

5-1-1981

Honga : the leader, v. 04, no. 05

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

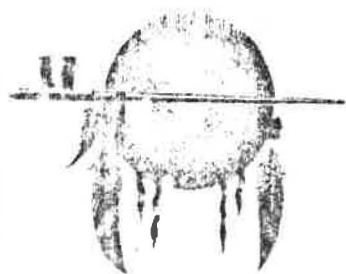
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HONGA

"THE LEADER"

VOLUME IV, No. 5

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

May, 1981

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The newsletter this month speaks of involvement. On the flip side of this page you will notice two articles on UPCOMING ELECTIONS -- one for your own Board Members and the other for City officials. Not enough can be said to stress the importance of getting out to register and vote. Someone is going to take that vacant office. It makes little sense not to take advantage of your right to vote, to exercise your influence, to have a say in the matter. And elections are a big matter, especially when you consider that the new Mayor will continue to effect this City, your environment, for the next four years.

Elections are a big matter at the American Indian Center also. Once a year, we vote for Indian people who will represent their community on whatever issues come to their attention and who will also review all areas of operation at the Indian Center. These people, once in office, represent a commitment to you and the work we feel we have at hand.

This is the time of the year when the AICO needs your involvement the most. When all of us look back over this past year's activities, services and accomplishments, we tend to evaluate the effectiveness of the total operations of our Indian Center as it relates to all American Indians living in the Omaha metropolitan area. How the Indian Center serves and assists our brothers and sisters. We look at the direction set down by the Board of Directors which governs our corporation. We look at the employees who implement the direction of programs, services and activities for our Indian community. Is the American Indian Center accomplishing all the goals and expectations you have for your family?

Your voting in our May 29 election to fill three vacancies on the Board is critical for the entire Indian community. We would encourage you to remember our values as they pertain to Board Members: concern, commitment, honesty, understanding, unselfishness, unbiasedness, no nepotism, and the ability to direct and guide the staff for the betterment of the entire Indian community.

The programs the Board of Directors operate at our Indian Center presently include the following:

ANA	\$120,000 (Administration for Native Americans)
CSA	\$ 35,000 (Community Services Administration, Health & Nutrition)
CETA	\$ 74,384 (Comprehensive Education & Training Act)
United Way	\$ 18,254 (Youth Program)
NIAAA	\$141,000 (Alcoholism Program)
ICWA	\$ 40,250 (Indian Child Welfare Act)
T&TA	\$ 13,700 (Training & Technical Assistance)
FS	\$ 5,800 (Feasibility Study, new cultural center)

Grand Total \$448,388

The American Indian Center has reached an all-time high for programs and services offered. Over the past four years, the Center has grown about 125% per year. It is the Board of Directors who has primary responsibility for these programs as they serve the Indian community. As such, I wanted to express the seriousness of this time as you cast your vote for our future.

Respectfully,

Timothy E. Woodhull
Executive Director

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

Urban Representative, Nebraska Indian Commission



! BE SURE TO VOTE !

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.
MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ELECTION NOTICE

TO ALL AMERICAN INDIANS
LIVING IN THE OMAHA
METROPOLITAN AREA

The American Indian Center of Omaha exists for the purpose of serving the urban community of Native Americans in the greater Omaha metropolitan area. As such, everyone has a voice in our affairs, be they day-to-day operations or long-term planning and development functions.

One way of getting the most out of your voice is to vote for a Member of the Board of Directors who will actively participate in the issues facing the Center and who will responsibly represent your concerns.

Therefore . . .

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC. WILL HOLD ITS ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ELECTION ON MAY 30, 1981 FROM 8:00 A.M. UNTIL 8:00 P.M. AT HANSCOM PARK.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE YOU MUST:

1. REGISTER AT THE CENTER BEFORE MAY 29, 1981.
2. BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE.
3. HAVE LIVED IN THE OMAHA METRO AREA FOR AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS.

If you are interested in being a candidate for the Board of Directors, you may pick up petitions at the Administrative Offices, 613 South 16th Street.

The potential Board Candidate must qualify as an Indian and acquire 25 endorsement signatures from persons who are eligible to vote.

This petition, fully signed, must be returned to the Executive Director's office at the Center no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 1981

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

! BE SURE TO VOTE !

