A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. A MESSAGE TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY:

Dear Indian Community:

We would like to welcome and thank all the readers of our Indian Newsletter which is published monthly.

Since our last newsletter went to press, there have been some very interesting activities in our Nation, State, City and Reservations involving our Indian people. Through the efforts of the American Indian Center staff and Board of Directors, we shall keep you abreast of these ongoing activities as they occur on a monthly basis.

We hope through the formulation of our monthly publication, we have covered the Indian scene in our country as it exists. If anyone is interested in submitting articles, opinions or announcements, please contact your American Indian Center Newsletter Editor for consideration for publication for the Indian community.

We would like to encourage all subscribers to read the publication thoroughly and interpret this information coverage of our activities/services to your children and pass the news along to a friend. Your involvement is critical in the enhancement of the credibility and image of your American Indian Center. It is the goal of the Board of Directors and the staff to make the American Indian Center work for you.

INDIAN, RESEARCHERS MAY MEET

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A proposal submitted jointly to the National Science Foundation (NSF) by the National Indian Health Board and NSF nutrition resident Dr. Alan Ackerman has been given preliminary approval.

Submitted under NSF's Science for Citizens program, the proposal is to sponsor a conference for the purpose of bringing together scientists and researchers with interested Indians and Alaska Natives. The proposal grew out of a resolution adopted by NIHB last November which asserted that Indian people deserved to share much more in the knowledge accumulated from the immense amount of scientific research which has been done on them.

If approved, the conference would be planned for next year. A final decision is expected by late summer, according to Ackerman.
Economic power now has become the main goal of Indian activism throughout the nation.

LaDonna Harris, the Comanche activist whose Americans for Indian Opportunity organized the Billings conference, said: "We are trying to prove that you don't have to be an Indian."

But development-minded Indians face formidable obstacles, including proposals to take over their energy reserves by abolishing the reservations.

As the whites slip into a new mood of fiscal austerity, the Indians face a backlash that may be felt all the way from company boardrooms to the United States Supreme Court.

And the Indians have deep, historic divisions in their own ranks that prevent them from organizing an effective, united front.

Why can't the Indians get together and fight for their common cause? Among the reasons:

--There is a cultural gap between the 500,000 Indians living on or near reservations and the 300,000 urban Indians.

--There is tribal tradition. Many Indians think of themselves as tribal members first, as Indians second. It is virtually impossible to find an Indian who expects to see the emergence of a red Martin Luther King Jr. who would speak for all the Indians in America.

--Within most major tribes, government is radically democratic. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to steer tribal members as a group along a certain path.

(Cont'd next page)
---Conservative Indians are suspicious of tribal leaders who want to make deals with people who would rip open Mother Earth. To the conservatives, the cancer outbreak among Navajo uranium miners symbolizes the dangers of bringing white commerce to Indian country.

The term Indian Country, as used by the Indians, refers not only to scattered pockets of land but also to a state of mind.

There also is the white man's state of mind, which has swung this way and that through the years. Now, and ever more frequently, among whites a question is being raised:

Does the history of the white men's treatment of the Indian, in fact, demand a justice that penalizes 220 million taxpayers for the benefit of a minority which willfully has resisted the assimilative process that brought prosperity to other minorities which once were impoverished? (End)

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NEW YORKER GETS INDIANS' TRUST, HELP ON PLAY

(By Tim Morris, World-Herald Staff Writer)

At first, Indians on the Omaha Reservation didn't want to talk to Christopher Sergel when the New York playwright visited them over the weekend.

The Indians didn't know him and weren't sure whether to trust him. Sergel, who wrote last year's production of "Black Elk Speaks," told them he needed their help with a miracle: He must write a complete play on Standing Bear in five weeks.

"The stage (show) in the Orpheum Theatre is scheduled for Sept. 1," said the New York writer, working with Omaha's American Indian Center on the production, tentatively called "Footprints in Blood." The play will be part of an Indian cultural pow wow to coincide with Septemberfest.

