyaay fished and dug for clams and were at one with the universe. The unions'/developers' cable wants to ignore the extensive legally-designated North Embarcadero waterside public parks on our public tidelands. These open green spaces by the blue bay are guaranteed by the Coastal Act and Port Master Plan. The mayor wants to preserve open space, which does not make the greedy folks happy and they want to get rid of him. It's all about money and land. The monied elite and their spokespeople know that they can't beat him at the ballot box because a majority of the electorate are behind him. So his enemies are going after him with the political tool of sexual harassment. This indicates the avarice and length that the politically power hungry will reach to seek and keep power. To use the sexual harassment card is not only an affront to the progressive and compassionate feminists who pushed for laws to assist all sisters who were at the mercy of dominating sexist males in the workplace, but it is a blatant perversion of the original intent and spirit of these policies. The protective measure of sexual harassment was never intended to be a Machiavellian political tactic and tool to be refined and manipulated to drive someone from office.

The mesmerizing affect of the power of implication, and the desperation of people to be on the politically correct side of this issue is worrisome.

As civic leaders and elected officials jump on board the Filner bashing wagon without either a shred of evidence or an accuser thus far indicates how vulnerable we are as citizens. We are left asking ourselves where our leaders are and where are they leading us? And, more importantly, who to believe?

Has humankind really progressed beyond the reptilian-brained civic complacency that led to past world wars? Is America's finest city truly ready to take the lead in a transformation of consciousness that transcends the ashes of yesterday?

It's all very scary. Could Donna Frye, who could usually be counted on to go to the wall for the people, with all of her

populist uncompromising commitment, have been painted into a corner by the manipulative political tacticians? And, if so, is she aware of this? If this unholy alliance is successful in taking Filner out, San Diego will never have another progressive mayor, which spells doom to the progress we have worked so hard to bring about. It will also neutralize Myrtle Cole's power.

As the first woman of color to be on the City Council representing District Four, she won in large part due to Filner's support. It does not serve the string pullers to have this woman in a power position. Few have stepped up publicly to support Filner. The Apartheid neighborhood of the Fourth District represents the Third World of San Diego, and it's Filner's strongest base. If Filner is forced from office, his likely replacement, Todd Gloria or ex-Republican Nathan Fletcher, are favorites of unions and downtown developer donors who are focused on developing our historic downtown public tidelands. Gloria and Fletcher do not share Bob's proven affinity for neighborhoods and international outreach. The union power play to replace Filner is clearly misguided.

Filner has promised to seek professional help for his personal failings in dealing with women and staff. Why should we forgive this behavior? What gives evidence his promise to reform can work?

Because Filner's record proves he is a historical champion of women's rights as well as civil rights--

Sunday's *Union Tribune* quotes Marilyn Boxer, former chair of the SDSU Women's Studies Department. She said history professor Bob was "especially helpful" in "establishment of the nation's first women's studies program there in 1970".

Unlike certain progressives, Rep. Susan Davis is willing to forgive, saying "This whole issue is really up to Bob to solve. The fact he is getting professional help is encouraging, because obviously things really have to change."

Bob Filner spent his youth fighting for civil rights for the disenfranchised, getting beat up, while standing up to the KKK. It is now time for us to pay him back with our loyalty and support. His supporters are invisible to the downtown monied elite. The aware, informed and active citizens who refuse to drink the money-laced kool-aid are locking arms to encircle the swamp until it is drained to expose the greed and avarice that has historically oiled the wheels of the status quo in San Diego. We need to let the world know that with the help of Mayor Filner we can make changes that show we have what it takes to deserve the title of America's Finest City.

VA Comes to Rez

Continued from page 1

his community activities he adheres to leadership qualities that strive for accuracy and integrity. He states "I believe that you lead for the best interest of the people that you are leading."

In the 1970's there were no Indian Health Clinics and minor health issues on the reservations often turned into major and critical events.

Health maintained for his fellow veterans were always contentious as the requirement to go to the VA Hospital in La Jolla or Mission Valley presented hardships for those patients who had problem traveling the long distance for appointments. Also the Vets were often the last to be seen. Ben chose not to highlight the negative aspects of the Veterans Administration Hospital experience, which included long waits, abuse due to a lack of cultural sensitivity. Instead he addressed the problem in a positive and constructive way.

About four years ago Tribal Leaders had meetings at Morongo and the Scottish Rites Temple with the VA

bureaucrats. Ben stepped into a leadership role informing them of the burning need for his fellow veterans to have access to more convenient and helpful medical attention. He pushed to have veterans seen at the Indian Health Clinics where they would receive speedy culturally sensitive attention while using their VA benefits.

Thank to the efforts of Ben Magante and his network a memorandum of understanding was established early this year authorizing Veterans to receive medical attention at their local Indian Health Clinic. Veterans interested in taking advantage of this new arrangement are encouraged to contact their tribal delegate associated with the Southern Indian Health office in Alpine or the Health facility at Rincon.



The Peoples Organizers - Orvin Hanson, CEO Indian Health Council, Abel Rodriguez (seated) Ben Magante, Adam Rodriguez prepare for the next level of negotiations.



PUBLISHED BY BLACKROSE COMMUNICATIONS

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Pelican Bay Two Years Later: Those Still Buried Alive Vowing Hunger Strike "Till the End"

by Victoria Law, Truthout

Robert Luca, an inmate at Pelican Bay State Prison who was a gang member, looking out the grates of his cell, near Crescent City, Calif., Feb. 10, 2012. (Photo: Jim Wilson / The New York Times)

July 1st marks the two-year anniversary of the start of the 2011 Pelican Bay hunger strikes protesting indefinite solitary confinement and SHU conditions. The hunger strikes, each lasting three weeks, ended after CDCR agreed to negotiations with hunger strike representatives over their demands. In late 2012, the CDCR implemented a pilot program to release those held in the SHU on gang charges. Prisoners and their advocates have denounced the program for keeping the most objectionable aspects of the old program and expanding qualifications for SHU placement. Prisoners are calling for a hunger strike to begin on July 8, 2013, vowing not to eat until their demands are met.

"A lot of people aren't aware that thousands are buried alive in solitary confinement cells in this country's prisons - for no legit reason," Todd Ashker reminded Truthout in a recent letter. Ashker should know - he has been locked in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) in California's Pelican Bay State Prison since 1990 after confidential informants claimed he was a gang member. In the SHU, which comprises half of Pelican Bay prison, people are locked into their cells for at least 22 hours a day. Prison administrators place them in the SHU either for a fixed term for violating a prison rule or for an indeterminate term for being accused of gang membership. These accusations often rely on confidential informants and circumstantial evidence. Hundreds have been confined within the SHU for over a decade. Until recently, the only way to be released from the SHU was to debrief, or provide information incriminating other prisoners, who are then placed in the SHU for an indeterminate sentence

The 2011 Hunger strikes

As reported earlier in Truthout, 1,035 of the 1,111 people locked in the prison's Security Housing Unit embarked on a three-week hunger strike in July 2011. They had five core demands:

1. Eliminate group punishments for individual rules violations;
2. Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria;
3. Comply with the recommendations of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons (2006) regarding an end to long-term solitary confinement;
4. Provide adequate food;
5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite SHU inmates.

The hunger strike spread to 13 other state prisons and, at one point, involved at least 6,600 people in men's and women's prisons throughout California. In September, prisoners renewed the strike, which lasted three weeks until the CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) offered to begin negotiations around these demands. The hunger strike was called off and prisoners began monthly meetings with CDCR representatives.

Post Hunger Strikes

By July 2012, however, little had changed. "Our five core demands have not been implemented," reported hunger striker Mutope DuGuma. As reported in Truthout, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of those who have spent between ten and 28 years in Pelican Bay's SHU. On May 2, 2013, they filed a motion for class certification, which would allow them to represent over 1,000 people serving indeterminate sentences for gang charges. A hearing on that motion has been scheduled for August 8, 2013.

On June 11, 2013, attorneys traveled to Pelican Bay to meet with the ten plaintiffs. Attorney Carol Strickman described the conditions under which her colleagues met their clients: The ten men were confined to small cages known as "therapy cages." "Picture a small booth that's just big enough for a man to sit in," she explained. "They brought ten of

those booths into the room. Then there were the two attorneys in the room with them. We had to fight very hard to even get that much. The CDCR didn't want us to meet with them at all. They claimed they [the plaintiffs] are 'dangerous people.'"

