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Western Shoshone Defense Project Exhibit and Archive Opens

This week at Interior

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Library technician racks up mileage serving Navajo Nation

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Mary Gibson, Project Archivist, Barbara Ridley and other Dann relatives celebrate opening.

Western Shoshone Defense Project Exhibit and Archive Opens

With a prayer given by Raymond Yowell, Chief of the Western Shoshone Nation, and interpreted by Barbara Ridley, the WSDP Archive was officially opened on September 26.

Kudos were given to Carrie Dann by Kay Ray, Director of Libraries (UNR), Jacque Sundstrand, Manuscripts and Archives Librarian, and Mary Gibson, Project Archivist, for her decision to reposit her personal and WSDP Project papers at UNR so that students and people all over the world would have access to the struggles of the last half century.

Many of the warriors who served WSDP over the years were present making for an emotional and memory filled afternoon.

Those in attendance were invited from the Rotunda to the Third Floor to view the exhibit "Whose Land Is It?" which will be open through March 18, 2016. Participants were also invited to view many pictures which are unfortunately not labeled in order to identify persons/places/events.

The extensive guide to the collection may be found at <http://bit.ly/1FfE8sA> and there is a website at <http://bit.ly/1JpZo9I>.

A notable feature of the exhibit is "American Outrage". winner in 14 major film festivals by Gage and Gage productions (bggage@rmi.net). The film follows Carrie and Mary Dann enduring five terrifying roundups by armed federal marshals. Contrasting the Dann's personal lives and political actions, "American Outrage" examines why the US spend millions prosecuting two women grazing their animals in a desolate desert.

The exhibit and collection are open to the public. Please do attend and bring your youth.

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### **Our Land, Our Life**

"Our Land, Our Life" presents the struggle of Carrie and Mary Dann, two Western Shoshone elders, to address the threat mining development poses to the sacred... [youtube.com](#)

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CENSORED NEWS: Western Shoshone Carrie Dann Honored in Reno Sept. 2015

bsnorrell.blogspot.com

This week at Interior: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmsOQzTX1-Q>

Women Of The First Nations Shut Down Tar Sands Pipeline Hearing

By John Vibes on Sep 25, 2015 05:11 pm

This week, women representing the First Nations shut down a pipeline meeting in Montreal. The meeting was on the controversial TransCanada Pipeline which could potentially displace tens of thousands... [Read in browser »](#)

Elayne Silversmith

this is great news! jean whitehorse certainly deserves recognition for the extensive library outreach she's provided for navajos in remote communities in the new mexico portion of the navajo nation ~ it's phenomenal! she tells it like is, and gets it done. another little known fact is that she was part of the alcatraz takeover. i adore radical librarians... congrats Jean!

Library technician racks up mileage serving Navajo Nation

For almost two decades, Jean Whitehorse has traveled to chapter houses on the Navajo Nation to teach residents about computer literacy and the importance of reading.

sanluisobispo.com

Earlier this month, I announced the retirement of Rodger Boyd as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP). Today, I am pleased to announce that **Randall "Randy" Akers** has agreed to serve as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, effective Monday, October 5, 2015.

For over 36 years, Randy has served Indian Country in the areas of housing and

economic development as an attorney and program administrator for ONAP. Since November 2000, Randy has worked as Administrator for the Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs (NPONAP). The NAPONAP provides a wide range of housing and community development assistance to 34 Federally recognized tribal governments in a seven-state region, comprised of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska, as well as the Navajo Nation located in New Mexico, Arizona, and southern Utah.

Prior to assuming his NAPONAP responsibilities, for 21 years Randy was Associate Field Counsel for the San Francisco and Phoenix HUD ONAPs, serving as a principal point of legal contact for HUD programs delivered to 172 tribes located in the western United States. During 1997, Randy



"Mexican-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native-Americans - they're changing up the cultural mix in the United States away from what it used to be in the days of our Founding Fathers.

"I think we should go to some of these groups and just ask politely - would you mind going home? Would you mind giving us our country back?"

"Sarah you know I love you," Doocey interjected, "And I think that's a great idea with regards to Mexicans. But where are the Native Americans supposed to go? They don't really have a place to go back to do they?"

"Well I think they should go back to Nativia or wherever they came from," Palin replied -- as the show's co-hosts sat in stunned silence.