CITY OF OMAHA -- VOTE FOR ONE
MAYORAL AND ONE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

On Tuesday, May 12, the City of Omaha will hold the final election for Mayor and City Council persons. It is critical for the Indian community to have the support of responsible governmental officials who will direct such issues as allocation of community block grant funds. If you have not already done so, please COME TO THE CENTER AND REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAY 9.

While the A.I.C.O. cannot legally endorse any political candidate, we do feel it is our duty to inform our community of those candidates who have already made commitments to support our American Indian cultural center project and related issues. Mayoral Candidate, Mike Boyle has, for example, publically promised to increase the voice of Omaha Indians in city affairs if he is elected.

In the First District, David Stahmer, a former State Senator, has long been a strong supporter of the A.I.C.O., having given substantial amounts of monies to the Center in the past. He has declared himself to be "100% in favor" of our proposed cultural center.

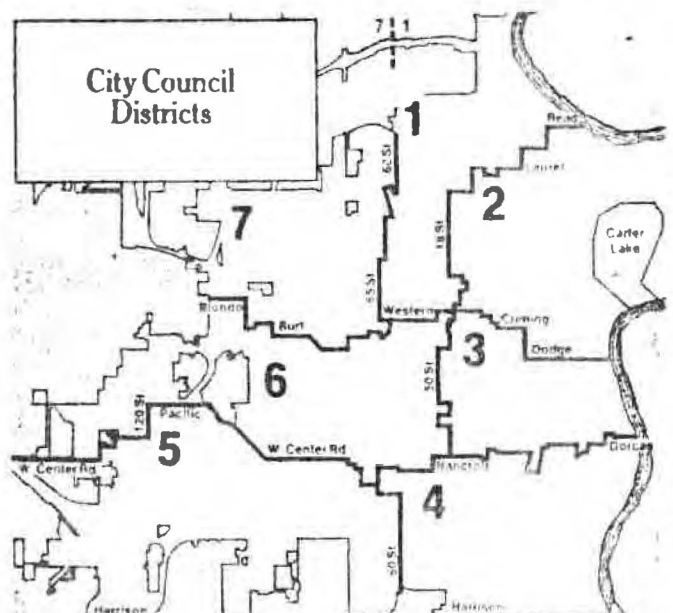
In the Second District, Fred Conley has visited our Center and has shown himself to be sensitive to our needs.

In the Third District, Walter Calinger has stated that he strongly supports the preservation of the ethnic heritages of Omaha citizens, including that of American Indians. He supports the use of community block grant funds for the social and economic benefit of low and moderate income peoples.

In the Fifth District, incumbant Richard Takechi has attended many of our community functions. Most recently, he presented a 'Key to the City' to Indian actress, Serene Hedin, one of the stars of the film WINDWALKER, during a benefit performance in Omaha.

In the Sixth District, Lannie McNichols has long been an active member of the Douglas County Historical Society and, as such, has been an active supporter of our Standing Bear project.

Please check the map below to make sure you know what District you are voting in.



DEPARTMENT

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Health and Nutrition Department is setting up a diet and exercise program to be conducted on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. beginning May 3. Persons will gather in the basement area (which, by the way, is carpeted) of AICO's main offices. Joan Garey, coordinator, says that "we'll try to provide transportation if it's needed. And 'bring your kids; we have a back room they can play in.'" Also, Sue Armstrong from the Douglas County Health Department will be on hand from time to time to take blood pressure readings.

Of course, in conjunction with losing weight is proper nutrition. We would like to plan a time where interested persons can get together to discuss budgeting food stamps, day-to-day nutrition and general health maintenance. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Allen Cunningham at 344-0111.

Several faculty members of the University of Nebraska College of Nursing have designed a study concerned with the life satisfactions of ethnic minority elderly in Nebraska. The AICO has been selected to provide a sample population and would like to see about 30 persons, aged 55 and over, come forward and express their feelings and attitudes towards life as they presently find it. These thoughts, in part, might be determined by general environmental or economic conditions. Generally, people are interested in researching these attitudes as a tool to increase social awareness in areas of human concern not normally considered a part of the majority consciousness.

The survey will take from 45 minutes to an hour to complete. Interested persons may contact Allen or Joan at our main number, or these staff members may be contacting you to see if you would be willing to participate. Remember,
YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

We know sometimes they're valuable, ancient family secrets, but if you could part with one or two for our general enjoyment, we sure would appreciate sharing recipies. A part of the HONGA will be reserved for this purpose.