The CDCR Step Down Program

In Fall 2012, the CDCR unveiled its "Step Down" program. Under the program, even those who have spent years in the SHU may still be required to spend two to three additional years in solitary confinement. The debriefing program remains in place. In the past, possessing certain art or literature, exercising with others or even saying hello to another prisoner was used to prove gang association. Under the new program, these actions can be used to prove gang membership, which warrants indefinite SHU placement. The CDCR has started its review process of those accused of gang association, which, under the old policies, warranted a six-year SHU term. Those accused of gang association make up approximately 80% of SHU placements; many have been kept in SHU past the original six-year term.

Dolores Canales' son is one of the men in SHU for alleged gang association. "He's a jailhouse lawyer," she told Truthout. "He's assisted with legal work for men charged with being in gangs." Canales' son, who has spent 13 years in the SHU, has yet to be reviewed. "He's still in solitary confinement, still labeled an associate," she said.

Azadeh Zohrabi is part of the mediation team of outside advocates that meets with CDCR. She told Truthout that, according to the figures the CDCR gave them on May 29, 249 SHU reviews have been completed. Of these, 130 have been approved for release to general population with 87 having actually been transferred, 83 have been approved for placement in the Step Down program, and 15 have been retained in the SHU. In addition, 16 have been retained in SHU until they complete Phase One of debriefing. "They have to convince the gang investigators that they've revealed everything

they know about the gang, its structure, members, affiliates, code of conduct, protocols, codes, past activities, current/planned activities," Zohrabi explained. "Basically if they don't implicate anyone else, the gang investigators would say they haven't fully debriefed." She also notes that the CDCR's numbers do not distinguish between people serving definite and indefinite SHU sentences.

Todd Ashker, who has filed several lawsuits against the CDCR including the 2012 Ashker v. Brown, stated that he knows several men who have been released to general population. None have filed civil suits against the CDCR and, within the prison system, have rarely filed grievances. [4/24/13] While Zohrabi was unable to corroborate Ashker's assertion, she did note contradictions between CDCR's claim of reviewing associates who had been in SHU longest and their actual practice. "People who have been in SHU for five years have been reviewed/released to general population while those in SHU for twenty have not." CDCR officials told the mediation team that, if provided with names of those serving lengthy SHU sentences, they would look into these cases. They would not, however, inform the mediation team of the outcome(s).

The CDCR has also allowed SHU prisoners several amenities, such as pull-up bars and the ability to buy a combined TV/radio. "The few things they've achieved, those are all things they should have already had," Canales pointed out. "But it took two hunger strikes to get even these things. Meanwhile, Sacramento continues to justify the solitary confinement units, their use of solitary confinement, and the duration in these units."

Terry Thornton, CDCR's Deputy Press Secretary, denies that SHU prisoners are in solitary confinement. "A lot of people say that," she told Truthout. "But they do associate with people. Some of them even have cellmates. They have visits, they go to the yard every day. They are not deprived in any way." She added that the

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COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENTS WORKSHOPS

YOU'RE INVITED!

Caltrans and SANDAG invite you to attend a workshop to provide input for potential community enhancement projects related to the SR 94 Express Lanes Project.

The project proposes to construct two Express Lanes along SR 94 between Downtown San Diego and I-805 and a direct connector between SR 94 and I-805. The lanes would accommodate carpools and new Bus Rapid Transit service.

Enhancement projects can improve the design, circulation, and connectivity of project area communities.

For more information: KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR94



Express Lanes
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Wednesday, July 17, 2013
6-8:30 p.m.

Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation
Chollas View Room
404 Euclid Ave.
San Diego, CA 92114

Wednesday, July 24, 2013
6-8:30 p.m.

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Enough Of These Crises!

by Nic Paget-Clarke

Is there a food crisis in San Diego County? Yes, there is, and, unfortunately, it is just one of a mess of interrelated crises. For example, there are: the rising and permanent inequality between the rich and the poor (both locally and around the world); the ongoing collapse of the world economy which most recently began in 2008; and the rapidly increasing rate of human-made global climate change.

Behind all these crises, though, there may be one we least expect. For indeed, as we careen along in our hydrocarbon-powered cars, looking out at our hydrocarbon-powered agriculture and our polluted, crime- and war-torn cities, many of us are oblivious to what we see. Also, many of us are too busy to look. Many of us are too afraid to look. Perhaps the most debilitating crisis of all is the crisis of how we think.

We could, after all, simply decide to say "Enough!" and refuse to cooperate in the daily regeneration of these crises – though we would have to do it together. We could, together, coordinate the everyday bravery we muster to feed our children, to foster our relationships, to "earn" money to survive, to volunteer, to both participate and to struggle-on alone – and decide that these crises must end.

Hunger and Poverty

But back to these other crises. Why is our food crisis so important? Well, to quote a friend of mine, the crisis with food hits home (whether you live in one or not). And for many, this food crisis is now life-threatening. This is not supposed to happen in the United States (though it always has). Indeed, large sections of our community are now food insecure. That

is, they don't know where their next meal is coming from.

According to the San Diego Hunger Coalition, half a million people in our county are food insecure. And, not surprisingly, this "insecurity" is directly related to poverty (low wages, no wages, no land, no home). Worse, according to the U.S. Census, this situation is hitting particularly hard among our children. 33% of Pacific Island children are in poverty, 32% of American Indian children, 24% of Hispanic/Latino children, 23% of African American children, and 13% of white children.

Additionally, this is no passing phase. This poverty doesn't improve with the ups and downs of Wall Street (though it has everything to do with the essence of Wall Street).

On March 17, 2013, the Brookings Institution released a study of U.S. tax returns which indicates that the rising inequality in U.S. society is permanent. Reporting on this, an article in The New York Times found this report particularly "striking" because the analysis was, "no Occupy Wall Street critique," but one written by experts from the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. Treasury Department, and others. And, while noting that income earning has become more inclusive of women, that people of color are gaining more "demographic influence", and that gays and lesbians are gaining full marriage rights, these more inclusive opportunities are simply integrated into this permanent economic divide. Rather, The Times wrote, "... the economic divide between the top and the bottom is becoming both wider and deeper."

But don't we hear in the media and from politicians that the economy is getting better? Well, yes we do, but better for

who? The New York Times reports that corporations are increasing their wealth but they are not investing in new jobs. Citing an economist at Barclay's Bank, The New York Times writes, "... corporate earnings have risen at an annualized rate of 20.1 percent since 2008 ... but disposable income inched ahead by 1.4 percent annually over the same period, after adjusting for inflation."

The context for this is U.S.-style austerity measures such as "sequestration" (700,000 jobs expected to be lost), the "Fiscal Cliff", and ongoing, massive, state-by-state cutbacks.

Austerity and Privatization

But our economy is not just a San Diego economy, or even simply a Californian, or a U.S. economy – it is a world economy. And the news from Europe, for example, continues to be grim. Country after country in Europe is teetering on the verge of economic collapse and the "solutions" are huge loans which come with strict rules demanding cutbacks, austerity measures, and the privatization of resources. These countries include Ireland, Portugal, Greece, Cyprus, and now Slovenia.

Alejandro Nadal, an economist who writes for La Jornada in Mexico City, points out that ever since 1973 and Law 73-7 regarding the Bank of France there has been a very deliberate turning over of sovereign monetary policy to private banks – groups of private banks with no particular country allegiance.

And this monetary policy shift has led to austerity and privatization being requirements for "country-saving" loans which are now part and parcel of an inexorable trend which is nothing less than the privatization of entire countries. Banks and their corporate allies caused, and now are taking advantage of, sovereign economic crises to further their banking and corporate wealth and power.

For this, the context is the neoliberal policies invented by Milton Friedman, Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan – globalization, the "Washington Consensus," "disaster capitalism".

The TPP and Increasing Corporate Influence

Meanwhile, in the Americas and the Far East, a different take on the same process is taking place. Here it is a vision, a plan-in-action called the TPP, the Trans-

Groped and Scanned Personal Space Invasion

by Andrew Lam

When full-body scanners were introduced at American airports three years ago, there was a brief public outcry. But just as quickly, it died down. Travelers interviewed shrugged off the loss of privacy in the name of safety, using terms like "trade-off" and "compromise." One frequent traveler seemed to sum up the general attitude when he said he'd grown "immune to the procedures."

In other words, Americans don't want to be groped or scanned, don't want our personal spaces invaded, but we're willing to endure both in the name of security. Such is the contract between the people and the state in the new, post-9/11 America.

