

11-1-1981

Honga : the leader, v. 04, no. 11

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

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Recommended Citation

of Omaha, Inc., American Indian Center, "Honga : the leader, v. 04, no. 11" (1981). *Honga: the leader*. 37.
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HONGA

"THE LEADER"

VOLUME IV, No. 11

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

NOVEMBER, 1981

Dear Community,

It will soon turn cold and winter will be upon us. Now is the time to prepare for its arrival.

In our last HONGA distribution we asked the postman for an address correction update. This meant that all copies of the HONGA not delivered would be returned. Consequently, we had a lot of them returned. I am amazed at how many families have moved in the past few months. I have overheard from time to time certain persons remark, "I don't get the HONGA anymore." There's no way of knowing that you have moved unless you provide us with your new address. It is important that you inform us when you change your address.

Those families in need are urged to sign up at the Center for turkeys for Thanksgiving. Please don't call in. We need you to come down to the Center, which you may do until November 20, to sign up. We plan to distribute as many turkeys as possible.

GOOD NEWS! Indian Health Service in Aberdeen, South Dakota, has taken over the funding of our Alcoholism Program since NIAAA (National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse) has been dismantled. We can thank Rick Harrison, an Osage Indian, of NIAAA for making sure that the funding of our Alcoholism Program was continued. Our Acting Alcoholism Program Director, ELMER NECKLACE, is working in close concert with Edward Crawford, Aberdeen Area Alcoholism Coordinator, to get the program in full swing.

MORE GOOD NEWS! The American Indian Center of Omaha was one of 7 out of 15 Indian organizations funded by ANA (Administration for Native Americans). Eight former grantees lost funding and must wait for the new program announcements to reapply. We have been awarded a total of \$119,250. We will continue to face stringent program assessment and will continue our own self-evaluation to insure continued funding.

NOVEMBER 21 WILL BE OUR THANKSGIVING DAY at the Center. We invite all our Indian people in the area to attend this event. It will serve as an Open House celebration as well.

The above are the most recent highlights I wanted to keep you informed on. Please read through the HONGA for more information, and please help support the community as a whole by participating with us as we seek to serve all of you.

Wayne Syrdall

listen old man listen OMAHA SWEAT LODGE
you rock listen RITUAL NO. 1

old man listen
listen didn't i teach all their children
to follow me listen

listen
listen unmoving time-without-end listen
you old man sitting there listen
on the roads where all the winds

come rushing
at the heart of the winds where you're
sitting listen

old man listen
listen there's short grasses growing all
over you listen
you're sitting there living inside them

listen
listen i mean you're sitting there covered
with birdshit listen
head's rimmed with soft feathers of birds

listen

old man listen
you standing there next in command listen
listen you water listen

you water that keeps on flowing
from time out of mind listen

listen the children have fed off you
no one's come on your secret
the children go mad for your touch listen
listen you standing like somebody's house

listen
just like somewhere to live listen
you great animals listen

listen you making a covering over us listen
saying let the thoughts of those children
live with me & let them love me listen

listen you tent-frame listen
you standing with back bent you over us
stooping your shoulders you bending over us
you really standing

you saying thus shall my little ones
speak of me
you brushing the hair back from your
forehead listen

the hair of your head
the grass growing over you
you with your hair turning white listen
the hair growing over your head listen
o you roads the children will be walking on

listen
all the ways they'll run to be safe listen
they'll escape their shoulders bending with
age where they walk

walking where others have walked
their hands shading their brows
while they walk & are old listen
because they're wanting to share in your

strength listen
the children want to be close by your side
listen

walking listen
be very old & listen

English version by Jerome Rothenberg
from Alice Fletcher & Francis LaFlesche

DAM PROGRESS

ORME DAM IN TUSCON ARIZONA. Can you support it if it turns a river into a stagnant lake, destroys a unique environmental area which supports over 195 different bird species, eradicates one of the very few remaining nesting places of the sensitive bald eagle and the only such nesting place in Arizona, and requires the relocation of an entire Indian population, the Yavapai?

Can you if you've been refining the project since the 1940's, if it will create a large new capital intensive venture and represents a grand picture for developers, or if you had lost a home or business to heavy flooding in Phoenix between 1977 and 1980.

