

TODAY'S MINORITIES[®]



THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S FUTURE

Indian tribes push big political agenda to Chicago Democrats

by Brad Cain
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) - One after another, congressional candidates stood at a podium in a hotel ballroom and paid tribute to groups that could provide campaign donations or even votes in a close election.

But this wasn't the typical late-night corporate reception held all across the city during the recent Democratic National Convention. These political operators were newcomers. They represented Indian tribes.

"There is a new power emerging in American politics and it's the Native American vote," Rep. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., said when his turn came to speak at the reception.

Johnson is running for the Senate against Republican Larry Pressler, and he reminded the audience of tribal leaders from

across the country that his state included six Indian reservations. Others wooing Indian support included a U.S. Senate candidate from Nebraska and a congressional challenger from Arizona.

"It's a good awakening for the Native Americans. We have always participated in the wars - the Korean War and World War II and Vietnam War - but never really been active in the political sense," said Cherokee Nation Chief Joe Byrd of Oklahoma. "Now it's time for us to be active on both sides."

Byrd spoke at a political strategy session organized earlier by the Democratic National Committee and President Clinton's campaign.

Nationwide, there are about 2.5 mil-

CONVENTION,
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COMMUNITY HEROES - Five Southern California teenagers were recently recognized for their efforts to overcome severe life obstacles to succeed in school and their communities. The teens were selected by Los Angeles' NBC 4 television station to help carry the Olympic torch to the Atlanta Olympic Games this summer. Pictured from left, back row, are NBC 4 weekend sports anchor Carlos Del Valle; Damon Johnson; and TV sports anchor Fred Roggin. In front row, from left, are Ginger Childs; Sophia Espinoza; Danielle McDaniels and Veronica Quintana. The teens are all from the metropolitan Los Angeles area.

Native Vote '96 takes to road to register 50,000 Indian voters

by Hunter T George
Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA (AP) - Armed with political consultants and lists of names culled from databases, Indian tribes used a new tool this summer as they attempted to register 50,000 members to vote - a 30-foot motor home.

Tribal activists showed off their new purchase during a break in meetings designed to set their political strategy for this election year.

Native Vote '96 organizer Russell LaFountaine said tribes have lost their voice in the political world, and only a strong showing at the polls will send the right message.

"If there's more than 10 natives at one place at one time, we'll find them," he said. "We are concentrating on young native voters, elders who have not voted for years and natives on reservations who long ago lost interest in American politics."

LaFountaine and two other Indian organizers are spending four months in the motor home, visiting all 27 Indian reservations in Washington, as well as reservations in Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

U.S. Census records indicate there are about 100,000 Indians living on Washington reservations, although LaFountaine said the total number of Indians in the state is closer to 200,000.

Supporters of the \$130,000 effort said they will appeal to Indian concerns about federal budget cuts, welfare services, education, health care and management of natural resources.

But they also acknowledged that increased Indian turnout on election day would boost their second attempt to get voter approval for slot machines and other forms of electronic gaming. Washington voters resoundingly defeated a similar effort last year,

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<http://www.business1.com/thr/today/sminorities/tm.htm>

Education: Filling the Pipeline to the Future ... Economic realities settle in as racial gap in education narrows

The economic realities of education are settling in as the racial gap narrows between high school students in the United States and competition for America's top jobs in-

creases.

The Census Bureau recently reported

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Affirmative action is big topic for '96 convention circuit

Nation's top civil rights groups debate how to win the battles

Affirmative action was the big issue on the convention circuit this summer.

The National Image meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the American GI Forum meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., both had the nation's top Labor Department officials visit and tell them about advances Latinos have made in the labor force.

But convention delegates were more worried about what would happen to those advances as the nation begins to politically dismantle the very programs that has helped so many to get a foothold into mainstream America.

Joaquin Otero told more than 1,000 delegates to a conference of the national Latino organization IMAGE that the unemployment rate for Latinos is 9.7 percent, nearly double the national average.

One of the best ways to achieve a diverse American work force, said federal

official Shirley Wilcher, is through affirmative action.

"We thought some of these battles were over. They're not," said Wilcher, an official with the federal division of contract compliance.

She gave the example of an Alabama company that was fined recently by the federal government for not hiring a black bank teller because she was too "big-hipped and big-lipped."

Wilcher said she hopes to dispel some myths of affirmative action.

First, is the question of quotas.

The standard, she said, is a good-faith effort, not quotas.

But Lupe Montoya from the federal Merit Systems Protection Board is not sold on affirmative action. He said his boss, Antonio Amador, and other prominent Latinos are convinced that affirmative action has hurt Latinos.

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that the difference in high school graduation rates have statistically disappeared between black and white students in the 25 to 29 year old age group.

In 1995, 87 percent of whites and 86.5 percent of blacks in that age group completed high school, according to a bureau survey of 55,000 households containing 120,000 people.

That compares with a difference of 87 percent for whites and 81 percent for blacks 10 years earlier.

Mike Smith, deputy education secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, told reporters that the new statistics may reflect new economic realities. High-pay, low-skill jobs disappeared in the late 1980s as U.S. manufacturing re-tooled to increase worker productivity.

That means more computerization and robotics replaced uneducated workers doing menial, repetitive tasks.

For America's new factories, workers not only need a high school degree but also some technical training to be able to work in these factories. Many community colleges across the country are forming partnerships with major corporations to train students in specific job tasks, such as computer chip fabrication, robotics and other new workfloor essentials.

A previous study by the Census Bureau showed that 73 percent of African Americans aged 25 years old and older had attained at least a high school diploma as opposed to 51 percent in 1980, indicating the continued trend toward greater educational achievements among African Americans.

The rates for college degrees among blacks also is steadily climbing.

In 1994, 13 percent of African American adults 25 years and older had a bachelor's degree compared with only 8 percent in 1980 - nearly double.

Corresponding percentages for whites were 23 percent and 18 percent respectively for the same time periods.

One-third of African American 18- to 24-year-old high school graduates and 42 percent of comparable whites were enrolled in college in 1993, according to the Census Bureau.

The statistics translate into greater economic achievements for blacks who complete college, although racial disparities continue to exist.

The Census Bureau reported that among college-educated, year-round, full-time workers, about 28 percent of African American and 30 percent of non-Hispanic white men were employed in executive, administrative and managerial jobs in 1993.

However, the median earnings of these African American men in these jobs were only 86 percent of comparable non-Hispanic white men - \$46,980 versus \$54,680.

In professional, specialty and sales jobs, the gap was even wider, about 71 percent, according to the Census Bureau.

More adult (25 years and older), college-educated, African American women than men were employed in 1990 - 879,688 to 677,868. Most of these women worked in professional (51 percent), executive (18 percent), administrative support (15 percent) and technical and sales (9 percent) jobs.

In contrast, 34 percent of college-educated African American men worked as professionals, 23 percent as executives, 14 percent in technical and sales jobs and 9 percent as administrative support workers.



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Indian activist on Nader's Green Party ticket

SANTA FE (AP) - Presidential candidate Ralph Nader's choice of an Indian activist as his running mate on the Green Party ticket should boost his support in New Mexico, a party spokesman said.

"This is going to help us a lot ... because of the large Native American population here," said Cris Moore. "We're doing our best to build alliances with the tribes."

Nader announced Aug. 29 in Minnesota he had selected Winona LaDuke as his running mate.

The consumer advocate's presidential candidacy has qualified for the ballot in 14 states, including New Mexico, ac-

cording to the Green Party.

"The Green Party platform recognizes Native American sovereignty, and I think the fact we put a Native American woman forward as a candidate shows how different we are from other parties," said Moore, a member of the Santa Fe City Council.

The Green Party qualified as a major party in New Mexico after former Lt. Gov. Roberto Mondragon ran for governor as a Green in 1994 and got 10 percent of the vote.

LaDuke, who lives on the White Earth reservation in northwestern Minnesota,

serves on the board of directors of Greenpeace USA and the Seventh Generation Fund, a nonprofit foundation focusing on Indian environmental issues.

A 37-year-old Harvard graduate, she started the nonprofit White Earth Land Recovery Project eight years ago.

LaDuke's Ojibway name is "Benaysayequay," meaning "thunderbird woman."

"It is time that the people had a choice, not only those with privilege," LaDuke said. "It is time to talk about the future issues of this country, not just the next election."

Indian population. In Alaska, Montana and Washington, Indians also are running for Congress seats.

Fueling the Indian activism are tax and gambling disputes in many states and discontent with federal budget cuts in health, housing and education programs for tribes. A proposal to make it easier for non-Indians to adopt Indian children has become a focal point of tribal criticisms of the GOP-controlled Congress.

But votes aren't the only political commodity available from Indians. Increasingly, tribes have become campaign contributors.

Last month, the Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe in Oklahoma pledged \$100,000 to the Democratic National Committee. The so-called Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma have formed a political action committee to make campaign contributions to candidates.

In some states, tribes are using profits from casinos or high-stakes bingo for political donations. In 1994, for example, pro-gambling tribes in New Mexico contributed more than \$200,000 to a GOP candidate for governor, Gary Johnson, who defeated Democratic incumbent Bruce King, who was opposed to Indian casinos.

"Everybody is really hitting the tribes for money right now," said Gover. "They actively want the support of Indian tribes in their campaigns."

The recent tribal "sovereignty reception" and campaign strategy sessions at the Democrat convention were among the most visible signs that Indians, following the model of blacks and Hispanics, are trying to transform themselves into a potent voting force in national and state elections.

President Clinton's campaign, for example, has established a "Native American outreach" office to target Indian voters and enlist tribal leaders as "surrogate speakers" for the president's re-election.

The Democratic National Committee also is financing a voter registration drive aimed at Indians. But the main objective is increasing voter turnout by Indians.

"Going to the polls is really going to be essential for our people. I see that as the big change," said Byrd. "In the past, they just really didn't go to the polls."

DRIVE

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but the version that could end up on this year's ballot would be significantly more conservative.

Last year's measure, filed by three tribes, would have allowed wide-open Indian casino gambling, including lucrative slot machines and video poker, with little government oversight. Sponsors also had promised to send everyone who voted an annual profits check of perhaps \$100.

If supporters gather enough signatures of registered voters, the new proposal, known as Initiative 671, would only allow tribes that have negotiated gaming agreements with the state to have slot machines.

The new proposal also would earmark a portion of the gross profits from the

machines to local governments and commissions for economic development, and to a new fund for restoring salmon habitat and watersheds. Some money also would go to local public safety services and charities.

"We go to Olympia every year. Sometimes we get in the door, sometimes we can't," the Suquamish Tribe's Rich Purser said of the Legislature's anti-gambling forces. "The more voters we can get registered, the better our chances are for the initiative."

Still, members of a dozen tribes huddled in Olympia to talk about political strategy emphasized that the voter registration drive is motivated by more than just the gambling initiative.

Seattle-area Indians lost a valuable basic education program for adults and a kindergarten program for children due to federal budget cuts, said Iris, representing the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation.

CONVENTION

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lion Indians and an estimated 50 percent to 60 percent of them are of voting age. Oklahoma has the largest Indian population in the nation, more than 250,000 or about 8 percent of state residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

California, Arizona, New Mexico and Alaska rank in the top five in Indian population.

"Elections, even on a national basis, are won one vote at a time. If we all do our part, we can make the difference in several states," said Kevin Gover, an Albuquerque, N.M., tribal lawyer helping the Democratic National Committee organize the Indian vote.

"New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, Nevada, the Dakotas, Oklahoma. You put all those states together and you have a lot of electoral votes. And we are and can be the swing votes in those states. We have the opportunity to run the ship."

