



ALCOHOL CONF.

The National Indian Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse held their annual conference August 1, 1988 to August 5, 1988, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Attending for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were Mary Ring, Social Services Program Director, Kathryn Harrison, Tribal Council person, Michael Childers, Youth Representative, and Jim Goodman, and Monte Ring, Alcohol Department. This conference covered topics dealing with alcohol and substance abuse, and topics related to destructive behavior.

Long hours, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., were put in attending special classes for elders, youth and professionals. Over three hundred Indian people from all over the United States were on hand to learn and share from one another possible solutions to these problems.

Kathryn Harrison was awarded a medal for her years of outstanding service to Indian people. Kathryn was also chosen to be one of the facilitators for the elders forum.

Michael Childers was awarded a medal for her outstanding leadership, and for presenting a positive role model to other Indian youth. Michael was a group leader at the youth portion of the conference.

Among the many speakers we were treated to, Billy Mills, winner of a gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the 10,000 meters, inspired all present to working up to our greatest potential. He stressed that anyone could be a winner if they work hard enough and set their goals high enough.

The conference was topped off with a gala Pow Wow. The highlight of the Pow Wow was the National Indian Health Board's 1988 Queens Give Away. Drumming and dancing went on until past 1:00 a.m.

We left the conference tired but with a renewed spirit, ready to return to our respective Tribes and fight the battle against the enemies that plague our members.



Marie Logan enjoys a bit of history while visiting the Horner Museum in Corvallis.

SOCIAL SERVICES



Siletz elder and Grand Ronde elder, Martha Mercier, enjoy meal together.

INDIAN COUNCIL ON AGING LOOKS AT PROBLEMS FACING OLDER AMERICANS

A lack of adequate health care, social and human services is placing older American Indians at risk, according to a series of position statements released by the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA), which represents and advocates for the interests of Indian elders age 55 and older. The position papers outline major problems facing older American Indians and the Council's recommendations for how these problems can best be addressed.

According to NICOA Executive Director Curtis Cook, the statements contain no significant changes from NICOA's previous positions but rather solidify its stance on key issues.

"We see the position statements as means of developing a number of initiatives and action strategies to improve services to older American Indians, and to delineate and protect their rights and entitlements," says Cook.

Although NICOA's Board of Directors is made up of representatives elected from each of the 12 federal regions covering the various tribes, the council does not see itself as having authority to speak for tribal governments. It does, however, seek to represent a consensus of opinion.

BETTER SERVICES TOP PRIORITY

Indian Elders as a group fare far worse than most other older Americans. In its position paper on Indian elderly health, NICOA quotes from an unpublished article that "being Indian and being old intensifies the difficulties [of growing old in America]; but being an Indian over age

75 and living in a rural area may represent being a member of the most discriminated segment of American society."

Because many Indian elders have remained on the reservation, they are often socially and/or geographically isolated, poor, inadequately housed, neglected, and even abused. They also are considerably more likely to develop and die from such chronic and debilitating conditions as pneumonia, diabetes, alcoholism, as well as suffer from arthritis and poor dental health.

Yet services for Indian elders are frequently inadequate or lacking altogether. In some cases, services have been cut back or the quality has declined because of budget cuts. In other cases, government services promised have never materialized. Furthermore, a shortage of transportation services means that isolated individuals cannot access other needed services. And some Indian elders simply refuse to participate in programs because service providers (usually non-Indian) are, in some instances, insensitive to differences in culture, customs and language.

In addition NICOA contends that some federal and state agencies are attempting to restrict or deny services by arguing that the sovereignty of tribal governments makes them ineligible for assistance. NICOA claims that certain rights and entitlements, including comprehensive services, were guaranteed by federal treaties and executive orders in exchange for land, and that these agreements do not require the Indians to waive their sovereignty to receive services.

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