TALES OF LEADER

Sergel was asking the Indians for any tales they know concerning the legendary leader of the Poncas, whose tribe was forced to leave its home near Ponca, Neb., and go to a reservation in Oklahoma, then was imprisoned for leaving the reservation and returning to Nebraska. Standing Bear's trial 100 years ago in Omaha put into law that an Indian is a person.

After an hour or two, the Indians relented, and began to share stories.

"I said, 'Don't tell me later that this play isn't true, because I need your guidance,'" Sergel said. "Now is the time to tell me what you know."

"With 'Black Elk Speaks' (based on the book by Nebraska poet laureate John Neihardt), I had years to research. Now, I have only these few weeks."

Sergel has stepped in to help Daizen Victoria, a Nebraska native who first began writing a play based on the Standing Bear trial, and American Indian Center Director Timothy E. Woodhull and project director Wayne Tyndall.

The New York playwright said he will construct the drama in shifting episodes and flashbacks, much like "Black Elk Speaks", perhaps using the character of the Indian woman Bright Eyes as narrator.

MARRIED NEWSPAPERMAN

Bright Eyes married Omaha newspaperman Thomas Tibbles, who took up Standing Bear's cause.

"I'm terrified because there's so little time, but there's so much rich and exciting material for a play," Sergel said. "It shows some wonderful Indian people and some very fine white people joining to fight an evil thing: The fact that Indians were outside the protection of the law."

The play, given a $5,500 grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities and still needing $35,000 for production, is overseen by a committee including University of Nebraska Professor Gordon Becker, Ann Cognard of the humanities committee, Nancy Duncan of the Omaha Junior Theatre and Mel Beckman of the Omaha Metro Area Peace Association.

Sergel said Bob Handy of Percival, Iowa, producer of "Black Elk Speaks," is also interested in "Footprints in Blood," a title taken from the many forced marches Indians (including Standing Bear and his people) made from their homelands to reservations during the 1800s.
NO MORE TOLLS

BRIDGE FREEING IS GOOD Omen

This World Herald Editorial appeared in the Evening Edition on Tuesday, April 24, 1979. The American Indian Center participated in this event.

Interstate highway traffic now flows freely, you might say, across the Missouri River in North Omaha.

The Mormon Bridge, built for around $3.4 million in 1953 with revenue bonds, has been paid off two years early, and the toll gate will now be dismantled.

The Mormon Bridge had been patched into the Interstate system, and eastbound traffic had to pay tolls until the bonds were retired.

The celebration marking the elimination of the toll gate Saturday was an impressive one. Bridge Manager Richard Collins put together a historic program which recalled the pact made between the Mormons on their trek westward in the 1840s with the Omaha Indians.

The Omaha Indians gave the Mormon permission to camp in Florence, a site which now holds deep significance to those of the Mormon faith.

Mormon President Spencer Kimball came to the bridge-freeing ceremonies from Salt Lake City. Also on the program was a descendant of Standing Elk, the Indian chief of the Omahas who gave the free passage pledge to the Mormon band.

It was significant that President Kimball made a symbolic payment of the last toll near the point where his grandfather, Heber Kimball, led the Utah-bound Mormons across the Missouri.

The ordeal of those Mormons is well known in the Omaha area and within the Mormon Church.

The Mormon Cemetery stands as a reminder of that struggle for survival.

Passage across the river is now completely free. Perhaps there is a good omen here -- that mankind can now follow that trail to a future of peace and understanding and tolerance between those of differing religious beliefs and cultures and backgrounds.

SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Students belonging to American Indians United (A.I.U.) at UNO will hold an Art Exhibit consisting of paintings, drawings, beadwork, shawls, and jewelry. The goal for this action is to make the community aware of the beautiful heritage found in Native American Art in its many forms.

It will be held at the UNO Milo Bail Student Center, Nebraska Dining room (southside of the building) on May 3, 1979, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Display tables will be provided for artists who bring their artwork. For those selling items, A.I.U. will require 5% going to them. Anyone interested in participating in this grand event, please call John Pappan at 453-8228 during working hours.

