

Support for Doyon, TCC

We're very concerned about recent incidents of young people in rural Alaska drinking duplicating fluid in order to "party" and get high.

The youths who were involved have suffered tremendously — physically and emotionally — and we don't want to bring any more grief to them or their families by writing about their plight.

But we'd like to believe that getting information out about this painful incident can only shed some light on the problems of alcohol abuse in rural Alaska. The apparent reason for drinking a "punch" spiked with the chemicals was as a substitute for alcohol.

Alcohol abuse and its many attendant problems are the top priority of this newspaper, and we've said before that we will print as much information on this subject as possible. The difficulty with alcohol abuse, however, is highlighted by this recent particular incident, which graphically shows that even going so far as to ban alcohol does not solve the problem.

Alcohol is an accepted part of life in Western society, and it's touted as glamorous in a host of ways. It's a sad fact that some people buy the idea that drinking can bring something special into their lives; and it's even sadder when those people feel as if their lives are empty or lacking in some fundamental way.

We don't have any answers to this particular problem young people appear to be facing, but we'd like to offer our strong support to Interior Alaska's Doyon Ltd. and the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Both groups recently have decided not to sponsor events involving alcohol.

We need to find ways to show that alcohol does not have to be used to enhance activities. It is possible to have fun and enjoy oneself without drinking.

We'd like to congratulate both Doyon and TCC for leading the way in this effort.

PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND DONATION

We'd like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Paarnannguaq Koponen, who is currently living in Sisimiut, Greenland. Paarnannguaq recently sent her entire Alaska Permanent Fund dividend check for 1986 to this newspaper as a contribution.

Although there were no strings attached to the use of this money, Paarnannguaq made it clear that the reason she donated the check was because of her concern about alcohol abuse.

We certainly can't say enough about the dedication Paarnannguaq has shown by donating this money. In these economic times, it's hard enough for people to find \$20 in their budget to subscribe to the *Tundra Times*, let alone donate additional money.

What we do say is thank you, Paarnannguaq. We hope we can live up to the faith you have shown in us. We also thank you for sending us articles from Greenland, which we are proud to print on page three.