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NISHNAWBE NEWS

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THE NISHNAWBE NEWS

One of the most unique and positive efforts of Northern Michigan University to aid in the reconstruction of the Native American society has been their financial aid in the establishment of a monthly Indian newspaper. The Nishnawbe News has done much to serve the urgent communication needs of the Indian people of the Great Lakes region.

The paper has grown from its initial circulation base of roughly 3,000 to its present circulation of 8,200 and has attracted both national and international attention.

In every respect, except funding, the newspaper has been successful. It has more than doubled its circulation and is noted for its quality on a national basis.

The Nishnawbe News has provided much publicity for Northern Michigan University with articles about the Nishnawbe News appearing in major national newspapers such as the New York Times. Further publicity can be expected in the future from magazines like Look and Time magazines. We believe then that as Northern has contributed financially to the Nishnawbe News, the Nishnawbe News has served to make N.M.U. known to its readers on an international basis.

The Nishnawbe News has been an asset towards its publishers, the Organization of North American Indian Students (ONAIS). It has served to unify and strengthen ONAIS in many ways and has served as a guarantee for the Organization's continuance as an effective force on the

University campus.

The newspaper provides for the employ of ten of the fifteen active student members, resulting in substantial financial contributions toward the organization members thus aiding their educational as well as social needs. Without the newspaper, the Indian student group could not have had the notoriety it now enjoys on the N.M.U. campus and indeed in the Great Lakes Area. Much of the dedication and vigor put forth is an example of the constructive change in Indian society on the part of the organization members. Without it, much would have been lost in the oblivion of the overpowering majority of the non-Indian peoples on the NMU campus and in the Great Lakes area.

It is with all these thoughts in mind then, that the Organization of North American Indian Students of NMU and the staff of the Nishnawbe News comes before you President Jamrich, asking that you consider the following:

- A. Because efforts of funding of the paper have thus far failed, though not all of our sources for funding have been exhausted,
- B. That the newspaper's success and its many testimonials show an urgent need of such a communications media for both the Indian and Non-Indian peoples of the Great Lakes region,
- C. And that the paper is an asset to the MNU non-Indian Community as well as to the Indian Community.

Because we are anxious to know that the time, effort and funding spent in the past was not in vain, we, the member of the Organization of North American Indian Students and the staff of the Nishnawbe News recommend

1. That as long as the Organization of North American Indian

Students agree to publish the Nishnawbe News, Northern Michigan University will agree to provide permanent and necessary financial assistance either by direct funding or by the active solicitation of funding. That this committment be in writing so that the unstable nature of the Nishnawbe News will end and thus its continued publication be guaranteed by Northern Michigan University,

2. That the funding, and all expenses connected with the management, publication and operation of the newspaper be under an NMU appointed advisor, who will not interfere in the autonomous nature of the newspaper, but will insure its technical quality according to the already established practice. Such person to be one that understands the operations and publication of a newspaper,
3. That all legitimate requests of the Nishnawbe News Committee be honored by said advisor,
4. That NMU create 12 work slots of 15 hours each for Indian students on the campus of NMU and cooperate with the governing student body, ONAIS in their application.

In closing, we would like to further^{ADD} what Vine Deloria has said concerning the multitude of Indian Programs at various universities.

"We must stop being used as justification for massive funding appeals by colleges and universities. We don't need a full Indian program for every college that has a couple of Indian students. We should concentrate on our students and drop the remainder of the programs. Little is being accomplished by the continual "Indian Awareness Weeks" that proliferate each year in an effort to develop Indian programs at every institution of higher learning. We must use the media more sparingly."

Let Northern then provide a service to the Indian community not already provided by other universities and be innovative in

providing new programs which will be effective in promoting self-determination for the Native Americans.

The Nishnawbe News is such a unique and innovative program. Almost all Indian news media in the country are and have been controlled by tribal leaders. The Indian newspapers have thus suffered by the lack of "Freedom of the Press". The Nishnawbe News which was formed after the suggestion of the Michigan Tribal Chairmen's Association has enjoyed complete autonomy and freedom, thus proving that no undue control is necessary for Indian Press. We have the approval of our tribal leaders and the Michigan Indian Community despite such freedom in our actions. We have this approval because we have been responsible and responsive to all facets of the Indian community, catering to no special group but serving all of the Indian people and we pledge and commit ourself to continue to do so. The Nishnawbe News can serve as an international example that, a newspaper that serves all the Indian people is no threat to Indian leadership, or Indians individually, but that in respecting, listening, and serving all, is the very strength that is needed among our people today.

David Batiste
President of ONAIS
Representing All Members

Mike Wright
Editor, Nishnawbe News'
Representing the staff of Nishnawbe
News