

# Commentary

## Village people deserve credit for insight

by Lincoln Tritt

The mistakes of our past is what helps us to make better decisions now. This insures that our future is not damaged or threatened by careless thoughts.

Often, people from outside the villages are frustrated because they cannot get the villagers to make immediate decisions. It is important to realize that the decisions we make today might not work for the generations yet to come, there have been an awful lot of mistakes made in the past.

In the past few years, there has been a lot of disasters like earthquakes, flooding, forest fires, drought and hurricanes. These are, to the traditional Native people, a slap in the face to wake up and see what is happening. This planet and all its lifeforms do not survive on the words of human beings.

The people of the past have already known all the knowledge we seek today. This is the reason they emphasize personal, social and spiritual values versus material values. Many civilizations have

come and gone and nothing is new. A lot of Natives are not comfortable in this society because they see what is happening from the realistic view that is always present in the rural communities. Out there in the forest is where life begins and the continuation of life depends on the continuation of the natural life of the so-called wilderness. It is not possible to get life out of a computer or a table or a building. These things cannot be planted and they definitely cannot grow. This knowledge and wisdom is the basis of what the traditional Natives are trying to teach.

Unfortunately, the concept of listening is where these teachings have to start from, and even words are for sale. A lot of people seem to be speaking for others. A lot of people do not feel what others are saying and as a result, they often just pick out the words they can use for their own benefit.

When people live with too much abundance of material goods and comfort, they begin to take things for granted and make

careless decisions. People who live with less are very aware of the results of their decisions, the result of a bad decision is often obvious and painful.

In the past, people survived by understanding each other so that they can live and work together. Weakness comes from division. Elders often talk about how well they take care of themselves. We are all individuals and if each individual is strong, then when all the individuals come together, they make a strong group.

The people in the rural villages do not get the credit they should be getting. It is a lot easier for them to see what is going on from outside the busy schedules of the city. When I come into the city, I am often frustrated by people who have too much to do. In my opinion, a lot of the things they have to do are useless, but when a person gets on a roller coaster, it is not easy to get off. As a result, there is no time to think or evaluate what is happening.

With this I say, "relax, and take care of yourselves."