



Greetings from the Chief

Yes, yes, yes... it's been way too long for one of our Smoke Signals and you have no one to blame but yours truly. No excuses... it's just the reality that has become my life.

I hope you are all alive and doing well. I can't believe that our year has almost come to an end. There will be one more Smoke Signals sent out that will allow all the outgoing chiefs a chance to say "Good-bye" and the incoming chiefs, if they desire, a chance to say "Hello!" Personally, this has been one of the most amazing, rewarding, busy, frustrating and enjoyable years of my life... but more on that next month.

Some things have happened in the past few months that I've been wanting to write about for a while now, and since this is my own little soap-box for the next month, I'm going for it. About two months ago there were yet more shootings in some schools that are relatively close to us. Now, sadly, this is a not so new occurrence of late. I'm not going to spend any time talking about violence, because I'm no expert and it's fairly common sense that we should try to teach our children non-violent solutions to their problems... at least that's my hope. No, what I want to talk about is a common thread in some of these shootings. The fact that some of these kids were the ones that were picked on... the "losers," the "outsiders," the "quiet, dorky ones"... whatever term you want to apply. These are the kids I want to talk about.

Now... I'm not what you'd call a "thin" person... I never have been, except maybe for two years of my life when I was at the peak of my high-school sporting days. Now, I don't consider myself morbidly obese, but I'm not kidding myself into

thinking that I'm in shape at all. Now... I'm saying this to let the world know that I'm aware of it. However, it's not helpful, funny, considerate, or at all enjoyable for me to have someone point out my deficiencies. Yet, it happens all the time that someone will pat me on the stomach, make a wise-crack about my weight, or think I would find it amusing to hear yet another comment about my appearance. When did this become okay? When was it alright to find fault in others, tease or mock them about it and then walk away feeling confident in the fact that we really made a funny remark? Yet, I have seen this happen SO much throughout my life. Not just in regards to myself, but to so many others. Now, I'm not perfect, and I'm sure I did my share of laughing at a wise-remark about someone... but when you really think about it... how cruel is that? And then when that person takes offense... has the courage to say something back... we think "MAN! Are you over-sensitive or what?" "Get a sense of humor!" "I was only kidding... JEEZ!"

Now, this is not a "poor-me" note. I know who I am. I have improvements to make, but all in all, I like who I am. However, think about the kids who get this on a daily basis, over and over again, until finally they begin to believe it. What saddens me most of all is seeing it in adults still. I know someone who will routinely say to their son as they walk by "Hey tubby!" or "Can I have fries with that shake?" Can you even imagine what is going through his kids' head? "Man... if my Dad is even making fun of me..." When did cruelty to others become acceptable? I never knew that this was an acceptable parenting tool.

Now... I'm no card-carrying member of the ACLU. I don't think we should raid the local Improv Comedy Club and arrest the comedians for telling jokes about people. But when it's personalized... when we find

the "different" ones, point them out to others, and mock them to the point of desperation... something has to change! Our children need to know of their imperfections... we need to let them know in a constructive way, how to help them improve themselves. However, we cannot make them think that their imperfections are who they are or will ever be. They cannot think of themselves as the "fat kid", or the "skinny kid" or the "dorky kid" or the "slow kid" or the whatever kid. Love them. Bolster their self-esteem. Let them know that although we all have faults, they're still the most special person in the world to you. We all have those things that make us different. However, those differences do not define us... they are only a part of the whole.

And one more note... please listen to your kids. And if they're not talking to you... talk to them. Show them you're interested in them and their lives. Make them know that you want to know what's going on. I don't understand how this kid in San Diego just

suddenly woke up one morning and decided to find his dad's, uncle's, whoever's gun and go shoot up the high school. Why didn't his parents ask him a long time ago... "How are things going at school?" And when he said "Fine... I guess...", why didn't they dig deeper. Know your kids... know their moods. I'm not (I repeat... I AM NOT) excusing these kids for what they did. They committed heinous crimes and I hope they are punished for them. However, is there something that could have been done to prevent these things from ever even being a possibility? Maybe not, but I would hope that in the final analysis, I can be secure in the knowledge that I had done everything to help my kids see that life, theirs and everyone else's, is such a precious thing.

