

Respect is something that we hear a lot about these days. Speaking as an 'outsider' to this present day high-tech culture, I have come to realize that this word and its concept means different things to different people and different peoples.

For the original 'boat people' who came to these shores some 500 years ago, who now prefer to be called Canadians, it means something completely different from what it means and has meant to the original people of this land.

For those newcomers it means a deferential regard for a person who is in some position of power, some position of esteem or some other manmade 'high office'. Hence you have the phrase "you may not like me, but you will respect me." What this phrase really means is that you will respect my position of power, authority, status aka this manmade 'high-office'.

This to our people is not respect, it is fear. The fear of someone's position of power and authority.

If the person in a position of power and authority is a jerk, a bully or a dummy then it will be difficult for someone to respect that person, but they will be shown deference out of fear. If a person does not

give respect, he cannot expect to receive respect, this is how our people feel. For us, respect begins with each individual. If one has respect for ones self then they will be able to give respect to others. For our people it is a two-way street, to receive respect one must be able to give respect.

For the 'new comers', they brought with them their understanding of that concept of respect. That understanding has its roots from back in the days of nobility, kings, queens, high priests, noblemen and so on. Or in other words, people in positions of some power that could potentially bring great amounts of pee into ones life, home, family and future. Over time this understanding evolved into many different tributaries including what there is today, mainly a great number of different understandings regarding the concept of respect.

For our people, respect means respect for oneself, respect for others as fellow human beings, respect for all of creation, respect for all of our relationships and respect for Creator.

As in most things that the new comers do, the concept of respect developed around manmade, intellectual, artificial, fearful and negative based beliefs and values. Their

intellectual and fear based arrogance/pride prevents them from recognizing, acknowledging and accepting certain things as a given from the spiritual and/or Creator



**Sharing our
Wabanaki
Perspective**
By Dan Ennis

realm. They cannot accept the idea that we are all the creation of a higher spiritual power and that this spiritual power was placed within each and every one of us at conception. Through this spiritual power we are all connected, one to another.

This was done to serve as a constant reminder that all of creation is connected and related and that we should all love and respect one another as fellow human beings as well as fellow 'strands' in the great web of life. All related, all connected and all worthy and deserving of respect.

As has already been mentioned, respect to our people is practically a part of our genes. We are taught to be respectful to, care for and share with other human beings. From the time of contact we have treated our eurocanadian brothers with respect as fellow human beings.

The respect that we as a people have extended to our eurocanadian brothers has not been returned. Instead our eurocanadian brothers have misinterpreted our respectful ways as a sign of weakness on the part of our people. They think that, because we do not openly oppose, confront and/or make war with them over the theft of our land (or openly oppose, confront and/or make

war with them in other ways) that this is a sign of weakness. They judge our people and our respectful ways by their own violent, destructive and genocidal standards, values and beliefs.

However, attitudes are beginning to change for our people. We are beginning to see that respect does not and has not worked in our dealings with our eurocanadian brothers. We see that what they understand and what they will sit up and take notice of is open hostility, violence, confrontation and/or war. Their way has always been "Shoot first, ask questions later". Respect is at the point of a gun.

For our people recognizing, acknowledging and accepting this knowledge can be most beneficial in our future dealings with our eurocanadian brothers. I am not suggesting that we think or act as violently and destructively as the transplanted Europeans. What I am suggesting is that we be aware of where our eurocanadian brothers are coming from regarding our two peoples' radically different understanding of the concept of 'RESPECT'

*All My Relations
Dan Ennis*

Whale hunt causing Japan grief

Fireworks, flowing beer and a full brass band — no, I'm not referring to a Fourth of July parade, but to a Japanese celebration on Nov. 17 for a fleet of five ships that left on a whaling mission.

The hunt seeks to collect 400 minke, Brydes and sperm whales. The latter two are protected under United States law. Japan explains the expedition as scientific research, more specifically to monitor whale consumption of fish and squid. Research is permitted by the International Whaling Commission, but several international officials — including President Clinton — strongly oppose the hunt.

What makes this such a big deal? Primarily, the resemblance to commercial whaling, which was banned 20 years ago. Furthermore, many environmental groups believe the "scientific research" is a smoke-screen to provide whale meat to high-class Japanese restaurants, where it is a delicacy.

Additionally, Japan has expanded the mission, originally targeted for the Antarctic region, to include the North Pacific — international waters which border Alaska. This directly involves the United States, which is considering whether or not to impose sanctions against Japan — denying the country

the right to fish U.S. waters or possibly harsher punishments. If this is meant only to be a scare tactic by the U.S., it's not working. Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori told President Clinton last week that the discussion should be guided by science, not emotion.