At airports, it is understood that you're not allowed to exercise your rights -- the Second Amendment explicitly and the First implicitly. It's common sense that you don't ever carry a gun on a plane. And since 9/11, don't even think of saying the word "bomb" to a TSA agent, even if it's a joke. Travelers have been routinely detained for doing just that. Passengers have even been kicked off planes for wearing t-shirts that were deemed offensive. One passenger was removed for wearing a shirt with an Arabic inscription that said, ironically, "We Will Not Be Silent." He later sue Jet Blue and the two TSA screeners and won.

How you dress and what you say can be used against you at airports, where scanners and cameras and security guards are aplenty, and where you are constantly being monitored.

But what if, in the name of security, you were willing to give up more rights, not just at the airport, but everywhere else? What if the whole country were to slowly become a kind of mega-airport, a place where you had to watch your language and restrict your communication activities, all under the watchful, electronic eye of Uncle Sam?

That is increasingly becoming the scenario in America today, as the story of Edward Snowden versus the National Security Agency unfolds.

Snowden blew the whistle on PRISM, a government program that collects enormous amounts of data from the phone and Internet records of Americans, as well as others living outside of the U.S. Though PRISM's existence has been known about for years, the sheer amount of data being mined is revelatory— 3 billion pieces of intelli-

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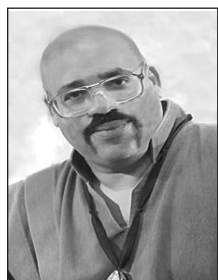
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Black Path Commentary: Critical Analysis on Culture, Community, & Struggle

A Question on the Fourth of July: A National Holiday of Historical Horror, and Hypocrisy



by Min. Tukufu Kalonji

Once again, we are at that time of the year when America indulges itself in beaches, beer, barbecue, fireworks, flag waving fanaticism, and a

national gluttony of self-congratulatory mental masturbation maneuvers. It is the 4th of July when among other falsely represented notions, the country celebrates its alleged love of freedom for all, independence, and patriotism ad nauseum. For Afro Americans and indigenous Indians alike, a national celebration of freedom and independence for all its citizens could be not being further from the truth.

Starting with the genocidal practices by European invaders who came, conquered, and nearly annihilated the Native peoples of this western hemisphere. The indigeness Indian experienced nothing less than an imposition of unadulterated devastation of culture and community! Subsequently, the Maagamizi i.e. the holocaust of African enslavement followed this, whereas the white man never stopped in their onslaught of savagery in their immoral attempts to dominate and control people of color. Thus, what then is the whooping and hollering for America being the land of the free, with unlimited opportunity for all about when we clearly as African and indigenous Indians have without question not since the beginning been included in the fiber of America's existence as human beings worthy before history and heaven to benefit from the abundance of what this country claims to offer?

Had it not been for our people's collective and personal struggle, in and

through self-respect, self-determination, and courageous acts of revolutionary self-defense, surely we would have ceased to exist today. Yet, via our individual, collective, historical, and cultural foundations of our own conception of family, self, community, and culture, we were constantly and continuously informed and inspired to wage a relentless struggle against oppression on every front of human thought, emotion, speech, and conduct that is imaginable.

Moreover as we have engaged and fought relentlessly for our own dignity and salvation, both Afro American and Indians alike stand steadfast in unity with each other and whether we are conscious of this or not, we stand also ancestor, Frederick Douglass, who cogently argued in his memorable lecture titled, *The Meaning of July 4 for the Negro* in 1852; the horror and hypocrisy of America's counterfeit claims and of freedom and independence for its citizens.

On July 5, 1852, the Honorable Mr. Douglass gave a speech at an event commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence, held at Rochester's Corinthian Hall. It was a severe and piercing oratorical criticism of America's hypocritical posturing, in which Mr. Douglass told his audience, "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn." And he asked them, "Do you mean, citizens, to mock me, by asking me to speak today?" Therefore, in 2013 we are compelled by our history and humanity to confront the established order and raise the questions that Mr. Douglass did in this speech, for oppression by the established orders still exists in spite of the lie of America being a post-racial society with the elections of President Obama.

The Honorable Mr. Douglass continues with his critical analysis by asking, "What have I or the people I represent have to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and natural justice, embodied in the Declaration of Independence, extended to us (meaning Black peoples, and we can include the Indian as well)? And am I therefore, called upon to bring our humble offering to the national altar

and to confess the benefits and express devout gratitude for the blessings resulting from your independence to us." Frederick Douglass's conjecture regarding the morally decadent position of America is highlighted as he delineates multiple examples of the evidence of his argument with regard to our struggles since the white man conquered and claimed these shore of what we know as North America, and all who are here as his property to do with what he wills and desires. In raising the question of "What, to the Negro, is your 4th of July? Frederick Douglass's perhaps most poignant analysis is when he asserts that I answer;

A day that reveals to him, (Black men & women) more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he/she is the constant victim. To her/him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sound of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants brass fronted impudence; your shout of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are to him/her, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy -- a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.

Paralleling Mr. Douglass's criticism of America; to include its exclusion of us and of equal importance is a teaching on the horror and hypocrisy of America, the white man's invasion and barbaric acts of inhumanity imposed upon Black and Red peoples which is evidenced in a statement made by Chief Luther Standing Bear of the Oglala band of Sioux, who argues that,

We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and the winding

streams with tangled growth, as 'wild'. Only to the white man was nature a 'wilderness' and only to him was the land 'infested' with 'wild' animals and 'savage' people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with blessings of the Great Mystery (meaning the Creator). Not until the hairy man from the east came and with brutal frenzy heaped injustices upon us and the families we loved was it 'wild' for us. When the very animals of the forest began fleeing from his approach, then it was that for us the 'wild west' began."

Are things different today for Afro Americans and Indians? That question as Mr. Douglass's speech was in 1852 remains a relevant, rhetorical, and righteously raised inquiry. Even with the assumed position of some Black folk and some Native Americans seemingly "making it", the masses of our peoples are still oppressed among other ways; in a cultural, social, political, economic, and a multiplicity of institutional frameworks. Thus, Mr., Douglass's speech is today as significant as it offers serious lessons and models to us to emulate as it speaks to our collective speaking truth to power in the defense and development of our family, community, and culture as Africans and Indians in struggle.

Finally during this year and from now on let us not become intoxicated with the myth of the madness of the USA's annual moment of narcissistic self aggrandizement; and instead take hold and internalize in thought and practice a concept found in another speech by the Honorable Frederick Douglass later in 1857 where he contends that "If there is no struggle, there is no progress. This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle, for power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will."

Min. Tukufu Kalonji is Founder/Kasisi of Kawaida African Ministries. For info contact @ tkalonji@hotmail.com

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To improve the quality of life of those who recognize themselves and choose to be recognized by others as "Indigenous Peoples of Color of the Americas" and in support of The American Indian Rights and Resources Organization (AIRRO).

A Journey to a Place Called Home

My visit to the Muscogee (Creek) Nations 39th Annual Festival 2013. Reflections of a deeply spiritual and cultural awakening.

As my Uncle and I boarded the plane to Tulsa for the Creek festival, all that I could think about was the experience of meeting my Creek tribal family for the first time. Questions flooded my mind equal to the emotions I felt. Who are the Creeks, will I be accepted, will I find other members from my ancestral town of Tuskegee, will this be life changing, will I feel a sense of home and community?" What art will give birth from the experience?

I have been a professional artist for over 30 years, the last 5 years my focus has been the retelling of African Americans in Slavery; Black Indians, and of recent the Holocaust.

As the plane took off, my mind began

to wander and my heart weighed heavy now with thoughts of my people, of our genocide, tears flooded my eyes as we reached altitude. I pondered the thought of the retelling of such painful events in history, the great inhumanity, you know I never sought out the subject, but somehow it always seemed to find me. I looked out the window at the great white clouds, it's beauty raised my spirits, the thought of my ancestors made me smile, my first visit will be a festival, a true to life celebration, the Muscogee (Creek) Nations 39th Annual Festival. Suddenly, a calm came over me, the Creek are my family, no need to fear, this is a wondrous journey, I'm coming home.

