

APR 5 1991

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"It's a very well kept secret if anything's happening. I assume that even (the Canadian Security Intelligence Service) doesn't know about it, it's (such) a well kept secret." - Liberal MP Ethel Blondin in the House of Commons on the federal government's lack of progress in clearing up injustices facing Native people.

INSIDE

Help Needed

Indians in Nicaragua have been hit hard by civil war, floods and a hurricane. There seems to be no end to their suffering and they desperately need help. *Windspeaker* staff writer Rocky Woodward spoke to Kayuga Indian Gary Farmer of Powwow Highway about the critical situation facing these proud keepers of the largest rain forest in Central America. Please see pg. 14.

Violence may bring results says Lonefighters' supporter

Native people exploded in anger Monday in Lethbridge after Lonefighters' Society leader Milton Born With A Tooth was sentenced to 18 months in jail. Natives may have to turn increasingly to violence to get justice, suggests a Native student leader. Please see pg. 15.

WHERE TO TURN:

- News...2, 3 and 7
- Our Opinion...4
- Richard Wagamese...4
- Your Opinion...5
- Dropin' In...6
- Indian Country events...6
- Alexander...8
- Native Achievers...9
- Edmonton ...10, 11
- Saskatchewan ... 18
- Careers ... 19-21
- Sports ... 22
- Cold Lake...23
- Hobbema...24-28

DEADLINES

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Windspeaker



March 29, 1991

North America's Leading Native Newspaper

Volume 9 No. 1



Rocky Woodward

It's Easter, a time of rebirth and a season to remember our spiritual roots and friends. From all of us at *Windspeaker*, Happy Easter! Our Easter bunny was supplied by The Koi Pet Shop at 15105 Stony Plain Road in Edmonton.

Milton gets 18 months

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LETHBRIDGE

Defiant Natives stormed out of a Lethbridge courtroom as Lonefighters Society leader Milton Born With A Tooth was sentenced to 18 months behind bars on six weapons charges.

Angry Natives shouted "immigrant go home, white man's justice, this is bullshit and southern Alberta redneck justice" at Justice Laurie MacLean as he passed sentence in front of a packed courtroom March 25.

The judge advised the angry protesters to "direct your energy to abiding by the rule of law."

Kevin Daniels, wearing dark sunglasses and dressed in combat attire, approached the judge, drew an imaginary rifle and with a militant smirk said "I guess I'll be next."

After the sentencing, Daniels of the Assembly of Aboriginal People in Saskatchewan, told *Windspeaker* "it's going to be a hot summer. We don't have a future, the land is our future. Multinational corporations are taking what belongs to Mother Earth."

MacLean sentenced Born With A Tooth to concurrent terms of six months each for possession of a weapon dangerous to the public peace, assault with a weapon and two counts of assaulting a peace officer. Born With A Tooth was also

Angry Natives storm from courtroom

sentenced to concurrent one-year terms for obstructing a peace officer with a weapon and committing an indictable offence by using a weapon while committing an assault.

The one-year sentences will be served consecutive to the six-month sentences. MacLean said he took the four months Born With A Tooth has already served into consideration. After four bail hearings, Born With A Tooth was released on his fifth attempt Dec. 19.

Lonefighter Raven White Knife said she was "outraged Milton has to do more time. He

did what he thought was right to protect our land."

MacLean said no one has the right "to further a cause by unlawful use of a firearm." He said Born With A Tooth didn't use the rifle "in a spontaneous, impulsive situation, he had it (the rifle) with him all day."

Born With A Tooth faced eight weapons-related charges in connection with a Sept. 7 incident at the site of a diversion channel on the Peigan reserve downstream from the Oldman irrigation weir.

Shots were fired when the RCMP escorted environment

More Milton p. 15

officials onto the site to inspect the breach of an irrigation dike by the Lonefighters. Born With A Tooth warned the RCMP they were trespassing on Peigan land.

At the sentencing MacLean ruled the land is owned by the Alberta government not the Peigan Nation.

But controversy surrounds ownership of the land. A permit was negotiated between the province and the Peigan Nation

Please see page 2

Windspeaker No. 1 biweekly

By Bert Crowfoot
Windspeaker Staff Writer

Windspeaker kept up its tradition of winning awards at the seventh annual Native American Journalists Association conference held in Denver March 14-16, 1991.

It won the General Excellence Award for a biweekly and also the Personal Statement Award in photography with the work of freelance photographer Brad Callihoo.

Windspeaker also received honorable mentions for Best Feature Story (Heather Andrews), Best Editorial (Richard

Wagamese) and Best News Reporting (Rudy Haugeneder).

The Press Independent, from Yellowknife, also dominated the awards winning three first-place awards: Best Typography and Design, Best Promotional Idea and General Excellence for a weekly, which it shared with the *Tundra Times* of Alaska.

Other award winners were: general excellence for a quarterly — *Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*; general excellence for a monthly — *The Circle*; best feature story — Susan Andrews and John Creed from the *Arctic Souther*; best editorial — Debra Thunder of the *Wind River News*;

best news reporting — Bill Donovan of the *Navajo Times* and Daily for any category — Nancy Butterfield.

In the radio competitions, KWSO of Warm Springs, Oregon, dominated the awards, winning first place for best reporting and best ongoing public affairs or news magazine. D'Anne Hamilton of the National Native News won the best radio feature award.

The other photo awards were: still life — Tony Lone Fight of the *Mandan Hidatsa Arickara Times*;

Please see page 2

IN BRIEF

Compiled by Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

U.S. Indian activist dies while in custody
VANCOUVER — An American Indian activist, who won refugee status in Canada after saying the U.S. government was persecuting him, died of a massive heart attack Monday. Robert Satiacum, hereditary chief of the Puyallup Indian band in Washington state, died less than a week after he was arrested on an outstanding warrant. He was to be sentenced April 2 for his conviction on a charge of touching a 10-year-old girl for sexual purposes. Satiacum had always contended the charges against him were trumped up because he was an Indian and because he had succeeded in gaining a large share of the lucrative fishing industry for his people. His protests to regain the right for Washington state Indians to fish led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision allowing them 50 per cent of the annual catch. He was recaptured March 19 when the RCMP stormed a hide-out on an Indian reserve near Kamloops, B.C.

Campbell pledges quick review of Nepoose case
OTTAWA — Justice Minister Kim Campbell says she'll act as quickly as possible to review the case of Wilson Nepoose, a Cree Indian from Hobbema who has served four years in prison for a murder he says he didn't commit. Nepoose wants the minister to step in and order a new court hearing after a key Crown witness recanted her 1987 testimony. Alberta Attorney General Ken Rostad in a letter to Campbell said a re-investigation by RCMP and a further review by provincial justice officials has concluded Nepoose may have been falsely convicted. Rostad wants the case sent back to the Alberta Court of Appeal for reassessment.

Dances with Wolves dominates Academy Awards
LOS ANGELES — Dances With Wolves, Kevin Costner's epic Western that takes the Indian side, dominated the Academy Awards March 25 taking seven Oscars, including best picture and best director.

Quebec Crees warn of violence
OTTAWA — A Native leader warned helicopters will be shot down and power poles blown up unless Cree land claims are settled in Quebec's James Bay region. Cree Chief Billy Diamond told a Commons committee March 21 "animal violence will erupt next month" unless there's immediate negotiation of aboriginal claims in the area, site of Quebec's massive James Bay 2 hydro project. "It's a bomb with a short fuse," Diamond told committee members. "We are peaceful people, but our animal instincts are about to come out." Diamond said Quebec's steamrolling of Native claims could lead to a standoff between armed Crees and police, similar to last year's Oka crisis. The Crees are furious work on the project is going ahead in the absence of environmental studies and despite aboriginal claims it violates their rights. Diamond and the Cree people spent years battling the first phase of the James Bay project in the 1970s and eventually won a major court victory. Diamond's was the most explicit warning of violence to the committee, which is probing the Oka crisis. But Solicitor General Pierre Cadieux, who followed Diamond in addressing the committee, had a warning for Natives who take the law in their own hands. While he stressed he takes their concerns seriously, he said they must respect the law. He said that applies particularly to "respected" leaders such as Diamond. Meanwhile, following Diamond's comments one of the unions representing Hydro-Quebec employees asked the utility March 22 to stop flying helicopters over the James Bay area.

NWT French language bill attacked as unfair to Native-speaking majority
YELLOWKNIFE — A bill requiring French translations of all Northwest Territories laws is unfair to the Native-speaking majority who can't get the same service, two MLAs say. The controversial bill passed 14-2 with eight abstentions, more than a year after it was first introduced to an unreceptive territorial legislature. Nearly 40 per cent of the territories' 53,000 people — 60 per cent Native — use their aboriginal tongue as their first language while francophones number 1,500. "They're not a significant factor in the population of the North and yet they have more rights than aboriginal people in terms of their language," said Nick Sibbeston, member for Nahendeh.

Nisga'a tribal council framework agreement signed
NEW AİYANISH, B.C. — The Nisga'a Tribal Council has celebrated the signing of a framework agreement with the federal and provincial governments, an historic step toward settling the Nisga'a comprehensive land question in northwestern British Columbia. The framework agreement marks the beginning of a two-year period of negotiations leading to an agreement-in-principle. Chief Alvin McKay of the Nisga'a Tribal Council said "the Nisga'a are glad the framework agreement is officially signed. Now the three parties can activate the agreement and substantive negotiations can begin in earnest."

"Voices from Oka" a Native recounting of Mohawk siege
KANESATAKE, QUE. — "Voices from Oka," a 30-minute montage of original footage interspersed with news clips that provide a recounting of the events of last summer's standoff from the view of the Native people who were involved, has been released. The video is the only one that has been produced with the authorization of those who participated in the event, said a news release. Barricade Productions was set up by some of the Native people who were "behind the wire" in Kanestake. The organization is intended to provide financial assistance to Mohawks. "Our people are faced with massive legal costs, on-going administrative costs and personal economic needs. The proceeds from this video will help us meet some of those costs." It's available for \$25 from Barricade Productions, P.O. Box 292, Kahnawake, Que., J0L 1B0.

News

Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en decision could have disastrous effects

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

VANCOUVER

If the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en land-claim decision is allowed to stand it will have a disastrous effect on Natives across the country, says a vice-chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

Ovide Mercredi said the decision will make other land claims difficult to resolve because "it's based on the idea Indians have no land rights unless given to them by the Crown."

After four years of trial and deliberation Chief Justice Allan McEachern ruled March 8 the 8,000 Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Indians have no claim to the resource-rich 57,000 sq. km. area of interior B.C.

In his 400-page judgement McEachern said aboriginal rights "exist at the pleasure of the Crown and they may be extinguished whenever the intention of the Crown to do so is clear and plain."

That laws for settlement were passed constitute "a clear and plain" enough intent to extinguish aboriginal title, he said.

A Supreme Court of Canada ruling on the Sparrow Case last spring established the Crown must have had "clear and plain" intentions to extinguish aboriginal rights when it signed treaties. Since so few treaties were signed in B.C., Natives took the case to mean they had not extinguished their aboriginal rights. The Sparrow Case gave Natives more authority to claim aboriginal rights to land, said Mercredi.

"The title to the soil of the province became vested in the imperial Crown by operation of the law at the time of sovereignty," said McEachern.

Basically, said McEachern, the pre-sovereignty rights of aboriginals "were to live in their villages and to occupy adjacent lands for the purpose of gathering the products of the lands and waters for subsistence and ceremonial purposes."

Aboriginal rights "did not include ownership or jurisdiction over the territory," he said.

Keith Penner, chairman of the 1983 parliamentary committee on Native self-government, said the ruling will be "devastating because the judge fell back on the old policy of assimilation."

He said the decision won't make it easy for Alberta bands seeking land-claim settlements because "other courts may use this as a precedent." But the McEachern decision, if upheld, will have the greatest impact in B.C. where there are virtually no treaties.

But Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon said it may speed up resolution of outstanding Native issues.

In a telephone interview from Manitoba, Mercredi said the decision "shows a colonial mentality consistent with the majority thinking in Canada aimed at assimilation."

Mercredi said the decision "denies our human rights and our distinct status in the world."

The ruling proves Natives "will never find justice in another person's court especially when it involves a controversy over something like how to maintain a way of life or how you acquire wealth which means lands and resources."

Unlike Native leaders throughout B.C. who denounced the decision as racist, Mercredi said the judge is "bound by his culture. He has a legal mandate to uphold the traditions of his society. Unless he's a very enlightened individual we can't expect a decision that'll recognize our rights."

Bruce Clark, a lawyer known for his defence of Indians, agreed the decision was not racist. He said the judge was misled by the Natives' lawyers, who mistakenly argued the sovereignty concept as ownership and jurisdiction.

Penner said the decision puts "land claims squarely into the political arena where justice is not often found. It says give up the idea of solving by way of litigation."

In his final comments, McEachern said difficulties facing Natives "will not be solved in the context of legal rights...it is for elected officials, not judges to



Amy Santoro

Ovide Mercredi

establish priorities for the amelioration of disadvantaged members of society."

Although an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada is expected, Mercredi said it's hard to say what the outcome will be.

The ruling puts an end to the longest and most important land-claim case in Canada's history.

Windspeaker No. 1 biweekly

From front page

landscape — Tony Lone Fight of the *Mandan Hidatsa Arickara Times*; portrait — Sheldon Preston of *Native Images* and social documentation — Paul Natonabah of the *Navajo Times*.

Plans are already underway for the 1992 conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Future conference sites are Dallas, Texas (1993) and Atlanta, Georgia (1994). The 1994 conference will be a combined conference with the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists.

The NAJA conference was the most successful to date with over 350 Native journalists from across the United States and Canada participating in the various workshops, newsmaker luncheons and panel discussions.

Milton gets 18 months

From front page

in which the province only had the right of use of the land but ownership of the land was retained by the band. The certificate of title which gave the province ownership back in 1945 was never pulled so the 1979 permit and the title exist simultaneously causing the conflict of ownership.

"The government of Canada and the province signed the permit so surely the permit has to rule today," said Gainer.

The Alberta government paid \$4 million for the permit and is paying rent on the land so "why should tax payers money be used to pay for land the province already owns?" asked Gainer.

MacLean said he found "nothing in the conduct of the RCMP that invited or precipitated confrontation."

At that point, Born With A Tooth's sister Lorna stood up, looked squarely at the judge and shouted "you weren't there."

The group opposes construction of the \$350-million Oldman

Dam on environmental, spiritual and treaty grounds.

The defence by Born With A Tooth's lawyer, Karen Gainer, centered around section 41 of the Criminal Code giving Canadians the right to defend against intruders on their property.

"Big deal, he pointed a gun. You are entitled to point weapons in defence of your property. If the jury had been able to hear that defence, they would have had no choice but to find Milton not guilty," she said.

One count of pointing a firearm was dropped at the March 5 trial and a second count was later stayed because it overlapped with the charge of pointing a firearm while committing an indictable offence.

Although most Natives were appalled by the sentence, Mike Bruised Head, executive director of the Lethbridge Native friendship centre, said the judge was "put in a predicament. He represents his peers." Basically, the judge had no choice but to uphold the rule of law, said Bruised Head.

Following the two-hour sen-

tencing 75 Native and non-Native protesters gathered outside the courthouse chanting slogans like "white man's justice" and "Free Born With A Tooth" while Lyle Morrisseau from Saskatchewan ripped a television journalist apart for "turning the case into a circus. You don't understand the issues, this is just a good news story for you. Stop exploiting it, lives are involved here."

Gainer is surprised the judge didn't impose a stiffer sentence on Born With A Tooth. Two of the charges carried a maximum penalty of 14 years.

Born With A Tooth may not have to spend very much time behind bars, said Gainer, because "we'll get him out on bail pending appeal."

Gainer will challenge the conviction on grounds of judicial interference and MacLean's refusal to allow the jury to hear the defence of property argument. Gainer said she's confident Born With A Tooth will be granted an appeal.

Gainer plans to make a bail application on April 2.

News

Natives victims of racism, discrimination: Cawsey

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Aboriginal people are victims of racism and discrimination in the criminal justice system, says a

report on Native justice.

Aboriginals are plagued by "cultural insensitivity by people working in the criminal justice system," said the report of the task force chaired by Alberta Court of Queen's Bench Justice Allan Cawsey.

The task force found "many accounts of racial prejudice attributed specifically to the police."

The 400-page report released March 25 recommended "aboriginal-specific cultural awareness training" for RCMP officers and that they recruit more Native officers to work with Native communities to deal with policing problems. The seven-member task force recommended streamlining the requirements for aboriginal people entering police work.

The task force on the criminal justice system and its impact on the Indian and Metis people of Alberta said the justice system has failed Natives by overrepresentation and overincarceration. The report stressed preventive measures rather than incarceration of Native offenders must be the focus of the justice system.

Although the report didn't call for a separate Native justice system, the task force recommended elders play a greater advisory role in the court system.

A separate Native justice system must be negotiated with the federal and provincial governments. But Cawsey did propose "a full provincial court composed of an aboriginal judge, aboriginal Crown attorney, aboriginal defence counsel and aboriginal clerks."

The legal profession lacks knowledge about aboriginal people which results "in the application of a system that is alien to aboriginals," said the report.

The task force, which made 338 recommendations, heard a considerable amount of criticism about the Legal Aid system. Most Natives aren't aware of Legal Aid and often Legal Aid lawyers don't spend much time with their clients and they often don't understand aboriginal culture, said the report.

"The goal of providing the right to equality before the law has fallen short of the mark...Legal Aid ran a close second to the police who received the most criticism." The report recommended the Legal Aid Society of Alberta educate Natives about its services.

The task force, established Jan. 1990, found various components of the justice system didn't know the community they serve. "Aboriginal people must be perceived as having a legitimate interest in the administration of the criminal justice system rather than (being) merely a source of work for that system."

Aboriginal people are not happy with the current level of police service. The report recommends a process for auditing the RCMP's relationship with aboriginal people and that they spend more time in aboriginal communities in an unofficial capacity.

While the Cawsey report found evidence of racism in Alberta's justice system, a companion report released the same day clearly disagrees. Assistant Chief Judge Carl Rolf, commissioner of the two-year, \$2.7 million inquiry, found "no conscious bias or racial discrimination evidenced in the treatment of the Blood Indians by the RCMP."

The inquiry looked into 105 sudden deaths on the Blood Indian reserve in southern Alberta as a result of persistent complaints by Blood band members.

Rolf made 36 recommendations to improve relations between the Blood band and law enforcement agencies, including several measures to increase cross-cultural knowledge and

communication between Natives, police and the community at large.

Solicitor General Dick Fowler,

who's studying both reports, said he didn't believe the criminal justice system was intentionally unfair to Natives.

Provincial Briefs

Compiled by Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

STUDENTS TO VISIT NEW MEXICO

BROCKET — Grade 11 and 12 students in Brocket are headed to Albuquerque, N.M. April 8 for the International World Gathering of Nations Powwow. The 12-day trip will centre on Native culture and traditions. "Other schools go to Europe for Easter breaks but we thought this was much better," said principal Ed Hamel. The students will raise half the money needed and the board will contribute the other half. The eighth annual powwow includes the Miss Indian World competition and involves more than 300 tribes from throughout North America. The powwow is also the world's largest Indian traders' arts and crafts market and features more than 2,000 singers and dancers.

WORLD FESTIVAL WILL REMAIN IN PINCHER CREEK

PINCHER CREEK — The festival committee of the Pincher Creek Film Society has decided to host the 1991 World Festival of Aboriginal Motion Pictures. The committee, comprised of 24 people, was unanimous in its stand. Leaders, councillors and citizens from both Pincher Creek and the Peigan Nation have endorsed the event. Chief Leonard Bastien recently delivered a draft of the festival proposal to the Treaty 7 Tribal Council. Formal endorsement was received by the festival committee March 18. In late January the committee forwarded the festival proposal to Alberta Culture for consideration asking that core funding for the event once again come from Alberta Lotteries. It was learned at that time another agency, The Alberta Association of Aboriginal Film-Makers, suggested the festival be moved to Edmonton. The Pincher Creek Film Society and community residents rejected the notion the event be moved. Festival advisor David Green said "a very strong volunteer festival committee is working on a positive note to assemble this major world cross-cultural event."

CREE BAND WANTS TO STOP AL-PAC MILL FROM OPENING

EDMONTON — The Bigstone Cree band will seek an injunction to stop Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries' pulp mill from opening, band Coun. William Beaver said March 21. The 3,200-member band plans to join with a coalition of groups from the Northwest Territories in launching the action, he said. The Bigstone Cree along with the Dene Nation, the Metis Association of the Northwest Territories, the Roman Catholic diocese of Mackenzie and several other organizations will likely challenge the \$1.3-billion pulp mill on the basis of water rights. A 73,000-sq-km forest management agreement between Alberta-Pacific and the provincial government surrounds the Bigstone Cree's territory, 250 km north of Edmonton. The province approved the bleached kraft pulp mill in December.

NATIVE MISS CANADA TO COMPETE IN MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT

ST. ALBERT — Miss Canada 1991 Leslie McLaren, 22, a Native from St. Albert, will represent Canada in the 40th annual Miss Universe Pageant. It will be televised live via satellite to an estimated 600-million viewers in over 50 nations worldwide, from Las Vegas May 7.

\$197,000 TO FRIENDSHIP CENTRES FOR NATIVE AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAM

EDMONTON — The federal government will contribute \$197,000 to the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) for the development of a national HIV/AIDS prevention project, said Perrin Beatty, minister of National Health and Welfare. The first phase of the initiative will begin in Edmonton and is aimed at improving Native people's access to the needle exchange and condom distribution program currently operating there. The NAFC will add a mobile distribution unit to the Edmonton program.

APPLICATIONS FOR NATIVE COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM BEING ACCEPTED

EDMONTON — Grant MacEwan Community College is now accepting applications for its Sept. 1991 academic year for the Native Communications program. Native Communications provides training for those interested in a media career. All technical skills are taught within the general context of social and cultural issues affecting Native people in western Canada. For more information call 483-2348.

ITV JOINS BROADCASTERS' FIGHT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

EDMONTON — CITV has joined hundreds of other private radio and television stations across Canada in launching a massive, yearlong campaign to promote racial harmony. Spearheaded by the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB), the campaign coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The campaign features a series of dramatic, award-winning radio and television spots that ask the question: "Racism: If you won't stop it, who will?" It's the first time private broadcasters across Canada have banded together on such a project.



Spanner McNeil

Montreal - On March 21st, 1991 Robert Ottereyes (27), Lana Lefort (26) and Nadir Andre (21) cut up their band status cards (Certificate of Indian Status) at Concordia University in Montreal, during an anti-racism conference. Ottereyes (Cree) and Lefort (Mohawk) are members of Assembly of First Nations Concordia. Andre (Montagnais) represents Committee of First Nations UQAM, a Universite de Montreal association. Ottereyes' voice rose during a speech as he cut his card, "The Great Creator brought me into this world an Indian. I was born an Indian, I'll die an Indian. I don't need Native Affairs to tell me I'm an Indian." Lefort said, "This is a protest against the patriarchal system and the Indian Act itself." Andre, not pictured, spoke in French to say, "We are not Native by legislation. We are Native by deep cultural identity from our nations".

