

### Success forum may help students and young people

Dear Ms. Richards:

Being a small business owner in rural Alaska, I was very interested in reading the thoughts of Carlton Smith, in the Feb. 17th issue, regarding business strategies for the 1990's. There is not nearly enough awareness in rural Alaska of business ownership as a means to personal and financial growth and even less press coverage on the subject.

One of the issues Mr. Smith, raises in his article was of special interest to me. He stressed as we move into the 90's and tighter economic times, businesses must look for employees who are reliable, trainable and have a measure of self esteem or confidence in their abilities to perform successfully in a variety of job areas. Having talked to many rural Alaskan business owners and managers over the last several decades, I'm aware this type of employee is not easily located in rural communities. As a consequence, Federal, State, school districts, airlines, medical facilities, mines and other employers are still turning to the urban marketplace to find the employees they need while in too many cases our local people find themselves on some type of government assistance program which takes care of the body but does little for self esteem or community or regional development. Or, as Mr. Smith, said, 'Locals are finding themselves locked out of work and lacking the right skills, only to be replaced by those coming to rural Alaska and picking up these jobs which do not exist in Alaska's larger cities.'

For some time now, I have held the belief at least part of the problem of finding employees needed to stabilize rural job slots is the lack of exposure to various types of jobs by village children in Alaska. Any child growing up in an urban community experiences frequent contact with people working within a wide range of jobs and career field. As school children, they go on group tours of fire stations, airports, city offices, etc. They are surrounded with the idea they will one day grow up and perform in one of these positions. The village child on the other hand has few opportunities to see a wide

range of job choices and those he does see are all to frequently filled by non-local individuals who have brought their skills to the community to fill an existing need, just as pointed out by Mr. Smith. For the village student, the messages is "they" get the jobs and "we" end up on some kind of government program, without self esteem or the tremendous feeling that comes with being a success in your chosen job field. This is not intentional on anyone's part, it just happens that way.

The solution to how to do a better job of showing life and job options to rural village students has no single or simple answer. I believe however, a "success forum" of Alaskan Natives from throughout Alaska, who have completed some educational or job experience process and are now working as mid or upper level managers, lawyers, doctors, pilots, educators, realtors, senators, representatives, etc., needs to be put together in an attempt to expose these individuals to students in schools in village Alaska to help them to understand THEY can attain these same career goals and now must go to people from the urban areas, frequently not even from Alaska. Exposure might consist of personal visits to schools or community events, talks by Native leaders or profiles of leaders at work, etc.

In talking to the Native leaders and business people I know, they have to an individual expressed their willingness to work within and donate some of their time to some type of "success forum" that would work toward the goal of opening the windows of opportunity to students and young people in village Alaska, now and in years to come. Alaska cannot afford to continue to exclude so much of its potential work force from the marketplace. My purpose in writing to you is to seek the ideas and assistance of yourself and the *Tundra Times* in moving the "success forum" from the idea stage to a program which will involve caring Native Alaskans in an outreach program that would have positive effects for Alaska village young people for years to come.

Respectfully,

Donald S. Dorsey  
Kiana

### Oil controls legislation

Dear Editor:

Why does Alaska have virtually the lowest petroleum royalty rates in the world?

Alaska charges a fixed 12.5 percent share from its petroleum leases; Wyoming increased it take from 12.5 to 16.67 percent in 1982 ; Mississippi requires 20 percent; Louisiana insists upon 20 to 25 percent; California demands 30 percent and Texas commands an on-shore average of 20 percent with an off-shore minimum of 25 percent - some tracts have been sold with a royalty and escalating bonus that pushes the Texan share of production as high as 45 percent.

Each barrel represents 42 gallons of petroleum. Alaskan petroleum production has reached 420 billion gallons. This amount divided by our population (550,000 Alaskans) equals 763,636 gallons of petroleum per capita exploited to date.

Cheap Alaskan petroleum has represented 25 percent of all fuel sold in the U.S. This petroleum has been pumped, transported, refined, distributed and retailed at the pump by trans-national oil companies' lucrative monopoly, with regular price increases over the years. Then they continue to have the nerve to propogandize about stabilizing their costs.

The alternative solution to paying either a sales tax or a state income tax isn't hard: You pressure the oil industry's legislature to either commit themselves, by enacting a statute, to raise the royalty rate on all 'future' oil lease sales to make them competitive . . . or we vote them out of office.

Join me in laughing at our 12.5 percent state royalty yield as ridiculously low!!!

Mike Bruner  
Anchorage