

Drug abuse frequently ends in tragedy

To the editor:

Foremost I would like to thank God for a second chance at life. Then, my mother for sticking with me for the last six years (my stroke years), and Sylvester Stallone and the producers of Rocky for supplying some of the inspiration and fortitude associated with a quest of this magnitude.

Riding from Anchorage to Fairbanks in 10 days was no easy feat for a man in my condition — massive stroke from a drug overdose. But I know the Lord was watching over me, or I would not have dared attempt the trek by myself.

A very special thank you also goes out to the following companies, lodges and persons for showing their concern for the drug abuse problem. Without their donations, this bike trek would not have been possible: Alaska Airlines, John Reynolds family, Marty Larson family, friends, Mountain

Haus, Chulitna Lodge, Igloo Service, Reindeer Mt. Lodge, Carlo Creek Lodge, Harper Lodge at Denali, Natural Food Cache, Nenana Assembly of God Church, Cripple Creek Resort and Grayline Bus Service.

Yes, I do have personal vendetta against drug abuse. Drug abuse stole 18 of what are to be the most productive years of a person's life from me — 12 in the abuse of and six so far in the recovery of this stroke, and there is no chance of me reliving those 18 wasted years. After that first encounter with the cancer of our society my senses were deluded. I was trapped in the web of drug abuse, and my life was doomed.

But there is a cure for this cancer — education. If I had seen and heard someone in my condition when I was coming into the drug scene or even when I was involved in abusing drugs, I would have thought, "If I could end

up like that I'm going to stay away from illegal drugs."

Yes, the reality of drug abuse is frightening. It would have scared some sense into me. That is why I'm offering to talk to groups and schools about the dangers associated with abusing drugs.

I've put together a two and a half hour presentation and counseling session where I come in and give a one and a half hour talk, and an hour is allowed for group counseling, discussion and interaction. If you are interested in more information on a presentation and counseling session, call 874-3282 in Wrangell and I will rush you more information on myself, my objectives, fee schedule and scheduling data.

It makes me sad when I think of the lives that have been taken or wasted, the families that have been torn apart, the dreams that have been shattered partly because of the lack of education

on the part of the abuser. Are we going to sit by and watch this menace to society destroy us as a nation before we take action? God forbid.

But what really gripes me is that the epidemic of drug abuse has no prerequisite on who it is destroying. Some of our young with the brightest of futures have been tangled in the web of drug abuse. And what is worse, they will deny the fact that they are being duped.

What started out with the honest intention of an occasional toke or bowlful ends in tragedy or destroyed dreams, as it did with me. I'm going through too much pain, I've seen too much death and sorrow in the last 18 years to stand by and do nothing. Let's get educated.

Sincerely,
Tom Crandell
Wrangell

Changes would affect air quality

To the editor:

This is in objection to proposed regulation changes for DEC, specifically, Title 18 (18AAC50 and 18AAC52). The proposed regulation changes would ease controls for air quality thus lowering air quality.

The state of Alaska is a unique setting. It is the last place in the United States where many species of wildlife are seen, often in abundance.

Development has not destroyed habitat and the beauty Alaskans appreciate. Alaska has been considered a showcase — a place where industrial

expansion would be done sensibly to protect our air and water. The Department of Environmental Conservation developed regulations to ensure that this happens.

However, when the state could use an economic boost, it is disheartening to see that DEC (commissioned to protect our environment) would make cheap development possible while lowering our water and air quality. Industry will come to Alaska to provide us the economic help we need. It is not necessary to sacrifice our clean environment. This kind of action has

ruined localities in the "Lower 48." Alaskans don't want the same results.

It is DEC's responsibility to keep air and water quality standards high. Alaskan citizens don't need a Department of Environmental Conservation unless it *does* "conserve the environment." I urge you to do your jobs.

Thank you for considering my objections to these proposed regulation changes.

Sincerely,
Tamara Smid
Beluga

Group sympathizes with Chignik Lagoon

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Chignik Lagoon,

The letter to the editor in the Sept. 14 issue of the *Tundra Times* was heartbreaking and painful to read, but it told of an event that has happened too many times to our people.

In Kenai in the late '30s when the Civil Aeronautics Authority facility was being built, the contractors, using bulldozers pushed all the graves on Shkituk Hill over into the river. This was a major cemetery for the Dena'ina Indian people. One of our main villages was at the foot of the sloping side of the hill. All of this land was taken over by non-Native people and the village site, as well as the cemetery, was destroyed.

The Kenaitze Cultural Activities Committee has just recently obtained maps of the Kenai/Soldotna/Kasilof area and we will be plotting the sites of all known villages, cemeteries and

single dwelling and single grave sites in the area. Many of our elders are gone, but we do have people who remember the locations or remember being told by the elders where they were so we can trace these places which are so important to our cultural heritage.

I feel that when they (the non-Native people) took away our language, our clans, our Native names and many of our customs they did enough damage. Taking away our graves is very painful and is an irreparable damage which we must all protest to the utmost and demand that this no longer happen to any of us.

I do not know what the next step should be, who we should turn to for help or even if it is possible to get a small amount of returns for what was taken from us, but I do feel that we need to stand up and be counted and say, "This much and no more! We refuse to be used in this fashion and

to have the graves of our ancestors desecrated without thought or a care."

I have heard the president say that it is time to be accountable for our actions. Well, for me that sword cuts two ways. Let the non-Native people be responsible for a small portion of the things that have been done to us, whether it was in the name of progress or not.

Very sincerely,
June Lindgren Gagnon
Kenaitze Culture Committee
Kenai

CAC praises Tundra Times

To the editor:

As you are aware, Chugach Alaska Corporation recently subscribed to the *Tundra Times* for the shareholders of our corporation. I am pleased with the subscription, as I feel that the *Tundra Times* is an excellent method of keeping the shareholders informed of current events throughout the state.

It is especially important that they

be kept informed about the 1991 legislation, as any activities related to 1991 have such an impact on the shareholders. It is for these reasons that CAC subscribes to your newspaper.

Sincerely,
Gene F. Kompkoff
Chairman of the Board, CAC
Anchorage

Alaska's Oldest Statewide
Newspaper

Letters
to the

Editor