

NCAI addresses issues concerning Indian Tribes

The National Congress of American Indians, Organization held its Golden Anniversary annual convention in Denver, Colorado, November 12-16, 1994. The N.C.A.I., the largest Indian organization in the United States and Alaska, where all the tribal leaders gather each year to discuss the important issues regarding their reservation or livelihood in Indian Country.

That's coming in since the Republican Party will be taking over. There were several possibilities discussed but for the moment things will go along until something comes up on what direction the Native Americans should take.

The Golden anniversary continued to attract all subjects that face the Indian people today as leaders expressed their concerns and action that is needed on their behalf. The regular issues addressed were the Indian

Education, Indian Health, Indian Housing, Gaming, the Freedom of Religion and the BIA Reorganization project that has been on the drawing boards for some time now.

Local delegates in attendance were busy in their field of concern whether in Health, Education, or Natural Resources and the gaming issues that are on hand. The gaming issue is popping up all over the country as a means of revenue for the tribes who have ventured into the gaming field. These were items of concern for the gaming issues to be learned as there will be a referendum coming up soon for the tribes here.

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians held caucuses and the main concern was the new administration. ATNI President Bruce Wynn, called the meeting to get input from all the tribal leaders from the Northwest. A position paper was prepared for consideration by the floor by various individuals regarding the matter.

There were several in attendance who have been affiliated with the NCAI for years and years, there were several past presidents and officers who were on hand. While at the convention a little conversation with a past president and his views of the present situation and here is a comment made by Wayne Dacheneaux, past president of the NCAI.

Dasheneaux: The Conference seems to be a good one so far, however I think the agenda was put together before the election came about. If I were the President, I would ask the membership to suspend the agenda and plan one where we will work with the new Congress. I think we will lose less in the senate than in the house. Senator McKinen is a good person that should do Indians good. Inouye is still there but there will be a new Committee Chairman

to deal with. We've got to find ways to work with the new Congressional Committees.

Gaming: Is here to stay, we need to become more watchful in it and not lose jurisdiction to obtain gaming. If we don't watch out we could lose. There are those who are Anti-Indian that could become in control. We've got to be careful in this area. To be more realistically, if all the gaming Tribes would assess a penny to each dollar they took in, they, in no time would have enough funds to hire lobbyists in D.C. to keep an eye on what happens there. In the past gaming was not as big as it is today and its growing right along.

Tribes who are involved in gaming use the funds in various ways, some put up matching funds for Housing, Education, Employment, Health care and some just put out the funds on a Per-Capita basis. Some tribes are doing well.

While at the Convention a conversation with another past Officer of the NCAI, a former Executive Director, Chuck Trimble, who is presently involved with the Economic Development for the Indian Country....Here are his views:

Its obviously very thrilling to be here for the 50th anniversary, I've served, almost 20 years ago as executive director for the Organization so being able to be here on the 50th I feel very fortunate and have seen so much development in Indian Country. Although there are very threatening things on the horizon the NCAI is willing to take on. Problem areas are, the new Congress coming in, very difficult to see, I think that's the biggest difficulty we face, its an unknown quantity, the Republicans have been out for years its difficult to see who they will vision Indian Country in gaming and various other things. I think what its really up to us

to do is to go to the Republicans and educate them and to inform them.

People have said Democrats always take Indians for granted and Republicans write Indians off. And I think that it can be reversed, us Indians have always taken Democrats for granted and have written Republicans off. I think we really should go to the Republican Educate them and inform them and get them on our side and to get them to understand that we are seeking self sufficiency which is something that should please the Republicans.

Working in the past have you noticed anything different on issues. Well, just slightly different issues but all surrounded by sovereignty and jurisdiction and our right as sovereign Nations. And how we are perceived by other people, and how sometimes they perceive us as a threat by the other issues are pretty much the same, but I do know now the Tribes are so much more sophisticated in Tribal leadership and the Tribes are much more advanced and because of that the Organization is so much better than a long time ago when I was running.

BIA Reorganization? I haven't heard much about that because I'm in the Economic Development area, but I think their problem with the reorganization has always been that they will go and seek in-put from Tribes and ignore the input from the Tribes and do what ever the Bureaucrats think anyway.

