

MARCH * 01. N.A.I.A.



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THE FIRST AMERICANS: THEIR PROGRESS AND THEIR PLIGHT
By. James R. Bergfalk



You will forgive me if I tell you that my people were Americans for thousands of years before your people were. The question is not how you can Americanize us but how we can Americanize you. The first thing we want to teach you is that, in the American way of life, each man has respect for his brother's vision.

ANON.

Today, not only are 25 million Americans living in poverty, but the overall national statistics on poverty are pale when compared to the extra burden carried by American Indians, who by most measurements, experience the worst social, educational, health, housing and economic conditions of any group in the nation (e.g. life expectancy is 18 percent less than the national average; suicide is twice the national average; median income is only 60 percent of the national average; and unemployment ranges much higher than the national average).

Likewise, Indians are still too often neglected, too often forgotten, too often an afterthought as national policy is made in Washington. Often, the first Americans have become the most invisible poor.

Regardless of legal responsibilities between the government and Indian tribes, the Department of Health and Human Services has a special responsibility to the vulnerable and needy.

On the reservation, Indians experience poverty, are unemployed, and dependent on welfare at four times the national rate. Of all Indians on the reservation, 25 percent are under 18 and living in poverty, with homicide, suicide, and alcoholism rates far higher than the national average. These conditions result in lives of despair. For the poor child—medically underserved, undernourished, and undereducated—the past and present dictate an all too predictable future. Poor children often become poor adults who have poor children.

These figures come as no surprise to American Indians. They witness the painful consequences of those statistics on and near the reservations every day of their lives. The purpose of the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) is to promote the goal of economic and social self-sufficiency for American Indians, Hawaiian natives, and Alaska natives. To accomplish that purpose, ANA provides grants to Indian tribes and Native American groups for institutional development, focuses on establishing or improving the executive functions of tribal governments, and provides a special Indian advocacy function within the Department and an advisory role to the Secretary.

To accomplish the goal of self-sufficiency, ANA builds and strengthens self-governing institutions, stimulates Native American ownership, creating capital and other means for economic self-sufficiency and maintains a continuum of services at the local level to provide services to the most vulnerable while seeking to provide additional resource commitments by other funding agencies.

Within the Office of Human Development Services there is also the Head Start program. That program has been good for Indian children, just as it has helped millions of others in this country, and was one of the first programs to establish the principle and understand the benefits of direct funding and self-determination and management.

The principle of self-determination has carried over into other Office of Human Development Services programs. For example, on July 18, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued regulations that will allow Indian organizations to apply to the federal government for direct funding of social, nutrition, and multipurpose center services for older Indians. The regulations, effective immediately, implement the "Grants to Indian Tribes" program authorized by Title VI of the Older Americans Act, with \$6 million available now for grants. The Department in the Indian Child Welfare Act also provides to tribes expanded authority and responsibility regarding child welfare. And the Department of Health and Human Services in the proposed welfare reform legislation requested language that would permit the tribes to assume administration of the program if the states were not serving tribes adequately.

cont.....



Looking at health services, the Transfer Act of 1955 shifted Bureau of Indian Affairs health programs to HEW, in what is now the Indian Health Service (IHS). The major goal of IHS then was to provide services to meet acute medical needs and establish physical facilities from which these services could be rendered. As a result of the efforts of this association and and its members recent changes have taken place. In 1975 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act officially empowered Indian people to deal with the federal government on terms they select.

A year later the passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act added other dimensions to the programs carried out by the IHS by giving IHS authority to administer training programs and to provide certain services to urban Indians. The development of Indian manpower was determined critical to Indian people being able to assume management and control of their own health programs.

Other legislation has allowed further expansions. Although about one-third of the Indian people are located in urban areas, federal policy, until recently, placed the urban Indian beyond the jurisdiction of the IHS, and in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Congress established an urban Indian health program in the IHS. During the past 3 years, IHS has funded over 600 projects and 1,000 tribal operations contracts and there have been significant funding increases for management capability, staff training and tribal health activities.

