

Lakota Every Day - Joseph Marshall - OSEU 3

It's interesting to me that we, today, separate what is Lakota culture from what our everyday life is. I mean, we're Lakota...we've adapted to what the realities are today. We live in square houses and drive cars...our clothing is different. Those things change. Cultures evolve. Who knows what we would have been like if we were allowed to evolve without being assimilated with the rest of the world. We would have chosen to...the convenience...to use phones and those things on our own if we had been given the opportunity. Today, I think...it's sad to me...I'm glad it happens...it's sad to me we set aside a certain few days to every year to be Indian...like the powwows...we put on our costumes and we watch the dancing and hear the songs. For our ancestors, it was a daily... every day...just a normal course of life...to be what they were. But that's what life is now. We're in the here and now. We're just as dependent on our cell phones as any other person in the world is. That' part of what life is...and we've adjusted. The physical aspects of culture...the obvious aspects of culture come up now and then. We are...we look like what we look like. Some of us are more native than others. We obviously are native. I've seen people driving down the road pulling a horse trailer with six horses in it...and then you see the people walking down the road with their backpack. And we're all native. We have to adjust to whatever our situation is in this contemporary lifestyle. I think deep inside, we can incorporate what our sense of self is...what we believe in...what our values are...every day...we don't just have to wait for powwow time, for example, to do that. We should do that every day. It should be a part of our lives.