

National Indian News Briefs

NORTH DAKOTA INDIANS DISPLEASED BY OLIPHANT DECISION: The Supreme Court decision that Indian tribes had no criminal jurisdiction over non-Indians on reservations was called unfair by tribal officials in North Dakota. Richard Fredericks, tribal judge on the Turtle Mountain Reservation and vice president of the National Indian Court Judges Association, said: "I'm displeased with it. For one thing, we're not getting fair treatment. If we Indians commit a crime on state land, we're tried in state court. But if non-Indians commit a crime on Indian land, we can't try them." Pat McLaughlin, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, said: "Indian law when it was set up was territorial law, not for persons. Anyone who came into that territory should be subject to that law. It wasn't made just for certain persons. I don't think it's fair . . . If any non-Indian comes on the reservation, he's not subject to nothing."

GERARD ASKS JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO FILL VOID OF JURISDICTION DECISION: The Supreme Court's decision in the Oliphant case has caused a "developing void in law enforcement on Indian reservations," Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Forrest Gerard informed the Justice Department March 15. The ruling denied Indian tribes jurisdiction over non-Indians on the reservations. Gerard, writing to Benjamin Civiletti, deputy attorney general designate, said that tribes had become increasingly active in the area of criminal jurisdiction "because no government — the state probably lacked jurisdiction and the U.S. exercised little or none — was enforcing criminal laws on reservations." Gerard said that prompt Federal action to correct the situation was needed and asked for "a conference with your office to explore what might be done to provide this service."

OKLAHOMA HAS MAJOR JURISDICTIONAL PROBLEM: A critical law enforcement problem exists in Indian country in western Oklahoma. According to the state Indian Affairs Commission court rulings have determined that Oklahoma has no sovereignty over approximately 1.5 million acres of land controlled by tribal trusts. Because Oklahoma laws do not apply in those areas, local law enforcement agencies are reluctant to extend protection to the Indians living within them, said Bob Gann, director of the Commission. Gann said tribal governments are just beginning to apply for the Federal funds necessary to begin the transition over to self-government in the areas in question. For years, Gann said, the tribes did not question the power of the state to extend its sovereignty over Indian land.

NORTHWEST TRIBES SUPPORT FOUNDING OF INDIAN NEWS ASSOCIATION: One of the resolutions adopted at the Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians acknowledged the value of the Indian news media as "a major source of distributing and expressing the viewpoints of tribal councils and Indian organizations" and therefore supported "the establishment of the Northwest Indian News Association." Unfortunately, the support voted was only moral, encouraging "the continued search for funding to perpetuate and support Indian journalism which is beneficial to all tribes and every Indian organization." You can't pay bills with moral support, but it is better than no support.

USE OF TERM "NATIVE AMERICAN" DECRIED: The Northwest Affiliated Tribes also passed a resolution against the use of the term native American in place of American Indian. There should be cheers for an intelligent resolution. All persons born in America are native Americans, but most of them are not American Indians.

CROWS MAY SEEK TO EXTEND TAXING AUTHORITY BEYOND RESERVATION: An agenda item for the April 8 Crow Tribal Council meeting would amend the tribal constitution to include the Crow ceded area within the scope of the tribe's taxation powers. The area was relinquished by the tribe to the state, but the tribe retained the mineral rights. If the amendment is passed, it may mean the 25 percent mineral tax adopted two years ago by the tribal council will be imposed on the Westmoreland Resources Coal Mine on the ceded area. At the present time this is the only Crow coal being mined. If the 25 percent tax would be collected, Westmoreland would be paying a 55 percent tax on all coal taken from the mine. The state now collects a 30 percent servance tax.

OREGONIAN URGES FISH WAR COMPROMISES TO AVOID SETTLEMENT BY OUTSIDERS: The Portland Oregonian has editorialized that it's time for all parties in the Northwest fish war to fish or cut bait — to quit standing on principle and settle down to some serious compromising to implement the "fish war peace plan" put together by the Federal Regional Fisheries Task Force. The ultimate alternative, the paper argues, is to have a settlement imposed by the U.S. Supreme Court. "It would seem," the paper wrote, "there is far more understanding of local conditions within the state of Washington and on the reservations of the tribes than in Washington, D.C. where the Supreme Court sits. The Indians might lose if the court reflects what many see as a growing 'backlash' against Indian militancy; non-Indians might lose if further concessions are ordered by the court." Interior Department representative John Hough said of the need for compromise: "No matter how you cut it, every participant in this fishery will have to give up something to make it work."

Indian Studies Course Offers Insight, Credits

School district staff have a unique opportunity to become acquainted with Indian history, culture and government and earn college credits at the same time. A ten-part course in Indian Studies sponsored by Oregon State University was launched this week with a session on the history of Warm Springs, taught by Mike Clements.

