**Roy Track**

*Communications pioneer, pow wow voice, and friend passes away*

By Loren Tapae©Copyright
Arizona Native Scene
May 2, 2005

**PHOENIX**—He was a forerunner in the print and broadcast business and a pow wow icon as thousands of Native Americans throughout the country have read his words or has heard his voice. Communications pioneer Roy Charles Track, Jr., 63, and popular master of ceremonies at pow wows passed away early Sunday morning, April 28, 2005.

His wit, his contribution to the community, his jokes and how no one was immune to his teasing, will be missed by the many people who were enriched by his presence.

The ribbon shirt, the colorful vest, and the dark sunglasses were his regalia. His jokes and teasing were his way of showing love and respect for you. If he laughed at you, he cared about you.

His work spanned many decades and his friendship to many people had no boundaries as friends from Montana, Oregon, Washington, the Dakotas and neighboring states, as well as all over Arizona came to attend the funeral services on April 30, 2005.

Roy is Assiniboine Sioux of Fort Peck, Montana and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde of Oregon. He was born in Nevada, then moved to Wolf Point, Montana where he was raised by his grandmother.

Stuart Day, who is the same age as Roy and played with him when the two were growing up in Wolf Point, said, “We use to carry tires up the mountain and roll them down the hillside. We didn’t have much then or any store-bought toys. We used tree branches as guns. Our fathers and grandfathers were close friends,” he said.

Roy graduated from Parker High School in Parker, Arizona in 1959 and later attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah in 1960. He took classes in communications for two years and that’s where he met Nita who he married in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1964.

Later after his college days, he moved back to Parker where he worked for a couple years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He then moved to Phoenix in the early 1960’s to work for AT&T, but felt that job did not give him enough opportunity to work in the Indian community as he wanted.

His lifetime friend, Clyde Cornelius who hired Roy as an accountant in Parker, said, “working as an accountant didn’t give him an opportunity to help his people. His mission was always to help Indian people.”

Communicating the opportunity Roy longed for came as he helped develop programs for Native Americans in Phoenix with noted names as Pete Homer Jr., Ernie Stevens Sr., Lee Cook, Gabriel Sharp, and Syd Beane. Each, in their own way were instrumental in creating opportunities for Native Americans throughout the country and Roy was no exception.

They were known as, “the young Turks,” said Reverend Joseph Miller of the group of young men who had ambitions to improve the quality of life of Indians in Phoenix.

In the early 70’s, Arizona State Employment director Juana Lyons called the young group together to start an organization to train young Native American leaders and to develop needed programs for Indians in the valley.

One of first Indian programs in the valley in the early 70’s was a housing program that Roy worked with, commented Syd Beane, who has known Roy since 1969.

“Roy was probably the first Indian to own a house in Phoenix,” said Syd. Syd moved to Minneapolis for a new job in 1983 but often stayed

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**Sarah James, Gwich’in Nation from Arctic Village sings and fashions her dress wearing her traditional beaver skin gloves.**

**OIL ON ICE: Envision the Arctic Village**

Sarah James gave a presentation at UCR in the International Lounge on April 21, 2005. She spoke about Alaska oil spills and the effects it has on the wildlife and people.

Sarah James is a Neets’aii Gwich’in Indian who lives in Arctic Village, Alaska. She was raised in a traditional nomadic way, with the porcupine River Caribou Herd. Sarah is a board member of the Gwich’in Steering Committee, the International Indian Treaty Council, and has served as a member of the Arctic Village Traditional Council. Sarah also participated in the Peace and Dignity Journey 2004, a run for peace and recognition of the indigenous people of America. Two groups of runner from Chilkat, Alaska to Panama City, Panama, while another group ran from Argentina to Panama. The run started in May 2004 and ended in October 2004.

Sarah showed a video entitled Oil On Ice highlighting the controversies surrounding the pursuit of the oil drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. This documentary illustrates the controversial linked issues at stake in the conflict between conservation and energy extraction interests.