Having once "axed" the project due to outcries from environmentalists and Indian groups, then President Carter signed in October of 1980 a bill authorizing design development for Orme.

Are there alternatives to Orme--dams upstream from the Yavapai reservation or on another river. There are precautions that could be taken with the land that would not bring about such radical change.

Besides the drastic alteration to the environment, most effected would be the people. Agricultural methods peculiar to the area would become useless to the tribe. Anthropologists further agree that if moved once again, the Yavapai would cease to exist as a tribal unit. An increase in the mortality rate, alcohol and drug abuse, and serious economic decline are anticipated.

Sacred burial grounds would be flooded. The government's compromise? Digging it up and actually moving the 'ground', diking it off into an island, or pouring a slab of concrete over the top and erecting a marker to stick out of the water!

The Bureau of Reclamation agrees that there is no land comparable to Fort McDowell, land that the Yavapai were moved on to from central and western Arizona . . . after having been moved on to reservation camps shared with the Apache . . .

Recently, a 'new alternative' has been recommended. But the basic 'struggle for the land' continues.

THE AINU - JAPAN'S 'NATIVE AMERICANS'

As Native Americans continue their struggle for socio-economic self-determination and cultural integrity, they are joined by indigenous peoples from throughout the world.

One such group is the Ainu, a tribe of some 5,000 men, women and children who are generally believed to have been Japan's first inhabitants, having arrived in that island nation from Mongolia more than 7,000 years ago.

During Japan's early and middle ages, these semi-nomadic Ainu attempted unsuccessfully to protect their way of life, based on hunting and fishing, from encroachment by the 'Japanese.' Today the Ainu live in widely scattered villages on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. Many support themselves by making traditional crafts, especially wood-carvings, for the numerous Japanese tourists.

Although the Japanese government provides some minimal financial assistance, most Ainu remain landless. Their leaders are presently demanding that the Japanese in Hokkaido pay a land-use tax that would help generate more funds to use for housing and schooling their people. The Ainu also seek to preserve their people's ancient language and culture.

Perhaps some day the Ainu and Native American leaders will meet to share ideas and experience in their common struggle for justice and a better life.

NOTICE: The television program REAL PEOPLE will air the story on Crazy Horse on November 18. Hope you enjoy.



Ainu tribesman . . . carves for tourists.



World-Herald photos

FLANDREAU INDIAN SCHOOL

Flandreau is now accepting applications for the Second Semester of the 1981-82 school year which will start on January 5, 1982 and will end May 20, 1982.

The Flandreau Indian School is an accredited four-year High School that offers courses of study in vocational career areas, college prep, a general course of study, and many extra curricular activities.

For more information, contact FRED LEROY at the Indian Center (344-0111) or:

Mr. Jack A. Belkham
School Superintendent
Flandreau Indian School
Flandreau, South Dakota 57028

THE AICO CETA PROGRAM is establishing contact with different vocational training companies to provide necessary training for the Indian community. There is financial assistance available within these programs.

INSURANCE AGENT POSITION:

The JOHN HANCOCK INSURANCE COMPANY is actively looking for prospective employees in the area of sales. A high school diploma or GED is required. Also, a car and current drivers license will be necessary. You will be given a sales aptitude test to help determine how well you might do in this particular field. Contact Fred LeRoy (344-0111) if you think you might be interested.

POSITION OPEN AT THE INDIAN CENTER

The position of STORE MANAGER for the BRIGHT EYES TRADING POST has been coordinated with the CETA Training Program of the American Indian Center of Omaha. For the next four months the Manager's salary will come from CETA funding, and the position will be considered a vocational training experience. Applications will be taken through Tuesday, November 10. Please contact Brian Victoria or Sherrill Holmgren in the Economic Development Office for more information (344-0111).

The job description and applications are available at the Reception Desk of the main office, 513 South 16th Street.

Karen Grey Eyes, Indian Child Welfare worker from the Aberdeen area office (South Dakota) will be coming to the Indian Center on November 4 and 5 for a site visit. She will be concerned about how our program is developing and how the measures of the Indian Child Welfare Act are being implemented.