American Indians United at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, UNO, and Title IV Indian Education Program, of Omaha Public Schools, will hold its annual NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL DAY celebration on Sunday, May 6, 1979, from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the North Branch YMCA, 2311 North 22nd Street, Omaha Nebraska. The schedule runs as follows:

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Handgame
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Meal
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - War Dance

They remind everyone to bring along their own chairs and dishes. Also everyone is invited to attend the event.

UNO in cooperation with American Indians United will hold a special event on May 4, 1979. Ms. Rosalie Jones, a Native American dramatist and writer. This exciting event is made possible through a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Committee for the Humanities. (Cont’d page 5)
"It is our hope that you will be able to join us for either or both programs on May 4," said Rev. Victor Schoonover. A lecture-discussion will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Milo Bail Student Center, room 315 on the campus at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In the evening, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Ms. Jones and Mr. Gibbs at the University Theatre, in the Administration Bldg. on campus. Through events such as this we hope to promote a better communication and appreciation of Native American culture.

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THESE POSITIONS ARE PRESENTLY OPEN AND APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED:

URBAN NATIVE AMERICAN ALCOHOLISM CENTER

HALFWAY HOUSE WEEKEND MANAGER
WEEKDAY COOK
HEAD COUNSELOR
ALCOHOLISM DIRECTOR

PRODUCER "Standing Bear Production"
RESEARCH ASSISTING
MEDIA SPECIALIST
SECRETARY (ADMIN.)

NUTRITION COUNSELOR A.I.C.
HEALTH EDUCATOR

REMINDER,........TO CLIENTS,

EMERGENCY ENERGY CRISIS PROGRAM

Those of you who have not been in to take advantage of this service are encouraged to come to the office this month. May is the last month we can provide these services.

The American Indian Center currently has available certain funds for those persons/families who are unable to pay utility bills and have been threatened by cut-off notices. Other items available are food, emergency rent payment, clothing, bedding and in some cases emergency medication bills. To qualify you must meet the poverty guidelines as established. If you think you may be eligible, call 344-0111 and ask for Linda Azuogu. She will make you an appointment. Other verification and documents which you will need to provide are:

---A social security card
---A rent receipt
---A 1978 W-2 form
---Rent pay stubs from 1/1/79
---Delinquent or cutoff notices (Persons collecting other public assistance, such as SSI, ADC, Social Security etc., should bring proof of these sources of income.)

Again, pass the word to others who may qualify.

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BOWLING TOURNAMENT

The 3rd Annual All Indian Bowling Tournament will be held Saturday thru Sunday, May 26-27, 1979, at Harmony Lanes on Hwy. 77 South, South Sioux City, Neb. 68776. Entry fee is $8.00 per person per event. There will be double and single events. For further information, contact Mr. Gene DeCora, P.O. Box 613 Winnebago, Neb. 68071.

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RECREATION DIRECTOR'S NEWS

BY FILLMORE WALKER JR.

About fifty kids enjoyed the shut in matinee performance of the Shrine Circus held on April 17. Larry Conger, Carolyn Williams, Morgan Lovejoy and Fred LeRoy from the American Indian Center chaperoned the event.

The American Indian Center sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 15. About 200 youth participated and the hunt was covered by KETV Channel 7.

The youth softball teams were scheduled to begin practice on Friday, April 27. We will have three teams, boys 12 and under, boys 13-18. And girls 13-18. They will begin league play in the second week of May. We have also worked out an agreement with the Omaha Royals baseball organization which will enable us to take the members of the softball teams to some of their home games this season. For more information, contact Fill Walker at 344-0111.

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SOCIAL SERVICES
By Lawrence Conger

The American Indian Center is a non-profit, tax-exempt social service organization committed to equal opportunity for American Indians. Priority is placed on easing the transition from rural or reservation life to the more complex, often overwhelming urban environment.

The Center provides direct services whenever they are not being adequately provided by other public or private agencies. Information is provided, and referrals made, to a wide variety of health, education, employment agencies and institutions.

As the recognized spokesman for American Indians in Eastern Nebraska it promotes, initiates and coordinates needed services for Native Americans.

