

Youth center may close by January 1977

By MARY DOWNES

The Fairbanks Youth Center may have to close by the end of this year if they do not receive additional funding, said Linda Scolman, coordinator of the program. The center, located at 703 Lacey St., provides recreational activities and drug counseling for youth in Fairbanks up to 19 years of age.

Under the administration of the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA), the center received a total of \$51,000 for operating expenses for the 1977 fiscal year. The North Star Borough allotted \$30,000 of this money and the remaining \$21,000 was received from the State Office of Drug Abuse. According to Scolman, the funds will barely cover the staff's salaries up to December of this year.

The staff, which previously consisted of a coordinator, recreation/drug counselor, a time counselor, a full-time counselor/driver, two Neighborhood Youth Corps personnel and a secretary, has been cut for lack of funding. Presently, the center has managed to keep Pete Kealoha, a part-time recreation/drug counselor and Mary Nemschick, secretary.

"With 45 to 55 kids a day, or about 1,000 per month," said Scolman, "This job really wears on us." The current staff is expecting an increase of youth during the school year. Previous coordinators have noted up to 7,000 kids a month during the winter, Scolman said. Most of them travel to the bush during the summer.

Earlier in the year, the center had applied for funding under CETA—for the purpose of training five additional counselors. Having received no definite response, they are currently resubmitting a new proposal with modifications which they hope will have results by Oct. 1.

Last June, letters from the youth center were sent asking support from local service organizations. The staff commented they were disappointed that not one recipient of the letters had answered.

Counselors and children hope to have the opportunity to meet with Gov. Jay Hammond when he arrives in Fairbanks this month.

"The kids just don't understand why they haven't been able to receive more funding," said Scolman. But they are not taking any chances. The bulk of their activities in the past month have centered around various money-making tasks.

A silk-screening program was set up and while the teenagers were busy learning techniques, their self-designed T-shirts were going up for sale at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics and the Alaska State Fair.

A car wash and rummage sale were also sponsored by the center's participants. "Local radio stations have been very helpful in providing free announcements of those events," said Scolman. A donation box at their booth at the state fair brought in a grand total of \$3.00.

Altogether in the past month, the center has raised \$750 through these fundraisers, barely enough to cover one month's rent and utilities. Scolman feels that the community is reluctant to donate to keep the center going because "we've only been in existence over a year and no one really knows about us."

The staff feels that the center has come a long way from when it was originally set up. When Scolman started last June as

coordinator of the project, she said most of the equipment was damaged or lost. Now, with an efficient check-out system, the supplies are carefully used and the kids are learning responsibility in caring for items that are not theirs. It's been real slow," Scolman said, "but we've come a long way."

Most of the ideas and the planning of the activities comes from the kids themselves. Many of their activities generate from spontaneity and get lots of participation. The center is equipped with foosball, pool, basketball, volley-ball, badminton, ping pong, table games, canoes, guitar, archery and cross country-skis. Candlemaking and karate have also been offered. It is not unusual for someone to say "Let's go swimming!" and half a dozen kids head out for the gravel pits. They can be seen raking the yard, picking up rubbish or cleaning up without

(Continued on Page 6)



FAIRBANKS YOUTH CENTER at 703 Lacey Street.

—photo by SUE GAMACHE

YOUR GREAT PICK-ME-UP SOUTH. [40 times a week]

Wien to Anchorage. Western to the lower 49.

Pick up Wien to Anchorage.

Then let Western pick you up with flights from Anchorage nonstop to Hawaii or to Seattle/Tacoma and beyond.

You'll enjoy your flight on Wien. And when you fly Western, you'll be treated to complimentary Champagne which we offer every adult.

Here's the Wien schedule from Fairbanks. And the Western connections you can make:

Lv. Fairbanks (on Wien)	Arr. ANCHORAGE:	Lv. ANCHORAGE: (on Western)	
7:00 a.m. (Ex. Sun.)	7:50 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	TO: Seattle/Tacoma, San Francisco, Palm Springs, San Diego, Las Vegas
11:55 a.m.	12:45 p.m.	1:35 p.m.	TO: Seattle/Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Phoenix (Fri., Sun. only)
1:40 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	6:55 p.m.	TO: Seattle/Tacoma, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas/Ft. Worth*
5:15 p.m.	6:05 p.m.	6:55 p.m.	TO: Seattle/Tacoma, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas/Ft. Worth*
8:20 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	12:30 a.m. 1:10 a.m.	TO: Honolulu (Ex. Tue., Thur., Sun.) TO: Seattle/Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ontario, Palm Springs, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Mexico City, Acapulco, Denver,* Houston*
10:30 p.m.	11:20 p.m.	12:30 a.m. 1:10 a.m.	TO: Honolulu (Ex. Tue., Thur., Sun.) TO: Seattle/Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ontario, Palm Springs, San Diego, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Mexico City, Acapulco, Denver,* Houston*

*Western-Continental no-change-of-plane service.



Wien AIR ALASKA



Western Airlines

Call any travel agent, Wien at 452-8201, or Western at 452-1643