

Fig. 1: Indigenous Woman

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/spirited-reflection-national-day-of-awareness-for-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-and-girls>

THE INDIGENOUS WOMEN NETWORK AND THE STANDING ROCK MOVEMENT

- Anna Patterson and Lulu Fasold
- ART 291: Cultural Narratives and You
 - Professor Zeisler
 - April 11, 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTION #1

- What do you know about Indigenous people and the issues they face?

STATISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

- There are 574 federally recognized Native American tribes in The United States.
- "In 2017, there were approximately 574,313 American Indian and Alaska Native families." (<https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/demographics>)

STATISTICS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Issues facing Indigenous people:

- Lower life expectancy by 5.5 years
- Higher suicide rate by 2.5 percent
- Double homicide rate at 11.4 percent
- "84.3% of American Indian and Alaska Native women, or four in five, will experience violence in their lifetime. In addition, 56.1% of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experience sexual violence in their lifetime."
(<https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/demographics>)

CULTURE

Hair

- Typical hairstyles vary from tribe to tribe
- Most common: long braids (either two braids or one single braid)
- Flowing hairstyle (either with or without bangs)
- Plains and western tribes: spiritual value on their hair --> only cutting hair when mourning



Fig. 6 : Long braids
<http://www.native-languages.org/hair.htm>



Fig. 7: Flowing hairstyle
<http://www.native-languages.org/hair.htm>

CULTURE

Food

- Seasonality and locality
 - > vegetables: squash, pumpkin, kale and corn
 - > heritage grains: amaranth, quinoa and wild rice
- Food = more than nourishment
- Food as spirituality, physical wellness and connects them to the environment
- Indigenous women: important role for Indigenous food systems



Fig. 9: Indigenous foods

<https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/krnc/monthly-blog/celebrating-indigenous-foods-this-fall/>



Fig. 8: Indigenous women with traditional clothing
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indigenous-regalia-in-canada>

CULTURE

Clothing

- Today: traditional clothing for social and ceremonial occasions (some cultures: wear it every day)
- Regalia = traditional and often sacred clothing, accessories and artifacts worn or carried during various ceremonies
- Type and meaning varies on individual, culture and event

Fig. 12: Winona LaDuke

<https://cla.csulb.edu/winona-laduke-building-the-green-economy-indigenous-strategies-for-a-sustainable-future-2/>



WINONA LADUKE

- Native American activist, economist, environmentalist, and author.
- Advocates for Indigenous people to have control of their land, as well as preserve their land and culture.
- Member of Ojibwe (ow-jeeb-way tribe).
- Graduated from Harvard in 1982 with degree in rural economic development
- In 1989 she received her master's degree in community economic development from Antioch University

WINONA LADUKE

- Founded White Earth Land Recovery Project (WELRP), which seeks to buy back reservation land that has been purchased by non-native peoples to provide economic opportunity for Indigenous people
- For example:
 - Renewable energy (wind energy)
 - Sustainable farming
 - Encouraging the eating of traditional Indigenous foods that combat Type II Diabetes (major threat to the community)
- Served as running mate to Ralph Nader on green party ticket for both the 1996 and 2000 presidential elections.
- Time magazine named her one of the Fifty Leaders for the Future in 1994.
- Leader at the 2016 Dakota Access Pipeline protests (Standing Rock) -- protest that fought to protect water access/Indigenous lands in North Dakota.

