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Honga : the leader, v. 05, no. 01

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

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HONGA

"THE LEADER"

VOLUME V No. 1

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

January, 1982

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Indians are ripping off the government again! If you read a recent article in the World Herald (12-31-81) concerning an Omaha based non-profit organization known as United Indians of Nebraska (U.I.N.) that is the impression you probably received. According to the article, U.I.N. is under suspicion of financial misconduct with regard to its Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration funds. Once again, the suspicion is aroused that the CETA program is a waste of the hardpressed taxpayer's money.

As acting executive director of the only other non-profit organization in the Omaha area serving Indian clients with its own CETA program, the first point I wish to make is that we are indeed a separate organization, with no ties whatsoever to U.I.N. Indeed, we, and the Lincoln Indian Center, have long felt that U.I.N. was not adequately serving the vocational training needs of Nebraska's urban Indian population. It was for this reason that in 1980 the two urban Indian Centers applied for and received (from the Dept. of Labor) the CETA grant for urban Indian vocational training that had previously been administered by U.I.N.

In the little more than one year that the AICO has administered these funds in the Omaha area, we have provided vocational training opportunities for approximately 50 Indian men and women. This was accomplished on an annual budget of \$72,000.

At the AICO we regard the public funds we receive as a sacred trust. As such, we stand ready, at all times, to show interested members of the public how their tax dollars are spent. In this same spirit, we believe that any individual or organization, irregardless of racial affiliation, should be held fully accountable for any misconduct with regard to public funds. Such misconduct, if proven to be true, can only serve to tarnish government programs which we believe are absolutely essential to the betterment of economically and socially disadvantaged Americans.

In closing, I have one question to ask the World Herald. Why is it that the racial affiliation of alleged minority wrong-doers is always featured prominently in your headlines? If, for example, charges of financial misconduct were alleged against an organization composed primarily of Caucasians, would your headlines identify it as a 'white organization'? (This article submitted to the Omaha World-Herald for reprint.)

Wayne Tyndall

Wayne Tyndall
Executive Director

ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM "OPEN HOUSE" DEDICATION

January 18, has been set as the date for the "Open House" ceremonies for blessing and dedication of the new alcoholism program facilities at 2483 Larimore St. These ceremonies will be followed by a tour of the building and a meal to the guests. The facilities are much larger than the former building the program was housed in and the building has had a new heating system installed. The alcoholism program shares the building with Drew's Halfway House and Catholic Social Services. The community is invited to attend.

Of special interest, Elmer Necklace, Acting Alcoholism Program Director reports that one of his former clients, Mary Pretends Eagle has been hired at the St. Gabriel's Detox Center as a Counselor. Mary went through the alcoholism program last year and was interested in pursuing a career in alcoholism counseling. Elmer further reports that Mary is the first Indian hired at St. Gabriel's. This only proves that if a person is seriously concerned about their future, they can quit drinking and put their lives together and help the very people they were once a part of. Mary has over one year of sobriety and everyone at the Center is proud of her and her success. We wish her the very best in her chosen field.

TITLE IV NEWS

The Title IV Indian Education Program sponsored a field trip for Junior and Senior High students from the Omaha Public Schools to Lincoln, Ne. on December 22nd. Activities included a tour of the State Capitol, State Museum tour, viewing of the Sky Show at the Planetarium, and a buffet style lunch.

Responses from the students indicated that they enjoyed all aspects of the trip and made new friends. They expressed their appreciation to the Title IV Program for sponsoring the trip.

AICO TO BE COMPUTERIZED

The American Indian Center has received a small computer through a donation made by a local supply company. The computer will be used in financial management, client statistics and in other areas. Mr. Paul Starckoff, AICO Accountant will be trained in its operation. The computer will also be able to allow AICO to cut down on expenses by bookkeeping. Word processing capability is also a part of the computer.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Nebraska Low Income Energy Assistance Program is currently taking applications for heating assistance. In Douglas County, these applications are being taken at 1215 S. 42nd St. You can call 444-6608 for an appointment. Applicants need to bring in:

1. Verification of their income (wages for three months),
2. A year's verification is needed for self employed or seasonal workers,
3. A copy of their most recent utility bill or receipt,
4. Income verification for all other individuals with income in the household.

The program is not designed to pay the entire cost for heating a home. It is only designed to supplement the household's ability to pay. You are advised to make regular payments (when possible) on your utility bills.