Current Services
a. Transportation
b. Bus Tickets
c. Clothing donated to the Center
d. Referrals for free/low-cost clothing and furniture, as needed
e. Emergency Housing: Provision is made for short-term housing.
f. Emergency Financial Needs: small cash grants and referrals to other appropriate agencies and churches are made for financial needs such as "utility cut-offs", illness, death, or other family financial emergencies. Payment of gas bills, electrical bills, food, clothing is now available to those who qualify under the guidelines. Come in to see if you qualify.

Needs
The Center needs cash donations, canned food and clothing donations.

New Horizons
We are working with local business and industry, elected officials, church groups, and other agencies to develop new programs to meet the human service and cultural needs of over 4,200 Native Americans in the Omaha metro area.

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AMERICAN INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES
By Diane Webb, Attorney

The Legal Service Department of the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., is again publishing tips of law for those who want help in obtaining their rights under the law. Please call the Legal Services Dept. for any advice or service. Call 344-0111 and make an appointment.

LANDLORD/TENANT
SELF HELP EVICTIONS

Did you know that your Landlord CANNOT:
1) Padlock you door (lock you out)
2) Throw your property out or put it on the street.
3) Cut off your water, lights, or gas.

UNLESS:
He first goes through the COURT eviction process and gets a COURT order to set you out! You cannot legally be set out unless an officer of the court comes to your home.

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HEALTH HELP
May 23, 1979
1:30-4:30 p.m.

FREE DIABETES and BLOOD PRESSURE TESTS
At the American Indian Center
613 South 16th Street. For more info. call 344-0111.

Sponsored by: Nebraska Diabetes Association
FRIENDSHIP FORCE FLIGHT #1

Eight (8) Native Americans from Omaha and surrounding area have been invited to travel to Costa Rica on June 5 and return on June 13.

Each individual must pay a minimum of $50.00 and then finance the balance over a maximum of twelve monthly payments thru the United National Bank of Omaha. The total cost is $288.00.

Native Americans who join this group will be Ambassadors of Good Will and will entertain the country of Costa Rica by performing Indian dancing and singing. At all times they must conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. Contact the American Indian Center if you are interested in this fine opportunity to travel.

A FIRST FOR NATE

Nathan Merrick, an Omaha Indian, was appointed the first policeman for Oklahoma's Indian Country at the Concho and Shawnee Agencies. (Tulsa Indian News).

STANDING BEAR VICTORY CELEBRATION
SATURDAY MAY 12.

This historic event will take place at STANDING BEAR LAKE at 11 A.M.*, Site 16, at 136th and Fort Street. Come join us to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the legal victory of Ponca Chief, Standing Bear and all Indians. Help us consecrate the newly developed lake in his honor. Children are invited to participate in the ceremony in traditional costume, if possible. A potluck dinner follows. Bring a food item.

*The official Omaha City dedication ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. The Indian Center-sponsored celebration ceremony will follow at 12 noon. The Urban Indian Cultural Club of Omaha will coordinate traditional dancing and singing for the afternoon festivities.

CONSUMER TIPS OF THE MONTH
By Linda C. Azuogu

---There are three general ways to avoid unwanted extra weight: 1) eat small helpings than usual, 2) select protein-rich foods and others that contain essential nutrients, instead of "Junk Foods" such as high-calorie sweets and high-fat snacks, and 3) get some exercise everyday, even if it's a brisk 15-minute walk.

---Help cut down on the cost of food by planting a garden. There publications and information on the many aspects available (free) at your local Cooperative Extension Service.

---Look for clothes "off season." Winter coats and sweaters are least expensive in January, bathing suits and T-shirts in August.

---Do your apartment hunting during the summer or winter. Spring and fall prices are usually higher and competition is fierce!

ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM REPORT
By Alcoholism Staff

The Urban Native American Alcoholism Project has gone through different phases of training as there are different stages of training which are required of the counselors. The areas that have been achieved since the beginning of the program are: Interviewing Techniques; Counseling and Therapeutic Effectiveness; Confrontation; Family Counseling; Dynamics of group therapy; Lecturing/public speaking; Legal aspects; and after-care treatment follow-up.

In order for the counselors to complete all phases of training, the program had to use local existing resources and facilities in the Omaha area.