Ill treatment of Natives still No. 1 black mark

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Canada's treatment of Native people is still No. 1 on the list of human rights violations, says Canada's human rights watchdog.

In his annual report to the House of Commons Max Yalden pointed to last summer's violent standoff at Oka as "an extreme manifestation of a relationship between governments and aboriginal peoples that had been turning increasingly sour but that, at bottom, had never been what it ought to be."

In the report, released March 19, Yalden reiterated his call for a royal commission on aboriginal affairs and urged the government to form a new relationship with Natives.

Yalden, chief commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, said the backlog of unresolved specific land claims "is troubling and the system suffers from the fundamental weakness that government is judge and advocate all rolled into one."

The commission restated its call for the elimination of the department of Indian Affairs and the Indian Act struck in 1876 "when official condescension toward peoples who had been colonized was commonplace."

In November the commission made a similar statement in a scathing document on federal aboriginal policy.

It scolded the government for not giving Native issues the "priority they deserve."

The annual report is somewhat more sympathetic to government attempts at resolving Native difficulties. "To attribute

the failure to deliver on claims resolution, self-government and other issues simply to a lack of government will would be unfair," said Yalden.

But he demanded the recognition of Indian self-government, saying to deny it is incompatible with domestic and international human rights obligations.

The report also touched on the meagre gains made by Natives in employment equity and redressing wrongs to Native children forced to go to residential schools. Natives make up two per cent of the available labor pool but only 0.79 per cent are employed.

The report warned Canada's international human rights reputation is at stake if Native problems aren't solved.

Keith Penner, chairman of the 1983 parliamentary committee on Native self-government, said the rejection of aboriginal rights "has been with Canada a long time and we're not making a great deal of progress."

In a telephone interview from Thunder Bay, he said the government thinks it can deal with Natives through assimilation.

"The issues are so complicated the government prefers to fall back on the theory Natives would be better off drifting into mainstream society and (it would prefer to) forget about claims, identity and special status."

Penner is skeptical about "what any one report can do." He said the government must deal with the "unresolved question of identifying aboriginal rights within the Constitution."

Section 37 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes aboriginal rights but does not define them.

Windspeaker

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Bert Crowfoot, Publisher

Unsettled times

They came, they saw, they conquered.
Boy, did they conquer!
And we're still trying to clean up the mess.
But until *Dances With Wolves* Native people were most often treated by Hollywood as hostiles standing in the way of progress of peace-loving settlers.

Two thumbs up to Kevin Costner, Graham Greene, Tantoo Cardinal, Doris Leader Charge and the Lakota Sioux people for producing a movie that warmed the hearts of Natives and non-Natives alike.

Congratulations on your seven Oscars!

Otherwise in these parts March was a rather unsettling month for Native people.

It started with the now infamous decision by Justice Allan McEachern, who swiftly shot down the claim by the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en to a large chunk of their aboriginal homeland in north-western B.C.

They lost any claim to the land after non-Natives moved in and the clock can't be turned back he in effect said in his brutal ruling, which stunned Natives.

The Assembly of First Nations has correctly described it as a "gross and arrogant miscarriage of justice. This decision is so demeaning it is breathtaking."

McEachern fingered the wrong people as trespassers.

Not too long after his decision Max Yalden of the Canadian Human Rights Commission repeated his long-standing position that Canada's treatment of Native people is still No. 1 on the list of human rights violations.

"The system suffers from the fundamental weakness that government is judge and advocate all rolled into one," he said.

Milton Born With A Tooth was a victim of that system in Lethbridge Monday.

That hard-line approach by the government will certainly backfire.

Mr. Justice Laurie MacLean, who is charged with carrying out the government's laws, displayed insensitivity in his courtroom, bashing Peigan culture.

He then threw out the tired refrain to protesters in his courtroom they should direct their energy to "abiding by the rule of law."

The issue with Born With A Tooth, like the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Indians, was trespassing by non-Natives. When he fired his shots, he was protecting the sovereignty of Peigan Nation, which the judge conveniently ignored.

The Indian Act needs to be scrapped and the sovereignty of Indian and Metis lands entrenched in the Constitution so judges like MacLean can't hide behind legal technicalities.

As Quebec Native Affairs Minister John Ciaccia so aptly observed in a letter to Oka Mayor Jean Ouellette before the Oka crisis. "I am aware the law is on your side...but I believe the situation goes beyond strict legality. Sometimes the law is an ass. And if that is the case, elected officials must not hide behind the law but must act generously and responsibly."



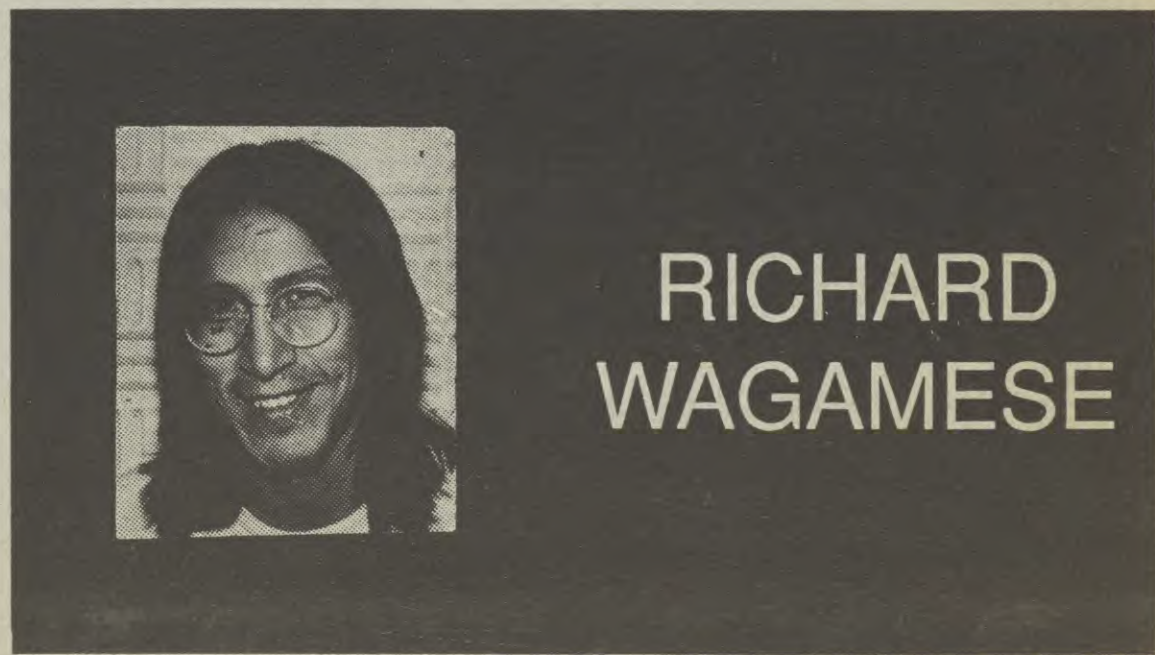
A genocidal swipe at Natives

There's a small, weathered hand drum that graces my living room wall. It's made from the skin of a moose and its frame is made from the trunk of a tree. Circular in shape to reflect the circle of life, it was given to me by the old man who helped connect me to my inner reality and who helped me relate it to everything around me.

The drum represents the heartbeat of the people. When we were babies in our mother's womb we were comforted by her heartbeats. As we moved out into the world the Creator granted us the drum to remind us the Earth too, is our mother. Because of that we are to respect, honor and protect her just as we would our human mother.

Whenever the drum is heard, it serves as a reminder to aboriginal people of the special relationship they have with the land. It's a comforting sound because it stirs that special something inside us that recalls our mother's heartbeat. That unique place that exists within, around and upon the land.

The land is a feeling. When aboriginal people talk of the land it's referred to as a living, breathing, growing thing. From it spring all things that define and sustain us physically, spiritually,



RICHARD WAGAMESE

philosophically and emotionally. It's part and parcel of being an Indian.

That's why the decision handed down by Chief Justice Allen McEachern regarding the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en land claim in B.C. is such a genocidal swipe at Natives.

Despite hearing firsthand about the vital link to the land, McEachern rebutted the elders' stories, teachings and philosophies as a "romantic view" of themselves and their history. He believes Native peoples suffer from a "serious lack of reality" and they need to grow up and get a job.

The lack of reality is his. By refusing to contemplate the honest cultural offerings the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en elders gave him, McEachern sent a message to both Indians and his legal fellows.

They've always refused and will continue to reject that alternative. They still seek to impress upon the judiciary, the politicians, academics and citizenry that the history of North America had its beginnings long before the arrival of Europeans.

He referred to reserves and reserve lands as mere "fishing footholds and ethnic enclaves." Native peoples, according to the justice, should leave the reserves and move into the cities. In other words, reject completely those things which continue to define and sustain us as individuals and nations, and plunge into the Canadian melting pot.

Ultimately this means, accept the inevitable, cast aside any claims to traditional lands, forget our history, reject our cultural and philosophical roots and become faceless, rootless Canadians.

Be a Canadian. If the price tag for being a full-fledged member of this country is the loss of the ability to define yourself, aborigi-

nal peoples refuse. They've always refused and will continue to reject that alternative. They still seek to impress upon the judiciary, the politicians, academics and citizenry that the history of North America had its beginnings long before the arrival of Europeans.

Because of that there is a moral responsibility to honor and settle the legitimate grievances of Native peoples. While the Spicer commission wends its way across the country seeking that elusive cohesive element that will bubble up as unity, Canada's denial of aboriginal rights makes unity impossible.

The truly sad part of the whole B.C. fiasco is that McEachern will sit as Chief Justice of the B.C. Court of Appeal. That, of course, is the next step in the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en search for justice. He brings with him a jaundiced view of the rights and aspirations of B.C.'s Native people and the future is not bright for them.

As I sat in my living room and considered everything the drum represents, I felt sorry for Mr. Justice McEachern and people like him. Their whole idea of the country is completely removed from reality. Dollars, revenue, resources and legislation is not what defines Canada. It's how we relate to each other. It's the ability to allow freedom to define itself through our actions and motivations. It's the equal sharing of the territory both geographically and metaphysically.

The drum, the common heartbeat, reminds Native people of that. They will continue to press for recognition of their rights despite the efforts of politicians and the judiciary to prevent it.

EAGLE FEATHERS: To CBC's Wild Rose Country for the biweekly aboriginal panel that gives a voice to the issues in Indian country.

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Your Letters

Play promotes racism, sexism and oppression

Dear Editor:

Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing is currently being performed at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. As a concerned Canadian and proud of my Metis heritage, I am voicing my concern about this play which promotes stereotypical images, disrespect and sexism. The play depicts an abuse of power by men who feared, hated and degraded women. This serious social problem crosses all social, cultural and economic boundaries and should not be promoted as an attitude prevalent only in aboriginal communities.

I challenge readers to consider my views and consider their own views and attitudes which underlie family violence and the image they want to foster concerning the well-being of aboriginal communities.

After seeing Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing I feel I must write this as part of my healing process. This play sadly disappointed me and tore at my heart because it so terribly misrepresented aboriginal peoples.

This play is about seven guys talking about their life on reserve and their relationship with women. A spirit, Wesakaychak, is portrayed in the play along with a young girlfriend of one of the men.

I felt with deep regret that playwright Thompson Highway clearly misrepresented aboriginal women, aboriginal men, life on the reserve and the spirit Wesakaychak. He did not balance the negativity being presented about life on the reserve and the prevailing attitudes. He also failed to make the public aware many aboriginal communities are going through a healing process, working desperately with dedication to rebuild their nations.

Aboriginal women were portrayed as loose, unfaithful, sleazy, drunks with no respect for human life and childbirth. The women in the play were nude and showed no modesty for their body but allowed it to be portrayed in a degrading manner.

I have never seen aboriginal women behave in this manner. This pornography, this disrespectful portrayal, only reinforces damaging stereotypes about our women. Aboriginal women hold a sacred place in our society. Mother Earth is the giver of our life and as women we are blessed with the ability to give birth. It is obvious Mr. Highway holds little regard for women, childbirth and spirituality.

Aboriginal men fared no better. They were portrayed as unfaithful drunks, uneducated, slovenly in dress, uncaring, selfish and self-absorbed failures. The men had no respect or regard for women, i.e. two men stood in the background watching while a young girl was being viciously sexually assaulted with a crucifix. Many aboriginal men would be offended to be portrayed like that.

Spirituality is very sacred to aboriginal peoples. Life is holy and we are given special sacraments to help us to pray, to remember the gift of life and the Great Spirit. The play portrayed the spirit Wesakaychak as a nude woman go-go dancer. At one point she is mauled by men, who take their clothes off in a heated frenzy. At other times she dances erotically and is barely clad in garter belts and other lingerie.

Wesakaychak is a sacred spirit. His role is to play tricks on us, but the tricks always have a moral lesson. He is also the spirit we pray to when we are using medicines to heal someone. He is sacred, not someone to be trivialized or taken in vain.

A woman elder once said most people use their religion carelessly. When he thinks it is useful to him he remembers it, but when it impedes his pleasures, he forgets. This attitude is something we must guard against, so our spirits do not grow small and are weakened. By practising respect — the number one rule of the true Indian way — we can bring back life and hope and rebuild our nations.

The church, the crucifix and the born-again Christian are violently, sexually and mockingly

depicted in this play. In many ways, I can relate to Highway's anger against Christianity and the church because our people lost their languages, identity and innocence at the hand of the authorities who ran these institutions. However, Highway did not turn to his own people's spirituality to heal the community. Instead, Simon, the only character in the play who sought refuge in his own spirituality, was killed. This leaves one with a sense of hopelessness and crushes any vision for a better tomorrow.

Our people are suffering and are only now beginning to deal with the pain which Europeans inflicted upon us. Highway's images only open the wounds and adds salt to them. He does not go far enough because he does not help the audience over-

come the obstacles, to heal the wounds of the past and develop directions for building stronger spirits in our people and acceptance and responsibility by the institutions and Europeans for the damage they did to us.

Highway abused his writing abilities and chose to disregard respect to create pleasures for the public, which enjoys these stereotypes and images. It justifies their reluctance to see aboriginal peoples as equals, to deny their right to govern themselves and their nations and to enable them to participate fully in society. It is images such as this play which breed oppression, racism and disrespect for aboriginal peoples and their culture, traditions and spirituality.

If this play had been written by a non-aboriginal person, it would be viewed as stereotypi-

cal, sexist and oppressive. However since it is written by a Native playwright, the public is reluctant to look at it objectively. But it's important people speak out if they see a person promoting oppression, racism and sexist views.

This play degraded my people and didn't add to my dignity. I felt ashamed one of my own people would perpetuate stereotypes. It is not the image I want mainstream society to see because I know we are a great people with a lot of pride, dignity, respect and values to share with humankind. I wish one day Mr. Highway will learn to look at his aboriginal brothers and sisters and his culture, traditions and spirituality with respect, pride and dignity.

Anita J. Tuharsky, Ottawa

Mill approval signed death warrant

Dear Editor:

This is a copy of a letter I sent recently to Premier Don Getty.

Dear Premier Getty:

By announcing the go-ahead of the Al-Pac pulp mill, you signed our death warrant. You believe you have the almighty voice to do whatever it takes at anybody's expense to make you look good. If my grandchildren survive this garbage you're sending down to us, I will make sure they remember you for what you're doing to us.

Just like they will remember what the Bennett Dam did to our land and to our reserve. Prior to the dam our people were prosperous as trapping was good and that meant a steady income and most families lived on the land. The lakes, sloughs and snyes were filled with water, habitat was plentiful, the way it's meant to be. Then a deal was made between the B.C. and Alberta governments and the Bennett Dam was built. Since then the lakes, sloughs and snyes have dried out. Our people were forced to move into Fort Chipewyan, where there were no more animals to trap and "forced" to go on social assistance. They also had to try to live among all the social problems that go along with living in this community.

The construction of the oil plants has also been harsh and unforgiving. The oil companies have been allowed to dump toxics into the Athabasca River which are contaminating our rivers and fish which are a part of the food chain. I saw fish that were so contaminated being cooked over an open fire the dripping grease was black! What will happen to our fishing industry when the fish are so contaminated that the locally-run commercial fishing plant will have to be closed? What will happen to the people who depend on this seasonal work? Will you be there for them when they have no choice but to turn to social assistance?

Our rivers are unsafe, our lakes have dried out and the wildlife is all in jeopardy. It all points to your signature giving companies the go-ahead to kill our land and us. What would it take for you and your supreme judges to see what you're doing to us? What gives you the right to act like God and condemn us? It's the almighty dollar, isn't it?

I don't expect an answer from you as I'm sure you have more important issues to address, i.e.: selling our contaminated water to the United States — no, not contaminated water since you and yours will sell the water from its birthplace, direct from

the Rockies, to the U.S.A. And who cares if the Peace Athabasca Delta dries out which would mean the death of some Dene people? Well, Mr. Getty, I care. For as long as I can remember, my family lived on the land and my dad provided for all

his children and grandchildren and we lived in harmony with Mother Nature. I realize things do have to change but what you're doing is extreme.

Alice Marten-Marcel
Fort Chipewyan, ALTA.

Environmentally-friendly mill?

Dear Editor:

Alberta Forestry Lands and Wildlife has released a booklet of fact sheets. One is entitled Bleached Kraft Pulp Mills Versus Chemi-Thermo-Mechanical (CTMP) Mills. The statement is made that "Technology has evolved to a point where the environmental effects of kraft mills are very close to those of (CTMP) mills."

Here are some more facts contained in the booklet.

- Louisiana-Pacific Canada Ltd. is to commence production of an improved technology bleached-chemi-thermo-mechanical (BTMP) zero effluent mill at Chetwynd, B.C. early in 1991. The local aspen poplar will produce top quality pulp suitable for fine printing and writing papers.

- BCTMP mills use oxygen compounds rather than those of chlorine for bleaching. They do not produce organically-bound chlorine (AOX). It is estimated the revised Al-Pac mill will discharge 2,200 tonnes of AOX annually to the already polluted Athabasca River.

- To adapt a kraft mill to a zero effluent process causes serious corrosion of plant equipment. Thus, such a conversion is costly and considered impractical.

- For a given volume of logs the BCTMP process yields 90 per cent pulp. The kraft process yields only 50 per cent pulp. It is reasonable to assume that wood with a potential pulp value of \$775 is burned to produce a tonne of pulp. It is also reasonable to assume 78 per cent of this - or \$600 worth - will be burned to generate electricity for each tonne of kraft pulp produced. The power to produce a tonne of BCTMP pulp can be purchased for less than \$100 in Alberta.

- An approximate \$500 loss in gross value of Alberta forests occurs for each tonne of kraft pulp produced. Four kraft mills, each producing 1,000 tonnes per day, will burn wood fibre with a potential pulp value of approximately \$2 million per day over that required for an equal amount of BCTMP pulp.

The Daishowa mill is said to regularly emit four times the amount of sulphur dioxide for a unit of electricity produced as that reported by a coal-fired power plant.

- Kraft mills vs BCTMP mills require about twice the area of trees to be cut and replanted for production of a given amount of pulp. This works against the federal Green Plan which sug-

gests we all plant trees to absorb carbon from the air.

How can Premier Getty, in announcing Al-Pac, correctly state "This is an investment that will take pulp mill technology and levels of environmental safety and protection to levels never seen before?"

Ed Hanson
Edmonton

Immigrants vs. Natives

Dear Editor:

It is good to know there are still Natives who are not afraid to speak out. Of course, there are Native people who are so brainwashed they are actually a hindrance to our slow progress in our Native culture.

One of the reasons we are not having our land claims dealt with is that immigrants think Native people are not productive on their land. They want to populate Canada with more immigrants whom they believe would be productive. I don't

believe we will ever have these land claims settled. I wonder if it is possible to educate the white man as to the true meaning of living off the land. I believe the plan is for us Native people to be slaves of the immigrants, to do their work for them.

After all, according to the white man, Native people are not suited for much of anything at all but labor work. They talk about mistreatment of people in other countries; what are they doing to our Native people here?

Stan Gladstone, Grande Cache

Article appreciated

Dear Editor:

I was very happy to see the article by Rocky Woodward in the Jan. 18, 1991 issue of *Windspeaker* about Anzac's Rose Cheecham since Rose is a distant relative. My grandmother's maiden name is Cheecham and I think Rose is her niece. Her name is Louise Jussila. She grew up in Anzac, married a Finlander named John Jussila and now

lives in Westlock. I'm sure she could tell a lot of stories about people and the things they all did in Anzac. I am enclosing a cheque for a subscription to your paper, which I now enjoy reading at the school I clean. I am only one-quarter Cree, but I feel very strongly about my heritage and I like learning more about it.

Kelly Jussila
Westlock, ALTA.

Letters Welcome

Windspeaker welcomes your letters. But we reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity, legality, personal abuse, accuracy, good taste, and topicality. Please include your name, address and day-time telephone number in case we need to reach you. Unsigned letters will not be printed.



What's Happening?

A Happy Easter to all!

Hi! And *Happy Easter* to all you wonderful people across Alberta, Saskatchewan and everywhere.

We love you all as the *Great Spirit* does and hope your Easter long weekend was a pleasant one.

I think of Easter as a time for friends and so I have a short story to tell.

I had a friend who would visit with me often. We'd play snooker down at the town pool hall together, go swimming, take in movies together and so on.

But my friend was, I guess you could say, unattractive. That's all — simply unattractive. One day I was with a group of guys and my friend happened to be walking by. They started whispering about him. "Here comes the hunchback" and "Throw him a bone before he turns ugly."

You don't have to believe me, but when they talked about him in that manner I couldn't believe it. Needless to say when my friend reached us, I joined him and we left them standing there.

To me friendship is the most important thing in the world. To me that's what Easter is all about. It's a time to remember that a

man named Jesus, a great friend to everyone, died on the cross for us and a time to remember who your true friends are and feel (real) good about it.

By the way my friend married his childhood sweetheart and friend and now teaches judo in Calgary aside from his business.

And I want to say "A big happy Easter" to friends of mine — friends I believe in because they are good people. I thank God each day for bringing them into my life:

Happy Easter to HENRY BEDARD, MIKE SIGIDUR, LYLE DONALD, BERT CROWFOOT, DR. ANNE ANDERSON, ED LOUIE, HELEN RANDOLF, HARRY RUSK, MY BROTHER DANNY STONEWALKER, RANDY LAYTON, DAN MARTEL, ERNIE GAMBLER, LOUIE LAVALLEE and all my friends across the province!

MARLBORO: Isn't she the sweetest little girl you've ever seen! Her name is Robin, she's five years old and belongs to Jackie and Russel Plante. Happy Easter to the Plante family and may your life be filled with many chocolate eggs.

FORT CHIPEWYAN: Happy

Easter Jim (Dad) Woodward and Daisy.

REGINA: It was great hearing from you Randy Lawrence. A big Happy Easter to you and your family.

Randy and I grew up in the same town. He's been an RCMP officer for the last 15 years in Saskatchewan — and I just got out of jail (just joking).

Randy just received his first copy of *Windspeaker* and he noticed Droppin' In's picture in it so he called to say — "It looks just like the mug shot the police used to throw darts at in Fort Mack, Rocky!" (God, I even have the name to go with it!) Actually, Randy didn't say that, I did.

