

Smoke Signals Radio Archive Episode 1993-01-02
Segment 2
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Dan Smoke introduces a listening of Episode 13 of the Spirits of the Present series hosted by Tantoo Cardinal. This episode details the global fascination with Indigenous groups, including the use of Indigenous mascots for non-Indigenous sports teams.

Host(s): Dan Smoke

DAN SMOKE: Aanii! Shekoli! Yeah, that was **Robbie Robertson**, from his album entitled **Robbie Robertson**. We're going to introduce the **Spirits of the Present series** again now. This is going to be **Episode 13, The Indian in the Global Mind**. And this details the global fascination with **Indians**, which includes the use of **Indian mascots** for **non-Indian sports teams**. Now, this is quite an issue down in the **United States**, and it has surfaced up in **Canada** here because now people up here in Canada, **Native Peoples**, are starting to feel the effects of the demeaning actions that a lot of the **sports fans** have been perpetrating upon Native People. Especially when Native People are trying to change their image, when they're trying to heal. I mean, they're trying to heal from this low self-esteem. When you have whole stadiums of people doing the **tomahawk chop**, for example, and playing the stereotypical Indian music, it doesn't serve well for Native people, knowing that here we are trying to change our image as people who are proud; who contribute; who contributed land, medicines, our ways of life and spirituality to mainstream **North America**. And yet, they still denigrate us, our spirituality with this tomahawk chop and actions like that. So, I'm sure that we're going to hear a little bit about that in this episode of **Spirits of the Present**. And we'll have some more comments on this particular episode after we hear *Spirits of the Present*, hosted by **Tantoo Cardinal**.