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Thursday, June 8, 2006
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Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum, Vallejo, California

## An Evening of Films: California Sacred Sites



Some of the books on display at Vallejo's Naval & Historical Museum

Highlight films previewed this evening:

**"Human Remains at UC-Berkeley"** Bay area TV news report w/Ann-Marie Sayers

#### "In the Light of Reverence"

Explores American culture's relationship to nature, features California Mount Shasta

#### "Shellmound"

Incredible background of Emeryville's Bay Street shopping mecca and what's buried underneath.

#### "The Snowbowl Effect"

See Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt change his mind about what's really sacred in Arizona.



Special thanks to our presenters:

John Williams Master of Ceremonies
Jim Brown Elem Colony Pomo
Mark LeBeau Pit River
Corrina Gould IPOC
Wounded Knee PeOcampo SSP & RIT

(707) 557-2140

### "Human Remains at UC Berkeley"

This bay area television news report originally aired on San Francisco's KTVU-channel 2 and includes an interview with Ann-Marie Sayers, direct descendent of the deceased native people whose remains are kept in storage at the University of California at Berkeley.

There are reportedly over 12,000 remains stored at UC-Berkeley, the second largest repository of native remains in the world (second only to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC).



Ten years in the making, **"In the Light of Reverence"** explores American culture's relationship to nature in three places considered sacred by native peoples: the Colorado Plateau in the Southwest, Mt. Shasta in California, and Devils Tower in Wyoming. Rich in minerals and timber and beloved by recreational users, these "holy lands" exert a spiritual gravity which pulls Native Americans into conflicts with mining companies, New Age practitioners, and rock climbers. Ironically, all sides see themselves as besieged. Their battles tell a new story of culture clashes in an ancient landscape.

"In the Light of Reverence" juxtaposes reflections of Hopi, Wintu and Lakota elders on the spiritual meaning of place with views of non-Indians who have their own ideas about how best to use the land. The film captures the spiritual yearning and materialistic frenzy of our time.

The DVD includes seven additional scenes, an extended interview with Lakota scholar Vine Deloria, Jr., a new, eleven-minute short film on Zuni Salt Lake and Quechan Indian Pass, and interviews with the filmmakers. In the Light of Reverence is narrated by Peter Coyote and Tantoo Cardinal.

The film premiered in San Francisco in 2001 at the Palace of Fine Arts, received Best Documentary Feature Award at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. It was nationally broadcast on the PBS series P.O.V. on August 14, 2001 and was seen by three million people.

### VALLEJO POW POW "Red Road to Wellness"

Saturday (11-10) & Sunday (11-6) -- July 22-23, 2006

Service Club Park (Waterfront) Mare Island Way, Vallejo, CA

Free Admission Information: (707) 557-2140

Vallejo Inter-Tribal Council

www.vallejointertribalcouncil.org

If you've ever been to Bay Street in Emeryville, California, you've experienced the shopping bonanza that includes Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret and the AMC movie theaters.

If you've been around awhile you may remember that the site where the mall is today – directly across from the Golden Gate – used to be a decrepit paint factory that leaked toxic waste into the bay.

What you may not realize is that people have been living – and dying – at that exact location for at least 3000 years. When construction crews began digging to build the foundation of the new complex in 1999, they encountered not only deadly combinations of lead and arsenic, but also a native burial ground whose enormous size astounded everyone – including the archaeologists. Hundreds of bodies were excavated in the process – some so saturated in toxic sludge that the ancient bones felt like rubber. Thousands of shoppers flock to the site with little or no knowledge of its history. The developers built a garden and interpretive center acknowledging the native past – but mention no burials at all.

**"Shellmound"** is the story of how one location has transformed from a center of pre-historic cultures to a commercial mecca for modern people. It examines the decisions made during the toxic cleanup, excavation, and construction through the eyes of the city of Emeryville, the developer, the archaeologists, and the native Californians who worked on the site.

### "The Snowbowl Effect"

The San Francisco Peaks stand high above the northern Arizona landscape, a forested refuge rising over 5,000 feet above the Colorado Plateau, south of the Grand Canyon and just north of Flagstaff. Since time immemorial the San Francisco Peaks have been held sacred by over 13 Native American tribes. These nations have revered "the peaks" as the home of their deities, a place to gather special herbs, a place of emergence and, for tribes like the Navajo and Hopi, this mountain is deeply rooted in essence of their ways of life.

In spite of strong tribal opposition, The San Francisco Peaks have endured a history of development. Although tribal leaders,



www.savethepeaks.org

environmentalists and then Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, successfully stopped mining activities in the late 1990s, struggles to protect the sacred mountain are not over. Today, the sacred mountain is part of public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes winter recreation in its mission by leasing out 777 acres of the mountain to the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Resort.

This documentary by Klee Benally explores the controversy surrounding the proposed ski resort expansion and snowmaking with wastewater on the San Francisco Peaks as Native American tribal officials and spiritual leaders, Forest Service officials, and concerned citizens discuss the issues: sacred lands protection, public health concerns associated with wastewater, economic misconceptions, threats to the environment, global warming and a small community caught in the conflict.

# shellmound a film by Andrés Cediel

### www.shellmoundthemovie.org





**"THE PROTECTION OF SACRED SITES"** Panel Discussion at Mills College February 4, 2006





California Sacred Sites: An Evening of Films -- June 8, 2006 (at left) Jim Brown, Elem Colony Pomo (below left) Mark LeBeau, Pit River (below) Francisco, Wounded Knee & Hal







Special thanks to Jim Kern and the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum for graciously hosting: "Onliferation Concerd Citered

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"Sacred Sites" program courtesy Bill Arena, (925) 878-1463 www.billarena.com