

## FUNDS NEEDED TO STOP SUICIDES: MERCREDI

*"Capacity to help is limited," native leader says*

A lack of resources is hampering the ability of Indian communities to cope with the rash of suicides in several reserves across Canada, native leader Ovide Mercredi said recently.

The Assembly of First Nations is pressuring the federal government to fund a special crisis intervention team, but has yet to receive any money for the project, Mercredi said. "Our capacity to help them is limited because we don't have any resources," Mercredi told The Star. "If we have the money for it we would be able to respond more quickly by sending the people to the communities to work."

Mercredi was responding to criticism from Pikangikum chief Gordon Peters that he, along with federal and provincial ministers, has done little but pay lip service while the youth of Pikangikum keep trying to kill themselves.

Since January, five young people have taken their lives; 47 others have attempted suicide in the past four months at the isolated reserve in northwestern Ontario. "I share his frustration, I know the pain," Mercredi said in an interview yesterday after an informal off-the-record meeting with The Star's editorial board.

Peters chastised Mercredi for what he termed the national chief's "empty promise" to hold countrywide demonstrations to focus attention on the crisis in Pikangikum. Mercredi said he has been busy with his re-election campaign and has just returned to work after a holiday. He said he had been waiting for word from Peters and two other chiefs to co-ordinate the planned action.

As residents of Pikangikum buried another young man yesterday, federal and provincial politicians scrambled to respond to the suicide epidemic choking the remote community, about 250 kilometres north of Sioux Lookout. Anthony Hill, a 29 year-old father of two, hanged himself in his bedroom closet last Thursday.

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin proposed sending mental health professionals to the reserve to train band members in counselling and crisis management. A spokesperson for Irwin's office said the minister had committed more than \$12.5 million for a water and sewage system after visiting the reserve this spring. But Irwin said those things won't solve the problem. "If you have a kid that wants a suicide, does that kid have less tendency toward suicide because he's in a new house? I don't think so," Irwin said in an interview yesterday.

## INDIAN KIDS RAPED, BEATEN IN SCHOOLS

Report finds Abuse led to Social Breakdown in Communities

(Reprint: The Toronto Star, Aug. 8/94)

OTTAWA - Indian children at residential schools were raped, whipped and given electric shocks and a study links the violence to social breakdown in their communities. The 200-page report, prepared by Alberta psychologists Wilma Spearchief and Louise Million, details shocking accounts from 13 Indian men and women who attended the schools.

The study says the schools wounded the children emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually. It details "atrocities" against former students, including one young girl who was "strapped into an electric chair and then zapped with electricity; the straps left her knuckles, hands and forearms bleeding."

The report says public beatings were common and students at the schools were routinely made to kneel for

hours. It also records a particularly grim form of punishment, describing "the repeated insertion of a hatpin into a child's rectum, in full view of the child's peers."

*The impact of such abuse is far-reaching, the report says, with "scores of individuals being lost, isolated and turning to alcohol abuse and abuses of all kinds in an attempt to cope and or forget."*

The report, called **Breaking The Silence**, was published yesterday by the Ottawa Citizen and was to be released later this month by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The Indian group plans to use the study to back demands for compensation for abuse victims and an inquiry into the government-sanctioned schools.

*(Continued on next page!)*



### RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

(Article concluded.)

Phil Fontaine, who heads the Assembly of Manitoba chiefs, has been calling for an inquiry since 1990 into the abuse of Indian children in the church-run schools, but his appeal was rejected by former Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon.

From the mid-1800s until the early 1970s, hundreds of thousands of aboriginal children were taken from their families to boarding schools operated by Anglican, Presbyterian, United and Roman Catholic churches.

In submissions to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, which issued its report last month, church leaders acknowledged the schools were an attempt to assimilate the Indian population.

In recent years, accounts have surfaced describing the physical and sexual abuse of students at the hands of religious and lay teachers and staff.

Because the schools were isolated, the children withdrew from their communities. As adults, many turned to alcohol, were incapable of having intimate relationships and often victimized their own children, the study says.

---

**THANK YOU:** *We would sincerely like to thank all those who offered their kindness and volunteered their help in our time of need. The food, flowers and monetary donations were greatly appreciated and very much needed.*  
- GARNET DODGE & Family

Belated September birthday wishes to **Lindsay** and **Lizzie**. From: the UC congregation

**VAN TIRES FOR SALE:** 4.16"ers, Size: 215-85-16, \$50 for all. See or call Jack 627-4593.

**MOVING:** Small washer and dryer in working order, \$35.00 for the pair. Proceeds for the Wallaceburg Museum, call 627-4249.

