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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dee Indian Community,

I'd like to talk, for just a minute, about what "representing your community" means.

Let's take, for example, this past presidential election. Out of the 160,000,000 eligible voters, only about 105,355,000 actually registered. Out of that number, only 93,066,000 cast a ballot. A lot of people were left out!

Consequently, even though Mr. Reagan received 53.95% of the vote and consequently became President of the United States, it could possibly be figured that he does not represent the 50,209,107 who voted for Mr. Carter, plus the 46,934,000 who could have voted but either didn't register or didn't cast a ballot. That's 97,143,107 (at least) out of 160,000,000 people who are "left out."

This strange phenomenon occurs during any election simply because our system of democracy calls for PARTICIPATION. It confirms that, if you want representation, you first must speak your mind.

Here at the Center, we have a procedure for registering, voting, obtaining a corporate membership, receiving assistance, attending board meetings, becoming a board member, etcetera. Now, we further encourage participation in sales merchandising through the Trading Post, assistance at the Indian Elders Center, participation in a Community Hall. There is an active Youth Program, an Indian Child Welfare Program, a classroom where GED classes will be taught, employment opportunities ... and I could go on.

If we could sum up the question of representation, I think we would have to say that representation and participation are complementary. One does not come automatically without the other.

With this in mind, please remember that an election for three new Board Members will be held at the Center on September 3, 1981 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

BOARD MEETING - August 27, 1981

Below is a brief synopsis of the Board meeting held August 27, 1981 at the American Indian Center of Omaha.

Marshall Pritchard, former Executive Director of the Lincoln Indian Center, has been designated to provide Board Training to the new members of AICO's Board of Directors. Training will begin after the scheduled Board Election on September 3.

A revision of the Corporate By-Laws, Policies & Procedures Manual, Travel Policies, and Accounting Procedures Manual will be undertaken by the new Board in the near future. As such, professional training and orientation is essential.

Departmental reports were given by the following:

Accounting - Paul Stacoffe
SEDS - Brian Victoria
Health & Nutrition - Joan Garey
Alcoholism Program - Elmer Necklace
CETA - Fred LeRoy
Indian Child Welfare - Albert Milk
Youth Program - Thomas Harlan

These reports were followed by a report from Wayne Tyndall, Executive Director.

A long - term lease was signed by Board Chairman, Logan Fontenelle, for the purpose of expanding and renovating our present facilities.

Also, Brian Victoria, who is coordinating the renovation project, was given an OK by the Board to contract with two Indian artists for the purpose of painting two murals on the face of the building.

The Board also directed the Economic Development Department to draw up job descriptions for the new Bright Eyes Trading Post Manager and Assistant Manager. The Board will review these applications and select two individuals for these positions.

A $500.00 contribution was given to the Urban Indian Cultural Club for the 10th Annual Dodge Park Pow wow.

* * * *

Health Care Study Draws Agreement

By Mary McGrath

A new study on primary health care needs in southeast Omaha drew agreement and criticism Monday. Dr. Charles Bressman, president of the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Center, opposed some of the study's findings.

The study by the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Center for Applied Urban Research, was based on interviews with 3,000 people and found that high percentages of them interviewed said they were pleased with the general quality of care. Yet, when asked about specific services, they were critical.

It also found that the health of low-income and elderly residents in the two areas was not as good as that of people in other parts of the city. The report investigated medical services in the Bluffs area, which has a larger percentage of poor and elderly residents.

Treatment Available

The study, commissioned by the Health Planning Council of the Midlands, also noted that for people who do not have regular place to go for treatment, their care is apparently better than that of people who do.

The report was asked to comment on Sunday World-Herald stories about minority health care issues.

Dr. Charles Bressman, president of the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Center, said the report's findings were "misleading" in some ways and "detrimental to the welfare of the minority group.

"Our RESPONSE was sent to Mary McGrath from Wayne Tyndall on August 28, 1981. The context of the letter is retyped below.

Dear Ms. McGrath:

Your article HEALTH CARE STUDY AGREEMENT, appearing in the Omaha World-Herald Tuesday, August 25, 1981, has our concern.

Obviously, Dr. Charles Bressman, who I am sure is a good man, but somehow opinionated is speaking for only the white race when he makes his public remarks of us. He suggests that we learn the American way rather than maintain our separate identities. I must ask, why must we conform to his ways rather than to our own? Why must we respect his ways and he ours? We're both humans; it should work both ways, his and ours.

It would be wise, I believe, for student doctors to "learn more about the life experiences of minority groups" if only to enhance their understanding of minority groups, something that Dr. Charles Bressman is lacking. His thinking is not uncommon. There are many narrow-minded people just like him. Going to medical school doesn't change them. The only sad thing is that he represents a segment of professional people.