Particularly in smaller states, Gover told a caucus of tribal officials, Indians can influence the outcome of congressional races. For example, Democrats see hope for ousting a GOP incumbent in Oklahoma's 2nd Congressional District, which has a large

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PUBLISHER

TODAY'S MINORITIES

THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S FUTURE

EDITOR - Charles Bivona Jr.

MANAGING EDITOR - Albertina Bivona

COPY EDITOR - Rae Sinclair

ASSISTANT EDITOR - Kathy Couch

PRODUCTION MANAGER - I & J GRAPHICS

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR - Monique Bivona

CONTROLLER - Jaime Verduzco

CIRCULATION - Bernice Santana

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Alaska Natives' voting project more than doubles '94 turn-out

by Rosanne Pagano
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE (AP) - Flush from their impact on statewide elections two years ago, Alaska Natives are solidifying a get-out-the-vote project that organizers say more than doubled the usual Native turnout in 1994.

Anchorage-based Alaska Federation of Natives says this year's goal is to see every eligible Native - some 50,000 voters statewide - go to the polls Nov. 5. Based on the historic closeness of Alaska elections, Native votes alone are enough to decide races, observers say.

"Yes, I think a good Native turnout did help," said Bob King, spokesman for Gov. Tony Knowles, a Democrat who won election in 1994. That was the first year the AFN announced political endorsements.

Knowles, backed by AFN over Republican Jim Campbell of Anchorage, went on to win by just 536 votes. In small villages such as Brevig Mission and around St. Lawrence Island, voter turnout in 1994 was upwards of 87 percent, the AFN said.

Statewide, 63 percent of all eligible Natives went to the polls in 1994, more than double the usual turnout, AFN said.

King says he believes Alaska Natives would have favored Knowles even

without the AFN endorsement. But, King said, "The question is, would they have turned out in as large a number without that added effort?"

Native organizers say the answer is no.

For rural families needing every hand to hunt and fish for winter food, an election in late summer disrupts the traditional work cycle. Above the Arctic Circle, home of the politically powerful Arctic Slope Regional Corp., getting to the polls in early November can mean braving wintry cold and snow.

But observers say logistics - and memories of election laws that once required voters to read and write English - don't fully explain why two-thirds of the eligible Natives typically have passed up going to the polls.

Jean Craciun, an Anchorage-based political consultant, says white voters tend to regard voting as a right of the individual. That, she says, is instantly at odds with the "communal" perspective of Native people.

"The challenge for a get-out-the-vote drive is to take this very individual activity and translate it into why this whole community should now register to vote," Craciun said. "The idea isn't to get one person here or there."

Native Vote '96 organizers say they're doing just that by reaching out in Alaska's three largest cities - Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau - and concentrating on rural and young voters in separate campaigns.

"Our message to adults is vote for the sake of our children," said John Tetpon, an AFN special assistant for Native Vote '96. Tetpon says the appeal should resonate once voters learn that half the Alaska

Native population is under 18 - ineligible to vote themselves.

Other statistics, such as the high number of Alaska Native children whose families receive welfare, could propel voters to seek change through the ballot box, Tetpon says.

To attract younger voters, Native Vote planned to work with California-based "Rock the Vote," an enterprise backed by the communications company MCI in cooperative with MTV.

Rock the Vote hopes to sign up 500,000 new voters nationwide by Sept. 10, in part by taking advantage of mail-in voter registration, officials say. The project, which elsewhere has joined with African-American rap groups to interest young blacks in registering, is helping for the first time to attract young Native voters.

"Our population isn't voting like we should be," said Jessica Tully, a 25-year-old Rock the Vote field organizer based in Los Angeles. "We want to get young people involved and energized and convince them their voice counts."

Techniques include a signed pledge card that's mailed back to new voters just before an election, a nudge in the voter's own handwriting to get to the polls.

In Alaska, Native Vote plans to direct public service messages at young voters that concentrate on jobs and education. One spot features University of Alaska Anchorage student Shane McHale, a 21-year-old activist whose interest is rural education.

"I think it's important to start voting early," McHale said. "Young people need to learn that once they turn 18 and have the opportunity to vote, they can start helping out the community."

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BUSINESS

Tiger stadium project needs minority contractors, workers

1,500 jobs opening to help build \$240 million complex in Detroit

DETROIT (AP) - Members of the construction industry are scrambling to find more workers, especially women and minorities, for the proposed \$240 million dollar Tiger stadium project.

Filling the approximately 1,500 construction jobs for the stadium project could prove to be difficult because the needed

skilled trade workers must carry union cards, which some blacks and women say they have had a much tougher time obtaining.

"They (the unions) have a dismal record of giving credentials to minorities and women and other people of color," Ronald Griffin, president of the Detroit Urban League, told The Detroit News in a story

published Aug. 30. "We are absolutely determined to fix the situation."

The project requires that 50 percent of the workers come from Detroit, including 25 percent minorities and 5 percent women.

Union representatives contacted by the newspaper declined comment.

It is unclear when construction on the stadium will begin because of a plan announced between the Lions and Tigers to put the teams in side-by-side stadiums. That plan depends on a Nov. 5 ballot proposal to levy a tourist tax to help pay for the \$505 million complex.

Currently, the Associated General Contractors of America, Greater Detroit Chapter, in conjunction with Wayne State University, is surveying contractors, unions and skilled trades workers to determine the potential shortage.

"The construction industry is at peak capacity," said Brenda Zimmerman, director

of industrial affairs for the Construction Association of Michigan. "There's shortages coming down the pike that we've known about."

Zimmerman said the number of projects in the Detroit area has increased from 3,044 for the first eight months of 1995 to 3,991 for the same period in 1996. At the same time, many skilled trades workers are retiring.

Officials involved with a Detroit City Council task force that is overseeing minority contracting for the stadium said some union officials have acknowledged the problem and are trying to correct it with apprenticeship programs for women and minorities and other means.

"We want to make sure there's tradesmen available to replace those who are retiring, and we want to make sure there's an adequate supply of women and minorities," Forrest Henry, director of labor relations for the general contractors group, told the newspaper.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fishermen fight Indian allotment

ASTORIA, Ore. (AP) - West Coast seafood fishermen and processors contend in a lawsuit that the government arbitrarily set aside part of the Pacific whiting catch for a Washington coast Indian tribe when no treaty rights exist.

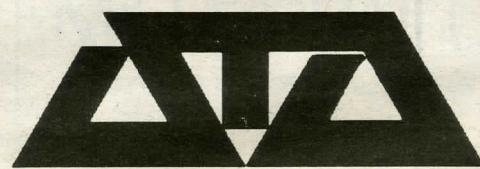
The West Coast Seafood Processors Association, the Newport-based Midwater Trawlers Cooperative and the Eureka, Ca-

lif.-based Fishermen's Marketing Association filed their lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Oregon.

The groups claim Department of Commerce officials violated the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act in allocating a percentage of the whiting harvest to the Makah Tribe.

The National Marine Fisheries Service decided the Makah Tribe was due a share of whiting under 1855 treaties guaranteeing the tribe's right to fish from its historic grounds on the north Olympic Peninsula, even though the tribe had not historically fished for whiting.

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B U S I N E S S

FISHERMEN

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The fisheries service said the coastal Hoh, Quinault and Quileute tribes of Washington have the same treaty rights.

Processors claim the decision sets a precedent for increasing tribal shares on all species of ground fish. According to an industry statement, ground fish account for 85 percent of the seafood landings in Oregon.

"This is not an argument with the treaty tribes," said Rod Moore, executive director of the Seafood Processors Association. "We don't want the (commerce) secretary to be able to simply give away fish to a select group any time he feels like it."

Earlier this year, the government allocated 15,000 metric tons of whiting to the Makah. That's about 18 percent of the whiting made available to shore-based fisheries this year.

Pacific whiting, or hake, has become a lucrative fishery only in recent years. It is ground into surimi, a fish paste used in imitation crab and other products.

British Budweiser commercial criticized as perpetuating Native American stereotypes

by Skip Wollenberg
Associated Press
Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - The makers of Budweiser have upset some American Indians with a commercial run only in Britain that shows an Indian truck driver stopping for a beer at a bar with other Native Americans.

Critics say the commercial perpetuates the stereotype of a drinking Indian. But Anheuser-Busch officials say it shows American Indians as hard-working and independent for an audience unfamiliar with the stereotype.

The commercial began running in December on television and in theaters in Britain. As planned, Anheuser-Busch quit using the ad in July on television in favor of

an Olympic theme. Its run in theaters is ending as well.

The ad was part of a long-running Budweiser campaign in Britain called "The Genuine Article" which featured people sharing the beer's American roots. Past ads focused on tap dancers, blues musicians and jazz trumpeters.

Anheuser-Busch officials said Native Americans were featured in the latest ads because Britons viewed them as "a perfect example of authentic America." They said the ad was well-received, keeping Budweiser sales on a recent double-digit percentage growth path.

But controversy surfaced when The Wall Street Journal reported some Indian advocacy groups in the United States felt the commercial was insensitive to the problem of alcoholism among American Indians.

The commercial has not been shown in the United States, and Anheuser-Busch officials declined to make a copy of it available.

People who have seen it said it shows a truck driver for a company called Chieftain Cement stopping in at one bar only to find work attire isn't permitted. His face and clothes are caked with white cement dust. He stops at another bar where several American Indians and the Indian bartender stare wide-eyed at his appearance.

The driver ducks his head into a bar-

rel of water, washing away the dust and showing he is also an Indian. In the closing shot, he is drinking a bottle of Budweiser. Commercial actors are allowed to drink beer on TV in Britain, but that is prohibited in the United States.

"It is unfortunate that Anheuser-Busch would perpetuate this kind of stereotype," said Annette Brown, press officer for the Navajo Nation from Window Rock, Ariz. She said she found fault not only with showing an Indian drinking beer, but with casting Indians only as blue-collar workers.

She challenged Anheuser-Busch's assertions that Britons are unaware of the stereotype of drinking Indians.

"I see tourists from Europe here who already have preconceived notions of what Indians are like," she said.

Suzan Shown Harjo, president of Morning Star Institute, an Indian rights advocacy group in Washington, said Anheuser-Busch is wrong to "link the Indian people with the booze they want to sell."

"They must feel there is something stereotypic in there," she said.

Both Brown and Harjo were reacting to descriptions of the commercial and hadn't seen it.

The commercial was also discussed recently on the syndicated radio show "Native America Calling," which is broadcast in 20 states.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Home loan project on reservation

WASHINGTON - The United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service in partnership with the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) began a pilot home loan program to expand home ownership for Native American Indians residing on reservation lands.

The Navajo Nation, spanning Arizona, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico, is the first tribe to participate in the partnership. A ceremonial signing of the project was held in Window Rock, Ariz., on July 15.

The pilot program will assist families on reservations to secure mortgages from

local lenders through the Rural Housing Service's guaranteed housing loan program. Fannie Mae will in turn buy the mortgages from participating lenders.

Additional tribes have been targeted to participate in the pilot program based on factors that include past success of tribal housing initiatives and existing innovations in tribal housing operations.

"By demonstrating the effectiveness of guaranteed loans on reservation lands, USDA and Fannie Mae can help meet the home ownership needs of Native Americans and open a door for capital to follow," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said.

The program forges public/private partnerships with tribal nations to address housing needs on reservation lands. A 1995 Urban Institute survey revealed that 40 percent of homes on reservations are overcrowded with serious physical inadequacies such as absent plumbing or kitchen facilities.

