

# The Gila River Indian News

A Gila River Indian Community Publication  
Sacaton, Az.



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## Gila River utility effort becomes mired in fight over hydroelectricity

The Gila River tribe's effort to get into the electric utility business by taking over the BIA's San Carlos Irrigation Project (SCIP) system on the reservation is momentarily at a standstill.

The bill that was introduced into Congress in April 1987 to direct the BIA to divest itself of SCIP has bogged down amid a fight between the tribe and off-reservation farmers for cheap hydroelectric power.

Cecil Antone, chairman of the Gila River Utility Authority board of directors, said the matter of the hydroelectric power isn't written into House Bill 2060, but Arizona's Congressional delegation wants the fight cleared up before it moves the bill through Congress.

The tribal utility authority, said Antone, was set up by the tribe several years ago to provide improved electric service to reservation residents.

One of the ways to get the utility operation started was to take over the San Carlos Irrigation Project system, a proposition which was welcomed by the BIA, said Antone.

The bill, HB 2060, which says only that the bureau get out of the utility business by divesting SCIP, was introduced, and that's when problems cropped up, he said.

Hydroelectric power, which is less expensive than electricity generated by fossil fuels, was and continues to run pumps both on and off the reservation.

The allocation used for the pumps is more than is needed for that task, and there is a surplus of power, 19 and one-half megawatts, left over, said Antone.

That is what the fight is about between the tribe and the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District, which is made up of non-Indian farmers off the reservation, he said.

Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe, who sponsored HB 2060, set up a meeting June 20 in an effort to resolve the matter, said Antone, but all that happened was the San Carlos Apache Tribe came in and said it wanted a share of the surplus hydroelectric power.

"The Arizona (Congressional) delegation will not move on this bill unless all the entities are happy," said Antone.

"The house bill is on hold until a determination is made on the preference power (hydroelectric). We've indicated that we want it all," he said.

The tribe's reasoning, he said, "is that Coolidge Dam (the source of the hydroelectric power) was developed for Indian irrigation initially."

The farmers want it, he said, "because they want to go into the utility business too."

The tribe is fighting hard for the power, because once you give it up, it's even more difficult to get back, with allocation contracts running 20 to 30 years, Antone said.

Whether or not the bill stays mired in Congress, he said, the tribe will move.

The tribal utility can make headway by taking over Salt River Project territory on the reservation's westend. The Salt River Project has indicated it is willing to sell its reservation system to the tribe, Antone said.

"Either way, we're still going to go forward. Eventually we would take that (SRP territory) over anyway," he said.

The matter of who gets what of the hydroelectric power is coming to a head, Antone said.

"We should know by the end of this month. They want to get a bill through Congress before the election," he said.



**HOSPITAL UNVEILING**—Gila River Indian Community Chairman Thomas White, right, and Everett R. Rhoades, director of the Indian Health Service, unveil a plaque for Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital during a dedication ceremony June 18 at Sacaton. For more photo coverage of the dedication, turn to page 2.

## Farmers and ranchers set conference to form association to give them clout

A two-day conference of farmers and ranchers who operate on Indian reservations in the Southwest will be held in Mesa July 27 and 28 in an effort to form an association that will

give them some clout in dealing with the federal government.

According to information released by the group, it is concerned with

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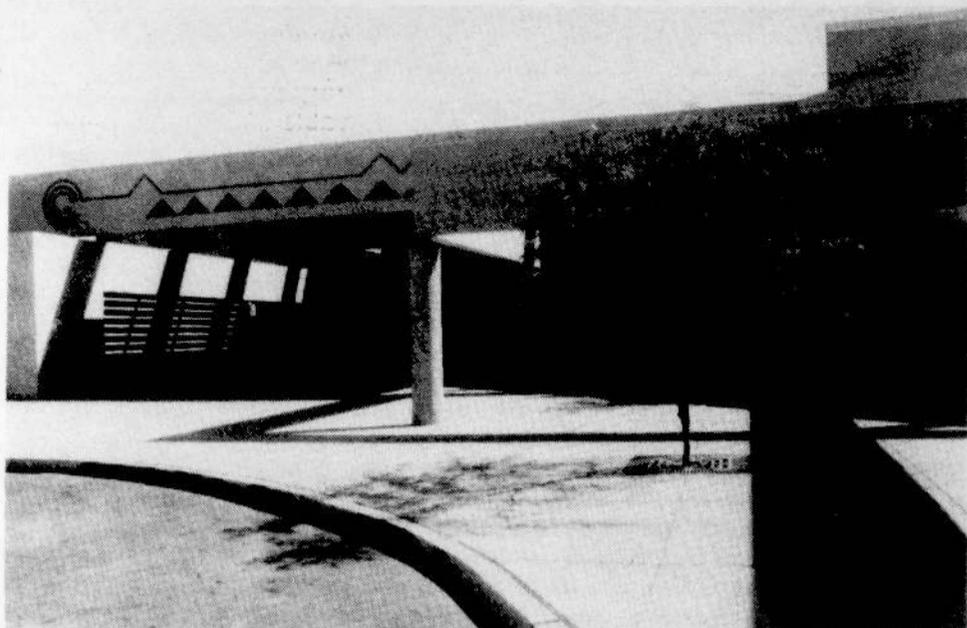
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Gila River Indian News  
P.O. Box 459  
Sacaton, Arizona 85247

# Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital dedication brings them out in droves



**HOSPITAL DEDICATION**—Gila River community members turned out in droves, along with visitors, for the June 18 dedication of Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital at Sacaton. Clockwise from top photo: the front entry to the hospital, Sen. Dennis DeConcini, who was instrumental in moving the hospital effort through the federal bureaucracy, was on hand, and the crowd was comfortable under a huge tent.