Last thing; how dull would be our world if we all shared one common view. We have to learn to respect all people and their beliefs if we expect to live in peace among each other.

Sincerely,
Wayne Tyndall
American Indian Center Outreach Worker, Joyce Tubbs, began her first day of employment on August 3, 1981 by creating waves at the Food Stamp Central Office, 1215 South 42nd Street in behalf of food stamp recipients.

Joyce was participating in a Legal Aid Survey by asking food stamp recipients to fill out a questionnaire designed to determine if they would rather have their food stamps mailed to them or follow Food Stamp office policy and continue to pick them up in person. She began at 11:00 a.m. and continued to 1:30 p.m. when she encountered resistance from Food Stamp Management.

It should be noted that, up until this time, there was no lack of client participation; people willingly stopped and were eager to answer survey questions.

Around 1:30 p.m., the Assistant Director of Douglas County Social Services approached Joyce outside the Food Stamp office where she was conducting the survey and stated that she was "intimidating" his food stamp clients. He also said that he had received quite a few calls complaining of her actions.

According to the Assistant Director, his clients felt that if they answered the questions Joyce was asking, they would not receive their food stamps. Joyce replied that the survey was being sponsored by Legal Aid and that all information she received would be kept confidential. He countered by saying that Joyce had no "right" to be where she was and that she was only "harassing" his clients. He then strongly suggested that Joyce leave the premises. Furthermore, the Assistant Director stated he would talk with his superior to determine what further action could now be taken against Joyce.

Joyce held her ground and refused to leave until it became apparent that she might possibly be arrested. She felt that such an arrest would certainly intimidate food stamp recipients, thus creating more harm than doing any good. Joyce returned to the Indian Center, reported the incidents to her Coordinator, Joan Garey, who then called Sister Tim of Legal Aid to determine what course of action could now be taken.

For Joyce Tubb's staunch determination under such adverse conditions, we enthusiastically salute her!!!
RENOVATION

Our renovation is well underway. New carpet has been laid in the section of the building we presently occupy, and minor repairs have been completed. New carpet has also been laid in the trading post and quite a bit of carpentry work has been done in the Indian Elders Center, upstairs administrative offices and Trading Post.

This renovation represents a 400% expansion of our facilities which currently measure about 2900 square feet.

Kitchen facilities will go into the Indian Elders Center. As we will be setting up a dining area, donations of pots & pans, glasses, dishes and flatware will be appreciated.

THANK YOU!!

GED evening training classes will be held in the Classroom beginning October 1. Specific dates and times have yet to be coordinated. You may contact Fred LeRoy at 344-0111 for more information.

MCR has donated a cash register for our use in the Bright Eyes Trading Post. However, to get this specific operation underway, we will NEED YOUR HELP! In order to open on October 3, we should be getting our inventory together. Artists and Craftpersons may contact Sherrill Frank at 344-0111 for more information.

We now have a 5-year lease on our facilities with a 3-year purchase option. This purchase will include all the storefront space up to the south end of the block along with the present upholstery shop and warehouse area.

Purchasing the entire building will allow us to set up our upholstery business, another retail outlet, and our community hall.

OMAHA-LAND

On Tuesday, August 25, the American Indian Center, in conjunction with the architectural firm of Dana-Larson-Roubal and Associates, presented the Site Master Plan proposing the building of a theme park on 55 acres of city-owned Sailfill land and 32 acres of private land.

The Council indicated an interest in the project and requested additional information before they would lease the properties.

WE'VE BEEN IN THE NEWS.

This past month, various administrative personnel at the AICO have been called upon to give personal interviews on radio, make television appearances, or have been "caught on camera" during particular events. Topics have included our expansion/renovation project, OmahaLand, and the Alcoholism Program.

Now, concerning the latter, we would like to take some time and energy to give you the "rest of the story."

For nearly two years, we were operating our alcoholism services (that is, inpatient, outpatient, and halfway house) from the Community Plaza for Human Resources at 4601 No. 36th Street in Omaha. Our agency leased most of the fourth floor of this complex which satisfied our need for a fifteen-bed inpatient capacity.

In early June of this year, the Board of Directors of the Human Resources Corporation served official notice to our agency that they were witnessing growing cash flow and general financial problems. As such, it was inevitable that the Plaza would have to be closed.

Within two weeks of this initial notice, all utility services to the Plaza were terminated. All seven tenants were forced to vacate the premises and relocated. The AICO's Alcoholism Program was among that group.

Consequently, since late July we have had to temporarily decrease our services to the community. That is, our inpatient services are no longer in operation. Our outpatient, counseling and referral services are temporarily operating out of the Center's main offices at 613 South 16th Street. We can be located through the main number, 344-0111.

