



NATIVE CORPORATION MERGERS

Stockholder Votes May Figure in Corp.s' Merger Decisions

By JEFF RICHARDSON

A bill allowing the merger of Native corporations to be approved by a majority of stockholders at a meeting rather than a majority of all affected stockholders, has been introduced in the Alaska State Senate.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Frank Ferguson, (D-Kotzebue) at the request of the NANA Regional Corp. NANA has been eyeing the idea of merging with all or some of its village corporations. The purpose behind such a merger, according to Ferguson, would be to avoid duplication and pool financial resources.

Although the Native claims settlement act prohibits the transfer of Native-owned stock until 1991, which would have to be done in the event of a merger, U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens has introduced legislation in Congress which would allow transfer of stock before that date.

Under the bill presented by Sen. Ferguson, a merger of Native corporations would be approved if it receives the affirmative votes of the holders of two-thirds of the shares of each corporation represented at the meeting at

which the vote is taken.

As state law now applies to corporations, a merger plan must receive the approval of the holders of two-thirds of all outstanding shares, whether they are represented at the meeting or not.

Ferguson's bill would apply only to those corporations formed under the land claims act.

Since Alaska law requires only one-third of the outstanding shares of the corporation to be represented at a meeting for a quorum, it is conceivable that holders of less than one-third of all shares of a regional corporation would approve a plan that affects all shareholders.

However, when asked if shareholder participation in a merger vote would be effectively diminished by the change in law, Ferguson said corporate by-laws provide for the use of proxy votes by shareholders who are unable to attend the meeting. He said NANA Corp. would provide ample notice to shareholders so they could exercise their right to cast what is essentially an absentee vote.

Ferguson's bill was originally referred to the Senate Commerce Committee. It is now in the Rules Committee where it will undergo further consideration.

In the event that a merger of a

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NATIVE ARTS INSTITUTE — The committee of the Institute of Alaska Native Arts proposal holds a meeting at UA yesterday. Those identified are: (Left to right) Thomas Richards, Jr., Daphne Gustafson, Laura Bergt, Dr. Mildred Matthew, and Mary Jane Fate.

Meeting on Institute of Alaska Native Arts at UA

By JEFF RICHARDSON

Although no one agrees where it should be, just about everybody agrees there should be some sort of Institute of Alaska Native Arts.

These are among the findings of the Institute of Alaskan Native Arts Committee which this month will submit its report on the feasibility of such an institute to the National Indian Arts and Crafts Board. The board provided the committee with a grant to conduct the study, which has taken more than a year to complete.

The tentative findings were announced at a meeting at the University of Alaska Fairbanks March 3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the university's Cooperative Extension Service, UA's Division of Continuing Education and Summer Sessions, the Village Art Upgrade Program, Bureau of

Indian Affairs, Fairbanks Native Association, Association of Interior Eskimos, the Alaska Association for the Arts, and representatives from the performing arts community. While announcing the results of its study, the committee also sought input from those at the meeting

about the concept of a Native Arts Institute.

The three-member committee has sought comments from artists, high school and college students, villagers, educators, legislators, and Native organizations. More than 700 people responded to the

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In Rudick-Native Case—

Charges Substantiated

By DONN LISTON
Alaska Native Foundation
ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Attorney General's Office has determined that a dismissal of charges against John Rudick, who shot and killed a young Native youth in the Kodiak village of Ouzink, was substantiated.

An investigation of the matter was requested by Hank Eaton,

president of the Kodiak Area Native Association, in a letter to Avrum Gross, Alaska attorney general.

"The fact that it was only a Native youth who was killed by this man may have had some influence in determining the decision," Eaton said in his Jan. 29 letter to Gross. "But even so, there was a remarkable lack of

investigation at the local level."

When contacted regarding this matter, James Hanley, assistant attorney general who investigated the case as a result of Eaton's letter, indicated that a series of three lie-detector tests taken by Rudick, and other evidence of the case established that the state probably couldn't have sustained

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Bilingual Natives To Be Hired

ANCHORAGE — While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife contends it cannot hire two bilingual Alaska Natives provided for by Congress last June, it is now considering hiring part-time bilingual Natives to assist in the Native involvement program.

The agency was provided with \$80,000 to recruit and hire two bilingual Natives for the Bethel-Yukon Delta and Kotzebue-Kobuk areas. There are presently no Native employees on a professional or semi-professional level within that federal agency in Alaska.

Gordon Watson, Alaska Area director for the Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that imposed employment ceilings have forced the agency to cut back on employees and use present employees to do the jobs

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Professor Jimmy Bedford Races for Honor of TT

Tundra Times won fourth place in the hard-fought 1975 news media dog mushing race Sunday at the Jeff Studdert mushing grounds on Farmers Loop Road.

"It was the dogs that did the trick," said Jimmy Bedford, Tundra Times board member and sometimes reporter-photographer for the paper.

"This was my fourth time at mushing for the Tundra Times and each time they gave me three small dogs to pull my eighth of a ton in weight. This year I drew three of Harvey Drake's magnificent dogs and they really knew how to run," he said.

Bedford, a world traveler and University of Alaska professor of journalism, said "I almost always come in last place, for one reason or another. One time they gave me some fairly good-sized dogs but they must have had diabetes or something.

"They kept stopping along the way to go to the bathroom. It

would be OK if they all went at

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INTREPID TT MUSER — UA Prof. Jimmy Bedford is straining hard as he came in fourth in his 3-dog team race for the Tundra Times Sunday during the mass media contest. We hasten to sympathize with the dogs as they were pulling a 6-foot-1, 250 pound musher.

—Photo by BOB WALKER

Tundra Times Stockholders Meet Mar. 24

The Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. annual stockholders meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 24, 1975 at the residence of Dr. Mildred Matthews at 3070 Riverview Drive, Apartment A at 7:30 p.m. in Fairbanks.

Fairbanks attorney Barry Jackson will preside.

Tundra Times office is in the process of preparing proxy forms to be mailed out to stockholders scattered from one end of the State of Alaska to another.

Jim Immel, treasurer for the EIAP, and Mrs. Phyllis Church, local accountant, will be working on the prospectus and the financial statement.

EIAP is the corporation that publishes the Tundra Times.

Potluck dinner is being planned for the annual gathering of the stockholders.