INDIGENOUS WOMEN TODAY

- Socio-economic issues (effects of colonization)
 - Missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls
 - Abuse and violence
 - Lack of education, employment skills, opportunities, and income equity

Fig. 2: Sharice Davids
<https://tribalcollegejournal.org/sharice-davids-and-the-rise-of-the-native-electorate/>



Fig. 3: Sarah Eagle Heart
<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/assets-not-deficits-conversation-sarah-eagle-heart>



Fig. 4: LaDonna Harris
<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/entertainment/columns/brandy-mcdonnell/2017/07/20/native-american-activist-ladonna-harris-receive-guthrie-centers-annual-oklahoma-changing-world-prize/60586852007/>

INDIGENOUS WOMEN TODAY

- Sharice Davids
➔ First out LGBTQ Native American in U.S. Congress
- Sarah Eagle Heart
➔ Helps enacting social, environmental, and Indigenous justice ("Return to the Heart" foundation)
- LaDonna Harris
➔ First Native American woman to run for vice president; founder and president of "Americans for Indian Opportunity")



MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

- National Crime Information Center: 2016 -
-> 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women (only 116 logged cases)
- Red hand over mouth: symbol of "Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women" (MMIW)
 - missing girls and women
 - silence of media and law enforcement
 - oppression of Native American women

#NoMoreStolenSisters

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Video: Protest "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWezHXHmjJA>

INDIGENOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS

- The biggest part of this narrative is the lack of information on the subject.
- Schools served to dismantle Native American religion, tradition, culture, language, etc.
- Consent was "required" but often Native American families were threatened to comply.
- The Civilization Fund Act of 1819 serves as the beginning formation of these schools.
- Food and medicine were used as tools of punishment which led to outbreaks of diseases.
- "In 1899, a measles epidemic spread through the Phoenix Indian School, experiencing rates as high as 325 cases of measles in addition to 60 cases of pneumonia, and 9 student deaths within 10 days."
(<https://www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/us-residential-schools>)
- Many children were buried in unmarked graves.
- The remains of around 751 predominantly Indigenous children were discovered at former Indian school in Saskatchewan.

CIVILIZATION FUND ACT OF 1819

- "The act was, in effect, an effort to stamp out America's original cultural identity and replace it with one that Europeans had . . ." (<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/03/failed-assimilation-native-american-boarding-schools/584017/>) and "eradicate Indigenous culture." (<https://www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/us-residential-schools>)
- Through education, government wanted to re-educate native peoples into the "correct" way of life.
- Schools operated by both government officials and Christian missionaries.
- Christian missionaries were hired to help children, "adopt white styles of dress, housing, and farming" (<https://nativephilanthropy.candid.org/events/u-s-pays-missionaries-to-civilize-native-americans/>)
- In reality, goes against Biblical teaching.
- "They were a means by which the government was trying to destroy tribes by destroying families. This is partly why education is such a tricky thing for Native people today." - Treuer

CIVILIZATION ACT OF 1819

- “Education was something that was done *to* us, not something that was provided *for* us.” -Treuer
- Overthrown by Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- ICWA helped to stop forceable removal of Native children by government.

INDIGENOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS

- First on-reservation boarding school established in Washington in 1860 by Bureau of Indian Affairs and was called Yakima Indian Reservation.
- First off-reservation school was the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania in 1879.
- "Kill the Indian in him, and save the man." - William Henry Pratt (Headmaster of Carlisle Indian School) (speech in 1892)
- Quote gives the notion that Indian culture is not even considered human.
- White Earth Reservation school closed in 1969 (Also happening: Beatles last concert, premiere of Brady Bunch, Neil Armstrong is first man to walk on moon.)

INDIGENOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS

List:

- Given new Anglo-American names
- Hair cut/fashioned to European standards
- Bathed (kerosene)
- New clothes
- Males: taught trade
- Females: sewing, house management, and cooking.
- Taught new language, no native language allowed.
- Question: How would this experience feel?