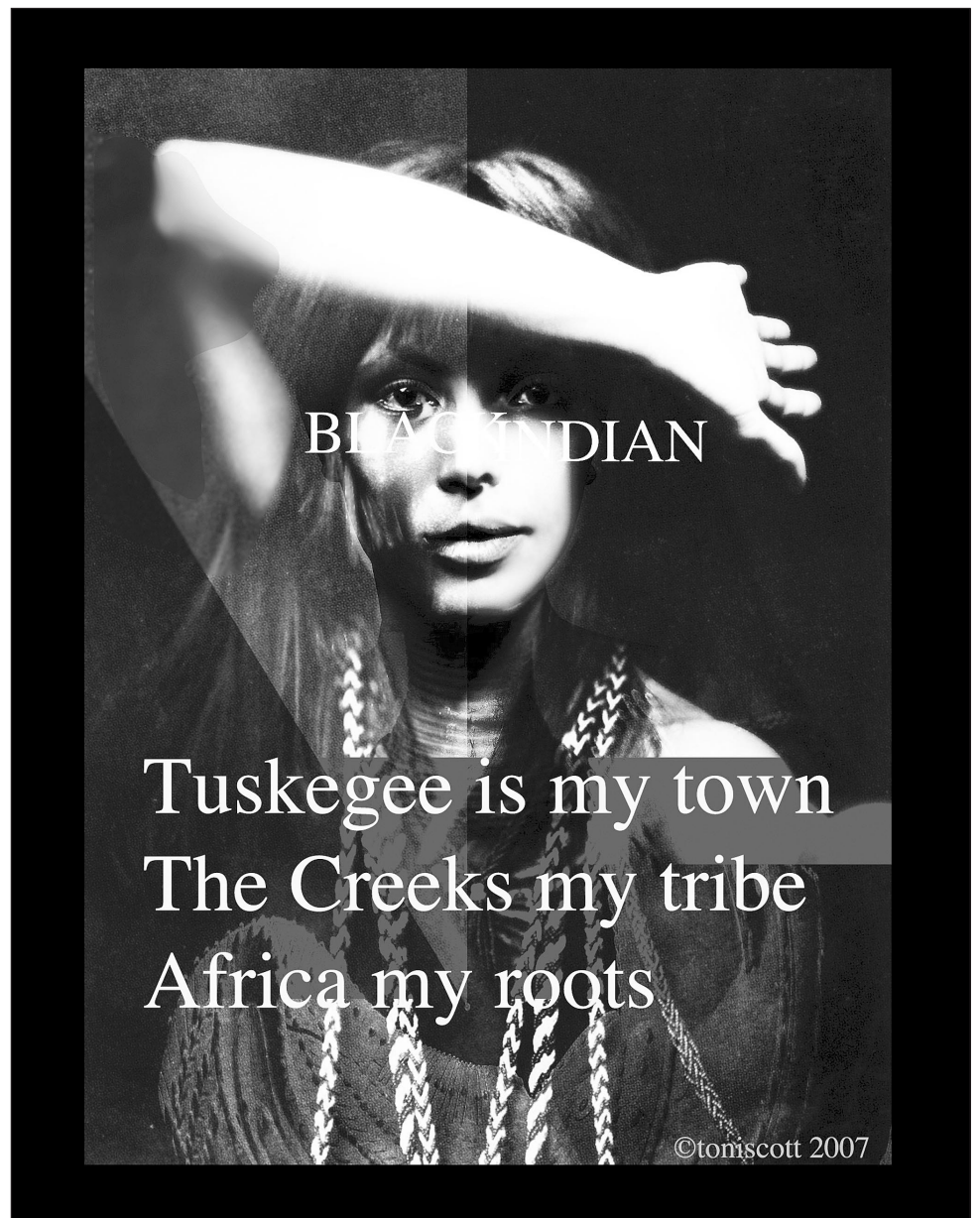
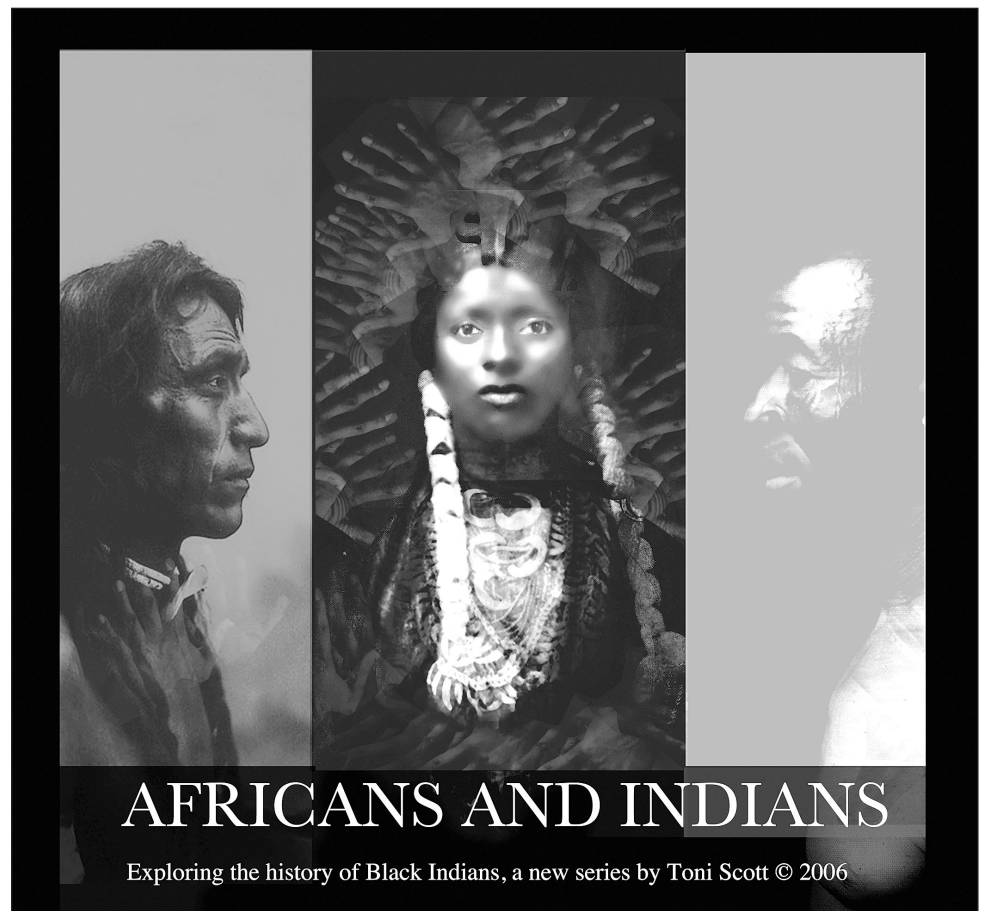
part II to follow...

Toni Scott is as vibrant and passionate as her artwork. Toni is versatile artist working in various media, including sculpture, painting, photography and digital design. Toni has sought to express her love of God, Beauty, Humanity, and Culture in everything she creates.

Toni's latest works explore 450 years of Matriarchal and Paternal ancestry. The poignant stories of African Americans in slavery are revealed in here current exhibit "Bloodlines" La Sombra & El Espiritu II: Women's Healing in the Diaspora" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and upcoming solo exhibit "Bloodlines" the inaugural exhibit in the new South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University. Her celebrated installation exhibition "BLOODLINES" a three year solo exhibit at the California African American Museum (CAAM) in Los Angeles, prepares for future travel.

Toni's work ranges from lifelike sculptures cast in bronze and fiberglass, to carvings in marble, alabaster, soapstone and douglas fir - wood from which she carves totem poles which stand over nine feet tall; Her paintings range from large scale colorful figurative works to masterful representational paintings in oil. Toni's multimedia work includes digital renderings, mixed media life size sculptures and thematic installations.

A multimedia artist, Toni studied the classic and contemporary masters, is a former student of the Otis College of Art and Design and has a BA from the University of Southern California, Contact: toniscott@earthlink.net www.toniscott.com



Toni Scott with sculptures - photo by Cynthia Perry © 2008

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Do You Know Your New Health Care Rights?

Under Obamacare, children may now remain under their parents insurance through their 26th birthday. This new provision is changing lives for Californians like the Figueroa family.

Celisa Figueroa, 22, spends her days working full time at a coffee shop in San Diego to support herself and her two-year-old daughter. Still, she says without her mother's health insurance, she would not have been able to undergo a necessary dental procedure that would have set her back almost \$2000.

Celisa's mother, Christy, works as an administrative assistant at a local community college. "I have been blessed,"



she said, "because my family is protected by my health insurance." In addition to covering her two daughters, Figueroa's plan has also allowed other members of her family - six in total, including four daughters and her husband, to receive needed medical care.

In California alone, at least 435,000 young adults have benefited from health care reform's new young adult insurance provision.

Is your child covered? To find out more visit: www.healthcare.gov



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Paiute Sherry Rupert Sworn in to Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Last week, American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Vice President Sherry L.

Rupert was sworn in as one of six new members to the US Department of Commerce Travel and Tourism Advisory Board at the board's meeting during International Powwow in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"To sit at a table among top international and national tourism leaders and know my voice represents all of Indian Country tourism is humbling," said Rupert, new TTAB Board Member, AIANTA Vice President and State of Nevada Indian Commission Executive Director.