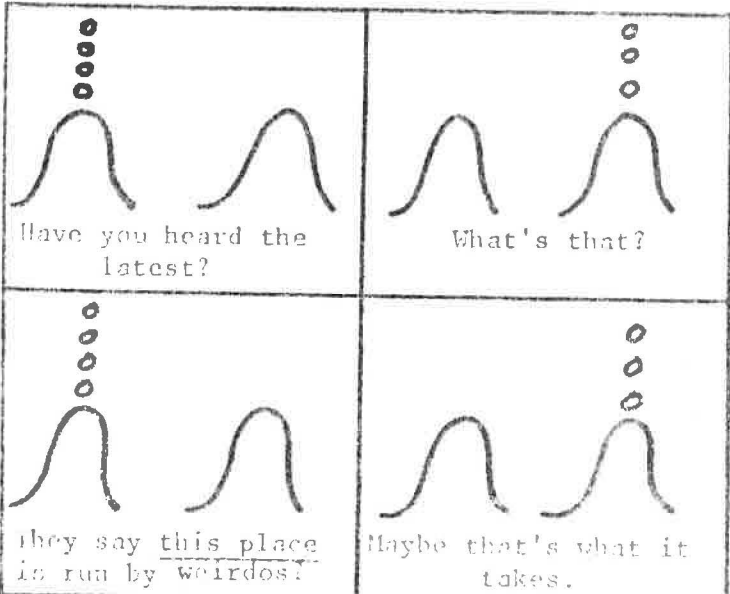
For questions on the program, call Mr. Don Schunk at 444-6608.

INDIANS SERVE IN U.S. RANKS

A newly-enlisted all-Navajo contingent of U.S. Marines is hoping to train together and remain together. The 65 Navajos enlisted in Albuquerque at the suggestion of Navajo chairman Peter McDonald, who himself enlisted in 1944 at the age of 15. McDonald became one of the famous "code talkers" who confused and confounded Japanese cryptographers during WWII.

In addition to the all-Navajo platoon, some 14,226 Indians are presently members of the United States Armed Forces. Of these, 599 are Air Force officers and 6,675 Air Force enlisted; 153 Navy officers and 22,836 Navy enlisted; 204 Army officers and 2,645 Army enlisted; and 43 Marine Corps officers and 1,121 enlisted.

SMOKE SIGNALS



BUDGET CUTS OR MISER'S PITTANCE?

"The exodus of this whole people from the land of their fathers is not only an interesting but a touching sight. They have fought us gallantly for years on years; they have defended their mountains and their stupendous canyons with a heroism which any people might be proud to emulate; but when, at length, they found it was their destiny, too, as it had been that of their bretheren, tribe after tribe, away back toward the rising of the sun, to give way to the insatiable progress of our race, they threw down their arms, and, as brave men entitled to our admiration and respect, have come to us with confidence in our magnanimity, and feeling that we are too powerful and too just a people to repay that confidence with meanness or neglect--feeling that having sacrificed to us their beautiful country, their homes, the associations of their lives, the scenes rendered classic in their traditions, we will not dole out to them a miser's pittance in return for what they know to be and what we know to be a princely realm." --Gen. James Carleton

AICO CORPORATE MANUALS TO BE ON DISPLAY

On January 18-21, a rough draft copy of the new AICO Corporate Manuals will be on display at the American Indian Center for the community to review. Members of the community are welcome to make suggestions. On January 21, at the monthly Board of Directors meeting, these documents will be voted on for adoption. The corporate manuals consist of: Bylaws and Constitution, Personnel Policies & Procedures, Accounting Procedures, and the Travel Policies.

For more information, contact Mr. Wayne Tyndall, Acting Executive Director at 344-0111.

IN MEMORY OF

Thurman Allen passed from this world on Christmas Day at the VA hospital. He had lived in Omaha for several years. He came from Winnebago, Nebraska. Thurman had many friends in his life and served on the AICO board of directors. He was buried at Winnebago. He will be missed by his many friends.

Leonard Newton, Jr. passed away on December 22nd. He was buried in Omaha on December 26th. He was the son of Doris Rodgers, former member of the AICO Board of Directors.

In behalf of their families and friends, we at the American Indian Center express our most sincere sympathies.

TRIBE TURNS DOWN \$28 TO FIGHT POVERTY

Phoenix, Ariz. (AP) - The 110 member Yavapai-Prescott Tribe stood to receive \$28 in federal aid to fight poverty, but tribal officials turned it down, saying the amount wasn't worth the bother.

"It's too little - \$28," tribal president Patricia McGee said. "That's not even worth a telephone call to Washington."

Although the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe passed up the offer, 12 of Arizona's 19 tribes have requested parts of the \$352,000 in Department of Health & Human Services community service block-grant funds available to state tribes.