Thanks for this great year everyone. See you at the Nation Picnic.

Chief Red Fox

Tribal News

Chinook

The mighty Chinook held their pre-Camp Fox meeting at the poolside teepee/cabana of Little Fawn, aided by co-hostesses Cuddling Cub and Little Dancing Moccasins. New standards were set for food, drinks, and creative crafts, with many thanks undoubtedly due to the wife of Two Bucks (is that Two Does?). The Princesses prepared souvenir pillows for future camping trips, with a special pillow dedicated to our injured brave Hugging Bear.

Camp Fox was a great success with a large turnout and less time spent on the boat than ever before. The tribe took over two beachfront villas and one additional land-locked cabin. Besides indulging in the usual great Camp Fox activities, the Princesses showed an amazing ability to direct the antics of a trained elephant, especially with the help of a willing volunteer from the Blackfeet tribe. Again thanks to Josie, Joe, and the hosting tribes.

Chief Star Hunter

Apache

Ooga Booga! A warning to all Apache, it has come to my attention that this is all you have to

say to lose your voice. What a great skit !!!! Thank you Red Fox for the sacrifice of vocal cords. What a great time at Camp Fox. The boys made the hike up Bible Peak look like a walk in the park. I now see why they call it Bible Peak, it has you on your knees half way up and praying on the way down. The boat ride was rather smooth and the food was great. What a salad bar! The boys won the tug o war, great skill was shown by all on the Frisbee golf course and we were visited by the spirit of the Great Shooting Star. The boys all worked as a great team scoring a blue ribbon in the Scavenger Hunt. Looking forward to the next meeting of the great tribe of the Apache.

Seminole

Ahoy There Ga-Sioux Nation:

The Seminoles were in full force at Camp Fox with 100% participation for the second year in a row. Andreas Screaming Wolf, Daniel Screeching Hawk, Josh Soaring Arrow, Jamie Wild Wolf, David Bold Eagle, Matthew Down Wind, Jason Running Wolf, the Buffaloes (Crazy Zach & BBQd James), plus Dylan & Ben, and the dads all had a blast. The cruise over was fast and after scrambling for our bags, we

all settled in for SNOREFEST I. Saturday was fun filled and started off with our whole tribe scaling Bible Peak after breakfast. After that, Seminoles were spotted, kayaking, fishing, trying there hands at archery, and competing boldly in the nation games. The Seminoles learned that camp Fox fish prefer vegetables over squid, minnow & Granada Hills worms. The Survivor III skit worked well. Saturday night and SNOREFEST II was even better than the first. Sunday's rock sculptures were great (we counted 5). Lets try for more and even bigger ones next year. We've had two meetings since the last update. February was at the Wolf Den where the braves made leather pouches, and March was at the Breezing Arrow where they made these amazing rain sticks. As usual, snacks were plentiful and delicious. We hope to see you all at Avenger's Football Night at Staples Center.. Until then, Yo Ho Yo Ho Maties!

Chief Gary "Lazy Buffalo"

Arapaho

Arapaho Times

CAMP FOX---a Kodak moment. The pictures from Camp Fox turned out as great as the memories we will always treasure. What a great place to go. In attendance were five little Indian brave's including; Little Acorn, Little Iron Horse, Yellow Eagle, Jason, and Silver Wolf. The braves especially enjoyed the Catalina Express ride, hiking, boating and the Nation Games. The highlight of the games included the Tug of War, Balloon Toss, and the Invasion of the Pirates. Searching for gold nuggets in the campground completed the Nation Games and gave souvenirs to every camper in attendance. After dinner the braves played Frisbee and football outside and played Bingo and War in their cabins, while awaiting the campfire. The "ooga booga skit" will never be forgotten. Good job Joe Orr. We capped off the campfire by roasting marshmallows, making smokers and drinking hot chocolate. On the boat ride back I realized how much I enjoyed this trip and I will look forward to next year. This column is dedicated to Yellow Eagles Mom (Janet) who has started a scrapbook for her little brave of his greatest Indian guide moments.

