

Indian News Notes

By VINCE LOVETT

Navajo Medical Student Blends Tribal Heritage With Modern Medicine: A third-year medical student who will be the first Navajo woman physician, according to the *Navajo Times*, when she graduates from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine talked with the paper about blending Navajo heritage with modern medical technology. Susie John, who plans to work with the Navajos after her graduation in 1981, said, "Navajos have a feeling that if an illness befalls a person, that person is out of harmony. Everything is like a circle," she said. "There is a bigger emphasis on religion, on the psyche, in Indian medicine than in Western medicine. Navajos are always aware of the people involved, not just the case. If you see a patient, it's important to understand who he is, what clan he belongs to, who he is related to. When a Navajo person becomes ill, the entire family is involved." She said that when an Indian person becomes sick, there's "always the decision whether to opt for traditional medicine—to have a sing—or to go to a Western doctor." She thought that both could be beneficial because the spiritual and physical selves are not separate entities, adding that the key is to know when each approach is appropriate.

AAIP Programs will help Indian students follow health careers: Indian students interested in pursuing a health career can share ten days this summer with a doctor, dentist, veterinarian, pharmacist or other health professional in a program sponsored by the Association of American Indian Physicians. The student would live with and accompany the practitioner on daily rounds. The purpose of the program is to give the student first hand exposure to the Indian physician's family life and daily routine on the job. AAIP is also sponsoring a workshop February 23 and 24 at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to give Indian pre-professional students information on gaining admission to a professional school. The intensive two-day session gives students specific information on prerequisite courses, how to select a professional school, test taking tips, what to expect from entrance tests, how to interview and common problems encountered by Indian students. AAIP will pay transportation costs and \$20 per day expenses to students selected as participants in either program. For additional information write AAIP, 6801 South Western, Suite 206, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (405/631-0447).

Oklahoma Cherokees will charge fee for use of Arkansas River: An Associated Press news story reports that the Cherokee Indian Nation of Oklahoma plans to charge companies and perhaps fishermen for using the Arkansas River between Muskogee and Fort Smith, Arkansas. The tribe's principal chief, Ross Swimmer, said impatience with the Federal Government over settling of claims by the tribe led to the decision. "The river is generating revenues for everyone except the people who own it," Swimmer said. "We are going to change that." In 1970 the U.S. Supreme Court said the Cherokees, Choctaws and Chickasaws owned the riverbed because the government had failed to buy it when Oklahoma became a state.

Chilocco school reports reduced costs in effort to avoid closing: Supporters of the Chilocco Indian School in northeast Oklahoma have come up with an independent cost analysis and program review which show per student costs to be substantially less than the \$19,000 figure which caused Senator Bellmon to call for the closing of the school. The new report shows per student costs of \$13,490 and \$12,099 for the past two years and projects a per student cost of only \$5,790 for fiscal year 1981. The school superintendent said that the staff has been reduced from 90 to 49 and that other savings have been made by eliminating extra curricular activities and some vocational programs. Senator Boren of Oklahoma and Representative Glenn English of the U.S. Sixth District have indicated they will support efforts to keep the school open.

Commissioner says funding of water studies a BIA priority: Indian Affairs Commissioner William E. Hallett told a Billings area audience that providing funds for comprehensive water

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resources studies by the tribes was a BIA priority. Hallett said that the "results of these studies will be used by the tribes as they choose, to negotiate with states on water allocations or to go to court." The basic premise of the policy is to develop a data base. "A lot of tribes from all over the country are in some stage of inventorying their resources. Funding has been a concern," Hallett added. The 1981 BIA budget request submitted January 28 to Congress asked for a \$3.5 million increase to implement the water resources policy. In an interview with the Great Falls Tribune Hallett said that his first responsibility as commissioner is the preservation, protection and enhancement of Indian trust properties and secondly, the delivery of resources and services to tribal governments in a responsive, efficient and effective manner. He said the BIA deals with a microcosm of the entire Federal domestic system—housing, general assistance, education, highways and so on. "The only thing we don't have to worry about is defense," he said.

Reporter says BIA budget stresses controversial issues: An analysis of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' 1981 budget request by Jake Henshaw of the Gannett News Service says that BIA "wants to spend more money in the 1981 fiscal year on controversial issues: fishing, water and tribal government development, particularly law enforcement." Henshaw said that the requested funding "could begin to help cool off the heated Northwest fishing fights between Indians and non-Indians" because of a \$5 million request to start what eventually would be a \$15 million fund to improve Indian fishing operations." He noted that funding for water resource studies would be more than doubled, going from \$2 million to \$5.5 million and he tribal government funding would be increased from \$16.8 million to \$23.6 million. Funds to strengthen existing tribal courts and police forces and to create new ones would be increased by \$2.9 million to a total of \$30.4 million. Henshaw said this may upset some non-Indians since "legal jurisdiction is a sensitive issue between Indians and non-Indians on and near many reservations." Henshaw thinks the "Bureau may have asked for a fight by proposing to cut money for tribally controlled community colleges" by \$3.9 million. The story quotes a BIA spokesman describing the budget as "Fairly well constrained" and not keeping pace with double digit inflation.

Interior sends negotiating team to work on Red Lake governmental problems: Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Sidney Mills took action January 31 to stop the exchange of telegrams, resembling the parrying thrusts of duelists, between Red Lake Tribal Chairman Roger Jourdain and the Assistant Secretary's office. Mills is sending former Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert Bennett and former BIA Area Director Graham Holmes, as a negotiating team, to work with Jourdain, the tribal council, dissident members of the tribe who have petitioned for reforms in the tribal government and other segments of the Red Lake population. After detailing the crossing pattern of the telegrams, including ultimatums from the Assistant Secretary's office to withdraw recognition of the tribal government and counter claims that the petitions were not properly delivered to the council and questioning their validity, Mills said, "These circumstances, together with your request for considerable additional time for review...have persuaded me that this matter cannot be effectively resolved by a continuing exchange of telegrams." Mills then lifted the ten-day deadline for council action on the petitions, but added that he considered it essential that the council complete its review of the petitions without delay in order to be able to deal immediately with the substantive issues with Bennett and Holmes.

Commissioner, Tribal Chairman share panel at Siletz Hearing: Commissioner of Indian Affairs William Hallett sat with the Siletz Tribal Chairman Arthur Bensell and two tribal council members as a panel testifying on behalf of S. 2055, a bill to establish a 3,630 acre reservation for the tribe, restored to federally recognized status in 1977. The panel reflected the close cooperation of the tribe and BIA officials in developing the proposed reservation plan, which also involved much consultation with state and local government authorities. Early Senate action on the bill is anticipated, but no corresponding bill has been introduced in the House and the outlook there is uncertain.