**WATERBED:** Queen size waterbed/bookcase, \$100, 2 yrs. old. Call George 627-6347.

Ohhh-No-o-o-o! Birthdays are just around the corner for **Deanna** & **Pansy!** From: ME #73...guess who?

## Liberals "sympathetic" to exempting Natives from GST

(Taken from: Delaware Newsletter, Aug 31/94; Reprint: Chatham Daily News, Aug. 30/94)

OTTAWA - The Liberal government appears "extremely sympathetic" to native demands to be exempted from the GST, an aboriginal leader said Monday after meeting Finance Minister Paul Martin.

While Martin wouldn't commit himself to the move, Chief Doug Maracle said he feels his group gained some important ground during the meeting. "I think we had a very acceptable meeting," said Maracle, leader of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, representing several central Ontario bands.

"I think he is human enough to stand by his commitments." Maracle said the minister promised to meet the group again, although no date has been set. Martin did not comment following the meeting.

*Natives believe treaties exempt them from all taxes, including sales, income and excise taxes.*

Martin and Prime Minister Jean Chretien wrote letters supporting that stand while the two were in Opposition. "The government must recognize the tax immunity of the First Nations people," Martin said in his letter, written three years ago.

*As well, the Liberals unanimously passed a resolution at their 1992 convention against taxing natives.*

Currently, aboriginal people are charged the GST unless the goods are delivered to their reserve. But in many provinces, they don't have to pay provincial sales tax if they present status cards at the time of purchase.

Maracle's group wants the GST exempted by the same system.

However, John Duncan, a native affairs critic for the Reform party, said such a move would be "totally unworkable and open to abuse." For small business operators, it would add to the already heavy burden of paperwork caused by the tax, he said. And it would give aboriginal people a special status most Canadians don't enjoy, Duncan said. ■

---

\* Minor Hockey Registration: Wednesday, Sept. 14, time 4:30 - 7:30 pm.



## ROYAL COMMISSION TO HOLD SPECIAL CONSULTATION WITH CHURCHES

OTTAWA - An historic two-day consultation between four of Canada's mainline churches and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples will be held here Nov. 8 and 9.

Leaders of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United churches -- known as the Historic Mission Churches -- will sit down with the Commissioners at the Citadel Hotel to discuss such issues as the impact of residential schools on Aboriginal peoples, their understanding of spirituality and culture and how these churches can contribute to healing, awareness and reconciliation.

The Royal Commission will also explore with the church delegations how they can support Aboriginal peoples' struggles for political, social and economic justice. The special consultation takes place during the fourth round of hearings which begins in Ottawa, Nov. 1-5.

The four churches are those (or their predecessors) which first brought Christianity to Aboriginal peoples at the time of colonization. They also operated, on behalf of the federal government, the residential school system which was an instrument of assimilation and absorption of Aboriginal peoples into Canadian society.

More recently, the churches have come under considerable criticism because of sexual, physical, spiritual and mental abuse which occurred during the 100 years they ran the schools. The Royal Commission has heard during its public hearings that the residential schools were one of the worst features of the assimilationist policies causing loss of language and identity which has had long-lasting negative effects on Aboriginal communities.

Each church will bring a five-person delegation which will present briefs to the Commissioners and respond to comments and questions. Following the formal presentation, the consultation will move into more informal workshops to discuss specific issues and will conclude with ways in which the churches can support Aboriginal initiatives. ■

## Chicago's American Indian Centre 40th ANNUAL CONTEST POW-WOW November 12, 13 & 14,

International Amphitheatre  
42nd & Halsted, CHICAGO, IL

PRIZE MONEY TOTALLING \$16

EMCEE: Thurman Bear.  
Detroit, MI. US  
Arena Director: Brian & Joe D.  
Dowagiac, MI.  
Host Drum: YOUNG NATI  
Hamilton, Ont.

18 Dance Categories!

Dancer/Singer Registration - \$5.00

Registration opens at 3:00 p.m. on 11/12/93

For more information contact: American Indian  
1630 West Wilson, Chicago, IL 60640. Phone  
275-5871, weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm.

## 10th ANNUAL Prairie Band Pottawatomie CONTEST POW-WOW

November 27 - 28, 1993

Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, Ka  
17th & Topeka Blvd.

\$20,580 TOTAL PRIZE MONEY

Grand Entries: 1 pm & 7 pm Saturday; 12 pm &

Registration: closes 6 pm Saturday. No excep

Arts & Crafts: Limited space.

Contact LaVerne Hale, Native American arts/cra

### ADMISSION:

\$8.00 weekend button, \$5.00 day pass

Sr. Citizens 65 and over:

\$6.00 weekend button, \$5.00 day pass

5 years & under: FREE

Host Motel: Topeka Plaza Inn,

1-470 & Topeka Blvd. \$35/night, call ahead

(913) 266-8880, ask for Pow-wow rate.



