

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Other Voices—

Subject of Fairbanks Alcoholism Program

The action taken by the City Council of Fairbanks in drastically cutting the Alcohol Program (Alcohol Rehab Center and counseling) and not funding it after June is typical of the antiquated and provincial thinking that has prevailed in local governments up to this point in time. Formerly, most local governments provided services only to those persons who had the ability of paying for these services, and no allowances were made to assist those individuals who needed the services just as desperately but, because of reasons beyond their control, could not afford to pay the costs. Slowly, through time, governments, at different levels, have broadened their views as to their responsibilities and, in many cases, we have elected persons who have demonstrated those qualities which show that they care about people.

The city of Fairbanks was actually expanding their services provided to the citizens when they created a Department of Health and Social Services. Instead of the usual services provided of parking places, electricity, and police protection, due to the creation of Title IV and the fact that the city did not have to contribute any money except in-kind services, certain services, such as the administration of the Alcohol Rehab Center on Airport Road and supplementary counseling services, were being offered.

These newer services were and are of great need, especially in Fairbanks. Being a service center for the entire Northern Region of Alaska and being on the fringe of a vast rural area, Fairbanks, with its "pioneer" flavor, draws all elements of the life that exists in this northern region. And in doing so, without question, has a large population of alcoholics and problem drinkers. Many of these persons are our Native people and this is why we should be concerned as to the actions taken by the City Council in eliminating totally the Alcohol Program.

Statistics, from city records, have shown that nearly 80 per cent of the arrests made in the past years in alcohol related charges have been Native people. Additionally, 85 per cent of the patients that have gone through the Rehab Center are Native people. Without question, alcohol is one of the major problems facing the Native people, and because it is the one problem that has caused our people so much in terms of employment, status, and family problems, we must take a direct interest in seeing that there are existing programs which can be of assistance in combatting this troublesome element.

The city of Fairbanks should continue the Rehab Center, as a social service such as this should be one of the functions that a local government provides to ALL of their residents. Programs should not have to continuously be provided by the state or federal governments, especially to one particular group because the incidence is higher in that one group, but to all people because when you provide services on the local level you have more grass roots participation, administration which is less inflexible to the needs of the people, and therefore more control as to its direction. If the direction is wrong and the administration is bad, then it is much easier to change that direction on the local level than continuous waiting for "Juneau" or "Washington, D.C." to make the obvious change.

Assistance to people who have problems with alcohol is a necessity in Fairbanks, otherwise, we continue with small town syndrome and outlook of duties, life and objectives. Services should be expanded to meet the needs of all people within a community.

— JOHN SACKETT



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE — Frank See, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Community Enterprise Development Corporation, through the efforts of Mike Lindeman, has hired Teddy Pullock as Artist in Residence for the Shishmaref Art Project. Mr. Pullock is originally from King Island, and is an Inupiat Eskimo. He has been at the University of Alaska Art Program for the last four years under Ronald Senungetuk. Pictured alongside him is Dorcas Topkok, his fiancée. She is originally from Brevig Mission, Alaska. Mr. Pullock graduated from the Nome high school, Nome public schools, and then he went to the William E. Beltz school in the MDTA

Program at Beltz for one year. In 1968 he enrolled under Ronald Senungetuk at the University of Alaska. Teddy will be residing in the village of Shishmaref as the Artist in Residence to the Shishmaref Arts Project, which has become fairly well known. Most of the art objects at present are being marketed through the Kennedy Art Galleries in New York City. A very sensitive and alert young man, Mr. Pullock hopefully will be a major influence in improving and also carrying on and developing the artistic talents within the people of the village of Shishmaref.

— Photo by CLARK MISHLER

Eagles Out for Cross Country

WRANGELL INSTITUTE — The last runner has turned in his uniform and shoes, the finish chute and tape have been stored for the winter and the starter gun has been cleaned and put away until spring, but the memories of a fine season linger in the minds of the Wrangell Institute cross country teams.

Each year there is almost a complete new team for the Eagles because the runners from the previous year have gone on to Mt. Edgecumbe, Chemawa, Beltz, or one of the State boarding homes or regional high schools.

Each year is a year of rebuilding and teaching how to run and when to run slow or



WRANGLES EAGLES — The cream of the crop of cross country runners at the Wrangell Institute are pictured here. At the beginning of the school season, many boys try out and a few make the team. Left to right, back row: Marvin Evan, Bethel; Alexie Askoak, Russian Mission; Peter Eknaty, Kokhanok; Jeffrey John, Venetie; Peter C. Williams, Akiak. Middle row: Seymour Tuzroyluke, Point Hope; Peter Joshua, Quinhagak. Front row: Peter Napoka, Tuluksak; Elmer Chermuk, St. Michael; Harry Demantle, Akiak; Patrick Kameroff, Lower Kalskag. Not pictured: Noah Alexie, Tuluksak. B Team: Martin Charles, Akiak; Dick Charlie, Northway; Zackar, Kokhanok. The Wrangell Institute Eagles are coached by Jim Daly.

fast. There have been a few years when someone stayed a second year and this also helps when the new runners have to be trained.

The boys go through fairly vigorous training routines such as an hour of exercise each night during the first few days, running up hills 8 or 10 times each night, running about 5 to 8 miles over different courses to build up their wind and muscles, and running practice meets each week to keep the competitive edge up.

There is a large group that starts and only a few finish up the year and these are the very dedicated boys.

The Eagles have defeated the local high school team twice this year in head-on meets and place second (unofficially) in a meet with five high schools in the Southeast. The varsity runners

also went to Petersburg and won the team honors in an open meet, beating teams and runners from Petersburg and Ketchikan on a 2.8 mile course.

This meet also allowed girls to run and the Institute girls placed 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th in a special mile run, so the boys aren't the only ones to show their abilities in running.

A special meet-by-mail was arranged with several schools in California and the Eagles lost three close meets with Soph-Frosh teams and won 5 meets against freshman teams during this exchange.

The coaches agreed to run a 2 mile course on a certain day and exchange the times of all the runners and through the time comparison, determine which team won the meet.

This action gave the boys an

(Continued on page 8)

Poem—

Baby Is Gone!

A baby there was wrapped
In a blanket warm with
Hair so brown and eyes so grey,
A smile sweet and pure.
Loved that baby did I yet
A man took from me it away,
Cried did I that baby for!
Ran I after them, fast was he
Who my baby took. Lost were they.
Death longed I for, but knew I
inside
Were to find I my baby not
could I.
Lived so I looking the daylight
in
Nights many sleep did I hoping
Might find I my baby dear,
The day next coming. Hurt I,
My baby longing for. Morning
Once woke I up, ringing doorbell
cause.
Stood there a man, tears eyes in.
Said he I your baby took.
It I threw away, burned its
blanket
I thought never you of. A
mother.
Died your baby, here I. Pray I
you forgive.
Believed not I this man.
Still I look my baby for.

— ETHEL A. PAYKOTAK