

Alcohol affects the entire community

To Alaska Natives:

We cannot stand by and do nothing about the plague that is confronting us. If we do not speak up or do not take a stand we are part of the problem.

While we remain silent about what is happening around us more violence will take place, and the alcohol and drug problems will remain. While we remain indifferent and don't speak up, more family violence takes place, more crimes are committed, more children will get abused, more mental anguish will take place. And the more we isolate our problems, self-destructive forces will remain forever a problem.

We who were alcoholic were blinded because of our powerlessness and the unmanageability of our lives. The "Pied Piper" music is leading us to further destruction. The "Pied Pipers," the bootleggers and drug pushers are thriving off of us because of our weaknesses.

The powers we are up against can be broken. Those few who are taking a stand against alcohol and drugs are to be praised. It is an unrewarding effort, and even the smallest efforts are to be praised for young children's lives are in the balance, and our future generation is in question.

The message they carry to those who are suffering is to point out the realities of a more meaningful life and existence.

If we can put forth as much effort into the life of destruction and convert this energy into positive and constructive efforts we will have returned back to our rich heritage and strong cultural values that are still within us and only need to be revived.

In the life of alcohol and drugs everyone is affected when a family member or relative is drinking or drugging.

Mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, grandfathers, grandmothers, aunts, uncles and cousins are all bothered by those of us who drink and drug. It brings worries, frustrations, confu-

sion, insecurities, mental anguish, living-hell, lack of care for self and others, lack of responsibilities, lack of love, lack of inner spirit, lack of family priorities, no regard for family and total chaos.

Is this a proper setting for a family? Is this a proper setting for our children or grandchildren? Is it a way to live and exist?

The Alaska Native communities need to take a real good look at themselves and see what is happening not only to themselves but see what is happening to their total community.

What is the future generation thinking? What attitudes will the future generation bring to your community? What are the children of today experiencing within your community? What kind of attitudes will they bring forth when it is their turn to be leaders?

That is if they survive the current happenings.

Alaska, "The Great Land," where is our Alaska Native leadership? Why are there not more of us?

The few that are in office must have a great burden upon them, trying to watch out for our interest.

With the coming of the Alaska Native corporations, one would think by now that many of our problems would be resolved. Instead, since 1971 to the present, one only sees our social, economic and community problems have worsened.

How can we bring back Alaska, "The Great Land"?

To be productive, enterprising and once again be major contributors to society and once more be proud of ourselves; having a clear conscience and wake up each day with proper rest and know where we are and what we are doing.

What is it going to be my Alaska Native brothers and sisters?

Respectfully,
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