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The Good News

A day in the life of Miss America 2003, Erika Harold, with Reservations

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“Peace on Earth Begins at Birth”

WWGP is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, developed and staffed by Native American midwives. WWGP has been incorporated since 1998, however, has been operating for decades as a home-based women’s circle. Children in tow, native women gathered in each others homes discussing issues around childbirth, midwifery, breastfeeding, parenting, healthy relationship development and much more. Many women in our communities continue to attend the births of their sisters, daughters, relatives and friends providing support, information and advocacy. WWGP currently administers the C-BAC program to help our youth develop into healthy, caring, responsible community members. WWGP needs the support of the entire community in order to continue our important work. Please consider becoming a member by sending your tax deductible contribution. Thank you.

Membership Application:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Annual Membership Dues: (check one)
Fire \$25 _____ Earth \$50 _____
Water \$100 _____ Sun \$250 _____
Winds \$500 or more _____

Please make tax-deductible checks payable to Wise Women Gathering Place.
Thank you for your support.

Monday, November 17th was a really big day for WWGP. We had worked feverishly to complete the arrangements for Miss America, 2003, Erika Harold to come and talk to our kids.



such as avoiding alcohol, tobacco and drugs. She was greeted at the school by a traditional honor song done by the youth drumming and singing group. The Tribal Royalty was on hand to welcome her with traditional native-crafted gifts, words of tribute and rich smiles.

Miss Harold had flown into Austin Straubel airport the night before from a speaking engagement in another city. She told me that she hadn’t been home for nearly a month, and had a few days to go before she would be done with the speaking engagements on this tour, but that she was really excited to come to the two Native Reservations to speak with our students on the issues that she is so passionate about.

minute visit with Amy Hanten on the Good Day Wisconsin Show.

Miss Harold delivered a dynamic presentation and held the attention of the crowd with her stories about how and why she came to run for Miss America. She revealed many poignant details about her life. The students were interested to learn that she is of multi-cultural and multi-racial background, including Cherokee

Then we joined our photographer, Chris Powless and drove to Neopit’s Menominee Tribal School where Miss Harold spoke to the middle schoolers about the importance of the choice to remain abstinent and to make other healthy decisions

I handed her the itinerary for the day and we began. It was 6:20 A.M. Our first stop was to WLUK, Fox 11 TV station for a quick, 3

Superiority: The truth is that there is nothing noble in being superior to somebody else. The only real nobility is in being superior to your former self. Whitney Young (Civil Rights Leader)

From Alice's Desk:

There’s a lot of action going on around here. We were able to assist the Wisconsin Abstinence Initiative for Youth to successfully bring the well-regarded Children of Children exhibit, created by Michael Nye to the Menominee Reservation at Keshena and to Lac Courte Oreilles. The acclaimed display has toured

across the USA. The National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention (NOAPPP) recognized the immense benefits that communities could gain by exhibiting the *Children of Children* exhibition. Michael Nye’s honest and nonjudgmental approach brings to us an exhibition that opens

communication on a very sensitive subject, adolescent pregnancy, parenting and prevention, yet, in a very thoughtful and non-offensive way. Because of this, the exhibit can become a vehicle for community outreach to a multitude of audiences from diverse backgrounds, age and beliefs. It is

(Continued on page 5)

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Special points of interest:

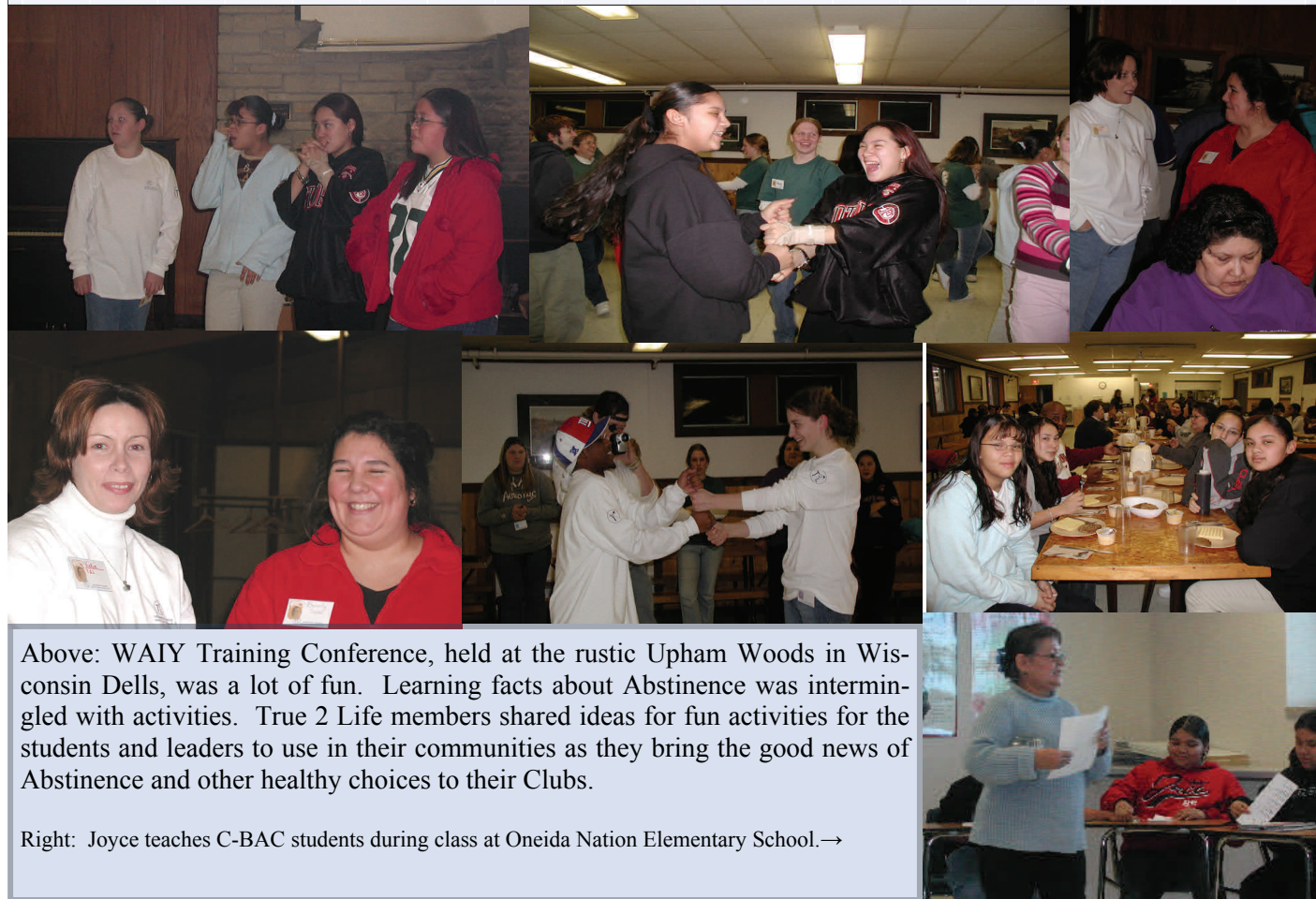
- © WWGP presents at 1st Annual National SisterSong Reproductive Health Conference, brings news of Abstinence, Midwifery, and Indigenous Birthworkers Network (see page 5)
- © Next Native Dreams Summer Camp will be held July 25th through August 6th, 2004. C-BAC students—plan to include this great adventure in your summer!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Miss America, 2003 | 1 |
|  | 7 |
| Indigenous Birthworkers | 3 |
| C-BAC | 6 |
| True 2 Life | 4 |
| Calendar | 3 |
| Membership Form | 8 |

Community-Based Abstinence Program

One facet of the C-BAC program is the practice of introducing young people to new experiences in life, helping them to see the boundless possibilities in the world that are available to them. Through out the year, C-BAC educator/advocates bring in guest speakers to share experiences about their careers with the students. C-BAC provided the students with the opportunity to experience all aspects of producing a theater production, which, by all accounts, was a smash hit with the youngsters and the community. C-BAC also takes the young people on tour to various businesses and events to involve them in many new opportunities, we will soon take the students on a trip to the University of Green Bay Campus to visit the TV studio, and participate in the making of Teen Connection. We recently took 9 former C-BAC students from our high schools to Upham Woods at Wisconsin Dells to participate in the WAIY training conference. Our goal in continuing these activities is to give these young people ideas for "higher aspirations" and to help them develop a feeling of comfort in many different settings. At the upcoming Native DREAMS Summer Camp, twenty of our students will participate in the writing, performance, recording and editing of a television broadcast-ready production about healthy choices. These types of exposures, we believe, will enable our youth to have a broader field of choices when making decisions about their careers, their relationships, and their futures. See below for pictures from the WAIY conference where we learned and had WAIY too much fun!



Above: WAIY Training Conference, held at the rustic Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells, was a lot of fun. Learning facts about Abstinence was intermingled with activities. True 2 Life members shared ideas for fun activities for the students and leaders to use in their communities as they bring the good news of Abstinence and other healthy choices to their Clubs.

