

Candidate Brandley to Work for Native Dignity; Campaign Ads in English, Indian and Eskimo

Kent Brandley, formerly a reporter for the Daily News-Miner, has filed for the State House of Representatives.

"I only hope to offer Alaska's Native people one thing," he said, "their dignity."

"Dignity which will give them the opportunity and right to choose the kind of house they will build and live in, the kind of food they will eat in quantities pleasing to them, the right to send their children to any school they can afford, the right to govern themselves without father government guiding their hands," Brandley said.

"I would work to eliminate slum ghettos and tar paper shacks in the wilderness and high schools which jerk unwilling children away from home and cast them in strange molds."

Brandley, commented on the "potlatch article," which appeared in his "My Fairbanks" column and made some of the leaders of the Fairbanks Native Association go after his scalp for awhile.

"I think that anyone who really knows me knows that I was reporting honestly on a one time situation which I thought personally was beneath the dignity of the

people involved...it was not even a mild slam against the Native people...it was my thought, and maybe I was wrong, that this open potlatch was too much of a political sideshow and as a result lost its real spirit. Generally, though, I agree with the Fairbanks Native Association and what it is trying to accomplish. I admire people like Ralph Perdue, Mary Jane Fate, and the Terry Bradys...I've known them for quite awhile."

Brandley said he would hope to work closely with legislators such as Willie Hensley of Kotzebue.

Brandley is a Democrat. "I don't know exactly what the Native people want," he said, "But I hope to learn, and I do know that what the Native people deserve is the same opportunity to be anything or have anything they want," Brandley said. "I am concerned about alcoholism right now," he said.

Brandley is fairly well known in some of the bush villages. He knows many Eskimos at Barter Island, where he worked on the DEWline. He has also been to Allakaket, Chicken, Eagle, Livengood, Big Delta, Fort Yukon, Tok and practically every other village within

flying distance or driving distance of Fairbanks. He plans to visit every village in this district this summer.

"I will campaign in English and in Eskimo and in Indian," he said.

Would he actually make speeches in Indian and Eskimo? "Probably I'll stick to radio and TV ads," he said. "But I would give it a try if you've got time to teach me."

Brandley came to Fairbanks in 1960. He has traveled extensively throughout Alaska, the nation and the world since then. He served in the U.S. Army and has an honorable discharge.

He was educated in New Mexico. In 1961 he ran the State Fair. He is 31 and lives outside Fairbanks off Chena Hot Springs Road. He is active in the Democratic Party, the ACLU, the Alaska Conservation Society.