

Dropout Blamed for Only 14 Native College Grads in 3 Yrs.

By AL KOWCHEE

Native student dropout from the University was the main topic of a discussion which was held on the University campus in the Patty Building Lounge on November 9.

There were approximately thirty students from the Theata Club who attended this round table discussion and who contributed many good ideas and reasons for native student dropout.

Also, the President of the Fairbanks Native Association, Richard Frank and his wife, Bureau of Indian Affairs counselor Emily Brown and several instructors of the University faculty attended.

It was brought out that over a period of three years, only fourteen college students have graduated out of four hundred and eighty-seven students who have entered a college.

As one graduating student put it, "It goes without saying there is an underlying inferiority in each native student as he enters college to some degree. The University is probably created for the White Man by the White Man."

The only way this feeling could be dispelled somewhat is by getting these students

to identify with the University even while they are still in high school.

"If the potential student knew that there are others like himself with the same problems or same potential, doing what he plans to do, the task might not seem so awesome...it is very hard for the native to identify with the white man's institution which we call the University."

It was also brought out that the high school graduate who plans on going to a University doesn't know for sure what he is going to major in and what college he will attend.

It was also suggested that the University should conduct a "Presentation of My Department" program where the freshmen or sophomores can attend to see what other fields, courses or colleges there are.

This would allow an indecisive student to choose a college, career or course where his interests lie.

A student brought out a fact that there are many students who are not prepared academically to enter college because of an inadequate curriculum in high school. He stated that his high school counsellor did not give him any real facts or ideas about college and did not encourage him to attend.

So when he decided to come to college, he was not prepared because of his high school background.

Because of the success of this meeting, everyone agreed to have a similar round table discussion on the 16th of November in the Patty Building Lounge at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone who was interested in giving their views on the Native Student Dropout were invited to attend.