EDMONTON: This poor little puppy came in second place to appear on the front page of *Windspeaker*. Her name is Holly and she belongs to Tina Wood. Doesn't that make Holly's full name Holly Wood? Get it?...but that's another story.

Anyway, a rabbit named Jack beat her out. In the picture it doesn't look like Holly is taking it very good. She's looking at Jack as if with...envy or...well, I'll leave it up to your imagination.

SPRUCE GROVE: From April 17-20 the Terrace Inn on Calgary Trail (south Edmonton) will be the site of *Partners in Education*, a conference which will show, "The future is ours" (their theme).

Guess who'll be speaking during some of their sessions? MLA Pearl Calahasen, MP Willie Littlechild, Bill Wilson (grand chief of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs) and many more.

Wow! Bill Wilson. He's the person who traded verbal shots with the best of them on national television during the Oka, Quebec (Mohawk) crisis last summer. A great speaker.

And we can thank the Yellowhead Tribal Council and their sponsors for bringing what is going to be an important conference to us all.

And Miss Canada Leslie McLaren will be there!

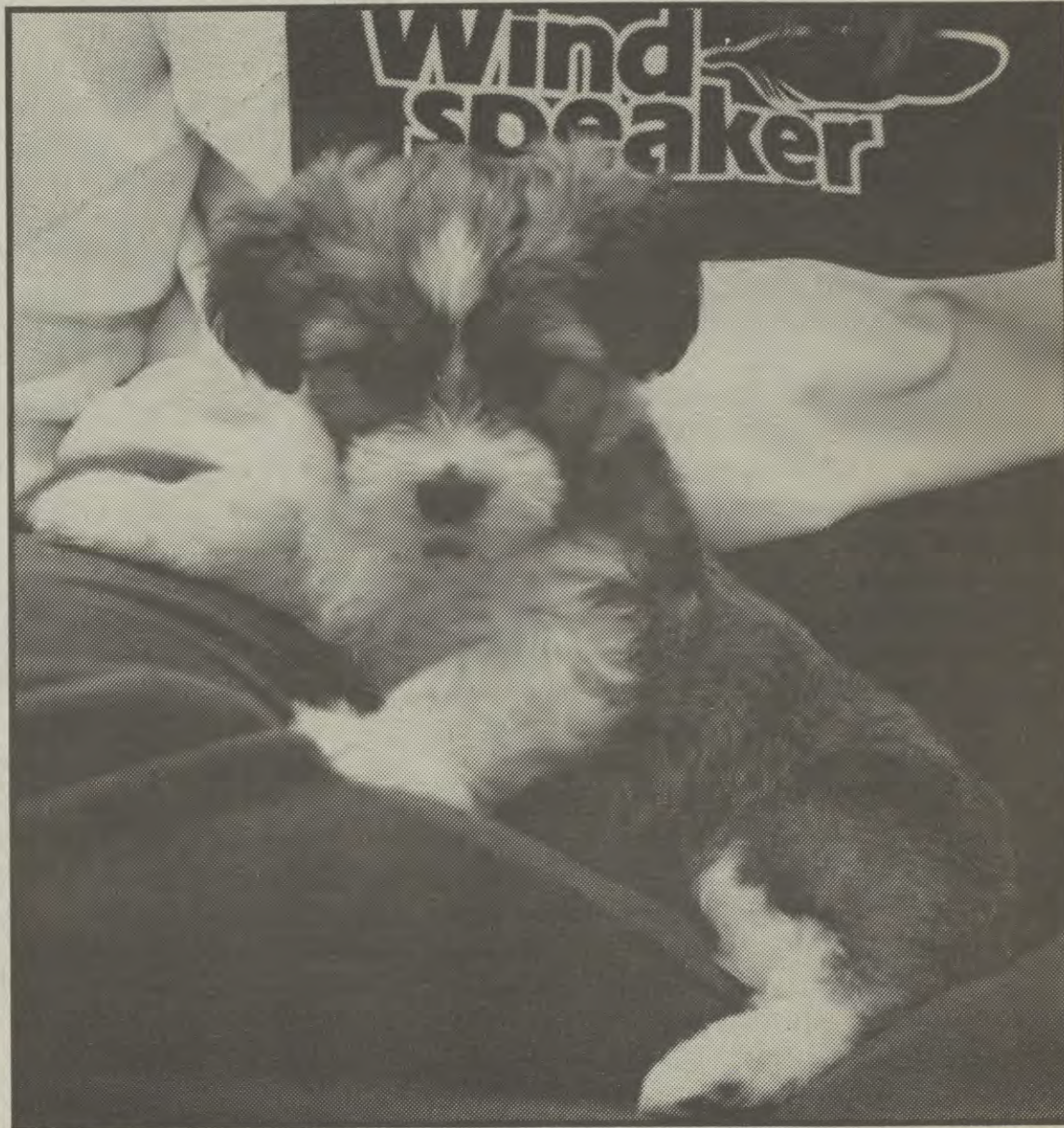
And Four Winds Theatre will be there!

And Droppin' In will be there! (Oops! I just lost the conference 2,000 people).

Education! Be there!



Droppin' In By Rocky Woodward



Holly Wood

Mel Wood



Robin Plante ... "Easter's Child"

Rocky Woodward

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INCLUDE YOUR EVENT IN THIS CALENDAR FOR THE APR. 12TH ISSUE, PLEASE CALL KAREN BEFORE NOON WED., APR. 3RD AT (403)455-2700, FAX 455-7639 OR WRITE TO 15001 - 112 AVE., EDM., AB, T5M 2V6.

FLYING DUST FULL GOSPEL NATIVE CHURCH; Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.; Bible study, 7 p.m.; SK. CO-ED VOLLEYBALL; Mondays & Wednesdays; 7 - 9 p.m.; Kikinahk Friendship Centre Gym; La Ronge, SK. C.N.F.C. BOXING & FIRM-UP; Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 7 - 9 p.m.; Westmount Jr. High School, 11125 - 131 St.; Edmonton, AB. FLYING DUST AL-ANON MEETINGS; every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.; Flying Dust Health Clinic, SK.

SOUP AND BANNOCK; every second Friday; NAPI Friendship Centre, Pincher Creek, AB.

TREATY 6 FIRST NATIONS HOCKEY CHAMPION-

SHIPS; March 29, 30 & 31; R.J. Ross Arena; Elk Point, AB. SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN WINTER GAMES; April 1 - 6; Prince Albert, SK. FEATHER OF HOPE YOUTH ASSEMBLY; Apr. 3 & 4; Alex Dellabough Centre; Battleford, SK.

WESTERN CANADIAN NATIVE CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS; April 3-5; Wetaskiwin Curling Club, Wetaskiwin, AB.

P.G. LUMBER KINGS 7TH ANNUAL ALL-NATIVE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT; April 5 - 7; Prince George Coliseum, Prince George, BC.

1991 SIFC VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT; April 6 & 7; University of Regina, Physical Activity Centre; SK.

ADRIAN HOPE YOUTH CENTRE FUNDRAISING BENEFIT; April 7, 2 p.m.; admission \$5; Yellowhead Hotel, Edmonton, AB.

NATIVE PROV. VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS; April 13 & 14; Frog Lake School Gym; Frog Lake, AB.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN NORTHERN JUSTICE ISSUES; Apr. 14 - 18; sponsored by the Northern Justice Society;

Indian Country Community Events

Centennial Building; Sitka, Alaska.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION "THE FUTURE IS OURS"; April 17 - 20; Convention Inn and Coast Terrace Inn, Edmonton, AB.

1ST ANNUAL ALL NATIVE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT; April 19 - 21; Parkland Agriplex; Yorkton, SK.

PROJECT INDIGENOUS RESTORATION; April 21 - 23; presented by The Artists' /Environment Forum; Toronto, ON.

CONFERENCE ON INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE SHOW; April 29 - May 2; Edmonton Inn; Edmonton, AB.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN MALE: LIVING IN TWO CUL-

TURES; May 2 & 3; Holiday Inn Downtown, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PAY AND EMPLOYMENT EQUITY: BREAKING THROUGH THE BARRIERS; May 3 & 4; University of Calgary; AB.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONFERENCE - "RECLAIMING THE PAST...CLAIMING THE FUTURE"; May 10-12; King's College, London, Ontario.

2ND ANNUAL SASK. NATIVE AIDS PROJECT CONFERENCE; May 15-17; Saskatoon Inn; Saskatoon, SK.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRADE SHOW; May 31, June 1 & 2; Saskatoon Jubilee Building; Saskatoon, SK.

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News

Indian arts and crafts budget slashed

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Tough economic times has forced Indian Affairs to slash funding to the Alberta Indian Arts and Crafts Society (AIACS), says department spokesman Wayne Hanna.

He said more than half the society's funds will be cut to balance the Indian Affairs' budget and "to maintain the level of allocation to bands."

The organization received \$378,000 per year but as of April 1 it will only get \$150,000 for administrative purposes.

Hanna said the society is being urged to look for other sources of funding and to be-

come self-sufficient.

Lois MacLellan, general manager of the society, refused comment on the cuts.

The Indian Arts 7 Crafts Society of British Columbia had its funds reduced by the department last year. General manager Jill Fisk said she sympathizes with the Alberta society. She said her group was forced to "look elsewhere for funds. We had to

change our whole marketing initiative to become self-sufficient. We're still working at it, it's not going to happen overnight."

Claudette Fortin, executive director of the National Indian Arts and Crafts Corporation, said Alberta Native artists "are going to feel" the cuts.

The society, formed in 1975, provides Native artists with marketing and business advice

and training. The group is the link between its 2,000 members and potential buyers.

AIACS had about a year to work on getting additional funds, said Hanna. "The decision does not come out of the blue. The board of directors was put on notice March 11, 1990."

All funding to arts and crafts organizations "across Canada is being reviewed," he said.

Lethbridge Native transportation program scrapped

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LETHBRIDGE

The government has scrapped Lethbridge's Native transportation program leaving Natives stranded on the streets to commit crime, says that city's police chief.

Terry Wauters said without money and "no means back to their residence on the reserve, they are put back in an environ-

ment where they will repeat the offence."

The program established 14 years ago by Lethbridge City Police and the Alberta Solicitor General's department provided Natives released from the Lethbridge Correctional Centre with transportation to the Blood and Peigan reserves near Lethbridge.

Wauters said the purpose of the program was to place Native offenders with their families where the chance of repeating

the offence was minimal.

The government informed Wauters in a letter early February that the program grant of \$35,000 a year would not be renewed.

John Szumlas, executive assistant to Solicitor General Dick Fowler, said the program was "an opportunity for a free bus ride. It's not a service we can afford to offer in any other community in the province."

Szumlas said he's puzzled

why the program was started in the first place.

Lethbridge was the only city in Alberta with such a program for Natives.

George Little Moustache, a Peigan Nation councillor, said "there will always be repeat offenders, we can't get away from that."

He said people on the reserve, as far as he can determine, aren't upset by the cut.

Native women and children

awaiting the release of their partners will also suffer on the street without the transportation program, said Wauters.

Wauters said he had a specific policy to accommodate women and children on the van headed back to the reserves because "it's traumatizing for mothers and children to be on the street with no way back home."

Lethbridge city council is discussing the possibility of funding the program.

Edmonton a bleak place for reserve Natives

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Northern Natives fleeing the desperate conditions of reserve life won't find life in Edmonton any more rewarding, says a report on the city's Native population.

The report, prepared by the Edmonton Social Planning Council, said employment is the main reason Natives move to the city.

The income of most Native

families living on reserves is well below the poverty line.

But Natives who come to Edmonton with hopes of prosperity are bitterly disappointed. Edmonton's Native unemployment rates are more than double those of the general population, said the report released March 15.

Only half the Native workforce worked full time for all of 1986 compared with two-thirds of the non-Native workforce.

Five per cent of Edmonton's population is Native, which

gives the city, along with Winnipeg, the highest concentration of Native people in Canada in an urban area.

Because so many Natives are excluded from the labor force they are also excluded from many aspects of mainstream society resulting in various social problems, said the paper.

"In all societies, a combination of relative poverty and exclusion from mainstream society results in low self-esteem which in turn, manifests itself in self-destructive actions."

Natives make up 31 per cent

of those "admitted to provincial correctional institutions, a proportion seven times greater than their share of the Alberta population." Natives make up four per cent of Alberta's population.

A similar trend is found in child welfare statistics. Of 8,000 files open in Alberta on Jan. 31, 1989, 31.5 per cent involved Native families.

The report also found a "clear racial correlation in the types of files open." Natives make up only 2.5 per cent of handicapped children services files but "as the type of intervention becomes

more intrusive" the percentage of Native files increases. Over 45 per cent of guardianship cases involve Natives.

On a per capita basis, more Natives in Canada die from violence, accidents, suicides and alcohol abuse than non-Natives. The report assumes the same holds true in Edmonton.

The paper brings together information from various sources creating a profile of Edmonton's aboriginal people. "It is hoped it can be used by Natives and non-Natives alike in planning for change."

Natives given pipeline to Edmonton council

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

A proposal for a Native affairs committee got the thumbs up from Edmonton city council Tuesday.

Kathy Vandergrift, executive assistant to Mayor Jan Reimer, said the committee was proposed two years ago and since

"Reimer's coming we've been going full steam ahead with it."

Larry Desmeules, president of the Metis Nation of Alberta, said the idea has taken awhile to set up "because of a lack of push on our part."

Vandergrift also said delays by Native groups involved in the committee plan stalled it. City council didn't push to establish the committee because "we felt it important the idea come and be

owned by the Native community," she said.

Calgary established a similar committee in 1979 but Edmonton's committee will have "a higher political involvement," said Desmeules.

The Native affairs committee will tackle problems facing urban Indian and Metis people, he said.

An inner city violent crime task force reported a dismal pic-

ture of life on Edmonton's drag. More Natives are involved in violent crime, either as victims or offenders, than any other group, said the report released in February.

The seven-member committee, which includes Desmeules, Regena Crowchild, president of the Indian Association of Alberta, and Reimer, stands to have a lot of clout, said Vandergrift.

"It not only will advise coun-

cil, it's structured so it can make recommendations to any level of government."

Vandergrift said the committee is "the urban aboriginal voice wherever it needs to go."

The committee, officially called the Edmonton aboriginal affairs representative committee, will have a number of steering committees which will allow Native agencies and groups to participate, she said.



Amy Santoro

Treatment plant expansion concerns Native Council leader

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Natives are being urged to take part in public meetings dealing with the proposed expansion of the Swan Hills treatment plant.

Doris Ronnenberg, president of the Native Council of Canada (Alberta), said it's important for Natives living near the plant, 170 km northwest of Edmonton, to educate themselves on toxic wastes.

Ronnenberg said many Natives are affected by the plant making it essential for them to participate in its future.

"We can't always rely on environmentalists. We have to get more involved because they may have a different agenda. Aboriginals have got to come forward,

listen and analyse."

Ronnenberg said the provincial government, part owner of the facility, "had better take aboriginal concerns seriously because our treaty and aboriginal rights in terms of wildlife and resources has to be considered."

The Sawridge band, the East Prairie Metis settlement, the Swan River band, the Sucker Cree band and a number of other settlements and reserves are located near the plant.

Ronnenberg said Natives weren't consulted when the plant was built in 1987.

Chem-Security, operators of the plant and host of the information meetings, will detail the impact of the proposed \$60-million rotary kiln.

The furnace is needed to handle a backlog of 100,000 tonnes of toxic solid waste piling up in landfills and industry sites across the province, said Ken

Simpson of the Alberta Special Waste Management Corporation.

Currently the plant can only burn 15,000 tonnes of waste a year.

Chem-Security maintains the impact on wildlife, fish and rivers will be minor, but Ronnenberg is concerned about air and water quality, fish, wildlife and vegetation because of arsenic and PCBs to be emitted from the proposed kiln.

Fish in Windy Lake near Swan Hills are contaminated with mercury but Alberta Fish and Wildlife hasn't been able to make a connection to the plant.

Public input will be gathered at 17 meetings across the province until the end of May. The first will be held at Swan Hills April 16.

Expansion activities are due to start this fall and be completed in late 1993 or early 1994.

Alexander

Mother and son among life skills graduates

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Staff Writer

ALEXANDER RESERVE,
ALTA.

When Sandra Courterielle walked forward to receive her certificate after finishing an eight-week life skills course, little did she realize her baby son Nicolas would also receive a certificate.

"Nicolas was right there in the group along with Sandra. He's the first life skills baby to complete the course," laughed life skills coach Arnold Kootenay.

Certificates were given to 13 happy graduates at a March 13 banquet on the Alexander reserve, 50 km north of Edmonton.

Elder George Arcand Sr. had some wise words for the graduates. Before his opening prayer he reminded them to look to elders for guidance and to always seek out the Great Spirit, "who is kind."

"Too many young people do not pay attention to the elders. When someone misses a word or says something wrong, people laugh at their mistakes. We hurt each other in many ways. We must learn respect for one another," he said.

other," he said.

Alexander education centre administrator Edna Arcand told the graduates that support systems would always be there for them, "but now it's up to you to make the difference."

"I once thought it was the people around me who made the difference until an elder told me only I made the difference."

"Now you have completed the life skills course I hope you will be successful in your lives. It starts with you," she said.

Valedictorian Sandra Courterielle said the program gave her the opportunity to get in touch with her feelings.

"I have benefited from it. On behalf of all the graduates we thank all the coaches and people responsible for starting the program."

"And thanks fellow graduates for all the positive feedback and support you gave me," Courterielle said.

Maxine Bruno received a bouquet of flowers for completing her first year as a life skills coach.

"This is very unexpected. I always wanted to work in my own community to help people find the skills they already have," she said.

Master of ceremonies Casy



The 1991 life skills graduation class and instructors

Rocky Woodward

Lightning read a letter from Alexander Chief Stanley Arcand congratulating the graduates on their accomplishment.

Doreen Murphy and Barry Dunkley of the Edmonton Life Skills Training Centre attended

the graduation.

Graduate Lee Sleigh read a poem, What is Life Skills?, that represented the graduates.

The other graduates are Pauline Arcand, Ruth Arcand, Sheryl Arcand, Sandra Courteri-

elle, Margaret Dubois, Don Gauthier, Curtis House, Darren Lefleche, Myrna LeFleche, Peter Lefleche, Colette L'Hirondelle and Casy Lightning.

Carolyn Lefleche was given a participant award.

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Native Achievers

Dr. Anderson's work preserving Cree honored by province

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Dr. Anne Anderson, well known linguist, teacher and writer of the Cree language, has received a Heritage Language Development Award from the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission.

"I am very happy about this most recent award. I want the world to know we, the Metis people, can accomplish great things," she says.

Commission chairman Steve Zarusky presented the Metis elder with the award at a reception last month in Calgary. "The award was given in recognition of her long service to the development of the Cree language," says commission program consultant Caroline Pinto.

Nominations are invited annually across the province and the submissions are reviewed by a selection committee.

"Dr. Anne was also recognized for taking the initiative for leadership in preserving the Cree language and for developing her unique teaching methods," Pinto says.

In 1978 Dr. Anderson was awarded an honorary doctorate for her contribution to preservation of Cree. She established the Dr. Anne Anderson Native Heritage and Cultural Centre in 1982 to provide Cree language instruction and promote Native culture.

Many people have benefited from her classes, including social workers, federal government workers, Native people, child-care workers, teachers and nurses. Her centre, located on 124th Street in Edmonton, is a busy place. Visitors include Cree-language students, school children on tour, users of her li-

brary and customers buying crafts and publications.

Recently Anderson published, after two years of research, *The First Metis — A New Nation*, which chronicles the history of Metis families in Alberta. "It belongs in every school library in Alberta," says Anderson, adding that the centre offers a special price to school boards.

Anderson has 92 copyrights on her Cree language books, history lessons, tapes and coloring books on Native herbs and remedies. "And the calls just keep coming in for Cree lessons," she says. The current session started in January. Another will begin in September.

In addition to basic Cree, an intermediate course has been developed using Anderson's

unique method of teaching. "We need more teachers, though, who can explain to students the animate and inanimate concept which is characteristic of the Cree language," she says. Although most classes are held at the centre, a teacher also goes out to an Edmonton group home, instructing seven eager young people.

The Alberta Heritage Language Development Award program was started in 1985 to honor individuals, teachers, administrators and parents who made a significant contribution towards the development of heritage languages. The commission estimates 12,000 Alberta children are enrolled in heritage language programs across Alberta.



Dr. Anne Anderson receives a 1990 Alberta Heritage Language Development Outstanding Achievement Award from Steve Zarusky, chairman of the Alberta Multiculturalism Commission

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Easter Greetings from Paddle Prairie Metis
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Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement



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CORRECTION

Hobbema Curling Club
dates were advertised
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The event
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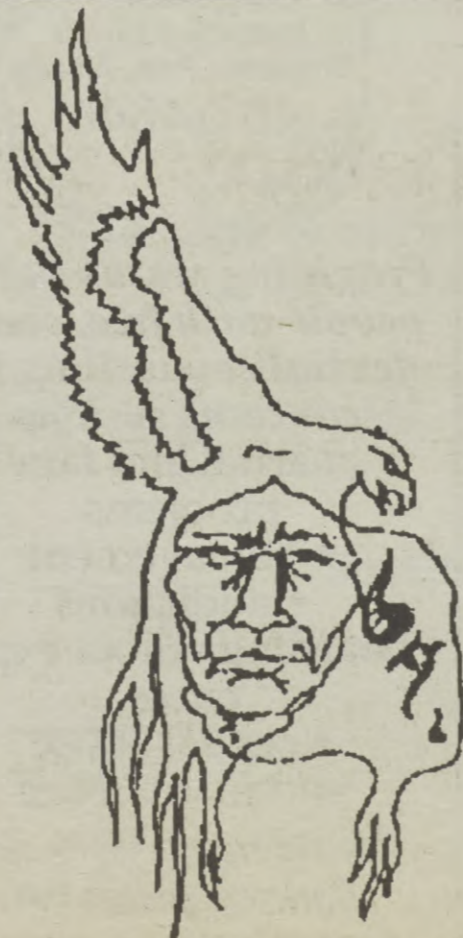
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Edmonton

Windspeaker contest winner takes a trip to paradise

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Staff Writer

GREEN LAKE, SASK.

It was a trip for four to paradise. That's how the Moskowec family from Green Lake, Sask. viewed their visit to West Edmonton Mall courtesy of the *Windspeaker* Reader Contribution contest.

Ray Moskowec won the contest with a story he wrote called "Christmas isn't going to be lonely after all."

It ran in *Windspeaker's* Christmas special Dec. 21.

The contest offered the Awesome Family Adventure which is an all-expenses-paid family vacation to all the sights at West Edmonton Mall, including a two-night stay at the Fantasyland Hotel.

"We decided to stay in the Hollywood suite. It was a marvelous trip. We enjoyed it very much," said Ray.

Ray is employed with Northern Village in the Metis commu-

nity of Green Lake as an economic development officer. He's presently working on a land-claim dispute for the Green Lake Metis.

Green Lake is about 35 km east of Meadow Lake, Sask.

His wife Penny said they couldn't believe they won the contest. "It was nice because it gave us a chance to visit with friends we know here," she said.