The great paradox of Indian health is that it is both good and bad, depending upon one's perspective. Compared to conditions when IHS took over from BIA in 1955, the reservation Indian's health has improved steadily (and sometimes dramatically) and continues to do so, with a 77 percent reduction in infant mortality, and nearly a 3 fold increase in the numbers receiving IHS services. But compared to the nation as a whole, Indian health is still sub-standard for alcoholism, suicide, homicide, infant mortality, influenza, pneumonia, cirrhosis of the liver, and accident-related injuries. Indeed, Indian rates for alcoholism, suicide and homicide are increasing so rapidly they constitute a medical emergency.

Much more needs to be done to elevate Indian health to the general population level. Some needed improvements can be made internally by IHS within available resources. Other measures require an infusion of additional money. Still others could require development of new policies. Two examples of program expansion in Indian health services are for the elderly and for the mentally ill.

Problems related to nutrition neglect, loneliness, and even physical abuse which affect many Indian elderly, are compounded by the fact that many elderly live in small and remote communities where social and supportive services are limited, and multiple federal/state agency responsibilities and resources make it difficult for Indian communities to bring together the resources necessary to provide viable comprehensive services for the elderly.

As in program accomplishments, this Department has seen progress in self-determination, increased self-sufficiency and improved economic conditions for Native American people.

Congress has rejected the termination philosophy and has strongly affirmed the political status of tribal governments. The declaration of policy in the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975 has enunciated....The obligation of the United States to respond to the strong expression of the Indian people for self-determination by assuring maximum Indian participation in the direction of ...federal services to Indian communities....As a result of congressional action, the Department has promulgated rules that state the Department will not modify, diminish or otherwise impair the sovereign immunity from suit enjoyed by the Indian tribe; will not require or permit the termination of any existing trust responsibility of the United States with respect to the Indian people and will not permit significant reduction in services to Indian people.

Recently through both ANA and IHS, the Secretary has received and is considering proposals which seek to strengthen tribal governments, to open channels of communication between Indian communities and the Department, to make the Department even more responsive to tribal needs and congressional intents, to minimize any lack of departmental coordination of Indian cont...



affairs or confusion and contradiction which might exist regarding HHS' relationship to Indian tribes and states.

The IHS has proposed departmental policies changes and in order to assure consistent long-term departmental support for IHS and effective mechanisms to support Indian Community development prepared ... A Comprehensive Health Plan for American Indian and Alaska Native People for Fiscal Years 1981-1984, called the National Plan. Included in the National Plan, which was drawn from 250 tribal and urban specific health plans, is an identification of a need for additional Indian health professionals above current staffing levels and assurance that IHS will provide the information, training and technical assistance needed by the tribes to make knowledgeable decisions regarding their participation in all or any of the health service programs. The recommended funding levels for fiscal year 1981 would be 92 percent over the 76 level, and the plan in addition identified other resources to be obtained and targeted for Indians.

Secretary Harris has often expressed that the history of treaties and agreements between Indian people and the U.S. Government is a relationship between sovereign powers, and Indian status in this country is truly unique.

HHS's programs form a complex and often bewildering web administered at different levels of government. Each is targeted to slightly different groups, housed in different HHS agencies. The result is fragmentation and inefficient delivery of services. We have not consistently made our primary objective the assurance that individuals are receiving the continuous, comprehensive care they deserve, nor have we targeted our programs to the areas and people most in need. I believe there is real potential for improvement in this area, but more efficient delivery of services will not alone solve our problems. There must ultimately be a greater commitment of the nation's financial resources to meet the need of the poor.

But the American Indian understands commitment-as was said a long time ago in the Declaration of the Five County Cherokees: "Now, we shall not rest until we have regained our rightful place. Now we have much to do. When our task is done, we will be ready to rest. In these days, intruders, named without our consent, speak for the Cherokees. When Cherokee government is the Cherokee people, we shall rest. In these days, there are countless ways by which people make their grievances known to all Americans. When we have learned these new ways that bring strength and power, and we have used them, we shall rest. In these days, we are losing our homes and our children's homes. When our homeland is protected, for ourselves and for the generations to follow, we shall rest."

