



Delivering the Multicultural Message Monthly

A month ago a young man named Trayvon Martin was shot and killed in Florida. The facts of the story are still being uncovered however the media speculation is that it has to do with the fact that he was a young African American male walking alone after dark in a gated community (read upper middle class/wealthy) where the man who shot him thought he looked suspicious.

Several weeks ago ESPN was in hot water because of an ill-advised on-air comment about New York Knicks standout player Jeremy Lin. This being only one of many stereotypical, “oh we didn’t mean to harm anyone” comments made by multiple news outlets regarding the “Lin-sanity” going on in New York.

Also in February the Oglala Sioux Tribe filed a lawsuit condemning the liquor store owners in Whiteclay, Nebraska and the beer distributors and companies that produce, market and sell the beer to the stores. The crux of the lawsuit is that there are extensive alcohol related problems on the Pine Ridge reservation and a majority of them stem from the activities in Whiteclay.

The three completely different incidents mentioned above all have to do with stereotypes or social ills associated with three different groups of racially diverse populations in our country. On March 30<sup>th</sup> a documovie titled “Bully” is set to be released. It deals with bullying of a variety of students but much of it culminates around societal stereotypes. This might lead some to ask “Why can’t we just all get along?”

Some would argue that these kinds of things have been going on for the history of mankind and people need to just quit crying around about it. Others would say that the stories of racism in America are just that—stories. They are made up by the blacks or the poor to keep us feeling sorry

for them so they get their entitlements. But what if that kid who got shot was your kid? What if the ESPN comment about your son wasn’t a top 10 play of the day but a stereotypical spin on his ethnicity? What if it was your family being devastated by oppressive poverty and a lack of hope that the situation could get better?

*Editorial by Carol Rempp*

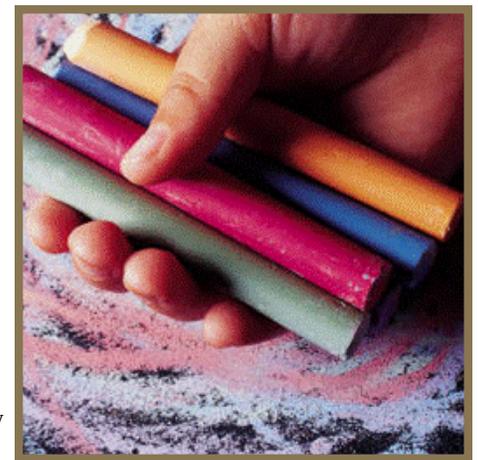
## Why can’t we all get along?

The idea that we should all just get along and we could get along if everyone would just conform to the norm is great but that is not how life works. I have used the metaphor before that the United States should not be a large melting pot where everything melts together into a glob of gunk. We should celebrate that we are like a tossed salad (even if you don’t like lettuce you can celebrate this!) because in a tossed salad all of the different ingredients work together while maintaining their own individuality that give it a rich and wonderful taste.

What has this all got to do with education? Within our schools we need to work hard to look at and celebrate the diversity of our students. We need to better understand that as educators we have a responsibility to help our student not judge each other by their skin color, religion or socioeconomic status. We have a responsibility to get over ourselves and our preconceived notions about students of color or from

lower socioeconomic levels to ensure that they each receive the best education for them as an individual.

Maybe someday we’ll all get along. My dream is that one day we will all get along. My reality is that it is not going to happen automatically. Educators you have more power than you know to influence whether or not the dream becomes reality.



Teachers can change lives with the right mix of chalk and challenges. *Joyce A. Myers*

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## Clarence Page:

### Let's not offend is best 'Linsanity' lesson

Omaha World Herald, February 24, 2012

Contact the writer: [cpage@tribune.com](mailto:cpage@tribune.com)



Clarence Page is a Pulitzer-Prize Journalist with the Chicago Tribune.

It's OK to make fun of your own crowd, according to old wisdom, but nobody else's.

That's not a bad piece of advice for those in the journalism trades to follow as we cover the sudden stardom of New York Knicks point guard Jeremy Lin.

It's a great story, a narrative that embodies the best virtues that we Americans like to think about ourselves — and defies multiple stereotypes.

Lin is an Asian-American Harvard graduate and proudly outspoken Christian who was passed over for athletic scholarships and draft picks. But he didn't give up. He warmed benches at two other NBA teams before he turned a recent moment on the floor with the Knicks into an incredible winning streak.