"I hold this position with high regards and will continue to stress the importance travel and tourism has to Indian country."

Rupert was appointed to Travel and Tourism Advisory Board by US Deputy Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank last month.

The Travel and Tourism Advisory

Board, established in 2003, serves as the advisory body to the Secretary of Commerce on matters relating to the



New Travel and Tourism Advisory Board at the International Powwow in Las Vegas.

travel and tourism industry in the United States. Its members represent a broad cross section of the industry, including transportation services, financial services, and hotels and restaurants, as well as a mix of small and large firms from across the country.

Rupert is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration. She has presented at numerous tribal, state, regional and national conferences and was elected to her second term as president of the Governors' Interstate Indian Council, and was formerly the treasurer for two terms.

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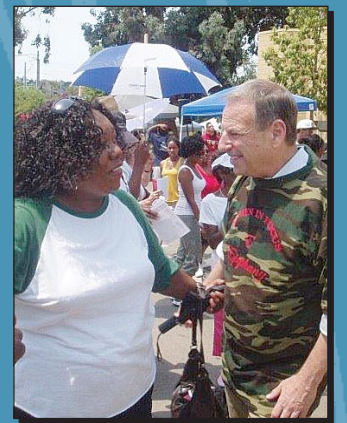
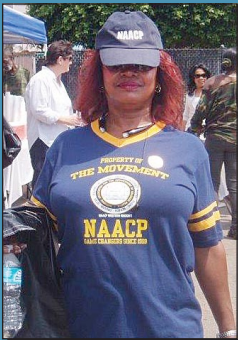
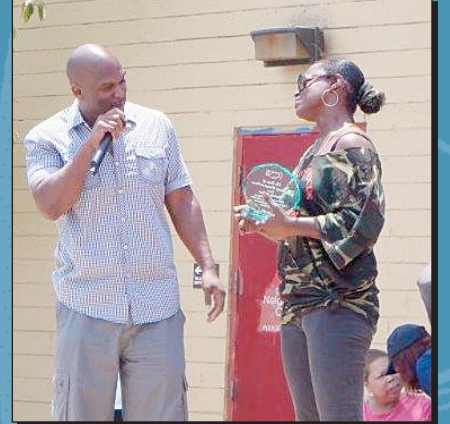
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Tribal Elder George Prietto
Welcome by Sycuan Tribal
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help our future generation by
informing them about current
successes in the fight against
alcohol and drug abuse and also
to listen to others share their
experience, strength and hopes.

We also understand the obliga-
tion we have to pass this mean-
ing to our future generations.

Thank you Creator and Southern
Indian Health Council, La Posta
Substance Abuse Center and all
Tribes in Recovery planning com-
mittee for making this event a
success.



30th Annual Heritage Ball

August 17th, 2013

OCEANSIDE, CA – Old Mission San Luis Rey is thrilled to announce the landmark 30th Annual Heritage Ball presented by Tri-City Medical Center. This cherished landmark is guaranteed to draw out friends, family, and supporters of The King of the Missions, Old Mission San Luis Rey to the highly anticipated annual ball. With Executive Director, Father David Gaa, event co-chairs and local community volunteers, Gigi Gleason, and Robbie Hass, at the helm, the Ball is guaranteed to be an elegant evening to remember. Featuring the talents of the experts at Hunter Steakhouse and chefs of Old Mission Luis Rey, there will be an array of delectable hors d'œuvres and a gourmet three-course dinner.

Returning for the second year is a row at this popular gala is the highly popular opportunity drawing in which both guests and the public will have the chance to enter to win a Holland American Line Cruise for two guests to the destination of their choice for up to 10 days, a value of over \$6,650, for the steal of a deal at only \$50 per ticket, or 3 tickets for just \$100. As an added bonus, guests who are present to win the opportunity drawing will be entered into an additional drawing for another fantastic prize. In addition to this fabulous opportunity, the gala will also feature a live auction featuring many must have prizes.

The Gala will culminate with guests

being entertained by the ever-engaging and appealing dance music of NRG Music and Productions, specializing in music from the 40s-90s, but the entertainment does not end there. Guests will also have the pleasure of feasting their eyes on a spectacular private firework show in celebration of our 30th year!

All proceeds of the Heritage Ball benefit the restoration and renovation of Old Mission San Luis Rey ensuring the enjoyment of this historic landmark for generations to come. The Heritage Ball and Old Mission San Luis Rey would proudly like to thank our Presenting Sponsor, Tri-City Medical Center, as well as our other gracious sponsors including Wells Fargo, Old Mission San Luis Rey Board of Directors, Franciscan School of Theology, the Hass Team & Gigi Gleason, The Carpenter Sisters, Old Mission Cemetery, Mrs. Rita Banfi, Entravision, Oceanside Chamber of

Commerce, and San Luis Rey Historical Foundation. For more information on this event, to become a sponsor or purchase tickets, please call (760)757-3651, ext. 146 or visit mslrheritageball.com

Old Mission San Luis Rey, the King of the Missions, a National Historic Landmark, was founded in 1798, is the largest of the 21 California Missions and recently ranked first among the Seven Wonders of North County according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. Home of the Franciscan Friars of California, Old Mission San Luis Rey is open to people of all faiths and offers a wide range of facilities and services to residents and businesses in San Diego County, throughout California and across the U.S. These include a Museum housing historical artifacts and artwork; recreation facilities; docent and self-guided tours; Franciscan Gift Shop; a Cemetery open to all walks of life; and Retreat Center hosting business and religious conferences and retreats. Old Mission San Luis Rey is located at 4050 Mission Avenue in Oceanside, CA. Take I-5 to Hwy 76 East, turn left on Rancho Del Oro Road and continue straight to the Mission entrance. For more information, please visit www.sanluisrey.org

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Soaring Eagles at Pow Wow by the Sea: Imperial Beach 2013

by Roy Cook

This well attended, Father's day weekend, annual Imperial Beach Pow wow by the Sea is organized by the Bridge and the Pow wow community board. They, along with all the volunteers that supported the June 15-16, 2013 Pow wow by the Sea event, deserved all the appreciation the Pow wow attendees were able to show at this two-day summer solstice and celebration of life. It is so beautiful and empowering to see our Tribal future in the dance circle of life- the children.

The Soaring Eagles youth dance workshop, under the direction of Vickie Gambala, were in strong support and beautifully radiant in their regalia and enthusiasm. Most of the members of the Head staff are affiliated with the Soaring Eagles: EmCee, Randy Edmonds, Arena Director, Robert Gastelum, Head Gourd dancer, William Buchanan, Head Man dancer, Larry Gastelum, Head Woman, Chamise Dempsey, Teen Boy, Charles Myron, Teen Girl, Vanessa Franco, Tiny Boy, Tomas Quetzal DeCrane, Tiny Girl, Makenna Jackson.

This annual Imperial Beach Pow wow by the Sea is wonderful. Opening Gourd dance was led by AIWA President William Buchanan. He was pleased to

accept the honor again. The American Indian Warrior Association Honor Color Guard brought in the colors at the Grand Entry.

At the pow wow there were special sponsored dance exhibitions and competitions: Winner take all Iron dance that had men participate but not finish. But then, that is mostly true in Tribal America, Women are powerful. They hold up half the World and bring forth life. We love Indian women!

Many visitors enjoyed the special opportunities to choose take home a memory or gift from the many vendors. And many took a chance to win one of the prizes donated by the very happy vendors at the raffle. There were many tasty treats to sample and enjoy from the food booths.

There were hundreds of songs sung and thousands of feet dance in joy on our Mother Earth these long days of summer. Now is the time to rejoice. This is the time to dance. You take part to bring balance and harmony when you dance to help heal the earth. All is complete when you choose to show love for all of God's Creation. Thank you all for your support and attendance at this grand and glorious Father's day weekend event.

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Enough of These Crises

Continued from page 4

Pacific Partnership.

In California, we know about NAFTA, the North America Free Trade Act, and now we are learning about the TPP. Under the 20-year-old NAFTA, millions of people have been driven off their land in Mexico by multinational corporate prices which undercut local farmers. And, while in Mexico many people came North to the U.S. and many moved to large cities like Mexico City, here, many jobs went South to U.S.-run maquiladora factories, where thousands work for low wages in unhealthy conditions. Now, we are discovering that the TPP is “NAFTA on Steroids.”