## Association's aim is to give clout in dealing with government bureaus

Continued from page 1

farming and ranching regulations, water distribution and supply, leasing and financing on Indian lands.

And at present there is no or little recourse that an individual on a reservation can take, except to take on the government bureaucracy alone.

The conference is scheduled at the Holiday Inn, Mesa, starting at 9 a.m. each day. Registration will be at 8 a.m.

On the conference planning committee are Ardell Ruiz and Donald Antone Sr. from Gila River Farms, Harlan Bohnee and Ramona Ruiz from the Gila River Indian Community, Leona Kakar and Charlie Carlyle from the Ak-Chin Indian Community, Delphina Cameron from MICA, Elliott Booth

and Irma Harris from the Colorado River Indian Tribes, and Gary Parker from Franzoy Corey.

The first day of the conference will be used to set up the association.

On the second day speakers are scheduled on a variety of subjects. They include Stewart Jamison of the USDA's special projects office; Sam Miller, division chief for the BIA's Water and Land Resources.

Arizona Sen. Dennis DeConcini is the scheduled luncheon speaker with the topic—"The Role of Indian Agriculture, Arizona and Nationally."

For information about the conference, write Southwest Indian Agriculture Conference, c/o Gila River Farms, P.O. Box 397, Sacaton, AZ 85247.

## Community Calendar

- JULY 18 - Diabetic and Podiatry clinic, District 4 service center, starts at 8 a.m.
- JULY 19 - Johnson O'Malley Parent meeting, District 6 service center, 7 p.m.
- JULY 20 - Gila River Tribal Council meeting, Sacaton tribal council chamber, tribal building, 9 a.m.
- JULY 20 - Elderly Clinic, District 4 service center, starts 8 a.m.
- JULY 21 - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, District 6 service center, 8 p.m.
- JULY 21 - Let's Talk Program, District 6 service center, 7 p.m.
- JULY 21 - Diabetic Clinic, District 4 service center, starts 8 a.m.
- JULY 25 - District 7 community meeting, service center, 7 p.m.
- JULY 25 - District 4 community meeting, service center, 7 p.m.
- JULY 25 - District 6 community meeting, service center, 7 p.m.
- JULY 26 - Well Child Clinic/WIC, District 4 service center, starts 8 a.m.
- JULY 27 - Elderly Clinic, District 4 service center, starts 8 a.m.
- JULY 27 - Southwest Indian Agriculture Conference, Holiday Inn, Mesa, 9 a.m.
- JULY 28 - Southwest Indian Agriculture Conference, Holiday Inn, Mesa, 9 a.m.

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# Summer program for children starts at Ira Hayes Memorial Library

Summer is finally here. You can tell it's here not because it's hot, but

because the children are home and getting restless for something to do.

While there are a number of ways for children to spend their summer

vacation, one of the cheapest and most rewarding activities is paying a visit to the local library.

The library provides a comfortable and enjoyable setting for children to pursue existing interests and discover new ideas.

The library also allows children an opportunity to spend time with their peers in a positive environment.

For these reasons, Gila River tribal education director Gilbert Innis, and Elinor Whittier, librarian at the recently opened Ira Hayes Memorial Library, have organized a summer program to promote use of the facility, and give children and parents a place to enjoy.

Each Wednesday morning from 10 to 11 throughout July, the library will have a number of activities for children ages 5 to 11.

The program activities will be conducted by Juanita Soto, the substance abuse counseling specialist for the BIA schools.

The activities are designed to teach children how to find and enjoy drug-free recreation.

Included in the program are storytelling, art and self-esteem building activities.



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## Miss Indian Phoenix pageant

The Phoenix Indian Center is taking applications from Indian women for the Miss Indian Phoenix Pageant, which will be part of a Sept. 16-23 celebration of Native American Recognition Week by the center.

The pageant will select a young Native American woman to be a role model and goodwill ambassador for the Phoenix Indian community.

The application deadline is Aug. 26. Applicants must be at least one-fourth Indian and enrolled with a federally-recognized tribe, between 16 and 25 years old, must have lived in Phoenix at least six months prior to the pageant, must be single with no children, and must never have been married.

For applications call the Phoenix Indian Center at 256-2000.



