

Journal #4714 from sdc 6.3.20

FedEx paid \$20 million to name Washington Redskin's stadium; asks team to change name

AIESAS Now a Digital Event

Indians 201: The Two Spirit

Indians 101: Old photos in the Wenatchee Valley Museum (museum tour)

NV Energy to Partially Delay Bills

Researchers say drone technology will change the face of last-mile logistics

Five Simple Internet Tips to Keep Working at Home and Remote Learning Easier

Creating structure at home for children with disabilities

Protect the Yaqui Catfish

Severance Radio: A Nevada Reads Book Club

North Dakota Governor's Pro-Pipeline Letter Ghostwritten by Fossil Fuel Company

Why Did the Maya Abandon the Ancient City of Tikal?

Weekend Think Pieces

Mountain of Boom

Lead, White and Blue

Nation Conversation with Chase Iron Eyes, Tokata Iron Eyes, and Madonna Thunder Hawk

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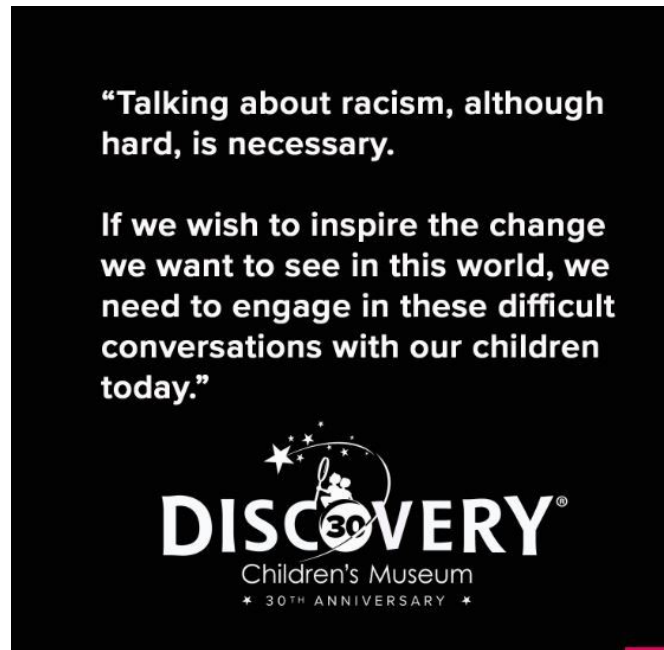


CosmosUp

Look At his SizeThe smallest specie of Monkeys

[FedEx, which paid \\$205 million to name the Washington Redskins' stadium, asks team to change name](#)

Mount Rushmore needs to be closed as a national monument, and the land itself needs to be returned to the Indigenous people,” - Nick Tilsen, President and CEO of @ndncollectiv



AISES is excited to announce that the 2020 AISES National Conference will continue as a one-of-a kind hybrid event on October 15 - 17. This year's conference will include most of the traditional in-person activities held in Spokane, WA in addition to an interactive online virtual conference experience. Attendees participating in-person will have full access to the virtual conference platform. Learn more about the virtual platform, virtual agenda and register NOW so you don't miss out on the early bird rate at conference.aises.org.



Indians 201: The Two Spirit

In American society today there is some debate over gender and sexual identities. While there are some who feel that there are only two genders—male and female—and this should define the natural order of things, there are others who point out the wide variety of sexual orientation. To add to this discussion, I would like to add some information about Native American gender identities.

Indian cultures in general did not view gender/sexuality as being restricted to just two categories. While some modern writers speak of the Indian *berdache* or Two Spirit as a third gender, it's not quite that simple. The *berdache* or Two Spirit was not a third category, but a way of referring to a continuum of human behavior that doesn't fit neatly into the European notions of male and female.

At the beginning of the European invasion of North America, there were more than 500 distinct Indian cultures in North America, so making broad generalizations about the role of the *berdache* or Two Spirit in traditional Indian societies is risky. In what follows below I will make some generalizations about the Two Spirit among the Northern Plains tribes—groups such as the Blackfoot, Crow, Cheyenne, Gros Ventre, Sioux, and others.

Like most cultures, the Indian nations of the Northern Plains defined specific roles for men and for women. In general, women gathered wild plant foods while the men were hunters and warriors. However, the roles were not rigid: there were many women who hunted and went on war parties and were still considered women. Just doing things normally done by the opposite gender did not make one into a *berdache* or Two Spirit.