With at least 12 countries involved in secret TPP talks (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the U.S., and Vietnam), leaked documents and what is publicly revealed threaten a dark future. A future (a now) of corporate control of environmental, labor, freedom-of-information, and patent policies backed up by World Bank-associated courts where corporations are able to sue entire countries for damages and changes to sovereign laws. More foreboding yet, this primarily U.S.-sponsored super-Free Trade regime coincides with the U.S.'s openly-declared military shift from Europe and the Middle East to East Asia. A shift to guard sea routes, back up

local regimes, and line up against the number two economic/ military power in the world – China.

Industrial Agriculture and Climate Change

Which brings us to one of the biggest crises of all – global climate change. There are varying estimates, but at least 45% of the greenhouse gases (GHG) which are causing climate change are attributable to industrial “Green Revolution” agri culture. Global climate warming impacts range from the rapid melting of both the North and South Poles’ ice sheets, to a rise in sea level, and changes in sea and weather currents. NASA warns of impacts in every region of the world.

“North America: Decreasing snowpack in the western mountains; ... increased frequency, intensity and duration of heat waves in cities that currently experience them.

“Latin America: Gradual replacement of tropical forest by savannah in eastern Amazonia; risk of significant biodiversity loss through species extinction in many tropical areas; significant changes in water availability for human consumption, agriculture and energy generation.

“Europe: Increased risk of inland flash floods; more frequent coastal flooding and increased erosion from storms and sea level rise; glacial retreat in mountainous areas; reduced snow cover and winter tourism; extensive species losses; reductions of crop productivity in southern Europe.

“Africa: By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people are projected to be exposed to increased water stress; yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 percent in some regions by 2020; agricultural production, including access to food, may be severely compromised.

“Asia: Freshwater availability projected to decrease in Central, South, East and Southeast Asia by the 2050s; coastal areas will be at risk due to increased flooding; death rate from disease associated with floods and droughts expected to rise in some regions.”

Industrial agriculture-sourced GHGs are a result of both reliance on oil-based energy instead of the sun, and global production and distribution instead of local production and distribution. Specifically, that means using oil to manufacture fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and other “inputs”. It means manufacturing and fueling industrial-sized harvesters and any number of other very expensive machines. It means transporting food around the world by plane, by truck, by ship (all of which need fuel) and having to refrigerate while travelling, while storing, while marketing. And all for the capital benefit of Monsanto, ADM, DuPont and others.

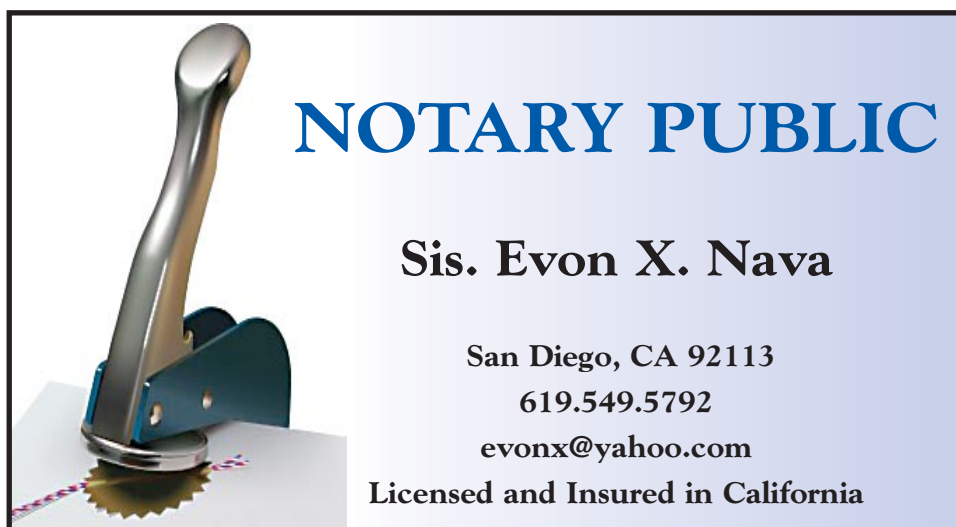
Towards a People’s Assembly

These interrelated crises are capital-making projects for the wealthy few who own the world’s multinational corpora-

tions. They are impoverishing the world’s peoples and making our lives unbearable. Their culture confuses us, their wage schemes impoverish us, their Wall Street derivative-based scams gamble with both sovereign nations and individual families. Their extraction of resources, of the very life of Mother Earth, is making this planet uninhabitable. These crises are a way of life for some, a way of hunger, misery and death for most.

If we want, though, we can decide to end these crises. Together we could build a calm and peaceful world based on an understanding of biodiversity and an understanding that reciprocity and solidarity can be the cultural, economic, and environmental basis of what sustainability really is. We don’t have to define “development” and “growth” as stock market returns and an ever-increasing rate of capital accumulation at the expense of others. If we decide to, we can build local economies and networks of democratic communities. We can join together with the already growing food justice movement – and grow our own healthy food – feed our own community. We can join with the Indigenous people, family farmers and peasants of the world who are already organizing in their millions for food sovereignty, women’s equality, and land for those who work it.

We can talk to our neighbors around San Diego County about organizing a major People’s Assembly to decide what we want to do about food.

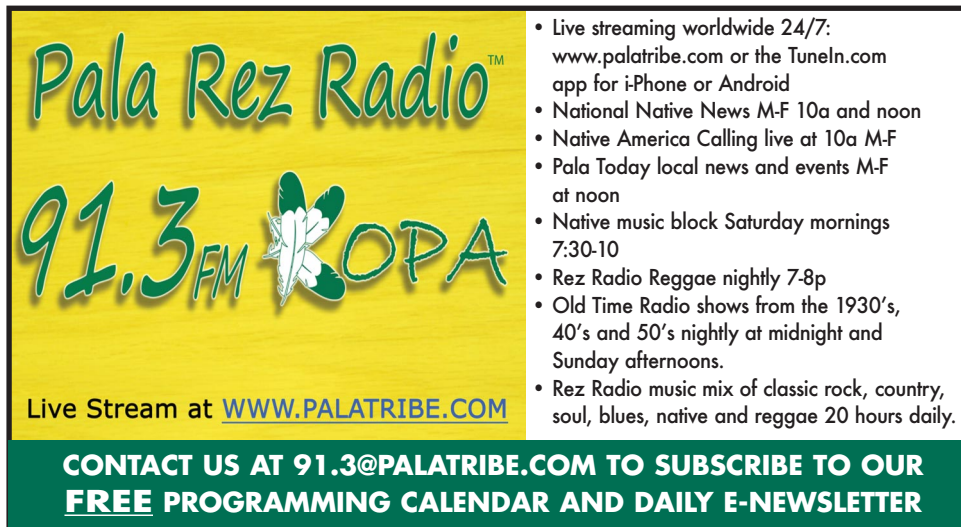


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SELECT AGENT

Security

Continued from page 4

gence were culled from the computer networks of U.S. residents in March of 2013 alone.

Snowden is now on the run from authorities in the U.S., who want him tried for treason.

But even as Americans worry that their personal communication records are being monitored without their consent, many say that the spying works as a deterrent for terrorism attacks, according to a recent USA Today/Pew Research poll. Americans surveyed were more or less split (48 to 47 percent) on whether they approve or disapprove of such programs as part of the nation's anti-terrorism effort. Yet, more than half (53 percent) of those surveyed also said government spying programs help prevent terrorist attacks. And a slight majority (54 percent) felt that Snowden should be criminally prosecuted.

Overall, instead of outrage there's a feeling of resignation in the air, as the story of Snowden versus the NSA unfolds. On twitter, the resignation often manifests as humor:

Part of the problem is that privacy isn't what it once was. Diaries once kept locked in one's drawer have become blogs for all to see. The domestic doings

of private citizens are often captured in the raw on Youtube and Vimeo, as if their lives are reality TV shows. If Americans are wary that we are being constantly monitored, we, too, are guilty of divulging our secrets -- we make spying on us an easy task. Between our urge to tweet opinions, our impulse to photograph meals on Instagram, our need to share every sorrow and update our every move on Facebook, we have more or less become an open book. In essence, we volunteer information about ourselves as habit. And the way technology is going, with social media increasingly becoming an integral part of our daily communication, privacy is not to be had, imsorrytosay.

Spying, too, is no longer the business of government agencies. Increasingly, tracking is done not by various companies and organizations but by individuals. Shopping malls monitor your shopping patterns by tracking your cell phone. Advertisers target individuals based on their interests, a seemingly personal touch accomplished by sophisticated, impersonal software. Self-tracking, too, is increasing. There are wireless devices that can track people's physical activities, while other devices can measure brainwave activity at night to chart people's sleep patterns online. And as drones are becoming smaller and small-

er, it is only a matter of time before feuding neighbors or distrusting spouses can spy on one another using this technology, a kind of Mr. and Mrs. Smith writ large.

