

TCC to Put Out Comic Book for Young Natives

By DONNA MOLLIER
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Tanana Chiefs Conference is putting out a comic book to interest young native people in health careers. The comic book is a product of the Tanana Chiefs Health Authority and was originally conceived by Claude Demientieff, the director of the Health Authority.

As planned, the comic book is an attempt to identify young native people who are interested in health careers. The emphasis is on young people in the villages.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare is responsible for the initial funding of this project. DHEW gave a grant to the Alaska Federation of Natives.

AFN's Health Affairs Division set up a Health Career Development program to work with different regions of the state with the purpose of helping more Alaskan Native students to get the education and training needed to work in their own health care programs.

As part of this on-going grant AFN gave the Health Authority a \$15,000 grant to help them start this program.

The Health Authority is using this grant to put together a comic book designed to point out the need for young Athabascans to work in health related occupations and to support TCC region high school and college students in summer work and training in health.

Stoney Compton, who is a consultant to the Health Authority, is coordinating the production of the comic book. As yet the publication does not have a name.

Mr. Compton has contracted Ron Shaw, a medical student at the University of Alaska, who is from the Osage tribe of Oklahoma, to write the script for the narrative. The 36 page comic will contain a two part story and health career information.

Mr. Compton has also contracted Bill Macom and Todd Sherman, of Fairbanks, to do the initial drawings. Mr. Compton and Jane Smith, who is a vista worker for the Health Authority, will do the inking, backgrounds and touch-up work.

All four of the artists will work together on coloring and color separation for the project. The

comic will be released in June.

When asked to comment on the project, Mr. Compton replied, "This is only an initial effort, both for the 'comic' type medium and health careers information, for the Health Authority. "We hope to continue with either more comic books or with comic strips in papers like the River Times and Tundra Times. . . in fact we'd like to go in both directions. If reader feedback is favorable there will be more comic books in the future."

If there are any high school

students looking for part time summer employment, the TCHA is looking for interested, medically oriented students. For more information contact "Health Careers Project," 102 Lacey Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701.