



Gene Thin Elk

## TRIBE SPONSORS SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKSHOP

The Grand Ronde tribal Health Program sponsored a workshop on the "Red Road" approach to substance abuse on April 17th. Gene Thin Elk, Lakota Sioux from Rosebud, South Dakota, was the guest speaker.

The "Red Road" approach to substance abuse intergrates traditional Indian values and contemporary treatment methods, according to Thin Elk. The approach deals with substance abuse and how it affects the alcoholic and/or drug user, that person's family, and how substance abuse leads to other substance abusers in the household.

For instance, within the household there is the primary alcoholic or drug user; the co-dependent, a person who lives with a substance abuser, but who experiences more pain because they go through life "cold sober"; there is pre-para alcohol syndrome - the person (i.e. child) who is being trained and learning the behaviors, values, expectations, etc., of the substance abuser; and para alcoholic syndrome which involves a person (i.e. teenager) who feels the anger, fear, etc. of a substance abuser, but who has not been drinking or been involved in drugs as long, said Thin Elk.

"We believe, in the "Red Road" approach, that there have been roots established. A dis-ease before the disease", Thin Elk said.

At the earlier stages, we need to put our youth at ease so they feel comfortable with themselves. They need to belong said Thin Elk.

There are two worlds which we can live in: the natural or unnatural. The natural world is a "living" state and the unnatural world is a "survival" state, Thin Elk said.

Both worlds have belief systems. Those belief systems give the values of life. These values lead to lifestyle, which is culture, he said. This all leads to identity, and many of our people are lacking identity, or are searching for identity, said Thin Elk.

For a chemically dependent person to recover, an empowerment process must start within oneself. The person needs to work on the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual self, Thin Elk said.

## EXHIBIT OPENS

The Oregon Historical Society recently announced the unveiling of a new exhibition of photographs entitled "Faces of a Reservation", which will be on display through September. Taken by photojournalist Cynthia Stowell, the photographs depict everyday life on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation where Ms. Stowell lived for several years. The photographs are from her book by the same title published by the Oregon Historical Society Press. The book is due out in mid-May.

## ARTS FELLOWSHIP GRANT

The National Endowment for the Arts is accepting applications for the Arts Management Fellowship Program for the Fall 1987 session. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree and at least three years experience in the arts or an arts related field. To request guidelines and more information, write Arts Management Fellowship Program, National Endowment for the Arts, Nancy Hanks Center, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20506.

## OSU SCHOLARSHIP

Oregon State University recently announced the availability of scholarship funds to encourage Native American Indian students to attend the college.

The Helen J. Smith Native American Indian Scholarship, awarded for the first time this year, is intended to assist Indian students with educational related expenses. Preference is given to Native American students graduating from an Indian High School.

Deadline for receipt of all application materials is May 10, 1987. To find out more, contact the Financial Aid Office, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.



At a special Mass and reception, John and Eula Petite celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Above, Merle Leno and Mark Mercier display a gift to the Petites from the Tribal Council. Their anniversary was March 13.