

# Flood... Joe Upicksoun's Testimony Damages...

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U. S. Weather Bureau is predicting 13-15 feet flooding about the third week of May. This would be, at worse, four feet under the record flood of 1967.

The weather outlook for Fairbanks is ideal for gradual snow run-off with temperatures averaging four to five degrees below normal, according to the latest forecast.

Light precipitation is expected, however it will not sufficiently add to moisture in the Chena River Basin.

For those still betting on high water the Fairbanks Disaster Office, P. O. Box 790, has just printed a set of instructions to aid in pre-flood planning.

ced on behalf of the settlement sought by the AFN.

He explained that the North Slope wished to retain what it already has, "Dominion over our homeland." It was a convincing argument for a fair and just settlement of the Alaska Native land claims.

It might have been effective, but the memory of Congress will probably file only a few small phrases:

"I say to the two Chairmen who are personally sponsoring H. R. 3100 that if their version of the solutions be adopted the Eskimos will be back here every year and we think that we can inflame the conscience of the

United States to politically defeat these men...

"I accuse the two Chairmen of trying to fool the balance of the Congress, of trying to fool the Natives of Alaska and in particular of trying to fool the Eskimos of the North Slope..."

"We condemn the two Chairmen for Eighteenth Century thinking ...

"The sponsors of H. R. 3100 should be retired from public life. They are unworthy."

Congress is a slow-moving body prodded on by a lengthy list of established rules and procedures. Strict adherence to its traditions and rudimentary respect for its members is demanded of all who do business before it. Personal attacks are not tolerated, let alone received with sympathy

This is a shocking display to

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some. To others, it is a reason to say no to the demands of Alaska Natives. The chairman has been impugned. It may have been the excuse most convenient to seven critical members of the committee and their seven critical votes.

Name-calling and fish-pounding is a familiar tactic to the leaders of the Arctic Slope Native Association. Perhaps it should have been reserved for situations where it has proved to be most effective.

It should have been kept for bars and late-night hotel rooms.

Substantial segments of the statement were concerned with adequate vision for lawyer fees:

"We want to know that our lawyers have been faithful and we appreciate their work. They now have in excess of ten thousand hours of their time in re-

presenting us since 1966 and I can certify to you that these have been faithful and productive hours."

"They now have almost \$50,000 in out-of-pocket expenses spent on our behalf. We think that the committee would be anxious to know these facts because we have confidence that this committee will be fair not only with us but with the lawyers once it knows the facts. Thus, the \$700,000 provision in H. R. 3100 is totally inadequate for all of the attorneys to share."

Had the same diligence been paid to protocol as to the means of paying off Fred Paul whose law firm represents the Arctic Slope Native Association, the land claims issue may have achieved recognition solely on its merits.

## Native Students at UA...

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student run counseling and help program for native students, the student advisory board which runs the service is planning its program for next year.

Last weekend, board members attended a conference at Anchorage Methodist University to discuss coordination with the federally funded Upward Bound, Talent Search and Special Services programs in Alaska.

During an inspection trip to Alaska last winter, Leonard Spearman, national director of student services for the education department of the U. S. Department of Health Education and Welfare, was impressed with the fact that Alaskan native college recruitment programs are barely scratching the surface of native talent.

To enable such programs as Upward Bound and Talent Search to expand their search for talented native students, he arranged to nearly double the Alaskan special services budget - to over half a million dollars.

At a conference in Washington in March, project directors of Talent Search, Upward Bound, Amu's Special Services and the state funded UA Special Orientation Services discussed with native leaders and HEW officials possible means of combining, coordinating or revamping the college impetus programs.

One suggestion, according to SOS director Robert Egan who attended the conference, was a consortium approach - an idea which was to be re-discussed in Anchorage.

Students on the SOS board want to maintain an independent organization. During the past two years, their accomplishments have been tremendous. SOS now employs a director and a full time native counselor - Helen Atkinson, a former student member of the board, now works as counselor and can apply her own personal experiences as a village student on campus as well.

During the 1970-71 school year SOS had three part time student counselors and the drop-out rate among native students in four year degree programs dropped from over 30 per cent to less than 10 per cent.

Special English courses - for regular freshman credit - are also available for the native students as well as the popular SOS lounge where native students can exchange complaints and help over abundant cups of coffee.

According to Martha Aiken of Barrow, a UA junior, the worst adjustment problems arrive with students directly out of the villages. Students who have already been in Boarding Homes or dorms in Anchorage or Fairbanks are more accustomed to the large school, the anomie of a large campus or community and to the require-

ments of making their own decisions and being self-sufficient.

For a student coming to the campus from a small village or a small BIA or SOS high school, the campus experience can be frightening - and many turn around and return to their villages.

During the last year, the SOS board, headed by Martha Jack of Bethel succeeded in instituting four courses in native studies on campus for this fall. They also found a supervisor for the program, which may eventually expand into a native studies program.

Most of the native students feel counseling is one of the single most important ways to help students stay in school. Since SOS instituted its full program last September, students can simply walk into the SOS offices and see a counselor - immediately if their problem is important.

Although they do not want to lose their autonomy, the SOS board is seeking federal funding for another one or two full time counselors and three more part time counselors for next year. At present, their money comes from state and federal funds and initial grants from several oil companies in Alaska.

They hope to join any consortium of federally funded student help programs without losing their autonomy.

Next fall, SOS plans a big brother/big sister program for native freshmen. Each older student will be responsible for two freshmen - providing an aid to bewildered students who don't know where to turn to find course information, orientation and friends.

Already, students and counselors have been conducting a high school visitation program under UA auspices, speaking to native students about high schools in general and UA in particular.

UA native student board members agree that it is the more aggressive students who have landed in college as of today, while equally talented but perhaps less self-sufficient young natives do not leave the villages for education.