NEW PROGRAMS

The American Indian Center of Omaha has received over \$19,000 in funding from the United Way of the Midlands in order to establish a YOUTH PROGRAM. The major purpose of the program is to provide economically and socially disadvantaged young native Americans with educational and employment counseling, leadership stimulation, group recreational and cultural activities.

Specific activities developed through this program will be publicized in upcoming issues of the HONGA.

UPDATE

CETA PROGRAM

The Indian Center CETA Program is still looking for Native Americans interested in vocational training. Curtis Walker, Outreach Worker, will see you through the initial paperwork between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday at 613 South 16th Street.

The American Indian Center of Omaha, as of February, became an active liaison for placing interested persons in programs sponsored through CETA that are being held at Metro Tech and OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Center). Classes in auto mechanics, welding, general labor, nurse aid, clerical, data processing, wordprocessing, insurance salesmanship and underwriting as well as other areas are presently being conducted.

So far, 17 persons have begun training through this program, "the importance of which," according to Fred LeRoy, "cannot be stressed enough, especially since President Reagan has cut out CETA-funded jobs."

Persons in the program receive some income stipend and are further supported with substantial assistance in locating employment. Call Curtis at 344-0111 if you think you could benefit from vocational training.

Fred LeRoy, Program Coordinator, is now more actively in touch with the business community of the greater metropolitan area, making contacts with employers on behalf of Indian peoples.



NEW PROGRAMS

The Indian Child Welfare Act was instituted a public law (PL 95-608) in 1978 to help prevent the breaking up of Indian families and to further secure Native American parents to provide foster homes for urban Indian children in need of shelter. Many of these services and community responses through court systems and general welfare programs that were to take place as a result of I.C.W.A. were not realized. AICO therefore determined to take responsibilities of counseling and care upon itself.

Through the INDIAN CHILD WELFARE RESOURCE DEPARTMENT, we plan to help certify American Indian persons as foster parents and maintain support systems through outreach, counseling and educational efforts that we feel will help solidify the integrity of urban Native American Indian family units.

The total cost of this program will be shared and supported to ensure that only the best interests of the children are served.

RUSSELL MEANS, A.I.M. activist, visited Omaha on April 27. He spoke at U.N.O. in the afternoon and at Holy Family Church in the evening. He also visited the AICO alcoholism program on Tuesday morning, April 28.

Speaking primarily to non-Indian persons, his U.N.O. address concerned the survival of industrial societies. Mother Earth, he stated has been "raped" of her natural resources; she has been giving to the point where she can't give any longer. Now, according to Russell, her population, Indians as well as non-Indians, are in constant struggle with each other to grasp at what remains. Consequently, the Indians have now expressed the intention of not relinquishing, to any degree, some of their last rights to land that was reserved for their use. Some of this land has recently been recognized as valuable for its water, minerals, lumber and other resources.

Speaking to the Indian community at Holy Family Church that evening, Russell discussed the history of A.I.M., its purpose and current objectives. He then centered his talk on the three enemies of the Indian people. First, he stated, there is the enemy of the United States government. It is an enemy because it has consistently broken solemn pledges given to Indian nations. Even today, Russell stated, this government refuses to abide by its own laws in its dealings with Indian peoples.

The second enemy he addressed was the enemy of our present American education system which, rather than creating in educated Indians a willingness to return to the reservations and urban areas to serve Indian peoples, instills in them a non-Indian attitude of self-serving individualism.

The third enemy he identified was the Christian church, for he believes that, while he has no quarrel with the good teachings of Christianity, the many denominations have served to divide Indian peoples on reservations and weaken tribal unity.

Russell Means concluded his talk with a description of the present American Indian encampment in the Black Hills outside of Rapid City. He invited the Indian community to come and visit for whatever length of time they were able.

KAREN MEANS, sponsored by several campus organizations, spoke at the University of Nebraska at Omaha on Monday, April 6. Karen helped found W.A.R.N. (Women of All Red Nations) which serves to inform Native American women about community issues. Ms. Means, an Oglala Indian from Pine Ridge, Nebraska, is also a Board Member and organizer of the Black Hills Alliance, a group concerned with the preservation of American Indian heritage.

