Honga: the leader

7-1-1981

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American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(Wayne Tyndall, Acting Director)

To the Indian Community:

July was a busy month for us at the AICO. The staff worked very hard to implement the Indian Child Welfare Act and the United Way Youth Project. The staff and consultants as a team did a very commendable job in writing the new ANA/SEBS combined proposal and meeting the deadline for its submission.

The Alcoholism Program had its first setback. The management of the facility where the program was located went into bankruptcy. Consequently, we had to move out. This left us without a place to go.

With headquarters at the AICO, our Alcoholism Program continues to provide outpatient service but has temporarily discontinued its inpatient program until a new facility is located and the proper process for occupancy is completed.

Then we are told that NIMAA, funding source for our Alcoholism Program, is being phased out and a new "block grant" given to the States from whom we must apply for future funding. We have also heard from Washington that in FY '83 we will be transferred under HIS Indian Health Service, but that funding for FY '82 has not been determined. We are waiting for some definite words on this issue.

It looks as though we will eventually have to apply for block grant funding from the State of Nebraska for our CFNP grant (Community Food and Nutrition Program), since it is one of the programs being phased out in Washington and being given to the individual States for administration. We have taken the initiative to write to Governor Boone asking that we have input in the block grant process and that we be included in it for future funding. Further, we have indicated to him that we, naturally, desire translating this funding process without an interruption in our ongoing services.

PLEASE REMEMBER, an election for three new members to our Board of Directors will be held on September 3 at the AICO. Be sure to register to vote. All those wishing to serve on the Board should obtain their petition for candidacy. Get out and campaign!

In the month of August, our United Way, Indian TV, City CETA, Intewish Church Ministries, and Union Pacific Foundation proposals must be written.

Work is out in the community that we are going down, but as far as I am concerned, this is really looking up. We serviced 1474 clients for the month of July, are expanding services and moving ahead in good

BRIEFS

According to an Associated Press report, a judge in Wyoming has ruled that in cases of minor offenses, Indian tribal courts have exclusive jurisdiction in judgments of Indians accused of committing crimes against Indians, even if it is state or federal law which has allegedly been violated.

After having been banned for almost 100 years by the U. S. Government, the Sun Dance will once again be observed by American Indian peoples.

This month, the ritual dance will be held from the 6th through the 9th in Black Crow, Camp Lakota.

A symposium on American Indian Research was held July 27-31 in Washington, D.C. Emphasis was placed on research methodology in areas of tribal history, genealogy, social history, and demography. The American Indian Center of Omaha has requested additional information and a full report on the symposium from the Education Division of American Indian Research.

In hopes of cutting down paperwork (or being able to produce more of it in a shorter period of time), the Bureau of Indian Affairs has developed an automatic data processing system to be implemented October 1, 1981.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Ken Smith, announced in a press release that the new system will "eliminate some emergencies now created by the time lag in delivery of services." He went on to say that business which would have taken three to six weeks to process should now be completed in about "two to three days."

A recent study by the Civil Rights Commission stated that "the federal government has not met its commitments to American Indians and needs to provide improved protection for Indian rights."

After nearly ten years of research, a 192-page report was issued to the Congress. This report included several recommendations: among them, advice to settle land disputes, energy resource rights, implementation of fishing rights, and tribal recognition.

The American Indian Center of Omaha has requested a copy of the full report.

We would like to hear from our readers still by providing space for your responses. Please write our main office, 815 E. 22nd St.
OmahaLand, a theme park centering on the history and culture of Plains Indians, is to be constructed on the Second & Martha Street balefill in Omaha.

Below you see the scaled-down version of the architectural Master Site Plan. This plan was recently completed by Dana-Larson-Roubal and Associates and was presented to AICO's Advisory Committee on July 31.

A 50-60,000 sq. ft. Cultural Center will be the focal point. Set on a hill, it will be a large round structure with two of its three stories underground. The top floor will be a glass dome structure housing a Native American foods restaurant.

Also an impressive sight will be the outdoor amphitheatre covered by a massive permanent mylar tent. Ponds, camping sites, an Omaha tepee village, Pawnee earth lodges, archery range and a fur trading post are included along with many other elements of the theme park.

On the 25th of this month, the press will be invited to a detailed presentation of OmahaLand, after which time our plans for using the balefill will be presented to the Omaha City Council per their request. We will then ask that the City invest $1.2 million for final grading of the balefill according to our specifications and in conjunction with the Site Master Plan.