* Mr. Bergfalk is the principal regional official, Department of Health and Human Services, region VII. This story was based on a speech given by Mr. Bergfalk at the Eighth Annual Convention of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association.

FIRST AMERICANS WAS TAKEN FROM THE HHS NEWSLETTER:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY'S

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Ed Peters | 10. Mary Ann Shawanibin | 26. SIMONE WHEAT |
| 1. Ruth Davis | 11. Jim Sirois Jr. | 28. Aaron Inda |
| 6. JANET LEWIS | 17. Trica LaBorgne | 28. Thelma Mendozze |
| 6. NANCY ALCHIN | 21. Frank Shipman Sr. | |
| 7. Richard Shawanibin | 23. Chris Doxtator | |
| 9. Seneca Peters | 25. Kathy Sirois | |



From the Executive Office:

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. Viola G. Peterson, and Ms. Julie G. Pigeon, were appointed for terms expiring August 15, 1983. Senate confirmation is not required.

Mrs. Peterson, an American Indian specialist with Carman Ainsworth Community Schools, succeeds Daugherty A. Johnson, Jr. of Flint. A member of the Miami Tribe, she is past president of the Genesee Valley Indian Association, and has been involved in the preservation of Indian art through the Flint Institute of Arts. She was instrumental in the formation of the Michigan Indian Legal Services.

Mrs. Peterson is a member of the North American Indian Women's Association, Inc. A former member and chairperson of the commission, she is a member of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education and member of the Michigan and National association of state and federal program specialists.

Ms. Pigeon, a student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, succeeds Yvonne M. Walker of Traverse City. She is a member of the Michigan Youth Employment Council, Michigan Indian Manpower Consortium Board of Directors. Ms. Pigeon, A Potawatomi, is council representative for the Great Lakes Native Youth Alliance and former secretary of the Indian Parent Advisory Committee. She is in Kalamazoo Valley Community College's Registered Nurse Program.

"READERS"

Any news of interest?

Anniversaries, Birth Announcements, Sales, Birthdays, Pow-Wows, Dances, Out of the mouth of babe's, or new ideas to use as fund raisers.

Large or small news items for the Indian Community that you would like to share with your co-readers please feel free to do so, after all this is your newsletter.

We have readers throughout the U.S. and Canada, and you in Norway, let's hear from you too. Tell us a bit about yourselves.

Any up-coming events that you think I should know about, call and check with me to make sure I DO know or not. Remember to do this by the 15th of the month so I'll have ample time to place the item in the newsletter.

While I'm at it, I want to apologize for the lateness of last months newsletter. I was out for awhile with the flu and when I got back my printing press caught it!

SPIRITUAL AND HEALTH READINGS
INDIAN HEALINGS

Herbal Nutritional Diets and Remedies.
RAINBOW HEALTH FOOD &
TRADING POST

715 Squirrel Rd.
Auburn Heights, Mi.
48057 313-852-8387
853-9614
852-8388



Juanita D.H.D.D. Indian Herbalist
Open—Monday thru Saturday—10:00-6:00

The deadline for the Native Sun has been set for the 15th of every month. Should the 15th fall on a week-end or a holiday the deadline will be the following work day, no later than 5:00 P.M. that day.

VOLUME 11

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RED MAN'S CHANT

Why does the white man follow my path, like
a hound on the tigers track?

Does the flush on my dark cheek waken his
wrath, doeth he covet the bow at my back?

He has rivers and seas where the billows
and breeze bear riches for him alone. The
sons of the woods never plunged in the
floods which the white man calls his own.

The eagle hath its place of rest. The wild
horse where to dwell, the spirit that gave
the bird its nest gave me a home as well.

The fathers above saw fit to give the white
man his corn and wine, his golden fields,
where he may live, BUT the forest shades
are mine.

Then back, go back to the red man's track,
where the hunters eyes grow dim, to know
that the white man wrongs the one who never
did wrong to him.

ANONYMUS

Dr. L.B. Wessel's Great Grandmother use to
sing the "Indians Chant" to her children,
who in turn passed it along to her children
who passed it along to theirs.

