

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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What Is 'SUN' Board?

The purpose of the Special Services, Upward Bound, and Native Studies (SUN) Advisory Board is to ensure that the University of Alaska provides adequate educational services to the rural and Alaskan Native student. The Advisory Board consists of 12 members including four students — Ray Alstrom, vice president; Sue Stevens, Julie Nickoli, secretary; and Irene Heckman. Four parents — John Pingayak, president; Emily Wilson with the other two yet to be chosen; four faculty and community members are Laura Bergt, Mary Jane Fate, Sen. John Sackett and Terry Tomczak.

In addition to ensuring that educational and other services are provided by the university, the Advisory Board is responsible for reviewing all the proposals developed and submitted by Special Services, Upward Bound and Native Studies and will also accept and act as sponsors or advisory committee for proposals it considers worthy. The SUN board is also responsible for recommending general policies to the chancellor of the Northern Region, and participates in the interviewing of all applicants for positions in the three programs mentioned above.

The Native students are responsible for the creation of Native Studies introduced in 1970-71. Dr. Walter Soboleff who was the first director of Native Studies retired in 1974. The present director is Dennis Demmert.

At the SUN Board's meeting on Nov. 24, 1975, the members discussed at length classes presently administered under SOS headed by Mrs. Toni Jones and classes under Native Studies. One subject, or class—not yet offered to students, which drew strong interest was on Native Land Claims and its effect on municipalities.

At the next meeting on Dec. 8, 1975, at 7 p.m. the SUN Board will discuss in detail these two items and take appropriate action.

The board meets the second Monday, every month, and the meetings are open to all interested students.

Studies of Migratory Birds

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been awarded contracts totaling \$495,733 to make baseline ecological studies of migratory birds, assess fish and shellfish resources, and study the life histories and habitats of seals and sea otters in Alaskan coastal waters.

The awards were made by the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The contracts are part of a major marine environmental study conducted by NOAA's Environmental Research Laboratories for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and its environmental studies program.

This study seeks to determine the probable ecological impacts of oil exploration and development activities on Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf.

The Alaska researchers plan to summarize the distribution, abundance, behavior, and food dependencies of birds associated with shoreline and estuarine

habitats in the Gulf of Alaska, and the Bering and Beaufort Seas.

They will also determine the critical habitats, migratory routes, and breeding locales for principal bird species.

Primary emphasis for field surveys will be placed on the Beaufort Sea and habitats in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska which are known to be important to key or critical bird species which are vulnerable to contamination.

Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft will be used to assess bird populations in the remote areas.

Results of the field surveys and previous research will be compiled for a general description of bird use by region and major habitat along Alaska's coastline. The scientists will identify all major bird habitats on maps and provide information on bird migration by species for one field season.

Very little information exists

(Continued on Page 6)

Letters from Here and There

CAC Responds To Eagle River Investigation

November 24, 1975

The Hon. C. J. Occhipinti
Superior Court Judge
303 K St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Judge Occhipinti:

The Citizen Advisory Committee of the State Correctional Center at Eagle River would like to respond to the Grand Jury on the investigation into the Division of Corrections. The Citizen Advisory Committee was appointed in May 1975 by Charles Adams in response to a demand by Chugiak-Eagle River citizens at the Alaska Humanities Forum "Corrections and the Community" held on April 26, 1975. It consists of seven Chugiak-Eagle River citizens, two corrections officers and two inmates. We see ourselves as a liaison between the institution and the community. We are an independent group and have no supervision or control from the Division of Corrections; we have defined our own purpose and we plan our meetings. Because Eagle River is the area of our interest and expertise we limit ourselves in this statement to this institution.

The Grand Jury investigation has pointed out some things we would like to see changed. People of all political persuasions in Chugiak-Eagle River agree that they would like this institution to work as designed and not be a threat to the surrounding community. Therefore we support the recommendation to remove classification from Eagle River to a more secure institution, and consequently to establish a more suitable Halfway House. There should be no one in the Eagle River facility who is not expressly classified to be there. It is difficult for many people to separate in their minds the maximum security section and the general population, although in reality the two are never in contact. We would also like to see State Troopers transport any maximum security offenders since they are already trained for this.

We also strongly support the recommendation that no "hard-core" criminals be assigned to Eagle River. Our definition of "hard-core" is those likely to return to a life of crime or who are a threat to the community, although we recognize that this is very difficult to predict. The current population (excluding maximum security) consists of men within two years of probable release date and who are likely to benefit from the program. If they do not work out they are removed to another facility.

