

# Hearings Held on Tanana Valley Community College

## State Legislature Will Consider School During Next Session

By MARILY RICHARDS

The concept of the Tanana Valley Community College will become a reality if the state legislature will approve it in the next session.

The legislature's highest education committee heard many favorable testimonies from various persons and groups in Fairbanks last week.

Mildred Banfield, the committee's chairman, indicated that her committee will approve the community college and give the go ahead signal to the legislature. She stated on Beeline, a local radio show, that it should be started as soon as possible.

Questions arise as to why a community college should exist if the Fairbanks area already has the University of Alaska and several adult education programs.

Walter Taylor, Jr., the vocational and adult education director of the James T. Hutchison Adult Career Development Center, testified "that the University of Alaska and the adult education programs were not meeting the needs of a large portion of the people."

Claus Naske, a University in-

structor in the Business Economic and Government Department, said he "favored the community college because the University was not meeting the community's needs." He said a community college could consolidate all the various vocational educational courses, and would strengthen the University's police administration and electronics technician programs.

Darroll Hargraves, head of the Division of Statewide Services at the University, predicted that if a community college were funded both its and the University's enrollment would be increased. Hargraves said that a Tanana Valley Community College could use existing buildings in the Fairbanks area plus have satellite campuses in Nenana, Big Delta and Eielson AFB.

Hargraves went on to explain how a community college would benefit the public. He described in his statement to the committee the community college as a progressive life situation affecting the student from infancy through old age. Some typical courses the student might have contact with might be his moth-

er took a child care course before he was born, he may take a swimming course for toddlers, and later arts and crafts for preschoolers.

Through grade school he might enroll in evening, week-end or summertime courses. In junior high he could go on week-end-long wilderness trips.

During high school he could take part in cultural activities. After his graduation he could enter the community college in preparation for employment or for transfer to the university.

If the student goes to work he could take courses in tax laws or to qualify for a management position. To satisfy other interests he may take anything from basket weaving to computer concepts to judo to physical conditioning or obedience training for a pet.

As he matures he could take courses to prepare him for retirement, drawing up his will or a language course to travel abroad. After all that, "we will graduate our student to the "great community college in the sky."

Hargraves said that Alaskans

have always recognized the need for community colleges. Back in 1916 several intuitive citizens founded Valdez University. Most of its curriculum were marine sciences and prospecting taught by the experts themselves. Valdez University had the true spirit of a community college because it folded in 1918, two years later.

Some arguments against the community college are that it might duplicate the University's courses, that it is ridiculous to appropriate funds for it since the University's budget and enrollment took a big step downward. The administration and staff would either add to the red tape or they would not be qualified.

William Taylor argued that his staff at the ACDC is qualified to teach at the community college level.

Hargraves said most people who are against the community college probably never had contact with one. He remarked on the success of the community colleges in Anchorage and Juneau. He said there are several

instances where a community college and a university co-exist together like University of Oregon and Lane Community College at Eugene, Seattle University and Seattle Community College, and Lansing Community College and Michigan State University.

The Fairbanks Citizens' Advisory Group, in a letter to former University President William R. Wood, stated the priority of needs of the community to include vocational, adult, academic, and community service (cultural, avocational, and re-training) education.

Residents of the Tanana Valley who support or reject the idea of a community college should let their views known to their representatives.