Since July we have been searching for a new home. A thorough search has narrowed the field to about 4 locations which will be open for inspection by the licensing bureau around the middle of this month.

It should be specifically noted that the financial problems of the Community Plaza for Human Resources were in no way connected to the operation of the American Indian Center's Alcoholism Program. It is unfortunate that our people have been "uprooted." Nonetheless, we look forward to establishing ourselves in a new location soon.

We would like to thank the Omaha City Council and Douglas County for helping us with the cost of temporary storage and moving.

Please note that our weekly AA meetings have been resumed on Friday evenings at 7 PM and are being held at the AICO main administrative offices at 344-0111.
NEW IN OUR COMMUNITY!

As you probably know, the AICO, in cooperation with the community of Indian persons in Omaha, plans to open a retail outlet for the sale of Native American arts and craft items. This will be the only Indian owned and operated business in the City of Omaha.

Called the Bright Eyes Trading Post, this store will sell primarily hand made articles on a consignment basis.

Consignment means that items are placed in the store's inventory and, upon sale of such an item, the total price or a specific portion of the price is turned over to the artist or craftperson.

We plan to operate in this way: 70% of the sale price will go to the artist, 30% to the store for operating expenses (including commissions to the Manager). A 10% discount will be automatically given to all Indian persons having a corporate membership.

It will work this way. Suppose you want to get $10.00 out of a ribbon shirt you made. The store will add a 30% mark up (which is considered nominal by all merchandising standards). This brings the asking price up to $13.00.

Now, suppose a member buys the shirt. He gets a 10% discount ($13.00 - $1.30). This brings the price to $11.70. You get $10.00 (your consignment price), and the store gets $1.70.

Now, suppose a non-member buys the shirt. Your consignment is still $10.00, but the store receives the full 30% mark up, or $3.00. Out of the total commission the store receives, it will turn 50% of those dollars over to the Store Manager. In this case, the store would actually make $1.50 and the Manager would also make $1.50 in commissions.

The AICO will be ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for the position of STORE MANAGER during the week of September 21, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors will select an individual, and will offer the position during the first part of the week of September 28.

So far, we have space, people, and equipment. Now, all we need is MERCHANDISE. We are presently accepting and storing inventory. If you would like to make this a successful and profitable venture FOR YOU, contact Sherrill Frank at the AICO, or simply bring your items to the Center.

We look forward to a fantastic Open House and Dedication on OCTOBER 17 and 18. Specific events will be announced next month.

***

AICO supports Dodge Park Pow wow

Wayne Tyndall, AICO's Executive Director, announced today that the Center has donated $500.00 in unrestricted funds to the Dodge Park Pow wow this year. This was made possible through the sale of a large computer for scrap metal. The computer was donated to the Center.

Wayne emphasized that "the American Indian Center supports our community's cultural activities. This pow wow is one way of making our presence known, in a positive way, to all persons in Omaha."

Major funding for the 1981 Dodge Park Pow wow was provided to the Urban Indian Cultural Club by a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities.

During the celebrations, April Gladfelter will be honored as Pow wow Princess.

***

"TIS THE SEASON TO ... PLAY FOOTBALL!!!

.... Eat hotdogs, snuggle up in a warm blanket, and cheer your favorite team on to victory.

Since we're just sure your favorites are among the MACY and WINNEBAGO teams, their playing schedule is announced below.

MACY

    Sept. 4 - BEEMER
    11 - Niobrara
    18 - WINNEBAGO
    25 - Omaha Brownell-Talbot

    Oct. 2 - MARTY MISSION, S.D.
    9 - Open
    16 - Snyder
    23 - OMAHA DOMINICAN
    28 - DECATUR

WINNEBAGO

    Sept. 4 - Prague
    11 - DECATUR
    18 - Macy
    25 - Beemer

    Oct. 2 - SNYDER
    9 - Omaha Brownell-Talbot
    16 - Omaha Dominican
    23 - Shelby
    28 - Santee

Note: Capital letters denote HOME GAMES.
The Associated Press reports that 40 Native Americans occupying U.S. Forest Service land near Rapid City, South Dakota have determined not to comply with a government order to vacate Yellow Thunder Camp by Aug. 12, 1981.

The article reported that "State Attorney General Mark Meierhenry complimented the Forest Service for ordering the AIM members out of the area."

According to the article, a separate group of Oglala Sioux Indians set up camp at Harby Wind Cave National Park on June 25. About 30 Indian peoples remain in that camp even though they were told to leave Aug. 12 because their permit had expired. Authorities are allowing them to stay "as long as they obey park rules."