Among most of the Northern Plains cultures, there were some boys who preferred the company of girls and who eventually dressed as girls. Older ethnographic literature about these individuals generally refers to them as *berdaches*. Among the Crow, at about the age of 10-12 a young boy might take on the female clothing and female work. As a male who dressed and acted like a woman, this individual was accepted in Crow society and would often marry a man. In describing the male *berdache*, Edwin Thompson Denig, writing in 1856, says:

“He is not to be distinguished in any way from the women.”

However, in Crow society the *berdache* was neither male nor female, but an individual who had characteristics of both—hence, a Two Spirit, a person with two spirits.

In the 1876 in the Battle of the Rosebud, one Crow Two Spirit put on male clothes and distinguished himself/herself in battle against the Lakota. For this he/she was given the name Osh-Tisch which means “Finds Them and Kills Them.”

Since the Two Spirit was neither male nor female, in many of the Northern Plains tribes the Two Spirit had an important role in the ceremonial life of the tribe. It was generally felt that the Two Spirit has special spiritual powers and in ceremonies could take on either male or female roles.

In the Sun Dance, for example, there were certain rituals which could be performed only by a Two Spirit.



Shown above is a painting by George Catlin of a Berdache Dance.

Among many of the Plains tribes, the Two Spirit was felt to have strong curing powers. Among the Cheyenne, for example, war parties often included a Two Spirit whose job was to care for the wounded. In addition, the spiritual powers of the Two Spirit were felt to bring good luck. The presence of a Two Spirit in a war party was also desired because of their special spiritual powers. Large war parties were seldom without at least one Two Spirit.

While much of the literature about the role of the Two Spirit in Northern Plains cultures focuses on men, there were also many instances of women who wore men's clothing and took men's roles. Some of these women married other women, some were warriors, and some were chiefs. Among the Blackfoot, women who took on the aggressive roles of men were referred to as "manly hearted women." They would usually begin to take on these roles as teenagers when they would join war parties. They would wear male dress, marry women, and often obtain leadership positions as warriors and/or spiritual leaders.

What was/is the American Indian Two Spirit or berdache? Too often there is an attempt to use European categories to understand the Two Spirit and thus to assume that they were homosexual. Undoubtedly, some were homosexual, but the role of the Two Spirit was not a sexual one. Sometimes the Two Spirit has been described as a transvestite or as a transgender person. Again, this is not a totally true image of who they were. Gender and sexuality in Indian cultures allowed a wide range of variation and the concept of the Two Spirit simply shows that cultures exist which allow a great deal of freedom with regard to gender identity.

Indians 101: Old photos in the Wenatchee Valley Museum (museum tour)

Ojibwa

The Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Wenatchee, Washington, has a display of American Indian photos.

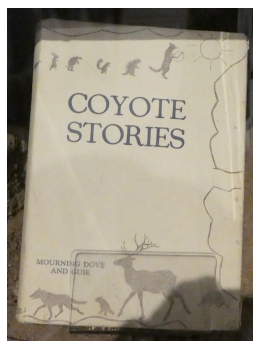
Ed note: too many great pictures to print here, but does include this story. sdc



Shown above is Mourning Dove, the first American Indian woman novelist.

Christine Quintasket, writing under the name Mourning Dove, was the first American Indian woman to write a novel. *Cogewea: The Half-Blood* had actually been completed in 1916, but it took another decade to find a publisher for it. The novel remained an obscure piece of Native American literature until it was republished in 1981.

Mourning Dove was born in a canoe about 1885 when her mother was crossing the Kootenay River in Idaho. Her father was Joseph Quintasket, an Okanogan from British Columbia and her mother was Lucy Stukin, a Salish Colville from north central Washington.



Coyote Stories was Mourning Dove's second book.

Coyote Stories was published in 1933. This is a collection of traditional Okanogan stories. However, working with an editor who was primarily concerned with reaching a non-Indian audience, these stories are presented in a fashion that would be acceptable for this audience. Thus, stories about incest, transvestism, and infanticide were omitted from the collection. The alterations in the stories to make them appeal to a non-Indian audience often makes them unrecognizable to the traditional Okanogan from which they came.

Indians 101

Twice each week Indians 101 looks at different American Indian topics. More museum tours from this series:

[Indians 101: Indian photographs in the Washington State History Museum \(photo diary\)](#)

[Indians 101: Nisqually and Puyallup baskets \(photo diary\)](#)

[Indians 101: Native Baskets from the Olympic Peninsula \(Photo Diary\)](#)

[Indians 101: Columbia River Beadwork \(Photo Diary\)](#)

[Indians 101: Plateau Horse Regalia \(Photo Diary\)](#)

[Indians 101: Model canoes \(museum tour\)](#)

[Indians 101: Exploring Glass Art by Native Artists \(Art Diary\)](#)

[Indians 101: Plateau Indian Cradleboards \(Photo Diary\)](#)

Limited Time Offer

To help you through these difficult times, NVEnergy will **defer half of your bill through September 2020, and spread the deferred amount and any past-due balance over 18 months.** This service is available to residential, and small/medium commercial customers. Visit NVEnergy [here](#) for more information.

