

HOW MAN GOT HIS COLOR

The Creator took four different colored clay from the clay pit. He made little people out of red, yellow, black and white clay. Then he put them on different parts of the world. He put the black ones in Africa, the white ones in Europe, and the yellow ones in Asia. He told them that they were like brothers and yet they were very different from each other. He gave each one a special gift. Before they were to meet again, he sent them each a messenger, to tell them how to worship him. The red man he gave America.

— Karonaise Swamp

With these hands I have learned to write,
 With these hands I have touched a flower,
 With these hands I have hit with anger,
 With these hands I have touched pretty things,
 With these hands I have broken things,
 With these hands I have pushed with hate,
 With these hands I have learned to grow plants.

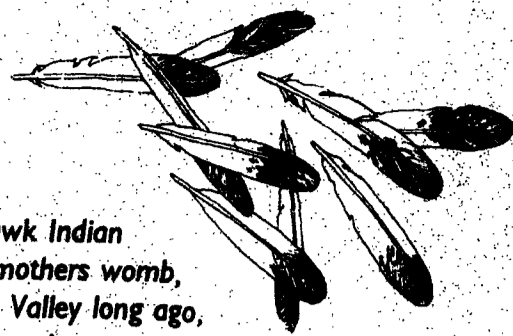
These hands can learn things everyday,
 These hands can touch pretty things,
 These hands are creative in making art,
 These hands can learn things everyday,
 These hands are not to kill,
 These hands are my life,
 These hands are my world.

Kaneratenta Bigtree

You help me with my problems
 you helped me when I was younger
 and now you are still helping me
 so help me to the great world
 you are in
 when I die

— Ronkwa

These Are Our Gifts



I am a Mohawk Indian
 I come from my mothers womb,
 I ruled the Mohawk Valley long ago,
 I live on a reservation now
 the land where the Partridge Drums
 Akwesasne
 I give thanks to the Creator
 every morning
 I sing songs of my land
 I am nephew to the stars

— Kaientakowa

Once upon a time there was many days that you couldn't hear a single sound. One of those days all the animals gathered in one circle, and then the sun shot a beam of light down from the sky. It was a baby sitting in front of them. They were surprised. Then they heard a voice come from the sun. It said, "Don't be afraid of me, I am the sun. You will take care of this baby until he is a man."

Whenever the baby got bored, he made things on this earth. He made the pine tree, then he made the cedar tree and the tobacco plants. He made a lot of other things too, and he left them here for his people, the Onkwehonkwe to use and enjoy.

— Kaientakow Chubb

I believe the Creator was never born from a real woman. I think he was born from the earth. He is the universe. He is the people of the world. He was the son of the thunders. He is our father. He has brought us food and clothing. We are his responsibility. He is always with us. He never dies. Even right now, he is with us but you can't see him. I would say that there is only one kind of people that knows what he looks like and that is the false-face. I think he is a mix of all kinds of creatures.

—Karonaise Swamp

I was dreaming that I had a mask
 It was a red mask,
 I danced with it then I
 put the mask on,
 It took my mind over
 I danced with a victim,
 I cured him
 and then
 we took the rest of the masks
 and went in to the cookhouse
 I was a beggar
 begging for tobacco

— Aroniatako

Preserve your cultural ways through your children. Preserve your children through love and understanding. Food and a roof over their head is not enough. Give them the things you yourself yearned for as a child.

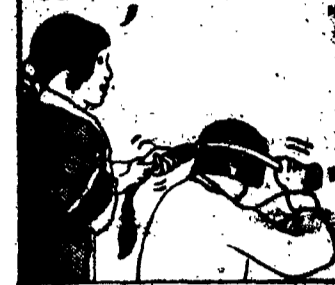


Encourage your children to read, to learn, to seek knowledge. Allow them room to grow in all directions. Sometimes we are our own worst enemies in perpetuating stereotypes.

YOU KNOW SINCE WE WON THAT SWIMMING POOL EVERYBODY COMES TO ME.



ALL YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, UNCLE MAC, AUNTIE WINONA, GRANDMA, GRANDPA, COUSIN BILL...