The Navajo Tribe, which the Census Bureau says has about 135,000 members, is eligible for \$221,628 under a formula based on the number of tribal members whose income fall below the poverty level.

Editor's Note: Audit fees for auditing the \$28 of aid would itself run over \$100. I agree, why bother.

MATTHEW LITTLE MOON, NEW BOARD MEMBER

Hello! I am the newest member of the American Indian Center Board of Directors. I was born and raised in San Francisco.

I have always been acutely aware of my heritage and have always struggled to honor that heritage. I have made a rededication of my life to helping secure the blessings of liberty and self-determination for all peoples of the world, especially Native Americans. My past is full of mistakes: I do not try to hide that! My future may be full of mistakes too: I am all too human! What I am trying to say, is that I am here to help each and every one of you! I remain at your disposal, for any reason whatsoever. I have a college education and have made remarkable progress here in Omaha in establishing myself as a contributing member of the community in which I live. It is my sincere hope that you, the core of the American Indian community of the Omaha metro area, will take a more active role in guiding this Center toward filling the needs of the community and become involved in our regular and special activities. I look forward to working with you in overcoming the many problems we all face, and assure you I will never violate the trust that has been placed in me. When I took the Oath of Office as a board member, I swore to tell the truth at all times. Those who know me know how much I believe in the truth and the power it has to dispel ignorance and give courage in the face of opposition. That is the way it is with me. I would very much like to hear from you. Together, we can overcome adversity! Walk in beauty...and may Wakan Tanka protect and keep you!

Socio-Economic Development Department

This past month the Socio-Economic Development Department staff completed a week long seminar in Kansas City in grant writing. Since then, much research and writing has been completed in order to furnish and provide services in the Indian Elders Center and also in order to equip and start up new businesses within the AICO.

The print shop is expected to be fully operational by the end of this month. Funding from two existing grants, CEIA and T&TA, have been used to buy equity in the business that was sold by Target Printing for \$4,500. Lease payments will total \$326.00 per month, and supplies will constitute some overhead.

John Alexander, an Omaha Indian person with much experience in printing, has been working with department staff and Ray Kidney, former owner of Target Printing, to set up shop at AICO and to secure work for the new business -- and it looks promising. Fred LeRoy, Indian CEIA director, says that his program will support vocational training in this area.

For the purposes of planning new businesses as well as developing long-range plans for the entire Center, the Board and department heads will hold a one-day retreat in late February.

In order to make this retreat a success, it is very important that we have the community's suggestions and ideas. In the February issue of the HONGA you will find a questionnaire about the AICO. Please be thinking about how you would evaluate the Center at present, and more importantly, what you would like us to do in the future.

THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF will be produced by the Emmy Gifford Childrens Theater from January 23 through February 14.

The play is about a little boy whose uncle came as a settler to America. The boy was kidnapped by persons dressed as "Indians" and held for ransom.

However, the uncle, glad to be rid of the mischievous youngster, refused to pay the ransom. From there, the boy dresses himself up as "Indian," creates more mischief and ends up getting into a lot of trouble.

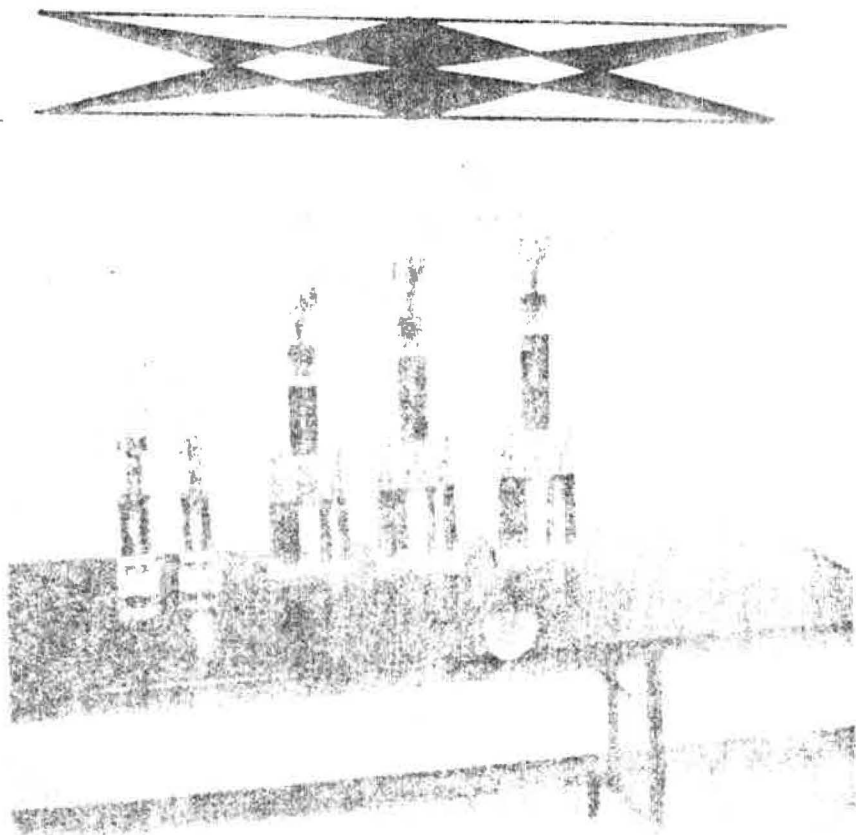
Not having seen the play, we are not able to comment on the production. Perhaps our community will have some thoughts about such a portrayal once the production is underway.