It will still take some time, they believe, before native students from Alaska take advantage of the dozens of opportunities opening up for Alaskan native students at colleges across the country.

However, after their first year of full operation SOS is proving that the native dropout rate can be cut drastically, with sufficient supportive services for native for native students in college. At the same time it has proved that capable native college students can oversee such programs with a lot of hard work and genuine interest drawn from their own college experience.

## Bush Lawmakers Show Power...

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"When it comes down to the crunch we're in the minority. But we'll have our day. Maybe it's not so much what we've done, as what we've kept them from doing to us!"

It started simply.

"I like to think I was elected head of the caucus because I'm good looking, wealthy and very knowledgeable," jokes Rep. Naughton. "But actually it's because I was the one who said, 'Hey, how about all of us from the bush area sitting down and eating lunch together.'"

"We thought a freshman might have a better chance of dealing with people from the cities," explains Rep. Joe McGill, D-Dillingham. "With one of the old timers there might have been bad feelings. Naughton's done a good job, too."

The bloc started with six representatives: Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue; Chuck Degnan, D-Unalakleet; Martin Moore, Emmonak; Carl Moses, D-Unalak; Hohman and Naughton.

"We picked up members as we went along. Even some urban members because our arguments seemed to have merit," Hohman recalls. "We had a lot of freshmen which placed me in a position of seniority. I got their support to bid on chairmanship of Finance."

Wisely the rural delegates did not commit themselves on a choice for speaker until well into organization of the House. Then they voted in a bloc giving Rep. Gene Guess, D-Anchorage, the chair. Guess, in turn, appointed Hohman to head Finance which gave the Bush Bloc plenty of power.

Urban legislators noted widely differing interests among far-flung rural districts and predicted the coalition could not last, but they were wrong.

Meeting as often as five times weekly, the rural men learned to compromise and stick together.

Each submitted a list of legislation he felt important and voted priorities for the group. Roads were number one; airports, second; communications third, and implementation of the Bush Justice Conference, fourth.

"At first a few Anchorage legislators used to meet with us, they're paranoid, you know!" Naughton recounts. "Finally they all dropped out except Mike Rose. One day he needed me; asked if his being there didn't make us nervous. I told him, no, but we felt in return we ought to be invited to an Anchorage caucus. That's the last we ever saw of him."

Later the Anchorage men labeled the House budget the

"Bethel Budget", claiming Hohman had favored his home area. The Bush Bloc just shrugged them off.

"It's unfortunate we did not have things organized last year when we really had the money to spend," laments Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, who serves on the Senate Finance Committee. "But the Bush League is doing a creditable job. Especially for so many freshmen."

There is no Bush League in the Senate. Hensley and Ray Christiansen, D-Bethel, are the only native senators.

"We don't always agree but if it's a bush deal we work together. I think it's working out pretty well," Christiansen said.

Republicans Hammond, Don Young of Ft. Yukon and W. I. Palmer of Niniichik often work with them, despite party differences, and sometimes they have additional help on rural issues.

## Rehabilitation...

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quietly at work using COMPAS methods in the bush.

"Alcoholism is our number one health problem," begins Bob Carroll, executive director of the agency. "But most people are not prepared to deal with it except in terms of morals or law. Medical schools, for the most part, have ignored the problem and now we're paying the price."

Standard stateside techniques have failed with the native population here, he maintains.

"Alcoholics Anonymous at its inception was geared to the skid row bum of the South 48. Then it became apparent the real alcoholic problem was the American middle class and, by and large, the program became geared to that. A few natives manage to hack it at AA but the majority don't."

Carroll doesn't believe enforced sobriety is the answer to drinking problems in the north.

"Most Indians learned to drink in the semi-annual binge fashion. Generally they drank for effect not for social reasons. Hallucinogenics were used by these people long before the Russians. The pattern was firmly established by the time of the American purchase."

"You must drink quick before some missionary or teacher takes it away from you... Of course the binge pattern isn't once a year any more. The cash flow is steadier."

It's Carroll's theory this drinking habit is too set to be broken in many cases.

"By the time men come to use the effect of this drinking pattern is engrained and chances of being a social drinker are

"We don't muster in the Senate," Hammond said. "But the Senate Finance Committee made cuts in the House budget that virtually did not effect the bush area at all."

Naughton finds it hard to access this year's legislation.

"How do you know until you go home and talk to the people," he reasons. "That's one problem we bush legislators have. We don't have much opportunity to go home and find out what our people are thinking."

"But our biggest job this session was to prove the bush could stick together and we've done it!"

As for next year, "I think you're going to see the Bush League even stronger," Hohman predicts. "I don't think reapportionment is going to effect it much. By and large we're going to have the same people and more experience."

pretty remote. If you're not going to get over it, then you learn to live with it."

Which is what COMPAS is all about. There is no preaching that it's sinful to drink. No harping on the Puritan ethic. Instead the agency works to change the life style of an alcoholic.

"You have to find some alternative to Second Ave. and the bars. We concentrate on education and vocational training. Attempt to take away much of the guilt since this in itself is a good reason to continue drinking."

Problem drinkers begin working with a group of men who have run the same course.

"From the time a guy is dry we decrease emphasis on the bottle. Once he's capable of working on a one to one basis we concentrate on the individual personality."

There are many approaches. Sometimes finding a job is the answer but more often additional training is needed.

"The agencies don't see education as a reasonable alternative to employment but we're coming more and more to the idea we need our own vocational program."

Carroll believes there has to be some very basic changes of attitude before rehabilitation programs can work in many villages.

"Responsible people in a lot of communities do not choose to recognize the problem of Second Avenue," he maintains.

And until you admit drinking is a problem, how can you solve it?