Fantasyland is a must to visit and the Moskowecs didn't miss anything — except the rides. "But we did ride in the submarine, played golf and took in the sights," smiled Ray.

The couple were accompanied by daughter Alicia, 11, sons Vince, 17, and Chris, 12.

The contest allowed for a family of four, but the Moskowecs weren't about to leave a family member at home. Not when it would mean someone would miss the greatest indoor show in North America.

Congratulations to the Awesome Family Adventure winners — the Moskowecs.



Rocky Woodward

The Moskowec family at Phase 3 of West Edmonton Mall

Advertising Feature



Faron Strikes With A Gun

Jackie Red Crow

Family business meeting important needs on the Peigan reserve

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

PEIGAN NATION, ALTA.

A new family business in the heart of the Peigan reserve is quickly becoming an important addition to the community.

Peigan Taxi and Convenience Store is operated by Gayle Strikes With A Gun and three other family members, Pam, Leander and Faron.

Gayle and Pam started the taxi business in 1988. "We employ two full-time and two part-time drivers and we will be operating on a 24-hour basis this summer," says Gayle. A contract with the medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada allows them to have two cars

available for transportation of patients to health facilities. A third car is kept busy with private business.

"The reserve really needed a convenience store and when the chief and council offered us a building last fall we decided to give it a try." After extensive renovations it opened in December.

"The store operates from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. daily or longer if there is something going on that requires us to stay open later," says Gayle. The business employs two full-time and several part-time clerks. "The two businesses help offset the reserve's 70 per cent unemployment rate."

The 2,000 residents of the reserve save money by shopping at

home since they don't have to pay the GST. They also save on their gas bill.

"We have everything from fresh-baked bannock to groceries and the latest in video rentals," says Gayle.

The business will soon be expanded. "We are going to move into a building next door and increase our stock substantially." Video selections will increase from 300 to 3,000 and a more complete line of groceries will be offered as well as some clothing items.

All four partners have extensive business experience and education and welcome the chance to encourage other would-be Native businesspeople planning similar ventures.

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Edmonton

Mohawk one of few Native medical students

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

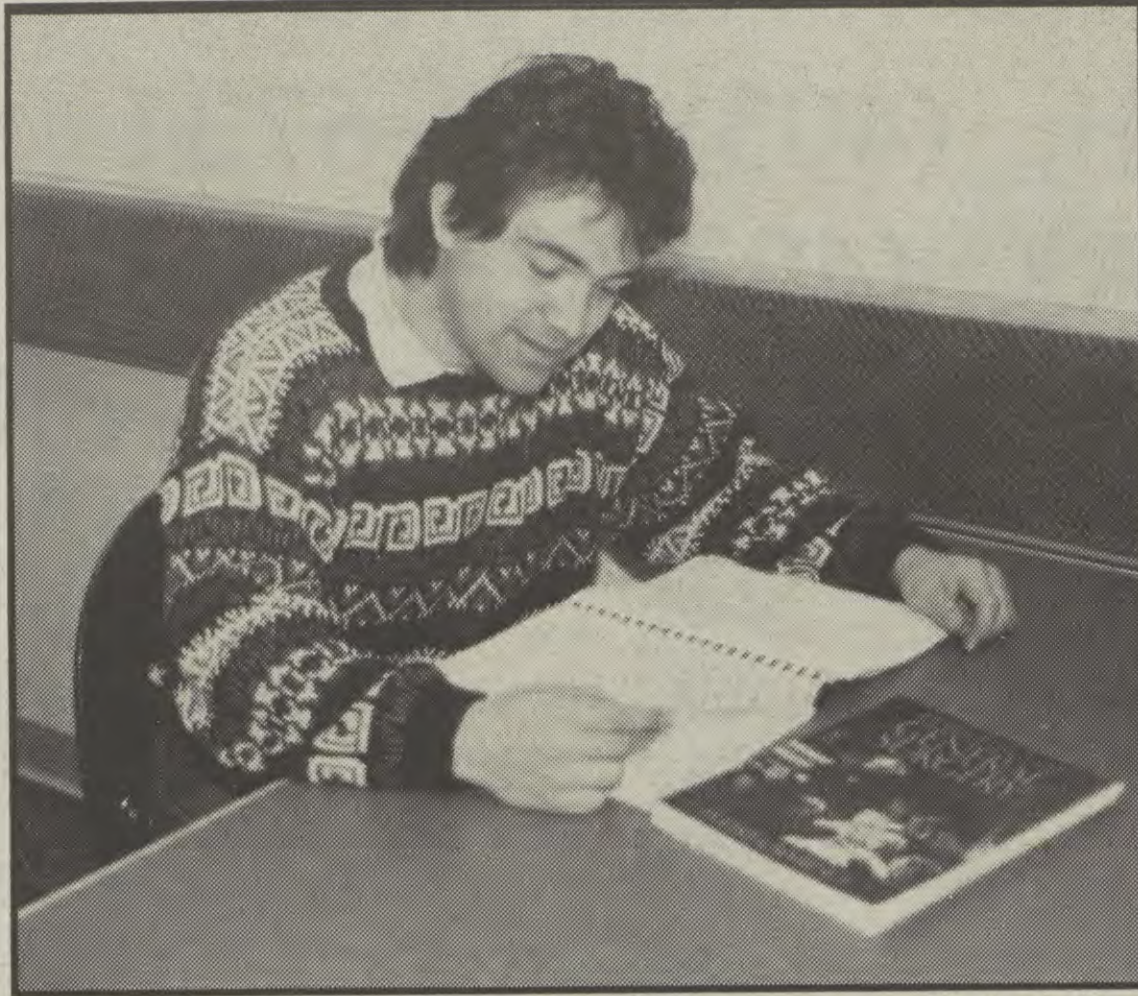
EDMONTON

Medical student John Brisebois never misses a chance to encourage Native students to consider a career in the health sciences. So he was pleased when asked to participate in the recent Native Awareness Days at the University of Alberta since it gave him a chance to talk about the rewards of such a career.

Brisebois, a second-year medical student, was born on the Kahnawake reserve, south of Montreal. "I applied for admission to four medical schools, but I chose the faculty of medicine at the U of A because of its commitment to the graduating physicians of aboriginal ancestry and because of its interest in solving the problems of Indian health," he says.

The U of A is the only university to offer a scholarship to Native students and with five enrolled in the program, it has the highest enrolment of aboriginal students in the country. The students include Chris Cooper, an Ojibwa from Ontario, Dennis Wardman, a Saskatchewan Cree, Dana Winterburn, an Abenaki from northern Quebec, and Craig Schachler, a Delaware from the Six Nations reserve in Ontario.

"We are a small number in an average class size of 125," laughs Brisebois, who was recently awarded the Darcy Tailfeathers



John Brisebois

Heather Andrews

Memorial Award in medicine, given for excellence in academic and athletic achievement. The award is given in memory of a young man from the Blood band, who was tragically killed in a car crash in 1987 in his third year of medical studies. He was the first aboriginal student in the faculty of medicine.

Brisebois has also been awarded the Tom Longboat Award, a national honor which also recognizes athletic and academic achievement. "I've always been interested in hockey, golf

and long-distance running," he explains.

In fact at one stage in his life his sports activities overshadowed his school work. "I tell young people I really struggled as a student at one time." He turned his priorities around and concentrated on his studies, which he says any student committed to a medical career can do.

Brisebois was also given one of 25 scholarships handed out last year by the medical services branch of Health and Welfare

Canada to Native students studying for health-related careers.

Brisebois is quick to encourage young people to consider careers in the health profession and he reminds them becoming a doctor is just one rewarding career they could consider.

"There is a need for physiotherapists, nurses and biochemistry graduates as well."

He feels it is especially tragic there are only about 34 known Native physicians in the country. That works out to about one for every 29,000 Indian people. And there's only 17 Native medical students across Canada.

Brisebois spends his summers recruiting and counselling hopeful Native students. "It was pretty frustrating last year. I was working for the medical services branch of Health and Welfare Canada through the Oka crisis on my home reserve."

He was often pressured by fellow Native employees to leave his job. "But I believed in what I was doing. In addition we were preparing some manuals for prospective university students which wouldn't have been completed if I had quit," he explains.

The Mohawk man plans to attend university in Edmonton for another couple of years and then return east to intern.

"I want eventually to end up in a family practice rather than specializing," he says. He also hopes to spend time serving isolated reserves, where it's hard to get health professionals to

work.

Participation in the March 6-9 Native Awareness Days also gave Brisebois a chance to talk about Indian culture.

As Lorraine Courtrille explains, "The theme for this year's awareness days was healing and unity for our future." Courtrille is one of the board members of the Aboriginal Student Council, which along with various corporations and organizations, sponsors the event. Each day also had an additional focus like Native youth, aboriginal sovereignty and family healing, she says.

Brisebois was teamed with fellow medical students in an information session. "There is an increased interest in traditional Native healing methods," he says.

Speakers in other events over the three days included grand chief and vice-chief respectively of the Assembly of First Nations, Georges Erasmus and Lawrence Courtoreille, Leroy Little Bear from the University of Lethbridge, Wilson Okeymaw, director of Hobbema's Nayo Skan Treatment Centre, and well-known Native actress Tantoo Cardinal. Also participating from the University of Alberta were teachers Olive Dickason and Steve Greymorning.

Crowds often numbered over 250 people and included Native and non-Native students and interested members of the community. Several schools, including Saddle Lake and Hobbema, also attended says Courtrille.



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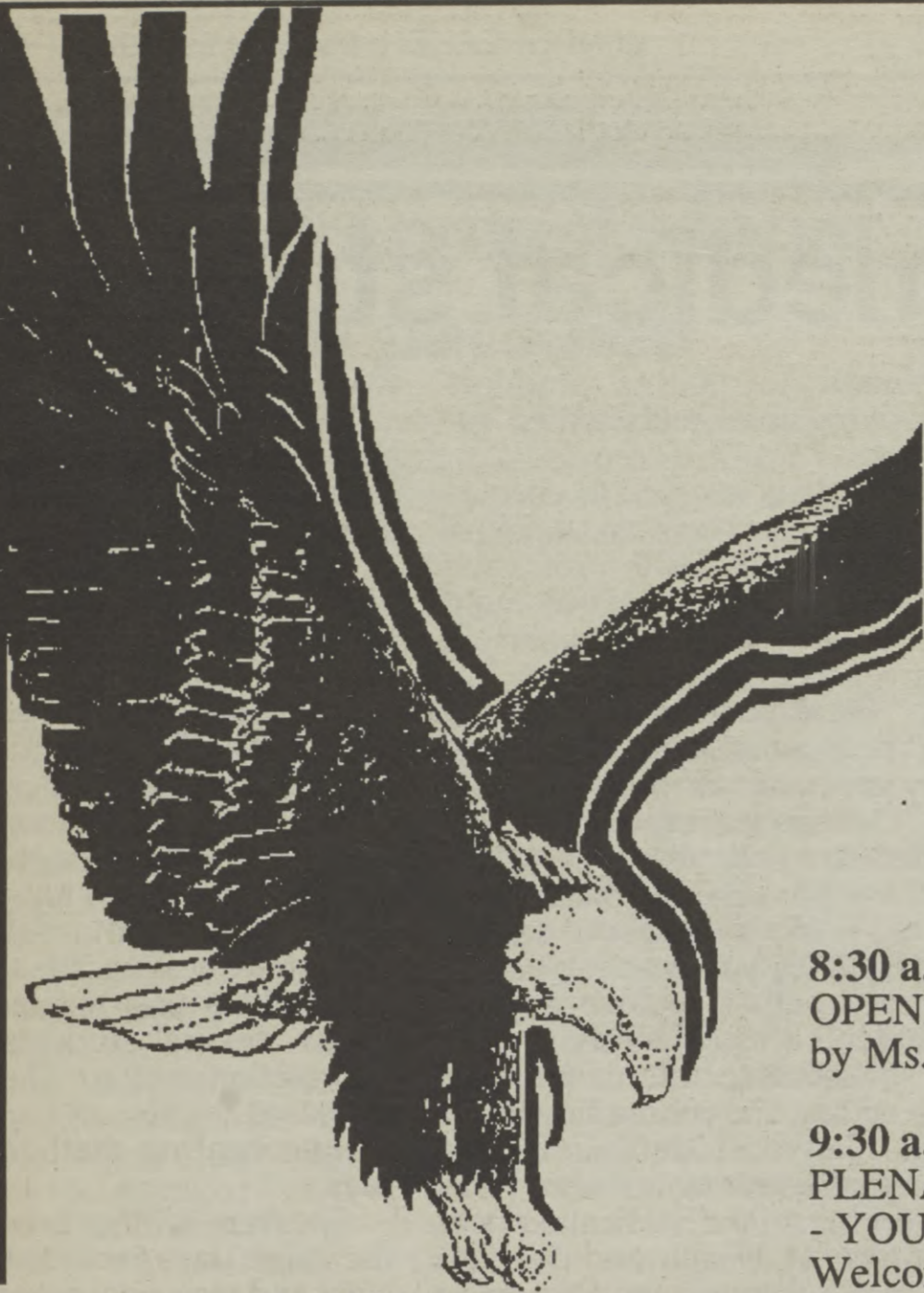
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Tentative Conference Agenda

Wednesday, May 1, 1991

Monday, April 29, 1991

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
TRADE SHOW RECEPTION
(Welcome Evening / Business Mixer)

Tuesday, April 30, 1991

8:30 a.m.
OPENING CEREMONIES
• Drum in Head Table
• Opening Prayer / Welcome by Mr. Joe Crowshoe, Sr.
• Co-Chairpersons / Introductions: Mr. Gregg Smith & Ms. Caen Bly
OPENING ADDRESS BY Mr. Willie Littlechild, MP

10:00 a.m.
PLENARY SESSION
- ENVIRONMENTAL ENTERPRISE
Moderator: Chief Leonard George
Panelists:
• Indian Environmental Advocates: Lorraine Sinclair and Gilbert Cheechoo
• Academic Panelists: Mr. Jim Butler, U of A & Dr. Woodrow Morrison
• Business Opportunities: Mr. Roland Bailey, NWT Development Corp.

QUESTION PERIOD

12:00 p.m.
NOON LUNCHEON
Introductions By: Mr. Harley Frank
Speaker: Honorable Tom Hockin, Minister of State, Small Business & Tourism, Aboriginal Economic Program (CAEDS)

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
WORKSHOPS:
1) Taxation & Legal Issues: Mr. Robert Reiter
2) Women in Business: Ms. Doreen Healy
3) Tourism (Attractions & Facilities): Jim Butler, Leo Jacobs & Barry Parker

4:00 p.m. - 5:00p.m.
TRADE SHOW RECEPTION (Hosted)
Displays / Business Mixer / Entertainment

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
FASHION SHOWS by Fashion Designers: Carol Starlight, Patricia Piche, D'Arcy Moses

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
DANCES WITH WOLVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
Tantoo Cardinal, Jimmy Herman & Graham Greene

8:30 a.m.
OPENING REMARKS / INTRODUCTIONS
by Ms. Caen Bly, Chairperson

9:30 a.m.
PLENARY SESSION
- YOUTH / ENTREPRENEURIALISM
Welcoming Address: Ms. Regena Crowchild, President, Indian Association of Alberta
Moderator: Mr. Dean Janvier, Cold Lake First Nation
Panelists:
• Youth Representatives
• Education / Training: Mr. Justin Dahlen & Mr. Greg Hirtle
• Business / Industry Leaders:
• Motivational Speakers: Mr. Jimmy Herman

12:00 p.m.
NOON LUNCHEON
Introductions by Mr. Ray Fox, President, National Aboriginal Communications Society
Speaker: Mr. John Kim Bell, President, Canadian Native Arts Foundation

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
WORKSHOPS:
1) Human Resource Development: Mr. Howard Green, CEIC
2) Finance / Business Plans: Mr. Mike Phillips, Vencap & Mr. Don Hannah, Aboriginal Economic Programs, ISTC
3) Communications & Information Industry: Mr. Frank Ogden (Dr. Tomorrow's Toy Shop - Special Workshop for Youth)

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
TRADE SHOW RECEPTION (Hosted)
Business Mixer / Entertainment

6:30 p.m.
COCKTAIL RECEPTION (Cash Bar)

7:00 p.m.
BANQUET
Master of Ceremonies: Mr. George Tuccaro
Speaker: Mr. Frank Ogden (Dr. Tomorrow) "The Challenging Future"

9:00 p.m.
DANCE
Errol Ranville & The C-Weed Band

Thursday, May 2, 1991

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
BREAKFAST SESSION
Opening Remarks by Mr. Gregg Smith, Chairman
Wake Up call by Mr. George Tuccaro & Mr. Ray Fox, Entertainers

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
PLENARY WORKSHOP - NEGOTIATIONS
- CUTTING THE DEAL (An open session for

input, sharing and planning)
Moderator: Mr. Ray Fox, President, National Aboriginal Communications Society

SPEAKER PANEL
• Grand Chief Max Gros-Louis, Huron Nation
• Mr. Neil Sterritt, Gitksan-Wet'Suwet'En
• Mr. Calvin Helin, President, Native Investment & Trade Association
QUESTION PERIOD

12:00 p.m.
CLOSING REMARKS BY Mr. Fred Gladstone, President
Indian Equity Foundation
CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS
WRAP UP
ADJOURNMENT

✂

★ ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM ★

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APRIL 29 - MAY 2, 1991

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Natives and Success

Motivational speaker gets group pumped up

By J. Caen Bly
Contributing Writer

EDMONTON

"Some are chosen, some choose to be chosen and some are never chosen. Many are called but few are chosen because few want it."

These are the words which echoed in my mind as I left Howard Rainer's positive self-development workshop held Feb. 22-23 at the Terrace Inn in Edmonton. Each day since, those words have kept coming back to haunt me. I, like more than 95 other participants from Hobbema, Alexander, Alexis and Siksika, returned from the two-day, intensive self-esteem and positive self-development workshop feeling refreshed.

With renewed enthusiasm I intensified my positive approach at home and those I work with at the University of Lethbridge. I even took this positive approach further and shared Rainer's methods and concepts at two subsequent workshops involving about 150 Native community economic development officers and Canada Employment Centre managers.

Rainer is a Taos Pueblo-Creek Indian originally from Taos, New Mexico who began his humble start much like many North American Indians. He was frustrated, alone, and angry. In his words he "was angry with the world and carrying a big chip on my shoulder for all the wrong reasons."

It was not until his college years and after previous failures in school and his personal life did he begin to change. With the help of his strong personal intimacy with Native spiritualism, coupled with his devout belief in God and through the help of his loved ones and trusted friends, he soon realized he had an empowering gift. He was blessed with the ability to speak and to understand human behavior. Soon he was on a path to train and to help change people's lives through positive reinforcement.

Being the curious human being I am, I wanted to find out from a number of the other participants if they were following

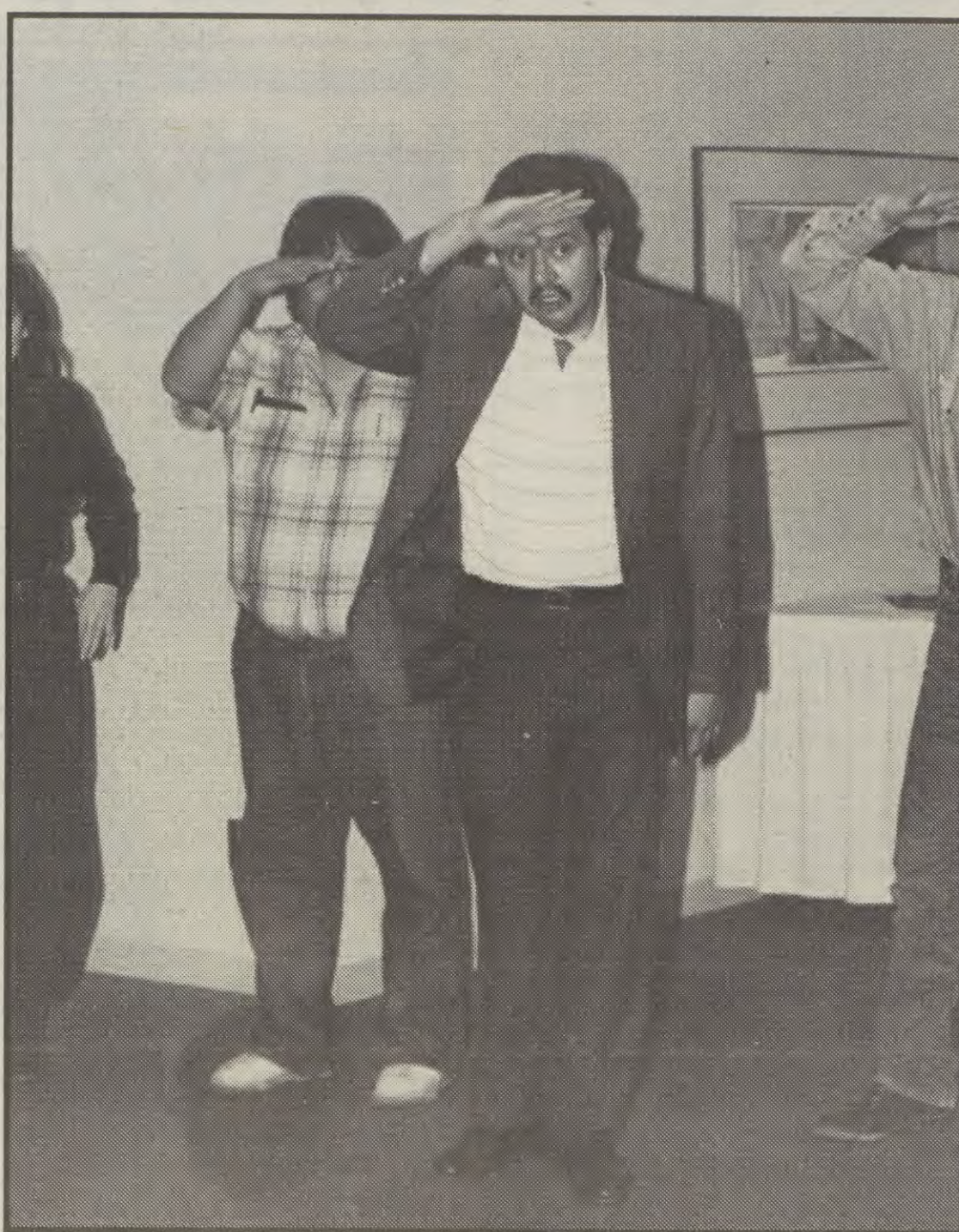
through on Rainer's request for a commitment to share his message. I also wanted to determine if his method of teaching was being applied in their home communities.

I was ecstatic when I heard comments like: "I got home and immediately re-affirmed my love for my family by giving them a big hug and I told them how much I appreciate and love them...At work I'm using the positive training methods with those around me to get things done more effectively... My planning skills are so much better... We requested our chief and council host a series of self-development workshops in our community...I spoke to a group of 300 students and used Howard's positive exercises and I got really good results...I'm getting good feedback from my staff... I think my family sees a difference in me...When I use some of Howard's quotes and those I heard at the workshop, people keep asking me where I'm getting them from and they say, 'Hey, that makes sense'...I've given two of my favorite people some of my notes to read and they just couldn't believe it. They said, 'That's exactly me.' " The notes referred to a lack of self-confidence by a Native person in a non-Indian situation.