"In spirit he remains a prisoner of war in that cemetery at Fort Still."

These are the sentiments of National Park Ranger, Bill Hoys, who was further quoted in the World-Herald article as saying "beside Apache Springs, along the old trail to Fort Bowie is the proper burial place for Geronimo."

For ten years the great Indian Chief fought off and evaded an army of over 5,000 troops. A small group of 17 men and their leader surrendered to the U.S. government, finally giving up their rights to the 3,000 acres of land given in a treaty to the Chiricahua Apaches. This reservation area was to be abolished four years after Cochise, the great peacemaker, died.

Geronimo had asked President Theodore Roosevelt to let his people "go home" and allow him to be buried in his own country. His country now is Fort Bowie, Arizona, today a national park.

"* * * *

After "fighting a stereotype problem for years," John Crazy Horse, spiritual leader of the Native American Church in Indianapolis, says that the "Injun Andy" mascot for the Indiana State Fair makes "us look illiterate."

According to an article recently printed in the Omaha World-Herald, "Injun Andy is a bumbling, pig-tailed Indian with a Billy Jack hat who speaks in broken English and has a target on his nose."

Others have come out calling the character an "insult," but according to the article, Injun Andy's creator says, "he doesn't know why it caused some people to be offended."
CALENDAR NOTES

Regularly-Scheduled Meetings:

MONDAYS  7:00 PM  Local WARN Group Meetings
          Contact Pearl Bigfire, 455-0495

TUESDAYS  7:00 PM  Waho'pi'ge's Meeting
                  Contact Cecilia Wells, 345-4290
                  7:00 PM  Urban Indian Culture Club
                          Contact Joe Hallowell, 345-1576

FRIDAYS  7:00 PM  Alcoholism Program Meeting
                  AICO Conference Room, 613 South 16th Street
                  Contact Nate Parker, 344-0111

DODGE PARK POW'WOW  September 4, 5, 6, 7 - Dodge Park, Omaha Nebraska

Note: Special Youth Events are planned during the pow'wow this year

Friday, Sept. 4 - Record Dance
Saturday, Sept. 5 - 1-Mile Run, football throw, wheel-barrel race,
                    50-yard dash
Sunday, Sept. 6 - 1-mile obstacle run, softball throw, 3-legged race,
                   sack race
Monday, Sept. 7 - volleyball, tug-of-war, record dance

Contact Tom Harlan at 344-0111 if you have any questions.

DON'T FORGET THE ELECTION
September 3, 1981, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the American Indian Center of Omaha

V O T E

A COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

613 SOUTH 16TH STREET
OMAHA
SEPTEMBER 8, 1981
7:00 P.M.

Tom Harlan, Youth Program Director, is asking for the participation of
the Indian community's young adults in a YOUTH COUNCIL. The council
would help plan the youth program and activities. A meeting for form
the council is scheduled for TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, at 5:30 p.m.

Richard Barea is helping to organize a veterans association called
VIETNAM WARRIORS. The Veterans Outreach agency in Omaha has indicated
that such a group could be chartered. The Vietnam Warriors will work
to assist veterans, help provide emergency services, and will get to-
gether for recreational activities. If you are interested, please
contact Clyde at the AICO, 344-0111.
AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA INC.

613 South 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-3197
(402) 344-0111

September 1, 1981

NOTICE OF CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS MEETING FOR OMAHA TRIBAL MEMBERS LIVING IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

The Omaha Tribal Council will hold a meeting at the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., 613 South 16th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, at 7:00 p.m. on September 16, 1981, to hear testimony by Omaha tribal members on proposed amendments to the Omaha Tribal Constitution and Bylaws.

All urban Omaha Tribal Members living in Omaha, Nebraska, are invited to attend this important meeting. Come prepared to present and share your constructive ideas on the proposed changes to the tribal Constitution and Bylaws.

These recommendations will be reviewed by the tribal reviewing committee for possible inclusion in the amended Constitution and Bylaws.

Art. IX - Amendments, reads:

*** This constitution and bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the Omaha Tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of the Interior, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of those entitled to vote shall vote in such election; but no amendment shall become effective until it shall have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to call an election on any proposed amendment, upon receipt of a written resolution of the tribal council, signed by at least a majority of the membership of the tribal council. ***

The Constitution and Bylaws as it reads makes no provisions for off-reservation input and it is only because a large number of enrolled Omahas live in Omaha, Nebraska, that the Tribal Council is recognizing this fact and holding this meeting.

Sometime in October 1981 the Bureau of Indian Affairs will hold an election at Macy, Nebraska, for the express purpose of voting on the proposed amendments to the Omaha Tribal Constitution and Bylaws.

Wayne Tyndall
Acting Director
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.