

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[April 12, 1999 ~ April 25, 1999]

### Context:

- 8 Waging A Holy War**  
Local Muslim leaders gather to address Kosovo crisis. by Michael Oatman
- 10 Striving In The Shadows**  
Cleveland chess dynasty excels despite lack of community support.  
by Michael Oatman
- 11 The Duke Has Jelly In His Jam**  
Amiri Baraka waxes poetic on the genius of Duke Ellington. by Joe Waldman
- 12 MaryJoyce Green**  
Creating a rising tide that lifts all boats.  
by Michael Oatman
- 18 Icons of Destruction**  
When will the Cleveland Indians abandon their legacy of racism?  
by Brother Zizwe
- 22 Ernest Trotter**  
Artist Ernest Trotter continues to extract his art from chaos. by r.a. washington

On the cover:

Local legend Ernest Trotter.

photo by r.a. washington



### Subtext:

- 4 Notes From the Editor**
- 5 In the Crosshairs**  
James Gore: The new face of the Republican party.
- 6 Vindicator Update!**  
News and events from around the world.  
compiled by Jessica Bryski
- 16 Haps 'n' Slaps**  
Michael Oatman's views on sex and popular culture from the CSU clock tower.
- 20 Mental Floss**  
jimi izrael takes aim at sacred cows, cowards and heroes alike.
- 25 Music Reviews**  
Mekkah B. Sunshine shares her views on the latest music releases.
- 26 The Vindicator Bookshelf**  
Here's a reading suggestion from our shelves. by r.a. washington
- 28 Dear Adrienne . . .**  
The Love Bus  
A story from Angola translated by Laura Lartigue

*The Vindicator* is a student publication of Cleveland State University. *The Vindicator* is published bi-monthly on Monday. The editorial content of the publication does not necessarily represent the view of the university, the faculty, the members of *The Vindicator* staff, or our advisors unless otherwise stated. The editorial staff reserves the right to comment on any issue that affects the student body in general, as well as the multicultural communities at large. Letters to the editor and manuscripts are accepted, however, they must have the author's name, address, and telephone number. The co-editors reserve the right to edit submissions as deemed necessary.

## Icons of Destruction

When will the Cleveland Indians abandon their legacy of racism?

by Brother Zizwe

**A**s we approach the 21st century, according to the Euro-capitalist calendar, the Cleveland Indians' organization continues to promote their racist emblem, Chief Wahoo. Why? Is it because the offensive emblem is the second

largest selling emblem in the world behind that of New York Yankees, or is it the Oakland Raiders? The name "Indians" is a symbol of white supremacy over a people who have been invaded by Europeans.

The people who are indigenous to United States of America, which I call it the United Snakes of America, were never asked what they wanted to be called. They were told they were "Indians" by Christopher Columbus

and his gang of murderers. In 1946 when Chief Wahoo was created, the Black Sambo, Aunt Jemima, Step N Fetch It and Uncle Ben characters were also popular in this country. All of these icons were created by people of European descent to satisfy their racist egos. This is yet another way of heaping violence upon the indigenous and African people. It is similar to the way that Nazi propaganda during the Third Reich portrayed European Jews as rats in order to dehumanize them.

The African community managed to rid sports and media of the majority of racist icons such as images of the Black Sambo, Uncle Ben, and Sambo's Restaurant, but, despite this progress, we still have Aunt Jemima on the pancake box.

Those who support the Chief Wahoo icon try defend it by saying that the name "Indians" was meant to honor former Cleveland baseball player and Native American, Louis Sockalexis. Some of us have done our research and found out that Mr. Sockalexis' career lasted only two years, 1897-1899, due to those racist fans who constantly heckled him, threw things and called him names. There are several articles in the Cleveland Press newspaper on Sockalexis (The Cleveland Press Archive is located on the 3rd Floor of the Cleveland State University Library) that prove this point.

In January of 1915, the local media held a contest to give the team a name. Nowhere in these papers does it talk about honoring Louis Sockalexis or indigenous people. So, here we are in April of 1999 getting ready to continue this racist tradition. Why are the Cleveland and Atlanta baseball teams still behind in the times? Still promoting a 500-year lie that started when Columbus supposedly "discovered America." Why do other sports teams, like football's Kansas City and Washington, hockey's Chicago,



**"The people who are indigenous to United States of America, which I call it the United Snakes of America, were never asked what they wanted to be called."**

***COMMENTARY!***

college teams like Florida State and University of Illinois, continue this tradition of racism? Is it because racism is as American as mom's apple pie? Without these racist institutions, there would be no billion dollar profits for sports and media. In fact, racism goes hand in hand with the massive amounts of wealth this country and all of its professional sports teams have extracted from the working class and people of color.

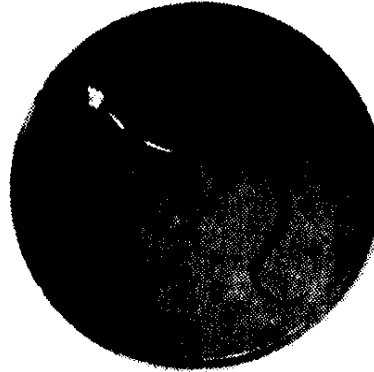
Furthermore, I have not seen or heard of any sports teams trying to help the native people, except in the case of the Cleveland baseball team giving \$2,000 to the North American Indian Cultural Center of Akron in 1997, on the birthday of Louis Sockalexis. This gesture was an insult not only to the native people, but to all humanity. The people of the North American Indian Cultural Center should have thrown the money back in their faces. After stealing native people's land and killing them off, creating an emblem and image that makes this ball team millions, the team gives the Cultural Center a lousy \$2,000. That's an insult.

This reminds me of how they told us Africans they would give us "forty acres and two mules" if we fought in the Civil War. They told us we would be set free if we fought for independence during the so-called "American Revolution." As you should know, people of African descent fell for these lies and they still buy into Chief Wahoo and the name "Indians" more than anyone. I guess we did not listen when the native people said, "White man speak with forked tongue."

For those of you who want to support native people in their struggle for liberation, please join us for a demonstration at Fort Jake (Jacob's Field) on April 12, 1999.

Brother Zizwe is a member of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party.

What it takes to  
be a father.



What it takes to  
be a dad.



It takes a man to be a dad. Call 1-800-790-DADS.

National Fatherhood Initiative