More information on back page

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**Anti-Bias Law has Backfired at Berkeley**

Commentary: By Robert J. Birgeneau, Los Angeles Times, March 27, 2005


Nine years ago the people of California passed Proposition 209 in what I believe was a sincere effort to foster nondiscrimination in the state. However, 209’s supporters do not see what I see every day as the new chancellor at UC Berkeley.

Instead of ensuring non-discrimination, Proposition 209 has created an environment that many students of color view as discriminatory. That’s because minority representation has dropped appallingly and where there should be camaraderie across cultural lines, I have seen too much alienation, mistrust and division.

Proposition 209 has had its biggest impact on the enrollment of Latinos, Native Americans and African Americans. The situation for African American students is truly at a crisis point. Freshmen enrollment at UC Berkeley, for instance, has gone from 260 black students in 1997 to just 108 students this year. That’s too small a number to form a supportive student community, and many of Berkeley’s black freshmen view themselves as struggling against a hostile environment.

They tell me how difficult it is to be the only African American in a class when an issue involving multiculturalism comes up and all eyes turn to you; how much pressure it puts on an 18-year-old to be re-garded as the sole representative of her race; and why it is a tragedy for California when there are only dozens of African American men in a freshman class of 3600.

Proposition 209 assumed that considering race or ethnicity in the admissions process would allow undervaluing students into Berkeley. But it is significant that the graduation rates of African Americans before and after the proposition’s passage have stayed virtually the same. Far from seeing students who could not succeed, the elimination of race as a consideration in admissions has actually prevented many of California’s most able students from the opportunity of a Berkeley education.

In my view, it is unrealistic to think that one can judge a person’s likelihood of success at Berkeley without taking into account his origins. I spent many years on the faculty at MIT. For decades, women were significantly under-represented in the undergraduate student body there. So MIT aggressively recruited young women and in the admissions process explicitly took into account negative environmental effects on their SAT scores.

We found that it took at most two semesters for
Greetings,

Now and the coming year is a very exciting time for the Native American Student Programs with the number Native American undergraduate admitted escalating to a new number for the Fall Quarter 2005. I would like to congratulate those students that made to the Spring Quarter, and especially those that will be graduating. You did a great job!

We also have new exciting programs in the coming school year beginning with the Summer Residential Program: Gathering of the Tribes. The program will be implemented in August 2005. Middle and High school students will reside on campus for a week. The program will be filled with classes, motivational activities, and fun games. The student will have the opportunity to experience college life. New staff will be hired to help with the activities. We are also planning and organizing an American Indian 5k run next spring so plan to take part in the fund-raising event. There will be prizes and awards for the winners. We are re-introducing the famous chicken scratch dance to the area. On May 7, 2005, the Mario Bros. from Arizona will come to UCR campus to perform. This effort is to reach out to the Chicano community as a culture exchange and compare similarities.

The NASP office will again begin the Indian Times publication beginning with the Spring Quarter 2005 issue. I know many of you are calling asking about the paper. We will begin publishing on a regular bases. The NASP website at www.nasp.ucr.edu will also duplicate the paper.

The Native American Student Association continues to be very active this year. They are working on the Medicine Ways Conference. They will not have the Pow Wow this year, but will have and entertainment night with several good performances. Come join them and participate.

Until Fall Quarter 2005, have a good summer and drop by to see us sometime. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Earl Dean Sisto

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Ralph Bravo works for the UC American Indian Counselors/Recruiters Association and California Student Aid Commission. There are three other individuals in the same position in the state covering Northern, Central, and Southern California. Ralph outreach to high schools, and provides financial aid and FASFA presentations. He works out of the NASP office and provides assistance as needed.

Earl Sisto wears many hats running the NASP office.

Earl Sisto

Paloma Hernandez, NASP Student Assistant for over two years and took a break for half a year for study abroad in France. She will be graduating Spring Quarter 2005, work for UCR summer residential program, and again, return to France to teach English. Paloma gave NASP joy and happiness with her kindness and courtiality to all, especially the students. She was very helpful to the students. She helped make NASP a pleasant place to be. Paloma is a fine dancer. She will be missed in the NASP office.