Fig. 16: Tom Torlino before
https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/student_files/tom-torlino-student-file



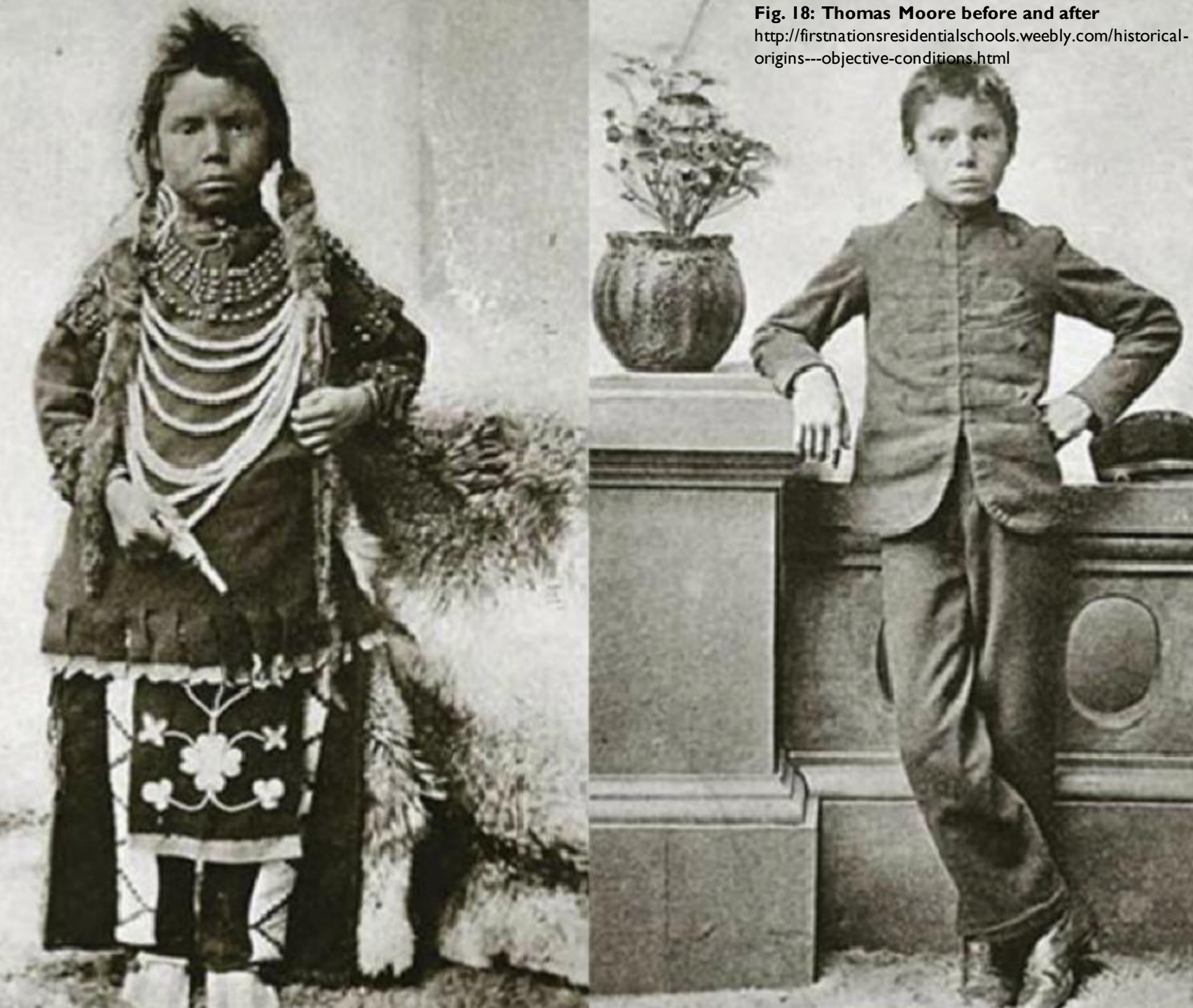
- BEFORE: TOM TORLINO AT CARLISLE SCHOOL

Fig. 17: Tom Torlino after
<https://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/images/tom-torlino-1885-after>



- After: Tom Torlino at Carlisle School

Fig. 18: Thomas Moore before and after
<http://firstnationsresidentialschools.weebly.com/historical-origins---objective-conditions.html>



BEFORE AND
AFTER: THOMAS
MOORE AT
REGINA INDIAN
INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOL

Fig. 10: Native American women farming in 19th century
<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/native-american-women-farming-1835-granger.html>