## GILA INDIAN CENTER

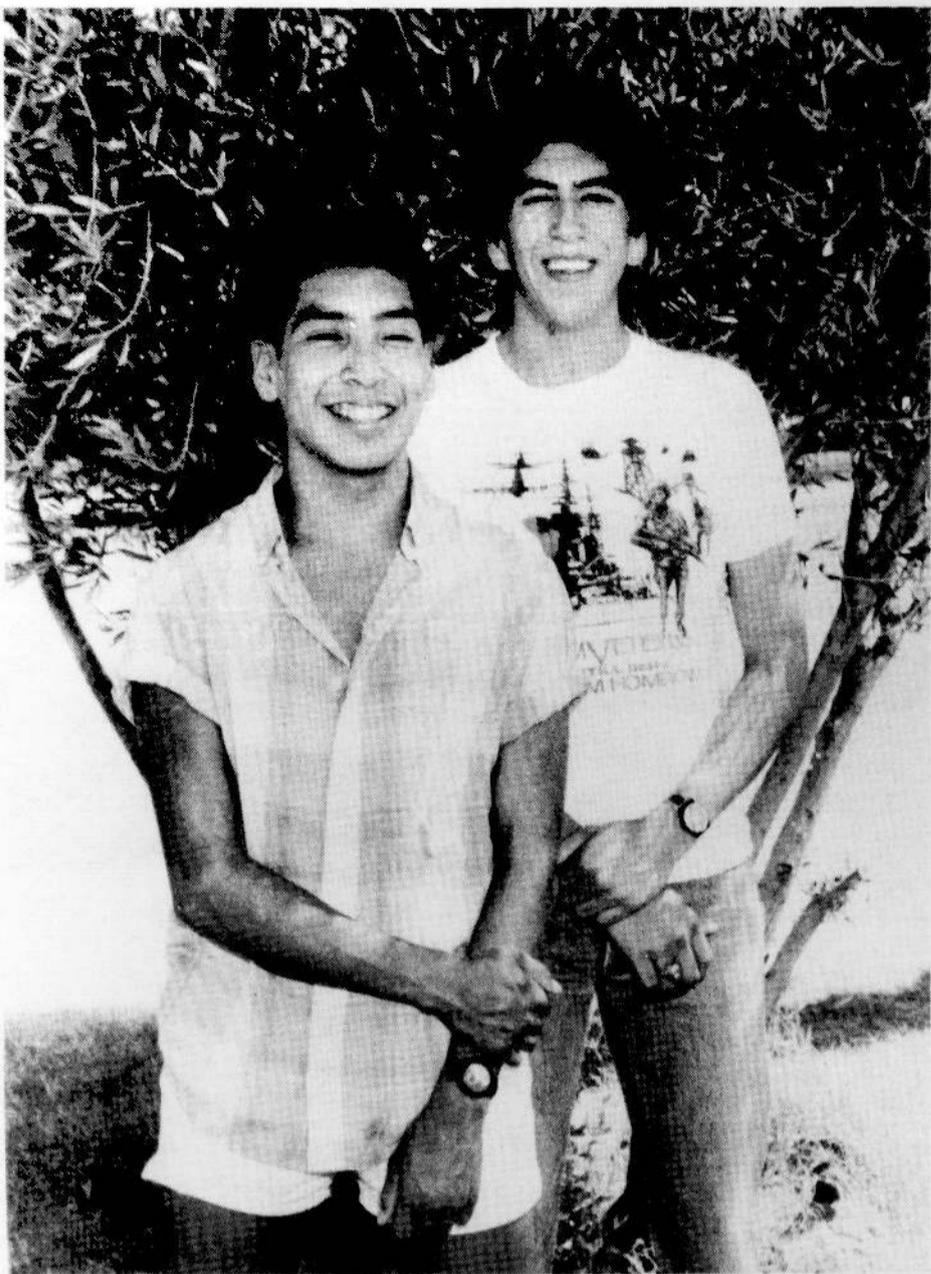
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# England beckons two from Gila River for sailing, kayaking, rock climbing



Sean Soatikee and Jeff Martin

In a couple of weeks Sean Soatikee and Jeff Martin will be in England for three-and-one-half weeks of rock climbing, sailing, kayaking, horseback riding, archery and other activities that will test their mettle.

The two Gila River youths were selected to participate in the outdoor trip by a group called Indian Youth of America.

They are two of only three Native Americans selected from throughout the country. A third Gila River youth, Letha Lamb, was selected as an alternate even though she missed the minimum age requirement of 16 by one year.

Soatikee and Martin will fly to New York July 22, and will be in London on the 25th.

They will participate in the Countess Mountbatten of Burma Student Exchange Scholarship Program, which, according to literature, is an outdoor trip that will challenge and enhance the cooperation, teamwork, self-confidence and self-reliance abilities

of young people.

Soatikee, 16, is from Stotonic, and his parents are Larry and Darlene Soatikee. Martin, 18, is from Bapchule. His folks are Emmett and Jean White.

Soatikee said he's very excited about going. "I just checked out the temperature there, it was 59 for the high and 51 for the low."

He said further, "I'm glad I'm going with Jeff."

To which Martin responded, "We like the same stuff, we have the same interests. We both like Chinese food."

The two young men said they're going with open minds and plan to make the most of the trip.

This will be their first time to New York City, and their first time out of the country, with the exception of brief trips to Mexico.

Martin said he'd like to take an eagle feather and perhaps some pottery to show to the English youth he expects to meet.

The two will return to the U.S. and Gila River on Aug. 9.



SAVE THE CHILDREN COORDINATOR—Joanne Miles from District 6 has been appointed community development coordinator for the Gila River Indian Community by Save the Children, Arizona Indian Nations Program. She took over duties at the District 6 service center in May. Virginia Lewis of Komatke is the donor services assitant. Miles is working with volunteer committees from all districts.



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### GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS

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Information about mail subscriptions and advertising rates is available by writing to Gila River Indian News, P.O. Box 459, Sacaton, Arizona 85247. (602)562-3311.

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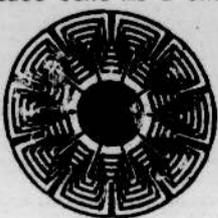
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# TO YOUR HEALTH

## Just because you aren't feeling sick doesn't mean your health is perfect

Have you ever stopped to think about what makes you healthy?

Most people assume that if they aren't sick then they must be healthy, right?

Not necessarily.

Optimal health, or "wellness", is more than just not being sick. It involves elevating our minds and bodies to a state of ideal functioning.

It means not only feeling OK, but really feeling good.

Many times destructive disease processes are deteriorating our health without making us feel ill or poorly.

The havoc these processes create in our bodies may not result in an identifiable "sickness" for many years.

A classic example of this kind of hidden sickness is diabetes. As an individual gains weight, he or she increases the likelihood of losing control of blood sugar regulation, which is what we call diabetes.

It isn't until the blood sugar elevates tremendously, however, that the individual feels poorly enough to attract attention to the disease.

At this point it is very difficult to regain control of body weight and blood sugars.

Certain actions and habits we can all develop will help to prevent this kind of problem, as well as make us feel good and perform better in work, play, and life in general.