SPORTS NOTES

December proved to be an active month for all AICO teams. On December 8th, the AICO Youth Basketball team defeated the Kountze Memorial Youth team 33-20 in league action, then lost to a powerful St. Pius X team 43-32 December 15th, also in league action. In both games, Brian Parker led all AICO scorers.

On December 19th, three AICO basketball teams traveled to Macy and Winnebago for a series of contests: The AICO Midgets lost to a taller St. Augustine's team in Winnebago, then played their hearts out in a defeat to the Macy Midgets. A combined Youth & Men's team salvaged the trip with a win over the Macy Men at Macy.

On December 27th, AICO Youth and AICO Men's teams traveled to



On tap for January, are league games against First United Methodist January 5th; American Lutheran on January 12th; Messiah Lutheran on January 19th; and Beautiful Savior on the 26th of January. All games will be played at the Omaha Home for Boys at 4343 N. 52nd St. Parents and community are urgently invited to come to these games, because the team is motivated if more of you watch them. This is probably one of the best Youth teams assembled in a long time. Tom Harlan has scheduled a grueling list of teams for them to play in the anticipation that they will be an excellent team later on. Support your local Indian team!!!



Winnebago for two afternoon games: The Youth team playing against an experienced Winnebago High team lost in the first game. The Men's team put up a gallant stand before succumbing to exhaustion in the second half and lost to the Winnebago Men's team.

On another note, December 5th marked the first significant success of any AICO team thus far. The AICO Co-ed Youth Volleyball Team led by Carrie Andersen as Most Valuable Girl's Player stormed on Horton, Kansas and took Second Place. This team was hastily formed and was introduced to each other on the way to Horton. The team had never practiced before they met.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAYS	<u>Beading Classes</u> conducted by Tom Harlan every Monday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the American Indian Center, 613 S. 16th St. in the upstairs classrooms. (January 4, 11, 18, 25.)
TUESDAYS	<u>AICO Youth Basketball Games</u> every Tuesday at the Omaha Home for Boys, 4343 N. 52nd St. Call Tom Harlan at 344-0111 for schedule and opponents.
WEDNESDAYS	<u>Indian Foster Parent Training Classes</u> conducted at the American Indian Center every Wednesday beginning January 13 and continuing every Wednesday thereafter. From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
THURSDAYS	<u>Monthly AICO Board of Directors Meeting</u> at the American Indian Center Conference Room, 613 S. 16th St. from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The community is invited to attend.
FRIDAYS	AICO Youth Basketball Team travels to Horton, Kansas for a basketball game, January 29th.
SATURDAYS	AICO Midget Basketball Games every Saturday at the Kellom Community Center beginning January 9 and continuing every Saturday thereafter. Call Tom Harlan for details.

SPECIAL EVENTS

January 18	AICO Alcoholism Program "Grand Opening" at 3483 Larimore St. Contact Elmer Necklace for details at 453-6377.
January 12	G.E.D. classes resume on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Contact Fred LeRoy or Frances Chamberlain for more information.
January 15-17	Omaha Food Bank Fair at the Omaha Civic Auditorium from 12 Noon to 6 p.m. Contact Joan Garey for more information.
January 16-17	First Annual Macy Co-ed Volleyball Tournament in Macy, Ne. Contact Tom Harlan for details.
January 22-24	AICO Youth Basketball Team in Macy for Macy Youth Basketball Tournament.

ANNOUNCEMENT
JOB VACANCY

Job Title:	Executive Director American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.
Salary Range:	\$18,000 - \$21,000 depending on experience.
Responsible to:	Board of Directors American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

Issue Date: December 31, 1981

Closing Date: February 1, 1982

All applications should be submitted with resumes and other supporting documents.

Submit Applications to: Wayne Tyndall, Acting Executive Director
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.
613 South 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-3197