Future sessions, to be held weekly, will focus on Indian Culture, Tribal Government, Tribal Sociology and the nitty gritty of working with Indian students and parents.

It is hoped that the information presented in the course will enhance understanding and communication among staff, students and the Warm Springs Community.

Several members of the Confederated Tribes have been invited to conduct classes. All sessions will be tape recorded for future use in district curriculum.

About thirty people have signed up for the course. En-

rollment is not limited to district personnel and more students are welcome.

The cost of the Indian Studies course is \$48 for three undergraduate credits and \$108 for three graduate credits. Classes are being held at the Madras Junior High School Library every Thursday night at 7-9:30, except for the April 26 session which will be on Wednesday.

Following is a list of classes, dates and instructors.

1. History of Warm Springs, 4-6-78, Mike Clements.
2. Indian Culture, Part I, 4-13-78, Warren R. Clements.
3. Indian Culture, Part II, 4-20-78, Warren R. Clements.
4. Tribal Government, Part I, 4-26-78, Nelson Wallulatum, Robert Macy and Clayton Earl.
5. Tribal Government, Part II, 5-4-78, Irene Wells, Jeffrey Sanders.
6. Tribal Sociology, 5-11-78, Charles Calica, Rosella Phillips, Ramona Tanewasha.
7. Turning on the Tuned Off, 5-18-78, Sylvia Tucker, Mary Hall.

8. Discipline and Control, 5-25-78, Sylvia Tucker.

9. Communication Between Teachers and Students, 6-1-78, Sylvia Tucker.

10. Wrap-up Session, Reaction, Evaluation, 6-8-78, Dr. Wood, Dr. Weber, Charles Calica.

Water For Oregon's Future

That was the theme for a state-wide conference held at Portland State University Friday, March 31.

Governor Robert Straub was the key-note speaker for the day's event. Straub's speech reflected on Oregon's future and the Columbia River, the main resource for the State of Oregon.

The river serves as a multi-million dollar source for the state, Straub said. Forestry, fishing and tourism rely heavily on the Columbia River.

The uses of the water from the river should be well planned in the best interest of future generations.

Oregon should establish a competitive equity to the upstream states in irrigation, power, fishing etc. Competition is there and can increase in the near future. There are several different types of water users today. There have been proposals to set aside some water for use at a future time said Straub. His speech was short and to the point.

The Pacific Northwest River Basin which consisted of representatives from the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana were in attendance at the meeting.

Participants agreed that the states should coordinate a com-

prehensive joint plan; by doing this they could all project the amount of water used and also its source. The entire region should combine forces and agree on the various uses of water, legal or otherwise, also consider those who have certain water rights such as the Treaty Indians and other users.

Objectives and alternatives should be established; for instance the ability to adjust as problems arise and avoid problems that could cause alarm among all the water users.

Domestic, Fish and Wildlife, Irrigation and Industry appear to be the primary water users. Each group has historically had the idea that their group is the most important. It is apparent that the states will have to come to an agreement with each other on the use of the water, otherwise the Federal Government can step in and take the case to the Supreme Court.

The southwest is trying to get water from the Columbia River because there is some thought that there is surplus water here in the northwest, but this is not so. The northwest is engaged in a continuing struggle to protect its water rights. The solution is not here at the present time and will not be for some time yet.

TOE NESS

There were these two guys talking about marriage, the first guy said, "I can say this about marriage, It gives a guy something to do when all the girls are out of town." "YIKES"

SS SS SS

There was this guy that met one of his poker playing friends. Because being all beat up his poker playing friend wanted to know what happened to him. "Well said the first guy, I was really living it up, just like my rich friend." "Well than what happened?" "My rich friend returned home unexpectedly." "YIKES"

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This young couple were at this country farm dance and after it was going for a while they decided to get some fresh air so they went out to his car and decided to get in and sit for a while. After a little conversation the shy farm boy layed his head back on the seat of the car and said. "Gee its so peaceful here you can hear the crickets so clear." His more aggressive girl friend sits up and said. "Thats not crickets, its my teeth, its so cold out here, put your arms around me." "YIKES"

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There were these two young doctors discussing their patients and the first said. "I've got a new patient, young and beautiful, her problem is everytime she see's a young handsome boy walk by she wants to kiss.

The other doc asks. "What are you doing for that problem?" "Well, said the first, I made arrangements with a bunch of young guys to pass by the window at two minute intervals everytime she is in the office." "YIKES"

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There were these two newly weds at their reception so the bride cuts the cake and in doing so she cuts the cake into 200 pieces and the mother asks her why she cut so many pieces? "Her reply was that she didn't know how to shut off the knife." "YIKES"

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