Several of the most effective steps we can take to achieve "wellness" include:

1. Enjoy a diverse and balanced diet which is low in fats and cholesterol, and high in fruits, vegetables and other complex carbohydrates (grains, cereals, pasta, rice, potatoes, beans).

2. Participate three or more times a weekly in aerobic exercises—those exercises which elevate the heart rate and breathing continuously for 20 minutes or more.

Good examples include walking, jogging, swimming, cycling, aerobic dance, or continuous movement games like full court basketball.

3. Reduce or eliminate alcohol intake, as this is a source of empty calories and can be destructive to the body's organs over time.

4. Reduce or eliminate smoking and other tobacco use. This single action will improve your chances of not having a heart attack or lung cancer.

5. Use less salt. Salt is for many people a contributing factor in high blood pressure, which in turn affects many other disease processes.

6. Eat natural foods which have a minimum of processing. This will increase the fiber content of your food, aiding digestion, as well as limiting your intake of sugar, fat, salt and other preservatives.

by George Dallam

## AIDS project by Tohono O'odham

A poster and pamphlet aimed at revealing the nature of AIDS and its prevention has been developed by the Tohono O'odham Nation's Community Health Department.

Rosemary Lopez, coordinator of the department's Disease Control Program, said her program and the Maternal Child Health program worked jointly on the project.

Money was provided by the Arizona State Health Department, she said.

The material and artwork for the poster and pamphlet, she said, were designed to be culturally relevant.

Artwork for the poster is by Duke Sine, and illustration for the pamphlet is by Leonard Chana.

Lopez said 3,000 posters are being printed and likely will be distributed at AIDS education workshops and sessions put on by the health department.

## Sacaton dental clinic do's and don't's

**NEW DENTAL EXAMINATIONS-** These appointments will be made on the first work day of each month. Patients desiring an appointment need to call the dental clinic at 562-3321, extension 16, or come in to make the appointment. Appointment times will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. Once a patient has been seen for the initial exam, necessary follow up appointments will be scheduled so treatment can be completed in the shortest time possible.

**RECALL APPOINTMENTS-** Patients who have had their dental treatment completed will be put on a recall list. When the appropriate time has passed, a card will be sent in the mail to remind the patient to make another appointment for a checkup.

**CANCELLED APPOINTMENT-** In order to cancel a dental appointment, a patient needs to notify the dental clinic at least one day before their scheduled appointment. This enables the dental staff to schedule someone else at that time. If a patient is more than 15 minutes late, their appointment may need to be rescheduled.

**BROKEN APPOINTMENTS-** A patient who does not show up for his or her scheduled appointment will be charged with a broken appointment. A patient with two broken appointments during the year will not be rescheduled for at least six months. These patients, however, can still be seen on an emergency basis.

**EMERGENCY VISITS-** A patient who has a toothache or some other urgent dental problem can be seen on an emergency basis. This patient would need first to go to medical records to pick up his or her chart and then report to the dental clinic. The emergency patient, upon completing a health questionnaire, will be seen by the first dentist available. After dental clinic hours, an emergency patient can be seen by the emergency room staff at the hospital. Patients with urgent dental problems will be seen from 8 a.m. through 3 p.m. It is recommended that they arrive at 8 a.m. or 1 p.m. so they can be seen more quickly.

**DENTAL TREATMENT FOR MINORS-** Children under the legal age of consent (18) should be accompanied by a parent or guardian when first seeking dental care.

## A few facts about you and alcohol

**Question:** What is the difference between in-patient and out-patient treatment for alcoholism? And how do you know if someone needs in-patient or out-patient treatment?

**Answer:** In-patient treatment is generally much more intense and the client makes more progress in a shorter period of time, making it possible for him to see the hope of being happy and satisfied living without alcohol.

Out-patient treatments vary from individual counseling once a week to daily visits to a treatment center, including group therapy sessions.

At the extreme, out-patient treatment can consist of day-care treatment where the only time the patient is home is when he or she goes home to sleep.

Indications for the need of in-patient treatment are:

1. A person who has few family or social supports.
2. A long history of an alcohol-centered lifestyle.
3. A serious disruption of family, job or social spheres.
4. Failure of previous out-patient efforts to produce long term sobriety.
5. Significant medical complications or the presence of a major associated illness.
6. If the spouse or another family member is likely to sabotage the treatment.
7. If the client lives a great distance from the out-patient facility, making it difficult to attend all sessions.

Out-patient treatment, on the other hand, may be indicated if:

1. This is the first time someone is being treated for alcoholism.
2. There is strong family support for treatment and recovery.
3. There is a low amount of problems at the place of work.
4. The person has a strong motivation to be involved in his or her treatment.
5. The patient is geographically close enough to make meetings on a regular basis.

There is a solid A.A. group that meets nearby regularly several times a week.

**Question:** Columns such as this, especially when they present quoted facts to illustrate the gravity of the problem, are very effective. Is there more information and data about alcoholism?

**Answer:** Yes.

Here are a few more to illustrate the cost of this frequently untreated disease.

- In 1981, young drivers 15 to 24 years old were involved in 48 percent of all fatal highway accidents.
- Half the alcohol sold in America is consumed by six percent of the drinkers. The liquor industry concentrates its advertising on the heavy drinkers because that's where the sales are, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interest.
- Eighty percent of all domestic violence, 60 percent of all homicides and 60 percent of aggravated assaults are alcohol-related, according to statistics compiled by Woodhill Treatment Center in Asheville, N.C.
- Fifteen percent of all high school students are problem drinkers. Children of alcoholics develop alcoholism more often than children of non-alcoholics. Seven million children younger than 20 have at least one alcoholic parent.

• Alcohol is the direct or indirect cause of approximately 205,000 deaths a year, and many cases of heart disease, the nation's number one killer, are also alcohol related.