Right: Joyce teaches C-BAC students during class at Oneida Nation Elementary School.→

2004 C-BAC Calendar

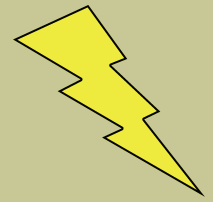
February 21..... Birth-workers meeting
 March 6th..... White Elephant Sale and Chili Cook-off
 March 8..... WWGP fundraiser Spa
 April 6..... C-BAC Students visit NEWIST Teen Connection (television production)
 May 1-31..... Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
 May 6 & 7..... C-BAC Theater Production
 July 2, 3 & 4..... Rock N Rest Tent at Oneida Powwow ♦
 July 25th..... Nat. Dreams Summer Camp
 ♦ in collaboration with Oneida Community Education Center

WWGP extends thanks to our funders:

Federal - DHHS- Office of Population Affairs – AFL
 State - DCFS – Wisconsin Abstinence Initiative for Youth
 Wisconsin Arts Board
 Green Bay Chamber of Commerce
 Wisconsin Community Fund
 WWGP members

Wisconsin Abstinence Initiative for Youth, WAIY has formed two high school clubs and one non-profit club promoting Abstinence and good choices. WWGP will serve as the coordinator for the High Schools in region 7. The existing clubs are in Neopit, Keshena and Oneida. We still need to form two more clubs this year.

I could make a promise to ya,
 but you gotta accept
 livin your life and dying one day,
 don't get mad
 I'm just bein honest to ya,
 it'll take my whole life,
 just to get a lil,
 being caught in the middle,
 Trying to answer to lifes riddles,
 it never came that easy,
 Bein at war my whole life,
 sleepless nights
 endless fights
 But still can't walk to the light,
 cuz my duty aint finished on earth
 for what it's worth,
 From crawling to walking, I call abstinence first...



Roland Christjohn
 9th grade WAIY Club member

Ten Principles of MOTHER-INFANT BONDING TO CHANGE THE WORLD

James W. Prescott, Ph.D.
 April 1989

1. Every pregnancy is a wanted pregnancy. Every child is a wanted child.
2. Every pregnancy has proper nutrition and prenatal care.
3. Natural birthing - Mother controls birthing position with *no separation of newborn from mother.*
4. No genital mutilation.
5. Breastfeeding on demand for at least 2 years.
6. Intimate body contact is maintained between mother and newborn.
7. Immediate comforting is given to infants and children who are crying.
8. Infants and children are for hugging and should never be physically hit for any reason.
9. Infants and children are honored and should never be humiliated nor emotionally abused for any reason.
10. Mothers must be honored and not replaced by institutional care.

Home Birth News

Congratulations this issue go to:
 Nevin and Janette Landis, Baby boy
 April VanVeghel and Mike Raxter, Baby girl
 Ronald and Lillian Martin, Baby boy

Indigenous Birthworkers Network (IBN)

Midwives, Alice Skenandore and Bev Scow are working to create an **Indigenous Birthworkers Network**. If you help other women in their childbearing time, **write, call or come and see us** about working together on this important venture. Our goal is to create a connection between women helping women across the Americas. We want to make it possible for them to access helpful advice and to call upon each other for encouragement and expertise when problem arise. We also want to develop a conference of Indigenous Birthworkers, where we can share native traditions and values around the issue of childbirth, breastfeeding and newborn parenting.

Green Bay Area Midwives, Apprentices, Doulae & other Birthworkers meets at WWGP the third Saturday monthly @ 1:00 to 2:30 pm.



Above—Young reporter from Native American Journalists Assn. Visits WWGP to learn about IBN.

Below—Two Wisconsin midwives share a laugh at the training conference in Cashton

If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"? (Answer on page 4)

True 2 Life gives inspiration to NE Wisconsin youth...

Six young people from around the state came together to give a presentation on the subject of Abstinence. WWGP asked for them to come and talk with our C-BAC youth because they have spent the entire year traveling all over Wisconsin telling students about their personal reasons for making the choice to remain abstinent. They are engaged by the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin to perform a year long public speaking tour promoting abstinence.

Abbey says, "There are a lot of reasons to be abstinent, and I'm passionate about a lot of them, but one of my own personal reasons for not having sex till I'm married is that I just plain don't want to get sick. **Camille** told us that, "As a teenage mother, it's difficult to live life to the fullest, going to college full time and be a parent full time. My stress level is extreme. I feel it is my duty to tell my peers that *it can happen*, but they can prevent it. I am abstinent because I do not want more stress. **London** said, "I have a lot of younger cousins that look up to me and if I am setting the right example, they will more likely follow in my footsteps. **Peter** told us, "I am abstinent because of my personal beliefs in God. I believe that sex is something very personal, and should only be shared by people who are married. When taken out of marriage, sex is meaningless." **Rosanna** stated, "A few moments of pleasure can affect a person for a lifetime. They can never forget what happened no matter how hard they try." **Nicole** said her reasons for being abstinent were, "based on personal experience with the emotional consequences of sex before marriage. I made the decision to become abstinent because I know not having sex will prevent me from getting an STD, a pregnancy or suffering more of the emotional consequences. I also wanted to provide support for teens that have had sex, and let them know that you can always make the decision to start over."

