

# OHIO INDIAN TIME OHIO

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## "The Greatest Rip-off of an Indian Tribe..."

*Did Tribal Chiefs sign away Monticello?*

by Neil Drew

At Hogsburg, many members of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe are wondering if the Tribal Council has screwed up the Monticello casino deal.

On the cusp of victory in the St. Regis Mohawk Tribes' hope of building a new casino at Monticello sometime soon comes word that the three chiefs and three sub-chiefs on the Tribal Council may have made a huge mistake when they reached secret agreement April 14 with the gigantic gaming corporation Park Place Entertainment. Park is the largest gambling-oriented company in the world and owns three casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey and various other properties around the world including Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

The new compact between the Tribe and Park turns over exclusive rights to build, develop and manage any Mohawk casino in New York State to Park Entertainment. The deal takes development of Monticello away from the former developers, the Catskill Development Group, which owns Monticello Raceway, and puts future Mohawk casino projects into the hands of Park.

And how will the Tribe benefit from such an arrangement? It would receive a \$3 million loan to prop up the stumbling Akwesasne Mohawk Casino at Hogsburg, which is losing an estimated \$300,000 a month. Additionally, if the casino is ever built at Monticello, the Tribe would receive 70 percent of the profits.

But, hints a Wall Street analyst, there is some reason to believe that Park Place Entertainment may not be in the slightest bit interested in building a casino at Monticello, but instead, may be aiming to put the project on ice to protect Park Entertainment's three existing casinos in Atlantic City. Robert Berman, a partner in the Catskill Development Group, the owners of Monticello Raceway, and, till now, the major developer in the plan, called the secret new deal "The Greatest rip-off of an Indian tribe since the Dutch grabbed Manhattan Island for \$24." An amazed Berman went on to say, "The Tribe is selling out its future for a \$3 million loan."

Already, the Monticello approval process has taken five years. The new agreement with Park, should it be finalized, could mean it's back to the drawing board for another few years and a whole new round of project ratifications with U.S. and New York State officials.

But, a former chief of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council, Phillip Tarbell, says the contract between the Tribal Council and Park Place Entertainment is invalid because it was signed by officials who were never duly elected. They include chiefs Alma Ransom, Paul Thompson and Hilda

See **Rip-Off** on page 2

## Logo Winner: Jay Francis

by Joyce Mitchell



Pictured from left are RCMP Cpl. Al Bennett, Jay Francis, logo designer and Romaine Mitchell

This year's "Race Against Drugs" logo was design to Jay Francis. Jay's logo incorporated traditional values. The following is a meaning of the design:

"The design represents the grandmother moon watching over the arrival of the children of the

See **Logo** on page 9

## Congratulations to One of our Own!

Congratulations to Russ E. Jock, the son of Jackee Jock from Akwesasne. Russ was recently promoted to the Community Relations Department for the Tohono O'odham Nation Police Department. He will serve as a school resource officer and liaison for the community and high school.

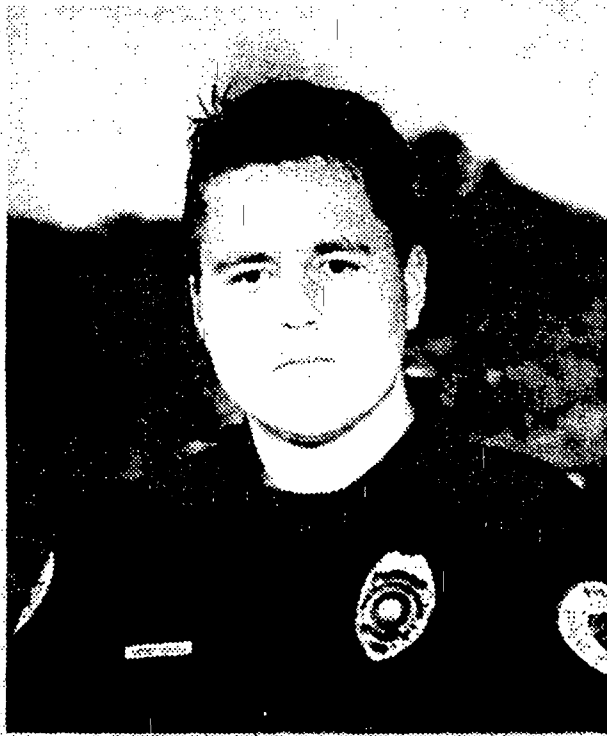
He was also promoted to the tactical investigations division, where he will work undercover in the gang unit.

Russ is the first status-treaty Indian born on the Canadian side to become a United States Certified Peace Officer, this has just set a precedent with the State of Arizona.

Russ and Brant Davis are bringing our game of lacrosse to the southwest. They had their first lacrosse clinic with the O'odham youth, which went better than expected. Russ also developed the honor program for the Onondaga Nation youth.

Congratulations Russ.

Editors Note: The Mohawk Nation Council of Chiefs worked with the State of Arizona to protect Russ' status as a North American Indian.



## For Some a Heroic Time

by Doug George Kanentiio



A decade has past but for those who were there the memories of the Battle for Akwesasne remain as vivid as ever.

From March 23rd to May 1, 1990 Akwesasne was ripped apart during the bitter struggle for the heart and soul of the Mohawk people, a contest characterized by extraordinary acts of courage and unparalleled intra-family violence.

Those terrible five weeks have become the most significant event in modern Mohawk history with the effects resonating to the present day. The tragic killing of Surete du Quebec officer Marcel LeMay at Kanehsatake and the blockade of the Mercier bridge at Kahnawake stemmed from Akwesasne's bitter spring; many of the people who took part in those two events played key roles in storming the Route 37 barricades.

The decision to seal off Akwesasne on that cold March day was not organized by any single group but

See **Heroic** on page 3

## More Chinese Illegals, Smugglers Arrested

by Neil Drew

It's beginning to look suspiciously like a way for some North Country teens to pick up a few fast bucks on a reasonably regular and penalty-free basis. Smuggling aliens from Canada into the United States. And, if you're under 18 years of age, the price you'll have to pay is marginal.

Three Chinese aliens were taken into custody Monday after they were found in a van driven by 17-year-old Dylan Moses of Rooseveltown. Both Border Patrol and State Police units were involved in the stop at 1 a.m. Tuesday on Rt. 11 in Chateaugay.

The alleged aliens were identified as Men Wei Zheng, 31, Yu Yan Yeung, 42 and her 16 year old son San Kai Kwak, all of Fuchon, China. They are being held by the U.S. Government pending deportation proceedings.

The driver of the van, Moses, was charged by troopers

See **Aliens** on page 3