• Approximately 80 percent of fire deaths, 65 percent of drownings, 70 percent of fatal falls and up to 40 percent of industrial accidents are linked to the use of alcohol.

**Question:** Is there any relationship between high blood pressure and alcoholism?

**Answer:** High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a common disease which usually shows no symptoms. If it is untreated, however, it is a leading cause of strokes, heart disease and kidney failure.

It usually is detected during a routine doctor's examination when the pressure of blood flowing through the arteries is measured.

During acute alcohol intoxication blood pressure is sometimes elevated. Usually, however, the blood pressure is normal. When a person stops or cuts back his alcohol intake after an episode of heavy drinking, the blood pressure rises.

This may happen when someone stops drinking the day before seeing a doctor. When they see a doctor, therefore, the person is sober but has a high blood pressure reading.

The unsuspecting physician may then start the patient on blood pressure medications. Or tranquilizers may be prescribed which may contribute to further substance abuse.

Alcohol misuse may contribute to hypertension in another way. Prolonged heavy drinking over several years causes hormonal imbalances which can result in elevated blood pressure.

by Richard Kruis, M.D.

## NATIONAL NOTES

### College prep school at Sherman

The University of California, Sherman Indian School and the BIA have joined forces to develop a special school geared to preparing Indian students for college.

The Sherman Intertribal Academy, two years in planning and preparation, will be located at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, CA.

According to Kogee Thomas of the Office of Relations with Schools at the University of California, Irvine, "While some BIA schools specialize in vocational and occupational training or special education, none has focused on excellence in preparation for higher education."

He said past reports on Indian education have called for a greater link between Indian secondary schools and colleges and universities.

Studies have shown that only five percent of all Native Americans have completed college, compared to 23 percent of whites and 12 percent of blacks.

### BIA head wants Indian preference law relaxed

Because of too many jobs and not enough qualified Indian candidates, BIA head Ross Swimmer is looking to relax the law that requires the BIA to give preferential hiring to Indians.

In published reports, Swimmer has said, "We're hurting...we don't have qualified Indian candidates for these jobs. We can't find them."

He said in the bureau's Washington, D.C. headquarters there are nearly 100 vacancies among 400 positions, and several senior-level positions paying more than \$60,000 a year have been open for more than one year, temporarily being filled by acting administrators.

Though he doesn't totally oppose the law, Swimmer said, "I just think it's a mistake to apply it in all situations. It makes our work more difficult when we're short staffed and can't find qualified employees."

In the 1970s, Congress passed a special statute mandating that the BIA give preference to Indians in filling job vacancies. The law has survived several legal challenges.

Swimmer's call for a relaxation of the law has drawn fire.

Native American Rights Fund attorney Faith Roessel, said, "In our experience, there certainly are qualified Indian people. We have serious reservations about Mr. Swimmer's statements."

"Our experience in court has led us to believe that the Indian preference policy is not being as aggressively implemented as possible."

### Indian Heritage Week could be Sept. 23-30

The last week in September could be designated National American Indian Heritage Week if a resolution supported by 51 U.S. senators is successful.

The joint resolution would provide "national recognition for a group of Americans whose contributions, culture, and heritage are an intrinsic part of this country," according to the resolution.

If successful, the observance would mark the fourth time in the past six years that a national Indian day or week has been proclaimed.

The first was May 13, 1983; the

second was Nov. 23-30, 1986; and last year the week of Thanksgiving was designated American Indian Week.

### Nine tribes are involved with budget project

A \$100,000 planning grant awarded in June to the Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe in northern California marks the ninth tribe participating in a demonstration project designed to determine whether the tribes will assume responsibility for budgeting and spending all BIA funds now being spent on their behalf.

Negotiations with the bureau's contracting officer have been completed and the tribes will decide during the remainder of fiscal year 1988 whether or not to voluntarily assume BIA functions, and also to determine the level of operations for which they wish to be responsible.

The tribes can assume any or all programs so long as trust services to individual Indians are maintained.

BIA head Ross Swimmer, who initiated the project last October, said with the agreement of appropriation committees, the tribes could receive their tribal self-governance budgets in the 1989 fiscal year through an intergovernmental agreement document.

Other tribes that received similar grants earlier were Tlingit and Haida, Mille Lacs, Red Lake Band of Chippewas, Jamestown Klallam, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Quinault, Lummi, and Rosebud Sioux.

### Havasupai's win another round in religious site battle

A mining company was thwarted in its effort to sink a mineshaft on one of the most sacred religious sites of the Havasupai Indian Tribe when a federal judge extended a court-ordered stay prohibiting the drilling.

Federal District Court Judge Roger Strand extended a stay against Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc. until August 24. Without the extension, the company could have started drilling the mineshaft June 20.

Havasupai Tribal Chairman Delmer Uqualla said, "The mine would mean the extinction of our tribe, and we will not let that happen. Mat Faar Tiigundra is the place where our lives, and the earth, are renewed each year, and to which all Havasupai people must pray."

The tribe, which has about 500 members, and its tribal lands, are located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, a site which can only be reached by horseback, by foot or helicopter.

### California Indians loose battle over religious site

A struggle by the Yurok, Karuk and Tolowa Indians of California to preserve a sacred religious site was lost when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Forest Service could complete a road through the area.

For over 200 years the Indians have used the Chimney Rock section of the Six Rivers National Forest for religious ceremonies and rituals.

The court overturned an appeals court ruling that said the road project violated the Indians' religious freedom guarantee under the First Amendment.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

stated, "The Constitution simply does not provide a principle that could justify upholding respondents' legal claims. Whatever rights the Indians may have to the use of the area, however, those rights do not divest the government of its right of use what is, after all, its land."