Researchers say drone technology will change the face of last-mile logistics

Five simple home internet connection tips to make working and learning remotely easier – We've all been there, from halting connections to slow loading times. Here are some tips to help.

Angela Rudolph

Creating structure at home for children with disabilities

MaryAnn Demchak, Ph.D., BCBA-D and Chevonne Sutter, M.Ed. break down how to provide routine during stay-at-home orders

Researchers are rushing to **protect the Yaqui catfish**, a nearly extinct species whose habitat is being destroyed. The Yaqui is the only catfish native to the Western U.S., yet biologists know next to nothing about the species. In Mexico, the Yaqui are disappearing at alarming rates, too. They face a new threat as the Trump administration rushes to build a border wall. As the region's water supplies and other natural resources are disrupted, researchers are racing to learn as much as they can about the elusive species in an attempt to save the remaining Yaqui. [High Country News](#)

Nevada Humanities and The Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter [Black Mountain Institute](#) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, are pleased to present *Severance*

Radio: A Nevada Reads Book Club. The weekly radio show will air on KUNV Radio in Las Vegas and on KWNK Radio in Reno beginning July 5, 2020, for 14 weeks throughout the summer and fall and will be hosted by Heidi Kyser. *Severance* is a 2020 [Nevada Reads](#) book selection.

Severance Radio will present chapters from the acclaimed novel *Severance*, a satirical portrait of a global plague that transforms life in the United States, by author Ling Ma. Each audiobook excerpt will be followed by conversations between writers, scholars, and artists. Featured guests will include: **Kristen Arnett, Jennifer Carson, Bonnie Chau, Christopher Coake, Scott Dickensheets, Katherine Fusco, Tim Gauthier, Karen Gu, Brent Holmes, Shelley Kelly, Lisa Ko, Dana Lee, Ling Ma, Vi Khi Nao, Stephen Pasqualina, Natalie Pennington, Hugh Shapiro, Marya Shegog, Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, Erica Vital-Lazare, Claire Vaye Watkins, Claytee White, and others.**

***Severance Radio* will air on the following Nevada radio stations on these days and times:**

LAS VEGAS: Broadcasting on KUNV 91.5FM, Sundays at 7 - 8 pm, starting July 5. Stream live: <http://kunv.org/live/>.

RENO: Broadcasting on KWNK 97.7FM, Sundays at 12 - 1 pm and Wednesdays at 6 pm, starting July 5. Stream live: <https://kwnkradio.org/listen/>.

LISTEN FROM ANYWHERE: Stream live: <http://kunv.org/live/> on Sundays at 7 - 8 pm PST or stream live: <https://kwnkradio.org/listen/> on Sundays at 12 - 1 pm PST. Episodes will be available in podcast form on Apple Podcasts and Spotify at a later date.

Tune in on **July 5, 2020**, for the first episode featuring novelist **Lisa Ko** in conversation with **Ling Ma** as these two novelists discuss the significance of *Severance* in the time of COVID-19

North Dakota Governor's Pro-Pipeline Letter Ghostwritten by Fossil Fuel Company
Will Parrish, Guardian UK

Parrish writes: "This March, North Dakota's governor, Doug Burgum, sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Ferc) emphatically supporting the North Bakken Expansion Project, a 61.9-mile natural gas pipeline that has angered environmentalists and Native American nations alike." **READ MORE**

[Why Did the Maya
Abandon the Ancient City
of Tikal](#)



Chicken Scratcher? Love those nights!

From PowWows.com

During July there will be a new contest each week with great prizes!

Be sure to enter check back here often for each new giveaway. Contests are open worldwide.

Winners outside the US may receive gift card for equivalent value.

First contest has started - make sure you enter soon!

Prize is 1 yard of Veterans cloth from Teton Trade Cloth.

[Enter Now](#)

Keep checking for new contests starting soon for the rest of the month!

Each contest only runs a few days - so enter early and often.

[Enter Now](#)

Weekend think pieces:

Would you like to take a crack at solving climate change? Or at least creating a road map of how we could do it? Climate Interactive cofounder Elizabeth Sawin tells us about a new computer modeling tool called En-ROADS that's helping activists and leaders in dozens of countries to [visualize climate solutions](#).