Is the "Linsanity" captivating Asian Americans, too? Tuyet Le, executive director of the Asian American Institute in Chicago, described the mood in her office as "cautiously optimistic." There was joy over Lin's mighty blow to the stereotype of Asian Americans as nonathletic over-achievers, she said, but there was also an ominous sense of wondering, "When is the other shoe going to drop?"

After all, the flip side to racial breakthroughs is how old stereotypes are replaced by new ones. "As somebody joked," Le recalled, "'Do we all have to go to Harvard now and be athletes, too?'"

Such is the mixed blessing of being widely viewed as a "model minority." It didn't take long for the other shoe to drop in the world of sports, where the journalism is colorful, the chatter full of trash-talking and sometimes exuberant writers get carried away.

A little innocent fun with the NBA phenom's inviting surname is understandable and, I hope, amusing. But it didn't take long for wordplay to move to Lin's most visible characteristic, his Asian heritage, and take a swift slide into the inflammatory.

The New York Post, for example, broke the wince-inducing headline: "Amasian!" Comedian Jon Stewart, among others, found that to be "very

'Lin-sensitive.' " On CBS' "The Late Show With David Letterman," Stewart compared it to a headline writer announcing a perfect game by an ethnic hero of baseball, Sandy Koufax, with "Jewtiful!"

The MSG network, which broadcasts Knicks games, aired an image of Lin's face over a broken fortune cookie with the words: "The Knicks Good Fortune." That Chinese food reference unfortunately brought to mind a game against Georgetown during Lin's Harvard days. As a 2009 Time profile recounts, a spectator yelled "Sweet-and-sour pork!" from the stands.

Last week, we had ESPN moving swiftly to take down an unfortunate headline on its mobile site after a Friday night loss: "Chink in the Armor." It lasted a half-hour, and the editor who wrote it was fired two days later.

I was reminded of a campaign I reported back in 1975 by Chinese American groups to have the high school in Pekin, Ill., near Peoria, change the name of its school teams, long known as the Pekin Chinks.

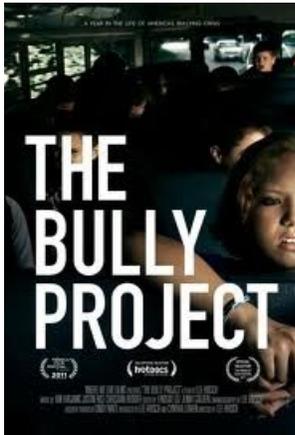
Locals say the town was named after Peking, China, now called Beijing. The team mascots were a male and female student dressed in traditional Chinese costumes. Amid national news coverage, students voted to hold onto the name of their beloved Chinks, which finally was changed in 1980 to the Pekin Dragons.

That's a long time, but still shorter than the Washington Redskins or Cleveland Indians, among other teams that are not even close to giving up their ethnic-related names or mascots. Still, I wonder how comfortable they'd feel about a team called, say, the "Cleveland Negroes."

I still maintain that people should not be severely punished for mistakes they make out of innocence and ignorance. In a society as diverse and persistently segregated as ours still is, it's not easy to forecast everything that's going to offend people. I've failed more than a few times myself.

But after people have told you that they're offended, that's a pretty good clue that they are.

Contact the writer: [cpage@tribune.com](mailto:cpage@tribune.com)



## 13 million kids will be **Bullied** In the U.S. this year

A movie for all coming March 30. Download the teacher guide at <http://safeschools.facinghistory.org/>

<http://www.thebullyproject.com/>

### Nebraska Department of Education's Policy and Rules

[http://www.education.ne.gov/safety/  
Bullying\\_Prevention/  
Bullying\\_Prevention\\_HomePage.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/safety/Bullying_Prevention/Bullying_Prevention_HomePage.html)

## Caught in the Crisis

Read the article [http://www.all4ed.org/files/  
CaughtCrisisSOC.pdf](http://www.all4ed.org/files/CaughtCrisisSOC.pdf)

*Nationally, millions of students in grades 7–12 are at risk of dropping out of high school because of low literacy skills, poor attendance, and class failure. Unfortunately, many of these students come from groups that are underserved and underrepresented: students of color, high-mobility students (including foster, migrant, and homeless students), English language learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students.*