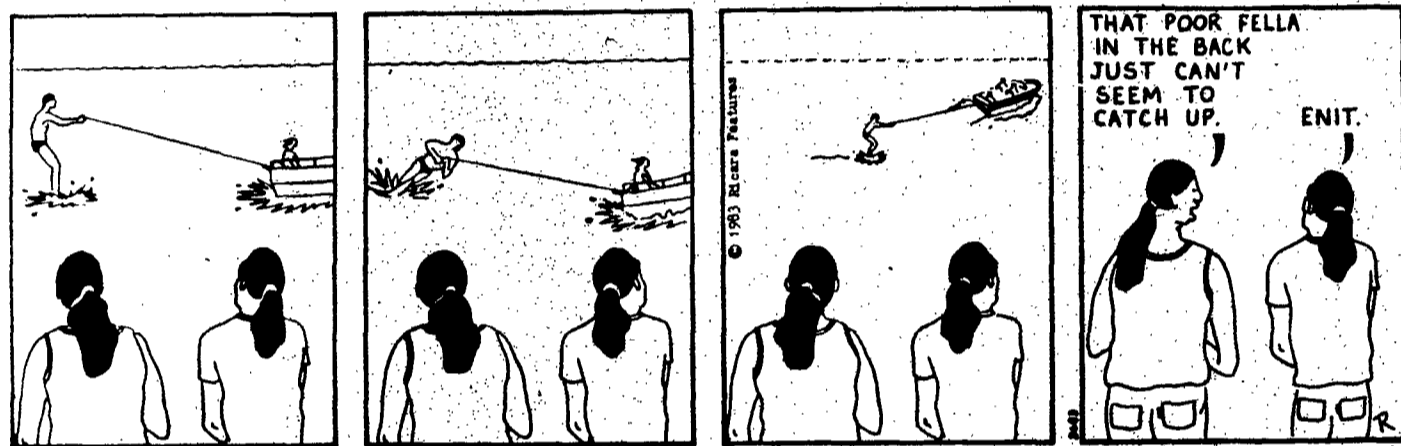
NOT THAT I MIND, BUT ALL THEY DO IS COMPLAIN.



MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE THEM BETTER WORMS!



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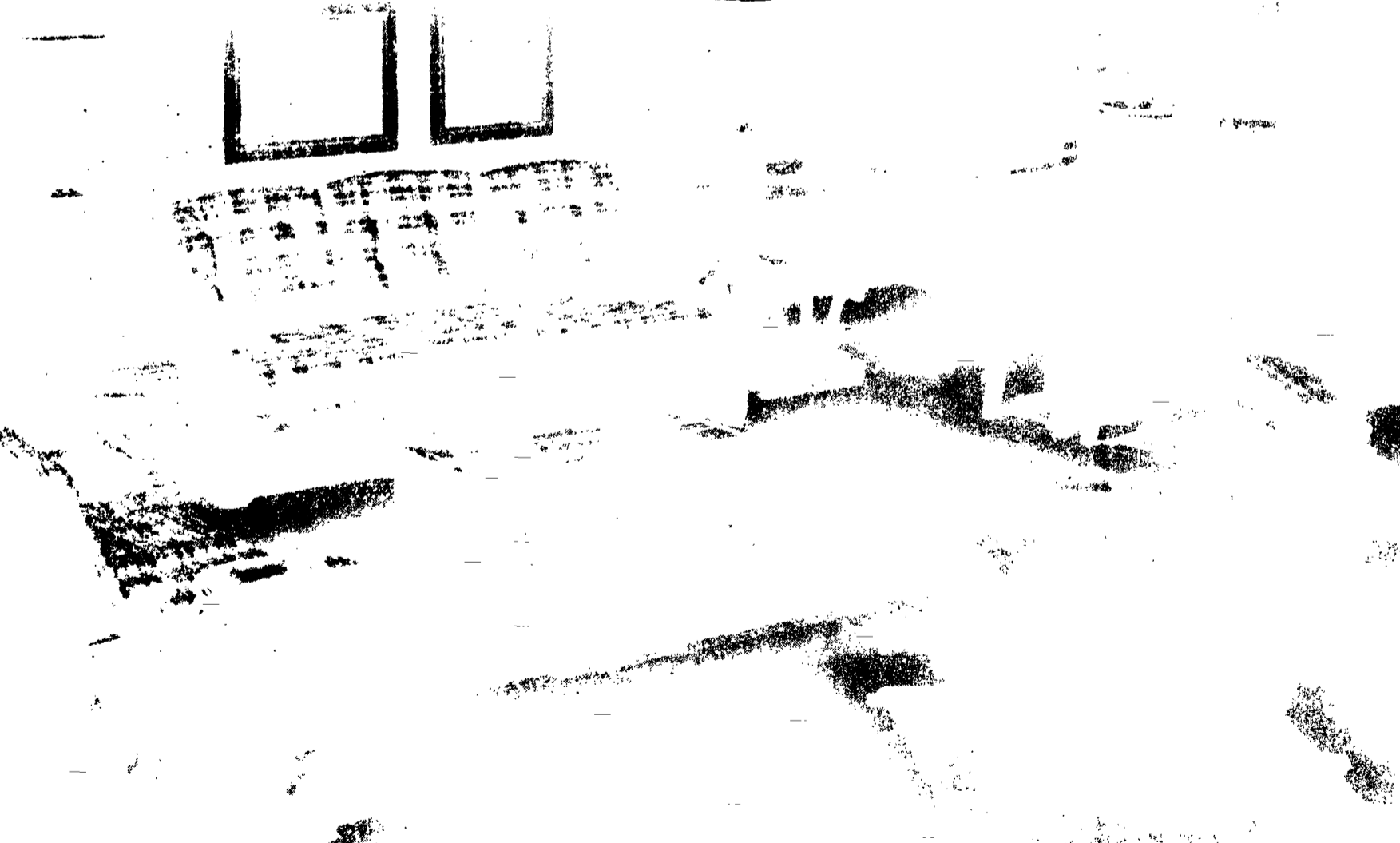
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