"Native American families have had a hard time borrowing for homes on reservations," Jill Long Thompson, U.S. Under Secretary for Rural Development, said. "We want to make sure we go the extra mile to help local lenders bring home ownership to families living on reservations."

Acknowledging limited private sector operation on trust lands, RHS Administrator Maureen Kennedy commended the involvement of Fannie Mae as a "missing ingredient for local financial institutions."

Fannie Mae's commitment to purchase mortgages offers an incentive for local lenders to increase activity and presence within reservation boundaries, she said.

the nation's largest mortgage lender are working together to provide home loans to residents of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

The Blackfeet National Bank in Browning is working with Billings-based First Interstate Bank of Commerce and the Federal National Mortgage Association to make more affordable mortgages available on the reservation.

The loans would be for houses on tribal trust lands and other restricted property on the reservation, and would be guaranteed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Browning bank, which is owned by the Blackfeet tribe, would make the loans with the assistance of the First Interstate. First Interstate then will be able to sell the loans to Fannie Mae.

The loans will be available only to tribal members and may offer more favorable terms, including lower down payments, than typical mortgage loans.

"We think this will start out with a few loans and grow into the main way to own a home here," said Jack Kelly, president of Blackfeet National Bank.

Blackfeet OK HUD home loans

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E D U C A T I O N

Coalition forms to promote minority math-science education

With the assault on affirmative action threatening to impact university admissions and student financial aid policies, 21 major organizations have united as the Coalition for Equity and Access in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - C-STEM.

Formally established as a leadership forum, C-STEM will focus on efforts to protect the gains made by women and minorities in these fields, to advance access and equity nationwide and to increase significantly the number of underrepresented

populations in the technical work force - a common goal of each of the participating organizations.

During a summer meeting, C-STEM members adopted the motto, "Speaking with One Voice," and elected Dr. George Campbell Jr., president and chief executive officer of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, to a two-year term as its first president.

Dr. Norman Fortenberry, executive director of the National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering

(GEM), was named president-elect and Ralph Gonzales, president of the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) was elected secretary-treasurer.

"Minorities and women are the most underrepresented people in the STEM disciplines," Campbell said. "If you look at engineering, the discipline on which my organization focuses, women, who account for more than 50 percent of the general population, earned only 17 percent of the baccalaureate degrees in 1995."

"African Americans, Latinos and American Indians who represent 28 percent of the college age population and 40 percent of the birth rate, account for only 9 percent of engineering bachelor of science graduates and only 2 percent of the doctorates," he said.

"This nation can ill afford to neglect the development of intellectual talent from such a large proportion of our population," he added.

Among C-STEM's goals are the development of public policies that will advance the collective mission of the 21-member organizations.

The 21 members of C-STEM include: Advancing Minorities Interest in Engineering; American Indians Science and Engineering Society; American Indian Science and Technology Education Consortium; Association for Puerto Ricans in Science and Engineering; Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering; and the National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators.

Additional members include: National Association of Precollege Directors; National Consortium for Education Access, Inc.; National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science; National Council of Black Engi-

Only 10 percent of all students take needed math-science work

Ask American high school graduates whether they've taken calculus and more than 90 percent of them will answer "no."

In fact, only 10 percent of all students in the United States graduate from high school having taken algebra, geometry, trigonometry, precalculus, biology, chemistry and physics, the courses that provide the requisite skills to begin any science-based course of study in college.

As the 21st century thunders in, spreading its vast technological wings, the great majority of American teenagers will be unprepared and unable to compete for jobs in a highly competitive, global marketplace.

Heavy reliance on technology in virtu-

ally all sectors of the economy will leave no place for people without the critical thinking skills acquired in advanced mathematics and science courses.

"Now is the time for parents, teachers, guidance counselors and university faculty to make it abundantly clear to America's teenagers that the choices they make at 13 and 14 years of age will have significant consequences for them down the road," Dr. George Campbell Jr., president and chief executive officer of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, said.

CALCULUS

continued on page 16

C-STEM, continued on page 16



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E D U C A T I O N

CALCULUS*continued from page 14*

"Too many of our students don't have the information about math and sciences courses they need to make informed decisions - many think they can be doctors, engineers and astronauts without taking physics and calculus," Campbell said. "Parents and school guidance counselors must step in and make certain that our children - our nation's future - are well aware of the world of work and its requirements for the coming century."

Campbell reminded parents that a major national poll conducted by Louis Harris and Associates and commissioned by NACME, indicates that American students are making poor choices concerning the math and science courses they take.

The reason? They are receiving no counseling, poor counseling and incorrect counseling from their schools.

Other findings from the survey:

- Regardless of career interests, more than 50 percent of all students plan to drop

math and science courses as soon as schools make the option available.

- Public school students have limited or no academic guidance from their schools and two out of every five students say that discouragement from guidance counselors and teachers is an important reason their peers do not pursue math and science studies.

- While the great majority of students (88 percent) believe that advanced math skills are necessary for certain jobs, they are substantially less likely to understand that without certain math skills, their job-career possibilities will be limited.

- The majority of all students are confused about the need to take prerequisite courses; most think they can take any class at any time in their academic careers.

To reverse this trend and begin to eliminate the disconnect between the jobs children want and the academic preparation they're receiving, NACME launched a national public service advertising campaign, "Math is Power," which sends a clear and direct message: take math and science or get left behind.

In its first year of operation, more than 500 calls per week, from every state in the country, have been received on the toll-free phone line, (800) 97-NACME. Free materials are available to students, parents, teachers, precollege program administrators, university personnel, government and industry leaders explaining how to help students make smart choices about math and science courses in high school.

NACME developed the Math is Power campaign with financial support from the IBM Corporation, the Annenberg/CPB Math and Science Project, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The project was completed in creative partnership with the Advertising Council, Tracy-Locke, Dallas, and actor and comedian Sinbad.

"Among our goals in creating the Math is Power advertising campaign is to create market-driven, demand-side pressure on schools and school systems," Campbell said. "Our belief is that all students should graduate from high school with the skills to attend college and these

are basically the same skills needed to enter every rigorous science-based program."

"Over the past 20 years, only the college-educated experienced an increase in real income, with students in the bottom quarter of the economic strata 13 times less likely to have earned a bachelor's degree than those in the top quarter," he said.

"A college education remains the dominant path to upward mobility, wealth creation and ensuring that our nation remains economically competitive," he said. "Math and science literacy is essential to keep that pathway open."

NACME is a nonprofit corporation that for more than two decades has led the national effort to increase access to careers in engineering and science-based disciplines for ethnic minorities. It also is the nation's largest privately funded source of scholarships for minority students.

For more information on NACME and its programs, call (212) 279-2626.

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C-STEM*continued from page 14*

neers and Scientists; National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers; National Society of Black Engineers and the National Society of Black Physicists.

Additional members include: National Technical Association; Quality Education for

Minorities; Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans; Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists; Society of Women Engineers and Women in Engineering Program Advocates Network.

For more information on C-STEM, call the New York-based National Council for Minorities in Engineering at (212) 279-2626.

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E D U C A T I O N

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Tribe wants
own school
after taunts

CLEVELAND (AP) - Parents of some of the 700 American Indian children in Cleveland schools say they are fed up with ethnic taunts and war whoops and want to form their own privately run school.

"Ours would be a survival school that would teach traditional Indian ways, as well as a curriculum that would allow the students to get an accredited degree from the state," said Beverly Jones an American Indian who is one of about a dozen people behind the school movement.

About 25 people interested in the alternative school proposal met this sum-

mer and received encouragement from the director of a private Akron school.

"We have everything you need to get this school rolling," said Mahasin Al-Qaadir of the Timbuktu Academy. "We will work with you to open a Native American survival school that is fully accredited with the state. We can do it for August. We have laid all the groundwork."

Al Qaadir said her school exceeds all state standards. She said she is in the process of opening schools in Cleveland, Youngstown and Toledo.

Jones withdrew her two children from the Cleveland school district in May to protest both Chief Wahoo - the grinning logo of the Cleveland Indians - and the way Indians are portrayed in the curriculum.

She said many students and teachers wore Chief Wahoo clothing and uttered war whoops during the baseball team's run in

TRIBE, continued on page 19

California plan sees high school
quality replacing race in policy
*High school competency to be basis of new
effort to maintain diversity on UC campuses*

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The quality of a student's high school record will replace race-based affirmative action programs as a factor in admission to the University of California, San Diego, school administrators said.

The UCSD plan, which must be reviewed by the UC president's office, is an effort to maintain campus diversity while complying with the Board of Regents' decision last year to phase out affirmative action programs.

"What we want to achieve is high academic performance in all schools while recognizing that some schools have challenges greater than others," said vice chancellor Joseph W. Watson.

"We're trying to compensate for some of the hurdles in learning that (some students) face," he said.

Most admissions will continue to be based on academic standards, officials said. High-school rankings, however, will be used for students whose academic performance is below the top applicants but still fall into the top eighth of the state.

In those cases, state Education Department reports will be used to award points to students ranging from none for the best schools to 900 for those with the poorest

achievement records.

The score is part of other considerations, too, including community service, leadership, special talents, awards, disabilities and place of residence. Those offer a maximum of 3,100 points.

"When people first hear about it, it's going to be surprising, confusing," Watson said. "The onus is going to be on us the university ... to be able to explain it clearly and be able to show its fundamental fairness and equity."

Administrators at each of the nine UC campuses will create their own admissions program under guidelines released recently by the regents, said Terry Colvin, spokesman for the president's office.

"It will be up to the campuses to draw up their own set of criteria based on those guidelines," he said. "Each campus has freedom to develop their admission rules depending on what they see their needs as being."

The UCSD program is consistent with instructions from the regents and President Richard C. Atkinson's office that admissions criteria could include family income and a student's "social environment."

The new system will take effect with spring 1998 admissions.

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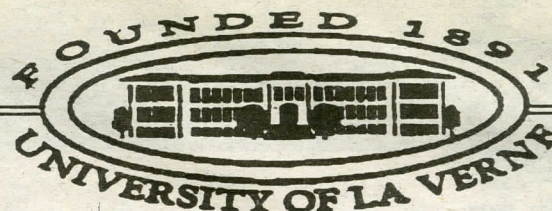
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E D U C A T I O N

Alaska Natives protest 'inadequate' school teacher hirings

FAIRBANKS (AP) - A group that represents Fairbanks-area Natives says the hiring of three Native teachers by the school district is inadequate.

The three were among 53 hired by the Fairbanks North Star Borough School district this summer.

The number hired does not reflect the large number of candidates available, said John Regitano, executive director of the Fairbanks Native Association.

"There needs to be a very strong effort to hire minorities," he said.

Recruiting minority teachers is a school district goal, said Superintendent John Monahan. The pool of Native teachers is small and competition to nab them is high among districts around the state, he said.

"I'm pleased that we're getting

them," Monahan said. "We're hoping that we can continue to keep up that pace and have good role modeling in the classroom."

Last year, 7 percent of the district's classrooms were run by Native teachers. Twelve percent of the district's students are Native.

To assist in recruiting Native teachers, Regitano furnished the school district with a list of 46 certified Native teachers last spring. Of those, 31 said they wished to be considered for immediate hire, Regitano said, and 15 wanted to be in the district's hiring pool for future jobs.

The district mailed applications and information to those on the list; three responded, said Bett Schaffhauser, the district's employment and educational opportunity coordinator.

"Every school district in the state is interested in having Native teachers," Schaffhauser said. "It's a limited resource at this point and we're all fighting over the same resource."