INDIGENOUS WOMEN AT THE WORKPLACE

- Underrepresentation of Native Americans in workforce
 - 2013-2019: Native Americans experienced 2x less growth than other minority groups --> no sense of belonging in workplace
- Women's role of work today vs. back then
 - **history**: huge importance (owned family's housing and household goods, engaged in agricultural food production, reared children) --> essential political, social and economic power
 - **today**: barely political, social and economic power; discrimination at the workplace

INDIGENOUS WOMEN AT THE WORKPLACE

Fig. 11: Indigenous women at work
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/23/deb-haaland-native-american-women-pay-gap-even-bigger-heres-a-way-to-fix-it.html>

- Huge pay gap
 - ✓ Native American women are paid about \$0.60 for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men
 - ✓ Missed opportunities: buy a house, invest in higher education, pay for children's education
- 0.5% are front-line workers (0.3% of overall workforce) (providing essential services)
 - > majority of jobs in low-paying industries
 - ✓ Example: personal care aid and nursing assistant roles --> median salary of Native American women: \$11.54 per hour; median salary of White men: \$14.42 per hour



INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S NETWORK

Indigenous Women's Network (IWN)

- Formed by: Winona LaDuke & Janet McCloud
- Formed in: 1985 in Yelm, Washington
- What it does: promote and support self-determination for Indigenous women

INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S NETWORK

Main Beliefs:

1. Women should not have to trade their ecosystem for running water, basic housing, and basic human rights
2. Development projects often replicate patriarchy and sexism; by denying basic land and equal pay, Indigenous women are moved from central role in their society to refugee status
3. Existence and inherent property rights of Indigenous people is denied; they are called "primitive", and their medical knowledge and plants are stolen by transnational and international agencies
4. Basic rights to control Indigenous women's bodies are impacted through development policies → e.g. forced sterilization leads to not having the ability to control the size of their families safely and willingly; tourism commodifies their bodies and cultures

STANDING ROCK MOVEMENT

- Also known as "Dakota Access Pipeline protests"
- In 2016, the 1,200 mile long Dakota Access Pipeline was set for construction for the cost of \$3.8 billion.
- Tribal view: "the Dakota Access Pipeline violates Article II of the Fort Laramie Treaty, which guarantees the 'undisturbed use and occupation' of reservation lands surrounding the proposed location of the pipeline."
(<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/plains-treaties/dapl>)
- Tribe's concerns: water contamination if pipeline leaked & damage to sacred burial sites due to construction.
- Missouri River/Lake Oahe (231-mile reservoir along Missouri River) is only water supply for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.
- It gets contaminated from oil spill = no water supply for tribe.
- In essence, this movement is a defense of water rights.
- Tribe called for environmental review



Fig. 13: Protest against Dakota Access Pipeline in October 2016
<https://www.indianz.com/News/2016/12/07/tiffany-midge-dont-shame-the-standing-ro.asp>

STANDING ROCK MOVEMENT

- On January 24th of 2017, President Trump used his executive action to continue construction and allowed for no environmental review.
- Construction disrupted sacred burial sites.
- Tribe sued U.S Army Corps of Engineers.
- Currently: U.S Army Corps of Engineers will find alternate route. Water source is safe from Presidential decisions because would need to get through Congress.
- Law enforcement violently tried to remove protesters with automatic rifles, water cannons, tear gas, etc. Gov. Of ND evacuated protesters from site citing "harsh winter weather conditions".
- Positive note: Over 100 tribes protested with the Sioux to show their support.



Fig. 14: Native Americans marching to a burial ground sacred site
<https://www.vox.com/2016/9/9/12862958/dakota-access-pipeline-fight>

STANDING ROCK MOVEMENT: ROLE OF WOMEN

Women as...