---Art

Sioux North

Laughing Bear, Singing River and Shooting Star hosted the Sioux North Indian Tribe March 2001 meeting. The tribe members who attended were Crazy Horse & Tiger Lily, Flying Elbow & Bright Star, Red Sky & Red Feather, Thunder Cloud & Golden Dove, and Broken Wing & Beauty Pony. Our meeting started with our tribal role call and the pledge of allegiance. We then went through the 6 aims of being part of the Indian guides & princesses. That's something we strive to do is to stick to the correct format of the nation. We discussed future events, such as the family night at Arena football & our Spring picnic for the nation. We also collected wampum and all the kids using the talking stick explained how and why they earned their wampum. We had an announcement that Red Sky has decided, with the approval of his youngest daughter, that she will be joining our tribe next year (Indian name TBA). Instead of craft time we talked about our skit for Camp Fox and passed out updated event schedules.

We also spoke briefly about games we'll need to create for the nation picnic. Our chief had a chance to share with us his work on his totem pole, which was quite nice I might add. So we all talked about getting those done by the end of the year campout. We said our closing rituals and the meeting was over.

Camp Fox 2001

In attendance were Laughing Bear & Shooting Star, Running Rabbit & Little Bunny, and Flying Elbow & Bright Star. We took the boat ride over from San Pedro, that was fun but a little shaky. Bright Star got a little woozy but survived the ride. We arrived Friday night about 9:30 pm got settled in with our cabins and the camp had hot chocolate and cookies waiting for us. That was nice. Most of us got some shut eye but we were up by sunrise the next morning. The day started out by having a huge breakfast with the whole nation. The staff at Camp Fox was great, they prepared Pancakes & Eggs with all the trimmings. Cereal for a lot of the kids was just enough too. Then a lot of the nation climbed Bible Peek, including from our tribe Flying Elbow, Bright Star, and Shooting Star. Our tribe decided to go out on a boat and get some sun and do some fishing. Sun we got, fish we didn't. Tough to fish with left over breakfast sausage for bait. Our Chief forgot his bait. lol However, Bright Star did manage to catch a fish

just before leaving on Sunday. Right off the pier she used some squid borrowed from another tribe and she caught a 10" Calico Bass. Pretty cool. Back to Saturday, we did archery, we played volleyball and football, at least some of us did. The kids went to the water got wet and collected rocks. They had fun. We participated in the nation games, all in all we had a great time. We worked hard for the scavenger hunt and found everything but two items. We never went hungry, lunch was huge. Burgers & Fries, Salad Bar. Wow they keep us Indian Tribes full. The night was capped off by a dinner and campfire with the nation. OOGA BOOGA was the theme of the night. Our girls of the Sioux North Tribe did a great job with their own skit but Joe Orr, the nations chief, was the laughing stock of the night. He created his Indian guide tribal message with the chant of OOGA BOOGA and had everyone in stitches the rest of the evening. We sang songs and handed out ribbons and the kids were famished. Sunday morning we had breakfast , did some more archery, hiked around camp and soaked up the last rays of the sun till it was time to load up on the boat and come back to reality. Camp Fox was a great experience, I hope from this little summary that you get an idea of how enjoyable it was.

Laughing Bear
How!!

