

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times

UA President Gets Consultant's Job



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COLLEGE—Dr. William R. Wood, president of the University of Alaska, has been notified of his appointment as a consultant to the New York Commission on Long-Range Planning for the State University.

Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Dr. Ernest Boyer, chancellor of the 69-campus State University of New York, announced this week that Dr. Wood was one of 12 educators from outside New York selected as consultants to the commission, which will operate for 18 months with three short meetings a year. "New York State is fortunate to be able to call on the expertise and valuable experience of President Wood," Governor Rockefeller and Dr. Boyer said in their announcement. "We are certain that he will bring the judgment and ability we need as we plan for higher education in New York during the seventies and eighties."

William A. O'Neill of Anchorage, president of the board of regents of the University of Alaska, called the Wood appointment "a wonderful compliment for the University and for the type of people in our administration."

"I think it is a credit to the university and the state," he added. "It is singular recognition for Alaska, the least populous state, and for the University of Alaska, the smallest land grant university in the country, from New York, which boasts the world's largest university with an annual operating budget of \$450 million for its 69 campuses."

President Wood himself said that participation in the commission's work "should be a great learning experience not only for me, but for the University of

(Continued on page 6)



COLLEGE—Dr. William R. Wood, president of the University of Alaska, who has been appointed a consultant to the New York Commission on Long-Range Planning for the State University, the world's largest, with more than 200,000 full-time students and an annual operating budget of \$450 million for its 69 campuses.

Editorial—

Reasons for Optimism

The effectiveness of the top native leadership during the difficult negotiations on the Alaska native land claims issue in recent weeks in Washington, D.C. apparently hit home among the House members of the Indian Affairs Subcommittee and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The native leadership would have had to have the receptive ears and reason by such Congressmen as James A. Haley of Florida, Wayne Aspinall of Colorado, Ed Edmondson of Oklahoma, Howard Pollock of Alaska and others.

As a result of the latest effort by the Alaska Federation of Natives under the leadership of its President, Emil Notti, their friends in New York and elsewhere, there is reason to be hopeful for an equitable settlement of the land claims during this congressional year. This hope is well founded because of the apparent willingness of Wayne Aspinall and Jack Haley to hold a lame duck session of Congress after the November 2 general election. This somewhat extraordinary decision, although tentative, could push the claims legislation through this year. It would indeed be a significant day for the native people, as well as the rest of Alaska's population, if a definite decision is made to hold such a session. It could well be a historic one that would not be easily forgotten in the future.

It is indeed heartening that the House influential committee members have been receptive to the reasoning of our native leaders and their friends. This willingness to listen is a true example of what our public servants must do under our democratic system of government so that a greatest measure of justice under all circumstances can be achieved—in this case, the just resolution of the Alaska native land claims issue.

The work is not yet done, of course. Further efforts will have to be expended. The native leaders and their friends will need strong backing of the native people throughout the state. This is only right because the work on the claims issue is a very difficult one.

A good basis of working atmosphere has been established on the important House committee levels. This must be maintained through unity of efforts on all sides. The greatest achievement level is still in the offing. There must not be a slackening of work. The work must be carried through in strength because we have good reasons for optimism that the Alaska native land claims issue will be resolved equitably and fairly. It is possible the long-sought settlement could come this year.

Anchorage Museum Acquires Sydney Laurence Works

Mike Kennedy, director of the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, announced a contribution which belonged to both history and art: 137 work sketches by the late, great Sydney Laurence and one small color lithographic reproduction of a major oil.

These have just been acquired by the museum for its permanent collection through the generosity of the artist's widow, Jeanne Laurence.

"The scope, variety, and details offer a fertile opportunity for much greater research than has heretofore been possible on the creative genius of this beloved Alaskan artist," explains Mike Kennedy.

"Many of the works," he continued, "have a delightful and almost finished quality. Others are spontaneously exciting in their simplicity. They reveal his interest in history and his breadth of knowledge."