In dissent of the decision, Justice William J. Brennan wrote, "Today's ruling sacrifices a religion at least as old as the Nation itself, along with the spiritual well-being of its approximately 5,000 adherents, so that the Forest Service can build a six-mile segment of road that two lower courts found had only the most marginal and speculative utility, both to the Government itself and to the private lumber interests that might conceivably use it."

He continued, "Given today's ruling, that freedom amounts to nothing more than the right to believe that their religion will be destroyed...it fails utterly to accord with the dictates of the First Amendment."

### Navajo student national high school chess co-champion

A senior from Tuba City High School became the national co-champion of high school chess at a national tournament in Albuquerque.

Harold Yazzie, who has been playing chess for four years, lost his first match and then came back to win six straight to tie with eight others.

Yazzie said, "It shows that Native Americans can do as well as anyone in the country."

He is an honor roll student who has earned an academic scholarship to Northern Arizona University.

### Indian-owned motel named best of Best Western chain

The Kootenai River Inn at Bonners Ferry, Idaho was named the best motel of approximately 3,000 in the international Best Western chain located throughout the world.

The 48-room motel, which opened in December 1986, is owned by the Kootenai Tribe of Bonners Ferry.

Earlier this year the motel was named one of the best in America. The facility includes a restaurant and gift shop.

### 300 slot machines netted in raid on Mohawk reservation

Close to 300 slot machines were carted by New York state police off the Akwesasne Mohawk Indian Reservation in northern New York.

The machines reportedly generated about \$7 million a year in profits for the bars and other businesses that carried them.

Gambling devices, including slot machines, were outlawed by a tribal referendum passed last summer.

The slot machines were removed temporarily, but several bar owners on the reservation later reinstalled them.

Tribal leaders and traditionalists cooperated with the state police in the raid.

### TV evangelist had this to say

Television evangelist Jerry Falwell, speaking at the National Religious Broadcasters' Convention—"(Whites in South Africa) no more intend to give up their country then we plan to give ours back to the Indians."

### Don't bring U.S. money only Navajo currency

An Indian activist says he plans to open two privately owned banks on the Navajo Reservation and issue Navajo currency.

Russell Means, former head of the American Indian Movement, said the banks will replace two Citicorp Bank branches recently closed on the reservation.

"We will deal with the funny money of the United States...but we'll also issue our own Navajo currency," he said.

He said negotiations are ongoing with the tribe and Citicorp to buy the banks. In February Citicorp closed two of its four reservation banks.

Means said the banks will provide low-interest private and business loans to Navajos in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

### Interior Secretary Hodel calls child welfare act amendment "pure racism"

A bill to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act is being strongly opposed by Interior Secretary Don Hodel, who said it contains multiple flaws.

"This bill is (a denunciation) to the salutary constitutional principle that legislation cannot stand if it makes classifications and distinctions based on race," he said.

"If enacted, this bill would subject certain Indian children to the claim of jurisdiction of an Indian tribe solely by reason of the children's race."

"For example...if a tribe seeks transfer of a child custody or adoption case from state court to the tribe, the parents' objection...will be unavailing unless the objection is determined to be consistent with the best interests of the child as an Indian. That, in my view, is pure racism," he said.

The bill, said Hodel, is contrary to "what I believe is sound, prevailing public policy in this country—in adoption and child custody cases, it is the interests of the child which are of paramount importance. This bill subordinates the best interests of the child to that of the (Indian) tribe."

Hodel said the amending bill "extends the jurisdictional reach of the tribe to children whose parents need not be tribal members. Indeed, the parents and other ancestors of the child may have had no connection with the tribe, perhaps for years or even generations."

BIA head Ross Swimmer echoed Hodel, saying, "It doesn't make sense for a child to be picked up and taken across the country to a tribal court simply because that child is of Indian descent—and the child or its parents may never have even lived on an Indian reservation."

Sen. Daniel Inouye, head of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, told Swimmer, "I am surprised at the tone and tenor of the Secretary...and your testimony."

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## Too many committees, time shortage create havoc for Tohono O'odham

Some members of the Tohono O'odham Nation's tribal council likely won't be as busy as they used to be, since the council agreed last month to reinstitute a rule that forbids a council member from serving on more than three council committees.

Two council representatives each resigned from a committee to cut to three the number of committees on which they serve, but three councilmen chose to challenge the issue, saying they will continue to serve on four committees.

Andrew M. Patricio, vice chairman of the legislature (tribal council), said the matter of council members being able to serve on more than three committees came over a year ago shortly after the May 1987 elections.

The council passed a legislative action that waived the three-committee rule, he said. There are 12 tribal council committees.

Recently, though, because of conflicting meeting times and dates, it has gotten difficult to schedule committee meetings so that most members can be present, he said.

Last month the tribal council

agreed to rescind the waiver that allowed a member to sit on more than three committees, Patricio said.

That, however, wasn't the end of the matter, he said.

Gu Achi District's Percy Lopez and Fernando Joaquin each resigned from a committee to lower their committee commitments to three each, but Tony Felix of San Xavier, Max Jose of San Lucy, and Kenneth Chico of Baboquivari refused to resign from a committee, indicating they want to continue serving on four committees.

They contend, said Patricio, that they have not experienced a problem with attendance at committee meetings, and that they are doing what they were elected to do serving on the committees.

The matter even reached a point where one or two of the members said that if they were removed from one committee, they would not serve on any committees.

The council's Rules Committee is expected to make a recommendation to the tribal council in July on how to deal with the matter.

## This way to the Fiji Islands... no, it's this way

Darrell Juan is trying to get to the Fiji Islands, even if he doesn't know exactly where they are.

He knows about where they are—"It's near Australia, some little islands. I guess it's off the northeast coast of Australia, I think," he said.