"The liberal media treats Native Americans like they're gods. As if they just have some sort of automatic right to be in this country. But I say if they can't learn to get off those horses and start speaking American - then they should be sent home too."

was part of the HUD team providing legal support to the NAHASDA first negotiated rulemaking committee. Randy is a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

I am confident that during this time of transition, Randy's leadership along with the commitment and dedication of the ONAP team will result in continued successes in our work within Indian County. Please join me in congratulating Randy in this interim role.

Best regards,

Lourdes Castro Ramírez, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Public and Indian Housing

Much of Ithaca built on top of Indian burial grounds, Cornell prof finds

"What you see is a very cavalier treatment of burial grounds by the settlers," says a Cornell professor of Ithaca was taken over from Native Americans.

ithacavoice.com

Hundreds of ancient children's shoes found in Utah cave shed light on little-known culture

A wealth of artifacts found in a cave on the shores of the Great Salt Lake in Utah, including hundreds of animal-skin moccasins that would have mostly belonged to... ancient-origins.net

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[Bucky Harjo](#) So, the Pope is having an inter faith prayer at ground zero. I don't see any indigenous representation. Just foreigners. Figures! We continue to be sub human, nothing to the other religions of the world. Maybe if we murdered, stole, raped, conquered then we be recognized. But we are not like that, what they seek is what we had before 1492!

[Pem Bird](#) You know, I really dislike when our colonizers (a) refer to the property of our deceased ancestors and relatives as 'a wealth of artifacts,' as it reinforces in the public's mind the disrespectful notion that our ancestors' property (burial and otherwise) is 'wealth,' or 'treasure,' which perpetuates looting and the black market in such things, and (b) that they help themselves to whatever they find and put it in museums. Just can't leave anything alone.

[Peter Delfs](#) You nailed it Bucky. The world would be a much better and safer place if we practiced what Indigenous spirituality teaches. Respect for Mother Earth is an alien concept to these so-called religions, which to me are nothing but exercises in mind control.

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[Loika Kane](#) That's what I was thinking. He should have asked to meet w the indigenous people requesting permission to enter our lands. Showing the US gov't how to show respect.

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### **"A Good Day To Die" The Dennis Banks Documentary Good info.**

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## Native Sun News: Long overdue honor for Lakota Code Talkers

It took more than 60 years for it to happen, but better late than never. indianz.com

- [Native Sun News: Lakota youth maintains cultural connections](#)  
[When Minnicoujou Chief Si Tanka \(Big Foot\) fled with his people to the Pine Ridge Agency in December 1890, little did he know that 125 years later, his descendant Chloe Eagle Boy would make that same journey to honor him.](#)

indianz.com

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## Ralph Nader's Tort Law Museum Seeks to Keep His Crusade Evergreen By ERIK ECKHOLM

The American Museum of Tort Law, which opens Sunday in Connecticut, is Mr. Nader's effort to educate people on the history of consumer protections.

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## Pope Francis fails to address mistreatment of California tribes (9/24)

### The Pope Wants America to Learn From Its Horrific Treatment of Native Americans

One day after canonizing an early Spanish missionary. m.motherjones.com

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## **GOLD MINING GIANT TO OPEN NEW SOUTHERN NEVADA OFFICE**

The world's largest gold miner has discovered treasure in the Las Vegas Valley. Thanks to a few lucky twists of fortune, Barrick Gold Corp. stumbled upon the perfect place for its new Global Shared Services office. <http://erj.reviewjournal.com/ct/uz3688753Biz26511456>

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## **Editorial: A plan for salmon?**

Redding Record Searchlight

It's not as if scientists, local tribes and dam engineers didn't realize that blocking off three big rivers with what would be the second highest dam in the United States might have an impact on the North State's salmon population.

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## **Ignorance Vs. Reason in the War on Education**

By Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, TIME 25 September 15

*Clearly we are serious when it comes to educating our young, but how we do so and what we teach them are problems*

When I started playing basketball as a freshman at UCLA, coach John Wooden told us a bunch of crazy ideas about useless drills we should do and half-baked plays we should run. Naturally, because I had just graduated from high school, I immediately knew that his unfamiliar methods were silly — possibly even unpatriotic — so I refused to follow the ridiculous directives. I suggested we start every practice by sitting in a circle discussing our favorite jazz musicians, leading to a group hug and affirmations that we were special to the universe. Coach Wooden later thanked me, tears in his eyes, for making him a better coach — and a better human being. The rest is basketball history.



