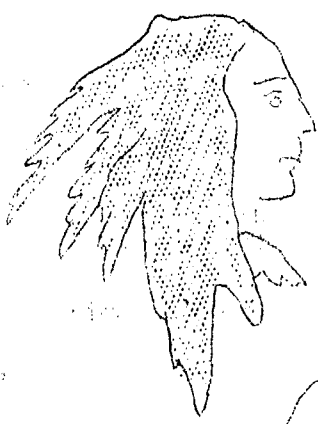
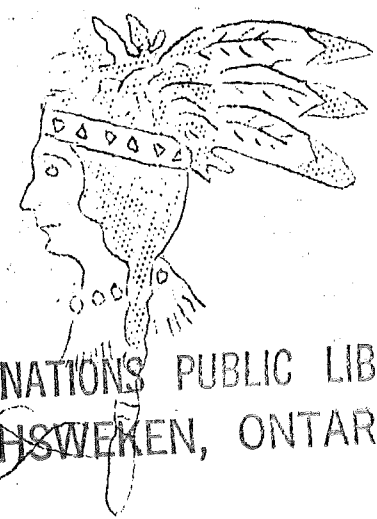


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SIX NATIONS NEWS

Integration, Indian Student, Don't Mix
Sudbury:

Frustrated young Indian students, who do all the integrating at integrated schools, are dropping out, a teach-in at Cambrian College was told Saturday, March 21st. Walter Currie, an Indian who is assistant superintendent of supervision for the Ontario department of education, said too often the integration policy tells an Indian child that he will become a "brown-skinned white man." He told the teach-in that only half of the Indians in Ontario go farther than grade 8 and that the national rate is even lower - one in eight. "Statistics like this say there is something wrong," said Mr. Currie. "Integration can only be successful if it is a two-way street." As a further example of Indian education, he said that of 400 Indian students in Kent County, surrounding Chatham, only one is in Grade 13. He said schools in the county have been integrated for 20 years. Mr. Currie told the teach-in, sponsored by the Ontario Union of Indians, the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, the Nickel Belt Indian Club and the federal citizenship branch, that although teachers may be dedicated, often they do not understand the needs of the Indian community. He said that is why Trent University at Peterborough is starting a five-week credit course for teachers who will have Indian students. The course will teach fundamentals of the Cree and Ojibwa cultures, curriculum adaptation, teacher self-questioning and English as a second language. Mr. Currie said young Indians must face false stereotyping of their race. Their white schoolmates are disappointed that Indians are not the war-painted, feathered savages they see losing battles on television, he said. Indians sometimes win on TV these days "but only because the Cartwright (Bonanza) family is on our side. . . We're losing in a more subtle way." Meanwhile, adult whites think of an Indian as a dirty, lazy person who drinks too much, lives on welfare and has too many children. Unfortunately, he said, most Indians do not know enough about their own history - - "we were not perfect or horrible, we were human beings." Indians should be taught their own tribal history, the cultures of other bands and their own language, he said. Of 400 children at Walpole Island south of Sarnia, not one speaks Ojibwa.