Also, the Clary Institute in Washington, D.C. which monitors all Indian Child Welfare programs, will also be making a site visit to our center to help establish and further our efforts.

The Indian Child Resource Center (ICRC) has spent much of this past month establishing contact with court systems, area social service agencies, and State welfare systems concerning the disposition of displaced Indian children that are involved in temporarily unresolved cases.

The American Indian Center Alcoholism Program and the Indian Child Welfare Resource Department have decided on a joint effort to propose a treatment center for adolescents facing alcoholism or drug rehabilitation. The facility would also serve as a shelter for children of parents seeking rehabilitation.

The ICRC is currently presenting informational sessions to various social service agencies in the Metro Omaha area regarding compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act.

ALCOHOLISM REPORT

The Omaha Planning Board has approved the application for an alcoholism halfway house and treatment center at 1538 No. 16th St. This will replace facilities shut down with the closing of the Community Plaza for Human Resources in July. Elmer Necklace, Acting Program Director, reports however that negotiations are underway with the State of Nebraska to secure grant funds which will provide for more adequate facilities. These facilities would be located in what had been the nurses quarters of the old Immanuel Hospital, and would possibly be shared with Drews Halfway House and St. Gabriel's detox center.

In the meantime, the AIC Alcoholism Program will be signing a contract this month with Indian Health Services to continue treatment at the current level of funding.

Progress is sometimes tedious and slow, but the program is moving ahead. Plans now call for an adolescent program and special facilities for women. As such, when finally reopened, services to the Indian community will be more complete.

RENOVATION PROJECT

WE ARE PLANNING AN OPEN HOUSE for NOVEMBER 21. By then the two major areas of the renovation, the Indian Elders Center and Bright Eyes Trading Post, will be completed.

Many of you have already seen the Community Hall and Classroom which are now being used for GED classes and by the Youth Program for showing films.

The Sewing Room and Arts & Crafts Workshop have recently been completed. Sewing machines are available. Tom Harlan is setting up beading and Native American garment making classes for the Youth Program.

The following are matters for your consideration.

OPEN HOUSE: NOVEMBER 21 - 1:00 p.m.

We are no longer planning outdoor activities. However, we will have dedication ceremonies and an Indian feast. Please contact Joan Garey if you can help in serving our community on November 21.

BRIGHT EYES TRADING POST:

Please note that the position of Store Manager is open to qualified applicants. The position of Assistant Manager is open to a qualified individual willing to work on a commission basis.

Consignment contracts are available to artists and craftspersons who wish to consign inventory to the TRADING POST. We definitely need community support if this COOPERATIVE is to be a success. Anyone needing information on this particular operation should contact Sherrill Holmgren at 344-0111.

 * The American Indian Center will celebrate *
 * Thanksgiving with a feast on November 21. *
 * We are asking that the needy in our com- *
 * munity sign up at the Center by November *
 * 20 to receive a turkey for their own *
 * Thanksgiving celebration. We will dis- *
 * tribute as many turkeys as possible on *
 * November 24. *
 * *****

As of November 23, the Indian Elders Center will be open to the elders of our community for hot meals and to serve as a community center.

In order to properly serve you, we would like to get an idea of those persons who would be in need of and benefit from a daily hot meal. PLEASE CALL JOAN GAREY to give her your name, address and phone number. Also, let her know if you will need transportation to and from the Center. We will have a van at our disposal.

WANTED: WOMEN WHO WANT TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL. CALL TOM HARLAN NOW TO FORM A TEAM!!

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Health & Nutrition Coordinator, JOAN GAREY, attended a two-day Self-Evaluation Workshop in Kansas City this past month. Of particular importance was the fact that when applying for federal funding or block grant funding, a well-written self-evaluation could be of utmost importance.

Joan has also been working with the Food Bank to determine how our community nutrition services and hot meal program will be coordinated with supplies from the Food Bank. The Grand Opening of the Food Bank was held November 2.

HALLOWEEN PARTY:

The Health & Nutrition Program once again sponsored the Indian Center Halloween Party, working in conjunction with Tom Harlan and the Youth Program.