Yeah, right.

If I had actually refused to follow the coach's plan, the next day I'd have been stocking the high shelves at the pet store asking, "Are you sure five pounds of kitty litter is enough, ma'am? Don't forget our lovely assortment of chew toys." And rightfully so, because, despite having been one of the top high school basketball players in the country, what did I know about playing on the next level? Or, for that matter, the next level of history, math and English? I had to rely on experts.

Yet there seems to be a growing belief among college students, and some fearful parents, that being exposed to anything that challenges the comfort zone of beliefs might infringe on their rights. Teachers are free to explain facts, like how the intestinal tract works, but not to offer ideas that might be unpopular, provocative or disturbing.

Last month, a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill wrote an article criticizing a Literature of 9/11 course for requiring reading that "sympathizes with terrorists." The student hadn't taken the class nor read the actual works, but relied on his personal research to form his conclusions. At Duke University, some students objected to the school's Common Experience Summer Reading Program selection, Alison Bechdel's powerful and moving graphic novel *Fun Home*, a musical adaptation of which is currently a hit on Broadway. They said that they found it pornographic and contrary to their moral beliefs because of its portrayal of homosexuality.

If these were isolated cases, we could just shake our heads sagely at youth's age-old insistence on their Entitlement to Ignorance and pull out one of my favorite quotes (often attributed to Mark Twain): "When I was a boy of 17, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in four years." But these students' public attacks on required reading aren't merely a hold-their-breath tantrum while they refuse to eat their vegetables, they are a reflection of a larger hostility in American society against education—and against educated experts.

That may seem like an odd statement about a country that in 2015 has a federal budget of nearly \$70 billion for education. Clearly we are serious when it comes to educating our young, but how we do so and what we teach them are problems.

For many Americans, education is about feeding students certain factual information, then testing them to make sure they retain it. The higher they climb on the educational ladder, the more specialized that information becomes as we train them for their eventual professions. That makes sense. When you've got surgeons hovering over you, ready to mess with your internal organs, you want them to remember where everything goes when they're done, not thumb through Wikipedia on an iPhone.

The attack on education isn't on training our youth for whatever careers they choose, it's on teaching them to think logically in order to form opinions based on facts rather than on familial and social influences. This part of one's education is about finding out who you are. It's about becoming a happier person. It's about being a responsible citizen. If you end up with all the same opinions you had before, then at least you can be confident that they are good ones because

you've fairly examined all the options, not because you were too lazy or scared to question them. But you—all of us—need the process. Otherwise, you're basically a zombie who wants to eat brains because you don't want anyone else to think either.

That means this is a war on reason. And the generals leading the attack are mostly conservative politicians and pundits who have characterized our greatest thinkers as “elitists” who look down on everyone else. Uber-conservative William F. Buckley once said that he'd rather entrust the government to the first 2,000 people in the Boston phone book than to the faculty of Harvard University (he graduated from Yale). That's a great sound bite that many would applaud as the triumph of street-level common sense over the egghead experts who are often viewed as impractical and removed, as if they didn't share experiences in love and grief and raising children and paying mortgages. Were he alive today, would Buckley say that after reading a 2014 poll by Alex Theodoridis of the University of California, Merced, in which 54% of Republicans polled think President Obama is a Muslim “deep down” (10% of Democrats and 25% of Independents agreed)? Yet Obama has always been publicly affiliated with Christianity and there is not one fact to suggest he's Muslim. Or what about the recent Iowa poll in which 57% of Republicans said they would trust the top candidate to “figure it out” once in office.

Since when did we stop requiring our political leaders to educate themselves on issues before deciding the best course? Instead, we demand they hold a course regardless of facts. If you want to see how little regard politicians from both parties running for President have for facts, go to [FactCheck.org](http://FactCheck.org) and read statements made by all politicians. We should insist that politicians demonstrate their ability to reason through specific policies.

Embracing reason is an uphill battle for humans. Almost 400 years ago, philosopher Francis Bacon wrote, “The human understanding when it has once adopted an opinion ... draws all things else to support and agree with it. And though there be a greater number and weight of instances to be found on the other side, yet these it either neglects and despises....” Recent studies explain why nothing much has changed since then. During the 2004 presidential campaign, Emory University psychologist Drew Westen and his colleagues did brain scans on 15 Bush supporters and 15 Kerry supporters. What they discovered was that when the subjects rejected evidence contrary to their beliefs, their brains lit up like addicts when they get a fix. Westen said, “Essentially, it appears as if partisans twirl the cognitive kaleidoscope until they get the conclusions they want, and then they get massively reinforced for it.”