This plan has already been presented to the Parks and Recreation and Planning Departments of the City. So far, everyone is enthused and excited about OmahaLand.

And, WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED!
American Indian Children

THE STATEMENT

Part of the grand diversity of the Great American Melting Pot is its ideals. They are as profuse as they are profound, but sometimes they seem entangled, out of "sync" with each other, not harmonious.

THE EXAMPLE

Assimilation vs. cultural pluralism. In one form or another, the United States has declared that all persons have the right and should be encouraged to express their own values within their inherited culture. There is freedom of the spirit. At the same time, this country cultural settings for prolonged periods will not reduce the number of Native children removed from their families and communities, but also insure that the placement of children in these institutional settings does not result in cultural shock and demise of the cultural spirit of the Native youth.

THE PRACTICE

This confusion of ideals is clearly seen in this history of providing adoptive and foster care for Indian children. While it is generally recognized that social setting and environmental conditions influence the vitality of any identity, there has been a high rate of displacement among American Indian children with relatively little effort to find and encourage foster care by Indian parents.

Oftentimes the Indian parent, whose value system may not complement that of the dominant culture, does not or cannot meet stringent requirements set forth under welfare procedures. That is a fact. The opinion by Rosita Worl, writing for the Cook Inlet Native Association's Trail Blazer is that "the fact that Alaska Native youth are removed from their homes at a rate that in three times greater than non-Natives, together with all the other pressures on Alaska Native cultures, spells cultural genocide."

THE EFFECT

In Nebraska alone, Indian children represent 12% of all minority placements even though Native Americans total only 1% of that same population. This disproportionment may further be seen by comparing it to another minority group.

--- continued next column ---

The effect...

Black persons represent 56% of the total minority population; black children represent 12% of minority children placed in foster care -- the same percentage as Indians. These figures are quoted according to a Nebraska Department of Public Welfare survey taken in 1976.

Again quoting Rosita Worl from the University of Alaska:

"The displacement of Native youth most often requires their removal from families and communities because institutional agencies and facilities are not available locally. Their emotional trauma is compounded by the fact that they must be placed in communities and institutional settings which are culturally alien... We can assume that Native youth removed from their cultural settings for prolonged periods will not be able to maintain their Native culture...

"We must expand our effort, not only to reduce the number of Native children removed from their families and communities, but also insure that the placement of children in these institutional settings does not result in cultural shock and demise of the cultural spirit of the Native youth."

THE CHANGE

In 1978, PL95-608 was passed, thus instituting the Indian Child Welfare Act. This Act required social service agencies to cooperate in placing Indian children with Indian parents.

The American Indian Center of Omaha has recently received a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to aid in the implementation of this public law.

The purpose of the new ICWA Resource Department is three-fold:
1) to help prevent displacement of Indian children;
2) to locate and assist in licensing Indian parents interested in providing foster care;
3) to locate and assist in the placement of Indian children with Indian parents.

The AICO will also be working with County and State offices to become a licensing agency. Department Director, Al Milk, states: "We would like to see the provisions of this public law implemented to the fullest possible extent."

If you know of anyone who might benefit from the provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act, or are an Indian parent interested in providing foster care, please contact our ICWA Resource Department, Director Al Milth, at 344-0111. THANK YOU!

To provide leadership development opportunities, education and employment counseling, group recreational and cultural activities, the AICO has chosen Tom Harlan to coordinate its YOUTH DEPARTMENT.

"We would like to see a group of young Indian men and women come together to form a circle of youth which would help plan activities. An additional need exists for an Indian Coordinator for the young people."
First of all, we would like the Omaha Indian community to be aware of the programs and services available to them, the types and sources of funding, our current financial situation and upcoming events that will effect our finances.

Secondly, we want you to be aware of the way in which current U.S. policy effects our funding and our future.

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

CURRENT OPERATING PROGRAMS:

$ 74,834 Comprehensive Employment and Training (Indian Manpower, Title III)

$141,000 Alcohol Rehabilitation (National Institution on Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse)

$ 35,000 Health and Nutrition Services (Community Services Administration)

$ 55,000 Economic Development (Administration for Native Americans-ANA)

$13,700 Training & Technical Assistance (ANA)

$ 65,000* Administrative Operating Grant (ANA)

$384,534 Subtotal

*Will be combined under one grant for future funding.