["House Democrats Just Put Out the Most Detailed Climate Plan in U.S. Political History"](#) (Vox)

["The Anthropause: How the Pandemic Gives Scientists a New Way to Study Wildlife"](#) (Wired)

Mountain of Boom



(Scott Olson via Getty Images)

National Park Service and local fire marshal officials have warned for years about the dangers of fireworks displays at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. In fact, for the past decade, there's been a ban on pyrotechnics at the iconic spot because of concerns about public health, environmental and safety risks.

The memorial is surrounded by 1,200 acres of forested lands, and lies next to the Black Hills National Forest's Black Elk Wilderness. Dry conditions make the area vulnerable to wildfires that can easily be sparked by fireworks.

Regardless, [President Trump will host a massive fireworks display](#) there on July 3. Even though the country is in the middle of a pandemic, neither federal nor state officials have imposed social distancing or mask requirements at the gathering. The state tourism department, which is distributing 7,500 tickets for the event, has estimated that it has had requests for at least 125,000 tickets.

The leaders of seven Sioux tribal governments in South Dakota plan to [protest the event](#), arguing it violates Native Americans' claim to the Black Hills and could worsen the state's coronavirus outbreak. (WaPo)

Lead, White and Blue

hose brilliant fireworks displays you may be taking in this weekend could be [hazardous to your health](#). Modern fireworks use a wide range of metals, which naturally oxidize when exposed to air, to produce all those colors. Gunpowder supplies a sudden burst of oxygen, causing rapid and intense oxidation and making the burning metals throw off light.

In an exploding firework, lithium makes red, sodium makes yellow, and aluminum makes silver. But what if a manufacturer is also tossing in illicit metals, like lead, that make toxic smoke? In a recent study, researchers showed that the smoke from some common consumer fireworks is toxic to both human respiratory tract cells and to mouse test subjects.

10 different products were sampled — two in duplicate. Smoke from two of the 12 fireworks contained lead. Five of the 10 different products produced smoke that caused the human cells significant oxidative stress, a common theory as to how particles damage lungs.

"I was surprised by the level of metals in the particles," said one of the authors. "One had a super high level, 40,000 [parts per million] lead, which was just totally unexpected, very high." The

smoke from the fireworks containing the super high lead levels was 10 times more damaging to cultured human respiratory cells, and also caused severe inflammation in the lungs of lab mice.

A word of warning: your neighborhood fireworks show is actually releasing metals of all kinds into the air. An inhaled toxin like lead can cause problems all over the body, including neurological issues. (Wired)

American Indian Reporter - July 1, 2020 Issue <http://www.americanindianreporter.com/>

Please join a special *Nation* Conversation on Wednesday July 8 at 12pm EDT with leaders of the Lakota Sioux—Chase Iron Eyes, Tokata Iron Eyes, and Madonna Thunder Hawk— discussing how Native America is coping with the outsized impact of Covid-19 and how the pandemic has exacerbated the social, economic, and health disparities of Native American life.

Tribal communities have been hit hard by Covid-19, which has dramatically exacerbated existing inequalities and strained tribal schools and healthcare systems to the breaking point. Native American populations also face lack of ready access to testing and shortages of personal protective equipment. But the added burdens of chronic disease and persistent underfunding of American Indian health systems have put the nation's indigenous population at higher risk of poor outcomes from the disease. At the same time, the fossil fuel industry is trying to exploit the Covid-19 crisis to expand pipeline projects. This promises to be a powerful and crucial conversation. [Sign up now!](#)

July 8 | 12:00 PM EDT | 9:00 AM PDT

[REGISTER](#)

The coronavirus is hitting Mexico hard, particularly Mexico City. Because of the notoriously bad air quality in Mexico's arid and polluted capital, residents have high rates of respiratory and cardiovascular illness, making them vulnerable to severe COVID-19.

But Mexico City wasn't always an ecological and health disaster. In the Aztec era, it was a "shining city on a lake, crisscrossed by engineering marvels like causeways and removable bridges, and full of splendid palaces," writes the University of Memphis scholar Elena Delavega. Since the Spanish conquest of 1521, however, governments have slowly drained Mexico City's lake and paved over most of its 45 rivers in an effort to ward off waterborne disease. Delavega recounts how [ill-advised urban planning created the conditions now complicating Mexico's battle with the coronavirus](#).

[Mexico City buried its rivers to prevent disease and unwittingly created a dry, polluted city where COVID-19 now thrives](#) Elena Delavega, University of Memphis



These are quokkas.

They are marsupials native to Western Australia, and wear a perpetual “Hey there! Good to see ya! Oh, you brought pie!” smile on their faces.



I just felt your newsfeed needed more quokkas in it.
[John WellsFollow](#)