Rainer cites his educational background as one of the integral ingredients which paved the way to his success.

And he's disciplined. He writes for 30 minutes everyday, seven days a week, 365 days a year. He reads 90 minutes each day with the same intensity. No matter where he is, whether it's northern British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, New Mexico or Arizona he maintains constant contact with his wife and family.

He stays fit through strenuous but enjoyable exercises and daily prayer is a way of life for



Howard Rainer

Bert Crowfoot

him.

Rainer is the program administrator for the North American Educational Outreach Program at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. For 20 years he has been serving Native people as a trainer, motivating them to catch the true vision of their potential and abilities.

His unique blend of lectures, combined with exercises on empowering others through the power of motivation, lends itself to all ages.

"Howard's sole message literally gives people the desire to succeed," said Lloyd Gauthier,

co-ordinator of WIN Sports, the sponsoring body for the workshop.

Gauthier said he was overwhelmed by the response to Rainer's sessions. "I expected only 50 participants. By noon we had 125 registered and everyone stayed to the close of the day. On Saturday we retained 95 of the registrants. I think that says something for those who are committed to learning."

Participants ranged in age from 13 to 72 years of age and they were from all walks of life including a chief, councillors, educators, administrators, stu-

dents, grandparents, nurses, researchers and managers.

Student counsellor Cara Currie from the Samson Band at Hobbema said "When Howard talked about being called and chosen, it really hit home to me. A year ago if someone told me I would be counselling students I would have said, 'No way!' but that is exactly what I'm doing and it is the most rewarding thing I have ever done."

Sandy Crowfoot, a 15-year-old Blackfoot student from Edmonton who took part with her parents and brother, said she liked the workshop because "everyone was involved." Involvement was an understatement.

Rainer also sought commitment and he got it if an out-of-town participant is any indication. "I got up at five to get my chores done so I could be here at 9 a.m."

Some powerful messages about self-worth and life values were echoed. One shy 72-year-old woman displayed her tower of strength when she found the courage to speak for the first time before a group. In retelling her story of hardship she truly exemplified the role of the family and its importance. What was to be a one-minute talk turned into a seven-minute oration by a grandmother everyone was proud of.

Rainer's concluded his workshop with his mission statement, which he gives to every participant across the United States and Canada:

*I am the best,
You are the best,
I have power, I have strength
I have intelligence and spirituality
And I'm COOL!*

Kirk Buffalo, referred to by Rainer as "our group philosopher," summed up the feeling of a pumped-up group at the close of the workshop, saying "Let's get out of the ice age and into the cool age."

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Natives Around the World

Nicaraguan Natives desperately need help

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Staff Writer

Nicaragua's Miskito Indians are paying a terrible price caused by eight years of war, floods and Hurricane Hugo which hit Central America's east coast in 1989.

Hundreds of Miskito, Sumo and Ramo Indian lives were lost during the civil war and in the last two years natural disasters have devastated their region, taking lives, destroying homes, livestock and crops.

Many executions of Miskitos, live burials and other atrocities were investigated and recorded by the Organization of American States. About 25 per cent of Miskito war mothers are widowed.

During the war thousands of Miskitos fled Nicaragua to seek refuge in neighboring Honduras. But when the fighting ended many went home — already over 20,000 refugees have returned to their villages only to find they must start rebuilding their homes and crops from scratch.

Miskito elder Mildred Levy, a registered nurse, has worked in the medical field for 32 years in Nicaragua.

She says many of the people returning to villages along the Rio Coco (Wanky Awana) River — which serves as a boundary between Honduras and Nicaragua — are not registered as residents from the area and therefore aren't considered by the United Nations for help.

"But their crops have failed. There's no rice, no beans. People are starving, children are starving to death," Levy says.

She says the situation is very critical. Especially in villages along the Wanky Awana, the main transportation artery for many Miskito people.

"We need medical supplies, tools, seeds for planting. I look at people with their ribs showing, mother's wailing, holding their

starving children, it's awful," Levy sadly explains.

Only 10 years ago, Miskito Indians were self-sufficient, but today, their coastal and river villages have been wiped out by war. Whole villages were burned and fruit orchards razed. Grown over farmland is still littered with hidden landmines left over from the war that still kill and maim people.

And the flow of refugees is increasing from 500 to nearly 1,000 a week.

Last year in December a group of people from Plenty Canada, a non-profit international relief and development organization, embarked on a fact-finding trip to the Atlantic coast. They travelled up the Wanky Awana visiting over 60 villages.

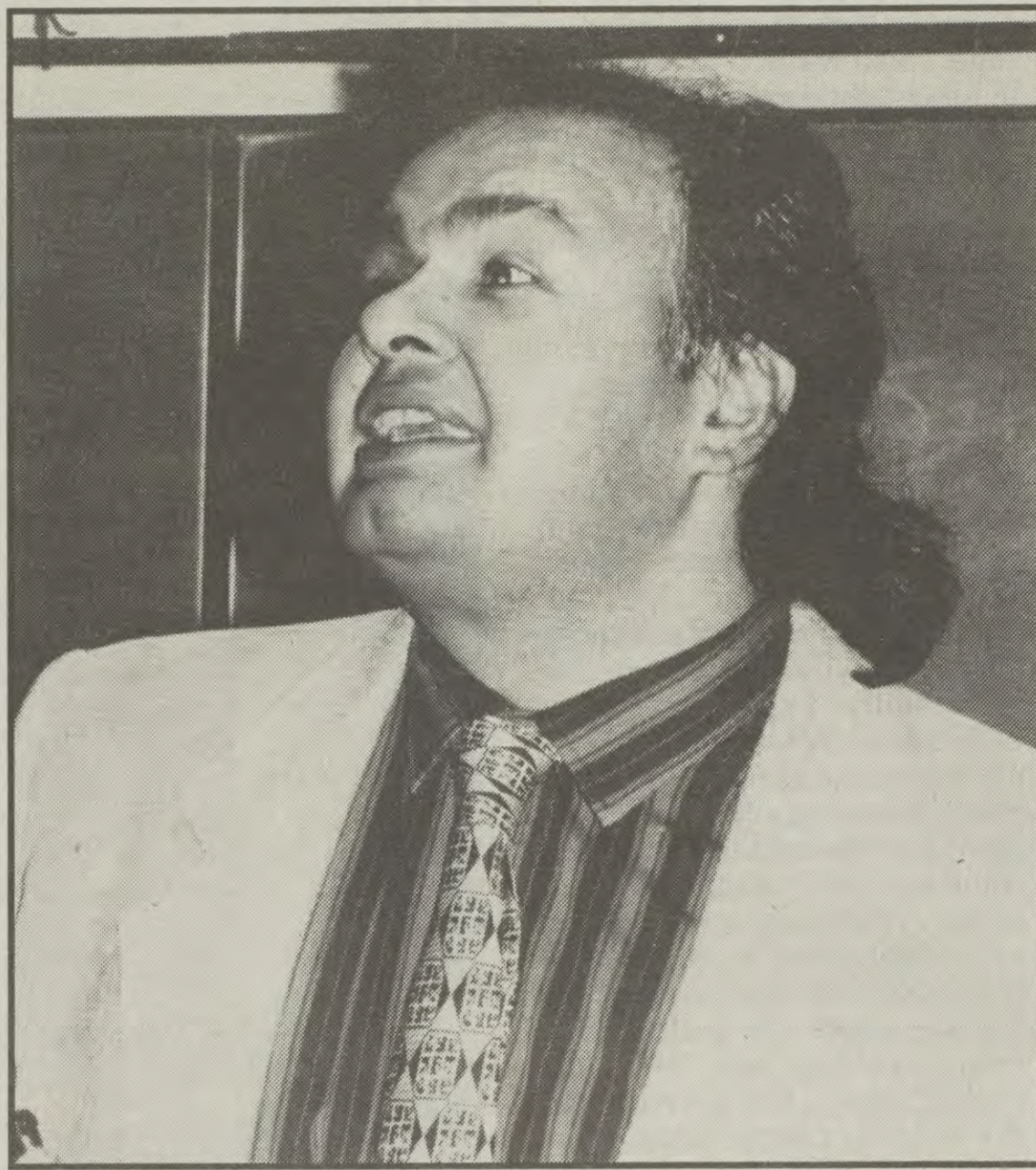
The team included Ontario Kayuga Native actor and social activist Gary Farmer of Powwow Highway fame, Yaomi Native film-maker Fidel Moreno, writer Jean Stawarz, Miskito agronomist Gerardo Gutierrez, Miskito Native program officer for Plenty Canada Sam Mercado and its executive director, Lawrence McDermott.

Farmer says he was astonished at what they encountered. The further they travelled upstream, the worse conditions became.

They learned at one village where many refugees are located, that some elders and infants had recently died because of a lack of food, medicine and shelter. Many refugees are surviving on the few banana trees which escaped the destruction of war.

A hospital run by Cuban doctors, who fled when the Sandanista army lost control of the area during the war, was the only medical facility available to the Miskitos for 500 kilometres.

"The Miskito people are suffering. There's no medical sup-



Gary Farmer

Dana Wagg

plies. The hospital we saw was rat infested. It was the worst hospital I have ever seen," says Farmer.

Farmer says it takes three days by river and then a 12-hour drive "over the roughest roads any Indian reserve in this country (Canada) has ever seen," for the Miskitos to reach the hospital.

Farmer says he saw mothers unable to provide breast milk for their babies and no means to buy powdered milk.

"At one village we pooled our money together for about 1,000 people so they could afford powdered milk — enough for one week. It was heartbreaking," Farmer says.

He says because Nicaragua is in a dire economic situation any resources coming into the country through regular channels ends up on the black market.

However, a Miskito organization called Panah Panah (I help you — you help me) is seeking outside help and it's trying to get necessary supplies into the re-

gion, with some success.

"The Miskitos in the Panah Panah organization are directly from the communities and they're totally committed to helping their people," Farmer says.

He says there is a phenomenal amount of hope among the Miskitos and Sumos.

"They are really into helping themselves. They just need the fuel to light the fire," Farmer says.

McDermott says help is needed immediately.

"Food relief, medical supplies, basic tools for planting, fishing and for rebuilding homes are needed by numerous Miskito and Sumo people to stop the deaths of infants and the elderly in particular. Presently all age groups are suffering loss of life due to lack of food and inadequate shelter," he says.

Nicaragua is remote and isolated from the rest of Central America. Across the great rain forest by plane, the eastern coast of the country is even more re-

moved.

At a place called Raiti, the most distant village on the Wanky Awana, the Plenty Canada group was introduced to a father of 10 named Henry, who had given all the food he had to his children and was now starving to death. For the last two days he had been drifting in and out of consciousness.

But Henry was lucky. He is now fully recovered, thanks to the arrival of the Plenty Canada group, after being brought downriver by canoe to a medical clinic at Was Pam.

On Christmas day the group interviewed refugees who were given less than 24 hours to pack 150 pounds of family belongings, one rooster and one hen, for transportation to either their former villages or to sites near them.

Levy says it was all the refugees were allowed to take and "sometimes (it was) for a family of eight people.

"Is it too much to ask for seed? For tools and medicine? The Miskito and Sumo people were self-sufficient for centuries before the war came. Is it too much to ask for help for these proud keepers of the largest rain forest in Central America?" asks Levy.

The suffering the Miskitos and Sumos have been subjected to because of war and natural disasters has been immense. Plenty Canada recently produced a video documentary based on their 11-day visit to the villages along the Wanky Awana.

Entitled *Miskito Christmas* it will be used to raise awareness of the extreme situation facing the Miskito and Sumo Indians.

The Miskitos and Sumos number about 160,000 people in a country of over three million.

Plenty Canada and the Miskito people are trying to raise money to address the immediate need for food, medicine, seed and tools to help the Miskito and Sumo people rebuild their lives.

All donations to the Miskito resettlement fund will be matched by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

For more information contact Plenty Canada at R.R. 3, Lanark, Ontario, K0G 1K0 or phone (613) 278-2416.

Have a safe and happy Easter to everyone!

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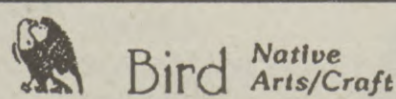
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—Lonefighters' Leader Sentenced—

Violence may be only option, says Born With A Tooth supporter

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LETHBRIDGE

Violence may be the only option for Natives wanting justice, says a supporter of Lonefighters Society leader Milton Born With A Tooth.

At Born With A Tooth's sentencing March 25 in Lethbridge, Ken White Head said "if Natives can't get justice through the court system, then we're going to see violence — I'll be there."

Citing the violent clashes near Oka, Quebec between Mohawks and police last summer, White Head said violence brings "focus to Native concerns."

He said the provincial government is attempting "to silence

Milton but they're only drawing" attention to the injustices committed against Natives.

Born With A Tooth was sentenced to 18 months in jail on six weapons charges stemming from a Sept. 7 confrontation with RCMP at the Oldman River diversion site. The Lonefighters Society wants work on the \$353-million dam stopped on environmental and spiritual grounds.

Canada has "two or three forms of justice, one for government, one for regular guys and one for Natives. Is that a just society?" asked White Head, president of the Native American Students' Association at the University of Lethbridge.

Unfairness towards Natives in the justice system is "a pattern, this isn't an isolated case."

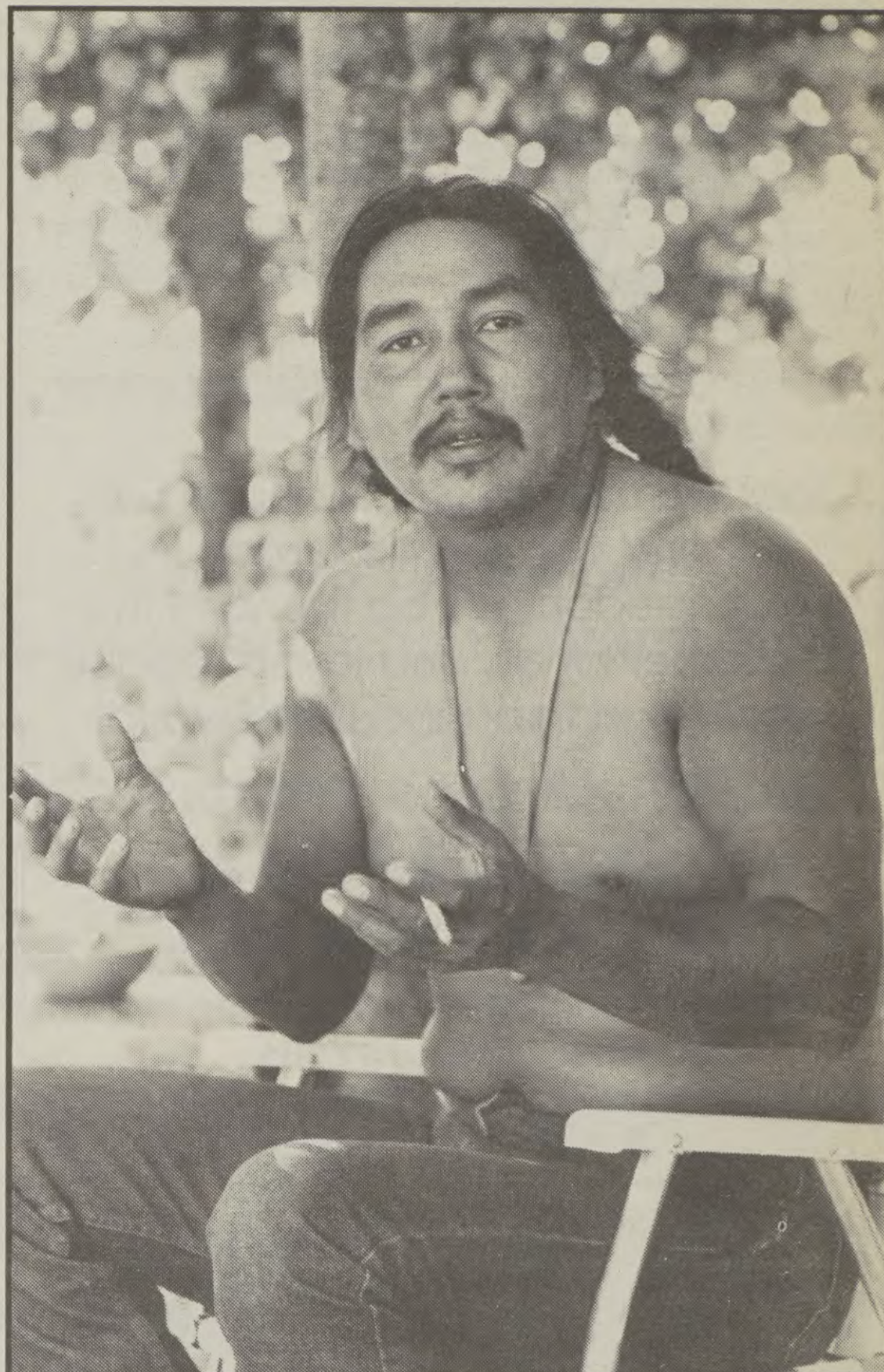
White Head cited the length

of time it took Born With A Tooth to be released on bail following his arrest in September and the all-white Fort Macleod jury that convicted him March 5 as evidence he was being set up.

Following four bail hearings he was released after his fifth attempt Dec. 19. During jury selection the Crown objected to two Native jurors selected by the leader's lawyer Karen Gainer. Lethbridge and Fort Macleod have also been often criticized for racist attitudes toward Natives.

Lonefighter Evelyn Crowshoe said most of Born With A Tooth's support "is silent because people are afraid of supporting him up front."

About 75 Natives and non-Natives packed a Lethbridge courtroom for the two-hour sentencing.



Bert Crowfoot

A freer Milton Born With A Tooth

'I am not the criminal,' says Milton

By Amy Santoro
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LETHBRIDGE

A shaken Lorna Born With A Tooth held back her tears as she read a statement prepared by her brother Milton who was sentenced Monday to 18 months in jail on six weapons charges.

She read Milton's five-page response to his treatment by the Alberta judicial system to a crowd of 75 protesters outside the Lethbridge courthouse.

He said judicial system officials didn't want "to get to the truth about what kind of a human being I really am. That's why everything I've said has been used against me."

Born With A Tooth called his statement "another strike against the Alberta government and the Oldman River Dam project."

The leader of the Peigan Lonefighters Society opposes construction of the southern Alberta dam on environmental and spiritual grounds.

The group tried in September to divert the river around irrigation headworks. During the action RCMP entered the reserve Sept. 7 at which time shots were

fired. Born With A Tooth was charged with two weapons offences. On Dec. 12 he filed a statement of claim charging provincial officials and the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District with wrongdoings. Five days later he was slapped with six new charges stemming from the same incident.

Born With A Tooth insisted in his statement he is not "the criminal out of all this. The real criminals are the ones who are continuing to abuse their powers. The government has to ensure people can freely express their views "in this so-called country."

Born With A Tooth still has only one demand: "that construction be stopped."

The province went ahead with the \$353-million dam despite a federal stop-work order.

Born With A Tooth said he's angered by a system that has forced the rule of law down his throat yet refuses to apply the same rule to political and economic interests.

During the sentencing, Justice Laurie MacLean said "if society is to survive, the rule of law must be maintained."

Born With A Tooth said the provincial government "broke

every law and broke every trust. They broke all those sacred ways of dealing with human beings" on Sept. 7.

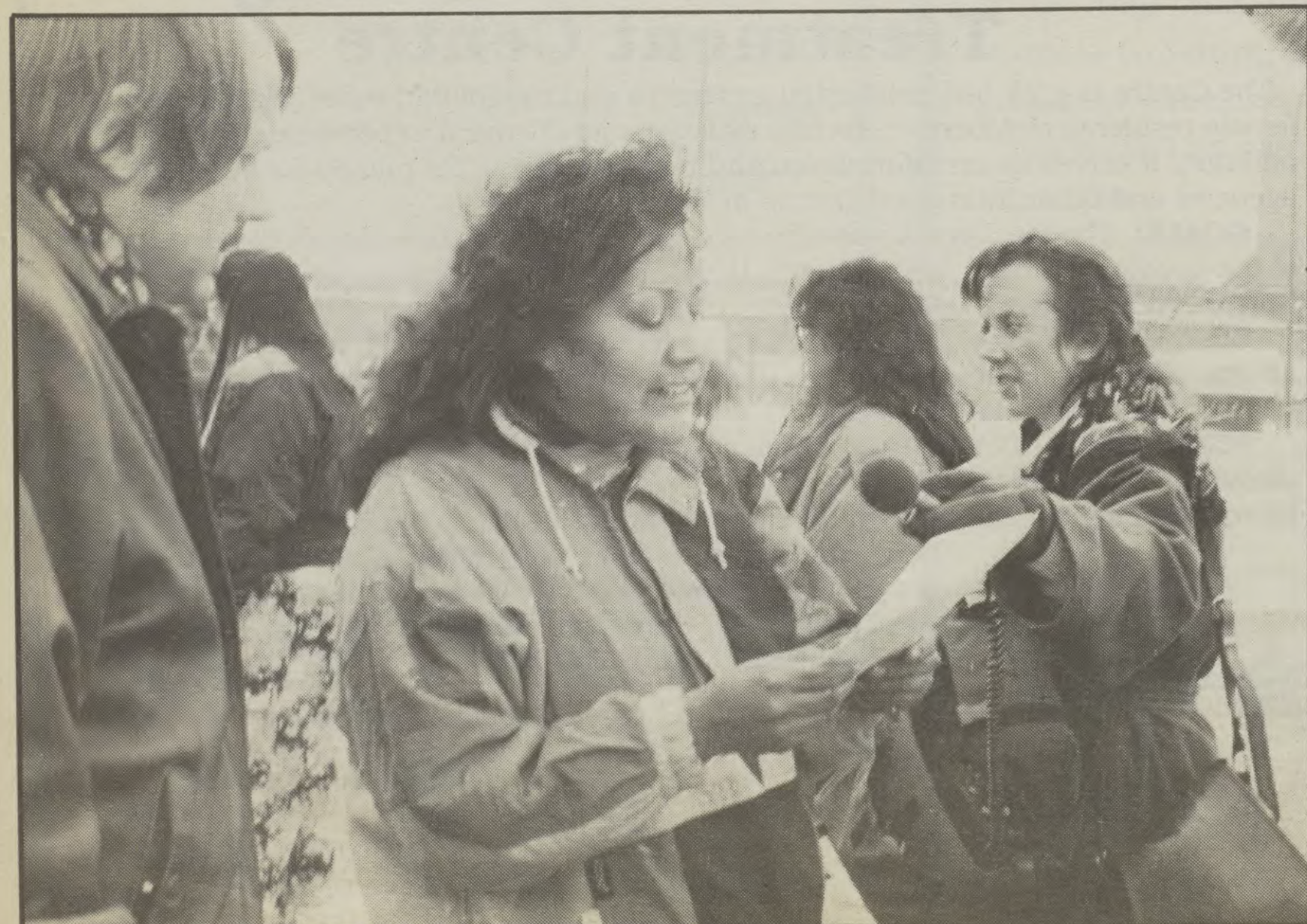
He said he fears the Creator, who guides him, more than the justice system. And the province fears him because of his fight against the dam, he said.