In the Economic Development role we are still looking for the Administration to take a forceful role and hopefully can help the Administration do something positive in the area of Economic Development in

taxation and various other things. The following is a statement by a former Executive Director, Ronald Andrade.

I think the convention has been going great, I seen people here that I have known for 25 years, I've been coming here for 25 years and its just like a home coming.

With the new Administration coming in I think the BIA Re-Organization has to be the more important thing for the Tribal members, it is dangerous now with the administration changing on us and we may not have control of the Organization and I think the Tribes are beginning to address that right now.

Gaming situation; I think gaming is great in the area of Economic Development. Correctly, whether its gaming, whether its resorts whether its camp grounds I think its good thing as long as its Tribally operated. We can be here for 50 years and still be friends for 50 years I don't think we have that much to fear from the U.S. Government ever.

These were some comments by past officers of the NCAI, which were very informative and could have a direct bearing on issues we face today.



NCAI President, gaiashkibos addresses conventioners in Denver. Spilyay Tymoo photo by Sid Miller

Healthy Nations project open to suggestions

At Healthy Nations, we've been asking community members what they believe will reduce alcohol and drug abuse in our community. Your response has been great! Keep it coming!! Some people have encouraged education in partnership with our jails, and job education programs. Others have pointed to existing departments and the need to work together. Some don't know, but tell me whatever it takes, they want our community to do itself and they're willing to help.

addressed depends on you. In the Fall/Winter term of next year, the Council on Alcohol and Drugs will collectively decide on a few constructive ways to make a difference. Your words and ideas will become action. We don't have a bottomless pit of money, but we can look at a few ways, which may sound off the wall or may have been tried before, and see if they work.

I'd like to introduce you to the idea of a "risk factor." Have you ever seen the Crash Test Dummies (not the music guys!), the models that don't wear safety belts? They tell us that if we don't buckle up, we will hit the steering wheel or window and become seriously injured if we are involved in a car accident. If you don't wear a safety belt, you're at risk of becoming a statistic. A risk factor is something we can all look at and agree that it's risky behavior, and our chances are greater of getting hurt than if we didn't do the risky behavior.

The Warm Springs Healthy Nations project is funded by a private foundation. They are sponsoring 10 reservation based and 5 urban American Indian groups, including the Colvilles. The goal is to explore local ways to reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs. Here's where you come in. What do you see in Warm Springs everyday? What do you see is a need that should be addressed? How would you address that need? Would you be willing to get involved?

We will be looking at 19 "risk factors" in Warm Springs and see where we stand. We are doing great in some areas, not so hot in others, and this will tell us where we should look for ways to make a positive difference. We'll be conducting a survey, like I mentioned, and your

participation is important. Maybe you haven't stopped to talk with Val or I in the post office lobby, but this is one way you can tell us where to look to make a difference. I know the word survey is not new to you, but this process is! The survey is one part of a larger picture in which you help direct this project, and make an effort to reduce the abuse of alcohol and drugs, and all the effects that go right along with it, in Warm Springs.

So, we will continue to publish our newsletter, telling you what you've told us, and then listening

again and again until we get it right. I'll be highlighting a "risk factor" each article, and introduce you to some of the ideas we're looking at. Get involved, listen to the radio shows, stop us on the street and tell us what you see. Together, we can make a difference in our community.

I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor. Henry David Thoreau

Scott McLean, Coordinator

BIG NEWS!!!
We are seeking your input!
We will be having community meetings for each district:
Agency: December 6, 1994
Simnasho: December 7, 1994
Seekseequa: December 8, 1994
We will be serving dinner about 6:00 and start our meetings at 7:00. We hope wrap things up at 8:30 pm.



