

# Training provided for in-field health care

by Pat Leno

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is presently meeting a goal in the health care field by training tribal employees as para-professionals. This fall, four different training programs were attended by tribal employees. The four training programs were the community health advocates, nurses aide training, emergency medical technician and first responders.

In having tribal members and employees trained to do field work as para-professionals the Tribe is taking a giant step in self-determination in the field of health care.

During the mid 50's health care

on the reservation was provided by the Indian Health Service, a federal government program. The model for the medicine practiced here on the reservation by IHS has been the western Medical Model which is to heal and cure the body.

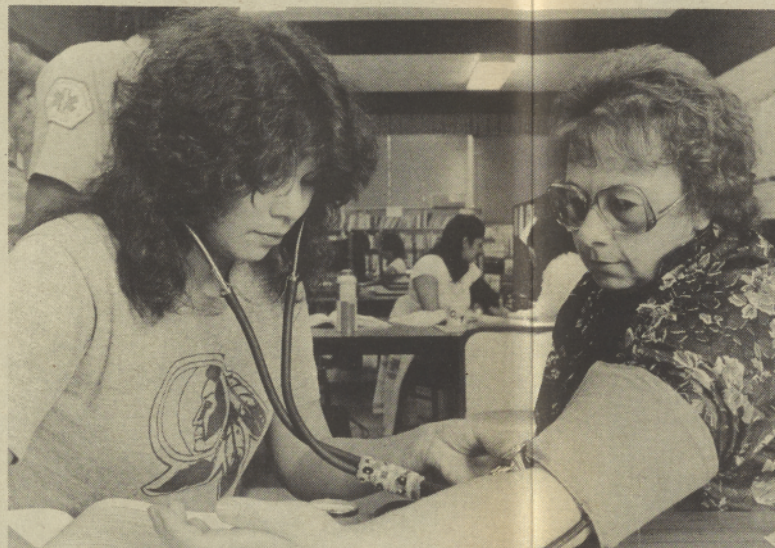
The leaders of the Tribe felt this lacked the traditional medical belief, a belief of treating the mind and spirit as well as the body. So the Tribe began to develop a plan to incorporate the traditional medicine idea.

At this time, the Tribe and IHS work together in a partnership in the health care of people of Warm

Springs. It is through this partnership that the many training programs have been pursued. The Tribe is having people trained to work in an area of health care which has been neglected, the field of health care in the field by para-professionals.

This new field will allow the IHS doctors expanded knowledge with which to work with the patients. All para-professionals will be working with the doctors in the gathering of information necessary to give the best treatment possible.

It is a new field and a major step for the Tribes. In the outcome the people of Warm Springs will be the benefactors.



Nurses aide training students learn about systolic and diastolic blood pressure. Angie Stacona uses a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff to measure those pressures on student Joanna Lytle. It's just a part of the many things that must be learned to become certified as a nurse's aide.



EMT I certification demands knowledge in many areas from treating nosebleeds to applying splints. Bill Carter applies an air splint to Dean Seyler, just for the practice.

Spilyay Tymoo photos

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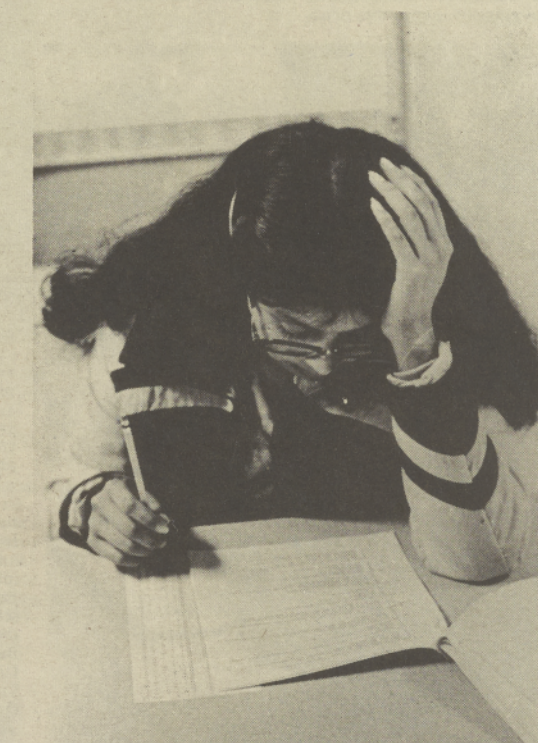
Shewczyk and Leno



Learning the skill of dealing directly with patients in the clinic setting is a large part of the training in the Community Health Advocate program. Wilson Wewa, Jr. takes the blood pressure reading of Clarence McKinley as a part of taking information during a Senior Citizen clinic.



Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is essential in keeping circulation active in some cases where an injured victim is unable to do so himself. EMT I student Eldon Tom practices on a dummy made specifically for that purpose.



The weeks of training and studying for certification as a first responder are climaxed with the written test and practicum. Charlene Garcia intently pours over the final test.