"It's so simple. It has to do with clean water, clean air, a clean mind and clean thoughts," said Lorna.

His sentencing is not the "real issue" but rather "it's what a government will do to protect a senseless project. This is what this country has got to stand up and question. Not to question how come two shots were fired. They have to question why the government used such force. I have no wealth, I have always been a peaceful human being," he said.

Born With A Tooth feels he has done his part "now it's a matter of, do we really care about the rule of law and protecting rights? And most of all, do we care about this earth?"

Rather than persecuting him, Born With A Tooth said "let's persecute the real abusers, the ones giving and creating chaos. I don't have the money and power to create all that."



Amy Santoro

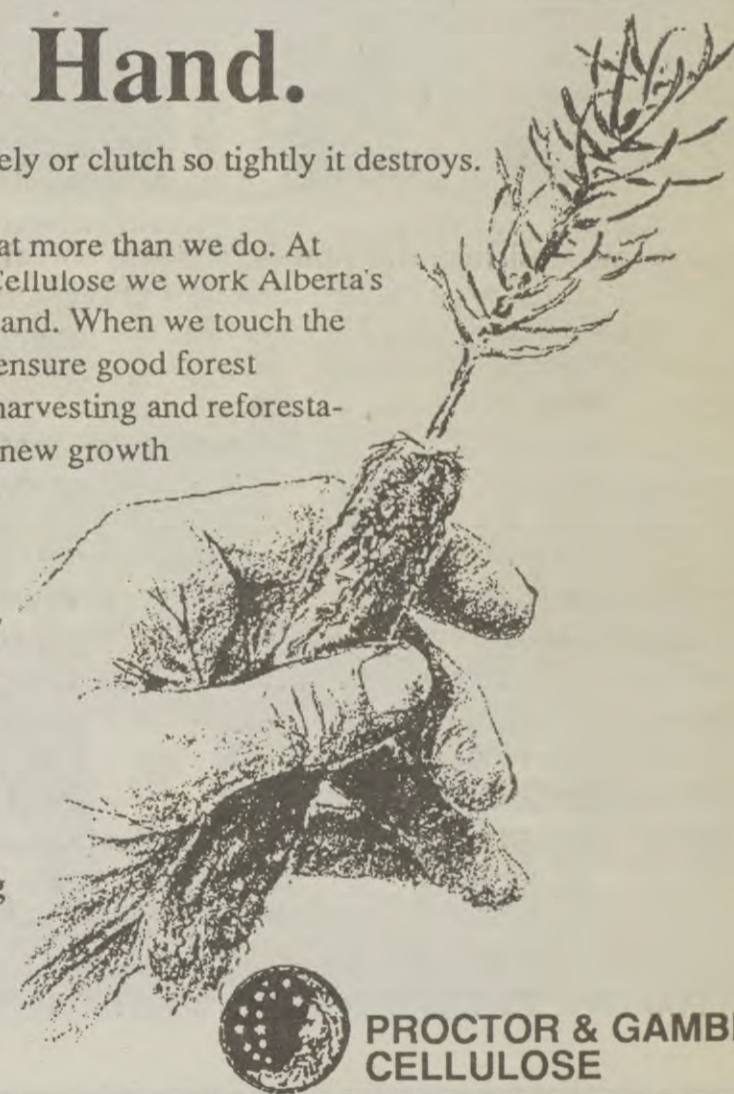
Lorna Born With A Tooth reads a statement prepared by Milton

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The Council consists of ten members and is chaired by Bob Elliott, MLA for Grande Prairie.

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Advertising Feature

Sunrider products assist healing power

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

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Sunrider opened its first Canadian branch in 1983 and has since expanded throughout the world. "There are no other herbal food products on the

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Other products include white willow bark, Siberian Ginseng root and Dandelion root, each designed to address the five

main areas of health concerns, namely circulation and the endocrine, digestive, respiratory and immune systems.

But Head says Sunrider is more than just great products. "The corporation also has a unique marketing plan which

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Head often works in association with Bear Woman and Associates, an Edmonton-based counselling service. "Bear Woman works to improve people's spiri-

tual, emotional and mental capacities through workshops. Sunrider can complete the healing through good health, making for a truly holistic treatment," she says.

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! Every year, 3 out of 10 Canadian students drop out before finishing high school... And they realize all too soon that it isn't as easy as they thought.

The fact is, over the next few years, the majority of new jobs will require a high school education as a minimum.

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When 30% drop out...over 100,000 students a year...it affects everyone - parents, educators, employers, Canadian society as a whole.

Making sure that young

people stay in school is important for all of us...and more important today than ever before.

**Dropping
out is no
way out.**

Let's do something about it.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Minister of State
for Youth

Ministre d'État
à la Jeunesse

Canada

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan teams dominate SIFC Cup

By Bruce Spence
Windspeaker Correspondent

REGINA

The Pasqua Selects prevailed over tremendous odds to hammer out a victory in the second annual Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC) Cup. They erased a three goal, third-period deficit to upset the home town SIFC Chiefs 6-4 in front of 2,500 fans.

Pasqua played four games on the final day of the round-robin tournament at the Agridome on the March 16 weekend, defeating Hobbema Oilers 5-2 and losing 4-3 in overtime to SIFC before sneaking up on the Regina Selects in the third period of the semi-final, toppling them 6-5.

Pasqua looked weary in the early going against SIFC and was lucky to come out of the opening period with the score tied at 1-1. But the Chiefs failed to pounce on the Selects, barely managing to eke out a 3-1 advantage by the end of two periods. Just two minutes into the final frame SIFC's Joey Sayer

tapped in his own rebound to make it 4-1 but that was all the offence the Chiefs could muster.

The rest of the game belonged to Pasqua. The Selects' Wayne Young made it 4-2 at 6:24. Seven minutes later it was Young again racing in on the left wing and letting go with a hard slapshot that blew right by Chiefs' goaltender Kelvin Billingsly. With 5:34 remaining Brent Pascal, former Regina Pat, evened the score for Pasqua with a demoralizing blast from the slot. Seconds later Pascal moved along the boards feeding centreman Tray Gibson with a pass just over the red line. Gibson saw Young streaking up the right wing, relayed the puck to him and Young put away the eventual game winner.

At 18:34 Dan Young of Pasqua was called for cross-checking and the Chiefs threw caution to the wind, pulling Billingsly with 48 seconds remaining. But any Chiefs' hopes of overtime were dashed when Pascal salted it away, unassisted, into an empty net with 11 seconds left on the clock.

"I had three injured players and had to juggle the lines," said



The Pasqua Selects

Selects Coach Lindsay Pasqua, "but I just kept working on them, hyping them up, telling them not to give up. I told our snipers to do their work and start coughing up some goals."

Chief's Coach Jon Ormerod

had no excuses for his team saying Pasqua deserved full marks for their win. "We outplayed them the whole game. We quit playing for three minutes, make three mistakes and they pump in three goals. That's the story of

the game."

The Selects pocketed \$4,000, jackets and the SIFC Cup for their efforts while the Chiefs won \$2,000, the Regina Selects \$1,500 and the Hobbema Oilers \$1,000.

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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

"Easter is a time to be closer to the Great Spirit for he died for our sins."

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From Chief Caroline Beaverbones, Council and Band Members

O'CHIESE BAND

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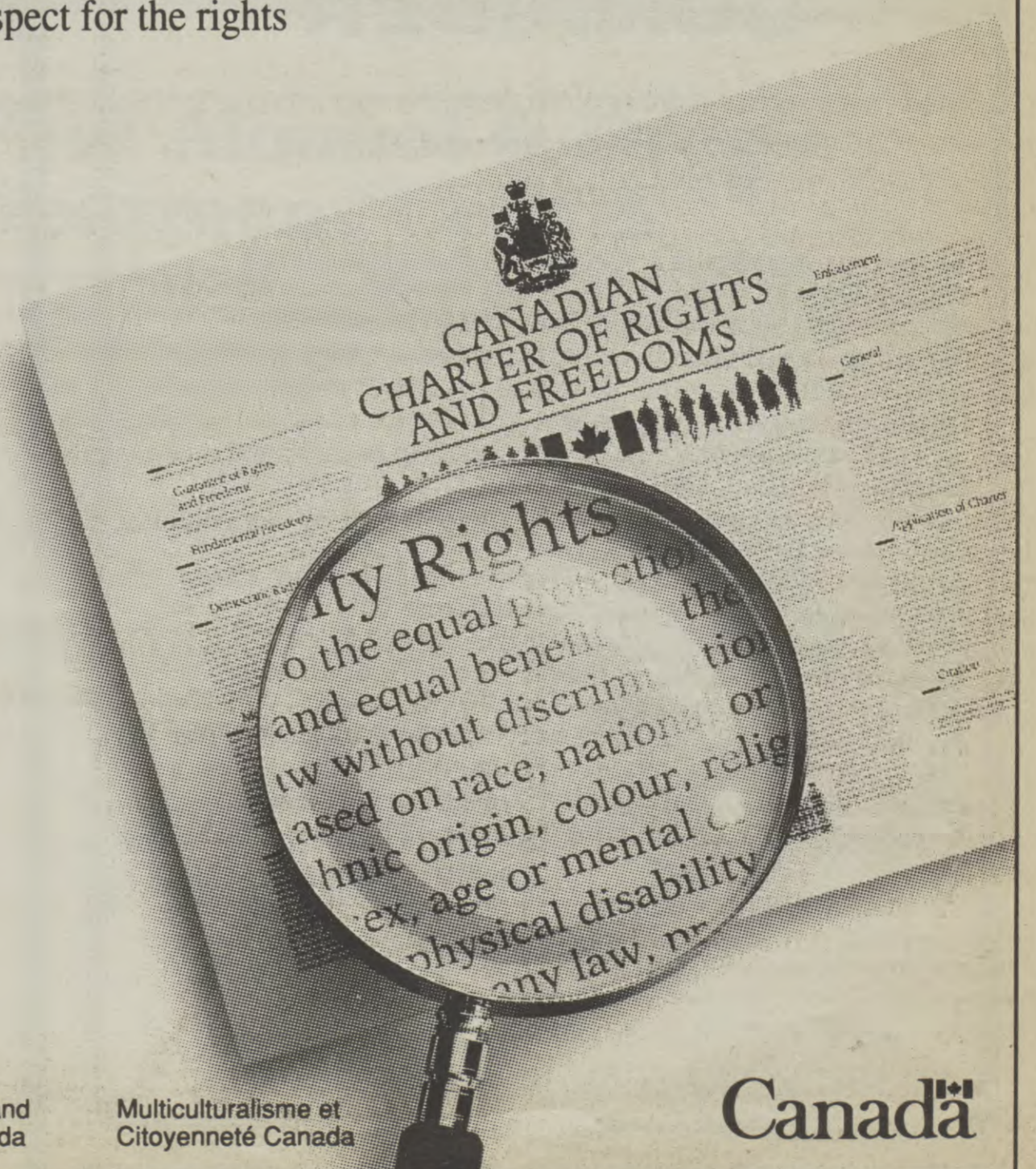
Let's bring these words to life

Our Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees equal rights for Canadians of all origins and beliefs.

But it is up to us to give meaning to these words... to renew the commitment to equality and mutual respect for all Canadians in our everyday lives... in our homes, schools and places of work.

When we reach out to our fellow Canadians, each one of us helps ensure respect for the rights we all share.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Multiculturalism and
Citizenship Canada

Multiculturalisme et
Citoyenneté Canada

Canada

Careers

Program gave single mother a second chance

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Loretta Callioux was still in high school when she discovered she was about to become a mother. "I had to drop out of school, I didn't have any choice," she says.

After her baby was born, she spent a lot of time thinking about the future for herself and her son Justin. "It didn't look bright. Without a high school diploma, you can't pursue much of a career," she says.

Callioux desperately wanted to support herself and her child without any assistance, but couldn't find a suitable program which would allow her as a single mom to complete her schooling and proceed to employment training. "Then I heard about Sacred Trails, operated by Alberta Vocational College."

Callioux fit within the target group of the program, which was started for disadvantaged youth in 1989 by the Native services department of Alberta Family and Social Services. These young people were receiving unemployment insurance, had been out of school for one year, were referred by the solicitor general's department or were otherwise receiving government assistance.

An advisory committee for the Sacred Trails program was formed which included Cree elder Dr. Anne Anderson and representatives from the office of the solicitor general, the secretary of state, Edmonton's young offenders centre and family and social services.

"Originally the program was set up to give Native youth a chance to enhance their knowledge of the trails Indian people used in historic times, but it wasn't long before the program developed with an emphasis on education, integration and cross-cultural issues, with the trails as part of an important historical research," explains Connie Leonard of Native services. Recruitment was based on the individual's willingness to take steps to realize their vision for independence, she says.

"The cultural component unites the youth with elders and spiritual leaders from a number of cultures," she says. And it is important for youth in the program to learn about their own culture values and attitudes, which include mutual respect, sharing and resourcefulness.

As for education, participants are required to take formal upgrading and job-readiness training.

"Above all we want the young people to contribute back to the society which is helping them achieve their goals," says Leonard. As a result the youth have willingly volunteered their services at places like neighborhood police foot patrol offices, the Boyle-McCauley inner city centre, the Mother Earth Healing Society, the food bank and the Panther Gym.

And all the young people have part-time positions, she says.

"All their hours of volunteering are impressive. An example is Donyvon Horse who has 425 hours to his credit," says Leonard.

Callioux joined the program in October. "My first priority is to finish Grade 12. I should be able to do that by June," she says.

She enjoys the cultural activities — like the burning every

morning of sweetgrass — which are held in addition to math, social studies, science and other academic subjects.

Callioux says she will always be grateful she was part of the Sacred Trails program. "It is giving me a strong feeling of my

Indian heritage, incorporating Cree and courses from a Native perspective into our everyday life."

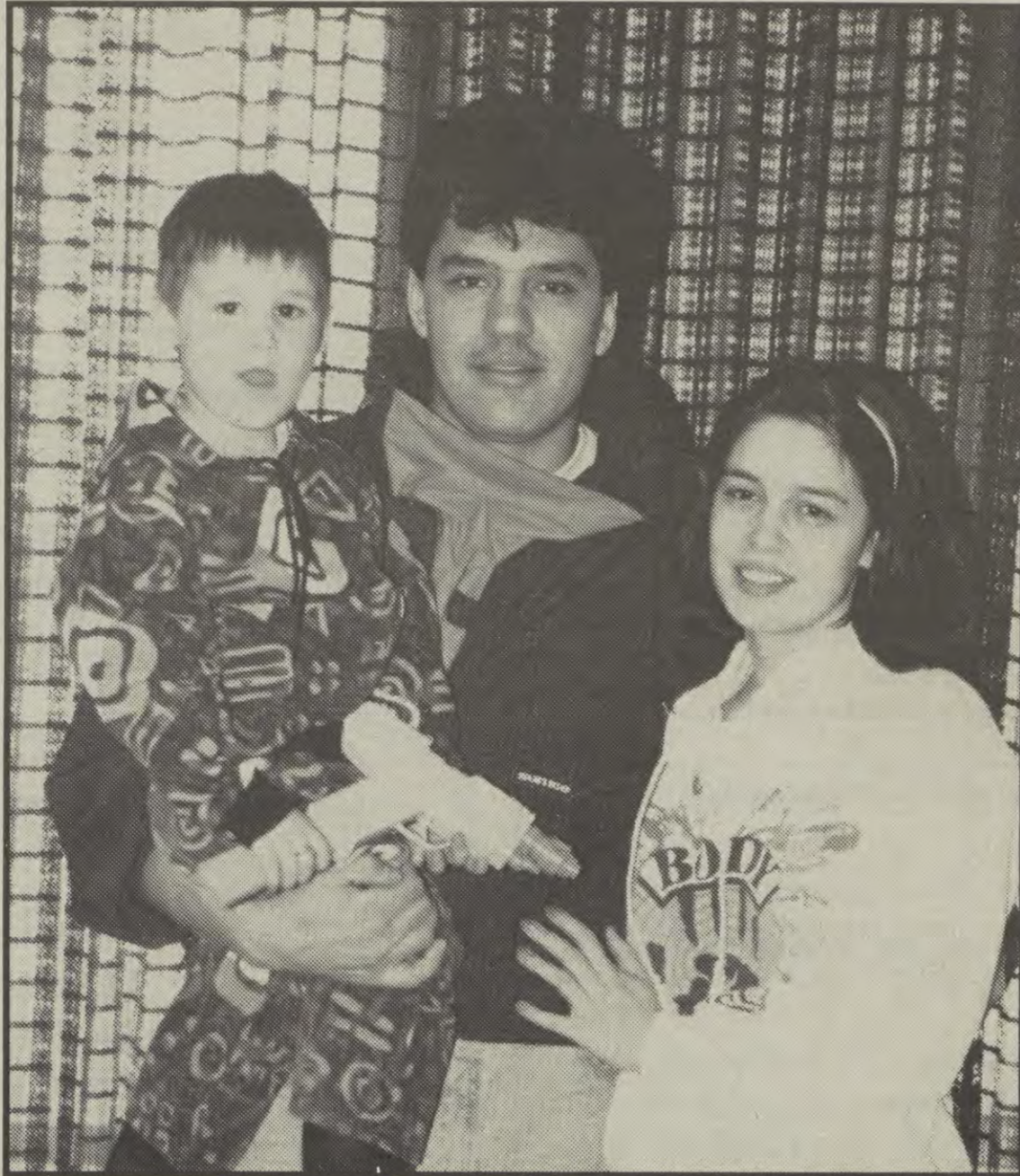
The former Fishing Lake resident says she wasn't exposed much to her culture as a youngster growing up. "Now I'm find-

ing more confidence and identity through the Native awareness," she says.

Callioux says she will be glad when she has completed her time with Sacred Trails and is on to the next stage of her career, which will probably include

training at Grant MacEwan Community College. However, she hopes to keep in touch with others in the class.

"We have become really close, sharing each other's problems and helping in solving them. We have become lifelong friends."



Heather Andrews

Loretta Callioux with Mel Gladue and son Justin, 3, her two biggest fans

Did you know...Windspeaker is distributed all over North America?

Consider Your Career Opportunities in CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Lethbridge Community College has introduced a new career program designed to meet the increasing demand for Native criminal justice officers.

This two-year certificate program combines academic upgrading with regular coursework toward a certificate in Corrections or Law Enforcement. Graduates of the program will find employment with a variety of criminal justice agencies, or they may continue their education toward a Criminal Justice diploma.

Applications are now being accepted for September admission. For more information about your career opportunities in Criminal, contact Ian Hefner, Instructor and Academic Advisor, at 329-7229.

LETHBRIDGE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Social Work Program Slave Lake Campus August 1991 to April 1993

The Alberta Vocational College - Lesser Slave Lake is now accepting applications for the SOCIAL WORK program to be held at the Slave Lake Campus beginning August 19, 1991. The 2-year diploma program is brokered through Red Deer College.

The program emphasizes knowledge, skills and attitudes that are required for employment in social services positions. Social workers with the 2-year Social Work diploma can expect career opportunities in both public and private social services agencies. Graduates of the 2-year diploma program may be admitted to the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work on a competitive basis and may complete a Bachelor of Social Work degree in approximately two years.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must be at least 19 years of age. All applicants are tested for written language skills and reading comprehension. Selection into the program is based on previous academic work, a personal interview, related work and/or volunteer experience and personal, academic and work references.

Deadline for application: April 26, 1991. Late applications will be considered if space is available.

Accepted students must attend a Student Orientation Session on May 14, 1991.

For more information and/or registration, please contact:

Sylvia Pratt or Juan Cereno, Social Work Program
Phone: 849-7179 or 849-7176
or
Student Services
AVC Lesser Slave Lake
Slave Lake Campus
P.O. Box 1280, Slave Lake, AB
T0G 2A0

Phone: 849-7140



Practical Nurse Program (formerly Nursing Assistant Program) September, 1991 Grouard Campus

The Alberta Vocational College - Lesser Slave Lake is currently accepting applications for the 38-week Practical Nurse program scheduled to begin in the fall of 1991. The program follows a competency-based curriculum consisting of lectures, laboratory training, 14 weeks of clinical training and a 4-week practicum.

Graduates may find employment opportunities in active-treatment and extended-care hospitals, nursing homes, public health agencies, clinics and private homes.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a Grade 12 academic standing or GED. Selection into the program is based on an entrance test and a personal interview. First Aid and CPR certification would be an asset.

Deadline for application: April 30, 1991

For more information, and or registration, please contact:

The Registrar or
Pam Hawley, Practical Nurse Instructor
AVC - Lesser Slave Lake
Grouard Campus
Grouard, AB
Phone: 751-3915

Financial assistance, accommodation and day care facilities may be available. Inquire when applying.



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YOUR CAREER SECTION

To advertise in this section, call Sharon (Alberta & British Columbia) or Cliff (Saskatchewan & Manitoba) at (403)455-2700 or fax us at (403)455-7639

The deadline for the April 12th issue is Friday, April 5th at 4:00 p.m.

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 - have an understanding of community agencies and the services they render
 - have a minimum of Grade 10 education or compensating experience in the addictions field
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Resumes are being accepted until the deadline date of April 15, 1991. For any inquiries, please contact:

Phyllis Collins
Executive Director
Bonnyville Indian Metis Rehabilitation Centre
Box 8148
Bonnyville, Alberta T9N 2J4
Phone: (403)826-3328



Canadian Native Arts Foundation

Fondation canadienne des arts autochtones

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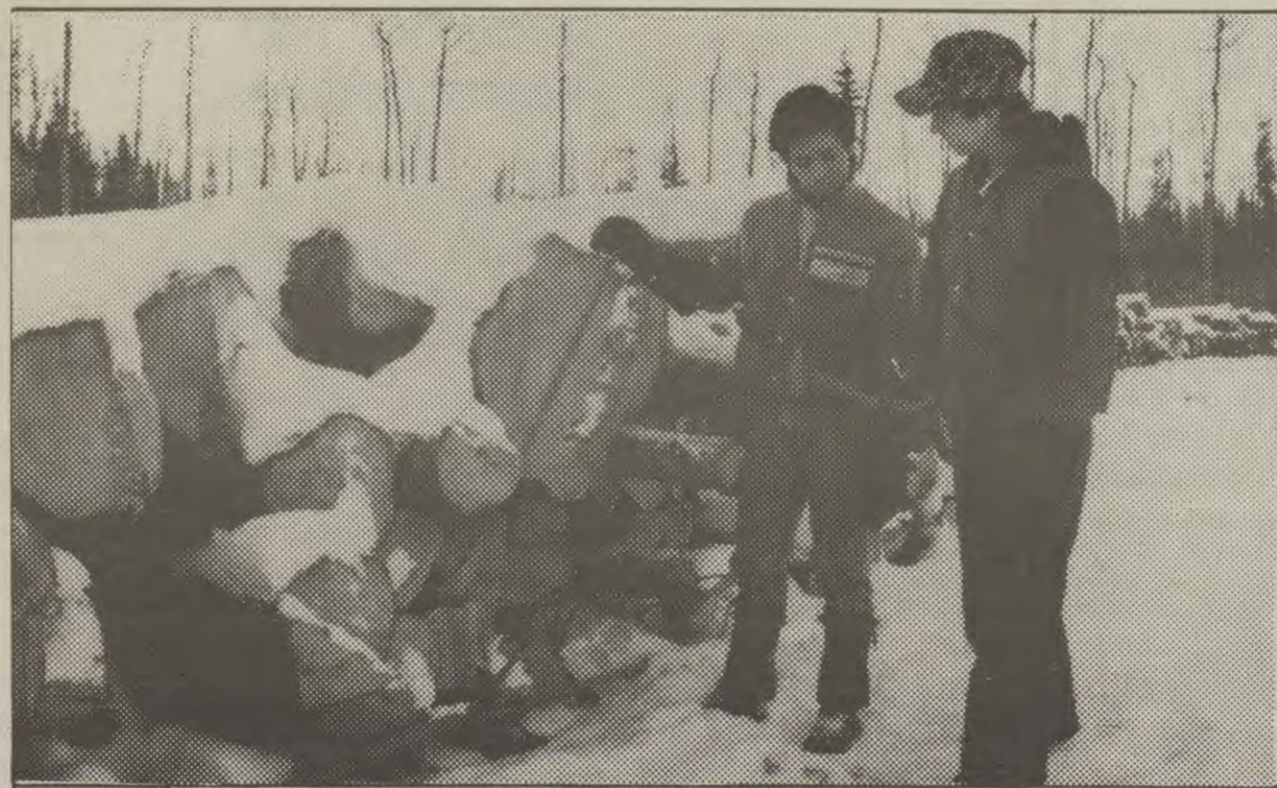
- for private instruction;
- to attend special seminars and educational events;
- for tuition and related expenses.