"Most exciting to me, personally, they confirm a theory that Laurence could have been one of the greatest marine-seascape painters of his day. He knew and loved the sea and sailing ships. Perhaps he painted more of the sea than we generally know."

"Almost half of this large array of sketches are of ships and of maritime life. It inspires us to search much deeper into the undiscovered facets of his life and his total artistic productivity."

"This is a magnificent gift for the heritage of Alaska."

Yours truly,
Don Gibson
Douglas Phelps
Greg Neu
Rick Lindahl
Robert Lindmeier

Letters to the Editor

English Class—Period 1
Technical High School
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301

The nickname of the town is "Granite City" because of the vast amount of granite in and around St. Cloud.

Thank you very much for any replies that we may receive from your town. Letters should be addressed to one of the names below, c/o Mr. Dennis R. Loge, English Class—Period 1, Technical High School, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56301.

Dear Editor:

We have a sample copy of your newspaper, and we are studying it for an English project. We are interested in finding out more about your town and the people who reside there. We would also like to make contacts with people of all ages in the town, high school classes, and other interested people.

We are five teenagers of Tech High School in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The population of St. Cloud is approximately 40,000.

A Book Review—

HOW A PEOPLE DIE

Anyone who gives a damn about Canada's Indians must read HOW A PEOPLE DIE. More important, anyone who doesn't give a damn about them must read HOW A PEOPLE DIE. If anything can stir his conscience and his anger, this book will do it.

It should stir up every Canadian who reads it, making him aware of the full extent—in day to day terms—of "the Indian problem".

HOW A PEOPLE DIE is a documentary novel of the tragedy of the North American Indian. Until now there has not been a novel which shows us vividly what life on a reservation is like.

Perhaps Alan Fry was the best man to write it. For he is an established writer (author of RANCH ON THE CARIBOU), and, unlike most whites who write about Indians, he knows his subject.

Since 1954, he has been with the Department of Indian Affairs, stationed on reservations in the Yukon and British Columbia.

"Publisher's Weekly" said in their review: "As a district supervisor of Indian Affairs, the author writes from first-hand knowledge and torment..."

Certainly the book comes out of Alan Fry's years of experience. It's written with rage and despair, love and bewilderment.

And honesty: honesty of the sort that shows things the way they are, from every angle; honesty of the sort that shows that there is no easy solution.

The plot is simple and direct. The novel focuses on a single event, the shocking death of an 11 month old Indian girl through the apparent neglect of her parents. But the actions and attitudes of the Indian Agent, the police, the white community, and the Indians themselves reflect the often contradictory facets of a broader, more disturbing question: how should indeed how can a people live in a world almost totally alien to them?

Alan Fry has gone out of his way to include in his list of characters spokesmen for every point of view—from the visiting journalist who is so shocked by the squalor and misery she sees that she raises a well-meaning, but uninformed, outcry—to the rough loggers who are always on the lookout for squaws.

The frankness of the language and the directness with which these widely differing views are expressed make it certain that this book will become the subject of much controversy.

HOW A PEOPLE DIE raises many questions: "How do you talk to a man who doesn't share your notions about work or money or wife or kids or house or sanitation or what the hell he's going to live on tomorrow or next year and reach him where he's really alive inside and can reach you back?"

How can an Indian agent help a people build a better life if they refuse to take even the most elementary steps to help themselves?

How can a police officer enforce the law among a people who cannot appreciate its values or understand its complexities?

How can a social worker encourage human dignity in a community where poverty has become the accepted life style?

And, above all, how can an Indian, forced to abandon the life of his fathers and his fathers' fathers, survive today in the white man's world he's never wanted?

The Kirkus Service ended an enthusiastic review with these words: "An arraignment? A small delaying action in a lost cause? An obituary? Not a novel, certainly, but it won't matter since its sympathetic concern is reciprocally informing and involving."

HOW A PEOPLE DIE is due to be published on October 9 at \$5.75. We hope that you will read it and tell everyone who cares about our "Indian Problem" to read it. And, of course, tell the people who don't know or care—they soon will.