The superintendent said many of the Native teachers on the list already had jobs.

"I know a lot of those people on the list from around the state and some of them are just great teachers," Monahan said. "If there was any way we could attract those teachers here I would be excited."

Monahan said, however, that it is not fair to steal Native teachers from village schools.

"Really good ethnic applicants ... have lifetime contracts," he said. "Nobody wants to lose them when they're really good."

Some minority candidates lack the proper state endorsements for specific areas of teaching, Schaffhauser said. And there's a shortage of minority candidates with special education credentials, she said.

The district has a hiring pool of 16 Native American teachers - out of 444 - waiting for open positions, Schaffhauser said. But half of those Native teachers already work elsewhere.

Native teachers are important because they are role models for Native school children, Regitano said.

"It motivates them to become professional teachers," he said.

Native teachers also provide an important resource to school officials in the form of access to the Native community, he said. And an ethnic mix of teachers is healthy for a school because it encourages parents to get involved, he said.

"The parents of those students feel they have people they can relate to culturally and understand their concerns and needs maybe a little bit better than people from another culture," he said. "Parental support is the key to success in education in the school system."

TRIBE

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the playoffs and World Series last fall. And that embarrassed her children, she said.

Faye Brings Them, a school organizer and American Indian, said her twin sons, Dana and Dean, now 18, were teased in their Cleveland elementary school because of their long hair.

"We talked to the principal over and over," she said. "Finally, she brought Dana to the stage during an assembly and told everyone that he was a Native American

and should not be teased for being different. That put an end to it."

The Indians' mascot has a red face, a wide grin and a headband with a feather sticking up. Many American Indians have complained about the symbol.

Cleveland school officials said there was a district-wide ban on schools displaying Wahoo, but that does not include what individuals choose to wear.

The Women of All Red Nations, the group organizing the school, still has not resolved issues of funding, location, enroll-

TRIBE, continued on page 22

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EDUCATION

People of color object to Virginia desegregation busing

ROANOKE (AP) - Cathleen Duly wants the city to abandon a voluntary desegregation system that is forcing her biracial daughter to attend a distant kindergarten class when she could walk across the street to school.

"I don't think it's right," she said. "They're not looking at her as an individual, but at her color."

Another mother, Kay Hale, wants the city to bus more black students to predominantly white schools outside their neighborhoods and improve racial balance. She plans to file a complaint with the U.S. Office of Civil Rights.

"We're getting hit from both ends," school board member Marilyn Curtis said. "It's hard to please everyone."

The city is busing hundreds of black children to elementary schools in predominantly white neighborhoods. It also has developed a system of "magnet schools," predominantly black schools with innovative

educational programs designed to attract white students.

Federal guidelines require the city to try to achieve a 50-50 racial balance in magnet schools to help desegregate the school system, which is 40 percent black.

Duly's daughter, Jasmine Gunn, wants to attend kindergarten at the magnet school where she attended preschool, about a mile away from home, or at the magnet school across the street.

Because those schools have a high percentage of minority children, they are seeking white children to achieve a better racial balance. So, the 5-year-old will have to attend a magnet school that is more than two miles from her home, or one on the other side of the city.

"I'm not going to send her to Fishburn Park so they can just have another black face," Duly said. "I don't want to put my child where it fits the city's quota."

Duley said the rules governing ad-

missions and racial balance at the city's magnet schools teach children that race makes a difference - and that some are being denied opportunities because of their color.

"I'm getting tired of being asked what color she is. I don't look at her as white or black. To me, she's just Jasmine," said her mother, who is white. Jasmine's father is black.

Under federal guidelines for magnet schools, there are two racial classifications: minority and non-minority, said Sandra

Burks, director of Roanoke's magnet program.

All minorities, including blacks, Asians, Hispanics and biracial children, are grouped into one category.

Curtis said she will investigate Jasmine's case to determine whether any exceptions or adjustments can be made to the admission procedures.

"I would like to see her go to the closest school, if possible," she said, "but that might not be possible because of the guidelines."

TRIBE

continued from page 19

ment and state requirements for accreditation.

Cleveland schools spokesman Rick Ellis said the district is committed to fairness, and would consider changes in curriculum to more fairly portray American Indians.

Rebecca Chapman, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Education, said there is a process for private schools to receive state accreditation.

"They could create a nonpublic school in the same way other religious schools are formed," she said. "If they wanted to be chartered by the state, which means they agree to meet state education standards, there is a process they must follow."

BIA school now charter for Indians

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) - In light of lagging graduation figures in its school systems, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community took partial control of the educational destiny of its children.

On July 1, the tribe took over the Bureau of Indian Affairs-run Salt River Day School and turned it into a charter school for nearly 200 pupils in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The school will still receive BIA

BIA, continued on page 23

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E D U C A T I O N

BIA*continued from page 22*

grants but will be run by the tribe instead of the federal government, said Franklin Barry, education director for the tribe.

At the same time, the tribe plans to convert its alternative school for at-risk children - a collection of portable buildings just south of tribal offices called the Desert Eagle School - into a charter school for about 100 students in grades seven through 12.

The school plans to add up to another 100 students later on.

Most of the nearly 1,300 school-age reservation children in the Mesa school district will remain there. But the new charter schools hope to attract more and more students each year to their brand of education, where tribal history, culture, arts and language will be taught along with academic basics.

Police programs, such as Drug Abuse Resistance Education and Gang Resistance Education And Training, also will be taught, said tribal police spokesman Detective Sgt. Karl Auerbach.

The Mesa Unified School District, which shares a border with the urban reservation, began bringing Salt River children to its schools in the late 1950s when the Scottsdale Unified School District apparently decided it no longer wanted to teach them.

But in recent years, tribal education experts estimate that for every 100 students who enter the school system, as few as 12 emerge with a high school diploma.

"What (the Mesa district) is doing isn't stemming the problem of our kids dropping out," Barry said. "They have the Na-

tive American Education program, and that's done some good. But our kids are still failing, so something else has to be done."

Barry wants to have school facilities for all of the reservation's 1,800 children within 10 years.

Indian art school must charge fees

SANTA FE (AP) - The Institute of American Indian Arts, struggling to become less dependent on federal dollars, plans to lay off up to half its small faculty and begin charging tuition this fall.

The Santa Fe school's previous administration cut 12 faculty positions last year when federal money dropped by nearly half.

"We can't do it all as we have in the past," said interim president Beatrice Rivas Sanchez, who took over the post six months ago. "But we're working to put IAIA on the road to recovery."

Sanchez, speaking at a news conference, said up to 13 of the fine arts institute's 26 full-time faculty positions will be cut before the fall term.

In addition, students at IAIA will pay \$9,000 a year tuition starting in August. The school has established a private foundation to help provide tuition for students.

The tuition charge comes at the same time IAIA is trying to increase its sagging enrollment. Since IAIA's inception

in 1962, costs for tuition, room, board and supplies have been paid by the federal government.

Last year, enrollment was 168 students; the year before it was 250.

IAIA expects another enrollment drop this fall, Sanchez said.

"It's still an excellent opportunity for students," she said. "Our cost is still \$50,000 per student."

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved \$5.5 million for IAIA for the coming school year but the Senate has not acted. The school got \$5.5 million in federal money for the 1995-96 school year.

Diversity part of new diplomas

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) - Washington State University students are unlikely to

graduate without learning something about a different culture.

Since 1994, the university has increased the number of course offerings that are "diversified" to address issues of culture, ethnicity and sex.

A growing mini-grant program encourages professors to revamp their classes with a diversity element. Students are also urged to fulfill graduation requirements by taking classes connected by a cultural theme.

For example, students enrolled in the American Cultures track will take classes on Americans before Columbus, comparative American cultures, Asian studies, the civil rights movement or the colonial period in Latin America.

Some students think the diversity effort has gone too far.

Two students in Professor Sam Saunders' Math 205 class wondered why the first week of school was being devoted to diversity education.

"I call this statistics for poets," said

DIVERSITY,
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E D U C A T I O N

DIVERSITY*continued from page 23*

Saunders, recipient of one of five \$1,000 diversity mini-grants in the summer of 1994. The class fulfills a general education requirement students must meet before graduating and isn't meant for math majors, he said.

He lectures about the Indian practice of planting a fish to improve a corn crop, and early scientific explanations for the Northern lights.

"We explored whether or not the various hypotheses (for natural phenomena) were scientific or not," he said.

The subject matter allows students "to understand the explanations of the world from different cultures."

With discussions of quota systems to redress historical racial inequities, statistics and diversity have a lot in common, Saunders said.

"There are lots of situations which have to do with quotas and diversity which are quantifiable, and I wanted students to understand these things," he said.

The mini-grant program has grown since 1994. Ten \$1,000 incentive grants were given for spring 1996. Five \$2,000 grants were awarded this summer.

The grants are part of the school's efforts to expand diversity, including recruitment and retention of minority students, faculty and staff.

Ernestine Madison, vice provost for human relations and resources, said the classes "enhance (students') intellectual ability to survive in a multicultural society and be a productive citizen.

"That is as much a part of an education as learning formulas in math class," she said.

Fund exceeds scholarship goals in '96

The Native American Scholarship Fund, Inc. exceeded its fiscal 1996 goal of pre-

senting scholarships to 150 students. The organization actually presented 161 scholarships.

The fund has assisted 91 students to graduate from college. A total of 280 students have received financial support from the fund since 1987.

"We have provided tribes, Indian organizations and Indian communities with 81 Native American graduates who are all working," Dean Chavers, PhD, director of the fund, said. "The other nine graduates are currently attending graduate school, medical school and law school."

One of the most recent graduates is Marilyn Yellowman, a Navajo woman from Tuba City, Ariz. Yellowman graduated cum laude in December 1995 from Arizona State University with a degree in nursing.

Before she enrolled at the university, Yellowman worked at an Indian hospital as an operator-secretary. She wanted to do more than just sit at a typewriter and switchboard. Seeing the need for more Indian nurses, she decided to return to college.

Now she travels to the homes of the Navajo and Hopi elders and to families without transportation to provide them basic medical services.

The New Mexico-based fund is continuing an aggressive fund-raising program.

A Celebrity-Dinner Auction set for October will feature donations and autographed items from Faye Dunaway, Rodney Dangerfield, Susan Lucci, the Elvis Presley Estate, Arnold Palmer and Mario Lemieux, among others, to be auctioned.

Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez will chair the event.

The Native American Scholarship Fund

hosts additional programs, such as its Indian School Tour, which brings major contributors to the organization to the sites of schools on the Navajo, Zuni and Pueblo reservations.

The fund also sponsors training seminars and workshops as revenue generators for scholarships and operations and to help upgrade Indian education. Some seminars include Current Issues in Indian Education, Management of Indian Programs and Preparing Indian Students for College.

For more information on the Native American Scholarship Fund, write to the nonprofit organization at 8200 Mountain Rd., NE, Suite 203, Albuquerque, NM 87110 or call (505) 262-2351.

Concert aids Lakota fund for students

The Wounded Knee Concert to Mend the Sacred Hoop, a five-day benefit concert held in August, helped raise funds for the Lakota Oyate'Ki North American Education Fund, Inc.

The organization helps provide needed educational opportunities in Native North American communities.

The concert was held on the last historic battlefield of the Lakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. More than 60 national and international pop, rock, blues, rap, country and reggae artists performed at the gathering.

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Asbestos clean-up underway

COOS BAY, Ore. (AP) - Inspectors with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have located six sites and are investigating a seventh where asbestos has been dumped on the Coquille Indian Reservation.

