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about Western educational thought. He then could have used this explication as a sounding board to build understanding of educational practices—both modern and traditional—around the world. Finally, I have concerns that while Reagan argues for the inclusion of Islamic educational thought and practice, I question its relevance to non-Western cultural studies. Fundamentally, Islam is one of the important religious foundations in Western educational thought and practice. Despite these concerns, this book is recommended to those interested in a broad, general, cross-sectional perspective of traditional non-Western educational philosophies and beliefs.

Manley Begay
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The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test. By D. L. Birchfield. Greenfield Center, NY: The Greenfield Review Press, 1998. 184 pages. \$14.95 paper.

American Indian writers, both published and unpublished, have long complained that editorial expectations and Euramerican literary demands force compositional concessions that are inappropriate for American Indian writers. Such concessions often negate an American Indian work's spiritual and intellectual integrity. Finally, a breakthrough. *The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test* conforms not to Euramerican literary requirements, but to Choctaw literary principles, and it succeeds beautifully. That Birchfield's work was actually published represents a breakthrough for American Indian writers. Of course, the volume's release by a press dedicated to promoting American Indian works—not a mainstream press—is not surprising. The book has neither plot nor character development, neither climax nor denouement; it is too casual for a scholarly piece and too scholarly for the general reading public; its thematic line is difficult to follow and harder to contextualize. After all, what does Larry McMurtry have to do with Bud Wilkinson and an anthropomorphic catfish? Why should Chuck Norris cringe?

At first glance, Birchfield's *Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test* appears to be a collection of unrelated essays, fishing stories, hunting tales, poems, letters, histories, literary criticism, and social commentaries. The essays range from judgments regarding the superiority of the split T formation to Pushmataha to the Texas Rangers; from the particulars of the Treaty of Camp Holmes to concerns with the accuracy of America's foremost dictionaries to the Cross Timber. Despite the ostensible discontinuity, all the parts of this work are thematically related and structurally integrated into an American Indian literary composition. Nearly each chapter represents one essential part of an American Indian narrative work.

The book's controlling metaphor is trot-line fishing and a significant amount of Birchfield's text is given over to detailed accounts of his setting trot-lines in the Muddy Boggy River in southeastern Oklahoma. It is interesting to note that following the thematic line of this work is somewhat like running a trot-line on a dark night with a sorry lantern. Structurally and

metaphorically, the book is a storyteller's trot-line in that the thematic line of the book is hung with myriad hooks that connect to it, catching the reader's attention and fastening him to the work's major point in ways that are humorous, informative, confrontational, and incongruous.

Birchfield would have us believe that on his baited-only-with-perch, or his world class trot-lines, he caught a seven pound flathead, a fifteen-and-a-half-pound flathead, a thirty-four pound flathead, a five pound blue, and a two pound channel. Good eating, but a little too fishy, like his oxymoronic title pointing to what might be, but probably is not—in other words, Oklahoma basic intelligence, which translates to American basic intelligence in matters relating to American Indians.

Birchfield calls the *Intelligence Test* a Choctology, and it is. Among other things, the volume praises the longstanding and unwavering loyalty of the Choctaw Nation to the United States as it documents the duplicity of the United States in its treaty violations with that nation. *The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test's* major themes include the betrayals of the Choctaw people by the United States and the distortion of American Indian history both by advocacy journalism and by Euramerican scholars and writers.

The theoretical underpinnings of the text—literally Oklahoma basic intelligence—emerge figuratively as the disparity between fact and theory as it relates to Indian-U.S. affairs and to various writers who depict American Indian history in scholarly journals and popular fiction.

One of *The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test's* most interesting chapters, "Lonesome Duck, the Blueing of a Texas-American Myth," challenges both Larry McMurry's handling of an American Indian character in his Pulitzer Prize winning novel *Lonesome Dove* as well as the laudatory reputation of the Texas Rangers, a group from Texas who systematically exterminated American Indians. The main point of this particular chapter is that "one can learn something about a people by examining the men they admire" (p. 134). By informing the reading public of scholarly and fictional blunders—and more than a few Ranger-like episodes in American history—Birchfield contributes to the furtherance of a fuller, more substantial understanding of American Indian relations with the United States. One can only hope that an understanding of past wrongs will lead to a better future for American Indian peoples.

The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test takes an onerous task and makes it humorous. It is regrettable, but true, that some members of the dominant society often react negatively to corrections to previously held misconceptions concerning American Indians and the various military and real estate operations of the United States. *The Oklahoma Basic Intelligence Test* sets part of the record straight, and it does it in such a way that hardly anyone can take offense, except for a few possible Osages who are the recipients of an occasional quick jab or two just for old time's sake. My only criticism of the book is that it is not indexed; otherwise, it is highly informative and enjoyable reading.

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