

Publisher's Notes

DRUG ABUSE IN RURAL ALASKA

If drug abuse is on the rise in Anchorage, Fairbanks and some of the larger cities in Alaska, it is certain to be increasing in rural Alaska. But there is not as much information available yet about the increased use of illegal drugs in the Bush.

Where do the drugs come from, how do they get into the smaller villages, who brings the drugs in, and who buys the stuff. There are some of the questions we have to start asking ourselves.

Alcoholism is a major problem in rural Alaska, and many of the villages have begun to fight that problem by voting "dry" and enforcing laws and ordinances about the sale of alcohol. What is being done about the use and sale of illegal drugs?

Drug abuse in Rural Alaska is a sensitive issue because many times it involves family and friends. It is not an easy matter to call in the authorities when you know the persons involved. Ignoring the problems, however, may simply encourage the increase in use.

In this issue and the next two issues, the Tundra Times will be tackling the problems caused by drug abuse in rural Alaska. We feel it is time for us to add our voice to the growing concern about the devastation caused to friends and families by the use of cocaine and other illegal drugs.

We will not be crusading against the use of illegal drugs so much as we will be providing information about the effects. Information about the physical and mental destruction caused by using drugs may help some to turn away from its use, and hopefully some will not get started.

A BUSH DIRECTORY IN THE TUNDRA TIMES

Many of you know that the Tundra Times derives much of its operational revenue from advertising. At least 70 percent of our funding comes from advertising sources; therefore it is important for us to solicit ads.

Our most recent addition to the pages of the Tundra Times is a "Bush Directory," and we have had a favorable response to it. There are many businesses in Anchorage and in Fairbanks who are prepared to ship orders to rural Alaska, and they are using our directory to advertise their goods.

We would appreciate knowing whether the "Bush Directory" is helping our readers to know what is available, where to call, etc. your response will enable our advertising clients to determine when, how, and where to advertise.

Your assistance to the Tundra Times is appreciated by our staff and Board of Directors.