Four sites have been cleaned up, and cleanup is planned for a fifth site.

Carl Nelson of the Coquille Economic Development Corp. said he was unaware of the sixth and seventh sites.

Armina Nolan, the agency's regional asbestos program manager, said the information about the new sites came in anonymous phone calls.

Nelson said he joined inspector Keven McDermott in looking for the new sites. "She obviously had had phone calls from someone saying where they were," Nelson said. "And obviously, they didn't call me, or we would have gone out and eradicated them a lot sooner than we did."

The asbestos apparently came from a former plywood mill on the North Bend waterfront, which the tribe is converting into a casino and resort center.

The casino opened in May 1995.

The Coquilles bought the mill from Sun Studs Inc., which had an environmental hazards survey done of the property.

Nelson said Sun Studs and the tribe together paid more than \$500,000 for the appropriate removal and disposal of identified environmental hazards.

The asbestos apparently was not on the list and was treated as common building material, Nelson said.

The asbestos dumping has been the focus of a criminal investigation that began in February. Fred Petti of the Justice Department was unavailable to comment on the progress of the investigation.

Tribe seeks radiation risk studies

RED WING, Minn. (AP) - Prairie Island Dakota leaders have challenged seven federal agencies to further study possible risks to tribal members who live next to a nuclear power plant.

"We're the closest community in the United States to a nuclear plant, and nobody knows what the long-term health effects of that are," said Darelynn Lehto, tribal vice president. "What we want is what should have been done a long time ago. We want our health and safety concerns addressed."

About 220 tribal members live at Prairie Island, some within half a mile of Northern States Power Co.'s plant, which began operating in 1973. Tribal concerns have increased since the state Legislature allowed NSP to store radioactive wastes outside the plant.

State health experts have said there is not a significant potential for radiation exposure. But tribal leaders are not convinced the state's health-risk assessments are accurate.

The tribe is asking federal agencies to conduct more thorough studies of the area, examine emergency planning, and consider

moving some tribal members to locations farther from the plant.

Tribal leaders summed up their proposals in an eight-page memorandum they hope federal agency representatives sign. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has declined to sign, and the other five agencies are undecided.

Roland Lickus, chief of state and government affairs for the NRC's regional office in Chicago, said the tribe's requests are "already being done." The agency has two resident inspectors at Prairie Island.

Files open on bad medicine

(NU) - Despite the notorious we-protect-our-own secrecy among medical doctors, it is now possible for the ordinary person to know if a practicing physician has

been disciplined by state medical boards or the federal government for incompetence, substance abuse, patient abuse or the misprescription of dangerous drugs.

Physicians' groups have tried to keep disciplinary actions against doctors closed to the press and public. However, a public interest group called Public Citizen has broken the wall of silence by publishing the names of more than 13,000 doctors and the disciplinary actions against them.

The books, titled "Questionable Doctors," are organized on a state-by-state basis. Individual state reports are available for \$15 each. The data for all 50 states and the District of Columbia are available for \$250.

The book for New York state lists 1,655 doctors; California, 1,382; Florida, 1,234; Texas, 978; New Jersey, 948; Illinois, 866; and Ohio, 708.

Of the 25,069 disciplinary actions taken against doctors named in the Public Citizen report, only 26.5 percent led to any removal, even temporarily, of a doctor's license.

This includes 1,913 doctors involved in criminal offenses; 1,622 involved in substandard care, incompetence or negligence; 1,378 who overprescribed or misprescribed

drugs; 1,059 involved in the abuse of alcohol or drugs; and 264 doctors involved in sexual abuse or sexual misconduct with a patient.

How can medical consumers effectively use the information?

They can be forewarned about doctors who have been disciplined for unprofessional sexual behavior with their patients. They can question doctors with records of incompetence. Older people and their friends can avoid doctors who have neglected or abused elderly patients. And patients can be wary of doctors who have drinking or drug-abuse problems.

"For too long, doctors and their ostensible gatekeepers have failed to realize that consumers need to protect themselves," says Dr. Sidney M. Wolfe who guided the Public Citizen project.

"A license to practice medicine is a hard-won privilege," Dr. Wolfe adds. "It is a privilege to see us naked, to cut us open, to hear our innermost thoughts, to provide us with potentially dangerous drugs. Yet for too long, the state and federal government

FILES, continued on page 26



NOTHING ELSE IS A PEPSI. 

H E A L T H

FILES

continued from page 25

agencies chartered to protect us from those no longer fit to hold the privilege have fallen down on the job."

To purchase any of the "Questionable Doctors" books, call (800) 410-8478 or write 1600 20th St., N.W., Dept. QDNU, Washington, DC 20009.

More women dying from heart disease

(NU) - Breast cancer claims the lives of approximately 43,000 U.S. women each year. Public awareness campaigns have educated women on how to conduct self examinations and encouraged them to have yearly mammograms. Many women believe cancer is more dangerous to them than heart disease.

They are wrong.

The No. 1 killer of U.S. women is car-

diovascular disease, according to the American Heart Association.

In 1992, 51.9 percent of all female deaths were from CVD. It killed more than 10 times as many women as breast cancer and twice as many as all forms of cancer combined.

As women age, especially after menopause, the risk for heart disease increases rapidly. At older ages, women who have heart attacks are twice as likely as men to die from them within a few weeks.

It is important that women realize the risks and seek medical treatment immediately upon the initiation of symptoms. But equally important, medical facilities must be able to accurately and rapidly diagnose heart damage so that treatment may be initiated immediately.

A contractile protein, normally found only in the heart, may help provide the answer to better diagnosis. Cardiac troponin T is released and detectable in blood only when heart damage has occurred. It appears in the blood stream as early as one to three hours after damage and may remain up to two weeks afterward.

Recently the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cleared a new test that can detect troponin T, the Cardiac T? Rapid Assay.

It is the first hand-held, disposable test that can be used bedside in the emergency room or critical care units to diagnose heart damage. With a few drops of blood, the test can definitively detect the presence of this cardiac-specific protein within minutes.

The Cardiac T Rapid Assay is also the only test clinically proven and cleared by the FDA for use to detect the full range of heart damage, including minor injury. Minor heart damage has been clinically proven to be predictive of impending cardiac events and the ability to diagnose it may help improve patient outcomes.

Dr. Gerald Möller, president and chief executive officer of Boehringer Mannheim said, "The most striking aspect of myocardial infarction diagnosis is that the time between recognition and confirmation of this event and the introduction of treatment is of vital importance. The faster a marker can be detected in the blood stream, the faster it can be detected wherever the infarction occurred and the greater the chance of life-saving medical intervention."

Natural ways key for U.S. chiropractors

(NU) - There's no prescription medicine, no surgery. Spinal adjustments/manipulation, dietary advice and other natural methods are the tools used by doctors of chiropractic.

But if you think chiropractors aren't "real" doctors, think again. Just as medical doctors study for years before they practice,

chiropractors also study for years before they begin to practice their natural healing methods.

Chiropractors also must pass national boards - just like medical doctors - and state licensing exams as well in order to practice their healing art.

"The chiropractor's goal is to offer the highest-quality, professional health care, and teach patients how to maintain physical well-being and a healthful lifestyle," says Dr. Kurt Hegetschweiler, president of the American Chiropractic Association.

Thus the chiropractor must have a thorough knowledge of the structure and functioning of the human body, essentially the spine and nervous system, and their impact on the rest of the body. With this understanding, he or she can make diagnoses and take steps to correct problems.

What's Required? An aspiring chiropractor first completes at least two years of college education, focusing on basic and biological sciences.

Then the student spends at least four years at a chiropractic college studying anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, microbiology and related health sciences. His last year is devoted mainly to direct patient care.

Postgraduate and continuing-education programs are offered in fields ranging from sports injuries and occupational health to orthopedics and neurology.

Today, more than 40,000 doctors of chiropractic practice in the United States. They treat more than 18 million people a year for ailments ranging from headaches, insomnia and carpal tunnel syndrome to low back pain and care for people of all ages.

For more information about chiropractic care, contact the American Chiropractic Association, 1701 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209, or call (800) 986-4636.

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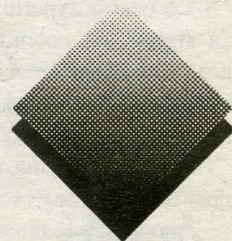
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CULTURE

Chief Crazy Horse monument celebrates 50th year of work

Conception of idea in 1946 developed into massive mountain carving of chief

This year is the 50th anniversary of the conception of a national monument carved out of a mountain in honor of the Lakota Chief Crazy Horse.

In 1946, sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear agreed on the granite monolith which would become the Crazy Horse mountain carving in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Standing Bear had written to the sculptor, "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too."

As the project developed, a master plan was created for the mountain and the surrounding area. The project will eventually include educational facilities, athletic and recreation fields, a museum and other facilities.

This spring, the Native American Educational and Cultural Center was opened as part of the project. The center will provide space for Native American artists to work in front of the public. It also will offer a stage for the performing arts and will accommodate educational workshops, conferences, lectures and special exhibitions to educate visitors and students about Native American culture.

Ruth Ziolkowski, widow of the sculptor, said the new center represents a significant expansion of the memorial's educational plan.

"We envision this center hosting Native American people from many tribes who will be able to create, perform and otherwise teach about their living culture on a one-on-one basis with the visiting public," Ziolkowski, who also is chairman of the board of the nonprofit Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, said.

A fund drive continues to furnish and equip the new facility whose formal dedication will be on Native American Day in October.

An unusual architectural feature of the center is that the rock exterior of the building consists of blast fragments from the mountain carving.

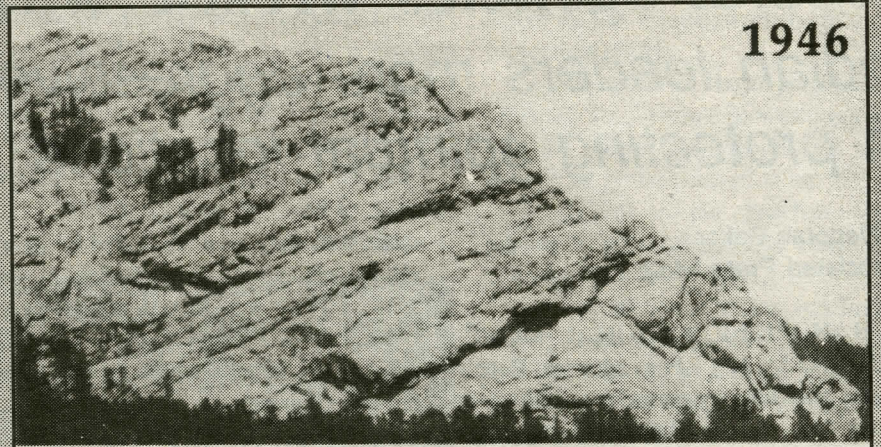
The mouth of Crazy Horse is the latest feature to begin to emerge on the nine-story-high face of Crazy Horse.

The face is about two-thirds finished and the work remains ahead of schedule for the planned completion and dedication of the face on June 3, 1998. That is the 50th anniversary of the dedication of Crazy Horse Memorial with the first blast on the mountain.