In addition to U.S. environmental groups, Greenpeace Japan stands in opposition to the whaling voyage. However, societal influence and Japanese attitudes prevent protesters from being as vocally involved as their American counterparts. Japanese activists know they will experience pressure from governmental officials, further dividing them from their countrymen who support the expedition.

Currently, the whale is swimming in the U.S.'s court. President Clinton has two months to decide if he will send a recommendation to Congress to impose the sanctions. It is apparent that Japan has no intent of discontinuing the expedition, with the circus-like send off and all.

When removed from the political arena, the issue becomes much simpler. It should be common knowledge that whales eat fish. Furthermore, the whale population is not so exorbitantly out of control that it is throwing the biological

scale out of balance. Scientific research is vital to our society, but only to the point of when it is actually needed. And if the expedition is merely a covert operation to deliver meat to elitist diners, slap on the wrist fishing sanctions are not enough. Economic sanctions, including higher taxes on imports, would certainly catch Japan's attention.

Even though this would only be a minor victory for our legacy-seeking president, it is the right thing to do. We should not be aggressive in damaging our relationship with Japan, but its irresponsible behavior should not be ignored.

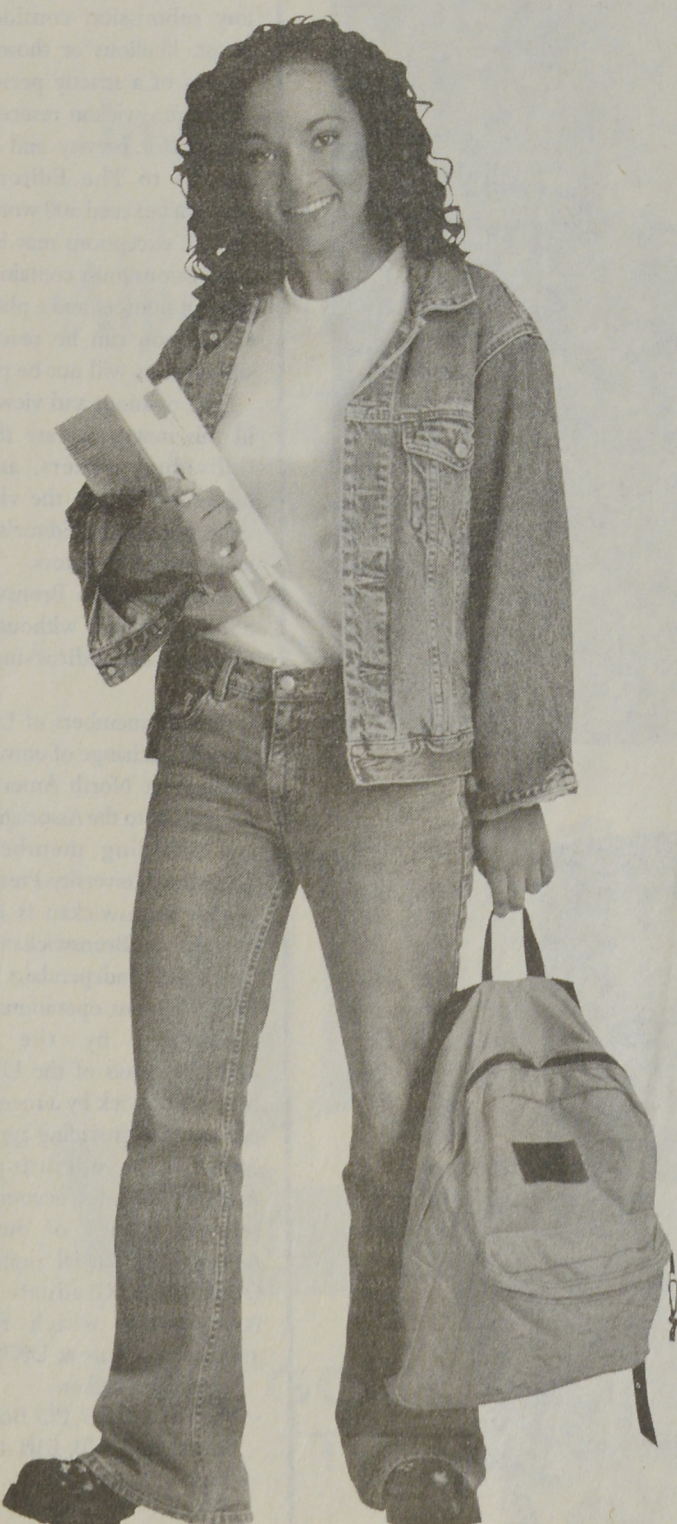
Wes Malaby, Daily O'Collegian
(Oklahoma State U.)

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Letters to the Editor
Deadline Tuesday Noon
Name, student number, and valid phone number required.
Editor-in-Chief c/o The Brunswickan
fax: 453-5073, e-mail: bruns@unb.ca
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