

We are casualties not failures

"We Shall Weep" was written by Douglas Cardinal.

Educators, your systems have failed, and are continuing to fail, the Indian people. Your own statistics show that on the average 95 per cent of Indian people fail to reach grade 12. I say our people are casualties rather than failures. Educators try their best to make us believe that we are the failures rather than themselves, and many of them succeed in damaging our children.

We, the Indians of Alberta, will be the guardians of our own children which is guaranteed in our treaties. Our elders are our testaments and books since we are of a non-literary culture.

The thoughts of the 42 bands and chiefs are expressed in our eight languages in the following words:

"We, the people of this land, from the scattered areas of this province, will send our chiefs to virgin land, where we will gather together and sit in deep meditation. We will weep for the lost herds of buffalo. We will weep for the destruction of the animals, the birds and the fish. We will weep for the destruction of the earth, the land which

was ours. We will weep for the poisoning of the air which we breathe. We will weep for the poisoning of the water which we drink. We will weep for the destruction of our spirit and our pride and we will contemplate those people who have controlled our destiny and the destiny of our lifegivers for the past few hundred years. We will weep for the destruction of life and the lifegiver, for we are life and when our lifegivers -- our environment -- is destroyed we too are destroyed.

"We will give thanks that we have survived, and we will look into each others eyes and feel the oneness of our people and the oneness of our spirit and we will reflect our heritage. We will stand on the land and feel the roots which reach out from our feet and we will feel the winds across our brow. We will recall our rooted past and will turn to our forefathers and we will look inward to ourselves. Again, we will feel the true meaning of the land. Again, we will feel the true meaning of the animals, the fish, the birds. Again, we will feel the true meaning of the air, which we breathe, and we will feel reborn. "We will join together in

ceremony around the offering pole and look up to the Great Spirit and relive the ceremonies that grew from our association and love of our land. With the help of our medicine men, we will raise our spirits, for we are burdened with a heavy task. When we feel the oneness of our total environment of our brethren and ourselves, we will gather together in council. We, the bands in Alberta, will gather in council around a ceremonial fire. Where there were many bands, their will be eight tongues, but the eight tongues will learn to speak as one tongue, one voice -- and here, we ourselves, will determine the destiny of our own people. We will call together, from each band, men to be trained as warriors in the Indian way. We will teach them how we have survived for thousands of years on this land. We will teach them the true meaning of being a warrior in spirit. We will give him the pride and self-esteem which we hold here in this sacred place, and we will teach him how to use the old weapons of survival.


"But, we have an even greater task in the instruction of our warriors. We will have to teach him to survive in the world of today. We will equip him well with all of the tools for surviving in the world of today. They will not be dull weapons, they will be sharp and useful. We will improve and hone these

weapons, for our survival and our stature as a people.

"But, not only will our warriors be dedicated to the survival of our people, but, they will also be dedicated to teaching the immigrant culture the love the Indian feels for this land. We will teach the immigrant culture to love the animals, the fish, the birds. We will teach the immigrant culture to love the land, the earth, which we love. We will teach the immigrant culture to love the air which we all breathe and the winds we feel across our brow. We will teach him to love the clear waters and the mountain streams. We will teach him to love this land as we love this land. Our very survival depends upon this task.

"When we let others destroy our own environment, our own lifegiver -- we destroy ourselves. For our own survival, we must teach the immigrant culture to love as we love, for we have been here thousands of years and theirs is but a short time. We have survived great suffering and loss but we are a great people, the true people of this land, and the great suffering and hardships which we have experienced in the last few hundred years and the fact that we have survived will give us great strength, endurance and tolerance, so that we will be an even greater people. The future achievements of our people will be even greater than the past."

BILLY JACK
7:00 & 9:20
HELD OVER
19TH
WEEK
RESTRICTED ADULT
TOWNE
118th Ave. at 124th St.
Phone 454-5168



BACK BY DEMAND
"JOE"
Held over 5th WEEK
SEE "JOE" FROM THE BEGINNING PLUS
WARNING: PORTIONS OF THE DIALOGUE MAY BE OBJECTIONABLE TO SOME!
RESTRICTED ADULT
THE GRADUATE
156th St. and Stony Pln Rd.
Phone 489-1455




OPTOMETRISTS
DRS. LeDREW, ROWAND, McCLUNG, JONES, ROONEY, BAIN, WEBB & ASSOCIATES
Southside Office Telephone 433-7305
10903-80th Avenue
Office Hours by Appointment Monday thru Friday
Convenient Parking
Main Office
Monday thru Saturday
12318 Jasper Avenue Telephone 488-0944