Darrell, 17, a Tohono O'odham, graduated from Tucson High School in May where he competed in track. Actually, he just didn't compete, he was very good.

"I placed second in the city in the division, and eighth in the state in the 1,600 meters," he said.

Because of this, he caught the eye of an organization called the International Sports Exchange (ISE).

"I got picked to go to Fiji by the International Sports Exchange. I was picked for the 1,600 meter and 800 meter runs," he said.

The trip to Fiji "is a nine day sports festival. The track meet is on the seventh day, and the rest of the days will be spent traveling and checking out the country," said Darrell.

Being picked to go, however, is only half the job. Darrell said he is raising \$2,000 in order to accompany the track team to Fiji.

If Darrell does get to Fiji, he will become somewhat of a world traveler.

"I went to China in December for a crosscountry road race. I was picked again by ISE. There I placed second in my age division and 15th overall," he said.

"I got picked by the ISE because they set certain standards. They look at your times and average them out against other runners," he said.

Being invited and being able to raise the money to make the trips abroad may be some of the fruits of Darrell's labor on the track, but he realizes that those things are just frosting.

What he really got out of track is an education and the chance to stay in school, and to take a very legitimate shot at college.

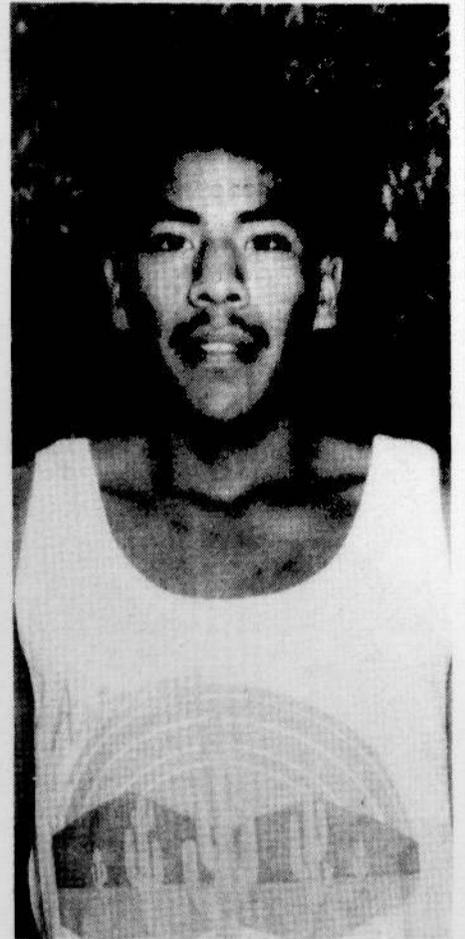
"My freshman year (in high school) I thought I was bad. I was on the brink of drugs and things like that, but track kept me out of it, it straightened me out," he said.

He said his interest in running was whetted when "I used to watch the Olympic games and track and field meets...that got me excited, so I decided to go out for track."

Running not only kept him in high school, but it also will get him into college.

"I'll probably run for Pima College (Tucson) on the crosscountry team. I've got a scholarship there for the year," he said.

But he also has a scholarship offer from New Mexico State University.



The offer has made him think good and long, but he said he's leaning toward Pima College because he wants to ease into college life and academics.

"I kind of want to go to Pima College because it's small," he said, plus he won't be uprooted from his home and family in Tucson.

Darrell's mother is Alice Juan, originally from Little Tucson, and Leon Juan, originally from Anegam.

What if he can't raise the \$2,000 for the Fiji trip?

Darrell said any money collected will be added to something called the Darrell Juan Fund at the Tucson Indian Center.

That fund was created with money left over from his China trip, he said.

The thinking behind the fund, he said, was "since sports kept me in school, why not use it for other students."

It can be used for academic or athletic needs of Native American students while they're in school he said.

Darrell said he wanted to include one more thing in this story.

He wants to thank his mom for all of her help, and Rodney Palimo for his help in pushing to get the fund started, and to the Tucson Indian Center for sponsoring it.

Meanwhile, the fundraising effort—an assortment of activities, from a raffle to seeking donations and sponsors—goes on. Information about donations and the raffle may be gotten through the Tucson Indian Center.

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## HODAHKWEN AND JOHNSON MARRY



MR. AND MRS. JOHNSON

Marnie Lynn Hodahkwen and Manuel Jay Johnson exchanged marriage vows June 4, 1988 at Central Presbyterian Church in Phoenix. The Reverend Juedd Miller performed the marriage ceremony.

The bride's parents are Jody and Lance Hodahkwen Sr. The bridegroom's parents are Roy and Barbara Anderson.

The wedding attendants were Chris Sandoval, best man, and Daniele Benheim, maid of honor.

The flower girl was Sunni Peterson. Ushers were Senica Hodahkwen, Lance Hodahkwen Jr., and Roy Anderson II.

The bride select wore a white satin gown designed and made by Donna Begay. Turquoise bead designs

trimmed the gown, headpiece and moccasins.

A reception was held in Fellowship Hall at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Traditional food was prepared by Christine Hendricks and company, and Rene' Charles. A beautifully decorated five-tier white wedding cake was made by Phyllis Thompson.

Guests included the Central Presbyterian Church congregation. Friends and relatives from Phoenix, the Phoenix Area Office, Phoenix Indian Medical Center, Gila River Reservation Social Services and tribal headquarters.

Out-of-state guests came from Nevada, California, Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Indiana, Ohio, New York and Washington, D.C.

## NOTICE TO GILA RIVER INDIAN NEWS SUBSCRIBERS

Yearly subscription rates for the Gila River Indian News will increase to \$8.00 beginning with the September 1988 issue.

## LETTERS & COMMENTS

### When you're young, the future seems to be far away, but can it wait?

The other day a young man walked into my office. He wore a tank top, beach shorts, and he carried a Walkman and headphones in his hand.