## TEXT OF APOLOGY

This is the text of apology delivered to the native convocation on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada by Archbishop Michael Peers. (September 1993)

### **My Brothers and Sisters:**

*Together here with you I have listened as you have told your stories of the residential schools. I have heard the voices that have spoken of pain and hurt experienced in the schools, and of the scars which endure to this day.*

*I have felt shame and humiliation as I have heard of suffering inflicted by my people, and as I think of the part our church played in that suffering.*

*I am deeply conscious of the sacredness of the stories that you have told, and I hold in the highest honour those who have told them. I have heard with admiration the stories of people and communities who have worked at healing, and I am aware of how much more healing is needed.*

*I also know that I am in need of healing, and my own people are in need of healing, and our church is in need of healing. Without that healing, we will continue the same attitudes that have done such damage in the past. I know that healing takes a long time, both for people and for communities.*

*I also know that it is God who heals, and that God can begin to heal when we open ourselves, our wounds, our failure and our shame, to God. I want to take one step along that path here and now.*

*I accept and I confess before God and you, our failures in the residential schools. We failed you. We failed ourselves. We failed God.*

*I am sorry, more than I can say, that we were part of a system which took you and your children from home and family. I am sorry, more than I can say, that we tried to make you in our image, taking from you your language and the signs of your identity. I am sorry, more than I can say, that in our schools so many were abused physically, sexually, culturally and emotionally.*

*On behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada, I present our apology.*

*I do this at the desire of those in the church, like the National Executive Council, who know some of your stories and have asked me to apologize. I do this in the name of many who do not know these stories. And I do this even though there are those in the church who*

*cannot accept the fact that these things were done in our name.*

*As soon as I am home, I shall tell all the bishops what I have said, and ask them to co-operate with me and the National Executive Council in helping this healing at the local level. Some bishops have already begun this work.*

*I know how often you have heard words which have been empty because they have not been accompanied by actions. I pledge to you my best efforts, and the efforts of our church at the national level, to walk with you along the path of God's healing.*

*The work of the residential schools working group, the video, the commitment and the effort of the special assistants to the Primate for this work, the grants available for healing conferences, are some signs of that pledge, and we shall work for others.*

*This is Friday, the day of Jesus' suffering and death. It is the anniversary of the first atomic bomb at Hiroshima, one of the most terrible injuries ever inflicted by one people on another.*

*But even atomic bombs and Good Friday are not the last word. God raised Jesus from the dead as a sign that life and wholeness are the everlasting and unquenchable purpose of God.*

*Thank you for listening to me.*

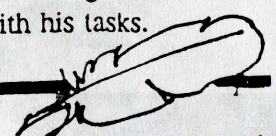
### **NATIVE RESPONSE:**

The convocation's response to the apology was given by Haida elder Vi Smith, of Hazelton, B.C.

On behalf of this gathering, we acknowledge and accept the apology that the primate has offered on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada.

It was offered from his heart with sincerity, sensitivity, compassion and humility. We receive it in the same manner. We offer praise and thanks to our Creator for his courage.

We know it wasn't easy. Let us keep him in our hearts and prayers, that God will continue to give him the strength and courage to continue with his tasks.





# L.A. FILM FEAR

Los Angeles Times

## Leader of the Path

Gary Farmer's 'Dead Man' role as a guardian angel searching for his own roots is earning praise. He credits his own conflict as a Native American.

By KRISTINE MCKENNA  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The presence of actor Johnny Depp in the new Jim Jarmusch film, "Dead Man," should sell some tickets this week. Those who plunk their money down will feel vindicated, too—Depp is very good in the film. However, anyone who sees "Dead Man" will surely come away with the face of Gary Farmer just as clearly etched in their memory.

Cast as Nobody, a kind of shamanic guardian angel who guides Depp through the perils of the Old West, Farmer is extraordinarily compelling in the part. Previously seen in Jonathan Wacks' 1988 film, "Powwow Highway," Farmer says the authenticity of his current performance is attributable to the fact that like Nobody, he's had to struggle to reconnect with his roots.

Born in Ontario, Canada, on the Six Nations Reserve, the 42-year-old actor is Cayuga of the Wolf Clan, one of 50 tribes that comprise the Seneca Nation. "I can trace my family at least as far back as the Revolutionary War, which is when my people settled in the area where I was born. But like



KEN HIVELEY / Los Angeles Times

Farmer: "I'm constantly asked to do things that aren't accurate."

culture long before I was born," Farmer explains during an interview at a Los Feliz restaurant.

A soft-spoken man with a daunting arsenal of information at his disposal, Farmer can reel off facts, figures and percentages concerning his people with ease. What makes him such a persuasive spokesman however is

the intelligence and compassion that infuse his observations; he is a stunningly graceful presence.