Josh Gonzales, NASP Program Assistant started recently to handle program activities. He has brought in Sarah James from Alaska to talk about oil spills and Caribou survivals. He graduated from UCR in Spring of 2004. He was very active with the UCR Track team and in fact participated in the 2004 Peace and Dignity Journey Run from Alaska to Panama. He ran from Pomona, CA to Panama.

Interested in attending UCR?

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Summer Residential Program
at the University of California, Riverside (UCR)

The Native American Student Programs and the UC American Indian Counselor/Recruiters Association will cosponsor the first Summer Residential Program: Gathering of the Tribes. The 8-day program will motivate students to consider education after high school and provide them with the opportunity to acquire writing and computer skills. In their writing class they will produce an article that will be posted on the NASP website and will be printed in a summer program publication. In addition students will have fun activities, such as field trips, sports tournaments, and a beach BBQ party. They will also learn basket weaving, various Indian dances, and songs. They will be inundated with various motivational speakers. The students will have a good view about how life is on University campuses.

The program will begin with an orientation lunch with a keynote speaker and then they will be assigned into groups. Team work will be very important in the program. During the morning, writing and computer classes will be conducted. In the afternoon, they will be involved in various fun activities, and in the evening, demonstrations will be provided. The program will end with a recognition/awards dinner and students will be given certificates. Only 40 students will participate in the weeklong program divided into 20 males and 20 females. Two coordinators, will oversee the program with 4 residential assistants that will constantly guide, advise, and monitor the students. Any misconduct will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

The deadline to apply is May 16, 2005. Decisions will be made by June 15, 2005, with an option for reconsideration by June 30, 2005. Beginning July 1, 2005, applicants will be notified and letters of acceptance and denial will be mailed. The program will be free to all students. Apply to this once in a lifetime opportunity. Find out for yourself what college life is really like, with your parent’s or guardian’s permission, of course.

Check the flyer to the right to obtain more important information. Check out our website at www.nasp.ucr.edu for more information and to download the application.

Gathering of the Tribes
Summer Residential Program for American Indian High School Students

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A week of classes, presentations, and fun activities

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For information
Call (951) 827-4143 or e-mail sisto@ucr.edu
To apply
www.nasp.ucr.edu/Gathering

Native American Student Programs, University of California Riverside
224 Costa Hall Riverside, CA 92521

One of Roy’s early projects was a radio program he produced in a church room donated by Rev. Miller. “Roy was hired to produce a 15-minute student radio program once a week to be aired on a radio station at Phoenix College,” said Rev. Miller.

“It was great to hear positive news about Indians—someone standing up for good things,” said Miller. “He really worked to help Indian people keep their ties with their culture.” He sometimes however, played Pink Floyd as background music, Rev. Miller remembered.

Roy constantly encouraged others, including his good friend, the late Ray Boley, founder of Canyon Records. He helped Ray get the record label started. Canyon Records produces Native American music and has launched the careers of many Native music artists in Arizona including the popular group Clan/Desert, who have always given free concerts at the opening of the Mesa Pow Wow as repayment for his assistance.

“We lost a caring communicator,” said Rev. Miller, “who worked very, very hard to help Indian people. A good spirit. And, we need to celebrate this gift.”

Roy started his career in journalism as a freelance writer in the Phoenix area writing for Indian newspapers.

A time he was very proud of while working in print journalism was when he took photographs of the Fort McDowell Indian Community in the 80’s when the Yavapai community was going to be flooded.

His pictures helped convince the public and politicians who saw the pictures that “those poor people in the middle of nowhere . . . [they] were being driven off their land” he said, according to an interview in 2002 at Grand Ronde, Oregon.

As a result, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation will be celebrating their 24th Annual Orme Dam Victory Days this year to commemorate their victory that stopped construction of a dam that would have flooded their ancestral homeland.