- spiritual leaders
- leaders of prayer circles
- the ones who maintain peace and nonviolence

Fig. 15 : Indigenous Women at Standing Rock
<https://sites.evergreen.edu/ccc/energy-domestic/standing-rock/page-for-randol/#:~:text=At%20Standing%20Rock%20the%20women,to%20be%20built%20and%20put>



VIDEO STANDING ROCK MOVEMENT

Video: Standing Rock Movement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5YAD0Us4N4>

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

First step: Personal	Second step: Organizations
Help remove stereotypes	The Boa Foundation
Educate yourself on the intentional elimination of Native peoples	Indian Law Resource Center
Learn about the Native people of your land	Native American Rights Fund
Support Indigenous businesses	Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples

DISCUSSION QUESTION #2

- After this presentation, what stood out to you most?

REFERENCES

- Cesena, Nancy (2021, November 16). *Native American Employees & Belonging in the workplace*. Great Place to Work. <https://www.greatplacetowork.com/resources/blog/indigenous-peoples-un-thanksgiving-post-by-nancy>
- Connley, Courtney (2020, October 1). *Nearly 3 in 10 Native American women work a front-line job, but they're far from receiving equal pay*. CNBC. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/10/01/native-american-women-are-still-far-from-receiving-equal-pay.html>
- Ellevest Team (2020, November 13). *8 Native American Woman Leaders, Founders, and Fighters*. Ellevest. <https://www.ellevest.com/magazine/disrupt-money/native-american-women>
- Martin, Amy (2021, March). *Women Discuss The Power of Indigenous Foodways in James Beard Panel*. Foodtank. <https://foodtank.com/news/2021/03/women-discuss-the-power-of-indigenous-foodways-in-james-beard-panel/>
- Mejia, Melissa. *The U.S. history of Native American Boarding Schools*. The Indigenous Foundation. <https://www.theindigenousfoundation.org/articles/us-residential-schools>
- McKibben, Bill (2016, September 6). *A Pipeline Fight and America's Dark Past*. The New Yorker. <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/plains-treaties/dapl>
- McNab, Miriam (2006, February 7). *Indigenous Women's Issues in Canada*. The Canadian Encyclopedia. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/native-womens-issues>
- Miller, Ryan W (2016, December 2nd). *How the Dakota Access Pipeline Battle Unfolded*. USA Today. <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/plains-treaties/dapl>
- *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women*. Native Hope. <https://www.nativehope.org/en-us/understanding-the-issue-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women>

REFERENCES

- *Native American Hairstyles*. Native Languages. <http://www.native-languages.org/hair.htm>
- NBC News. (2016, November 9). *Dakota Access Pipeline Protesters: The World Needed To See What Was Going On*. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5YAD0Us4N4>
- Randol, Liz (2016). *Women's Leadership at Standing Rock, Linking Up with other Indigenous Movements*. Evergreen. <https://sites.evergreen.edu/ccf/energy-domestic/standing-rock/page-for-randol/#:~:text=At%20Standing%20Rock%20the%20women,to%20be%20built%20and%20put>
- Robinson, Amanda (2018, June 25). *Indigenous Regalia in Canada*. The Canadian Encyclopedia. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indigenous-regalia-in-canada>
- *U.S Pays Missionaries to "civilize" American Indians*. Investing in Native Communities. <https://nativephilanthropy.candid.org/events/u-s-pays-missionaries-to-civilize-native-americans/>
- Virnich, Violet (2020, November). *Celebrating Indigenous Foods this Fall*. Colorado State University. <https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/krnc/monthly-blog/celebrating-indigenous-foods-this-fall/>
- (1995, August 31). *The Indigenous Women's Network: Our Future , Our Responsibility*. Ratical Earth Journal. <https://ratical.org/co-globalize/WinonaLaDuke/Beijing95.pdf>
- (2020, June 1). *Indian Country Demographics*. National Congress of American Indians. <https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes/demographics>
- Wong, Alia (2019, March 5). *The Schools That Tried—But Failed—to Make Native Americans Obsolete*. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2019/03/failed-assimilation-native-american-boarding-schools/584017/>

QUESTIONS?

