

INDIAN NEWS NOTES

Supreme Court Agrees to Rule on Indian Land Consolidation Act

The United States Supreme Court agreed December 13 to rule on the constitutionality of a 1983 amendment to the Indian Land Consolidation Act that required highly fractionated interest in reservation lands to revert to the tribe upon the owner's death. The amendment was passed to eliminate the administrative problems when a small parcel of trust land was held for as many as 100 heirs of the original owner. The amendment required that an undivided interest of now more than two percent in land that earned less than \$100 the preceding year would revert to the tribe after the owner's death. The amendment was challenged in court by some potential heirs of land on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. The district court ruled the law was constitutional, but the circuit court of appeals held the law unconstitutional because it allowed tribes to reclaim land without compensating the estate of the deceased person.

More than \$300 million of BIA Budget goes directly to tribes:

In fiscal year 1985, more than \$300 million of the Bureau of Indian Affairs funding was transmitted directly to tribes for the administration and operation of reservation programs. The tribes received \$287.1 million for the direct and indirect costs of programs they operated under contract with the BIA. Tribes also received another \$15.8 million in self-determination grants — funds provided by the Bureau to help the tribes develop or improve their capabilities to manage their own programs. Yet another \$4.8 million was provided to smaller tribes to help them develop needed core management abilities. The total funding for these purposes in 1985 was \$307.8 million.

Indian photographer featured in art magazine

Howard T. Rainer, a Taos Pueblo Indian and photographer, was featured in the January/February issue of *Communications Arts* magazine. Rainer, whose work represents contemporary Indian life, is featured with one photo on the cover and 18 color photos inside. Rainer's subjects are mostly of senior tribal members representing tribes from across the United States. Rainer said many of these Indians had never been photographed before. *Communications Arts*, a magazine for professional graphic artists, designers and photographers, is circulated internationally to about 55,000 persons eight times a year.

Program offers special education teacher training for Indians

The Pennsylvania State University is offering graduate fellowships to Indian students interested in special education teacher training. Participants in the program will receive a monthly stipend of about \$600, remission of tuition and a textbook allowance. The American Indian Special Education Teacher Training Program was established in 1983 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The program, geared toward American Indian students, will qualify graduates to teach, coordinate and be a consultant for special education programs. Interested persons may contact Dr. Anna Gajar, director of the program, Pennsylvania State University, 226-B Moore Building, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802 (814/863-2284).