Soon after, he moved into the broadcast business and had a opportunity to be the first Native American television reporter in the early 70’s for KOOL-TV in Phoenix, but declined as he wanted to learn more about the technical aspects of broadcast rather than being in front of the camera.

His choice proved historic as he launched his new television show, “21st Century Native American” in the early 1970’s which was still in

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Activities

Dario Rodriguez, giving a hang-ten sign while enjoying his coffee at the UCR American Indian Alumni Banquet held at the Soboba Indain Reservation in 2004.

Angel Lopez has graduated now and has gone on to the next phase in his life, the job market. He misses college life so much he is now looking for a graduate program in education.

Ralph Bravo and Professor Robert Perez wait outside at the UCR College Information Day. Robert Perez’s team place first and Ralph’s team came in second at this year’s Juegos de Aztlán Bowling Tournament.

Carrie Garcia of Soboba and a student majoring in American Indian Studies enjoying the evening at the 1st Annual UCR American Indian Alumni Fundraising Banquet at the Soboba Band of Mission Casino on February 18, 2005.

Raymond James Naylor- Hunter, Paiute, an undergraduate student majoring in Native American Studies. He is contemplating Law school.


From shoot #1, Jose Chavez the famous Bull Rider in the Sky, in a death grip rides the bull. Jose is very active in NASP & NASA activites.

Julio Meza, a natural Champion Rider, Biological Science major, member of UER, and from the Coachella Valley learned his stuff from a ranch in Mexico.

The beauty and the beast. Wendy learned on the spot and had it under control throughout the entire ride. Surely she must come from a ranch.

Erskine Smith checking out the bull ride for safety while Tashina Miranda-Orellas and Lisa Morales (front) look on with approval.

Getting on the bull is half the ride for some. Noel Huizar completed the ride successfully. He is a member of UER a UCR Student organization.
Roy Cook, Michael Mureles, 4th Education Youth Coor, at TM, Paul Cuero, Jr. 5th Chairman of Campo, Steve Banegas, 6th, Ralph Bravo (far right) Huichol Nation, outreach assistant at NASP joins the Bird Singers at the California Conference on American Indian Education in San Diego, CA on April 12, 2005. Campo and the Young Birds Singers.

Paul Miranda and Ralph Bravo singing California Bird songs during lunch hour in front of the NASP office.

Carrie Madrigal enjoying the evening at the UCR American Indian Alumni Association Fundraiser Banquet at Soboba on February 18, 2005.

Left to Right: Israel Gonzales and Josh Gonzales performing the famous hoop dance at the American Indian Scholariship Fundraising event on February 24, 2005 at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, CA.

Sherman Indian School Brothers Attending the UCR Alumni Banquet

Left: Hugo Marcias affirming the Banquet was indeed marvelous.

Right: Eagle Manning. I could make a song about this event. Eagle is the Head singer for Sherman Indian High School singing group.

UCR Ballet Folklorico performed at Discover Days at UCR. A day of welcoming new incoming freshmen.
Border Terrorism

By Roberto Rodriguez, April 25, 2005

The introduction of extremist and paramilitary actions on the U.S.-Mexico border is sending shockwaves worldwide. The message: that extremist anti-Mexican militias, supported by other right-wing separatists, are welcome there.

And it’s not that these extremists are saying anything unique. They’re actually just echoing the administration’s rhetoric about the border having something to do with “the war on terror.” As if the 911 terrorists had all come from, or through, Mexico.

Something isn’t right. This is the same administration that goes to war, and calls for permanent war, under false pretenses, sanctions torture and military “targeted assassinations” and schemes to consolidate all power in the hands of the president, minus any checks and balances.

If the presence of these extremist militias isn’t violating state or national laws, then perhaps the tacit governmental support of these militias may be placing the United States in violation of several international human rights conventions, including possibly the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. They are supposed to protect the human rights of all people, including migrants, while the treaty, which is still in force today—is supposed to guarantee the rights and safety of Mexican citizens.