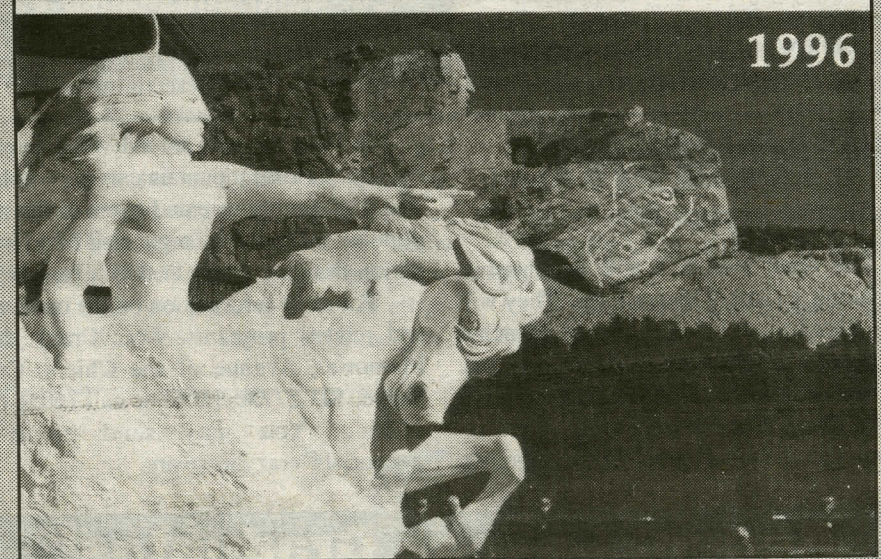
Work continued through last winter although numerous days were lost to bad weather from October through March.

All the rock removal on the lips and mouth is being done by hand.

MONUMENT,
continued on page 28



1946



1996

CRAZY HORSE MONUMENT - The 563-foot-high face of Crazy Horse is shown as part of the carving in progress of a granite mountain in Crazy Horse, SD. At top is the mountain as it appeared when selected for carving 50 years ago by Lakota chiefs and sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski. The 9-story high face of Crazy Horse is to be completed by June 1998. A 1/34th scale model of the planned monument to the famous Lakota chief is shown in front of the mountain.

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CULTURE

Federal agencies wrestle with need to preserve sacred sites

Indian leaders more aggressive in protecting spiritual locations

by Deborah Baker
Associated Press Writer

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT, N.M. (AP) - For centuries, Pueblo Indians and their ancestors have visited the sacred Stone Lions Shrine, leaving not a trace.

But when Roy Weaver first saw the two crouching mountain lions carved of vol-

canic tuff, they were encircled by deer and elk antlers and strewn with debris.

Pottery shards, feathers, crystals, coins, costume jewelry, beef jerky - even a .38-caliber bullet - were among the modern-day offerings.

They were left, presumably, by New Age pilgrims or others seeking some spiritual connection to the site.

"They were desecrating it, pure and

simple," recalled Weaver, superintendent of Bandelier National Monument.

At the request of Indian leaders the debris was removed. A ceremonial cleansing was held, and park officials agreed to keep the site clean.

That was five years ago. Today, the Stone Lions Shrine no longer appears on Bandelier's visitor map; it gets only a passing mention in the park's brochure.

Hikers who make the 12-mile, round-trip trek into the rugged back country to see it are asked to not leave or disturb anything, and to not enter the circle of stones surrounding the lions.

"It's not our intention to deny access to the site. It's our intention to de-emphasize it as a curio," Weaver said.

Across the West, federal agencies are grappling with the question of how to manage Indian sacred sites on public lands.

As pressure mounts to use public lands for a variety of purposes - mining, logging, grazing, as well as recreation - and controversy over management of those lands deepens, Indian tribes are demanding more protections for their holy places.

That, in turn, is drawing the ire of those who say federal agencies are responding by unconstitutionally blurring the line between government and religion.

For land managers, it has been a whole new ball game.

"We never dealt with religion. That was not something that they teach us in forestry school," said Mary Randolph, ranger at the Medicine Wheel Ranger District in Wyoming's Bighorn National Forest.

The centuries-old medicine wheel - a round formation, made of rocks, about 75 feet in diameter and with 28 spokes - is sacred to Plains Indian tribes. It has been the subject of years of management planning.

Motor vehicles are now restricted. Visitors are sometimes asked to wait so Indians can hold religious ceremonies at the site uninterrupted.

The Forest Service puts more emphasis on explaining the medicine wheel - from both an Indian and non-Indian per-

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MONUMENT

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The completed lips will be massive, measuring 18 feet, 9 inches long. They will have a maximum height of 6 feet, 9 inches and maximum protrusion of 6 feet, 3 inches.

Also continuing is cutting and smoothing on Crazy Horse's left cheek. Rock removal was to the left jaw-line this summer.

In June, the 11th annual Volksmarch up the Crazy Horse mountain carving was held. The 10K family oriented event is the most popular Volksmarch (organized hike) in the nation drawing some 11,000 hikers.

For more information on the monument and related programs, write Crazy Horse Memorial, Avenue of the Chiefs, Crazy Horse, SD 57730-9506, or call (605) 673-4681. You may send email to memorial@crazyhorse.org.

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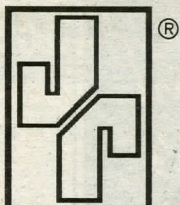
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CULTURE

SACRED SITES

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spective - and visitors are less likely now to treat it as a "wishing well" and leave items behind, Randolph said.

Years of negotiations have also led to changes at Spirit Mountain, at Lake Mead National Recreational Area on the Nevada-Arizona border. The site is sacred to several tribes as their point of origin.

"Native people go there for a spiritual blessing or cleansing. It is the beginning, for them," said Betty Cornelius, director of the Colorado River Indian Tribes Museum in Parker, Ariz.

Some roads into the mountain have been closed, primitive camping has been eliminated, formal programs that promoted the area discontinued. Interpretive signs explaining the mountain's significance are planned.

"It's been a long process, and at times it wasn't too positive. But we struggled through it," Cornelius said.

Other protection efforts have led to legal disputes.

In Arizona, San Carlos Apache tribal members have unsuccessfully fought in court the University of Arizona's plan to build a \$60 million telescope on Mount Graham, in the Coronado National Forest. The Apaches say the site is on sacred land.

Congress recently gave a go-ahead for the project, although construction is still stalled by environmental lawsuits.

The National Park Service is appealing a federal judge's ruling that its ban on commercially led climbs during June at Devils Tower in Wyoming is unconstitutional.

The ban was designed to accommodate the religious activities of tribes who consider the 867-foot column of basalt to be sacred.

The Mountain States Legal Founda-

'As pressure mounts to use public lands for a variety of purposes mining, logging, grazing, as well as recreation - and controversy over management of those lands deepens, Indian tribes are demanding more protections for their holy places ...'

tion in Denver challenged the ban on behalf of a group of climbers.

"The crux of our argument is that the government may not set aside federal property or public lands for any specific religion," said Todd Welch, a lawyer with the foundation.

A similar argument is being made in New Mexico. The Forest Service decided not to allow expansion of the Santa Fe Ski Area into a mountain basin because of its religious and cultural significance to Pueblo Indians; that's being appealed to the agency.

Sometimes, disputes over the sacred-sites protection are the stuff of headlines. In Albuquerque, N.M., there is a highly publicized fight over the city's proposal to extend a freeway through Petroglyph National Monument, site of 17,000 etchings on volcanic rock. Indian tribes, environmentalists and the National Park Service are opposed.

But sometimes, sacred sites are destroyed and the public never knows it, according to Regis Pecos, executive director of the New Mexico Office of Indian Affairs. Tribal leaders choose not to go public - "almost like a mother losing a child, only to keep her mourning private," he said.

That's because the need to disclose in order to protect poses a painful dilemma.

ernor of Cochiti Pueblo, which has been active in the Bandelier cleanup and other protection efforts.

Suzan Shown Harjo, president of The Morning Star Institute in Washington, D.C., said the federal government has not done enough to protect sacred sites.

"These are our churches - they just happen to be outside," said Harjo, who is Cheyenne and Muscogee.

A coalition of tribes and Indian-advocacy organizations has tried to get federal law changed to provide them more legal ammunition in sacred-sites fights. They have been unsuccessful.

But there is a new executive order from President Clinton on the subject, the outgrowth of a proposal two years ago by the institute.

Signed in May, it requires federal agencies to accommodate Indians' ceremonial use of sacred sites and "avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites."

Harjo says it remains to be seen whether the order will make a difference.



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CULTURE

Film festival celebrates indigenous experience in Americas

by Deborah Baker
Associated Press Writer

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - David Sontag had a modest vision: a small film festival to showcase little-known works by or about indigenous Americans.

What he created instead holds the promise - even in its first year - of being a major international event.

When organizers of the Native Americas International Film Exposition put out a call for entries, they got 191 films from 15 countries.

"I'm pleased, but I'm also stunned by it," Sontag said. "The films are extraordinary."

A screening committee selected 32 works from North, Central and South America for the exposition's competition.

They range from a Brazilian tribe's four-minute music video based on an ear-

piercing ceremony to a feature-length U.S. film starring Johnny Depp.

The films, in six categories, were shown at three Santa Fe theaters throughout the festival Aug. 8-15.

The winners received the "Haozous Award," named after the late sculptor Allan Houser, whose traditional Chiricahua Apache surname was Haozous. The statue is a foot-high, bronze replica of Houser's "The Emperor's Eagle."

The film festival also presented showings of rarely seen classics such as "The Silent Enemy," a 1930 portrayal of the Ojibwe in Canada before the white man's arrival, and Edward S. Curtis' "In the Land of the War Canoes." Released in 1914, it is the only film made by the renowned still photographer.

That curated segment of the festival was aimed at showing how American Indians historically have been portrayed in film.

Panel discussions followed the screenings.

A series of "special screenings" showed works as diverse as Disney's "Bambi" - newly dubbed in Arapaho - and a film about Navajo Code Talkers, whose native language created a code unbreakable by the Japanese in World War II.

Workshops on acting, film editing, film scoring, cinematography, screen writing and other subjects were offered. The workshops were led by artists well known in the industry, including director Michael Apted, production designer Robert Boyle and actress Marsha Mason. Scholarships were available for Native Americans who wanted to attend the workshops.

Sontag - a Santa Fe writer, producer and former senior vice president of creative affairs for 20th Century Fox Television - called on his Hollywood friends to help him put the exposition together.

An advisory board included MCA president and chief executive officer Ron Meyer, actor Wes Studi and writer-producer Beth Sullivan, creator of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."

"Those of us who have been able to be very successful in the movie business really realize that we've been given a gift, and it's a gift that we have a responsibility to share ... to pass on," Sontag said.

Sontag conceived the idea of the exposition more than two years ago. He envisions it as a bridge between indigenous filmmakers and a Hollywood community

that otherwise would be inaccessible to them.

And while those indigenous filmmakers might opt never to be part of the Hollywood system, at least they would have the choice, Sontag said.

There are other Indian film festivals, but Sontag said this is the only competition for indigenous films. The exposition's workshops, classics and special screenings segments also make it singular, he said.

The films in the competition are either new - completed in 1995 or 1996 - or never received substantial exposure in the United States.

Geographically, they're from as far away as the North Pole and the southern tip of Argentina - and from as close as down the block. Santa Fe Indian School students submitted a CD-ROM entry in the "new technologies" category about the culture of the Four Corners area, where New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado meet.

In some cases, the film screenings were world premieres. The festival marked the first showing of director Saul Landau's "The Sixth Sun: Mayan Uprising in Chiapas," an account of the conflict in Mexico's southernmost state.