Thank you Dr. Wessel for passing it along
to us.

Family and Friends of the FORE-GOERS

"Your loss is Heaven's Gain"



Twice:
That well soon. We
look forward to your
return.
Center Staff.

DETROIT AMERICAN INDIAN HEALTH CENTER

360 John R.

Detroit, Michigan 48226

A special project is presently underway to
provide dental services to children (12 years
and younger) through the University of
Detroit, Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

The program is targeted at serving low-income
families not covered by any form of 3rd party
dental insurance (Medicaid, Blue Cross/Blue-
Shield, or commercial insurance) or cannot
obtain care from low-income clinics avail-
able in the area. All services necessary for
normal maintenance of dental health such as
fillings, extractions, cleaning, flouride
treatment will be provided free of charge.
Cases that will require special treatment or
appliances will be referred out or handled with
the agreement of the Parent/Guardian. Dental
care will be provided Monday through Friday
from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. by appoint-
ment only.

All those interested may contact the Detroit
American Indian Health Center at 963-3227.
To obtain benefit from the program, contact
should be made with the Health Center as
soon as possible, so treatment can be com-
pleted by October 1981.



SENIORS CORNER

The seniors will be selling CORN SOUP &
FRIED BREAD downstairs at the Center at
NOON.....MARCH 6th.

MARCH 8th. the seniors will be sponsoring
the meal for the NAIA meeting. The meals
will be served at 4:00 P.M.

ADULTS	\$3.00
KIDS	\$1.50 (under 12)

The Building Fund Committee will be drawing
the raffle ticket for this months winner.

Remember a winner EVERY MONTH, so don't
forget to purchase your ticket. The Board
of Directors will be selling the tickets

Money raised from the sale of these tickets
will go in the fund for our new center.

N.A.I.A. Pow-Wow.

OPEN, DRUM 

3-28-1981 I SHARED,, DANCERS,, FEE,,
TRADERS,, WELCOME!

HAZEL, PARK, High, School. 3-28-81
FREE! ADMISSION, FREE!!

2:00, P.M. TILL 4:30. P.M. "EAT,"
7:00 P.M. TILL 10:00 P.M.

9# MILE E HUGHES, ST.
EAST, OF, I-75.

MARCH
28#
1981.

HAZEL, PARK, Mich..

BEAR
SAYS

BE!
THERE!

FROM TITLE XX

People who need people, services advocacy, emergency food or/assistance in filling out DSS forms-can use Title XX.

Last months letter to the Editor received a big response, I'm very pleased and proud to say that we could be of assistance to the many people that called us here at the Center.

Hopefully if there is someone out there that needs help they will contact us, just ask for Ron Giles or/ Linda LaRogue 963-1711.

" CONGRATULATIONS "

To JERRY LAROQUE for passing his G.E.D.

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks!!!

Sis.

WINNER OF THE FOOD BASKET RAFFLED OFF AT THE DANCE IS....L. LINDSEY, OF INDIAN EDUCATION.

The Seniors would like to Thank everyone for making the raffle a big success.

Due to other pressing matters the Seniors are cancelling the Corn Soup and Fry Bread scheduled for March 6th.

IN MEMORY OF....

VINCE ADAM

The Board of Directors of the North American Indian Association and the staff at the center express our deep regret at the passing of former Board Chairman Vince Adam on February 13th 1981.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife Louise and family. We will all miss him greatly.

BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 21, 1981

6:30 P.M.

360 John R...Detroit Mich. 48226

A Pot-Luck dinner will be served at 6:30 with business following.

In order to raise money for the New Center the Building Fund Committee is offering 10% a year, on a three year term for your \$1,000 - \$500. For more information call Frederica Rossi at.....

Work.....453-4800

Home.....455-1610

Or you may call the Center 963-1710

Letter From The Club:

We would like to Thank the people who showed up at the Valentine's Dance, everyone seemed to have a good time, but the turn out was very small. The purpose of the club is to raise money for the Association, but without the support of the community and the staff from the center this is impossible.

