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Publications & Media Relations

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state + weeklies
+Native Am. pub.

DOCUMENTARY ON INDIAN STUDENTS
AVAILABLE TO EDUCATORS, OTHERS

MISSOULA--

A videotape titled "May Our Education Not Betray Our Traditions" may be obtained from the University of Montana Native American Studies Program (NAS).

The documentary was produced by the UM radio-television department and NAS, with the cooperation of the Kyi-Yo Indian Club. The project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities Youthgrant Program, Washington, D.C.

Early in 1981, Elaine Gilham Clayborn, acting director of NAS, inlisted the cooperation of the Kyi-Yo Club in getting the project under way. The successful grant proposal was written by Jon Stannard of the UM Upward Bound Program. Joanne Swaney, St. Ignatius, a UM senior and a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, was project director.

"We thought the program would point out the uniqueness of Native Americans in that they live a bicultural lifestyle," Swaney said. "They are being exposed to a non-Indian world and routine but they continue to retain their cultural identity."

She added that going to a university and trying to remain "Indian" is not easy. "Students are often faced with culturally conflicting values, ideas and philosophies and must find ways to balance their Indianness with these new concepts in order to succeed in their educational goals."

The program was shot on the UM campus and environs and on the Crow and Salish-Kootenai Reservations. It features representatives of the Salish,

(over)

Indian students--add one

Kootenai, Arapaho, Cree, Blackfeet, Crow, Gros Ventre, Kickapoo, Northern and Southern Cheyenne, and Pine Ridge and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes.

"We hope teachers and faculty administrators will find this program useful," Swaney said. "I think it would highly benefit them in that they can hear from students themselves how it is to be educated in a somewhat alien system. Too often we are forced into the 'melting pot' syndrome where we want everyone to be alike. It's time that kind of thinking, especially where Native Americans are concerned, is changed."

Native American Studies is the primary clearinghouse for the program. Information about copies and the accompanying discussion guide may be obtained by writing to: Youthgrant Project, NAS-Kyi-Yo, 730 Eddy, Missoula, MT 59812; telephone (406) 243-5831.

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