



Photo © 2012 Gaelen Casey Photography

"I think his work hits on the irony Native People feel and express in humor. We have to, otherwise we cry about it. Humor has been a part of Native life that's kept us laughing while being chased by soldiers and everything else that's been done to us."

—Larry Cesspooch, Ute Indian filmmaker



Without Reservations The Cartoons of RICARDO CATÉ

**RICARDO CATÉ** has been drawing the daily cartoon *Without Reservations* for the *Santa Fe New Mexican* since 2006. His wry and often poignant humor pokes fun at both the white man and the Indian. Ricardo follows the ways of his Kewa Pueblo heritage and teaches on the reservation. He has three children and lives in the Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico.

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GIBBS SMITH

# Without Reservations

The Cartoons of RICARDO CATÉ



“How many times do American Indians see their portrayals in the mainstream media? Not many. And, conversely, how many times do we get to see ourselves portrayed in the mainstream media when we know we are being ‘poked fun at,’ by one of our own? Sadly, not very often, unless you are located in one of the media markets that publish Ricardo Caté’s, *Without Reservations*. Without sounding overly masochistic, here in Santa Fe we are lucky enough to see Ricardo’s daily reminders of life in Indian Country and can go about our day after having laughed mightily, snorted in disgust, or just shrugged our shoulders and said ‘huh?’ to one of his daily captioned scenes of Indian on Indian, or Indian on Whiteman, the reverse, or any combination thereof. Caté’s cartoons serve to remind us there is always a different point of view for any situation, such as being able to gauge a horse’s age by the number of teeth marks a horse can make on a cowboy’s butt after having bitten the boy, or everyday scenes of home life where Indian kids act just like their brethren of different races. *Without Reservations* is always thought-provoking whether it makes you laugh, smirk, or just enjoy the diversity of thought to be found in Indian Country.”

—Wes Studi,  
Cherokee actor

“Caté is a funny guy. This is to say, that the reality of Native America is both tragic and hilarious . . . this experience needs a satirist . . . Caté is our man. For those of us entrenched in the greatness and depth of our communities, we find that his heart- and gut-felt humor speaks to our minds, memories, and hearts.”

—Winona LaDuke, Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) activist,  
environmentalist, economist and writer



