

"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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AFN Can Assist Floundering Corporations

There has been some muted talk heard about some fledgeling regional corporations having some trouble in meeting their deadlines or obligations in gearing up for the implementation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act. This means that they could be in serious trouble if they cannot meet some of the important stipulations set up under the claims act. They need assistance and that assistance has to come as soon as possible.

It seems to us that these trouble areas in some regionals can become scenes of real effort of assistance by the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. in which that statewide organization can become the center of influence to aid those corporations or loan some of their knowledgeable technicians where needed. Also, AFN, Inc. can, perhaps become a center of influence in recruiting trustworthy people to aid the troubled regions.

This effort by the AFN, Inc. would not only be timely but it would also be an important step toward becoming more involved more intimately while building more amicable relations with the regionals which has been needed for some time.

— H. R.

Satellite Programs To Continue

FAIRBANKS — ATS-1, the radio satellite program reaching villages across the state with Native news and community service broadcasts, has received a new six-month federal grant of \$58,374 to operate the program.

Grant approval was announced Sept. 20 at Fairbanks by Melvin Charlie, director of the ATS-1.

Fifteen per cent of the total funds will be contracted out to the Fairbanks Crippled Childrens Association for their speech and hearing clinic, with the remainder for production of educational materials over ATS-1, Charlie said.

The satellite radio program, aired two hours a day, is heard in 25 villages scattered through the state, including 17 in the Tanana area.

It begins with program manager Pam Buckway, at University of Alaska station KUAC, in Fairbanks at the microphone: "Good evening," she says. "This is K-B-2-X-T-C college remote." Then follows the date, time, program introduction and a brief pause, in case of emergency traffic.

On a given day, the program might vary from a report on ac-

tivities of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska to the athletic competition at the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics.

One hour of morning programming is generally aimed at classroom use. The objectives here are to use cultural heritage programs and stories of Alaska Natives to enhance a child's awareness of his past, said Charlie. Community service programs, aimed at reducing disease and accidents, may also be aired at this time.

In the evening, programs may vary from health talks with Georgianna Lincoln at the Fairbanks Native Center to a three-credit college course on teaching techniques for rural Alaska, sponsored by the National Education Association. At times like this, the program manager may take role before the program begins.

And at any time during the program, listeners in the villages may respond or ask questions.

"One program we did last year and hope to do again is a class exchange program with the University of Hawaii," Charlie said. This allows grade school youngsters in both states to exchange ideas via satellite.

Letters from Here and There

Yellowknife, N.W.T.
August 31, 1973

Editor, Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I was happily perusing your Aug. 1 edition of the Tundra Times, which is normally an enjoyable experience as I would like to know what is going on on the other side of the mountains. However, today, I received a surprise. Whitehorse, capital of the Yukon Territory, has been moved! You see, until yesterday, Whitehorse had been a southern city, situated at 60 degrees, 43 minutes north. Everyone knows that Yellowknife, Canada's newest capital city, and until today, its most northern capital, is situated at 62 degrees 27 minutes north.

Could you please tell me where you have moved Whitehorse to so I can notify the Authorities and have all our maps changed. You can see the urgency that there is to this. Think of all the planes that are in mid-flight and don't know that the Whitehorse airport has been moved at least one degree 44 minutes further north. At least, I hope you moved Whitehorse, because if you moved Yellowknife south, with that huge lake

there . . . and . . . gasp, help, I can't swim, throw me a life preserver! Everybody to the top of the highrise buildings!

Yours sincerely,
Phil Cove

September 21, 1973

Dear Editor:

There has been a lot said about the Native Regional Corporations hiring non-native specialists and consultants. After a meeting, at which I was present, I believe this policy should be looked at again.

The meeting involved all non-native businessmen who were working for a native corporation or involved in a project a native corporation was funding. My point can best be expressed by repeating several of the comments made about the regional corporations and the native leadership.

The subject of whether the Alaska Native Land Claims would really benefit the Alaskan native reaction:

"Are you kidding, look at their leadership."

"Nothing but high school drop-outs."

"Why, it's like me hiring my JANITOR to do my job."

"Drunk three fourths of the time."

On the subject of housing projects:

"I don't care how clean you have the places, if you let them live in them, they (the houses) will smell like stale fish and wood smoke in two weeks."

