

# Letters

## *CINA passes resolution on Trader death*

To the editor:

An Athabascan died on the streets of Anchorage, another victim caught between two worlds. It may take awhile to win the right to live as Alaska Natives in our respective Native ways again. There are, however, some things which can be done in Anchorage to keep such tragedies as the death of Francis Trader to a minimum. The CINA Board of Directors, by unanimous consent at its last board meeting, passed the enclosed resolution. We appreciate your willingness to print this in its entirety.

Sincerely,  
Paul Blank, member  
Board of Directors  
Cook Inlet Native Assoc.

January 27, 1986 CINA Board of Directors meeting

Motion Re:

Death of Francis Trader

Whereas;

Francis trader, an Athabascan, died under tragic circumstances on the streets of Anchorage, and

Whereas;

Public and private service agencies all failed to get Francis Trader and the help that he was in need of, and

Whereas;

State and Municipal Social Service budget cuts are responsible for a service as vital as the community service partol to lose a large part of their ability to help those who have become incapable of caring for themselves, now

Therefore be it resolved that the Cook Inlet Native Assoc., by vote of the Board of Directors, calls for the following actions to be taken in order to prevent a tragedy such as the death of Francis Trader from reoccurring:

- A) The budget for the community service patrol be restored to the extent that it can operate twenty four hours per day, seven days per week, and that the patrol have sufficient personnel and equipment to service the needs of all people who may find themselves in a life threatening situation due to their inability to help themselves to food, clothing, shelter, etc.
- B) that a training program be initiated by the Anchorage Police Dept. that will be adequate to insure that all Police Dept. personnel are trained to be able to identify and help people on the street who are or who are in danger of finding themselves in a life threatening situation but are unable to help themselves.
- C) That the Mayor of Anchorage empower a task force to determine what went wrong with the system that resulted in the Death of Francis Trader, and which individuals, if any, should share in that responsibility, and to develop recommendations to help prevent the reoccurrence of a tragedy such as this.

Jacqueline Guzialek, President  
Paul Blank, Secretary

## *Prison system a Gulag for Alaska Natives?*

To the editor:

I am writing this letter concerning the native Alaskan prisoners who are serving their time in out of state prisons.

There is a law in 22 A.A.C.05.251 (c), (i), (ii), that says if you come from a rural area, live a subsistence life style and speak the native language, that you can't be sent out of state.

There are a number of Alaskan natives, including myself, doing time in the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prison System. Most of us are from rural areas of Alaska. It is very hard for us to adjust. Most of us like myself, were convicted of state crimes under the Alaska Criminal Code.

My wife died on Jan. 17, 1986. I was not allowed to attend her funeral as they told me I have to pay the expenses. When I raised the money, they decided I couldn't go anyway. I have four children in Alaska now that I can't visit or talk with.

There seems to be a pattern of discrimination in the way the

authorities send native Alaskans away to do their time. I was branded as a "Troublemaker", even though I have never had a write up for any rule infraction. I earned this label solely because of my efforts to remain near my home in Alaska.

Many blacks and whites with more time than natives are serving their time in Juneau and Fairbanks Correctional Centers. They get to stay because their families are in Alaska. My family has been in Alaska since before Alaska was a state. They are still there.

I am writing this in hope that the people of Alaska who read it will at least become aware of what the state is doing to us. They are disregarding the A.A.C. 05.251 (c), (i), (ii), and sending us far from our homes and our loved ones. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has become to us natives what the *Gulag Archipelago* is to the Russians.

Sincerely,  
Steven Cleveland