Some contestants bear familiar names, such as director Jim Jarmusch's "Dead Man," which stars Depp and Gary Farmer in a 19th-century drama about an Indian who believes the Depp character is

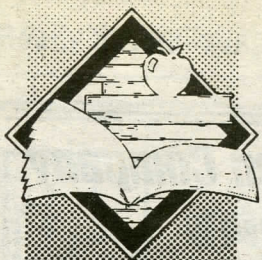
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CULTURE

Congress continues effort to rewrite legislation allowing easier Indian adoptions by non-Indians

by Katherine Rizzo
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Congressional staffs are continuing their negotiations over the best way to rewrite a bill offering easier outside-the-tribe adoptions by families who are not American Indians.

It's a contentious issue. The Justice Department and the House and Senate's experts on Indian issues are siding with tribes, which object to any legislation that would dilute their sovereignty.

Rep. Deborah Pryce, R-Ohio, is pushing for a rewrite of the Indian Child Welfare Act.

An adoptive mother herself, she became involved in the issue after learning of a Columbus, Ohio, family whose efforts to

them in the tribe.

Pryce's legislation already has been approved by the House as part of a large

'It's a contentious issue. The Justice Department and the House and Senate's experts on Indian issues are siding with tribes, which object to any legislation that would dilute their sovereignty ...'

adopt 1/32 Pomo twins led to extended litigation because their Indian ancestry was kept secret by the parents for months until the twins' grandmother retroactively enrolled

visitors to Santa Fe, Aug. 17-18.

The festival, estimated to cost about \$250,000, received money or other assistance from the state, the National Endowment for the Arts, the U.S. Information Agency, the Inter-American Development Bank, private foundations and businesses, major Hollywood studios and entertainment industry companies.

Festival-goers paid \$400 for a pass for all screenings, parties and special events; \$90 for a 24-show pass; or \$5 for individual screenings.

The Native Americas International Film Exposition can be reached at (505) 988-5507.

adoption bill, but the Senate Indian Affairs Committee stripped her language out of the version it passed.

Since then the tribes, adoption advocates and lawmakers have been meeting to try to resolve their differences.

In June, the Senate committee held a hearing to examine substitute language

Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz. described as an important compromise and a "delicately balanced package."

The package wasn't ready for introduction, but McCain said he's planning to move swiftly.

Pryce said staff-level meetings on the subject were resuming, as well as meetings between various lawmakers and the interest groups working on the issue.

The package offered by the National Congress of American Indians would impose a deadline for tribal intervention in adoption proceedings but require that Native American nations be notified of all adoption proceedings involving tribal members.

Pryce said progress had been made but she still wanted some assurance that adoptive families would not have to worry about "retroactive enrollment" in tribes.

If McCain's committee fails to come up with adequate language, she said she has an ace in the hole: John Glenn, D-Ohio.

"Senator Glenn is prepared to try to amend it on the floor," she said.

FILMS

continued from page 30

the dead English poet William Blake.

The winners in each category, chosen by an eight-member jury, were honored at a banquet Aug. 14. The categories are dramatic features, documentary features, dramatic shorts, documentary shorts, experimental works, and new technologies. There also were individual honorees, including best director, actor and actress.

The exposition was held in conjunction with Indian Market, a huge arts fair that annually draws tens of thousands of



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CULTURE

Hopi carver captures nature and a glimpse of his ancestry

Guided tours of Anasazi Ruins reawakens artist's link to importance of tribal katsina

by Pam McSmith
The Yuma Daily Sun
Yuma, Ariz. (AP) — Capturing nature with a sun, clouds and animals is one of the things Hopi carver Myron Poliquapewa does when he is carving katsina (kachina).
"The katsina is representative of nature," the Hopi carver and artist said. "It is used in ceremonies, often religious, and is part of our culture."
Myron was born on the Hopi reservation, the youngest of 11 children born to Annabel and Wilford Poliquapewa. "When my father went into the U.S. Army during World War II, he was asked to change his

name so he took my grandfather's first name, Myron, which is easier to pronounce."
Myron attended the Hopi Mission School, a boarding school on the reservation, then went to Yuma High School. He took courses in civil engineering at the University of Arizona in Tucson, then returned to the reservation in 1982.
While working as a Native American interpretive ranger and carving demonstrator at the Grand Canyon Park, Myron conducted tours to the Anasazi Ruins.
"The Anasazi are ancestors to the Hopis," Myron said. "One of the tours was Desert View, not too far from Sipapuni, or the emergence place of the Hopi, a sacred

area. It's where the Little Colorado and the Colorado River go together."

"On the tour there were many different trails and sights, and many of historical nature. One was the first trading post at the Grand Canyon where a white man started trading for the salt the Hopi had brought up from the bottom of the canyon."

Myron said all of this has been a learning experience for him and gives him a feeling for his carving.

About 11 years ago, a brother Paul who lives in Phoenix, taught him how to carve. "Our katsinas are carved from the roots of the cottonwood trees," Myron said. "I use a pocket knife, and follow the contour of the wood. I use some motorized tools, but mostly a knife."

"The katsina will emerge from my mood and the symbolism of nature. Sometimes it is a deer, bear, squirrel, or badger, or it tells of agriculture, planting or harvesting."

"I have carved katsinas like corn maidens, a crow mother, and the cumulous cloud lady."

Myron said he is "graduating" from the traditional 8-, 10-, or 12-inch high katsinas to larger pieces, and "more contemporary designs."

He's also working in water colors and acrylics, continuing to explore and enhance his artistic abilities.

As an artist in residence for the Arizona Commission on the Arts and with the Yuma Cultural Council and Yuma Library District, Myron has given lectures and demonstrations to schools and organizations.

He has sent some of his work to the 75th Anniversary of the Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, a juried art show in New Mexico.

Myron has won other awards, including a \$5,000 fellowship award in 3-D media in 1992, and a second place at the Museum of Northern Arizona Hopi Show in July.

Myron is taking classes at Northern Arizona University in Yuma, majoring in elementary education. "I would like to teach kindergarten children," he said.

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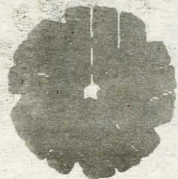
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CULTURE

Tribe blends into community but maintains culture, heritage

by Nikki Davisi Maute
The Hattiesburg American

SANDERSVILLE, Miss. (AP) - At no other place in Mississippi are the Choctaws more a part of their community than at Bogue Homa.

Old timers call the 200-plus acres a couple miles east of Sandersville a reservation.

Betty Sutton, who oversees the community center and other Choctaw facilities, prefers the term community.

"We are one of eight communities in Mississippi, which are part of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians," Sutton said.

And while the success of the tribe's gambling operation at the Pearl River reservation near Philadelphia has attracted international attention, don't expect a casino in Jones County.

"All the communities are benefiting not only from the gambling, but from more than a dozen enterprises the reservation is involved in," said Creda Stewart, a tribe spokesman. "With land limited, I don't anticipate moving outside the main site."

Bogue Homa, with its 57 families who live on and off the reservation, is getting a new gym from gambling profits. It should open this fall.

"This community is unique among the eight Mississippi communities in that its members are not only members of the Choctaw tribe, but also are part of the life

of Sandersville and Jones County," Stewart said.

The 90 miles between Bogue Homa and the Pearl River reservation is the main reason the Sandersville community moved ahead of its sister communities in blending with neighbors.

"Being the furthest from the tribal headquarters, this community mainstreamed by necessity," Stewart said. "At some sites, residents are still sharecropping and speak only Choctaw."

While several Choctaw children from the community attend Choctaw Central High School at Philadelphia, most are in schools in Jones County.

"They're part of the community," said Mike Blakeney, who operates the Exxon Station in Sandersville. "They just live a littler further out of town than the rest of us do."

Blakeney said Choctaw children from the community participate in local baseball and football leagues and a Choctaw father helps out with coaching.

"We hold practices on the reservation," Blakeney said.

The mix between tribe traditions and modern living is not seen as much at other communities, Stewart said.

While 90 percent of the 8,000 enrolled members of the Mississippi Band speak Choctaw, in Sandersville, many also converse in English.

But maintaining their heritage is as

important in Sandersville as at all other sites.

The language - and Choctaw language classes are taught - ties the people to their ancestors and traditions.

They have learned to blend old ways with modern experiences.

Two residents from Bogue Homa work at the tribe's Silver Star casino. But they also learn at the feet of the tribe's elders the art of basket weaving and beading.

Grandmothers hand down the ancient art of swamp reed basket weaving along with liberal doses of the tribe's history.

Emily Steve, at 2 1/2, is young to learn the very difficult and intricate art of double weave, but not too young to watch her grandmother create the geometric designs, which make the Choctaw baskets rare and valuable.

At one time, the baskets were weaved for use in daily living.

Now, no one would consider using a

Choctaw basket for anything more than a decoration or a collector's item destined to grow in value.

Emily's grandmother, Berdie Steve, spent four years working with an aunt to learn the craft.

"I wanted to learn about my people and where they came from," she said. "So I started by studying basket weaving. It's an important part of my heritage. It has given me a picture of where we came from."

"I had a hard time at first because I would watch the women weaving baskets and counting, but they counted in Choctaw and I could not do that," said Steve.

Steve, instead of picking up the traditional basket weaves and designs, created her own using an odd-number counting system instead of the traditional even numbers

COMMUNITY,
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CULTURE

COMMUNITY

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used by most Choctaw weavers.

Her designs include the Phoenix, the symbol found in most Choctaw designs, and are in a diamond weave.

"Often my aunt and I would stay awake until 4 a.m. working to get a design to come out right," Steve said. "The knowledge of geometry is a must in weaving."

Steve can weave a two-foot long basket in two colors in a day.

That is providing the swamp cane has been gathered and cut. Basket weavers do their own gathering.

"You go to the swamp and gather your own cane because you have to know what is good for making baskets," she said. "It takes a long time to learn how to cut and strip the cane to the size needed for caning."

Steve sells her two-foot basket with cross handles in two colors for about \$215.

"What we are trying to tell the

women here and at the other communities is that this ancient art can provide a good career for you," Stewart said.

Stewart and others credit Chief Phillip Martin with turning the tribe, at one time the state's "poorest of the poor" into an economically thriving and successful community.

"There are some interesting misconceptions about the Choctaws," Stewart said. "While they are the only recognized Indian band in the state, they receive no federal subsidies outside those which other communities compete for."

Less than 2 percent or \$3.5 million of the more than \$180 million in capital investments made in the various tribal enterprises in the past 15 years has come from federal grants.

"The growth is the result of a carefully formulated strategy for balanced community and economic development," Stewart said.

Stewart said Martin started the turnaround in 1979 when he snared a Ford Motor Co. plant.

"I can't tell you the number of letters he wrote or the contacts he made before getting the first plant," Stewart said.

In the intervening years 11 other enterprises - from a greeting card manufacturer to an electronics plant - followed.

Tribal unemployment went from 90 percent to below the state average.

The tribe employs more than 5,500, and that figure includes non-American Indians since there are enough Choctaws to fill all the jobs available.

The Mississippi Band of the Choctaws is the state's 10th largest employer.

Plans call for turning the Silver Star, one of the nation's most successful gambling operations, into a resort center complete with a golf course and a 55,000-square-foot convention center.

"As income increases, then more and more will be spent upgrading the communities," Stewart said.

All members of the tribe now receive twice yearly dividend checks, none ever higher than \$1,000, Stewart said.

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CULTURE

Navajos honor site of visitation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP) - Navajo Nation President Albert Hale has granted tribal employees administrative leave to visit the site where two Navajo deities are said to have appeared to an elderly woman this spring.

According to the Gallup (N.M.) Independent, stories of the May 5 visitation have spread across the reservation, although most Navajos are reluctant to talk about it with non-Indians.