If their concern is terrorism, why aren’t they calling for the Central American border? And it’s not as if these militias are overgrown boy scouts. Amnesty International, the International Human Rights Watch, and the American Friends Service Committee have tracked vigilante violence along the border for decades. So why then is the administration allowing this new militia effort—heavily supported by other known supremacists—to “take the law into their own hands?” Beyond the law, it’s the message.

Since 1848, there have been untold deaths along the border by Texas Rangers, U.S. Border Patrol agents and vigilantes alike. And we are not talking ancient history. Every year, migrants turn up dead on the border as a result of drownings, exposure or vigilante violence. Data on the Arizona-vigilantes are not unusual. What’s unusual is justice. Rare is the punishment for the death of a Mexican.

What’s also unusual is to somehow link terrorism with Mexicans.

What seems to be at work is that these militias are providing cover, or better yet, leverage for an administration that is using fear to balloon the military and “homeland security” budgets. A death at the hands of one of these extremists will trigger an international outcry, but the administration will cleverly parlay it into a call for the further militarization of an already highly militarized border.

A death at the hands of one of these extremists will also be parlayed into passing the president’s proposal to create a massive “guest worker” program that will result in a permanent subclass (subhuman) of workers, without the basic rights afforded all human beings. For instance, these workers will not be placed on “track for legalization, much less U.S. citizenship. Nor will they be allowed to bring over their families nor the right to unionization.

This inhumane scheme is in complete contradiction to the practices of the United States. The United States supports workers from member nations of the European Community in work in permanent substitute (subhuman) of workers, without the basic rights afforded all human beings. For instance, these workers will not be placed on “track for legalization, much less U.S. citizenship. Nor will they be allowed to bring over their families nor the right to unionization.

Can the United States accept an EC labor-type arrangement with Mexico? Absolutely. Will it? Of course not. (The border patrol would be employed and multinational corporations would not be able to enjoy the fruits of extreme exploitation).

Militias on the border? That’s but a manifestation of a larger problem — the systemic repression of legal and illegal human populations. If we want to get rid of these extremist kooks on the border, the first step is to promote the growth of dehumanization; the existence of legal and illegal human populations. Failure to do so is to maintain the growth of the future society based largely on hunter and hunted populations.

COLUMN OF THE AMERICAS BY ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ & PATRISIA GONZALES 2005 XCloumn@aol.com 608-238-3161 or PO BOX 5093, Madison WI 53705.

The 24th Annual Medicine Ways Conference:

University of California, Riverside
Native American Student Association & Native American Student Programs
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For more information please contact Native American Student Programs
Phone: (951) 827-4143 or e-mail sisto@ucr.edu

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Roy Track

production at his passing. The show has been running over 30 years as hundreds of Phoenix Native Americans have appeared on his show.

Roy Track has the longest running Native American public affairs show in Arizona according to Channel 3 where his show was aired every Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. for thirty years and recently moved to every other week this past year.

In a tribute to Roy by Channel 3, which aired last Monday, April 25th station personnel spoke of his contributions to the Native community, his tireless efforts to introduce the general community to Native culture, and to inform Native Americans on contemporary issues through his TV program.

For his work in broadcasting, Roy was informed two weeks prior to his passing that he received the coveted Silver Circle Award from the local chapter of the National Academy of Television and Arts Sciences for his long-time work in broadcast journalism. He was to receive the award in person on Monday, April 25th at a luncheon in Phoenix.

This award is given to persons who have demonstrated commitment to excellence in broadcast for 25 years or more. A long-time friend and associate to Roy, Neil Miller graciously accepted the award on his behalf at the ceremony.

There was also a moment of silence at the luncheon to honor Roy. One of Roy’s many friends, Wanda K. Frenchman talked about her first memory of him:

“One of my first memories is waking up early at my Grandma’s house to watch his TV Show. My Grandma always said it was important to have someone in the community that would promote Native American issues on TV.”

Michael Lopez, who worked with Roy in producing his show at Channel 3 Studios was his audio man in the early days and later became the engineer, operations manager. “He was the voice of the Native American people,” said Michael, “and his show had a crossover effect on Latinos and other minority groups.”