*These students are not at risk of dropping out as a result of their racial, ethnic, English proficiency, disability, or housing or economic status; however, these characteristics drive the moral imperative that the nation has a duty to ensure that they receive a high-quality education. The absence of a college- and career-ready education for these students is a civil rights and social justice issue that the federal government cannot ignore. Failing to do so will continue a cycle of poverty and disenfranchisement that the education system itself is intended to disrupt.*



**It's Okay to be Different & Curriculum**

Todd Parr

ISBN N 9780316666039

From Publishers Weekly...combines rainbow colors, simple drawings and reassuring statements in this optimistic book. His repetitive captions offer variations on the title and appear in a typeface that looks handcrafted and personalized. A fuschia elephant stands against a zingy blue background ("It's



okay to have a different nose") and a lone green turtle crosses a finish line ("It's okay to come in last"). A girl blushes at the toilet paper stuck to her shoe ("It's okay to be embarrassed") and a lion

says "Grr," "ROAR" and "purrr" ("It's okay to talk about your feelings"). Parr cautiously calls attention to superficial distinctions. By picturing a smiling girl with a guide dog ("It's okay to need some help"), he comments on disability and he accounts for race by posing a multicolored zebra with a black-and-white one. An illustration of two women ("It's okay to have different Moms") and two men ("It's okay to have different Dads") handles diverse families sensitively this could cover either same-sex families or stepfamilies and also on the opposite page, a kangaroo with a dog in its pouch ("It's okay to be adopted"). He wisely doesn't zero in on specifics, which would force him to establish what's "normal." Instead, he focuses on acceptance and individuality and encourages readers to do the same. There are many classroom ideas with this book available at <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/okay-different-teaching-diversity-890.html>

**Khan Academy: The future of education?** *(Courtesy of CNN/ CBS News)*



*He is most watched teacher in the world. CBS News) Sal Khan is a math, science, and*

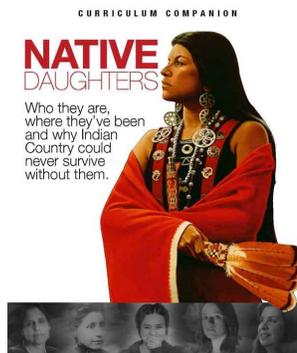
history teacher to millions of students, yet none have ever seen his face. Khan is the voice and brains behind [Khan Academy](http://www.khanacademy.org), a free online tutoring site that may have gotten your kid out of an algebra bind with its educational how-to videos. Now Khan Academy is going global. Backed by Google, Gates, and other Internet powerhouses, Sal Khan wants to change education worldwide, and his approach is already being tested in some American schools. Sanjay Gupta reports. Watch is revolutionary teaching style at [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560\\_162-57394905/khan-academy-the-future-of-education/?tag=contentMain:cbsCarousel](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18560_162-57394905/khan-academy-the-future-of-education/?tag=contentMain:cbsCarousel)



**NATIVE**

**DAUGHTERS**

Featured in the Lincoln Journal Star February 27, 2012  
 Next Chapter: Native Daughters of Oklahoma  
 Read the entire article and comments at [http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/unl-journalism-project-on-native-women-gets-k-boost/article\\_f59981ba-b5cb-5a1e-8691-65ef70eec3a6.html?mode=story](http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/unl-journalism-project-on-native-women-gets-k-boost/article_f59981ba-b5cb-5a1e-8691-65ef70eec3a6.html?mode=story)



Free download of the magazine companion <http://www.educaton.ne.gov/mce>

## Grants

### McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation: Teacher Development Grants

McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation Teacher Development Grants provide funding to individuals or small teams of teachers in the formation and implementation of groundbreaking K-12 classroom instruction. The grants provide opportunities for teachers to integrate fresh strategies that encourage critical inquiry and to observe their effects on students. Teachers have the opportunity to reflect and write about their projects, as well as to share their results with other teachers. Maximum award: \$10,000 for three years. Eligibility: licensed K-12 teachers employed in public or private schools. Deadline: April 15, 2012.

<http://www.mccarthydressman.org/teacher.html>

### Humane Society of the United States: Education Mini-grant

The Humane Society of the United States is now accepting applications for the 2012 Humane Education Mini-Grant, designed to fund innovative humane education opportunities in K-12 classrooms. Maximum award: \$1,000. Eligibility: all certified K-12 teachers in the U.S. Deadline: November 30, 2012.