"It's too sacred to talk about," said Ray Baldwin Louis, spokesman for the speaker of the Navajo Nation Council.

Louis said there are concerns among tribal officials that non-Indian news media

will not take the story seriously.

Despite the official silence, Hale issued a statement declaring the week of May 17-24 "Spiritual Unity Week" to commemorate the visitation.

"By now, everyone has heard of the Rocky Ridge appearance of the deities," Hale said. "This is a significant event to Navajo people everywhere."

Rocky Ridge, on the eastern edge of the reservation, was the site of a major Navajo religious ceremony in May. The Independent said only members of the Navajo and Apache tribes are being allowed to visit the site.

Tazbah McCullah, general manager of KTNB, the Navajo-owned radio station in Window Rock, said the tribal bus company asked the station to broadcast schedules for buses taking visitors to the site in Navajo only.

But he said he refused because many Navajos don't speak Navajo.

According to various reports of the event, the woman who witnessed the visita-

tion had not spoken for several years because she had been struck by lightning, the newspaper said.

The deities are said to have told the woman the Navajo reservation is suffering from a prolonged drought because the Navajos are not honoring traditional religious practices, the paper reported.

Storm hurts archeology discovery

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. (AP) - Hopes of uncovering a possible three-century old American Indian encampment may have been washed away.

Administrators of the Fort at No. 4 Living History Museum had just uncovered what they think might have been an encampment dating to the late-1600s, when high water and ice jams carried it down the Connecticut River during the spring.

Director Jeff Miller said they found a fire pit, empty mussel shells, pottery chips, parchment and possible wigwam post support holes.

Miller said he obtained grants through the Joint River Commissions, the New Hampshire Archaeology Department and the North Charlestown-based Student Conservation Association to excavate the area, and excavators found soil patterns which indicated the area may have been farmed three centuries ago.

Now, what's left of the site is a steep section of riverbank, carved out by the spring waters.

The main dig area now sits on a steep section of the property's riverbank. Pieces of clear plastic that were used by the excavators to mark off gridded sections were the only evidence of any work that was done there.

"We're hoping to find more funding, maybe another grant, so we can keep search-

ing," said Miller.

Miller said they hadn't found any kind of a refuse pile in their first search efforts, an omission that suggested to him that there is more to find.

A refuse pile can provide a gold mine of information about who lived on the land and what they did there, he said.

According to Miller, a reproduction of an Indian encampment would have complimented the fort, which itself is a reproduction of the enclosed village that used to sit near the Main Street area in Charlestown in the 18th century.

"We were hoping to make this part of the attraction," said Miller.

Cherokee to buy old trade site

CHEROKEE, N.C. (AP) - The Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians wants to buy back the remains of a once-thriving Cherokee town.

The town, called Kituwah, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places but is privately held and farmed. Now the descendants of the people who made this town a political and religious center of the southern Appalachian mountains want to preserve it.

"It's pretty rare that sites are bought for preservation," state archaeologist David Moore said. The state has little money for buying sites, he said.

Moore estimated the Kituwah site, also known as Governor's Island, was between 10 and 40 acres, one of the largest in Western North Carolina.

Kituwah has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973 and has a mound where a council or chief's

CHEROKEE,

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CULTURE

CHEROKEE

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house once stood.

Moore estimated the town was at its peak between the 14th and 18th centuries, but he said settlements have been there for much longer.

Wildfire damages petroglyph

CORTEZ, Colo. (AP) - The wildfire that blackened nearly 5,000 acres of Mesa Verde National Park damaged a petroglyph carved into a rock wall by Anasazi cliff dwellers more than 1,000 years ago, officials said.

Park officials may have to remove the rock carving - which is peeling away from the underlying rock - and put it in a museum, they said.

Experts have hiked through the area assessing fire damage. The park re-opened to visitors over the Labor Day weekend for the first time since the fire swept through the north-central part of the park Aug. 21, but visitors are not being permitted in the burned areas.

Damage to the petroglyph, chiseled into sandstone on Battleship Rock, was worse than feared, with the carving begin-

ning to separate, or exfoliate, from the underlying rock, much like layers peel from an onion, said Mesa Verde spokeswoman Sarah Craighead.

"It's damaged quite a bit, actually," she said. "There was a lot of brush and stuff up close to it, so the heat is causing that panel, the rock face to exfoliate. They think that we'll probably lose it."

The drawing, about 10 feet long and 4 feet tall, depicts both human figures and concentric circles, and has not been accessible to the public. Craighead said it is 1,000 to 1,100 years old.

She said since the rock in the area is sandstone, a type of sedimentary rock formed when sand and dirt settles to lake and ocean bottoms in layers and then is compressed, it tends to flake.

Craighead some parts of the Battleship Rock petroglyph already are "falling off in pieces."

If park archaeologists remove the petroglyph, they will have another problem on their hands - where to put it.

"Right now, I don't have a clue where we would put it, something that size," said Craighead. "We do have a collection facility, but it's pretty full."

The fire did not affect Mesa Verde's better-known ruins, such as the Cliff House and the Spruce Tree House, and it narrowly missed the park headquarters and museum.

Officials have said they hope to find new archaeological sites in the burned area, because the fire cleared away trees and other vegetation that may have concealed ruins and artifacts.

Asian art views old Chinatown

NEW YORK CITY - The New York City Chinese community is making Manhattan a public exhibition space in which the works of 10 contemporary artists will be on view in historical and commercial locations through Nov. 27.

Historical and commercial locations such as restaurants, gift shops and a tea shop as well as Chinatown's Columbus Park will serve as venues for the exhibition.

Organized by guest curator Lydia Yee, "Sites of Chinatown" is the first site-specific exhibition that showcases installations created from artists' memories and experiences of Chinatown.

"Chinatown plays an important role in the works of these artists," Yee noted, "and this exhibition affords them an opportunity to directly engage with that cultural context."

Featured artists are Ken Chu, David Higginbotham, Ik-Joog Kang, Jon Kessler, Alexander Ku, Nina Kuo, Stefani Mar, Elaine Tin Nyo, Martin Wong and Mimi Young. Each artist will have work on view at the Museum of Chinese in the Americas (MCA) as well as a site-specific project at another location.

The exhibition encourages viewers to take an active role by touring the streets of Chinatown to see all of the artworks. On a treasure hunt-like tour through the historic neighborhood visitors follow an easy-to-read map to uncover the artists' imaginative creations.

"For some of the artists in the exhibition, Chinatown offers a jumble of mundane and fascinating sights, which stimulate both memory and imagination while, for others, it is a source of received stereotypical images promoting social commentary," Yee explained.

The works include artist Ken Chu's "Dream Team: Asian American Male Athletes." At the MCA gallery, visitors can check out basketballs printed with Asian American male athletes' names, join the "Dream Team" and play in the court across the street at Columbus Park.

As the artist tells, "The Columbus Park basketball courts, situated on the perimeter of Chinatown, serve as one of the gateways into and out of the community as well as a conduit between cultures, Eastern and Western, Asian and American. In American society, professional sport has enshrined our myths of masculinity and race ... yet, Asians are invisible. My work commemorates Asian American male athletes throughout sports history."

following the true fashion of a treasure-hunt are Elaine Tin Nyo's interactive pieces, "My Mother's Egg Curry and Other Recipes" and "Make Mohinga with Me" at Kam Kuo Food Corporation.

At MCA, visitors can make copies of

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CULTURE

ART

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Nyo family recipes as well as leave their favorites to share with others. Visitors and their friends also are invited to pick up Elaine's grocery list and recipe for Mohinga - a Burmese fish soup - from Kam Kuo supermarket and retrace her footsteps through Chinatown to find all the ingredients.

As the artist reveals, "To shop or eat with someone for the first time is to establish a new level of intimacy. To cook with them ... well, that is this turn-of-the-century's version of love."

Program highlights include special guided walking tours of the sites as well as family programs.

For more information about "Sites of Chinatown," or to request a copy of the map, call the MCA at (212) 619-4785, or visit the World Wide Web sites of Chinatown at <http://www.att.com/community/mcasites>. The web site is the museum's debut on the

Internet.

CineVision presents Asian films

The Museum of Chinese in the Americas premiered filmmaker Loni Ding's feature documentary, "Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors, Settlers," as part of Asian CineVision's nationally acclaimed Asian American International Film Festival this summer.

The premiere was made in collaboration with Asian CineVision and New York University's Center for Media, Culture and History.

Winston J. Dong Jr., the museum's executive director, called the film "groundbreaking."

Independent filmmaker Ding's previous documentaries, "Nisei Soldier" and "The Color of Honor" helped focus national attention on the Japanese Redress Bill and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

In her current work, she visits points as diverse as a Guangdong village, an Indian fishing community, Spanish military barracks in Manila, a Chinese cemetery in Havana and cities like New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore where Chinese first settled at the end of the 18th century.

This allows her to go beyond the textbook stereotypes of Gold Rush-era Chinese immigrants and transcontinental "coolies." She brings to life a complex and diverse story that began three centuries ago and has led generations of Chinese to North, Central, South America and the Caribbean.

Ding uses a "docu-memoir" approach, rescuing a nearly irretrievable past and gives it a sense of vividness and urgency that is rare in social histories, Dong said.

She draws from scarce but revealing historical records such as census tracts, newspa-

per accounts and birth and death records as well as folklore and literature from the period.

"The Museum of Chinese in the Americas and its staff, founders and scholars were critical to my understanding, and were incredibly generous with their research, archives and family histories," Ding said. "I think this premiere represents just how vibrant and vital their work is."

The film festival is the first show of a four-part series and focuses on the Chinese migration to the Americas chronicling pivotal historical moments.

Ding's film wonders at the invisibility of these American ancestors within Western history. Although there have been Asians living and working in the Americas for more than two centuries, mainstream media continues to stereotype them as foreigners, she said.

At what point, asks the film, does one become an "American," while also remaining Chinese?

For more information on the museum's series and the festival held in July, call the museum at (212) 619-4785.

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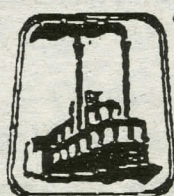
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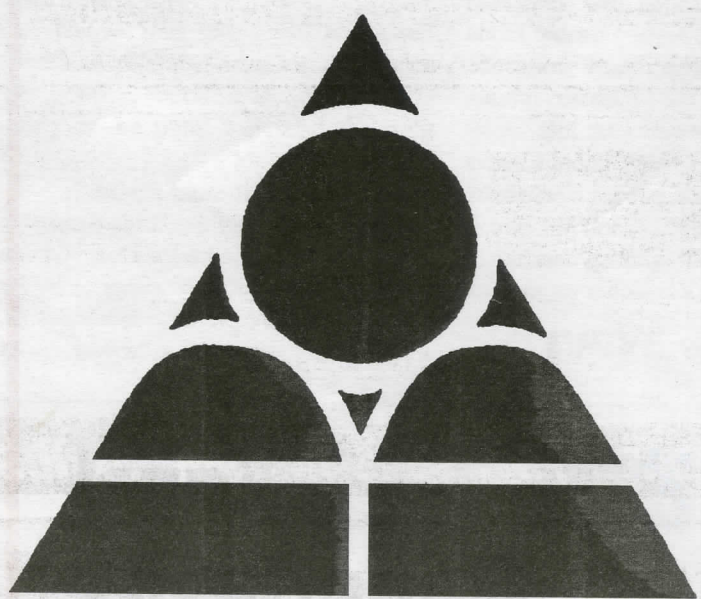
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