

# Freedom Frog hosts booze-free July 4 picnic

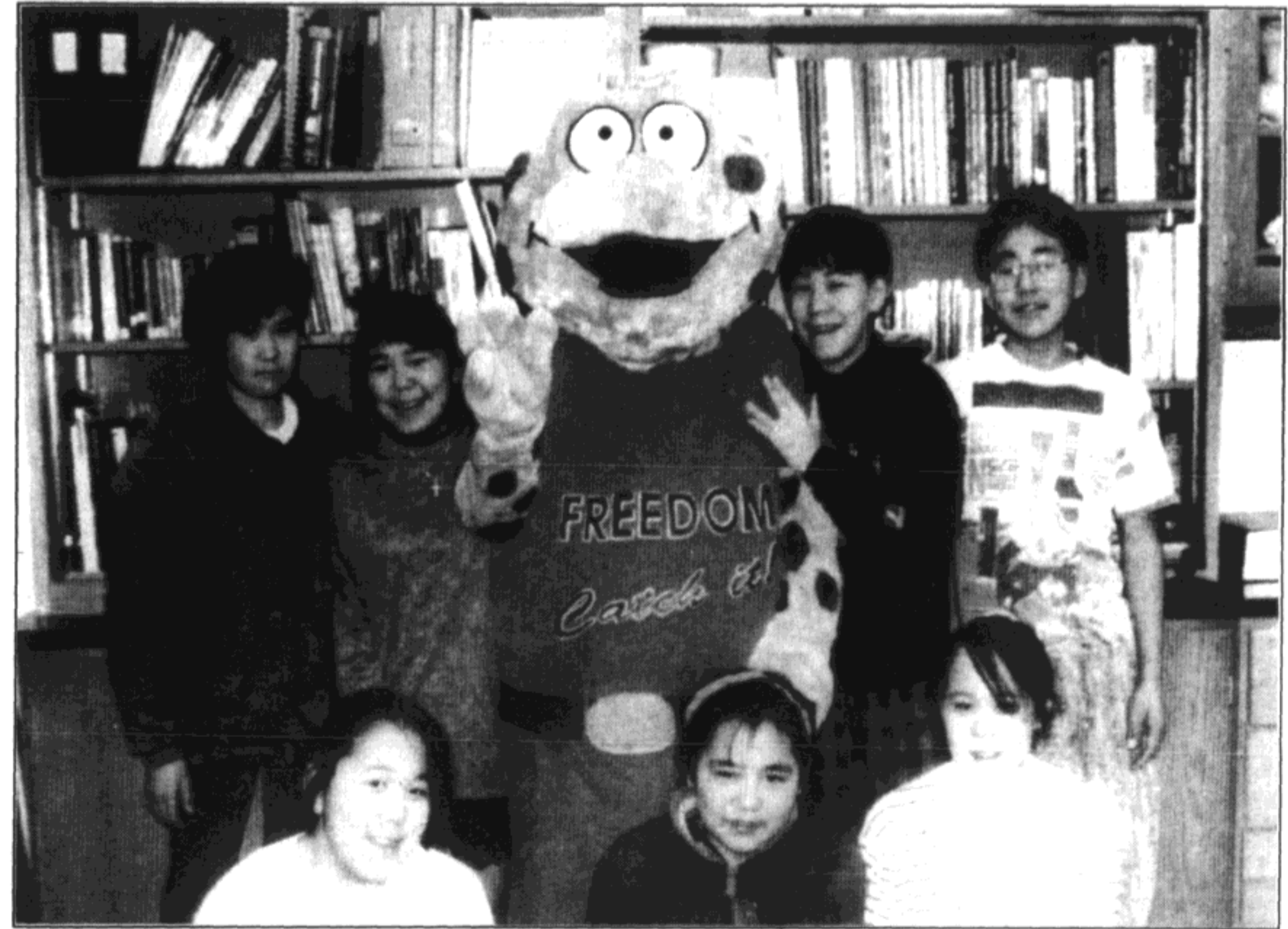
special to the  
*Singing the Sober Song*

Freedom Frog, the life-sized character that is a symbol of recovery and sobriety, will host his Second Annual Family Cookout on July 4 in Anchorage.

The free event will feature special Alaskan food (for a modest donation), games and contests for kids, and family entertainment in Anchorage's downtown Town Square, from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The event is held on Independence Day to celebrate freedom from drugs and alcohol. Freedom Frog is known to many in Alaska's Native villages for his alcohol prevention and education programs. He interacts with children, sharing the symptoms of the disease of alcohol: how children can overcome the factors that lead to substance abuse; and how they help those who may suffer from the disease. Freedom has appeared in such communities as Anaktuvuk Pass, Bethel, Kodiak, and Barrow, assisting elders in reaching youth and others in the community with the message of a better life in sobriety.

A special feature of the Freedom Frog message is the "Community Puzzle." Children assemble the giant puzzle as they learn how important community support can be to recovering people. This year, a grant from Koncor Forest Products Co., a sub-



Freedom Frog poses with kids from Anaktuvuk Pass

sidiary of the Ouzinkie Corp., has enabled the 7-foot-high Freedom Frog character to talk. Other animal characters that will be appearing include Seymour the Moose and the Mat-Maid dairy cow.

The event is made possible by many sponsors of Intervention Helpline, including Pepsi Cola of Alaska, Popeye's Chicken, Alascom, BP Alaska, the Anchorage Daily News, Carlile Trucking, Charter North Hospital, the Alaska Air

National Guard, Mount McKinley Lions, the District 49 Lions Foundation, South Anchorage Rotary, Christ Congregational and Trinity Presbyterian churches, the Muldoon Community Coalition, and Weona Corp.