The American Indian Center and the Urban Native American Alcoholism Project are very grateful to the Agencies, programs and facilities that were instrumental for training of the Alcoholism staff:

1) Operation Bridge (Drug Training)
2) N.P.I. (Nebraska Psychiatric Institute) Basic Counseling Skills.
3) Eppley Alcoholism Treatment Center (Lectures on Treatment)
4) OACA (Omaha Area Council on Alcoholism) Drug and Alcohol Training.
5) St. Gabriel's Detoxification Unit. Intake Training.
6) Intake Action (Court Referral)
7) Douglas County Alcoholism Treatment Center. Inservice Training.

Other workshops have been attended to accommodate classroom hours which are required by the Nebraska Division on Alcoholism.

(Cont'd page 8)
On March 9, 1979, the Nebraska Certification Board met in Lincoln, Neb., to examine applications for Certification of alcoholism counselors. The division has notified the A.I.C., Urban Native American Alcoholism Project that two (2) staff members have been certified by the State of Nebraska. The A.I.C. and alcoholism staff would like to congratulate Mr. Ramiro Sifuentes certified as professional alcoholism counselor, Level II; and Ms. Pauline Berscheid certified as an alcoholism counselor trainee. The division on alcoholism board has since informed A.I.C. and other existing alcoholism programs that further certification of applicants has been cancelled pending further notification. The remaining alcoholism staff are preparing to submit applications for state certification as soon as the program starts again.

The Alcoholism staff have completed a performance evaluation to determine the quality of training.

Since April 9, the Alcohol Program has implemented an out-patient treatment and referral office at the A.I.C. This schedule will be followed to assist clients/families and any other alcohol-related duties. Please feel free to visit our office or contact us by phone.

COUNSELOR SCHEDULE

April 30 to May 4  Pauline Berscheid  Lynn McNeil
May 7 to May 11  David Heizer and Fred LeRoy
May 14 to May 18  Alfred Hallowell  Joyce Tubbs

VIETNAM VETERANS WEEK.

May 28 to June 3 will be a one-time opportunity for the people of the United States to put aside their convictions about the war itself and pay tribute to the people who were called upon to fight it, according to Max Cleland, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

Applications will be taken from May 21, thru Wednesday, June 20, 1979, at 606 South 22nd Street, So. entrance of the Rorick Apartment Building, Omaha, Ne. Telephone 345-8658 - 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The qualifications are:

1) Minimum Age - 17
2) High School Diploma or Equivalent
3) Physically Capable of performing skills required in the Millwright or Carpenter Trade.

NOTE: Due to the increased number of clients, looking for Employment, you will be required to make an appointment at the Center for service. Also bus tickets will be provided for clients to go on job interviews for employment.

MILLWRIGHT AND CARPENTER APPRENTICE-SHIP.

Single veterans going to school full-time under the GI Bill receive $311 per month in Veterans Administration educational benefits. Those with dependents get more.

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Committee for Humanities, an affiliate of the National Council for the Humanities, in affiliation with the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, through a grant from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, presented by American Indians United.

FREE ADMISSION

Discussion following Expressions of Culture through the Medium of Dance: University Theatre, Alden, 6th.

7:30 p.m. Cultural Presentation: Implications


Guests: Rosalie Jones, Blackfeet

at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

May 4, 1979

Expressions

Traditional Cultures: Contemporary
## May 1979

**Omaha: Mi-Waa-I-Ke**

*(The Moon in Which They Plant)*

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- **1st** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **2nd** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **3rd** (T): A.I.C. Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 P.M.
- **12th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **13th** (M): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **14th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **15th** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **16th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **17th** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **18th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **19th** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **20th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **21st** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **22nd** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **23rd** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **24th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **25th** (W): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.
- **26th** (T): 7:00 P.M., Adult Basic Education A.I.C.

- Stamping Bear Lake Dedication 12:00 Noon
- Florence Day Parade
- All Indian Bowlers Tourny So. Sioux City
- All Indian Social Tourny So. Sioux City
- 1:30-4:30 P.M. Free Diabetes & SP Clinic