EXPANSION & RENOVATION PROGRAM:

$ 35,000 Community Development Action Grant (City of Omaha)

$ 1,000 Corporate Donations - Cash** (Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.)

$36,000 Subtotal

**This does not include in-kind service donations, labor donations such as the CETA grant for over $80,000 or equipment donations.

NEW PROGRAMS:

$ 40,250 Indian Child Welfare Department (Bureau of Indian Affairs)

$ 9,127 Youth Development Program (United Way of the Midlands)

$ 49,377 Subtotal

$469,911 GRAND TOTAL

NOTE: If you have any questions on our current operations, please contact the AICO or attend monthly Board meetings. Board meetings are held every third Thursday of the month; the August meeting is scheduled for the 20th.

The ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM is in its third year of a three-year project which will end November 30, 1981. A continuation grant is presently being reviewed by our funding source, NIAAA.

Recently the House and Senate passed two versions of the Budget Reconciliation Act which both reduce and consolidate funding.

The Senate version would have alcoholism and drug abuse appropriations brought under a general health services block grant administered to the states with no requirements that these funds be spent on alcoholism and drug abuse services. The House draft would provide the same consolidation but would also stipulate that 35% of the combined funding be spent on alcoholism and/or drug abuse services.

There is one obvious problem with block grant funding; that is, funds may be withdrawn by the federal government for lack of state compliance with various regulations. This may have nothing to do with the quality of individual programs.

Our HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM is currently being reviewed by CSA for continued funding. The AICO is requesting the same level of funding, $35,000. Contracting with Nebraskans United for Food will help extend services in spite of inflated costs.

The ANA CORE GRANT and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM are being reviewed for future funding. A proposal has been submitted to our Regional Office and the Washington office for approval. As Economic Development, Training & Technical Assistance, and Administrative Operations will not be funded under separate grants, these three phases of a major AICO undertaking have been combined into one application.

Rather than these programs being reviewed for a continuation of funding, all programs across the country have been set up for nationwide competition. This is a direct result of President Reagan's Fiscal Year 1982 budget cuts, amounting to a 17% reduction in ANA funding.

Instead of spreading these cuts across the board to all ANA-funded programs, decisions on allocations will be based on program quality, timeliness of reports, internal fiscal responsibility and history of success.

Our proposal has passed its initial review in the Regional Office with commendation, and we are confident that we will be funded in the full amount of our request.

Two new programs, the INDIAN CHILD WELFARE and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, have recently received their funding for a total of $49,377. We look forward to implementing new services to the Indian community.
The AICO at Work -- Department News

The HEALTH AND NUTRITION DEPARTMENT has applied for membership with Nebraska United for Food (NUFF), an advocacy group for the poor and hungry. NUFF helps to educate the poor and hungry on local and national legislation concerning food programs and food-related issues. NUFF also helps in the organization of grassroot coalitions to deal with poverty as it relates to food programs.

Good from NUFF will be available to AICO at 10¢ per pound on all items. It will then be distributed to eligible Indian persons in Omaha.

Right now, the AICO Health and Nutrition Department has chicken and hamburger as a part of its pantry orders. Due to limited supplies, however, these items will be available primarily to large families in emergency situations.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MEANS -- CHANGING FACES**

In the next few weeks, you won’t recognize us. Our Indian Center is in the midst of extensive renovation and expansion.

You may remember that we applied to the City of Omaha for a Community Development Action Grant (CDBG) which was accepted by the Housing and Community Development Department. The City Council then approved the requested funding of $5,000. This means, if the first time the community has extended financial support to the center.

His initial funding was followed by a CETA labor grant of over $80,000 and $5,000 in corporate donations to date. Also, there are several persons in the urban Indian community who have expressed a willingness to donate time and energy to the project.

In addition to the basic construction, we would like to have a mural painted on the outside of the building. The Development Office is seeking sponsorship for an Indian artist to do this painting.

In our arts and crafts store, the BRIGHT EYES CRAFTING POST is scheduled to open some time next month. Everybody interested in participating or simply being informed of this new operation should attend a meeting on Monday, August 24, at 5:30 p.m. at the Administrative Offices, 613 South 16th Street. Paul Stacoff, our Accountant, will be present to review the bookkeeping procedures we’ll need to follow and the basic retail sales management.

The way it is going, chances are that the administrative offices will be open one day earlier in October.