We wish to speak in support of the concept of Eagle River. It is true that no one knows for sure if it will result in the desired goal, i.e., rehabilitation, but nothing else in history has worked and since the taxpayers of Alaska have invested a great deal of money in this institution it should be given a chance to work. There have been four investigations in the year and a half since Eagle River opened — scarcely enough time to function. Although the number of men released from Eagle River

is of course still small the recidivism rate is lower than from other institutions. At Eagle River the staff is concerned primarily with a man's last two years in jail. In that time they hope to change his life style, teach him to be a responsible person, gain a measure of self-understanding, and phase him back into society. What is very encouraging to us is that we see the institution beginning to build success.

Many of the inmates in Eagle River have a more highly developed sense of responsibility for their own actions and a sense of being answerable to their associates than do many people outside the walls. This is peer discipline (which is always the most effective kind) at its best. Each man knows his actions will have an effect on others. Contrary to the Grand Jury's insinuations, the inmates do not run the institution. However they do some very positive things for each other.

Some very good things are happening at Eagle River which don't get much publicity: The AA chapter is very helpful (to the citizens of the Chugiak-Eagle River community also); its members have made many visits to AA chapters in Anchorage (important for post-release contacts), all without incident. The Jaycees are doing many good things: developing leadership, holding a personal development course, operating a winterization program for local low income homes, sponsored a boy to Boy's State, provided manpower to serve food for the Walk for Hope, aided Operation Airlift, sponsored a concert for UNICEF, and other things. In all these outside activities there have been no incidents. The inmates have done several service projects on their own time for the community: rebuilt the Babe Ruth field in Peters Creek and the Little League field in Eagle River, built orthopedic chairs for Hope Cottage, entertained Hope Cottage children at a picnic paid for by the inmates, and more. Again, no incidents. All of the above projects have been at no expense to the state. Staff time has been free and all costs were born by the inmates. A drug therapy group meets twice weekly.

Recently a Native Awareness Group was formed to make the inmate more aware of his heritage, educational benefits and employment assistance they may need upon release from incarceration. The Group has not yet been able to attend outside functions but it is hoped that in the future they will be able to send representatives to various Native functions and associations to aid them in their goals.

We urge those who read the Grand Jury report to also read the Division of Corrections answer to that report. It contains much information that was not as widely publicized as the Grand Jury report. We also urge readers to differentiate between institutions in the Division of Corrections (Eagle River is quite different from the others) and to realize that corrections is just one facet of the criminal justice system. Police, courts, probation and parole all play a part in the Division of Corrections operation. Ultimately the state legislature also plays a large part by determining what will be law and what will be funded. Many of

Eagle River's problems can be solved only by the legislature.

In conclusion, we would like to address the question of the protection of the public. The public can be protected for a limited period of time by bars, fences and towers; with rare exception men remain behind those bars for a specified period of time and then return to society. How they feel towards society when they leave the bars determines how safe society is. When you "rehabilitate" a man you have the ultimate in public protection. We prefer a long-range protection and therefore we enthusiastically support the Eagle River program.

Sincerely,
Citizen Advisory Committee to the State Correctional Center at Eagle River

Patrick Baumer
Jim Fermoye
Laura Kelley
Lola Pederson
Natalie Brooks, chairman
Andy Kirk
Wayne Rapp
Hobey Clapp
Lee Jordan
Duke Muetz
Darrell Reynolds

cc: Grand Jury
State Commissioners
Newspapers, Radio, TV
State Jaycee officers
Governor
Lt. Governor
Correctional facilities
APD Employees Association
Alaska Bar Association

Poetry Contest

A \$1500 grand prize will be awarded in the current Poetry Contest sponsored by the World of Poetry, a monthly newsletter for poets.

Poems of all styles and on any subject are eligible to compete for the grand prize or for 49 other cash or merchandise awards. Second place is \$500.

Joseph Mellon, contest director, said, "The initial response is gratifying. Even poets who never publish are sending their work." Each winning poem will be included in the prestigious World of Poetry Anthology.

Rules and official entry forms are available by writing to: World of Poetry, 801 Portola Dr., Dept. 211, San Francisco, Calif. 94127.

Food and Drug

The Food and Drug Administration has given its approval to the University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program to hold a third "Better Process Control School."

The course is required for supervisory personnel in food companies which are heat-processing low acid foods in hermetically sealed containers. As stated in Federal Regulation 128.10b:

"All operators of retorts, processing systems, and aseptic processing and packaging systems, and container closure inspectors shall be under the operating supervision of a person who has attended a school approved by the Commissioner (of the Food and Drug Administration) for giving instruction in retort operations, processing systems operations, aseptic

(Continued on Page 11)