



Dr. Lee P. Brown, Commissioner of Public Safety of Atlanta, Georgia, will speak at the 10th Anniversary Black Studies Banquet at Portland State University. The banquet will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on September 28th. For information and reservations call 229-4003.

## Indian legends saved for new generations

It's a cliché, but you can call members of Oregon's coastal Coquille Indian Tribe "vanishing Americans."

The language of these 400 to 500 non-status Native Americans who reside in the Coos Bay area has long since disappeared.

And the tribe's myth, legends and history—passed from generation to generation through the art of story telling—also face the same fate.

To help stop this slide from vanishing to vanished, from present to past tense, an Oregon State University anthropologist is compiling a high-quality audio tape that will contribute to the preservation of the Coquille's spoken heritage.

Professor Roberta Hall, with funds provided by the Oregon Arts Commission, has recorded Coquille Tribe elders telling stories they heard back in the pre-reservation era.

"There are a number of Coquille stories, real and mythical, that few tribal members know anymore. They haven't been recorded and these stories—if they aren't put down on tape—could disappear with the passing of the tribal elders," explained Hall.

"But just writing down the stories isn't good enough. They lose something in written form. The tribal elders learned the stories from their elders in the traditional manner, the spoken word."

Hall, graduate student Alison Otis and aide JoAnn King, spent the first week in August among tribal members in Coos Bay compiling the tape.

"We have Coquille tribal members talking about well-known elders they knew early in this century. We also have stories about legendary events, as well as mythical characters such as the Coyote," said Hall.

"Coyote is multi-faceted. To some

people in some tales he is the mythical creator of the human landscape, the one responsible for the world the Coquille knew and the one responsible for the humans and their role in the world.

"Coyote is also a trickster, a wily individual with some attributes of the animal," Hall continued. "He is a clever being who tricks and is tricked himself. Sometimes he even outsmarts himself."

"The stories themselves are both fanciful and down to earth. They're stories composed of short episodes about an individual who is both more clever than most of those whom he encounters, and at times, more fallible."

Hall cautioned that "it may not be wise to try to read specific meanings into every story we've recorded. These may have changed from story-telling situation to situation, and may tell more about the inter-

preter than about the intent of the story.

"Still I can't resist venturing one general hypothesis: That to the ancient Coquille, the environment and the physical world was a world imbued with meaning; the events and forces that shaped the natural world were considered significant and the activities of humans within that sphere also were significant. How one lived—this mattered, not just to oneself and one's immediate kin, but it could affect even the core of the physical world."

The audio tape, when finished will be more than two hours in length. Copies will go to the Coquille Tribe, the Folklore Archives at the University of Oregon, Southwest Community College in Coos Bay which furnished facilities for the project and OSU's anthropology department.

Last year at the request of the

Coquilles, Hall produced a genealogy of the tribe. It was made available to the 50 some families who participated in the 1978 Coquille Oral Traditions project, sponsored by Earthwatch, a private foundation that provides funds and volunteers for field studies.

At the conclusion of the report on that field project, Hall suggested three other projects. One was the compilation of the audio tape. The other two projects, still in the future, are in the areas of living archeology and ethnobotany.

"For the living archeology project, we'd like to try to reconstruct Coquille artifacts and see if they work. Part of this project would center around possible construction of an interpretive center for the tribe."

The ethnobotany project would be concerned with herbs and medicines used by the ancient Coquilles.

### Program aids Indian students

The Indian Support Program (ISP), a coordinated project of the United Indian Students of Higher Education (UISHE) will be available to Indian students at Portland State University again this fall.

ISP is a higher education program to help Indians who want to go to college or who already attended college in the Portland area. Services include academic advising, guidance and financial aid counseling, and they are free to admitted students.

Persons interested in knowing more about the program may call coordinator Marilyn James at 229-4505, or stop by her office in 439 Smith Center (1825 S.W. Broadway).