“He gave me a lot of advice,” said Michael, “He will be truly missed.”

“He put Native Americans on the map,” some would say of Roy as he always found a way promote the lifestyle of America’s first people.

Roy taped his show during the week for the following Sunday morning airing. Sometimes scheduled interviews would call thirty minutes before the taping and say, “my car broke down,” said Dave Montour, founder of the band Clan-Destine. Dave can’t remember how many times he played on Roy’s show. “We were the backup when someone canceled.”

Dede Yazzie Devine, CEO of the Native American Connections of Roy said the same thing as he often called her to fill in when someone canceled. “Hey Dede, my guest speaker canceled. Can you show up in about an hour at the studio.”

I would get to the studio and he would show up 30 seconds before the show. Pull on a ribbon shirt over his T-shirt and brush down his hair and they would stick a microphone on him and he would be ready to go!” said Dede.

But that was the way he was, always ready to go and do something and to say something positive to enlighten and uplift the community.

In the early days, while he was involved with the community he played basketball for local teams. He played with a team called Phoenix “Chiefs” for a while, then he formed his own basketball team called the “21st Century Native American” and traveled the southwest and the west coast to play and coach at the same time. He played and later coached his team for over twenty years. His brothers and sons, Hawk and Chad played along side him for many years. He was always very proud of sons and their athletic ability. He also was avid bowler and golfer.

“He was a good ball player,” said Paul Smith, from Salt River and long-time friend and who used to referee ball games that Roy played in. Roy even learned to referee and then turned
National

Powerful Words

From Lavenn Dennison, Tuesday, April 19, 2005

DARRELL SCOTT TESTIMONY

Guess our national leaders didn’t expect this, huh? On Thursday, Darrell Scott, the purchaser of the Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee’s subcommittee. What’s more, our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful. They were not prepared for what he was to say, nor was it heard by every parent, every teacher, every politician, every oculist, and every psychologist, and every so-called expert! These courageous speakers by themselves are powerful, penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness. The following is a portion of the transcript:

“Since the dawn of creation there has been both good & evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

“The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NRA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain’s heart.

“In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to point at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA & I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA - because I don’t believe that they are responsible for my daughter’s death. I do believe that the people who do with Rachel’s murder would be their strongest opponent.

“I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy - it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies within this room. A room of people who put their fingers behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today:

You laws ignore our deepest needs.
Your words are empty air.
You’ve stripped away our heritage.
You’ve outlawed simple prayer.

NEW gunshots fill our classrooms,
And precious children die.
You seek for answers everywhere,
And ask the question “Why?”
You regulate restrictive laws,
Through legislative creed.
And yet you fail to understand,
That God is what we need!

“Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows prejudice, and hatred to rush in and reap havoc, Spiritual presence were present within our educational systems for most of our nation’s history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And what’s more remarkable is that as terrible as Columbine’s tragedy occurs — politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erosion of our rights to free and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. “Eric and Dylan would not have been killed by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who wishes to spread this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts.

“As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes-He did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or policy to stop them right! I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to read this book. I recommend the Columbine High School prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your God-given right to communicate with Him. To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA - I give you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before casting the first stone!

My daughter’s death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!”

———

ININDIAN TIME

Radio Program KUCR, 88.3 FM

Tuesday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

AMERICAN INDIAN

Music/News/Interviews/Discussions

HOSTS:

Paul Miranda • Robert Perez
John Smith•Carrie Garcia

Photo by Paloma Hernandez

Front left to right: Wendy Pineda, Alejandro Urias, Anna Leon. Back: Yvonne Garcia and Erskine Smith. Thanks to the girls for making fry bread at sales and other activities. Boys, thanks for being supportive of the Native American Student Programs & Native American Student Association.

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Mr. Track

around and taught other kids. “That’s the way he was,” said Paul.

One of the kids Roy taught to referee gave Roy a technical foul in one of the games up in Warm Springs, Oregon. “Roy played hard and just like many players would get overly involved,” remembered Paul.