The third annual
Simnasho Traditional Christmas Powwow
Honoring Veterans/alcohol & drug awareness
December 23 & 24, 1994
Simnasho, Longhouse Simnasho, OR
MC: Wilfred Jim, Sr.
Contests include: 12 yrs & under open team dance
13 yrs & up team dance. Clown dance.
All other sponsored contests will be included during the powwow.
Friday events include a dinner at 5 p.m.
Honoring our people and visitors
Grand Entry will follow at 8 p.m.
Saturday Veterans & Christmas dinner
Christmas tree & gift give away approximately 12 noon
Grand Entry will be 7:30 p.m.
For more information contact: Dallas Winishut, Jr.
(503) 553-3222/3220; Vincent Guy Wallulatum (503) 553-3205/3206;
Sheilah Wahnetah raffle chairperson (503) 553-1338
All drummers & dancers will be paid nightly.
Dancers must be in full regalia in order to be paid.
Alcohol/drugs are not permitted; committee is not responsible for vandalism, theft, or injuries.

Talent show

December 21, 1994, 7:00 p.m.

Warm Springs Community Center Gym

Family fun for everyone!

First prize-\$100.00, Second prize-\$75.00

Third prize-\$50.00

To enter sign up at the Community Center by December 16

Admission at the door will be \$2.00-Adults, \$1.00-Students and Senior Citizens.

Satellite system launches in Oregon; available now

New small dish satellite television service launches in Oregon. Area corporation gains exclusive distribution rights for Wasco, Jefferson, Sherman, Gilliam, Grant and Harney counties.

Last December, the nation's first high-powered direct broadcast satellite (DBS) was successfully launched into orbit and now, after months of anticipation, TransOregon Direct Broadcast Satellite is ushering in a new era in television for counties above with the introduction of DIRECTV.

"This is the service that everyone has been talking about and waiting for," says Buck Milliken, Manager, TransOregon. "We've got it and I can tell something they have never had before when it comes to television and information technology, a choice.

DIRECTV is a new all-digital satellite television service which offers consumers approximately 150 channels of programming, with laser disc quality video and CD-quality audio, using an 18-inch satellite dish antenna. The dish can be mounted on a roof, porch railing or the side of a house, says Milliken. TransOregon has purchased exclusive distribution rights for DIRECTV.

"The technology is called direct broadcast satellite or DBS," says Milliken. "What makes it different from other satellite television services is that the dish is only 18 inches across. Plus, unlike cable, you don't need the cable company to run a wire into your house to receive it."

What makes TransOregon different from other area companies who are selling DIRECTV, according to Milliken is his company will be providing all service, from sales and installation, to service and billing at the local level.

"In essence, we are DIRECTV in our local area," says Milliken. "We're your one-stop shop. When custom-

ers get their bill it will come from us and they will know that they have a full-service local provider to answer any questions or solve any problems they may have."

This is made possible through TransOregon's association with the NRTC a service cooperative comprised of more than 800 rural electric and telephone utilities and independent investors, whose mission is to bring affordable and comprehensive television and information service to rural America.

In all, NRTC members and affili-

ates invested more than \$100 million to become partners with DIRECTV in the DBS project, according to Milliken. As a result, NRTC members, such as TransOregon have exclusive distribution rights for the service in their territories, as well as access to private label receiving equipment and special programming packages which will not be available through other distribution channels.

Consumers receive DIRECTV by purchasing a Digital Satellite system (DSS), which consists of an 18-inch satellite dish antenna, remote control

and set-top receiver about the size of a VCR. Thomson Consumer Electronics is manufacturing a basic (\$699) unit and a step-up (\$899) unit under the RCA brand name. In addition, Thomson is producing these same units, plus a mid-line (\$799) unit, as private-label products excluding for NRTC members like TransOregon.

Programming costs from \$15 to \$30 per month and includes the most popular cable channels, like CNN, ESPN, The Disney Channel, The Dis-

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Mid Coast Studios used two photos for the 1995 Chevy Catalog in Warm Springs which were taken on the Wapanitia highway last June. Because there was no fee for taking photos on the reservation, Mid Coast Studios donated a check for one thousand dollars to the Simnasho Grade School which the Parent Advisory Committee accepted.

Spilyay Tymoo
Publisher: Sid Miller
Editor: Donna Behrend
Reporter/Photographer: Saphronia Katchia
Reporter/Photographer: Selena T. Boise
Reporter/Photographer: Bob Medina
Secretary: Tina Aguilar
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