"In the '20s and '30s many of our people were migrant workers, but when the Industrial Revolution kicked in most of them wound up working in the cities," says Farmer, who has a younger sister who teaches dance. "My father was a crane operator who died at the age of 43 of cirrhosis, diabetes, and my mother was raised in the city because when her mother was growing up, she'd have been beaten in the residential schools if she spoke her native language. So, she came to believe it was important to teach her daughter to live like a white person."

"I too mostly grew up in the white world, but for me the white world and the native world have always been like two rivers that run side by side, but will never meet. Because I feel it's my role to serve as a go-between, I have a foot in a canoe on each of these rivers, but that's a precarious position to maintain. Part of the reason I'm in L.A. is to try and capitalize on the release of 'Dead Man,' but I feel ambivalent about that because I'm not interested in building some kind of

Please see FARMER, F15

L.A. Philharmonic, received two major awards this week: Britain's most prestigious music prize, the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award, and Sweden's Litteris et Artibus Medal, given annually to recognize outstanding achievement in the arts.

WILLIAM WELLMAN

at the heart, an attractive, if not a neglected figure from the movies golden age. Combining interview footage with clips from some of Wellman's 76 features, "Wild Bill," narrated by Alec Baldwin, brings this maverick director into deserved focus again.

On one level, Wellman's pugnacity, his legendary explosive temper, made him an unlikely candidate for success in the studio system. Here, after all, was someone who delivered a load of horse manure to a Paramount executive's office with the message, "That's what I think of your lousy script" and once told Jack Warner: "If I ever catch you in the men's room, I'm going to put you in the hospital for six weeks."

Yet his speed, decisiveness and skill made Wellman a valued commodity. One of the generation of directors who put the experiences of a rugged life into his work, Wellman made movies that earned 32 Oscar nominations, including four best picture nods and three for best director for himself.

Early photographs show a Wellman who was ferocious almost from birth. The key experience in his life came at age 19, when he became a pilot in the French army's Lafayette Flying Corps, active in combat before America's official entry into World War I.

Wellman got his "Wild Bill" nickname during this time and nearly lost his life in a wreck. Aviation continued to be critical to his life: He got his first job in Hollywood after landing his plane at the lawn of Pickfair and asking Douglas Fairbanks, whom he'd met years earlier, to help him out.

Please see 'BILL,' F16



7-2  
advice  
.....

# Beyond 'Schindler's,' there's keyword Holocaust

By Dallas Heltzell  
Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.

— For everyone from youngsters who watched "Schindler's List" on TV to seniors who witnessed parts of the Holocaust firsthand, the images of that horrific time in world history will linger for a lifetime.

Whether you're just now learning about the Nazi extermination of 6 million European Jews and other "undesirables" during World War II or seeking a deeper understanding of how such inhumanity could

occur, there are resources galore on your home computer.

Perhaps the best one-stop source of information — and a fine starting point for kids — has been assembled by America Online's Jewish Community at keyword Holocaust. A simple menu contains a glossary of terms, answers to 36 basic questions, a quick history, descriptions and images of life and death in concentration camps, survivors' stories, copies of Nazi documents and reading lists.

In one area, the Simon Wiesenthal Center presents more than

dozen answers for historians and revisionists with various political or religious agendas who claim the Holocaust never happened. Another area contains voluminous records from the Nuremberg war-crimes trials. A new addition explains the recent decision by the Swiss government to open a \$71 million humanitarian fund to aid destitute Holocaust victims and their families.

One mission of the Wiesenthal Center is to keep watch on modern trends in hate and extremism that could spark new Holocausts if left unchecked. In that vein, "The Making of a Skinhead" by former White Supremacy Movement member T.J. Leyden is must reading on the Wiesenthal's Web site. Meanwhile, the CyberWatch area offers discussion and a survey about hate speech on the Internet — as well as some links to pages put out by the groups themselves.

The new United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum has a page at <http://www.ushmm.org> with more testimony and samples of its exhibits.

At the end of the telecast of "Schindler's List," director Steven Spielberg mentioned his "Survivors of the Shoah" project, which seeks to gather videotaped interviews with Holocaust survivors. He's taped more than 25,000 interviews so far and is converting them into a format available to computer users. Read about it at the Visual History Foundation page (<http://www.vhf.org/>).

Fans of "The Diary of Anne Frank" can read about her life and times at Anne Frank Online (<http://www.annefrank.com/>). She, her family and four others hid in Amsterdam for 25 months before being discovered by Nazis. She died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945 at age 15. Want to talk about all of this information? Do it in this Usenet

**DON'T LIVE WITH PAIN.  
STOP SLEEPING NOW...**

**RINGN**