

(DVR). *I am not biting the hand that feeds me. DVR and my counselor, Eric Stefik, knows that I am not stupid, but that I do qualify for this program.* The Vocational Rehabilitation program (as well as the society at large) seemingly works with linear thinking. It seems unable to imagine how learning can be achieved at many different levels (and therefore is not limited to textbooks, tests, and a system that only measures a persons worth by their grade point average).

"American Indians are disproportionately placed in special education and learning disabled programs" (O'Brien 1990, 15). A 1988 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) report noted that 11 percent of Indian sophomores in public and private schools were enrolled in special education programs, 36 percent were classified as having some form of handicap, and only 53 percent were termed "not handicapped." By comparison, only 9 percent of Blacks and 7 percent of Hispanics were in special education programs.

*My parents were told by school counselors that I was slow, retarded and had reading problems; they interpreted that to mean stupid. In high school I was not allowed to take college preparatory classes, because the counselors said I would never be able to go to college. I was told I was not college material and would never be able to keep up with the other students.*