Privacy issues aside, in the post 9/11 era Americans live with a new set of norms. Mass deportation of undocumented immigrants who toil on our land has become the new norm, and despite talks of reform, those without proper papers continue to get swept up in wide sweeping government dragnets. The new norm allows careful surveillance of Muslim communities and many don't mention certain words like "jihad" or "bomb" on the phone, out of fear it might trigger investigation. Since they are being heavily monitored, some Arab Americans have invented roundabout ways to refer to their own children or relatives who have common names like Osama or Saddam.

Abroad, this new norm allows the U.S. to wage war overseas in perpetuity, in the name of national security, and with the right to preemptive strikes. We have accepted torture in the form of waterboarding, and the practice of kidnapping foreign citizens for interrogation (we call it extraordinary rendition), all while our drones in the sky routinely assassinate potential enemies and innocent victims who just happened to end up in our target range (we call them "collateral damage.")

The new norm also keeps our so-called "enemy combatants" in an off-shore prison named Guantanamo and refuses their human rights and due process. In essence, they are serving life sentences without trials. When they go on hunger strikes, they are force-fed.

So is Snowden a hero or a traitor? On the one hand, by taking classified infor-

mation that could harm the U.S. and then fleeing abroad – to Hong Kong, then Russia– he seems less heroic than self-preserving, especially for someone who says they want to bring about social change. (By contrast, whistle blower Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame stuck around and dealt with the consequences.) On the other hand, Snowden made Americans look at something from which we had learned to look away – internal government procedures to which we feel immune, until those procedures are spelled out in stark and dreadful terms, and we don't like what we see.

Every generation needs to grapple with and find the balance between national security and civil liberties, now more than ever. Democracy, after all, cannot possibly survive when the citizenry continues to cower behind draconian policies that override civil liberties in the name of the war on terror.

That Snowden pulled back the curtain and showed us the inner workings of the spy machinery should be a wake up call. But for now, that doesn't seem to be the case. In Dante's divine comedy there is a phrase that inscribed above the gate of hell that says, "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here." If you replace the word "hope" with "rights" it could be hung above the entrances of American airports. What's worrisome is that as more and more Americans weigh in on the side of safety over civil liberties, that phrase might end up hanging above the Exit signs.

Andrew Lam is the author of "Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora," "East Eats West: Writing in Two Hemispheres," and his latest, "Birds of Paradise Lost," a collection of stories about Vietnamese refugees struggling to rebuild their lives in the West Coast.

Joke of the Day

A guy walked into a bar with a monkey. The monkey grabbed some olives off the bar and ate them. Then he grabbed some sliced limes and ate them. He then jumped onto the pool table and grabbed one of the balls. To everyone's amazement, he stuck it in his mouth and somehow swallowed it whole.

The bartender looked at the guy and said, "Did you see what your monkey just did?"

"No, what?"

"He just at...e the cue ball off my pool table - whole!"

"Yeah, that doesn't surprise me," replied the guy, "he eats everything in sight, don't worry, I'll pay for the cue ball."

The guy finished his drink, paid his

bill, paid for the stuff the monkey ate and left.

Two weeks later the guy came back and had his monkey with him. He ordered a drink and the monkey started running around the bar. The monkey found a cherry on the bar. He grabbed it, stuck it up his butt, pulled it out and then ate it.

Then the monkey found a peanut and again stuck it up his butt, pulled it out and ate it.

The bartender asked, "Did you see what that filthy ape just did?"

"No, what?" asked the man.

"Well, he stuck both a cherry and a peanut up his arse, then he pulled them out and ate them."

"Yeah, that doesn't surprise me," replied the guy. "He'll eat anything, but ever since he had to poop out that cue ball, he measures everything first."



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Pelican Bay

Continued from page 3

CDCR's new policy addresses the hunger strikers' 2011 demands. [6/27/13]

Both prisoners and outside advocates disagree with Thornton's statement, charging that the Step Down program does not address the five core demands. In addition, the program expands the criteria for people eligible for SHU placement. Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity, a grassroots coalition of Bay Area-based organizations and community members, called the new program a "human rights disaster," stating, "Under the old policies, a prisoner could be placed in the SHU for affiliation with any of seven prison gangs. Under the new program, any grouping of three or more prisoners can be added to the list as a "security threat group," membership in which can result in a SHU term."

According to the CDCR, no women are in SHU indeterminately for gang membership or association. However, the conversion of Valley State Prison to a men's prison and transfer of women to the California Institution for Women (CIW) has caused a dramatic increase in the number of women in CIW's SHU. Originally built to hold 60 people, CIW's SHU went from 64 women in September 2012 to 112 in April 2013 with two women in each SHU cell. One family member reported that "Belinda," who went on a solidarity hunger strike in 2011, has completed her 15-month SHU sentence for possessing tweezers but, because of overcrowding, will remain in SHU until her 2014 release date. "Belinda" now suffers from agoraphobia and cannot leave her cell during her allotted one hour in the yard.

A Renewed Call to Strike

Prisoners at Pelican Bay have announced a renewed hunger strike, combined with a work strike, to begin July 8th. They demand that the CDCR sign a consent decree spelling out the specific terms of the policies they will enact. "We have been on two hunger strikes and the CDCR agreed to our five core demands. But when we come off hunger strike, they then disregard our agreement," explained Mutope DuGuma. [5/27/13]

"This time myself and others will end up in a hospital on feeding tubes until

our demands are officially signed off on," said Paul Redd, another SHU prisoner. "We are tired of all the games, lies and cover-ups. We hope we receive twice the number of outside supporters to put pressure on CDCR officials and put pressure on legislators to conduct real hearings." [6/17/13]

On June 19, 2013, SHU prisoner representatives and outside supporters met with CDCR officials for a court-ordered mediation session. The meeting, said prisoner representatives via a press release, "did not result in CDCR officials agreeing to settle the case on acceptable terms." They confirmed that they will begin refusing food on July 8th.

In addition to the 2011 core demands, Pelican Bay prisoners have issued 40 more demands, such as expunging all violations issued for participation in the 2011 hunger strikes and prohibiting retaliation for those participating in the upcoming hunger strike. Other demands focus on improving prison conditions in both the SHU (such as not being penalized for giving away artwork) and general population (such as the ability to have family overnight visits and a yearly restocking of the prison library).

"At the end of the day, there will be prisoners held in SHU whether we like it or not, but not for long term," wrote DuGuma. "Those individuals who have to serve a determinate sentence in SHU shouldn't be under torture. They should be allowed contact with other humans, especially their families on visits, educational programs, etc." Currently all visits, both family and legal, take place behind glass barriers. No phone calls are allowed except during a family emergency. J. Baridi Williamson calls these "family death calls." During his 20 years in SHU, Williamson has only been allowed two phone calls - once after his father's death and another after his mother's death. "These are collect calls for our families with them having to pay the cost," he added. According to advocacy group (and co-counsel on the federal lawsuit) Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, a 15-minute collect call can cost as much as \$2.95 per minute. One of the hunger strikers' additional demands is that SHU prisoners be allowed one phone call each week.

Momentum for the upcoming strike is growing: Prisoners in San Quentin's Death Row publicly vowed to join the

hunger strike, demanding changes to their own conditions. Prisoners in Washington State, including some in juvenile facilities, have vowed to join the work stoppage on July 8 as well. Family members on the outside have continued organizing. Canales, family members and advocacy organizations are planning a caravan to and solidarity rally outside Corcoran State Prison, which holds 1,367 people in its SHU, on July 13, 2013.

SHU prisoners are already reporting retaliation following the announcement of the hunger strike. Lorenzo Benton reported the institution of regular cell searches to enforce a policy limiting property to six cubic feet including a limit of ten books and magazines. "For a lot of us who have been in prison twenty, thirty, forty years or more, our property is a reflection of our lives and, over the years, we have accumulated a lot of property." [6/4/13]

On June 4, 2013, legal visitors to

Pelican Bay were informed about the new CDCR policy requiring guards to conduct "welfare checks" on SHU prisoners every half hour. During these checks, every prisoner must be observed physically moving or showing skin. Zohrabi reported that they heard complaints from both guards, who said the new policy disrupted their work flow, and prisoners, who were sleep-deprived. "This is torture," Zohrabi stated in a press release. "This intensified sleep deprivation adds to the long list of human rights violations endured by thousands of prisoners held in solitary for prolonged and indefinite terms, some for decades."

