



Integrity, Pride in Heritage, Progress

AFN, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Bethel H.S., Dorm Question

The Bethel Regional Dormitory and High School consists of a body of students from throughout the AVCP region. For many of these students, their year in Bethel represents their first time away from their villages.

This has the capacity to become either a positive or a negative experience for the student. Unfortunately, in the past, many students were dissatisfied with their living situation and reacted against it in a number of ways.

Behavioral difficulties arose and friction developed among dorm, boarding home, and town students.

A dormitory, by its own structural nature, is not an easy living atmosphere; students are lumped together and removed from family and friends, which in itself can cause a strained situation conducive to difficulties. As a result, a dormitory staff must take all necessary steps to insure that the students are as happy and adjusted as possible.

The overall purpose of the Bethel Student Activities Program funded by the Johnson-O'Malley Review Committee and under the direction of John Angiak, staffed by Christy Williams, Betty Barton, and Tom and Anne Lewis is to provide all students, dormitory, boarding home, and town students, with a variety of activities during their leisure time.

However, underlying goals of the program are to introduce, or further develop, native crafts and hobbies thereby establishing a union between village and town ways of life as well as creating a comradeship among all of the students.

The program is broken down into four different areas: 1) Athletics, 2) Native Arts and Crafts, 3) Crafts and Hobbies, and 4) Special or Unscheduled Events.

Thus far, we have offered such classes as wrestling, self-defense, beading, guitar lessons, cooking, basketry, isegan (fish basket) making, needlework, fish-trap building, and ice fishing. We also have presented numerous special events, such as Halloween, and Thanksgiving dances, films, Eskimo story-telling, snow machine excursions, and cross-country skiing.

Although the program did not officially go into effect until Nov. 1, after the students had begun school, the Bethel Student Activities Program has made great headway and has been very successful.

Students surveyed about their



Shown here with his wife, Thelda, Dennis J. Tiepelman is the new executive director for Kotzebue Area Health Corporation delegate agency of AFN, Inc. Health Affairs Division. He was hired November 1973.

Tiepelman Executive Director at KAHC

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., Health Affairs Division, hired Dennis J. Tiepelman as Executive Director for its delegate agency, the Kotzebue Area Health Corporation.

Tiepelman was hired on Nov. 6, 1973.

Dennis grew up in Alaska in the northwest country around the Kotzebue-Deering area. He lived in this area for 21 years before accepting employment with the Bureau of Indian Affairs at Wingate, N.M.

His grandparents were of Eskimo heritage and so was his mother. His father was a Kiowa Indian from Oklahoma but he was brought up in the Eskimo tradition.

He attended all his elementary education at Deering and graduated in May, 1962. He said he completed his eight-year elementary schooling in six years. He then entered Friends High School at Kotzebue.

The following year he transferred to Sitka, Alaska and entered the BIA boarding high school, the Mt. Edgecumbe High School.

"I learned quite a bit and

reactions to the program have stated that they enjoy, and frequently rely on, the activities and that they have been provided a means of establishing a wider range of friends.

Homesickness, an omnipresent problem at any dormitory, is mentioned far less frequently now that the program is running.

Although it is quite plausibly still too leary to evaluate the over-all results of starting such a program, it has been thus far measurable improvements in behavior and attitude

participated in extra-curriculum activities," Dennis Tiepelman said.

He went out for track and field events but considered himself as "mediocre" in those events but considered his schooling in civic affairs as more successful. He became editor of the school newspaper. In his senior year, he was elected class president.

When he finished high school he was among 135 graduating students and finished tenth among the considered bright students.

"As it turned out, I was the tenth highest graduate of my class, and it was an achievement when I consider the amount of goof off I did," reflected Dennis.

He also received a scholarship to go to college during his high school senior year.

In 1966, Dennis entered Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. He attended the full four years there and graduated in December of 1971. He studied in the field of education with a double major of English and psychology and graduated with an overall grade point average of 3.00 and "was eligible to teach in secondary education."

Soon after graduation, he began working for the government. He also went back to graduate school at the University of New Mexico for an entire summer and completed nine semester hours in educational administration.

On Feb. 4, 1971, Dennis began working as a supervisory guidance counselor for the BIA at Fort Wingate High School, Fort Wingate, N.M. He was successful as a supervisor and educator in guidance.

The following year, he applied for more training and was

AFN, Inc. Establishes Prog. at Anchorage Community College

The AFN, Inc.'s Technical Assistance Program has established a Business Management Training Program in conjunction with the BIA and Anchorage Community College.

This is a two-year program for students from all 12 regions.

The Business Management started June 1973 with 22 students from eight different regions. There are now 31 students from nine regions.

This program is a comprehensive business management, training students in Business Administration, Business Finance, Business Management, History of Land Claims, Implementation of

Land Claims, etc.

By the time a student has completed the course, he/she should be able to establish, administer, manage and operate business and corporation enterprises and will, therefore, be a trained asset to his Regional Corporation.

The program is designed to be open-entry, open-exit, individualized for each student.

As this is a new program, there are still problems being worked out. The open-exit concept has been implemented, but until all the required courses are packaged, students are being entered at the beginning of each new semester. It is hoped that true open-entry will be established by the next summer semester.

The emphasis of this program is on the ability of the student to function in a business atmosphere. The program emphasis is not only in individualized instruction but also in modern concepts of business operations.

In most courses the student has the opportunity to progress at his own rate. An outstanding example of this involves a student who will be graduating in December. He has nearly completed two years of work in seven months time.

The core curriculum is designed to provide the student with the basic knowledge required for functioning in the business field. Upon obtaining these skills, a specialty will be selected for and by the student.

These specialties include Accounting, Business Administration, Municipal Planning, and Banking and Finance. A student is not necessarily limited to these areas.

Should a student be interested in pursuing something else, such as personnel administration, an individual program plan can be developed.

General Electives are available so that the student can also complete the degree requirements for the Associate of Applied Science Degree if he/she so desires.

The AFN, Inc. Technical Assistance program is headed by Alfred Ketzler. Ketzler is the former president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference. He was the first TCC head elected back in June of 1962.

one of 12 applicants out of a possible 80 to receive training under the BIA Indian Administration Program.

The course involves work experience and on-the-job experience. He said he was still in this training originally set up for a five-year period.

The phases of administration and the training has been set up as follows: recruitment, placement, six months; employee relations, six months; training and development, six months; labor relations and F.O. six months; and classification, three years.

"The training," explains Dennis Tiepelman, "was designed to acquaint me with all phases of personnel actions and specialize in classification which is a complex part of management that deals in setting up jobs, pay schedules and other related items."

"I have considered myself," continued Tiepelman, "successful as a person and a worker. The past three years, I have been in a position to supervise people and I have learned a great deal in the process."

"I consider myself an educator and one who has had success as a supervisor of employees. Such background is necessary in these times and I feel I can contribute to a variety of jobs."

"I am by no means trying to be all things but if I can apply certain situations and tasks to the background I have, I know that I can be a success. Any job will consider a variety of factors and I consider the human element as the prime consideration of doing any job."

"It takes people to run things, to get things done and in the final analysis, make a person and the job successful."

Dennis Tiepelman is married to former Thelda Haley of Twin Lakes, N.M. Thelda is full-blooded Navajo. They were married in April of 1972.