The AICO was asked to participate with other downtown Omaha merchants in their annual SIDEWALK SALE. Thanks to Francis Blackbird who was primary coordinator of the event, participants sold a total of $145.00. ALICE KOTRBA is the winner of the winning raffle ticket and has received a beautiful Indian shawl.

**ELECTION PROCEDURE**

The AICO sent a flyer out to the Omaha Indian community which reviewed, at great length, the procedure for electing three (3) new members to the Board of Directors. Copies are still available at the Administrative offices, 613 South 16th Street, and can be sent to your home at your request.

We did want to review important dates with you in this issue of the HONGA: as such, those dates are noted below:

**July 13 -- August 12 -- VOTER REGISTRATION**

At the American Indian Center of Omaha.

**August 4 -- 24 -- PETITIONS FOR BOARD CANDIDATES**

May be picked up at the AICO Administrative offices between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. These petitions must be signed by twenty-five (25) eligible registered voters. All petitions must be received by the Acting Director no later than August 24, 5:00 p.m.

**August 27 -- ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE**

At the AICO (seven) days before the election. Absentee voters must sign their names on the back of a sealed envelope after voting on a ballot and placing it in an envelope. A locked ballot box will be at the Center, the key for which will be held in possession by the Nebraska Women League of Voters.

**September 3 -- BALLOTS WILL BE CAST AT THE AICO**

From 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.

*The entire election procedure is being monitored by the Nebraska Women League of Voters.* This organization will be counting the ballots and reporting the results to the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

**September 7 -- A MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT AICO**

A time and place to be announced.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Membership cards will be issued to all eligible voters. The card is duplicated below.

If you have any questions, please call 344-0111.

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**AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA INC.**

**CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

There will also be the status of Non-Voting Member as, according to Article IV of the present By-Laws, "Membership in the American Indian Center of Omaha shall be open to both Indian and Non-Indian."

**NOTE:** All voting members are invited to attend this meeting.
ELMER A. NECKLACE, JR., Head Counselor for the AICO Alcoholism Rehabilitation Program, has been certified as an Associate Professional by the Nebraska Division on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Congratulations! and thanks extended by the Administration for this effort and dedication.

Welcome CANDICE DWAN SHOCKLEY, baby girl born to Ellen Cunningham on June 26, 1981. All 9 pounds 6 ounces came roaring into the world at 12:45 in the afternoon on a Friday.

With all her new duties, ELLEN CUNNINGHAM has retired from her responsibilities as Director of AICO's Health and Nutrition Department. Mom and Dad are very proud of the new little one which joins their family and the larger family of all Indian peoples.

Recently moving from Yankton, South Dakota, ALBERT (AL) R. MILK joins the AICO staff as Director of the Indian Child Welfare Resource Department.

A graduate of the University of South Dakota, AL's favorite activity these days is "any kind of spectator sports." He also enjoys the fine arts and has a special appreciation for oil painting which he does "whenever possible.

Welcome also to:

SNA ROSE CARAMONY, ICPA-Department Secretary. Actually, Ina has been with us for over a month now, serving originally as Volunteer Receptionist and Assistant to the Health and Nutrition Department. She previously served at the Indian-Chicano Health Clinic and is very interested in helping her people.

JOAN CAREY, Coordinator for Health and Nutrition Programs, has been selected for Legal Aid training to help welfare and food stamp recipients cut through the entanglements of receiving bureaucratic aid.

The Legal Aid Society anticipates drastic budget cuts and hopes to see volunteers and social service workers in other agencies trained to handle their present responsibilities.

As our new Accountant, PAUL STACHFIE is a welcome addition to the AICO staff!!! He is a 1981 graduate of Bellevue College and previously worked as an accountant for a furniture store.

He and his wife, Vicki, are proud parents of two sons, Michael (6 years old) and Kevin (3 years).

Having been here for almost two months now, Paul commented that "the work is complicated and challenging, but definitely a lot of fun! The mountains of government paperwork required of this center make it all just a bit crazy.

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INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE NEWS

June 8, the Wahoo News became a color week for the inauguration of Omaha's newly-elected Mayor, Mike Boyle. Participants included:

- Ron Sleeper
- Barry Wells
- Danita Escan
- Arlene Wells

following a presentation of the U.S. Star and stripes, City of Omaha flag, and Omaha Indian flag, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Lovejoy sang the Star Song written by Parrish Samsoci. The color guard was well received and appreciated by dignitaries and guests present.

