



NATIVE UNITY CHALLENGED

AFN's Native Housing Procedures Questioned By Reg. Corporations

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

FAIRBANKS — The increasing solidarity of aboriginal Americans was very much in evidence at the National Council on Indian Opportunity meeting in Fairbanks, July 26-27. Representatives from Eskimo, Athabaskan, Tlingit, Haida, Choctaw, Taos, Sioux, Blackfoot, and Apache tribes exchanged information and attitudes on nationwide Indian concerns.

However, the unity of Alaska's twelve Native regions was questioned as AFN's Don Wright and Harry Carter presented that organization's housing program for NCIO backing.

AFN asked for the board's support in Washington, D.C. in obtaining EDA funding for Native housing, supplanting the present ASHA programs, which have evidenced financial difficulties and which AFN feels does not have sufficient Native involvement.

AFN also asked the Council to expedite the transfer of the deactivated Wildwood Air Force Base to the Kenai native corporation for a vocational training center, a boarding facility for Native students now being sent out of the state, and a central office for AFN's embryo housing program which has already experienced difficulties getting started.

Early hopes for a 1972 start on the units have faded as the building season sped by. The AFN housing project began to be looked at with caution by some of the regions.

Tanana Chief's John Sackett raised the question of "who speaks for whom", indicating that the AFN had not laid the groundwork for the presentation within its own board.

Representatives from at least four regions revealed that they did not have direct knowledge of AFN's plans through participation on the AFN board.

Martin Seneca of New York explained the dilemma of the National Council. "We got these resolutions from the leadership of the AFN and we assumed it came with the approval of the board."

"I would caution NCIO against assuming that," warned Sackett. "The board," he explained to the lower '48 visitors, "has powers over the AFN. The very nature of those powers to the region are sovereign and have a tendency to be autonomous. Until they (the board of the AFN) decide in themselves, the

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"I WILL DO MY BEST — to represent my people, the Native people of Alaska." The new Miss World Eskimo Olympics for 1972, Helen Andon of Tanana, received an ivory crown at action-packed Patty Gymnasium in Fairbanks, Saturday, July 29.

— Photo by FRANK MURPHY

Exciting Olympics Now History- Large Crowds See Records Toppled by Native Athletes

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

There is a look that passes over the face of an athlete as he checks out the competition, a look that says: Am I the best? There is another look that passes between near-equals and fellow men when they have shared three days of contests and come away with a healthy respect for

the opposition.

The 1972 World Eskimo Olympics held July 27-28-29, cemented friendships between one village and another, between Eskimo athletes and Indian athletes, between resident Alaskans and out-of-state visitors, and between Canada and America.

Besides which, the three day event broke several standing records, saw the coronation of a queen, the near loss of a contestant's ear, the non-fatal eating of muktuk, and was a heck of a lot of fun.

As the Olympic flame flickered in seal oil lamps at one end of the Patty Gymnasium at the University of Alaska, spectators watched the parade of contestants around the floor to the beat of Eskimo drums. The 1972 competition was off to a start.

The close relationship between the Natives and the wild-life sharing the land with them was dramatically demonstrated in the Native dances, dances about oogruk and walrus, Wolf dances and Raven dances. The rich fur and feather trimmed costumes were a beautiful study in earth colors, pale golds ranging to tans, browns, and raven-black.

The world-famous Barrow dance group took first place honors in dance competition, with the outstanding King

Islanders and the highly original Fairbanks Interior Eskimos taking second and third.

Clayborn Tunik received the best dancer award, and 79 year old John Kikaruk received thunderous applause from the other contestants and audience as he received a Special Outstanding Dance award for a solo performance of his own song. John is a member of the Anchorage

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Muktuk Eating Contest At Eskimo Olympics

Muktuk, the raw skin and blubber of the bowhead whale and the subject of much controversy in the national news media, may be the secret behind the incredible tests of strength and endurance required in the World Eskimo Olympics held in Fairbanks, Alaska, July 27-28-29.

The state's Department of Environmental Health ruled recently that it is illegal to sell muktuk on the grounds that it is inherently unsafe and can only be eaten by those with a "classical iron stomach".

However, close to a hundred intrepid Eskimos and Indians with something more like iron

muscles and teeth, flocked to enter the Muktuk Eating Contest and if anything at the Olympics looked like the old village days, it was the banquet-like feeling of the friendly, smiling, and apparently hungry contestants who sat down to their muktuk like it was a hearty meal, not a contest.

Billy Killbear from Barrow, America's farthest north city, chewed his way to victory Friday night in 27 seconds but was bested by another Eskimo, Roy Kataruk from Inuvik, Canada, who downed his piece Saturday night in a flat 20 seconds.

The defeated contestants
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Bilingual College-

Bethel Is Setting of Community College

By MARGIE BAUMAN
(Courtesy of the Anchorage Daily News)

A bi-lingual community college for the predominantly Yupik Eskimo speaking population of the Bethel region will be a reality by autumn, with classes in Yupik via television and English as a foreign language.

The University of Alaska, having approved the idea at a recent board of regents meeting in Fairbanks, is actively seeking a director for the sprawling new Kuskokwim Community College, backed up by \$110,000 in appropriations by the 1972 Alaska

Senate Passes Mammal Bill

The United States Senate passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 declaring a moratorium on the taking and importation of marine mammals and products into the United States, and establishing a federal Marine Mammal Commission to establish methods for the protection and conservation of marine mammals.

Alaskan Natives are specifically exempted from the provision of the act if they take mammals for subsistence purposes or for the creating and selling of authentic articles of handicrafts and clothing.

Also, edible portions of marine mammals may be sold in native villages for native consumption.

An amendment which would retain authority with the states to conserve, control and manage marine mammals in or on lands in their jurisdiction was introduced by Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and defeated by a vote of 26-63.

Stevens argued that the state of Alaska had a superior management program which had resulted in an increase of mammals since statehood.

Supporting his amendment, the Alaska Republican warned, "The basic purpose of the group that is sponsoring this bill is to stop hunting of all wildlife without any scientific basis. Next it will be brown bear, then moose and deer, then rabbits."

Stevens said he was disappointed that his amendment was not accepted, but that he voted in favor of the final bill because it contained provisions to protect Alaskan natives for which he had worked in committee.

Additionally, Stevens said that he had voted for the bill so that he would be appointed to the joint House-Senate Conference Committee and be in a

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legislature.

Over 300 paraprofessional employees — mostly teaching and health aides — working in the 56 villages of the Bethel region, would make up the first student body, immediately establishing Kuskokwim as the third largest community college in Alaska in terms of full time equivalency of study.

The academic and vocational development of each of the students will be assessed and a bi-lingual curriculum developed to serve the needs of students on an individual basis. Educational radio and television will be used

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