

**Report on the Native American Protest and Demonstration
Which Occurred at CDF/CLFA Archaeological Training Course #43
On June 13, 1996 at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center
Ukiah, California**

by:

**Daniel G. Foster
Associate State Archaeologist
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**

June 25, 1996

At approximately 4:00 PM on Thursday June 13, 1996, a protest and demonstration occurred at Archaeological Training Course #43; a three-day course jointly sponsored by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and the California Licensed Foresters Association (CLFA). The incident described herein was witnessed by a total of 48 people. These include: 4 class instructors, 40 students, 3 uniformed policemen from the Ukiah Police Department, and the Manager/Security Officer for the Ukiah Valley Conference Center. A roster listing the names of individuals present is attached.

The incident occurred during the Artifact Recognition Workshop. The students were examining a series of prehistoric and historic artifacts displayed at 34 workshop stations on tables surrounding the large room, and completing the Artifact Recognition Quiz, a portion of the final exam for the course. Five local Native Americans walked into the classroom and headed for the podium and microphone. Since I am the organizer of the Training Course I approached them to find out what they wanted. Priscilla Hunter, the apparent leader of the group, said that they (the Indians) "were offended" by what was going on in the classroom and demanded to "make a statement." I asked them to step outside to discuss their complaint prior to interrupting the classroom proceedings but they refused to do this. They stepped up to the podium, took the microphone, and interrupted the class workshop to make their statement of protest. I notified Bruce Jenney, Manager and Security Officer for the Conference Center, that an unscheduled Indian demonstration was taking place and that CDF had lost control of the classroom to the demonstrators. Two minutes later Bruce arrived with three police officers from the Ukiah Police Department. I spoke to Mr. Jenney and the 3 policemen and asked them to wait outside and give the Indians a chance to air their grievances and leave peacefully. I also asked them to stay until it had ended if assistance was to be needed.

Priscilla Hunter did most of the speaking for the group. These were their complaints:

1. We were displaying items associated from human burials.
2. We were using real artifacts. We should use photographs instead of actual artifacts to help with recognition training.
3. We were not sensitive to their issues.
4. The archaeologists teaching this class only want to find the sites so they can dig them up.

5. Stay away from the sites, it is their history not ours.
6. We do not give them enough notice when a THP is prepared.

During the take-over of the classroom, Hawk Rosales announced that Foster had called the police to have the Indians arrested. Bruce Jenney stated that it was he, not Foster, who had called the police. The Indians stated that they were going to be arrested at least six times, as if they hoped that they would be. Following my suggestions, the police didn't arrest them and the incident ended peacefully at approximately 4:30 PM.

Prior to their departure, Foster asked the Native Americans if they would be willing to take questions from the students. They agreed. One student (Ted Silberstein) told them that this class focused on teaching foresters to recognize archeological sites so they could be protected during logging operations and other forestry projects and asked why they objected to this type of instruction. Priscilla Hunter's reply was that Indian people are ignored in the THP review process and because CDF uses "burial-related" artifacts in the classroom exercises. Another student then asked them about the fact that state law requires local Indians to be notified prior to upcoming logging projects, but that local Indians often choose to not participate in the process of locating and protecting cultural sites. He further asked "Do you want the notification letters sent to you?" Their response was, "The law says you have to send us the letters," then the forester replied, "I know we have to but you never respond."

After thirty minutes, Dan Foster stated that we were on a schedule and asked the Native Americans if they would like to come back and continue the discussion in approximately one hour. They said that they too are on a schedule, so no, they would not come back. Then they left. I thanked Mr. Jenney for his assistance and he and the three policemen also left. I broke the class for five minutes and reported the incident to Ross Johnson at CDF Sacramento and Larry Myers of the Native American Heritage Commission. The class then resumed at 4:35 PM.

After the disruption had ended, we further discussed the takeover and the issues raised. The common sentiment among the foresters was that the Native Americans did not understand what we were doing by just observing a small portion of the training. If a representative had stayed, or attended any of the training beforehand then they would have been informed of our intentions and may not have been so offended.

The following answers to their complaints were part of the discussion which followed:

1. The items displayed at Station #31, thought by the Indians to be grave associated artifacts, are in fact all replicas made of plastic. Foster reported that the charmstones and other burial associated items recovered from site SOL-379 were replicated by *Millennium Plastic and Molding Company* at the request of Mary Gorden, a local Wintun Indian woman who was acting in the official capacity as the Most Likely Descendant of the Remains. None of the actual artifacts used in the classroom are from burials. The only burial-associated items on display are at Station #31 and all of these are plastic

replicas. The entire collection contained no burial artifacts. Foster asked the students to comment on the incident in their Class Evaluation Questionnaires, and to specifically address whether or not the replicated artifacts could or should be removed for future classes to avoid a recurring incident. With the exception of one dissenter, all students responded by saying that the collection should not be removed, that it was a valuable component of the instruction on site significance. Foster stated that he would review the matter with the Native American Heritage Commission to obtain their approval with the items used.