### Children's Week planned

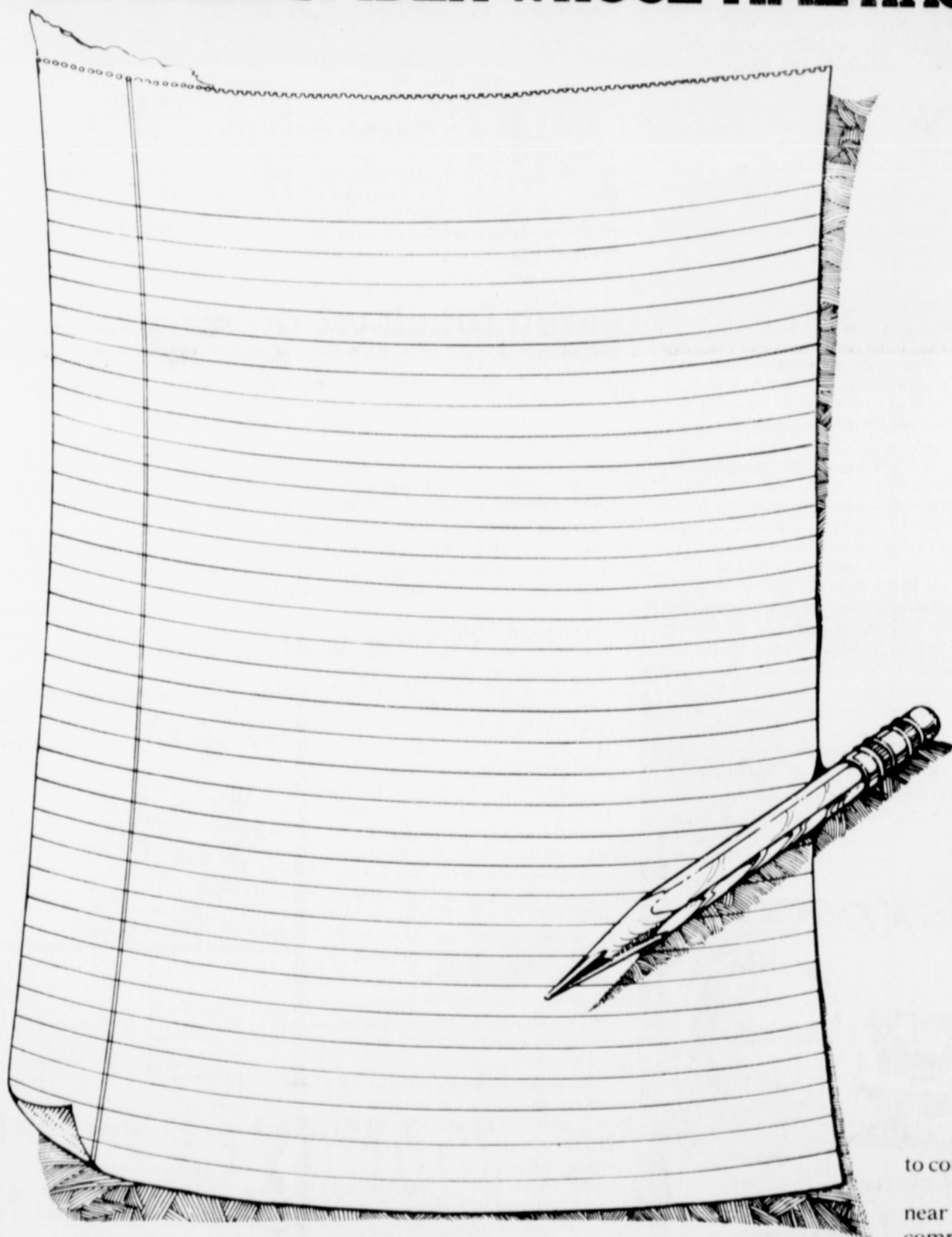
September 29th through October 7th has been declared Children's Resource Week in Portland. There are two major activities being planned for the week to coincide with International Year of the Child.

On Saturday, September 29th, at the Masonic Temple the IYC Fair will kick off the week with the theme—"Portland, What's In It For Children." The IYC Fair will provide information about community involvement and service organizations, what is available and how to use it. It will be fun and entertaining for the children, as well as educational for all.

Ending the week will be "Family Fair: Choices in Birth and Parenting." This year's fair is an expansion of enthusiastically attended fairs held in 1977 and 1978 to bring pertinent information on birth and parenting to the childbearing and childrearing public. For 1979, the sponsors of Family Fair have developed broader objectives and expanded the amount of information available to participants. It is located at the Memorial Coliseum complex. Any questions, call Marsha at 227-3905.

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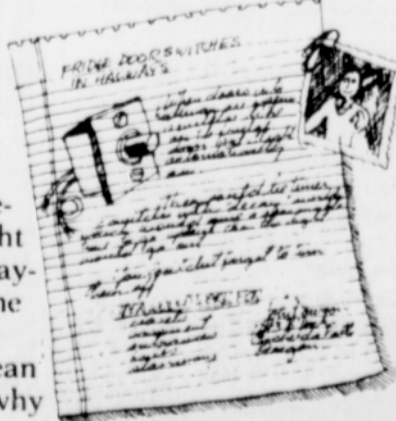
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