[http://www.humanesociety.org/parents\\_educators/award/humane\\_education\\_mini\\_grant.html](http://www.humanesociety.org/parents_educators/award/humane_education_mini_grant.html)

**American Indian Graduate Center** has a host of scholarships/fellowships for those pursuing master doctoral, or professional degrees. <http://www.aigcs.org>

### Libri Foundation: Books for Children Grants

The Libri Foundation Books for Children Grants donate new, quality, hardcover children's books for small, rural, public libraries across the country. Maximum award: varies. Eligibility: Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department. The average total operating budget of a Books for Children grant recipient must be less than \$40,000. Deadline: May 15, 2012.

<http://www.librifoundation.org/apps.html>

### Target: Early Childhood Reading Grants

Target Early Childhood Reading Grants promote a love of reading and encourages young children to read together with their families by supporting programs such as after-school reading events and weekend book clubs. Maximum award: \$2,000.

Eligibility: schools, libraries, and nonprofit organizations. Deadline: April 30, 2012.

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>



### Target: Arts and Culture in Schools Grants

Target Arts and Culture in Schools Grants help schools and nonprofits to bring arts and cultural experiences directly to K-12 students. These programs must have a curriculum component. Maximum award: \$2,000. Eligibility: schools and nonprofit organizations. Deadline: April 30, 2012.

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031819>

### ING: Unsung Heroes

The ING Unsung Heroes awards program recognizes innovative and progressive thinking in education through monetary awards. Maximum award: \$25,000. Eligibility: full-time educators, teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, or classified staff members with effective projects that improve student learning at an accredited K-12 public or private school. Deadline: April 30, 2012.

<http://www.ing.com/us/unsungheroes>

### American Honda Foundation: Grants for Education

The American Honda Foundation makes grants to K-12 schools, colleges, universities, trade schools, and other youth-focused nonprofit organizations for programs that benefit youth and scientific education. Maximum award: \$60,000. Eligibility: schools and youth-focused nonprofit organizations. Deadline: May 1, 2012.

<http://corporate.honda.com/america/philanthropy.aspx?id=ahf>

### Are You the Next Teaching Tolerance Award

**Winner?** The Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Culturally Responsive Teaching honors five educators who exhibit excellence in meeting the needs of diverse students. Apply by April 30. Winners receive \$1000 each.

<http://www.tolerance.org/blog/be-recognized-culturally-responsive-teaching>

## Workshops/Conferences



Presents 2 exciting opportunities



**Making  
Diversity  
Count®**

8 week  
15 hour course  
May 29-July 18  
Online course

In an age where significant classroom diversity is the norm, today's educators are required to adapt and to make the grade. However, minimal time, shrinking budgets and increasing emphasis on state standards can make additional teacher training nearly impossible. This is why the **Anti-Defamation League (ADL)** is proud to present a convenient online, anti-bias program and three-day conference for up to 60 private or public, middle, high or college educators, administrators, student resource officers, school psychologists and/or media specialists.



Join Project Interfaith as they unveil their newest resource for educators, **Rave-*Unravel***, a multi-media website exploring the diversity of religious and spiritual identities that make-up our community and world.

**April 18th, 2012 at 7:30am**

**Jewish Community Center  
(333 S 132nd Street)**

***Light breakfast served at 7:30am; The presentation will begin shortly thereafter.***

***ADLs Educator Breakfast Series***

**CONTACT JESSICA GALL FOR REGISTRATION AND  
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BOTH EVENTS  
4020-334-6573 OR JGALL@ADL.ORG**

**UNMC SEPA Teacher workshop**—June 10-14;  
theme “Taking Science Outside”; Registration opens April  
23<sup>rd</sup>

### 19th Annual Reclaiming Youth Seminars

Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn,  
Rapid City, South Dakota  
June 18 - 26, 2012

<http://www.reclaiming.com/content/node/89>

### 6th Annual Nebraska Brain Injury Conference

March 29-30, Kearney

Discuss therapeutic strategies and resources available to assist  
individuals with traumatic brain injury and their families.

Brochure available at [www.braininjury.ne.gov](http://www.braininjury.ne.gov)

### 2012 Data Conference, “It’s More than Numbers”

April 2-3, Kearney

In the past, the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)  
Data Conference primarily focused its attention on  
providing the data stewards of Nebraska schools with the  
necessary tools and information to submit the highest  
quality data. This year we have broadened that focus to  
include data users and policy makers. We want the whole of  
our education community to collaborate and build a  
conference.