(continued next column)



Asked to speak on survival issues of third world women, she said she was "not here to talk a lot of politics." The main issue for Karen is unity; that is, of all women, emphasizing that "what we have to face in society today is that we don't come together as women and work on special issues that are to the good of our survival . . . stereotyping gets in the way of us working together."

According to Karen, women have been treated as a minority and special group conflicts have been encouraged to keep them apart when they really are a majority and could exercise a great deal of influence. She commented on the fact that many women are internally oppressed by their roles. As such, Karen stated that "we need to identify the garbage we have in us and begin working together . . . one thing we have in common is that we are women."

After a short lecture, Ms. Means organized workshops and group interaction exercises where the dynamics of her talk were practiced.

THE NEBRASKA INDIAN COMMISSION met May 1 at AICO's administrative offices to review report and current business. The Commissioners discussed L.B. 129 which would increase taxes on wine, beer and liquor and would also recriminalize public intoxication, thereby rescinding provisions of a law already on the books. The NIC takes a position of "wanting to get these persons help for an illness rather than having them undergo criminal prosecution."

On April 14, N.U.F.F. (Nebraskans United for Food) hosted a POOR PEOPLE'S RALLY. This rally will be followed up on May 9 with a Rally For A Fair Budget at the State Capitol Building in Lincoln, Nebraska (see Calendar of Events for details).

Nate Parker, Alcoholism Program Director, and a speaker at the April 15 rally stated that, "I found myself saying the same things I said back in the 60's. I think we're slipping into some old human problems, back into more severe prejudice, into a lack of a sense of human rights."

With regard to current administration budget cuts, Nate brought out the fact that "fiscal responsibility does not rest with the poor; it rests with management. Controls and investigations should have been a part of the allocation process in the beginning."

And a reminder for all of us: "We have only realized maybe fifty percent of the dream towards affirmative action and human rights; we have a long way to go. To say that the dream is not working itself out and then to relinquish the vision is a sad thing. It takes a long time to bring about change."



ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM

Basically, some minor administrative changes have been made which allow for better round-the-clock coverage and a more organized response to the mounds of government paperwork required for accountability on such a federally-funded program. The Center thanks its new Secretary, Marian Warman, former volunteer receptionist, for help in all these matters. So much for business!!

When asked how the Indian Center Alcoholism Program is unique, Nate Parker, Director, stated that it "hinges on two factors: accessibility and acceptability." He also made note of the following:

1. Indian staff have a better understanding of the background of the clientele.
2. Oftentimes, there is a bilingual approach to communications which forms a stronger relationship between the counselor and client, we speak their language.
3. Other programs often incorporate the negative attitudes and stereotypes of alcoholism among Indians; they don't understand some of the basic reasons for Indians becoming alcoholic.
4. This program gets Indians involved back in their own community. It makes them feel a sense of home and land. This is important especially in an urban setting.
5. The Center works in conjunction with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). It's a partnership where both provide important ingredients into the treatment.

Nate reports that during the first quarter of 1981, 61 clients (75% male and 25% female) were served by the Center. According to the counselors, more women are now accepting treatment for this illness.

The Center continues to work on a community-wide education program. For instance, oftentimes hospitals don't think to send Indians to the Indian Center for treatment; they get lost in the shuffle where sometimes they are not well received. "There is continuing growth," Nate says, "for all of us. We're please to be a part of a great commitment."

* * * * *

STAFF NEWS

Actually, the biggest news on staff this month is that we need more of you! With AICO having accepted responsibility for two new programs, Indian Child Welfare and Youth Programs, additional people are needed for implementation. The Center, therefore, is taking application for the following positions:

1. Social Worker/Director
Indian Child Welfare Resource Department
2. Receptionist/Secretary
Indian Child Welfare Resource Department
3. Youth Director
Youth Programs Department

Applications and job descriptions are available at the Administrative Offices, 613 South 16th Street.

* * * * *

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Readers of the March, 1981 HONGA will remember that the SEDS Department played the chief roll in organizing a "SEDS Grantees Coalition Conference" that was held March 31 through April 2 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

This three-day conference was attended by more than 50 representatives of all 17 urban and reservation SEDS grantees as well as representatives of the Administration for Native Americans (HHS) and economic development specialists. Also in attendance was ANA Commissioner, A. David Lester, who was so pleased with the organization of the conference that he requested AICO put together a nationwide conference of all ANA grantees within the next 12 to 14 months.

