

# FNA rescue personnel save woman from rapist

Three emergency service patrol drivers with the Public Inebriate Project prevented a rape on May 31, near the Golden Towers at 330 Third Avenue in Fairbanks.

The men, David Sweet, Reggie Joseph and Andrew Esmailka, were on their regular patrol in the downtown area where they were routinely checking the Golden Towers area and spotted a man on top of a woman behind Golden Towers, choking her. When the man saw the three men, according to Fairbanks Daily News Miner, "He got up and ran off but was caught by the workers... a few blocks away, the police reports said."

"The woman told police that (the 30-year-old local man) forced her to the area, and threatened to kill her if she did not consent to sex, police said," the News-Miner continued. "The man was charged with attempted first-degree sexual assault in connection with (the) alleged rape attempt (early) Sunday (morn-

ing) in front of the Golden Towers."

The Emergency Service Patrol (ESP) is a 24-hour service of the Public Inebriate Project, a component of the Regional Center for Alcohol and other addictions, operated under the auspices of the Fairbanks Native Association.

ESP patrols the downtown core area, Griffin Park, Chamber of Commerce, Golden Heart Park and the Youth Center, picks up intoxicated persons from doorways, takes them home or to the Detoxification Center; takes injured persons to the hospital, or sometimes transports persons from the program to the airport. The drivers have received extensive training in first aid and emergency care to deal with situations that arise on a day to day basis.

Referrals come from the police, businesses and other persons. ESP is used as an alternative to taking people to jail.

The Public Inebriate Project (PI) impacts the problem of the chronic public inebriate in the

downtown core area of Fairbanks by patrolling the area, developing an awareness of the problem through community education in the form of publicity, public service announcements, posters and brochures, and detoxification and counseling services.

Local businesses have been informed about the PI project and its phone numbers are listed on stickers in public phones in the business area. A subcommittee of the Community Alcohol Advisory Committee oversees and advises the project coordinator and acts as a liaison with the community.

Other services of the FNA Regional Center for Alcohol and Other Addictions include the Drop-In Center, Short-Term Treatment Center, Men and Women's Half-Way Houses, Outpatient/Aftercare, Information and Referral, Court Countermeasures, Outreach and Youth Services, Substance Abuse Training and Youth Drug Abuse Program.