

Youth Alternatives announces new staff and happy reports

By Jack Smith

Assistant Coordinator

Again we have many things to announce. The first is the addition of some new staff members to the Drop-in-Center.

They will be involved in many different parts of the program, but will spend a great deal of their time operating the Drop-in-Center. Here is what they would like to say as an introduction:

Hey, hey, hey! I have just been hired as a Counselor for Youth Alternatives. I'm at the Drop-in-Center most of the time. I would like to see more of you teens and kiddies, and encourage you to check out the Drop-in. I'll be waiting!

June Koonaloak
Youth Counselor

Hi Kids! My name is Pamela Neakok. I'm a Co-op student and I work over here at the Drop-in-Center. My job involves playing games with ya all, and to see that you have a good time. So, got nothing to do? Come over, Red Rover!

We are really happy to see these new additions to our staff. Welcome aboard!

We are happy to say that our first Arctic Survival Trip this year was very successful. The first trip encountered some of the worst weather in ages, so students really found out what

it is like to survive in the Arctic.

Youth that attended the first trip requested to go out on the second trip, before they had even told us what the first trip was like.

They were greatly limited on the things they were able to do because of the weather, but they did have a chance to get some trapping in, and they came back with a red fox.

We were really happy to find that even with the bad weather students did not let it spoil their trip. They were going to have a good time, regardless.

Currently, our second trip has been scheduled for February 24. This trip might possibly be delayed, as there are still some repairs that need to be completed. Students may talk to Al Price at the High School for permission forms, or stop by the Drop-in-Center for more information on Arctic Survival Trips.

We are pleased to announce that we have been receiving a great deal of support from some of the agencies and members of the community.

In late December we worked with Arctic Youth Group, for this work they made a very generous donation that went for some new furniture for the Drop-in-Center.

Alaska Commercial Company has been supporting our program for some time now. Space for

a Bake Sale, games for the Center . . . they always seem to be happy to do what is needed. Thanks to their gracious donation of Games & Puzzles, the kids seem to have something different to do every day.

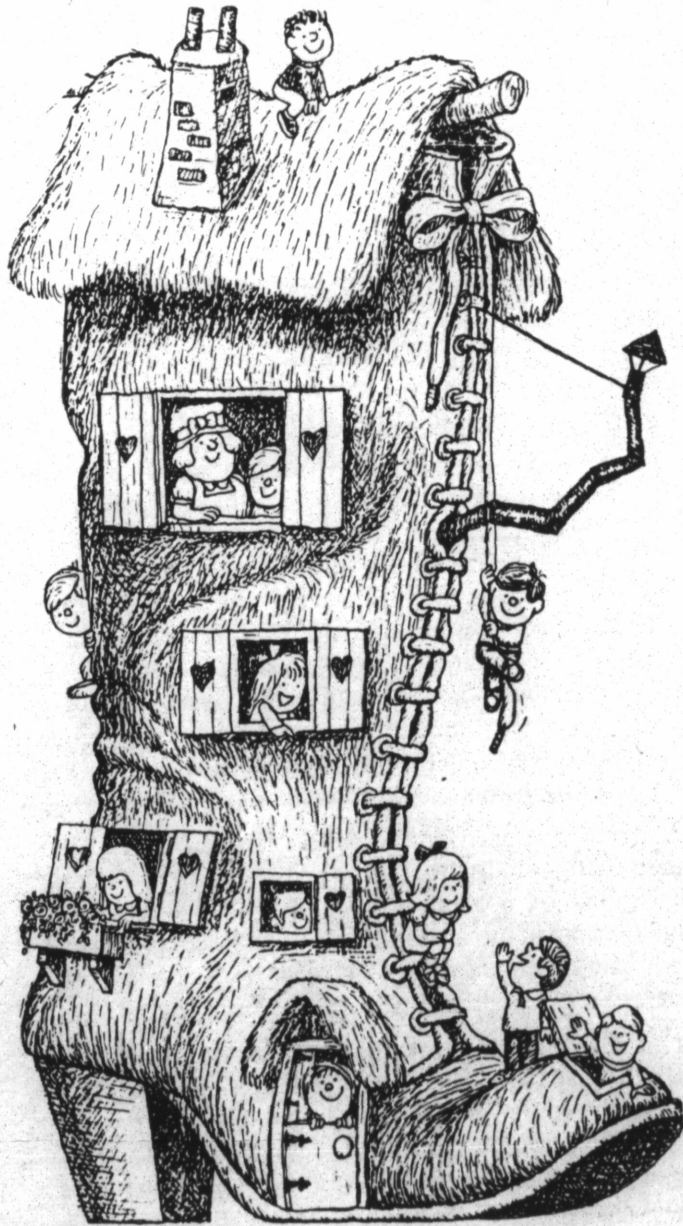
We have also been finding that many community members have a desire to work with the program. So far, much of this has been with special activities, such as chaperoning dances. We are happy to see the interest in youth activities growing.

A very special thanks to everyone! This support allows us to work on the number of things available to youth in the community.

As always there are many things happening around the Center. Recently we have acquired more furniture, repaired our Ping Pong Table, started weekly film viewing and then there are all the games and toys.

One of the most popular things going on daily seems to be the Arts & Crafts. We have many young painters that come over to practice their latest techniques and ideas. We are currently looking into new purchases for the Center. Among them are a new TV, a new Atari System, and a video tape player.

Counselors from the Drop-in are attending school regularly. They are able to spend time with
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students to just talk about what is going on, or for a private conversation if need be.

During their trips to the school they will also be stopping by the 29-Units to check for youth out on lunch break. It seems that there have been some recent problems with students going over to the housing complexes during lunch break. We hope to discourage this.

Although summer is not yet here, we are already hard at work on things for Ukpiksuu. We have many new ideas for the camp this year, hoping to make

it the best yet.

We are also looking into planning special activities, including some training opportunities on different subjects for our staff.

Although things seem to be rather slow right now, there is a lot of the extra things that we are trying to get out of the way. Since the year just got underway we have had to spend time taking care of the paperwork.

We hope to hold an Open House in the near future. Right now we are waiting for some of the things to come in, so the Center will be completed.