Joan Garey, Tom Harlan, Gwynn Nugent and Mary Alice Bigfire entertained 131 rambunctious youngsters. Prizes were given for best costume in three age categories. Treats were passed out, refreshments served, and the lights were turned off for a "horror film"

YOUTH PROGRAM

MOVIE - Friday, Nov. 6 - 6:00 p.m.
 "Windwalker"

BASKETBALL GAME - Saturday, Nov. 7 -
 1:00 p.m. in Macy
 American Indian Center vs. Macy
 men's team

VOLLEYBALL GAME - Saturday, Nov. 7 -
 3:00 p.m. in Macy
 Omaha women's volleyball team
 vs. Macy

DANCE - following ball games.

BASKETBALL - All games played at the Omaha Home for Boys, 52nd & Ames.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Home for Boys | 5. Beautiful Savior |
| 2. American Lutheran | 6. St. Pius X |
| 3. Messiah Lutheran | 7. American Indian Center |
| 4. Kountze Memorial | 8. First United Methodist |

GAMES WILL BE PLAYED ON TUESDAY as follows:

Dec 8th	Jan 12th	Feb 16th
6:00 2 vs 1	6:00 5 vs 4	6:00 3 vs 2
6:45 3 vs 8	6:45 6 vs 3	6:45 4 vs 1
7:30 4 vs 7	7:30 7 vs 2	7:30 5 vs 8
8:15 5 vs 6	8:15 8 vs 1	8:15 6 vs 7

Dec 15th	Jan 19th	Feb 2
6:00 3 vs 2	6:00 6 vs 2	6:00 8 vs 2
6:45 4 vs 1	6:45 7 vs 3	6:45 7 vs 1
7:30 5 vs 8	7:30 8 vs 4	7:30 6 vs 4
8:15 6 vs 7	8:15 1 vs 5	8:15 5 vs 3

Jan 5th	Jan 26th	Feb 9th
6:00 4 vs 3	6:00 7 vs 5	6:00 2 vs 1
6:45 5 vs 2	6:45 8 vs 6	6:45 3 vs 8
7:30 6 vs 1	7:30 1 vs 3	7:30 4 vs 7
8:15 7 vs 8	8:15 2 vs 4	8:15 5 vs 6

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER, 1981

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

TUESDAYS 7:00 PM Wahoⁿthiⁿge's Meeting
Contact Cecilia Wells, 345-4290

7:00 PM Urban Indian Culture Club
Contact Joe Hallowell, 345-1576

7:00 to 9:30 PM GED Classes - American Indian Center
Classroom

Note: Beading and Sewing classes for the Youth Program have been postponed on Tuesday evenings until funding becomes available for supplies -- we hope SOON.

The Youth Group has been challenged to several basketball games which will be played on Tuesday evenings beginning December 8. Check the Youth Program Schedule for details.

WEDNESDAYS 7:00 to 9:30 PM GED Classes - American Indian Center
Classroom

THURSDAYS Contact Tom Harlan for basketball practice.

FRIDAYS 7:00 PM Alcoholism Program Meeting
American Indian Center Conference Room
Contact Elmer Necklace, 344-0111

THIS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, at 6:00 p.m., the Community is invited to see the film WINDWALKER which will be showing in the Center's Community Hall.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, both the Indian Center's basketball team and Omaha women's volleyball team have been challenged to matches in Macy. There will be a dance following the games.

VETERANS DAY WILL BE OBSERVED at the American Indian Center of Omaha on Wednesday, November 11. The Center will be closed for this holiday.

WEDDING DANCE for Ruben & Julie Delgado BlackEagle to be held at the Lincoln Indian Center on NOVEMBER 14 - Saturday. 1100 & Military Road.
Gourd Dance - 2:00 p.m.
Supper - 5:00 p.m.
War Dance - 7:30 p.m.
Contact Ruben Delgado (1-488-1486) for more information.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION for Angel & Shawn Talawyma to be held at the Antelope Pavilion NOVEMBER 8 beginning at NOON.
Come to A Street at Park Drive in Lincoln, Nebraska

OPEN HOUSE FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER - NOVEMBER 21 - we will begin serving after a blessing of the building at NOON.