<http://ndeconference.education.ne.gov/Conference.aspx>



### June 15-16 Dancers of the Plains

**THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD  
ARCHWAY**

June 15- Education Day 10 am-4 pm  
Culture Shock Youth Concert, 7 pm  
(free will donation for concert)

Honor Tribes: Northern and Southern Ponca

<http://www.archway.org/>

### Science KICKS2

Keep Improving Content Knowledge and Skills 2

Summer of 2012 Sites

Grand Island, Lincoln, Norfolk, McCook, Henry Doorly  
Zoo, Nebraska City

[http://athena.esu16.org/~esu16science/Science/  
KICKS2.html](http://athena.esu16.org/~esu16science/Science/KICKS2.html)

### NCE Conference

Special development conference for Nebraska’s teachers,  
administrators, counselors and education advocates. June  
5-7, Kearney

<http://www.nceconference.com/>



### Day-long Preconference June 6 June 7-8, 2012

### Lexington Middle School

Preconference: Dr. Kristen French, Director for the  
Center for Education, Equity and Diversity  
Asst. Professor of Elementary Education at Western  
Washington University

Conference Keynote:

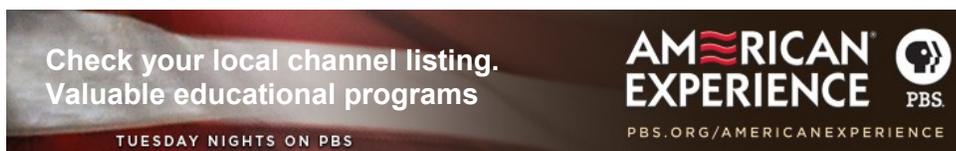
Molly O’Holleran, Nebraska State Board of Education

Breakout session topics include: Improving  
Instruction with Technology; Fostering Healthy  
Learning Communities; Improving Student Learning;  
Instructional Enhancements for Student Success

**New** Lower Registration fee: \$75

Register online at

[Http://nmla.shutterfly.com](http://nmla.shutterfly.com)



### UNMC SEPA Youth Summer Camp

June 3-6; Registration opens April 23<sup>rd</sup>



### ALL CULTURES

#### Writers in the Schools: Sarah Mook Memorial Poetry Contest

The Sarah Mook Memorial Poetry Contest acknowledges, encourages, and rewards the efforts of student poets. It is the goal of this outreach to inspire and acknowledge young poets. Maximum award: \$100. Eligibility: students K-12. Deadline: March 31, 2012. <http://www.a2pwebdesign.com/poetrywits/poetrycontest/sarahmook.htm>

### NATIVE AMERICAN

#### The Great Plains Association for College Admissions Counseling/Choctaw Nation Scholarship

Deadline: March 26 Award \$1,000 one time

High School senior living in Oklahoma, Kansas or Nebraska. Choctaw Tribal Membership. Strong academic record and community service history. <http://www.choctawnation-sap.com/newsDetail.asp?categoryid=44&newsid=229>

#### Chief Standing Bear

Sponsored by the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs

Essay Contest for Grades 4-5 Deadline April 1

The purpose of the essay contest is to generate awareness in our youth and community of the many accomplishments of the Ponca Chief Standing Bear. Each of the four winners will receive a \$50 McDonald's Arch Card, a framed copy of their winning essay, and will have the opportunity to read their essay at the 2012 Chief Standing Bear Breakfast in Omaha, Nebraska on May 12th, 2012. McDonald's will publish all essay winners on tray liners to be distributed in Nebraska restaurants.

<http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/storage/Essay%20Contest%202012.pdf>

The **Accenture American Indian Scholarship** is comprised of American Indian and Alaska Native incoming college freshmen who exhibit leadership, community spirit, academic achievement and collegiate promise in the areas of engineering, computer science, operations management, management, finance, marketing and other business oriented fields of study.

Applicants must be members of a US federally recognized tribe or verify ¼ or more descent. Applicants must possess a 3.25 GPA at the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester of high school and be enrolling as a full-time degree seeking freshman in the fall of 2012. Accenture Scholars will receive \$10,000 (\$2,500/year) 4 year scholarship, enjoy photo recognition in *Indian Country Today*, *The American Indian Graduate* magazine, local news papers of choice, and be posted on the AIGC website as well as have opportunities for summer internships with Accenture Corporation. <http://www.aigcs.org>

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