The only unfortunate news from the conference is that Commissioner Lester announced a 17% cut in the ANA budget from \$33.8 to \$28 million.

In other SEDS developments, the Overall Economic Development Committee met on April 16 and decided that the proposed American Indian cultural center project should be ranked 4th out of 2 projects considered in the City of Omaha's overall development plans. This ranking put us ahead of the downtown revitalization program but behind the 24th & Lake and Kellom Heights improvement projects. Our next step will be to fund a project feasibility study by a major Omaha architectural firm on two possible locations for the cultural center.

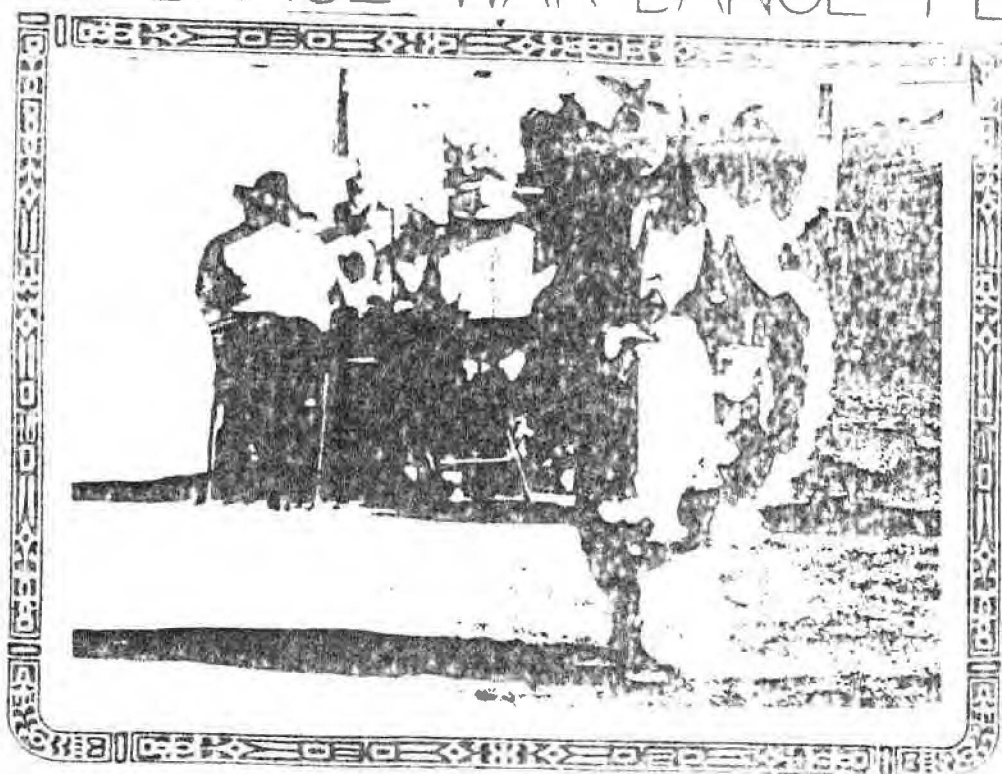
On April 31, the SEDS Department submitted a grant proposal for \$30,000 to the City of Omaha under its Community Development Action Grant program (CDAG). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time the AICO has ever directly requested city monies. If this grant is successful, we will use the funds, together with a \$65,000 WETA labor commitment to expand and renovate our present facilities in order to, first of all, provide space for two new social service activities, the Youth and Indian Child Welfare programs. Expanded facilities will also allow us to establish a Senior Citizens dining site as well as an American Indian arts and crafts store.

* * * * *

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER AND MARCH OF THE 1960s
 ANNOUNCES
 THIRD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
 GOURD DANCE & WAR DANCE
 FOR

D. MICHAEL WELLS
 SPONSORED BY RAYMOND WELLS AND FAMILY

GOURD DANCE—WAR DANCE—FEAST



TAI-PAH SOCIETY, HOST DANCERS

HEAD STAFF:

HEAD SINGER	:	CLYDE SHERIDAN, SR.	—	MACY, NEBRASKA
HEAD MAN DANCER	:	HOOVER HARLAN	—	LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
HEAD LADY DANCER	:	ROBERTA LOVEJOY	—	OMAHA, NEBRASKA
HEAD BOY DANCER	:	DWIGHT ESAU	—	OMAHA, NEBRASKA
HEAD GIRL DANCER	:	LAURA BAREA, JR.	—	OMAHA, NEBRASKA

MASTER OF CEREMONIES	:	CLIFFORD WOLFE, SR.
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AD DANCER OF THE	:	HOWARD WOLFE	LINCOLN, NEBRASKA
	:	JOHN TURNER	

Last Month . . .