We seem hardwired to discard information that contradicts our beliefs. We have the Internet, the single most powerful information source and educational tool ever invented, but many of us use it only to confirm conclusions we didn't arrive at through examining evidence. We go only to sites that agree with our position in order to arm ourselves with snippets that we can use as ammunition against those who disagree with us.

The students who refused to read assigned texts were right about one thing: we should always question authority and experts. We know how often experts have been wrong in the past. (Remember ads with doctors touting the health benefits of smoking?) But colleges and universities provide the perfect learning environment for challenging beliefs. Part of what they teach is the proper way to challenge something: first, read the book. Second, present arguments contrary to the reading. Third, provide support for those arguments in the form of authority, facts

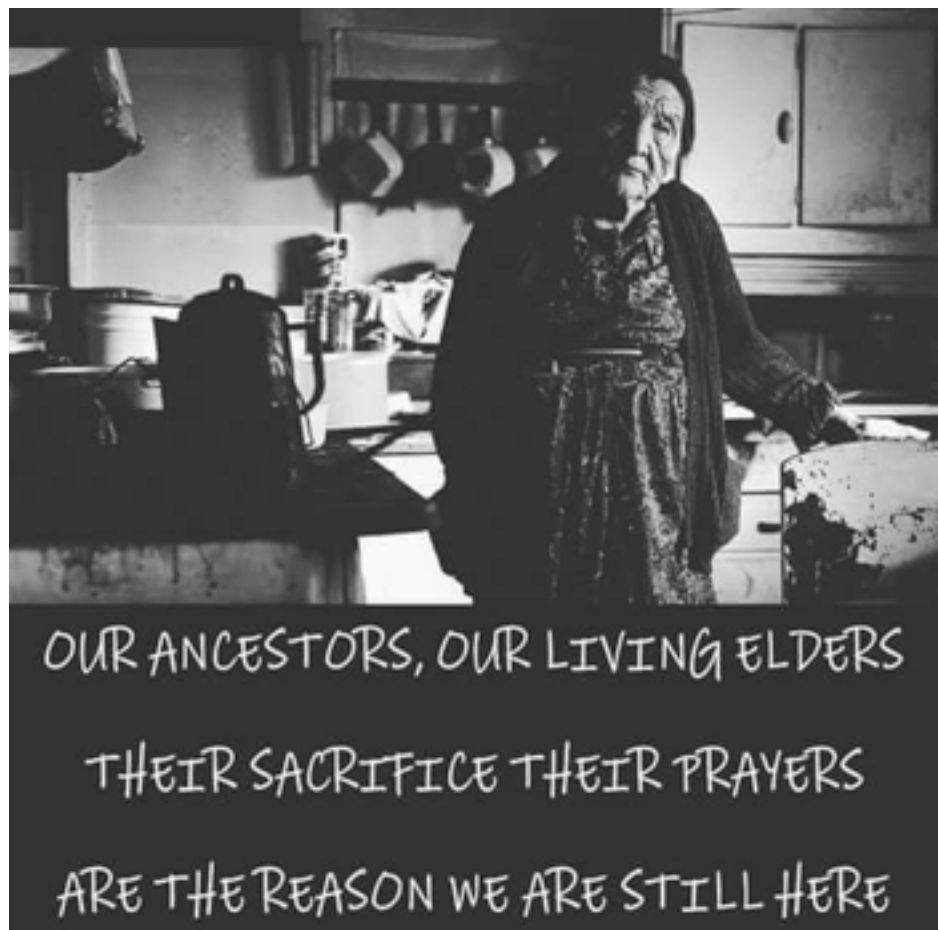
and statistics. The students not reading the works aren't really students; they prefer emotional rhetoric to reasoned argumentation. A UNC student who identified himself as a conservative "through and through" posted this comment to the original piece that attacked the Literature of 9/11 course: "[T]hrough most of the semester and even in my final paper I actively disagreed with some of Neel's [the professor's] opinions. He in turn welcomed my arguments. As such, this course was amazingly valuable because it challenged my opinions and allowed me to explore what I thought I knew in a deeper way. Which is exactly what education should do."