DEADLINES: APRIL 15 - OCTOBER 15
Call, fax or write today for your application.

Mr. Curtis Jonnie
Director of Education
Canadian Native Arts Foundation
99 Atlantic Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6K 3J8

Phone: (416)588-3328 Fax: (416)588-9198

Employment prospects for skilled forestry and survey technicians are excellent . . .



FORESTRY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

The 32-week Forestry Technician program provides instruction and experience in the procedures and principles of the forestry industry. Successful completion of the program prepares graduates for a number of entry level positions with the Alberta Forest Service and the forest industry. Job opportunities could include tower person, initial attack and helitack crew member, member of silviculture and timber management crews and positions with logging operations.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must be at least 17 years of age, have a Grade 10 academic standing, attend a personal interview and write an academic skills test. Applicants not meeting the academic requirement, may be accepted based on the personal interview and academic skills test.



SURVEY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

The 35-week Survey Technician program provides training in surveying procedures and equipment usage. Practical field exercises and classroom instruction provide students with specific job-related skills. Employment prospects for Survey Technicians are excellent, with positions available with government agencies and private sector companies.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must be at least 17 years of age, have a Grade 11 academic standing, attend a personal interview and write an academic skills test. Applicants not meeting the academic requirements may be accepted based on the academic skills test and personal interview.

For more information, and/or registration, please contact:

Careers Department or
The Registrar,
Alberta Vocational College - Lesser Slave Lake
Grouard Campus, Grouard, AB T0G 1C0
Phone: (403) 751-3915

Applications are now being accepted for the Forestry Technician and Survey Technician programs scheduled to begin **September 3, 1991** at the **Grouard Campus**. Apply now!



Careers

Needs Assessment Early Childhood Education Programs Scheduled to begin in the fall of 1991

The Alberta Vocational College - Lesser Slave Lake is conducting a needs assessment to determine the possibility of offering a 1-year Early Childhood Education Certificate program in the fall of 1991.

If you are interested in working with small children, a Certificate in Early Childhood Education would provide you with more employment opportunities in day cares, day homes, playschools and kindergartens. In addition, by the year 1995, the Department of Social Services will require 1 out of every 4 staff in day cares to have a 1-year Certificate in Early Childhood Education.

Entrance Requirements: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have sufficient reading and writing skills to meet program requirements. Grade 12 English would be an asset. Applicants must write an academic skills test and attend a personal interview.

If you are interested in attending a full-time or part-time program at either the Grouard, Slave Lake, Wabasca, McLennan or Valleyview campus, or if you are interested in a distance education program delivered in your community, please contact:

Elaine Williams
Alberta Vocational College - Lesser Slave Lake
Slave Lake Campus
P.O. Box 1280, Slave Lake, AB
T0G 2A0
Phone: 849-7372 (collect calls accepted)

Please respond by **April 18, 1991**.
Note: Program interest does not guarantee program delivery.



WE DELIVER TO A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR NATIVE MARKET.

Aboriginal people are taking increasing control of their own affairs as they move towards self-government, develop their own organizations and expand their economic activity. This development in the Aboriginal community means millions of dollars in spending each year, a market that is waiting to be tapped.

Windspeaker is your key to tapping that market. *Windspeaker* is Canada's largest bi-weekly Aboriginal newspaper, serving the Indian bands, Metis Settlements, government offices and friendship centres in Alberta, Saskatchewan and beyond.

Windspeaker covers the news and issues that

have an impact on Aboriginal people and interprets them from an Aboriginal perspective. *Windspeaker* also provides a forum for elders, leaders and grassroots people to express their views through opinion pieces and letters to the editor.

Windspeaker has a rich tradition of excellence and continues to dominate the Native American Journalists Association annual awards competitions each year, winning awards for excellence in news reporting, feature stories, photography, editorial writing and typography and design.

Windspeaker's effectiveness as a medium for communications with Native people makes it an ideal vehicle for advertising.

To obtain more information or to place your ad call or write:

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DIRECTOR OF POST SECONDARY STUDENT SERVICES

Old Sun Community College is a dynamic Native institute serving the educational needs of both Native and non-Native populations alike for the last twenty years. Located on Siksika Nation, the college is 100 km. east of Calgary on the Trans Canada Highway.

As a result of the take-over of the post secondary students support services program, the college is seeking the services of a post secondary director with administrative experience. Reporting to the Old Sun Post Secondary Committee, the ideal candidate will have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in education, counselling or social work. Salary up to \$40,000 annually plus benefits.

Duties will include designing and implementing the post secondary guidelines, rules, regulations and procedures and overseeing two or three other staff members to better serve Siksika post secondary students.

The candidate, a team player, must be a self starter with excellent communication and interpersonal attributes. Ability to understand and speak the Blackfoot language will be a definite asset.

Please submit resume with references to:

Chairperson
Old Sun Board of Governors
Old Sun Community College
P.O. Box 339
Gleichen, Alberta
T0J 1N0

Phone: (403)264-9658 (Calgary Direct)
(403)734-3862 (Gleichen)

Fax: (403)734-5100
Attn: Old Sun Community College

Closing Date: April 8, 1991



Miyo Wahkohtowin Community School Board Hobbema, Alberta

This Community Control School Authority is inviting applications from highly motivated educators. These positions will provide the educational team of this newly formed Community Controlled School Authority (formerly run by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada) and assuming of administrative control of the Kindergarten thru Grade 12 programs for September, 1991. The three school buildings serve approximately 1000 students with a projected staff of 105, with the challenge of plans for continued growth.

Applications are invited from individuals with:

- a total commitment to children and the quality of their education

- the ability to perform all educational
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- University degree in a related area

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Sports

Stonewalker backed up his words with punches

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Canadian light heavyweight champion Danny Stonewalker was certain his opponent wouldn't make it to the third round of their scheduled 12-round bout at Edmonton's Northlands Agricom March 9.

Stonewalker entered the arena wearing his chieftain head-dress while a group of Native drummers filled the Agricom with war cries.

"Dave Fiddler will go down early and Scotty Olsen should end his fight quick. I'll put Terry (Jessmer) away in the first or second round because I have to be at Bailey's by nine tonight," the confident Stonewalker said with a wink in his dressing room prior to the fights.

Jessmer, who came into the fight with 16 losses and a record 38 wins, made it clear to the media he didn't come for the money or to lose "but to win."

"Everybody thinks different but I want this fight like any fighter would," he said.

In the first round Jessmer tried to match punches with Stonewalker but the champ landed a flurry of punches and a hard left wobbled Jessmer before the end of the round.

Stonewalker lived up to his prediction to take out Jessmer in the second when he knocked the Winnipeg Metis fighter to the canvas three times before referee Del Smart stopped the fight.

Stonewalker won a TKO over Jessmer bringing his professional record to 17-6-1 with 11 KOs.

He said his next fight in defence of his crown will probably be about mid-April.

In other fights flyweight champ Scotty Olsen lived up to his nickname "Bulldog," knocking out Louis Rubio of Mexico in the seventh round of his exhibition 10-round fight.

The Edmonton-born fighter stopped Rubio at the 1:03 mark

in front of about 1,500 fans. Olsen recorded his 11th consecutive KO and improved his record to 13-0.

Edmonton lightweight champ Harpal Talhan can credit his unanimous decision over Toronto boxer Ed Simmons to his aggressiveness. However, when the decision was announced fans booed Talhan's victory — so did Simmons.

Simmons did look like the better fighter but Talhan's constant offensive style probably saved him from losing his championship belt.

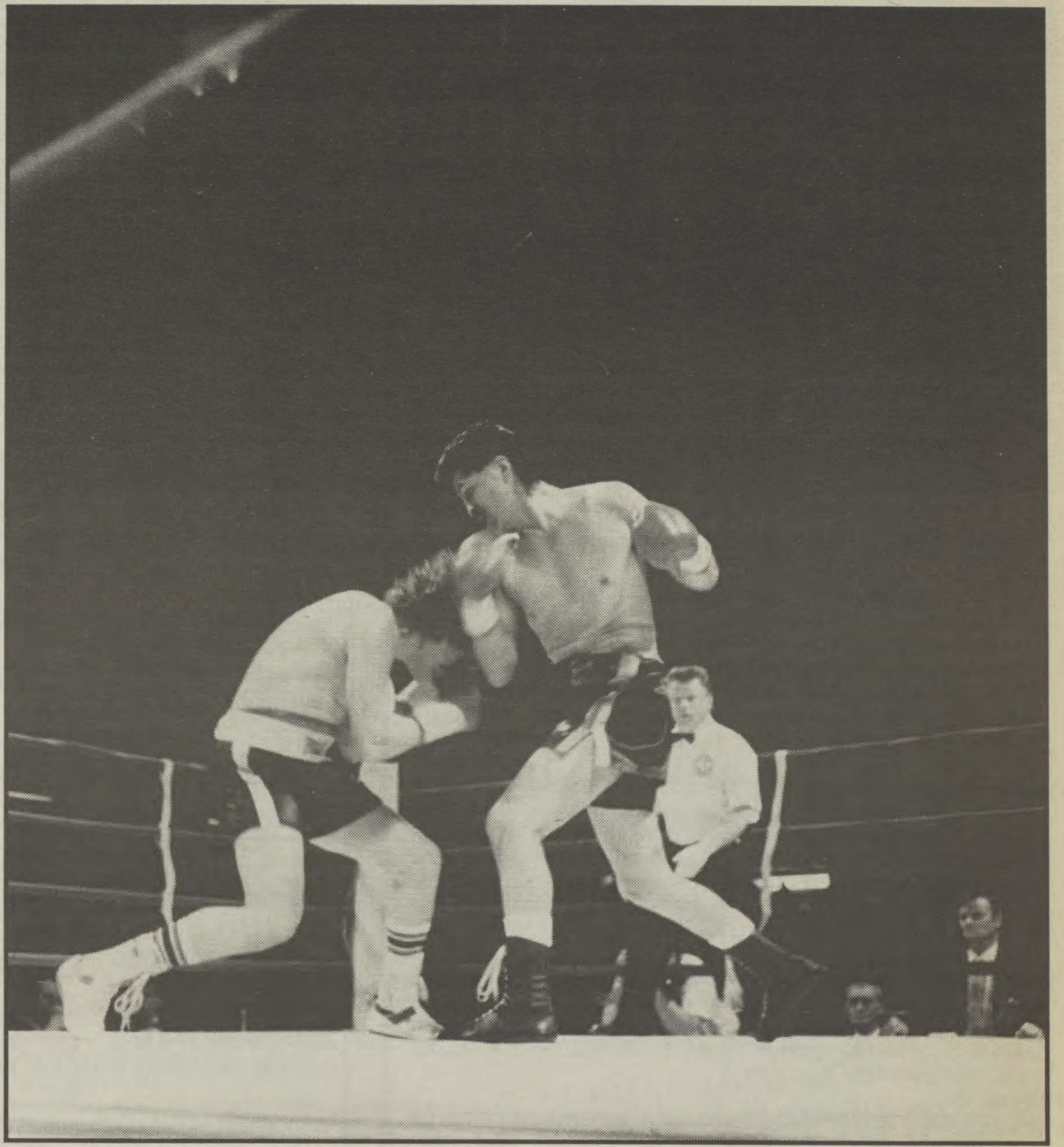
Fiddler received a swollen left eye after being pounded by Las Vegas light heavyweight Sonny Brennan in the fifth round.

Referee Dave Ward stopped the fight after Fiddler went to the canvas from a flurry of punches from Brennan. Brennan lifted his record to 8-1 with the TKO over Fiddler.

And Nanaimo, B.C. heavy-weight Gord Racette used a powerful right to put Salt Lake City heavyweight Rick Kellar to the canvas in the fourth round of their scheduled six-round fight.

Racette is on the comeback trail after a six-year layoff. His TKO over Kellar brings his record to 33-19.

Dubbed "Triple Trouble" the card was sponsored by the Sawridge Hotels and Labatt's.



Rocky Woodward

Danny Stonewalker (right) pounded Terry Jessmer, winning by a TKO in the second round

Tax Tips for your 1990 Return

"Why should I file a tax return if I don't owe anything?"

Revenue Canada doesn't just collect taxes, it also delivers federal and provincial credits you could benefit from, including the goods and services tax credit, the child tax credit, and this year, for the last time, the federal sales tax credit. But if you don't file a tax return because you don't owe any taxes, you could miss out.

Is tax filing easier this year?

Revenue Canada has introduced new measures to simplify the tax filing process. The guides use clearer, plainer language, the Special return has been trimmed down and there are two new "no calculation" returns. The one-page, gold 65 Plus return is for seniors with income from pensions or interest. The white Short return is for people, like students, with simpler tax situations. If you choose one of the "no calculation" returns, we'll do all the calculations, including any federal or provincial credits you may be eligible for.

Got some tips?

First, look in the Guide that comes in your tax package. It gives you step-by-step instructions and helpful tax tips. Read the explanations for the lines that apply to you, and ignore those that don't. If your income situation hasn't changed much from last year, you can use last year's return as a reference.

What if I have questions?

If you can't find the answers in the Guide, you can call the people at Revenue Canada. The best times to get through

are before 10:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. From February 25 through April 30, Revenue Canada's phone hours are extended to 8:00 p.m., Monday to Thursday. There's also an automated phone service called T.I.P.S., for answers to common questions. For a complete list of services and phone numbers in your region, see your Guide.

What other services are available?

You can visit Seasonal Tax Assistance Centres in convenient locations, like shopping malls, for information, guides and forms. See your local newspaper for times and locations. There's also a video called "Stepping Through Your Tax Return" that you can borrow from public libraries or your district taxation office.

Anything I should watch for?

Make sure all the personal information printed on your return is correct, especially your address. Before you start, make sure you have all your receipts and information slips. Check your calculations, and attach all the information that's asked for in the return. These steps will help avoid delays in getting your refund.

If I move, will I still get my cheque?

If you're moving, call or write Revenue Canada with your new address, so we can make sure your cheque gets to you. If you have more questions, talk to the people at Revenue Canada Taxation. They're People with Answers.

To advertise in the Alberta & BC areas call Sharon Barbeau at 455-2700

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP TO:

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Take notice that on the 10th day of April at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will take place in Wetaskiwin Family Court. A Director under the Child Welfare Act, will make an application for permanent guardianship of your children, born on April 18, 1989, June 27, 1982, February 9, 1988. You are requested to be present at the hearing. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. An Order may be made in your absence, and you have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact: Shonda Kiester
Alberta Family and Social Services, (city): Wetaskiwin
Telephone: (403)352-1297

PEOPLE WITH ANSWERS



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Cold Lake First Nation

LeGoff school recognized for excellence

By Diane Parenteau
Windspeaker Correspondent

COLD LAKE FIRST NATION,
ALTA.

The hearts of students and staff at Cold Lake's LeGoff School are bursting with pride.

The school is the first in Alberta to meet or exceed standards set by the province for a federally-operated school.

On March 22 five staff at the school were given 1990-91 Deputy Minister Outstanding Achievement Awards because students at LeGoff met or exceeded standards set by the province in the 1988-89 school year. The province conducts achievement tests annually for students in Grades 3 and 6.

In the Grade 3 math test, all LeGoff students achieved the level of excellence. In social studies only two of the 177 students tested in federal schools reached the level of excellence. Both were from LeGoff.

The recipients were presented with pins and certificates. They were principal Joe Redillas and teachers Maryann Bushore, Pushpa Narayan, Michelle Penner and Elizabeth Weleschuk.

"The award is a formal recognition of the significant contribution of your team to the goals of aboriginal peoples and the department (of Indian affairs)," said deputy minister Harry

Swain.

"This achievement reflects positively on all concerned, students, staff and the community, particularly the chief and council of Cold Lake First Nation," he said.

Redillas, who has been at the school for 16 years, said "We work for quality education and everyone is aspiring to that. There is no time to waste in the classroom."

Garry Wouters, regional director general for Indian Affairs (Alberta region), said "This is one of the first times the award has been given to a group of teachers."

Wouters commended the students, teachers and parents for their support for education.

"The success of the program rests with the children, teachers and parents," he said.

The department also presented certificates to teacher aides Mary Florence Janvier, John Janvier, Julie Machatis and Veronica Piche.

Students were given an historical atlas for their hard work and scholastic achievements.

A plaque was presented to Chief Baptiste Blackman and the councillors.

Jim Baylis, acting manager of federal schools, pinned the school's success on "a harmonious working relationship between chief and council, parents and kids. Compared to other schools they've done extremely

well in spite of being a small school with combined grades."

The school has about 80 students in kindergarten to Grade 9. The award is open to all band

and federally-run schools across Canada. It's presented annually to Indian Affairs staff, who have made exceptional contributions to the goals of the department,

Native people and northerners.

LeGoff is one of the few remaining federally-run schools. Next fall it will be one of only four in the province.



Some of LeGoff's proud students

Diane Parenteau

Spring-like weather welcomes winter fest

By Diane Parenteau
Windspeaker Correspondent

COLD LAKE FIRST NATION,
ALTA.

Family and community participation was the focus of the

annual Winter Fest Carnival held in mid-March at Cold Lake First Nation.

Teamed up with spring-like weather and enthusiastic participation, the three-day day carnival held March 15-17 featured two evening dances, a

bingo, a fancy horse parade with driving competition, a Sunday afternoon talent show and hand game and crib tournaments.

"Last year we had individual competitions in the various events," said winter fest coordinator Rick Janvier, a member of the recreation committee. "This year we're trying to get family participation. I always try to stress that."

The Chief and Council Challenge Cup competition was designed to get surrounding communities involved as well.

The hand game and crib tournaments were hosted in the band's recently completed multipurpose centre, which was designed for small group meetings and local functions.

A driving competition was added this year to the fancy horse parade. It was held in the chuckwagon and chariot race track facility built last year. Drivers and teams had to drive through an obstacle course that tested agility, ability and accuracy. Each of the 16 entries had to stop and start, fan and back up to a makeshift dock and make a figure eight.

Cold Lake recreation director Allan Jackknife said the obstacle course was "something new. It's never been tried around this area before."

Based on the 100-point marking system, the teams belonging to Bob Hyburg, Bruce Saint and Celestine Grandbois finished first (\$300), second (\$200) and third (\$100) respectively. They all received trophies.

In a separate fancy harness competition offering equal prize money and trophies, first was awarded to Art Bowers, second went to Hyburg and third went to Saint.

Teams gathered at the community complex for the six-team member timed events which, again based on a point system,

saw adults and children participate in snowshoe, potato sack and egg races, log sawing, tug-of-war and tea making.

As in previous years the Sunday afternoon talent show was a big attraction both locally and with surrounding communities. Usually held over two days, it was downscaled to allow everyone a chance to participate in other events. Emceed by August Collins, vocal, instrumental, dance and novelty competi-

tions like moose calling and laughing attracted many entries and many more music lovers who came to watch and listen.

Band Councillor Bernice Martial, who is involved with both the recreation committee and the winterfest committee, commended coordinators and volunteers for a job well done.

Efforts will now be concentrated on the chuck wagon and chariot races Cold Lake will be hosting in May.

Winterfest Results

HAND GAMES

A side: 1st - Lawrence Desjarlais team, 2nd - Moise Paul team.
B side: 1st - Walter Desjarlais team, 2nd - Charlie Quinney team

CRIB TOURNAMENT

Doubles: 1st - Allan Jacob, Lorraine Loth, 2nd - Beverly Scanie, Lena Blackman 3rd - Solomon Scanie, Glen Waskahat. Singles: 1st - Marvin Scanie 2nd - Kevin Scanie 3rd - Allan Jacob

TEAM PARTICIPATION CHALLENGE

1st - Benny Granbois family 2nd - Scanie and Perry family 3rd - recreation team

TALENT SHOW

Male vocals (jr): 1st John Quinney, 2nd Keith Faithful, 3rd Jeronimo Scanie. Male vocals (sr): 1st Archie Collins, 2nd Lloyd Gladue, 3rd Buck Littlewolfe. Female vocals (sr): 1st Tracy Wells, 2nd Bonita Jones, 3rd Mary Wells. Female vocals (jr): 1st Crystal Collins, 2nd Jennifer Lepine, 3rd Crystal Wade. Storytelling: 1st Allan Jackknife, 2nd Francis Scanie, 3rd Melesa Blackman. Fiddling: 1st August Collins, 2nd Kenny Badger. Laughing: 1st Francis Quinney, 2nd Cecile Desjarlais, 3rd Melena Blackman. Duet vocals: 1st Tracy Wells, Joe Cardinal, 2nd Crystal Collins and Jennifer Lepine, 3rd J. Cross and John Quinney. Moose Calling: 1st Buck Littlewolfe, 2nd Charlie Blackman, 3rd Clarence Scanie. Harmonica: 1st Randy (bluesman) Muskego, 2nd Jim Janvier, 3rd Eva Grandbois. Bottlesucking: 1st Tony Janvier, 2nd Jerry Herman Jr., 3rd Miles Desjarlais. Red River jiggling/female under 12: 1st Melena Gadwa, 2nd Joanne Matial, 3rd Maranda John. Red River jiggling/male under 12: 1st Grant Waters, 2nd Derrick Whitford, 3rd Trevor John. Male jiggling (jr.): 1st Jason John, 2nd Tyler John. Female jiggling (jr.): 1st Tracy Wells, 2nd Christine Soloway, 3rd Jolene Waters. Male jiggling (adult): 1st Herman John, 2nd Gabe John. Female jiggling (adult): 1st Pauline Blackman, 2nd Sarah Cardinal. Sr. jiggling demonstration: Mary Wells, Eva Blackman, Pauline Blackman, Jim Janvier.