Did you make it to the Easter egg hunt (about 200 people did); Shrine Circus (the 150 available tickets were all used); Standing Bear Day Celebration (nearly 100 people showed).

If you ever have any questions on upcoming events, please call our main number 344-0111.

MAY, 1981

As usual . . .

Every Tuesday Persons interested in Indian Culture will meet in A.I.C.O.'s office space at 613 South 16th Street beginning at 7:00 p.m. Pot luck dinner is served.

There is also an Urban Culture Club that meets every Tuesday evening at Joe Hollowell's house. Right now they are planning Pow'wow '81 which is to be held in September.

Every Friday Friday's at 7:00 p.m., the Indian Alcoholism AA meetings take place at 4601 North 36th Street. Everyone should feel free to attend. Call Nate Parker, Director, at 451-3714 for additional information.

May 9 This Saturday is the last day to REGISTER TO VOTE in City-wide elections.

May 9 From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the north steps of the Nebraska State Capitol Building (14th & K Sts), a Rally for a Fair Budget will take place. This is a follow-up of the Poor People's Rally held April 15 here in Omaha (see newsletter article).

May 9 Looks like a busy weekend! The Winnebago Community Center will hold a graduation dance in honor of Thelma Thomas who is graduating from Morningside College. Events begin at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

May 9 & 10 An All Indian Bowling Tournament, sponsored by the Winnebago Bowling Club, will be held at Harmony Lanes in South Sioux City, Nebraska (Hwy 73-77 & I-29 interchange). Teams may sign up at the Center, 613 South 16th Street.
1st place four-man team, \$500; 1st place four-women team, \$500
1st place men's doubles, \$200; 1st place women's doubles, \$200
1st place men's singles, \$100; 1st place women's singles, \$100

May 21 On Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., the monthly meeting of the A.I.C.O. Board of Directors will take place at 613 South 16th Street. These meetings are open to the public, especially the Indian community.

May 23 Third Annual Birthday Celebration Gourd Dance and War Dance for D. Michael Wells will take place in Macy Nebraska. Events begin at 2:00 p.m.

May 30 Voting for the A.I.C.O.'s Board of Directors will take place at Hanscom Park from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. See newsletter article for details.

AND DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, MAY 12

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

The Ethnic Festival will be held June 6 and 7 at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. The Urban Culture Club will have both a food and arts & crafts booth. Singing and dancing are also being planned.

The organization called White Earth Indian Nation located in Minnesota will sponsor the Seventh International Indian Treaty Conference June 4 through 11. According to a bulletin release, they "meet to develop the Great International Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation." Additional information may be obtained by writing to:

White Earth Indian Nation
P. O. Box 487
White Earth, Minnesota 56591

The Fifth Annual American Intertribal Pow'Wow will be held June 12, 13 & 14 at 4656 Gravois Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. You may call (314)353-4517 for additional information.



MAY 1981



This calendar is to inform the American Indian Community of pertinent social, cultural, educational and political events. If your Native American organization would like to submit such information for publication, please call 344-0111.					1 7PM Alcoholism Program Mtg	2
3	4	5 Cultural Mtgs 7PM	6	7	8 7 PM Alcoholism Program Mtg	9 <u>Bowling</u> LAST DAY OF VOTER REGISTRATION Lincoln Rally
10 Bowling Tournament	11	12 Cultural Mtgs 7PM	13	14	15 7 PM Alcoholism Program Mtg	16
17	18	19 Cultural Mtgs 7 PM	20	21 7 PM Board Monthly Mtg	22 Alcoholism Program 7 Meeting PM	23 2PM Gourd Dance in Macy
24 21	25	26 Cultural Mtgs 7 PM	27	28	29 Alcoholism Program 7 Meeting PM	30 8 AM to 8 PM AICO Board of Directors Election - Hanscom Park

The HONGA is published monthly through the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc. with a circulation of over 1500.
 Editor-in-Chief Timothy F. Woodhull
 Associate Editor Sherrill L. Holmgren



AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.
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