2. Not one person agreed that photographs would be as helpful as actual artifacts for the purposes of artifact recognition training. And, without recognition, they would not be able to protect the site.
3. Many times during the training we discussed the topic of sensitivity. If these Native Americans had attended the entire training class, they would have been aware of this. Robert McConnell, one of the students, is a Native American and he indicated that he was not offended by anything we said and agreed that the use of handling actual artifacts was an essential part of the training.
4. We are trying to teach the foresters how to recognize and protect sites. Archaeological excavation as a method to satisfy the law is presented as the last option.
5. When we come upon a site, we record it as part of the preservation process. We can't always stay away from sites.
6. We are trying to pass regulation stating that the tribes will be given ten days to respond to letters sent by foresters. This is common practice, though not regulation. In actuality, the Native Americans have more than 10 days to respond due to the actual length of the THP review process.
7. Foster stated that the Native American Heritage Commission has requested that CDF and CLFA revise the course agenda to include a Native American speaker in the program. CDF, CLFA and the Board of Forestry agreed to make the change. We plan to include a Native American speaker as part of the class cadre beginning with Class #44 to be held in Redding during September 1996. Foster expressed concern that the opportunity provided to make a positive contribution could be lost. In fact, if the session goes poorly as demonstrated in Ukiah, the effectiveness of the course could be undermined.

**Roster of Individuals Present
CDF/CLFA Archaeological Training Course #43
Ukiah, California
June 13, 1996**

Course Instructors (4)

Dan Foster, Linda Sandelin, Brian Dillon, and Francis Riddell

Students (40)

Andrew Armstrong, John Bartlett, Ron Brinkerhoff, Guido Ciardi, Lynn Compas, Joseph Culver, Rick Cunningham, Steve Daus, Daniel Dill, Rick Fielitz, Kendall Hepworth, Brian Hirt, Del Hoppis, Tracy Katelman, Scott Kowhler, Robert McConnell, Patrick McDaniel, Leon Manich, Dan Moine, Dale Morris, William Morrison, Frank Mulhair, Joseph Naras, Andrew Nash, Joseph Naya, Carrie Neubert, Angela Petersen, Roger Poff, Michael Powers, Ronald Recker, Ted Silberstein, Vern Simmons, Charles Stauff, Karen Steiner, Bill Stevens, Alex Straessle, Chris Town, Curtis Tyler, Ray Utterback, John Woolsey

Ukiah Police Department (3)

Officers Hoyle, Heitzkamp, and McCutcheon

Ukiah Valley Conference Center Staff (1)

Bruce Jenney, Manager/Security Officer

Native American Demonstrators (5)

Hawk Rosales, Priscilla Hunter, Raymond Billie, Valerie Stanley, Lonnie McKean

**BRIAN D. DILLON, Ph.D.
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST**

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June 19, 1996

Mr. Richard Wilson,
Director,
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA
94244-2460

Dear Director Wilson:

I would like to commend your Chief Archaeologist, Mr. Dan Foster, for his handling of the contretemps that developed last Thursday afternoon, June 13, during our CDF Archaeological Training Session for RPF's (No. 43) at the Ukiah Convention Center. As the most visible senior CDF representative in the room at the time, the figurative gun was very much being held to his head in front of our entire class of 40+ RPF's, the Convention Center staff, and Ukiah Police Officers present. Mr. Foster's coolness and "wait it out" approach did much to defuse what otherwise might have become an explosive situation, and one that could only have worked to the detriment of CDF's prestige in the public relations arena. Despite the taunts, confrontational misstatements of fact, and rudeness expressed to Mr. Foster and to all participants in our training session by the individuals who invaded our class, Dan maintained his attitude of reasonable restraint and reconciliation, doubtless at considerable cost to his own pride.

The goal of the radicals who invaded our class and disrupted it for some 20 minutes last Thursday was obviously to both publicly humiliate Mr. Foster and to embarrass CDF as an institution through precipitating their arrest in a public forum, then exploiting such an arrest for its sensational news value. Because of Mr. Foster's firm leadership and restraint, no one "rose to the bait" and the goal of the people who disrupted our class was not obtained. After the radicals, despite repeated and somewhat hopeful-sounding statements over the microphone they had appropriated that they were "about to be arrested", realized that they were not, in fact, going to be arrested, they left, presumably in search of better public relations opportunities at the expense of other groups or individuals.

CDF is fortunate in having Dan Foster as its Chief Archaeologist and first line of defence for situations such as last Thursday's. His exemplary tact and leadership turned what could have become a complete disaster into a learning experience that was educational for all participants in CDF Archaeological Training Course No. 43, myself included.

Sincerely,


Brian D. Dillon, Ph.D.
Consulting Archaeologist

cc: Ms. Hazel Jackson, CLFA
Mr. Robert Kerstiens, California State Board of Forestry