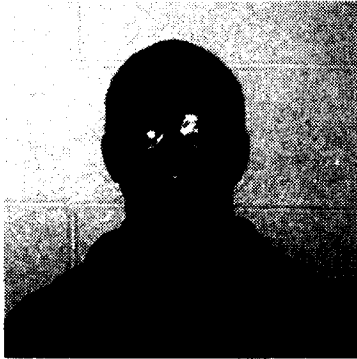


Leading AIM Activist Speaks Out Against Injustice Towards Indians



BY Rob Trishman
Capital Times Staff Reporter

"To change the future, we must first accept the past." This was the theme of a presentation by Native American activist Vernon Bellecourt on Tuesday, January 28 at the Morrison Gallery in the PSH Library.

Bellecourt is the principal spokesperson for the American Indian Movement (AIM). He is also President of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media, and has participated in protests against the use of professional team nicknames like "Redskins" and "Indians" at major sporting events. He has also received the Phoenix/Martin Luther King, Jr. award for activism.

Bellecourt has also led protests outside of museums where remains of Native Americans were put on display. Officials forced him and four others from the museum in 1991 for trying to rebury Indian remains on their own sacred ground. Since then, a new policy requires museums to return the remains back to the respective tribes.

Bellecourt started his presentation by showing a video called "The Immaculate Deception: American Holocaust on Indian Nations." This is the pilot of a miniseries currently in production featuring Floyd Red Crow Westerman, better known as "Chief Ten Bears" from the movie *Dances With Wolves*.

He then introduced himself to the audience in his native language and gave his clan name. He said, "I strongly believe that we have a message that has not been heard" and expressed concern about biological weapons.

Bellecourt pointed out that before European settlers arrived in America, the Indian population was as high as 60 million. He said the first instance of "biological warfare" was used by colonists against the Indians. Blankets were the most valuable trade items for the Indians, and colonists sent smallpox-infected blankets to be traded with them, thereby infecting the Indians.

He then spoke of AIM, saying "AIM is for people without powers or rights." He said the people of AIM are "cleansing themselves from the inside" by returning to traditions, tribes, and spirituality. "Their business is hope," he said.

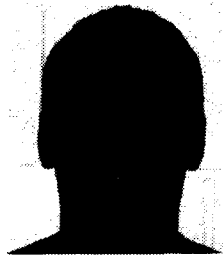
Bellecourt brought a message of peace, and criticized the use of names of Indian chiefs such as Apache and Black Hawk for military helicopters. He quoted Black Hawk, who said, "Why do you Americans insist on taking with a gun what you can have through love?" Bellecourt said, "We don't represent that kind of violence."

Bellecourt encouraged peaceable war protests. "We should not lose one drop of precious blood of any of the young men and women in this country just to protect petroleum resources," he said.

There was also an announcement before the presentation that students can sign up for an email list in the Library for information on politics and activism. For more information on AIM, see <http://www.AImovement.org>.

"Bellecourt pointed out that before European settlers arrived in America, the Indian population was as high as 60 million."

HE SAID BY DAN STORM



Dan and Sarah,

I recently met a guy online. We seem to click on many levels. How or should I go on with this relationship?
Still Searching

Dear Still Searching

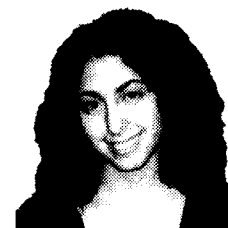
Relationships are a funny thing. They seem to develop in the most random places at the strangest times. I think it's great you met someone you click with. I can understand your excitement because good relationships are hard to find anywhere these days.

However, I have chatted with many people online and met a handful of them in person. I would say most of them have turned out to be friendships. But you still need to be careful before you decide to meet him or however you want to keep in contact with him. Any relationship has to be built out of trust if it is going to work. If I were you, I would be wary of this so-called great guy, because he could turn out to be a dirty old man, or woman for that matter.

Before you go further, decide whether you want to take on the critics of your virtual romance. If you really like him and want to pursue the relationship, then go for it. However, be prepared for people who don't participate in this activity to be skeptical of your decision. I must say though that more and more people are participating in such activities. Some are finding love; but others are experiencing difficulties with false impressions of hoping to meet their true match or ideal match. But if you look at the statistics from the websites that offer these services, many people are happy or have at least said that they are glad that this opens yet another door to meeting people. Some people have no problem with it. You can find a job online why can you not find your match.

I say go for it. You never know, he could be your true match. On the other hand, he could be your worst nightmare. Have fun, have a relationship — it's up to you, but most importantly, be careful. Happy typing!

Disclaimer: Dan Storm and Sarah Elkalban are not licensed psychologists or relationship therapists, just very opinionated students. Their advice is offered for entertainment as a sharing of personal experiences. All questions will be made anonymous. "He said, she said" is an advice column that will answer readers' questions about anything from relationships to financial distress.



SHE SAID By Sarah Elkalban

We take a chance of putting our feelings on the line each time we encounter someone who strikes our love interest, either in person or online. The latter may prove to be a more challenging prospect because we may paint an ideal image of a person in our mind that may not be true. There is only one way to find out...you have to meet him. So, you like his bio and his picture and the conversation is always intriguing (which means he genuinely wants to know you and doesn't spend the whole time talking about him). Now the next move is to talk on the phone.

Chatting online lacks emotion. This is where a phone conversation can take you to the next level. Hearing the guy's voice and the way he articulates his thoughts and ideas makes the conversation more effective on a personal level because you are revealing the voice behind the screen. If you hit it off on the phone, the next step is meeting him face to face (what were you thinking...you have to actually see what he looks like first!)

Decide on a MUTUAL meeting place. This means do not have him pick you up at home. This way if he turns out to be a complete psycho, he doesn't know where you live. Ok, that was a little extreme, but you know what I mean...be safe.

When you meet this guy, you should already "know" him. You will probably know right away if the chemistry that you sensed online is really there. If this is not the case, just enjoy the date and let him know that you don't think a relationship will work out or...you can take the "just in case" approach. Tell one of your friends ahead of time to call you at some point during the date. If the date is going well, don't answer your phone (it's rude!) If the date is less than entertaining, however, answer it and say you have an emergency and get the heck out of there...fast. What's the point in delaying the inevitable truth if this guy is a complete moron?

Getting back to the positive side, if this date proves to be a win, then it could only get better with time. This is a relationship that began intellectually and with personality and grows in those areas plus physically. These all serve as a perfect combination for a good, strong romance and hey, you never know, this could be your soul-mate.