

Picnics, Youth Patrol and Games occupy YA

Hi, all! We are back with another great Youth Alternatives newsletter. We have had many exciting things going on, including adding a new staff member. Her name is Racheluz (Pinky) Rivera, and this is what she has to say:

"Have you seen a four-foot 12-inch lady lately? That's me—Pinky, the newest arrival to the Youth Alternatives Program. My name tag reads, 'Jail Diversion Counselor.'"

"Do I like my job? Love it! My first project was a picnic! Not bad for a start. The whole idea of adjusting to a new home, a new job and the midnight sun (you see, I came from Virginia) is all the way exciting. Simply stating it—I'm getting warmed up for action!"

Ukpiksuu Summer Camp started on July 11, 1983, with fourteen youth attending the first session. The second session left Barrow on July 20, 1983, with seventeen kids. The third session will go out 10 days later. We currently have three sessions planned, with possibly a fourth session, if the weather permits.

We hope that the good weather stays late this year, as the kids have shown such interest in Summer Camp this year and would like to give everyone the chance to participate.

Our entire camp staff recently completed training in First Aid and Water Safety. They will be passing this information to the youth participating at camp.

Nellie Aishanna is out at camp this year as a Counselor-in-Training. Good luck with the little ones, Nellie! Sam Leavitt is also working at Ukpiksuu this year. He will be



Brian Tunik of Atqasuk shows his speed during the 1983 ARCO Jessie Owens Games national championships in Los Angeles. Brian was among 56 Alaskan youngsters who placed first in regional competition to compete in Los Angeles and he bettered his own time at the national competition, running the 200 meter dash in 30:06 seconds. However, that wasn't enough to place in the top three in that event. Four hundred young people from across the nation competed in the games, which took place in 110 degree temperatures in the Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles.

taking small groups of youth out hiking, teaching traditional survival skills.

Many activities are planned at Ukpiksuu; swimming, fishing, games, and many other outdoor activities. Don't we all wish that we could be doing that?

We have also started planning

for next year's camp. We have many new ideas, and after receiving full operation of Ukpiksuu late this year, plan to make it the best camp possible.

A very special thanks to: Ralph Burke, Freddie Aishanna, Johnny Ahyakak and Harold Ivanoff, for their hard work in getting the camp in

shape for another great year!

The Youth Patrol set new records in the month of June. 258 total rides, with forty being the highest in one night. Our current summer patrol hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., Tuesday thru Saturday. We are really happy to find that the patrol is working out so great.

In June, we re-opened the Sinaktagvik Drop-In-Center. The Drop-In-Center hours are currently 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At times we have had to close the Center due to remodeling. We can hardly wait for the work to be completed, it will be just like having a new

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Local youngsters compete in Los Angeles

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house.

The Drop-In-Center staff sponsored their first picnic in June, and we are happy to say that it turned out great, despite the weather. Fifteen people were involved, playing Eskimo baseball, frisbee, and having a camp style lunch. Many more activities are planned, if you would like to help out, let us know.

The Jail Diversion Program had a fairly quiet time in the month of June. Three youth participated in the program. There are changes being made in this program, mainly the remodeling of the house. The program has received many compliments from those who have participated.

The Barrow Youth Soccer Organization got off the ground with a big boom in the month of June. The team took a trip to Fairbanks for some instructional lessons from a coach from England. The kids really tried hard to make the trip successful, but ended up losing the three games they played.

Strong performances from Richard Williams (Team Captain), Vaughn Panigeo, Fred Kaleak and Robert Sceeles, made the team come out with a feeling of success. Thanks to Jim Martin, Youth Alternatives Head Counselor for coaching, and a special thanks to Josephine Aufenkamp for making the trip great.

The ARCO/Jesse Owens games took place on the North Slope in the month of June. Youth participated in Barrow from: Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Wainwright, Point Hope, Nuiqsut and Barrow.

The following winners then traveled to Fairbanks to com-

pete: Re'Anne Opie, Brian Opie, Brian Tunik, Chris Robinson, Shawn Williams, Tasha Edwards, Nedra Nusunginya, John Stevens, Frankie Akpik, Beverly Gordon, Ricky Dimon, Shirley Kusak and Sharon Ahngasuk.

The following winners from Fairbanks will compete in Los Angeles: Re'Anne Opie, running long jump; Brian Tunik, 200 meter; Chris Robinson, 200 meter; and Shawn Williams, running long jump.

There are also three second place winners in the North Slope who will travel to L.A. should a first place winner be unable to attend.

A special thanks to Clayton Sanders, Youth Alternatives Youth Counselor, for his extra effort to make sure everything went off great. Clayton will be traveling to L.A. as the chaperone for the North Slope.

Congratulations to all the winners. Good luck in L.A.!

Well, there you have it, another exciting two months. If you are interested in finding out what all we have going on, give us a call at the Youth Alternatives office in the Greist Family Services Building at 852-5600, or call the Sinaktavik Drop-In-Center at 852-3997. We are also looking for furniture for our Drop-In-Center, if you would like to donate, give us a call. We will be happy to pick it up. Remember all donations are tax deductible.

Thanks,

Judy Balangue,
Coordinator

Jack Smith,
Asst. Coordinator
Clayton Sanders
Youth Counselor

James Martin,
Head Counselor,
Jail Diversion

Re Anne Opie, Barrow

Youth Patrol
Marlene Graybeal,
Counselor

Sam Leavitt,
Arctic Survival
Teacher