He started apologizing for being four minutes late for our meeting. It seems he had a flat tire, and had changed it in the 100 degree heat outside. He stood until I invited him to sit.

Initially, there seemed nothing out of the ordinary about this young man, other than being overtly polite.

It seems he is trying to raise money so he can attend and compete in a sports festival in Fiji. Fiji?

He wasn't sure exactly where Fiji is, just that it's near Australia.

The young man is a track athlete, 17 years old, just reaching his prime. No doubt the trip to Fiji to compete and see a little of the world will do him good.

We mostly talked about the pending trip, and then as we started to end our conversation, we talked briefly about his interest in track. He's a 1,600 and 800 meter runner.

It seems, at least to his thinking, that if it weren't for track and his running, his life up to now would be quite different.

"My freshman year, I thought I was bad. I was on the brink of drugs and things like that, but track kept me out of it—it straightened me out," he said.

Pretty good insight for a kid to see he wavered on the edge, seeing he had the choice between falling off, or doing something good for himself.

He went on to say that if it weren't for track, he's not so sure he would have graduated from high school, or had the chance to go to college. He's had two scholarship offers.

As he left my office I tried to shake his hand, but he said it was soiled from changing the tire. I shook it anyway.

I sat for a while after he left, wondering what had kept me in school. It surely wasn't my sheer love for academics. It could have been friends, maybe it was sports—I was known to dribble a mean basketball when I was young.

This probably has no bearing on why I stayed in school, but it frequently comes back to me.

When I was 12 or 13, I went to a church camp at Baboquivari Peak on the Tohono O'odham Nation, and one of the exercises we had to do was stand up and profess to the group and world our plans for the future.

Before I knew it I had blurted out that I was going to attend junior college, then go onto a university and get a degree.

As the group broke, a cousin of mine admonished me for being so brazen. He said something to the effect—"Boy, you did it now. You'll never do that."

Well, I never did get to junior college. But I did graduate from a university. But even now I think of that scene.

Obviously there are many reasons why young people either stay in school or don't stay in school.

The shame is when we recognize a young person's interests and fail to encourage that interest.

We tell young people to think about the future—stay in school. Well, when your 15, thinking about what it'll be like when your 25 is no easy task.

The reality is that you're thinking about next week's ballgame, Friday night's dance, the girl or boy who doesn't know you're alive. The future can wait.

Educators develop curriculum as a step-by-step process. That's the way we should work to make sure our children stay in school.

We don't slam them with sermons about four years of high school followed by another four years of college. That's a lot of years, a lot of books, a lot of time.

The young man who left my office had an interest, and those around him were aware enough to encourage him. No, running on a track isn't

classroom stuff, but he had to go through the classroom to get to the track.

And by the way, he needs money to get to Fiji. He's really a nice young man, and the trip will do him worlds of good. So send him some. You'll find him on page 7 of this issue.

by Stan Throssell

### For one nickle, I think I got the bargain of a lifetime

These days a nickle won't buy you much—as a matter of fact you'll be lucky to find a stick of gum for that price.

Well, a couple of weeks ago I managed to get the bargain of a lifetime for a nickle.

What I got I couldn't hold in my hand, nor could I turn around and sell it, but it made me feel good all over.

Actually, it wasn't that I spent a nickle and got something in return, rather it was a nickle someone else, in a round-about-way, gave to me.

That nickle was deposited into one of the coinboxes that attach to the wire racks for the Papago Runner

(newspaper). Cut in a circle and taped to the coin was a yellow piece of paper on which was scribbled, "5¢ owed for last issue."

Somewhere out there an honest person just has to feel good about himself or herself. I know I feel good about them.

Who can it be, and why did they go to the length of writing the note, taping it to the coin and dropping it in the coinbox?

Maybe the person was just one of your basic all-around good guys or gals who happened to come up a nickle short, or they perhaps were overcome and wracked with guilt

about shortchanging the nickle, or maybe, and they're not far off the mark, they felt I needed the money.

To be certain, there is need for all the coins I can get my hands on, because over the years, only six to seven people out of ten actually drop money in the coinboxes when they take a copy of the Papago Runner.

The coin, intact with its penned note, sits on my desk, a reminder of the good in people. That nickle is worth much much more to me than just a nickle.

by Stan Throssell

### Reagan's remark about Indians strikes deep and hard

Dear Editor,

This news article was printed from the Phoenix Republic—where President Reagan told Soviet University students that the American people may have made a mistake when they "humored" Indians by giving them reservations, rather than integrating them into society.

This a 100 percent insult to all Native American Indians. I have been working with Native American Indian students for many years—today I am still working with them. There is always a very soft spot in my heart for them.

It is very important to me, I must know how they feel. Sometimes I cry, sometimes I pray, most of the time I put before them, "Your only weapon is education," which no one can ever

take away from you.

One day I asked one of my students to write a poem for me—How do you really feel being a young Native American student?

She was 17 years old at the time, six years before President Reagan's humorous remark. She was a junior at Camelback High School.

In this poem she said, "We gave too much." Today too many of your young people are suffering—there are no jobs on the reservation, no suitable recreation programs.

Apparently President Reagan has no idea how Native American people really are. He doesn't know what we are up against.

"Perhaps We Gave  
Too Much"

We tried to live in peace

The way the Great Spirit taught us  
Help one another  
Care for one another  
Live and let live  
It wasn't enough  
Live with nature  
Life is all around  
Share the land  
There's enough for everyone  
So we thought  
Now all tribes are few  
Massacred, gone  
Our land is but reservation  
Taken from under our feet  
Our people are hurt and belittled  
For no reason but greed  
Perhaps we gave too much

Lucille Enos  
Laveen Elementary School  
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