In addition to the words of wisdom these young people shared, they engaged their audiences (and they presented to five different audiences in that day), with humor, and clever wit, calling upon the students to take part in their presentation. During their appearance, they invited two from the audience, a boy and a girl to help them demonstrate how much you lose when you give you most special possessions away to someone who is not going to be with you forever. Together they created a poignant moment for everyone.

Answer: One thousand.



Abbey, Rosanna and Camille, three of the True 2 Life Youth Speakers who came to Neopit, Oneida and Green Bay to talk to our youth about the choice to be Abstinent until marriage.

Nicole, London and Camille talk to the classroom of students. →

Peter, London, Camille & Nicole tell it like it is. ↓



True 2 Life had no trouble keeping their audience interested. ↓



WWGP knows how to party!



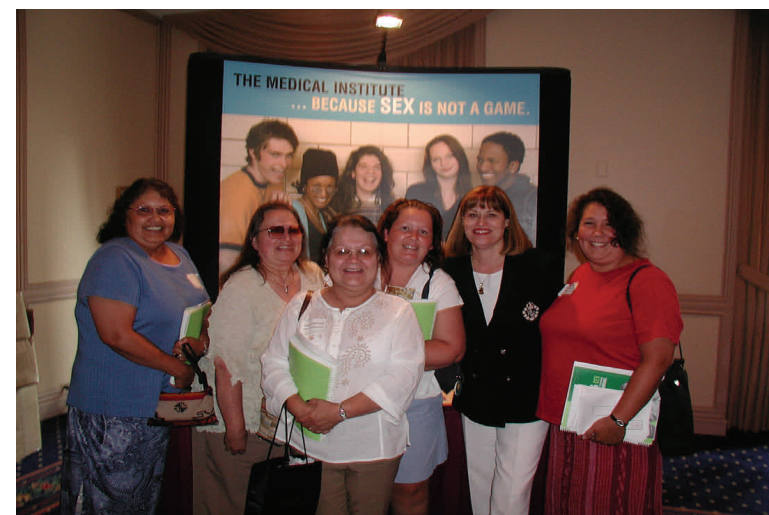
Above, The Summers men and the Skenandore men accompany the Pairadocs Band in song. Of course, the girls got into the act. ↓



Alice's Desk, Cont... especially useful for educating children and youth about the impact of teen pregnancy and parenting.

It was the goal of Annie Miller, Director of Wisconsin Abstinence Initiative for Youth, to bring this presentation to these communities as an inspirational backdrop for delivering the message of abstinence to people. Informational materials on abstinence were given to visitors by community volunteers.

Next big event was the coming of Miss America, 2003, Erika Harold. She made a lasting impression on our students, helping them to look into the future with hope and determination for their own positive goals.



←WWGP staff, **Marlene Summers, Alice Skenandore, Joyce Johnson, Melanie White and Beverly Scow** had a great time this fall, learning more information about abstinence at the Medical Institute Conference in Chicago, Illinois. We had the good fortune to take our picture with **Leslie Unruh**, who is a pioneer in the field of abstinence education, having developed the Abstinence Clearing House.

You are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed.
Frederick Douglass (1817-1895) Abolitionist

1st Annual National SisterSong Reproductive Health & Sexual Rights Conference
Atlanta, GA, November, 2003

WWGP's Director, Alice Skenandore, attended this conference as a presenter and panel member. WWGP's presented as a panel member on the subjects of Abstinence education, Traditional Midwifery & Breastfeeding and announced to an audience of over 600 women of color from across the nation the formation of the Indigenous Birth Network (IBN). IBN will address the important need for Indigenous peoples to reclaim their traditional birthing practices, as a way of returning to family and community values and connectedness.

Alice, who was featured on the front page of the "Collective Voices" Conference newsletter, produced by Sararesa Begay, is quoted, "I am glad to come to the SisterSong conference this year, because I believe that this is a forum for people who have diverse views to discuss the issues of reproductive health choices and rights." "It has been a great sorrow to me that other reproductive health rights such as home birth, breast-feeding, midwifery and abstinence have traditionally been ignored by the mainstream women's reproductive rights movements in the past.."



C-BAC after-school club student enjoys a pensive rest after working hard to create greeting cards to be sent to the elderly at the community nursing home. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