

## ***Other Voices--***

# **A Friend in Need**

Our colleagues at the Anchorage Daily News are hanging another plaque on the wall next to their Pulitzer Prize awarded earlier this year. The latest honor is the Associated Press Managing Editor Association public service citation, and we extend them a hearty congratulations for it.

The new honor comes at an ironic time, however, with the Daily News fighting for its financial life while it reaches the peak of its professional standing.

Anchorage's underdog morning daily in the two-newspaper town has always done its fine work on a tiny share of the advertising market and circulation. It now publishes in a joint operating agreement with its competitor, and the competitor takes the lion's share of the business with its three-times larger circulation.

For years the Daily News had the financial support of a family trust, but this is ending and the paper is now struggling through layoffs and serious cuts in the scope of its work in efforts to keep alive.

Its supporters have formed a citizens committee to keep Anchorage a two-newspaper town. We extend them every bit of help and encouragement that we can, not only because of this newspaper's own close and friendly relationship with the Daily News but also because it is in the interests of all Alaskans that it remains a healthy part of the entire state's news reporting business.

Most people outside the industry have little appreciation for the contributions one good newspaper can make to many others. For instance, the Daily News is a member of the Associated Press and many of the stories you read on these pages or hear on radio and television news programs originate in the Daily News office. Many of the Anchorage stories you've read in the News-Miner came from exchanges between our two newspapers, and our readers will be among the first to miss the Daily News if it should close.

Even greater than that is the Daily News staff's disproportionately large contribution to the total news reporting effort in Alaska. When reporters from all major Alaskan news staffs gather for an important spot news story or coverage of a legislative session, each newspaper or radio station gets a little benefit from the work of all the others. Daily News reporters have always carried a large share of the load on these occasions. Their absence at the legislature will mean several committee meetings each day will go uncovered and a lot of in-depth reporting projects may never be done.

The Daily News is a major partner in Alaska's news media. All of us concerned about the public affairs of our state have a big stake in its future, and it deserves as much support as we can give.

—Fairbanks Daily News-Miner