Diane Parenteau

The egg-race competition

Hobbema

Four Nations hockey final action-packed

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HOBBEMA, ALTA.

A shootout in the semi-final set the stage for an action-packed final in the Four Nations Native senior hockey tournament.

The Hobbema Selects dominated the first period of the semi-final. Their opponents, a tired Saskatchewan Indian Federated College team (SIFC) from Regina, had lost to the hard-hitting Prince George Chiefs in the 12:30 p.m. draw.

Hobbema's Sherman Cutknife gave the Selects a 1-0 lead. But three minutes into the second period, Saskatchewan's Blair Halfe tied it up and the balance of the game was a battle between two equally matched and equally determined teams.

Joey Sayer's goal at the 9:59 mark of the second put SIFC ahead, but the lead lasted less than four minutes when a second goal by Cutknife again tied the match.

And the score remained tied through the five-minute, sudden-death third period. A shootout eventually broke the stalemate when Hobbema's Virgil "Hoss" Jacobs shot past SIFC goalie Brian Wahposyan for the tie breaker.

The Hobbema team retired to the dressing room for a brief break and a change of uniform before challenging the well-rested Prince George players to an action-packed final.

The goaltending was superb on both sides. "Hobbema's Bingo Morin was voted top goalie of the tournament. He really showed his stuff during

that final game," said Peter Johnson, an employee at the Four Nations arena.

The score was tied 2-2 at the midway mark of the second period. Close checking and good goalkeeping, however, allowed the Prince George team to even-

tually take a 4-2 lead and the first place prize for the three-day tournament.

"Our guys had lots of chances, but we just couldn't seem to tie it up," Johnson says. Credit for a good battle goes to the Hobbema players who ensured Prince

George didn't win easily.

Selects coaches Henry Rain and Herman Cutknife were voted top coaches of the tournament.

The Chiefs won \$5,000 and jackets while the Selects had to settle for \$2,500.



Heather Andrews

Hobbema Oilers in action

Oilers fade in SIFC cup

By Bruce Spence
Windspeaker Correspondent

REGINA

Hobbema Oilers looked like they had a shot at taking the SIFC Cup but as the afternoon dragged on at Regina's Agridome and competition grew stiffer, the DOTC Champions faded out of contention.

The Oilers started the March 16-17 round-robin draw early Saturday against Norman Stevenson's Regina Selects, a team bolstered by several members of the notorious Dog Lake Raiders. Hobbema won that match-up but it wouldn't be the last time the two teams met.

Hobbema went against Pasqua Selects the next morning, dropping a 5-2 decision but getting a reprieve by virtue of the round-robin draw which saw them up against Gordons Golden Hawks, the same team they drubbed in Brandon for the DOTC championship. The Oilers continued to dominate the Golden Hawks sending them home after defeating them 4-3 in overtime.

Meanwhile, Regina Dogs-Selects had sent The Pas Natives packing with a 7-4 victory, setting the stage for a rematch between Regina and Hobbema. But Hobbema just didn't have it against the rugged Regina skaters dropping a 6-3 decision and bowing out of contention.

"We choked in some of our games," said Oilers' coach Jonathan Bull. "We were either overconfident, tired or feeling some of our injuries."

Bull said he liked the tournament's format and was surprised by the calibre of the teams. The Oilers' fourth-place finish was worth \$1,000. Bull says the Oilers still have to get through the playoffs of the Chinook Senior League in Alberta before heading off for another all-Indian tournament in Kenora, Ontario where the top team will take home \$12,000.



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Hobbema

High school students embark on U.S. tour

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HOBEBEMA, ALTA.

Thirty-six high school students from the Hobbema area will learn about Native American cultures firsthand in a trip to Arizona, Utah, Idaho, New Mexico and Montana. The Osakyak Native Study Tour, which began March 26, includes students from Ponoka, Wetaskiwin and Falun high schools.

"Participants have been through rigorous selection processes to earn the chance to attend. They had to have almost perfect attendance and academic performance in school and their general attitudes and deportment were taken into account," says Cara Currie, Native liaison

worker at the Ponoka composite high school.

Prospective participants were also required to write a proposal stating why they wanted to go and their future goals.

Funding for the adventure was largely provided by Hobbema's four bands. But the three schools also made generous contributions.

"We had to raise the balance of the money we needed through bingo, a walk-a-thon and a bottle drive," says Currie.

The 13-day carefully-planned trip features visits with various American Indian people. The Shoshone, Mescalero-Apache, Hopi, Havasupai, Navajo and Blackfeet Nations indicated a big welcome awaited the students, says Currie.

For the last few months the students have studied the people

they will be visiting and they planned to continue their study on the bus journey down. "We will also be practising the presentations we have been preparing about our own Plains Cree culture and history," says Currie.

The group has prepared traditional dances and theatrical presentations to perform for their hosts. A large collage of Canadian and Native Indian memorabilia, designed and constructed by the students, will also be displayed at each stop. News clippings from the Oka and Lubicon crises, pictures of RCMP officers, flags, pamphlets and Native

handicrafts are displayed on a large board shaped like the province of Alberta.

"Students will be observing and learning about different tribal cultures and understanding the different ways other tribes have adapted to their environment. They will be discussing politics and controversial but interesting issues with other Indian people," says Currie.

The hosting reservations have planned a great variety of activities including participation in sports events, sightseeing and an eight-mile hike into the Grand Canyon in Arizona where the

Supai Indian reservation is located.

"The whole group, including the eight chaperones, is really excited about the response we received from the American Indian people," says Currie. Several students and chaperones are non-Natives.

"The tour is a truly unique opportunity for the non-Native participants. They will see and learn about Native cultures as active partners in the journey," she says, noting it will be a far more meaningful experience for all participants than any school course in cross-cultural studies.

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Heather Andrews

Named student of the month at Ponoka High School for March, Twylla Soosay is one of the 36 lucky participants touring the United States



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Hobbema holding AIDS-awareness convention

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HOBBEMA, ALTA.

Making people aware AIDS could wipe out their entire community is the goal of a conference to be held in Hobbema next month.

"This is the first time an AIDS prevention and awareness convention has been held on a Canadian Indian reserve and hosted by Indian people," says Wilson Okeymaw, executive director of Hobbema's Nayo-Skan Human Resources treatment centre, one of the event's organizers.

AIDS, an always fatal disease, is passed to people on the reserve by those who have been to the city and have experimented with drugs, he says. "They stand a good chance of acquiring the HIV virus, bringing it home and passing it on to other non-suspecting individuals."

Since the virus can be in incubation for as long as 10 years, it's capable of wiping out an entire community unless residents are tuned in to preventing the spread of the disease.

The April 24-25 conference will feature guest speakers who have had firsthand experience with AIDS. "The mother of Ken Ward, the Enoch Indian man who has the (HIV) virus, will share what she and her family have been through and people from an Edmonton place of refuge, where AIDS patients can go

to die a peaceful death, are just two of the excellent speakers we have coming to address participants," Okeymaw says.

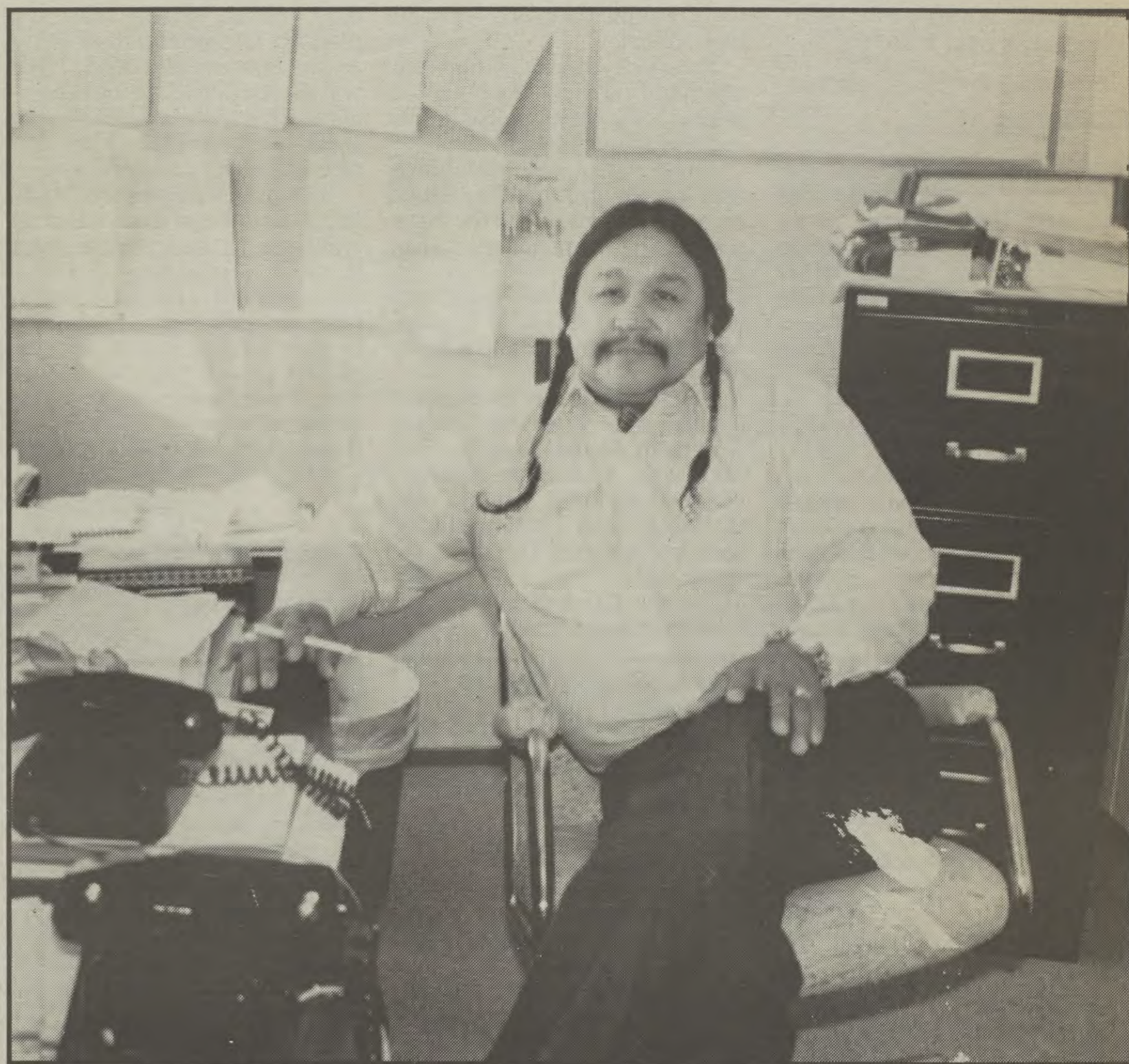
Bernard Ominayak, well-known Indian leader and crusader for the rights of Alberta's Lubicon Lake Nation, will discuss "cherish what is left," the theme of the conference, in terms of AIDS prevention, says Okeymaw. Canadian broadcaster Austin Willis will also attend.

Organizers of the two-day event have invited local elders to participate and the entire community has indicated support of the project. "We have calls everyday from people throughout Alberta. There are literally busloads of observers planning on attending," says Okeymaw.

The chiefs and councils of the four nations at Hobbema have expressed their support, too. Two representatives from each band are on the planning committee, he says.

There is no cost to attend the conference and free breakfasts and lunches will be available. "It's important people are able to come and be alerted to the prevention of AIDS," says Okeymaw.

On a lighter note "entertainment galore" will run alongside the conference sessions at the Panee Agriplex. "A mini tipi village, fashion show, kids' coloring contest, door prizes and dances are among the many fun activities also planned," says Okeymaw.



Wilson Okeymaw

Heather Andrews

Advertising Feature

Louis Bull hosting workshop for youths

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HOBBEMA, ALTA.

A workshop to be held at the Louis Bull recreation centre is intended to help young people bring their concerns to adults.

Hobbema-area young people, who are members of the Oh Pe Ki youth club, will be exchanging ideas with visiting delegates at the April 11-12 conference.

"We expect educators and recreation directors and we hope people with expertise in the health-services profession will attend too," says conference co-ordinator Leona Lafonde.

Don Burnstick and Fred Anderson, two of the presenters, have successfully led workshops in more than 300 Native communities across North America. "The two men are excellent role models for our youth," says Lafonde.

Anderson, a west coast Kwakwilt from British Columbia, and Burnstick, a Cree from Alberta's Alexander reserve, met while receiving treatment at an Armstrong, B.C. drug rehabilitation centre. The longtime friends are proof one can overcome immense obstacles and be survivors, not victims. The men have learned the tools to heal themselves and to pass on their knowledge of recovery to others in similar situations.

Other sessions will be held with wheelchair athlete John Belanger, Linda Simpson of the Alberta Sport Council and the Samson Youth Council. Special guest speaker will be Wayne Babych, who will discuss the important role adults play in providing positive images to youths.

"We also want to develop a network of resources that can be drawn upon as a follow-up," says Lafonde. Delegates will share and exchange ideas for future use at the local level.

"The cost is only \$75, if paid before April 8. That includes all sessions and two lunches," she says.

All young people are urged to attend and participate, says Lafonde. "After all, they are important as our future leaders."

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Workshop Cost:
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Hobbema



Aaron Rattlesnake

Heather Andrews

Ermineskin athlete vying for spot on provincial v-ball team

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HOBBEMA, ALTA.

Aaron Rattlesnake spends at least two hours a day weightlifting and skipping rope. A student at St. Joseph's High School in Wetaskiwin, the 15-year-old is one of six athletes from the

school selected to compete for a spot on Team Alberta, the provincial volleyball team.

An Ermineskin band member, Rattlesnake is also training for a basketball team. "Sports are both fun and challenging and I like the competitiveness," he says.

Coach Tony Martino is impressed with the young athlete's

abilities. "Aaron performed really well against city-level players in recent tournaments."

Rattlesnake is proud of his team's accomplishments. "Recently, we won the West Central Volleyball Tournament and a major tournament at Wainwright.

"Although I've been playing for less than two years, I hope to continue with both volleyball and basketball. I really feel a need to be involved with sports and I may get a chance to win a scholarship to help with my future education, too," he says.

His parents, four sisters and one brother encourage him. "But my mom makes sure I keep up with my schoolwork, too," he says.

Rattlesnake isn't quite sure where his future will take him. "For now I'm concentrating on getting onto Team Alberta, although I may not make it this year as there are a lot of older, more experienced players trying out, too."

In the meantime, he's enjoying the good sportsmanship on the playing court. "Sports teach you how to lead and how to compete," he says.

Asking for help

By Dwayne Desjarlais

FORT MCMURRAY, ALTA

I was never very good at asking for help.

I always thought I could take care of myself

I've been a slave to my addictions and my own slave driver

But throughout it all have remained a survivor

If it was only my physical self I was hurtin'

I suppose I could pass it all off as bad learnin'

Whenever things got bad I would just make them worse

I had the Midas touch but it was all in reverse

The few things I cherished and held so dear

Would become tainted and tarnished whenever I drew near

But I refused to admit my life was a shambles

I thought I could fight my way through the brambles

And somehow I'd make it through the night to morn

To see myself in the mirror all tattered and torn

And again I would swear to the gods I believe in

To let me sober up so I could go on with my livin'

And then just as soon as I'd start feeling good

I'd head right back to my own neighborhood

But again and again I could come home defeated.

Sick, tired and hungry because I hadn't eaten

But now at long last I have come to admit

The powerlessness of the alcohol addict

And realize now I can't quit by myself

So please help me Creator. Please help me. Help.

Easter Greetings
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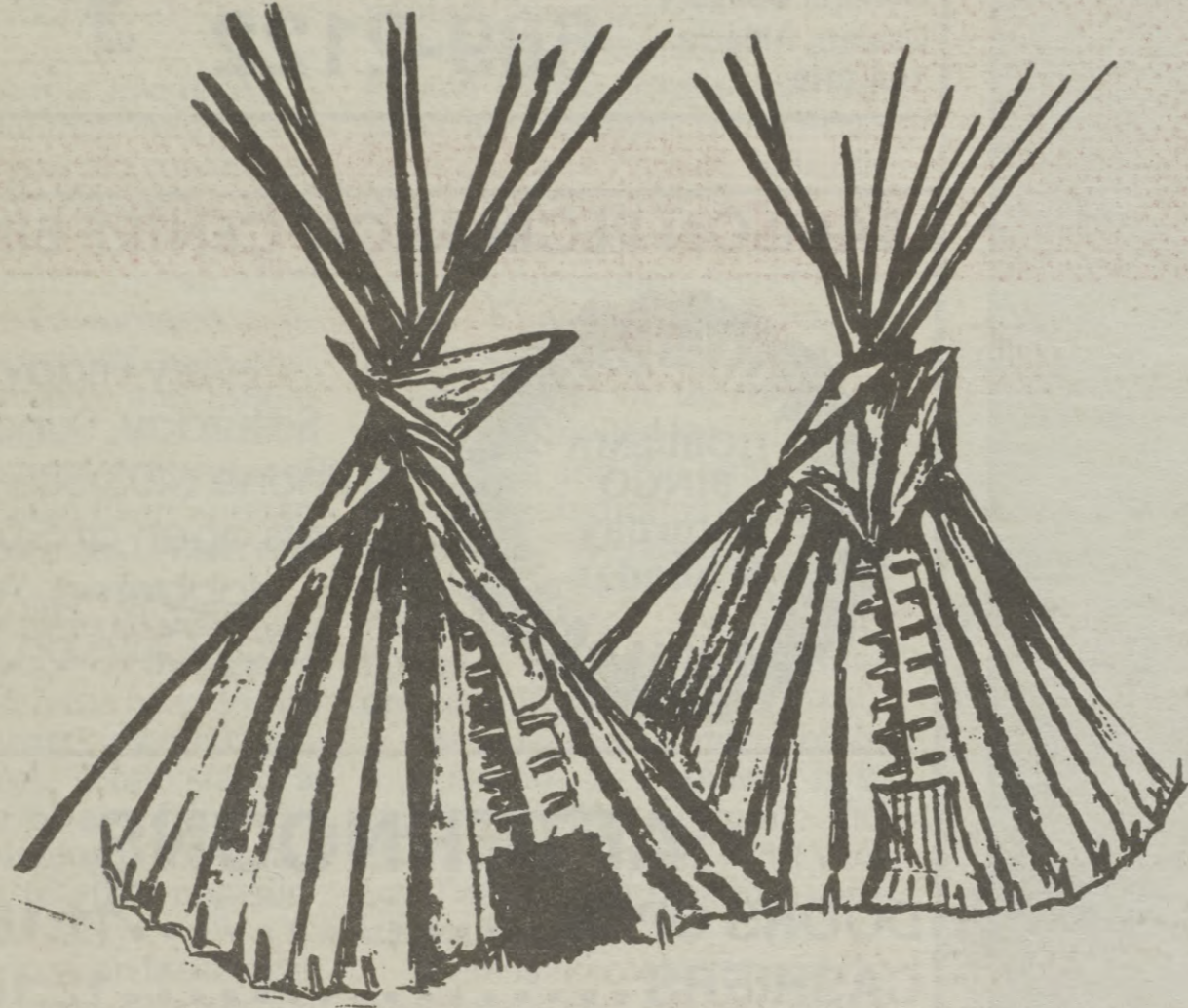
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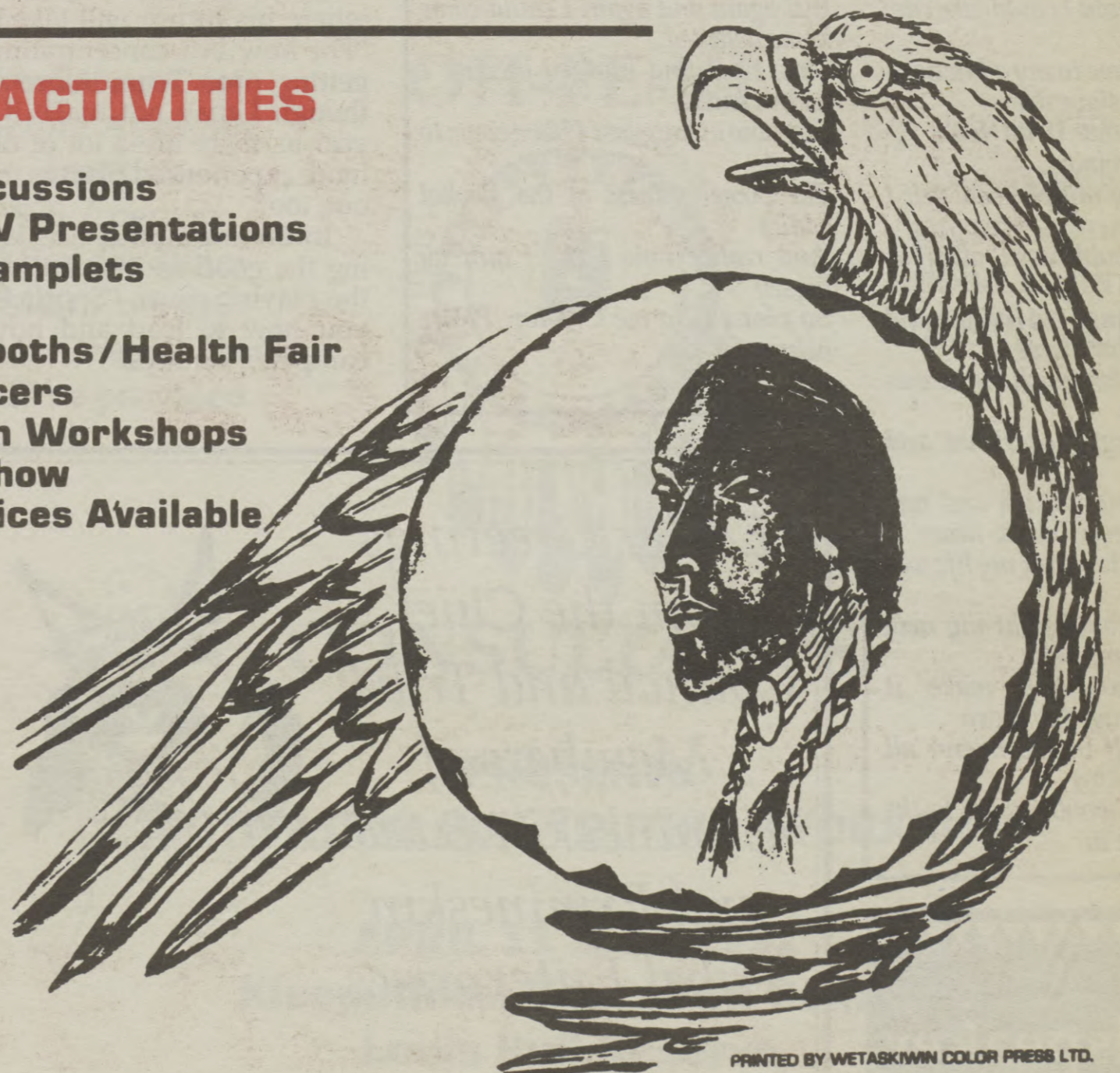
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