DON'T MISS THE ARTS FAIR AND SHOWING OF THE FILM WINDWALKER at the Southroads Shopping Center on Sunday, November 22.

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS will be observed on Thursday, November 26.
The American Indian Center will be closed this day.

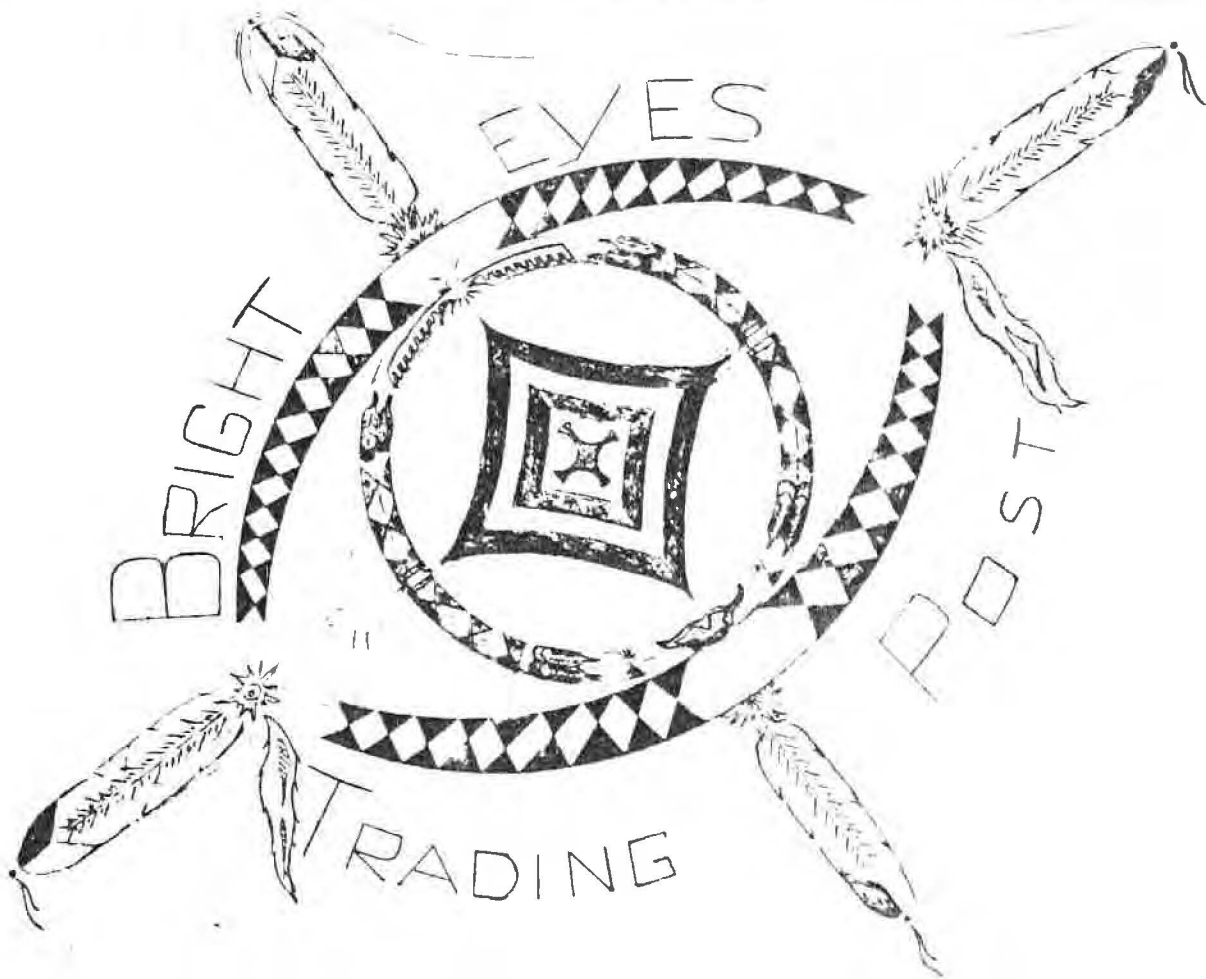


AMERICAN INDIAN-CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



OPENING - NOVEMBER 21