

"Youth Education Program" replaces "Project Now"

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During the coming school year, Fairbanks Native Association's JOM program will be reorganized to better meet the needs of all Native Children in the Fairbanks area.

Formerly called "Project Now," the JOM program offered a series of alternative high school electives, a library of materials on Native Americans, publication of a monthly newspaper, curriculum development, and some demonstrations and classes within the elementary and junior high schools. The predominant focus was on services to high school students.

As planned for September, the JOM program will become a more general "Youth Education Program," and offer services to all eligible age groups.. A preschool outreach program will offer counseling and some neighborhood educational workshops to three and four year-olds. Curriculum materials and a home-school counseling program are planned for elementary students. Secondary students will be eligible to attend voluntary workshops on various aspects of Alaska Native cultural heritage. A career education counselor is planned to serve the secondary students also. A final aspect of the proposed program is coun-

seling available to students of all age levels, to help them meet daily problems which may confront them in school.

The preschool outreach program will hope to meet needs of those Native preschoolers who are not, for some reason, enrolled in Headstart. It will offer them some preschool education in a setting that makes it easier for most eligible children to enroll.

The curriculum materials program will hope to develop a series of hands-on kits to circulate among the local schools. These will each feature cultural heritage of one of the Alaskan Native ethnic groups, and will require very little special knowledge or work by a teacher who wants students to use the materials.

Some elementary students will

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also have a chance to participate in a model program which will be started at one of the local schools, and may hopefully spread to one or two others by the end of the school year. This program will provide a special instructor/counselor, who will work both with the students to help them with school work and problems in school, and with the parents to help them understand what the school is doing. This counselor will help to show parents ways

of helping their children more with their school problems.

The workshops on Native cultural heritage will actually be a series of classes and demonstrations. Some classes may be held outside of school, and some as a part of school. They will each last as long as is needed to teach the subject at hand, and each will be taught by a person expert in that subject. Classes offered will depend somewhat on what items students wish to learn, and who can be found to teach them. Some of the classes which may be

held include Eskimo and Athapaskan dancing and music, sled building and dog driving, Native beadwork and skin sewing, basketmaking, and ivory carving. There are many other possible topics.

A career education counselor will help Native high school students decide what to plan for their futures, and help them find ways to do what they want to do. This counselor will be able to devote extra time to the students who might otherwise drop out of school, and give them other choices.

Daily problems which arise

when students of all ages attend school can include such things as misunderstandings with a school bus driver, assignment to schools or classes students don't like, failure to meet some of the school's requirements, and simple social problems. A counselor will be available to students to help them find ways of dealing with these problems. This counselor will also have alternatives and help for those students whose problems may be so bad that the student cannot otherwise remain in school.

These JOM services will hope to begin in September, with full scale operation by October. More information on any of the planned services can be obtained by calling Fairbanks Native Association at 452-1648.

and Dr. Aaron Sartain, visiting professor from Southern Methodist University.

The undergraduate faculty is comprised of community leaders such as Dr. John Garvin, director of Alaska Children's Services at the Anchorage Community Mental Health Center; Dr. Louis Nauman, former director of laboratories for Alaska Medical Laboratories; Robert R. Richards, executive vice president of Alaska Pacific Bank; and Rev. Dr. Hal N. Banks, organizing minister of Immanuel United Presbyterian Church in Anchorage.

Returning AMU faculty members include Dr. John Beebe, Mr. Tsuguo Arai, Dr. Bill Frohne, Dr. Karen Willmore, and Mrs. Atsuko Yamamoto. Other faculty members listed for the fall semester are William E. Allen, Dr. Charles R. Decker, Dr. James Donally, Lynn C. Dorrough, Betty Thompson Fedje, Laura Kelly, Lynda Lorrimer, Donald F. Lyon, Dr. David Monson, Judith Marquez, Kay Marshall, Dr. Eva B. Spelts Olds, Linda J. Richmond, James E. Stevens, and Dr. Scott R. Stripling.