Reading is about context, which a teacher can provide. Not just the work itself, but the social climate that inspired its creation, the subtle but complex ideas that a novice might overlook, and the effect on people at the time and yet to come.

When I think of some of the beliefs I had when I was 19 and how different they are now that I have had more experience and education (both formal and self-induced), I'm astounded by how rigid I was. The joy of college is arguing with others who are equally passionate and informed but disagree. It develops empathy for others and humility in yourself because you now will look upon your opponents not as evil idiots but as good people who want the same thing as you: a safe, loving, moral community. If you don't want to read the books and develop the skills, don't take the class. Don't attend the college. Spend the rest of your life huddled among those who agree with you. But know that that is not thinking—it's sleeping. Perhaps the Beatles said it best: "Please, don't wake me, no, don't shake me. Leave me where I am, I'm only sleeping."

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Mark Twain: if we find facts that disprove earlier beliefs cast off the old! We must never stop searching for knowledge.

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought." John F. Kennedy.



The search for truth MUST make everyone uncomfortable.
Godel's theorem comes to mind...

"The attack on education isn't on training our youth for whatever careers they choose, it's on teaching them to think logically in order to form opinions based on facts rather than on familial and social influences." ... Kareem

That great line in The Truman Show: "Most people accept the lives they are given." is prophetic. Early indoctrination leading to compliance is what the controllers want. True education means opening minds and demanding the truth, not closed door compliance.

[Tesla unveils a battery to power your home, completely off grid](#) eattomorrow.com

[Germany offers free college tuition to U.S. and international students](#)

This is incredible: All German universities are now free to Americans and all other international students. The last German state to charge tuition at its universities ... dailykos.com

Circle of Blue:

"Beyond the immediate cleanup of this spill, it's high time that we overhaul our abandoned mine cleanup policies to make future disasters like this less likely. While developers of resources like oil, natural gas, and coal all pay royalties to return fair value to taxpayers for our public resources, hardrock mining companies can still mine valuable minerals for free." — Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), speaking at a U.S. Senate committee hearing on the August wastewater spill at Gold King mine, in Colorado. Heinrich plans to introduce legislation establishing royalty payments for hardrock mining on federal land. He also co-sponsored the [Gold King Mine Spill Recovery Act](#), which lays out allowable compensation for those hurt financially by the spill.

By the Numbers

\$US 1.1 billion: Money allocated by Congress for improvements to public drinking water systems that has not yet been spent. The backlog is half what it was four years ago. ([Associated Press](#))

\$US 2 million: Grant funding to establish water quality trading markets, a cap-and-trade system for water pollution. ([Natural Resources Conservation Service](#))

\$US 1.8 million: Cost of temporary water treatment facility that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will build at the Gold King mine site, in southwest Colorado. ([Durango Herald](#))

Columbia Plateau Aquifer Report

Groundwater levels have declined in a quarter of the Columbia Plateau Aquifer system because of intensive irrigation, according to [a U.S. Geological Survey assessment](#).

The Columbia Plateau, a volcanic basin between the Cascades and the Rockies, produces \$US 6 billion in farm output per year. Here's a link to a [six-page fact sheet](#) on the report.

John Trudell

coyote logics

he felt pain in the distance
like it wanted to get up close
and personal like
like some long lost lover
looking for solace

with parallels of frenzy
showering leakage's of light
on a future looking for its place
ahead of a rapidly emptying past
and the parts of him
that thoughtlessly left him behind

with his mind free to roam
in the realms ghost love
memories remembering him
pulling him into his self



Jan Gardipe to Loika Kane

Here's a article of my friend Frankie Rivera his was a strong activist standing up and speaking our for indigenous and people of color's civil rights. He loved our people so much he was a modern day Warrior he had struggles in his life being sick and homeless he was always there for the people at the protest marches. There's not to many warriors like Frankie it's sad to say that some people just don't care. Thank you Frankie for all you did out of love for the people. Rest In Peace Frankie ~ Walk In Beauty ~ Aho! To All Our Relations!

From Gangs to the Red Road: Remembering Frankie Rivera

Frankie Rivera, a prominent urban Native activist from Sacramento, California, lost his battle with brain cancer on August 29. He was 38.

indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com