Blackfeet

The Blackfeet recently celebrated their tribal unity with a meeting at Brave Wolf's teepee. The tribal elders dutifully planned for what was to be the last trip to Camp Fox for many of them. The preparation paid off as a great time was had by all. Wild Eagle and Soaring Eagle spent lots of time fishing on the dock, catching 15 fish between the two of them (eagles are fantastic fishers). Brave Wolf, Thunder Cloud, Little Fang, and Silver Fox flexed their muscles in the tug-o-war, anchoring the guides first victory in the event in many moons. Wild Buck, Lightning Foot, and Lightning Bear scoured the camp in search of items for the scavenger hunt, earning an honorable mention in the process. Perfecting their archery skills, fishing, and hiking to Bible Peak rounded out the afternoon. While the braves disappointed some by not performing their version of "the Invisible Bench" at the camp fire, their version of "the Big Fat Man" was well accepted.

As for the elders, they had a great time too. Morning Bear and White Lightning blended up some tasty

beverages prior to the camp fire. Running Bear was a great sport, letting the Chinook's elephant relieve itself on him in the camp fire skit. Black Cloud, White Fang, and Silver Bear, along with the other elders, enjoyed the pyrotechnics show. Our camp was visited by numerous Chinook, Mohican, and Apache elders, searching for the waters of life and the desire to unify our tribes with peaceful smokes. Two Bucks enjoyed himself immensely, being subjected to Chief Ooga Booga's antics, and performing Super Lizard with Terry. He even wrote a song about the events on Fox; however, copyright laws forbid its printing.

The Blackfeet will be graduating 9 braves from its tribe this year; it seems like yesterday we were choosing the name for our new tribe. We wish to thank Josie, Terry, the Shawnee Tribe, the Seminole Tribe, and the Chumash Tribe for a great time at Camp Fox. We wish to congratulate Bret Lane on his position as Assistant Chief for next year. Bret, Black Cloud, and Running Bear go way back as they were all in the Shoshone Tribe together. Lastly, Amen to the fast boats!

Assistant Chief Two Bucks

Chumash

Dads are funny. Ask my dad, and he'll tell you that what he liked about Camp Fox is being with his daughters and watching them have fun. All of that's O.K. I guess, but I'll tell you what I liked about Camp Fox.

I love Cocoa Puffs and I loved that we could eat them at all the meals. I also love Cap'n Crunch and Frosted Flakes. I loved the cookies when we first got there and I loved the hot chocolate. Hot chocolate on Friday night. Hot chocolate Saturday morning. Hot chocolate Saturday night and even hot chocolate on Sunday.

The hike up Bible Peak was great. But why do we have to hike down? . . . It's so steep and it wasn't that way going up.

I love archery and I loved listening to Dave. And even though I am pretty small, he helped me shoot the arrows really good, and even helped me make a bulls eye. He had a new camera which takes pictures that I can look at on our computer and took a picture of me shooting arrows. My dad took it home, but

doesn't know exactly how to make it come up on my computer, even though Dave said it would be easy.

I loved finding all that gold (but I don't think there were any pirates on the island really... or maybe there were?). That balloon toss was fun and I loved getting all wet. It's funny that grown ups don't think it's fun to get all wet.

The camp fire was fun and I loved doing our skit. I was so tired by the end of the night, that I even skipped hot cocoa to go to bed.

I love being a Chumash Indian Princess.

U * P * C * O * M * I * N * G * * * E * V * E * N * T * S

May 20 - Nation Picnic - The annual Nation Picnic is a family event. We have a portion of Woodley Park reserved from sun-up to sun-down. Bring the whole family and have a great time. See the attached flier for more details.

June 8 - 10 - Spring Family Camp-out - One of our most popular events... the family camp-out will be held again at El Capitan State Beach. There is a new owner of the camp and they've made some impressive changes this year. Again, see the attached flier for more details.

Sign up for both events as soon as possible.

Also, you might want to think about signing up for next year's Indian Guide and Princess program now. It's not too early. You can also sign-up for the Trailblazer program for your graduating kids (children who are going to be in the 4th grade in the Fall are eligible for the Trailblazer program). See the YMCA for more details on signing up for both of these programs.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE PICNIC!