"They're used to overcrowding, don't need more than one room."

On native culture:
"If they can't speak English, they don't deserve to be heard. This is America, English is the American language, we shouldn't have to tolerate anything else."

"Why do we have to take that (culture — arts, crafts, language) into consideration? If they can't live like Americans, why bother? They need us, we don't need them."

And these men are working for the Native?

Name on file

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Tundra Times will consider for publication all letters to the editor, provided that they are signed, with name and address of the writer.

Letters may be published unsigned, on request of the writer, so long as they are signed when addressed to Editor Howard Rock.)

Lost VISTA Volunteer And an Old Eskimo Strange Encounter Leads Into Extensive Analysis of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

Land's End Village
State of Alaska
September 7, 1973

Dear Howard,

Last week we had a visitor from a University in California. He was a pleasant fellow named Seth McGrafee, who said that he was an anthropologist. He was real interested in Native culture and customs and wanted to talk to some of the older people in the village. Well, I told him a couple of old stories and a few tall tales and darned if he didn't write them all down in a note book. At first he said that he was doing a little summer research, but by the second day he said that it was going to be a thesis. By the third day he was going to write a book about our village and by the time he was ready to leave it was going to be a movie film, too. These young people sure do have a lot of big ideas when they first set foot here in these "primitive" villages.

He seemed a bit disappointed that we had snow machines, outboard motors, and rifles, but it was certainly nice that he was interested in the way we Native people used to live our lives. We did have some serious conversations about the problem of passing on our Native heritage to the younger generation, but he didn't really seem to understand all of the pressures on our younger people. They see an entire world beyond their grasp, while this young fellow Seth has the resources to travel freely between these worlds. This means that he can be interested in Native culture this week and be

back in California next week. Maybe if our young people had this freedom they would see how empty that world is what Seth told us was true.

I asked Seth if he had read AN ACT yet and was surprised when he said no he hadn't. The three of us, Wally, Seth, and me got to talking about AN ACT and how it was going to affect Native life in Alaska. We asked him how the research he was doing was going to help Native people deal with these problems. At first he said that it would be necessary to preserve as much of Native culture as possible before it disappears. While this is a noble goal, it still misses the main problem. We are the Native people. What we do is the Native culture. How are we going to react to these changes? We can't always go back to the past, but we can and must have a voice in our future.

I asked Seth if anthropologists knew what the difference was between a village, a corporation, and a village corporation? Could he tell us what the difference would be in our lives if we had a profit or a non-profit village corporation? What would be the best set of by-laws to maintain, not preserve, Native values? We don't want a dead culture in a museum, we want a live culture here in Alaska. Maybe he should go and talk to some of the older men in Washington to find out what they had in mind when they wrote AN ACT. That is the kind of research we Natives really need.

Your friend,
Naugga Ciunerput

September 10, 1973

Mitch Demientieff
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Box 81
Nenana, Alaska 99760
Dear Mitch:

As Chairperson of the statewide Johnson O'Malley Committee, it is incumbent upon me to relay to you the appreciation and respect that our committee owes to Ms. Mary Jane Fate for her participation in our deliberations.

Mary Jane's knowledge of educational programs; her aggressive and steadfast leadership, benefitted all Alaska Natives as well as her own Region.

More frequent than not, we tend to take for granted the efforts of those working closest to us until they are gone. Mary Jane's many years of involvement in a myriad of programs designed to alleviate the many problems of our people, it is well known not only in her own Region, but also by all other regions.

While our committee has felt the loss of her representation already, we sincerely hope that you have the foresight to appoint her to represent your region again to statewide programs because we shall all benefit from her leadership.

Again, thank you for allowing Mary Jane to work with us.

Sincerely,
Nettie Peratrovich
Chairwoman,
Johnson O'Malley Committee

213 Cordova St. Apt. No. 4
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Sept. 19, 1973

Dear Editor:

Howard Rock is back at his desk, both Fred Stickman, Sr. and Guy A. Okakok are in their writing mood again. What else and whom else do we want?

Boys, keep our "Tundra Times" from melting off the face of this hot and weary world. We, as Natives of Alaska, need you and the paper more than ever before.

Yours truly,
Percy Ipalook, Sr.