Also in the tribute to Roy on Channel 3, they also commented Roy was involved with organizing and enceasing many pow wows in Arizona and New Mexico.

This aspect of his life everyone knew. He emceed many pow wows around the country and was to be the co-emcee at this year’s Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque, one of the largest pow wows in the country.

Well-known pow wow announcer Sammy “Tone-kei” White Roy was the hardworking emcee” at the Gathering last year and was to be there again with him and Dennis Bowen and Vince Beyl.

And a big song in his memory, he said.

Tone-kei, as he is known throughout Indian country also had a Native American public affairs show around the same time as Roy in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

Tone-kei first met Roy at a conference thirty years ago in Oklahoma City when Roy was a promoter for the band Redbone. “We became friends instantly,” he said, he had a quiet way but had authority.

This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the popular Mesa Pow Wow that Roy started on a “shoe string budget,” he would say. The pow wow was always free and open to the public as he wanted to give the “White people” an opportunity to experience the Native American culture.

He helped many tribes begin their first pow wow on their land. San Carlos Apache and Gila River Indian Community are two the many he helped get started.

“After we started them,” said Artis Vasquash, “sometimes only $500.” Artis sang an honor song for Roy at the dedication for the times he helped him learn about pow wows. “He was a teacher to me,” he said with tears welling up in his eyes.

Before Roy became known as a pow wow announcer, he was the pod throughout the tribe. He traveled the country with his popcorn machine and could set up in a matter of minutes for raise gas money or funds for a project.

Happy Birthday Sadie Yanaba (Warrior Woman) Toosie, Yanaba is Wininbago, Apache, and Navajo. She frequently visits the NASP office.

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little teasing in a few of the descriptions: “SNAG (noun) A girlfriend or boyfriend; SQUEEZE: Of the same nature as a Snap (noun) but to a more serious extent and reflective of a longer standing relationship, i.e…” my main squeeze.”

Roy also produced many music CDs in his career, the latest being “Pow Wow Music to Snap By,” with Randy Woods.

Dale Phillips, a basketball buddy of the bearded and traditional singer of Coochopah songs said at the Visitation on Friday that Roy, “recorded over 300 songs for our people need-to-reed recording equipment.” Roy made them into CDs, he said, “for all of us to enjoy.”

Dale is the former Chairman of the Coochopah Tribe and now sits on the tribal council.

Roy was one of the first to get into the video production business as he was often called upon throughout the years by John Lewis, director of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona to produce videos about current issues Indian Tribes were facing at the time.

“He will be truly missed,” said Lewis, “He was a good man with a good spirit.”

He had a gift of communicating with people in a respectful way and that gift was more never evident than when he met with people sometimes society forget—our brothers who were recovering from alcohol abuse.

“For over 15 years,” Dede Devine wrote in a tribute, “Roy Track volunteered on Tuesday mornings to lead a group at the program on 3rd Avenue [Phoenix]. Yes, I mean once a week for two hours for 15 years!! The only time he missed was if he was traveling on the pow-wow circuit. He didn’t talk about addiction or alcoholism—he talked about life using his communications skills, cultural connections to the community, and his humor. He came as an equal, somebody who had lived his life in a circle ready to give back to the circle. The men loved him.

Roy would sometimes be a keynote speaker at Native American graduations and would always tell of what his grandmother told him at an early age, “As you reach adulthood remember all the people who got you there and give back to them and the community.”

One person who is a success in her career that received early professional nurturing from Roy is Mary Kim Titla, San Carlos Apache and Channel 12 News Reporter.

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Calvin’s Ark is not an easy task for anyone, especially without the help of a computer program to assist. It is a complex process that requires a great deal of patience and skills. However, with the right tools and resources, it can be done. The beauty of Calvin’s Ark lies in its simplicity and the fact that anyone can participate in preserving the environment. It is a project that can be started at any time and can be continued indefinitely. Calvin’s Ark is a reminder of the importance of nature and the need to protect it for future generations. So let us all join hands and work together to create a better world for all.