

## Harvey Pratt

By Zach Ziegler & Samantha Hill



Photo Courtesy of Julia Woehrer

Posters around campus displaying a crime scene and scamming off of the popularity of the CSI series of shows told me that Harvey Pratt, a forensic detective was coming to give a talk at our school. I was only semi-interested, but when my friend Sam mentioned he was Cheyenne and Arapaho, I was that much more excited to go since I am in the Native American Association. Preceding Mr. Pratt was a long list of qualifications and titles, but none of them followed him onto the stage in front of a decent crowd in the UC.

Immediately, Mr. Pratt became just an ordinary guy. He talked to the crowd as if we were in his living room and explained to us the different types of work he has accomplished. He has worked on some of the most horrific cases in American history including serial murderers and bombings. He has been trained by the FBI and has helped them solve serious murder cases such as the first World Trade Centre bombing and the Green River Killer.

He was on the cutting edge of soft tissue reconstruction, age progression, and gravesite reconstruction and has helped solve hundreds of cold cases, kidnappings, and murders. However, Harvey Pratt simply stood on the stage and gave a great speech on some of techniques he developed aided by two PowerPoint presentations providing fantastic, though sometimes graphic, examples.

Harvey discussed the art of drawing composites of people based on witness descriptions. His sketches were amazingly accurate. It is no wonder he is also an award-winning Native artist. His next discussion was on gravesite recognition. He explained how to recognize a gravesite should we ever come across one in the wilderness. I was very intrigued by the natural factors that make a gravesite recognizable, such as the depression in the ground from the rotting corpse. I will definitely keep an eye out for these in the future.

All of the information that Harvey gave the audience was interesting and informative, especially for those students studying the forensics field. It is hard to imagine a crime scene without such commonplace strategies as photographing a body properly and evaluating and interviewing witnesses, but at one point someone had to invent them. Harvey Pratt was that man. The man with a mission, a dream.

## What's been happening at CNAS



Kenn Pitawanakwat provides a welcome at the CNAS open house held in early September.



The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community recently held a week-long celebration for their grand opening of the new cultural center. As part of the celebration, the tribe invited two Native film makers, Ava Hamilton (Arapaho) and Leahn Cox (Dine'), to do film workshops for the KBIC community. Ava and Leahn also had an opportunity to visit Northern's campus on Monday, October 1, and showed three of their films to a packed Whitman Commons. We hope to hear and see more from both of these talented women.

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## NEWSPAPERS MAKE PROGRESS: PROVIDING BETTER COVERAGE

-Courtesy of the Native American Journal Association

Newspapers in states with high American Indian populations are covering Indian people with more accuracy and cultural sensitivity, but more training and hiring of Native journalists are needed for unbiased stories, according to a new report analyzing print coverage of Native Americans.

The 2007 Reading Red Report, released during the Native American Journalists Association's 23rd annual convention, found many fewer objectionable headlines and stories than a 2002 report, but still discovered stereotypical terms such as "warpath" and "peace pipe" in stories published from Jan. 1, 2005 to Dec. 31, 2006.

"We still have a long way to go," said Cristina Azocar (Upper Mattaponi), director of the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism and an assistant professor of journalism at San Francisco State University, who led the project. "Papers such as The Tulsa World and The Albuquerque Journal covered a diversity of subjects on Indian people, but still used more non-Native sources than Native ones."

Azocar, who was elected NAJA president during the convention, said researchers analyzed 1,741 articles in newspapers in cities that had high American Indian populations, including Albuquerque, Anchorage, Los Angeles, New York, Oklahoma City, San Diego and Tucson. The study looked at whether the news coverage portrayed Native Americans positively, negatively or neutrally, if Native sources were used and whether stereotypical terms appeared in print.

Researchers discovered that 75 percent of the articles were neutral and only 6 percent had a negative tone toward American Indians. The study also found that a majority of the coverage was about arts or entertainment, education and casinos, although very few stories had datelines from reservations.

But despite improvement in coverage, researchers said they still found stereotypical phrases such as "happy hunting grounds" or "on the warpath." Both those terms were discovered in The New York Times. One was a movie review and the other about a woman's fight to save a plot of land. The study also found instances of inappropriate uses of several words in headlines, including "reservation," which was found in The Tulsa World topping a story about Mato Nanji, the lead singer of the band Indigenous. The headline: "Without reservation."

The best stories came from newspapers providing beat coverage on Indian people, including The Albuquerque Journal, The San Antonio Express News and Tulsa World.

"Local Native Americans were profiled as everyday people doing positive and negative deeds or provided interactions between Natives and others," researchers said about the papers.

To view the report, go to: [www.naja.com](http://www.naja.com).

## -----Must Read-----

The latest book in the Native American Series from the prestigious Edwin Mellen Press is authored educator Dr. Dean Chavers. The book is titled *Modern American Indian Leaders*. It profiles 87 modern Indian leaders.

"Everyone knows about Cochise, Crazy Horse, and Sitting Bull," Dr. Chavers said. "But few people know about Lucy Covington, Pat Locke, or Dr. Lois Steele. Yet these brave Indian women and men have fought for Indian rights for decades. Many of them have changed the course of history and yet have not received recognition for their achievements."

"The two-volume work is a valuable addition to modern scholarship [about] in Indian people," stated Dr. Troy Johnson in the Foreword. "This is a book that belongs in every library in the United States and on the desk of every American school child."

The book can be ordered from [www.mellenpress.com](http://www.mellenpress.com)

-Catching The Dream, Albuquerque, NM

## United in dance



The 2nd annual UNITED conference was held Sept 23 - 25 on Northern's campus. Several workshops were held over the three day conference -- including a special UNITED in Dance presentation with several high school students from Hannahville's Nah Tah Wahsh PSA and two NMU students, Daanis Chosa and Cody Blue. Eric Awonohopay of Baraga provided teachings and songs.