The World-Herald reported that RICK THOMAS has been named Coordinator for Indian Activities of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in Lincoln.

Rick, 34, is a member of the Santee Sioux tribe in Nebraska and previously worked with the office of Indian education in Sioux City.

LIZABETH STABLER (Omaha) of Lincoln, Nebraska was, according to a July article in the World, recently honored by the Commission on the Status of Women for her contribution to child welfare and Omaha language Dictionary which has been published by the University of Nebraska Press. She teaches Omaha at the Lincoln Indian Center.

A People column in the World-Herald's Wednesday, 7/29/81 issue stated that Actor Marlon Brando will be working on a television series about the "nature and spirituality" of American Indian peoples. A spokeswoman for the series said that she was uncertain whether Brando would narrate or act in the production. No specific dates were given for its release.

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STAFF NEWS * * * *

The Center has appreciated JOYCE GILBERT's contribution to our work efforts these past few months. Hired under the CETA Summer Youth Program, Joyce helped out as a receptionist, typist and file clerk. She also helped in the production of the newsletter.

Joyce said, "I really enjoyed working at the Indian Center and feel I picked up on a lot of important secretarial skills." July 30 was her last day. She plans on applying for a position at Mutual of Omaha, finishing courses for her diploma and going on to secretarial school in California.
CALENDAR NOTES

Regularly-Scheduled Meetings:

MONDAYS 7 PM  Local WARN Group Meetings  Contact Pearl Bigfire, 455-0495
TUESDAYS 7 PM  WahooThiio's Meeting  Contact Cecilia Wells, 345-4290
7 PM  Urban Indian Culture Club  Contact Joe Hallowell, 345-1576
August 20 7 PM  MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  AICO Administrative Offices, 613 South 16th St.
THROUGH AUGUST 12
AUGUST 4 through 24
AUGUST 27

VOTER REGISTRATION
AICO Administrative Offices, 613 South 16th St.
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

PETITIONS FOR BOARD CANDIDATES
Pick up at AICO Administrative Offices; turn in by the 24th

ABSENTEE BALLOTS will be available at the AICO 7 days before the September 3 election. See HONGA article for details.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 1981

Dates:

6, 7, 8, 9  INTER-TRIBAL INDIAN CEREMONY, Red Rock State Park, Gallup, New Mexico. Call 505-863-3896 for more information.
7, 8  27th ANNUAL MISS INDIAN AMERICA PAGEANT, Contact Box 451, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801 for more information.
13, 14, 15, 16  115th ANNUAL UMOPHAA INDIAN POW-WOW. See back page of HONGA for additional information.
6, 7, 8, 9  SUNDANCE CEREMONY - All Spiritual Leaders invited to attend  Black Crow, Camp Lakota  Sundance Chief: Richard Moves Camp
(changed from 13, 14, 15, 16)

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER

Dates:

4, 5, 6, 7  DODGE PARK PDN-WOW  Master of Ceremonies - Valentine Parker  Pow-Wow Princess - April Gladfelter  Funding for this project was provided from a grant by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities
18, 19, 20  SANTÉE SIOUX TRIBE OF NEBRASKA  ANNUAL PDN-WOW  Santee, Nebraska  Martha Pick is Chairperson

PLEASE NOTE: If your organization would like notice of events pertinent to the Indian community printed in the HONGA, please contact our office at 344-0111. Also, we would like to print results of your group's activities.
Macy, Nebraska
Pow-Wow Grounds
The 15th Umoⁿha
Indian Pow-Wow
August 13, 14, 15, 16, 1981

Umoⁿha
Pow-Wow Staff
HEAD SINGER:
Mr. William Canby
Whipman:
Mr. William Morris
Tail Dancers:
Mr. Hank Sheridan
Mr. Howard Wolfe
Mr. Kenny Blackbird
Mr. Ago Sheridan

Sponsored by the
Omaha Tribal Council
Elmer Blackbird, Chairman
Mark A. Merrick, Vice Chairman
Lemuel A. Harlan, Secretary
Dennis Turner, Treasurer
Doran Morris, Council Member
Edwin Walker, Council Member
Hollis D. Stabler, Council Member

Arena Directors:
Mr. Herbert Blackbird
Mr. Oscar Lovejoy

For further information contact
The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Box 368 Macy, Nebraska 68039