These new rules and restrictions have not undermined prisoners' determination. "It looks like we are about to enter a stage of repression," Benton wrote the day after the half-hour "welfare checks" began. "But for those of us sure of spirit, we will not be swayed within our resolve in bringing about meaningful changes within prison conditions." [6/4/13]

Esperanto

Esperanto speakers from all around the world are mounting a campaign for linguistic justice with the slogan "Justa Komunikado" (Communication with Justice) and local Esperantists will be participating in this campaign.

Several members of the Esperanto Grupo de San Diego just returned from the Esperanto-USA national convention in North Carolina and are on their way to the World Esperanto Conference (Universala Kongreso) which will be held in prestigious Harpa Centre, Reykjavík, Iceland with about 1,000 participants already registered.

A total-immersion course that preceded the national convention that represented 15 different countries. The World Esperanto Association (www.uea.org)

enjoys a position of consultative partnership with UNESCO, and also enjoys an official relationship with the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Esperanto enables international communication at an equal level, and thus protects the rights of minority and indigenous languages thereby respecting the cultural and linguistic diversity of those speakers.

Mar Cardenas, a resident of Santee, CA had this to say about her participation in several Esperanto-related recent events: "I learned Esperanto eight years ago and it has allowed me to experience the world from a much more neutral perspective. I have stayed at Esperantists' homes several times and have had the honor to host Esperanto-speaking visitors in my home."

For more information, please contact: Mar Cardenas (619) 258-0169 at Amikema@aol.com

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PBS Art Collaboration

Vegas PBS launched a new arts series to continue championing the arts in Southern Nevada. Vegas PBS has joined forces with a group of innovative large market PBS stations to launch the "Major Market Group Arts Initiative," a 28-station collaborative started this year. This collaboration allows the stations to share arts features with one another.

The effort involves stations that will launch or expand local arts coverage to compliment the 500 hours of arts programming offered by PBS each year. Ultimately, Vegas PBS is hoping a 'Live from The Smith Center' PBS series can be developed and funded through endowments, similar to the likes of 'Live from the Met' and 'Live from Lincoln Center,' which offer four to six national programs per year.

The Major Market Group Arts

Initiative will involve stories covering a myriad of aspects of the performing and visual arts and feature interviews with diverse artists, writers, composers and performers. The features will also be geographically diverse and artistically broad, allowing local arts and culture institutions and local funders to present Las Vegas stories to a national audience.

The 2013 weekly Vegas PBS art series involves national and local art stories. Some of the features include the Las Vegas Art Museum, Artist Terry Ritter and her McCarran Terminal 3 artwork, Dia de los Muertos at the Springs Preserve, the local chapter of Raw Artists, and several segments on Cirque du Soleil and its new show, Zarkana.

"Vegas PBS is committed to providing a stage for local artists and arts organizations by showcasing their services to the

entire Las Vegas community," said Vegas PBS General Manager Tom Axtell. "We believe this will grow the audience for live performances in Las Vegas and stimulate interest in music, dance and theater among our local school children."

PBS overall has dramatically increased arts programming in the last two years and regularly includes 'local breakout time.' Last year, Vegas PBS won an Emmy for a compilation of several of the features it produced and re-packaged into a half-hour special, "Vegas PBS Arts Showcase." Part of the award-winning special featured local artists of the Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater and the Nevada Ballet Theater.

"This is an exciting time for Vegas PBS and our community as a whole," said Axtell. "We are pleased to be at the forefront of this arts movement and look forward to ongoing support from the local community to keep the arts a thriving force in Southern Nevada."

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Hundreds Prepare to Go to Jail to Establish Meadow Creek Indian Camp

by Brenda Norrell

Sid Mills, Yakama/Umatilla tribes, long time frontline fishing rights and other indigenous sovereignty movement leader was harassed and threatened by US Forest cops with arrest on Saturday July 13, 2013.

Sid is notable as one of the frontline activists who fought with the Franks

Landing Indian Community, which was recently noted by President Obama in his speech at the December 2012 meeting with tribal leaders at the White House. (The activist of Franks Landing!)

Sid was threatened with jail for trying to re-establish a traditional cultural camp in the Indian Heaven Wilderness Area surrounded by the US Gifford

National Forest in Washington State. The camp is called Meadow Creek Indian Camp and is within the Handshake Treaty area.

The traditional huckleberry picking area of many northwest tribes in it is located between 4 volcanoes, Mt Rainer, Mt St Helene, Mt Hood and Mt Adams. On Saturday 7/13/13 there was a bust by Forest Service cops who also called county Sheriffs, took Sid to jail for reestablishing traditional and cultural camp without a permit.

As president of the Native American Church for the Washington state area, he and 20 others were preparing for the yearly gathering for ceremonies in the mountains. This yearly event brings hundreds of indigenous people from all over the Northwest and as far as Mexico to practice and exercise cultural and spiritual ways at the end of July.

Now hundreds are preparing to attend the ceremonies and are also preparing to go to jail to exercise the spiritual and cultural rights in the usual and accustomed sites. Sid Mills is a decorated Vietnam veteran and is over 80% disabled from being blown up by mortar fire, which left him with one lung. Now impaired further with diabetes, he and others are preparing to once again exercise human/indigenous rights to practice cultural and spiritual ways at all costs. Sid fought as an Indigenous man in the armed forces only to be denied his own

rights. The cops realized after threatening to take all 50 Indians to jail, that this was not going to happen, as they were all ready to call them on it. So citations to appear in Federal court for destruction of federal property and being there without a permit were handed to him. A tree was cut and hole dug in the ground.

Sid had attempted to get assistance from the US Forest Service, after President Obama issued the MOU to protect sacred sites and access to the top Federal agencies by holding a meeting with the supervisor of the US Forest service for the northwest. But the supervisor undermined his efforts and compared them to the Rainbow family gathering in the US Forests, and further added that Indians had no special rights because they were also immigrants to the land. Never once did she acknowledge the President's MOU, which had been provided to them, as well as a list of other congressional and international acts regarding cultural and spiritual rights of indigenous people. While the President might make a nice written MOU, it's the white folks in agencies like the US Forest Service that maintain ignorance and racism. Of all the people the supervisor could have brought to the meeting, like a cultural liaison, she choose to bring the head cop for the Forest service, breaking the spirit of her boss President Obama's MOU.

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A Nevadan, and Vietnam veteran of the U.S. Army, is also a native language specialist for his tribe, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. His name is Ralph Burns and he is integral to preserving the Paiute language. After serving his tours in the Army, Ralph returned home to the reservation to devote his life to the revival of the Paiute language, Numu. I am pleased to hear that Ralph is being honored by the National Endowment for the Arts as the 2013 National Heritage Fellow. It is wonderful that this storyteller and historian has been recognized nationally for all of the good work he has done for preserving the culture and heritage of the Northern Paiutes. I had the pleasure of visiting beautiful Pyramid Lake last month while I was home in Nevada. I attended the tribe's celebration of a recent land purchase that will restore the tribe's land and water resources, ensure its sustainability and strengthen its sovereignty. Throughout the history of the United States, it is apparent that the treatment of America's original inhabitants has been less than acceptable. Over time, the

United States government has enacted legislation to try to right the wrongs that it once committed. As I've said before, when I first came to the Senate in 1986, one of the small miracles that has happened in my legislative life was passing the negotiated settlement legislation, and solving a hundred year water war with the State of California. This legislation helped save Pyramid Lake. I take great pride in doing my part to protect and preserve this natural treasure of the Paiutes and all of Nevada. And I will always remain committed to the protection of native language, culture and tradition for generations to come.

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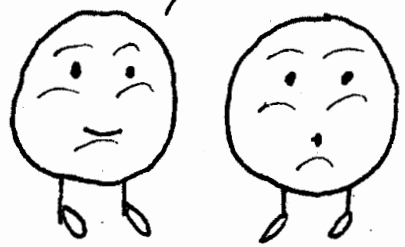
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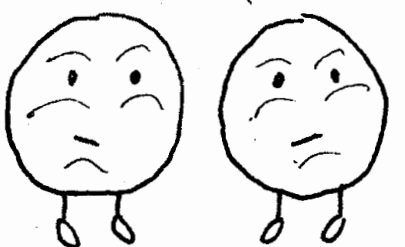
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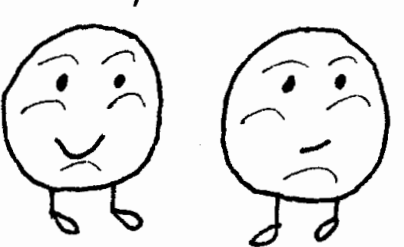
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-Tenzin Gyatso,
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