At the dance we had a total of two staff members. I don't think the staff and the community are aware of the Presidents plans of cutting back government spending. This could have a devastating affect on our centers programs. If we don't become more self-supporting we will be unable to continue expanding our Center to better serve the community.

President...Robert Luxon

NAIA CLUB

WELCOME ON OUR CENTER STAFF - VICKY PULFORD

EASTERN POW WOW



MARCH 14 and 15

— Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, McKenny Union Ballroom

— Host: OKLAHOMA DRUM

— Prizes: Cash 18+ categories
Gifts 17- categories

— Dancers Registration \$1
Noon - 7p.m. Saturday
Grand Entry 2p.m.

— Traders Welcome
Call for table reservation
\$10 a day

— Admission \$2 general
\$1 participants, students, children 12-

— Sponsored by EMU's
NATIVE AMERICAN SURVIVAL GROUP
Partially funded by
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ALLOCATIONS

— Contact: Faye L. Goeman, President
home 483-8569 after 5pm
office 487-0267 leave number

NISH-NAW BAH LANGUAGE CLASS

Classes will be starting February 23rd at the Indian Center 360 John R, Detroit, Mich. 48226
You are all welcome to join and learn the native language of the Ojibway. Fee is \$1.00 and
the Center will donate dollar per dollar. The teacher for the class is JERRY BELLEAU

The classes will be held every Monday starting at 5:30 and lasts till 7:30 P.M.



Editor.....Valerie Beavers
Editor's Aide....Myrtis Drobot
Artist.....Mike Shawanibin
Helpers.....Center Staff



FRANK SHIPMAN

Is a Grampa again! Louise Irene
is brand new to the world. Mother
Jamie is doing fine and so is
GRANDMA PHYLLIS!!!!

SENIORS.....

Don't forget about the hot lunches being
served everyday at NOON. The meal are
free to you so come on down and get to-
gether with friends and have a enjoyable
afternoon.

For more information you may call Char
Hendrick or Louise Morales at 963-0308

BOARD MEETING

WILL BE STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. on March
7th, These meetings are open to the
Indian community and staff.

The Board Meetings are held at the Indian
Center, 360 John R, Detroit, Mich. 48226

N.A.I.A. Pow-Wow

July 11-12, 1981

OAKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
HIGHLAND LAKES CAMPUS
OPEN DRUM

THUNDERBIRD

Thunderbird meetings are held every Tuesday
8:30 p.m. and Fridays at 9:00 p.m. at
16300 Woodward (at Church St.) for more in-
formation call 868-3043

TEMPERATURES ARE FALLING AND GAS BILLS ARE
RISING.....

Don't get Shut Off this Winter...there is help
available, you have a right to heat, the gas
company cannot turn your heat off IF you have
a note from a Doctor. There is a good chance
that you qualify for one. For more information
please contact: Michigan Coalition on Utilities
and Energy at 963-2439

February 21st, 1981

BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE MEETING

The Building Fund meeting is also open to the
Indian community. They will be trying to find
new ways to help raise money for the new center.
I'm sure any new ideas will be welcome.

? ?

This months Building Fund Committee Meeting will
be held at the home of Jim & Leatha Revels /
29607 Westbrook, Warren Mich. 751-7655

A POT-LUCK Dinner will be served, if you are in-
terested in going PLEASE call ahead, to the above
telephone number and find out what kind of dish
to prepare and just to let them know how many
people to expect.

The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

"MARCH"

(CHECK NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFOR.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Seniors	3 lunches	4 served	5 every	6 week-day.	7 Board meet. POW-WOW
8 Business meet. + Dinner	9 Seniors	10 lunches	11 served	12 every	13 week-day.	14
15 Newsletter deadline.	16 Seniors	17 meet for	18 lunch	19 and enjoy	20 each others company	21 Building Fund meet.
2	23	24	25	26	27	28 POW-WOW
29	30	31				

N.A.I.A. OF DETROIT, INC.
Detroit Indian Center
360 John R
Detroit, Michigan 48226



Newspaper & Periodicals
State Historical Society
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

July 11-12, 1981

OPEN BOOK
HIGHLAND PARK LIBRARY
OAKRIDGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE