Driggs Quietly Trains at Arctic Health and Research Center

0.

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW Staff Writer

Sheldon Driggs, an eighteen year old Eskimo boy from Wainwright, moves quietly and confi-dently through laboratory tasks at the vast and impressive Arctic Health and Research Center on the University of Alaska campus.

Alternating his time between the environmental engineering branch, the bacteriology lab, and the virology lab, Sheldon is being trained in basic laboratory techniques.

At the same time, he is com-At the same time, he is com-pleting his high school education in an extraordinary program ar-ranged by the Career Extension Center of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Star Borough School District. Sheldon's story is a story of many scommunity forces pulling together to help one very bright and exceptional young man. His schooling is arranged through the Career Extension Center with the assistance of the University's tutorial service. His training is the outcome of His training is the outcome of the Native Laboratory Aid Pro-gram of the Arctic Research Center which is an extension of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Under special arrangements made through the Boarding Home Prog-am, Sheldon lives on campus with the family of Dr. William Sackinger, a lively household since the Sackingers have six children of their own

Spending money, important to any teenager, was arranged through the help of Leonard Hamilton at the Fairbanks Na-tive Community Center. As part of the Work Experience Program, Sheldon is paid for the hours he puts in at the research laboratory The story is all the more remarkable because Sheldon was

very close to becoming one of the growing and alarming num-

to viral injections.

ber of high school drop-outs. Like many young people from bush areas, this young man had trouble relating to urban school life. After a dismal beginning at Lathrop, he was ready to give up and go home, and the BIA made arrangements to send him back.

Luckily one of the counselors at Lathrop referred him to Ca-reer Extension, presently located in a small building about a block

or two from Lathrop. As you walk into the Center,

a sign stops you at the door: "CAUTION, HUMAN BEINGS HERE, HANDLE WITH CARE." Originally funded by federal grant but now supported by both the state and the borough, grant Career Extension is an experi-mental program designed to make school extend beyond the school walls, out into the com-

munity. Irene Cleworth, the school's director, pointed out that to-day's young people are no longer buying the old concepts of education.

In more and more cases, the gap between the student's con-cept of the world and the world the school presents him with widens until, at last, a split occurs.

The student, frequently discouraged, sometimes angry, and often hostile, drops out. Mrs. Cleworth believes that

if vou can make school make it you can make school make sense, the kids will buy it. If school can relate to the larger world outside, in a job, for instance, you have a better chance of keeping that child in school.

Every student at Career Ex-tension is helped to find a job in the community. He then works at his own pace under He then teacher direction, with no fixed class schedules to meet. Night study is arranged for those with

daytime jobs. This was the concept applied to Sheldon's case, although Shel-don is an exceptional student in that he does not attend any in that he does not attend any classes at the Center. All of his studies are done under the direction of his tutor, Jim Tos-ton, consulting with the staff. In June, Sheldon will take the GED examination (General Education Diploma) a high

Education Diploma), a high school equivalency test. If he passes, this will entitle him to a high school diploma and open

other doors. Sheldon already has the tentashedon already has the tenta-tive offer of two jobs upon completion of his training. His primary goal is to go back to Barrow to work at the Navy's Arctic Research Laboratory.

Jerry Morang, Career Exten-sion's vocational counselor, has a great amount of faith in Sheldon.

"I think he has distinct lead-ership qualities," Morang said. "I have a feeling we will be hearing a lot more about this boy in the future. He wants

to have some kind of impact on his culture, and he knows he needs the tools to do it. His diploma and the training he is getting here are just the beginning." Last year the Arctic Research Center took five trainees into the program, of which only two finished. This year Sheldon is the only trainee and has the luxury of being coached private-ly by some of the Center's top men. men

Sid Heidersdorf, in charge of the Laboratory Aid training pro gram, personally spends about one and a half hours a day with Sheldon. Of course, he pointed out, such one to one counseling is very expensive and felt that next year they would either have to drop the program or expand it.

He felt that Sheldon would have benefitted from a little more contact and exchange of ideas with young people, going through training at the same time

In the past few months, Sheldon has had complete response bility for a large colony of very pure mice used in virology ex-periments. Don Ritter, one of the scientists of the virology the scientists of the virology section, instructed Sheldon on all phases of these experiments, in which mice were injected with small quantities of virus and carefully observed for follow-up studies. So critical is the sterility fac-

tor that the mice are handled only with forceps and rubber gloves. The entrance to the gloves. virology section is closed off

virology section is closed off by means of two doors with an air lock between. You cannot open the inner door until the outer has closed behind you. Ritter was also instructing Sheldon in the use of tissue culture as another means of test-ing, demonstrating the proce-dures with small glass flasks con-taining vero tissue (African green monkey).

monkey). In the weeks to come, Shel-don plans to work in the large animal section, where studies are made using black bears, animal section, where studies are made using black bears, coyotes, dogs, wolves, sheep, fox, pigs and rabbits. Sheldon's trapping skills were

being put to use as he and a friend set traps near the campus for rabbits to be used in the

experiments. When asked what per cent of Career Extension students were Native, Jerry Morang said, "I'm not sure, about the same ratio as Lathrop, I'd say, about

ratio as Lathrop, 1 u say, about 20 per cent." "Mostly," he added, "these are urban Natives." He explain-ed that usually the bush kids who come in on the Boarding Home Program when they fail to work out at Lathrop, are often reacting to all school as a bad experience. bad experience. At Career Extension,

grades are given. There is work to be completed. When the student completes the work, he gets credit.

One student may take two weeks, another two months. "I think our students work harder than anyone else," Mrs. Cle-worth said. "They have to."

Sheldon works a full eight hour day at the Arctic Research Center. After supper, he goes Center. After supper, he goes over to his tutor's and prepares for his GED examination.

"Some people have the idea "Some people have the idea that drop-outs are slow stu-dents," said Mrs. Cleworth. "This is not true. They are just average. In fact, we have some very bright students who just want to do it their way. And they re doing it."

Another poster on the wall at the Career Extension Center reads: "You are and we are ... a mystery."

Every child and every student is a unique being, full of as many mysteries as can be found under a laboratory microscope. Sheldon Driggs is very definitely doing it his own way.

Money for Regionals

In a telegram to leaders of the 12 Native Regional Associa-tions, Senator Ted Stevens an-nounced the Senate Appropriations Committee has reported a supplemental appropriations bill containing an advance of \$12,-500,000 for the 12 Regional Native Associations established by the Alaska Native Claims Act. In his announcement, Senator Stevens reported each regional association would be scheduled to receive \$1,000,000, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs would receive \$800,000 for its Native enrollment procedure. The Joint Federal-State Land

Use Planning Commission is tenatively scheduled to \$125,000. receive

Senator Stevens cautioned the regional leaders that while this is an extremely important step, the an extremely important step, the bill must still pass the Senate and then go to conference with the House of Representatives. The Alaskan Senator, a mem-ber of the powerful Appropria-

tions Committee, has assured Alaskans he will make every effort to speed the implementation of the provisions of the 1971 Native Claims Settlement Act.

LIKE GEESE . . .

(Continued from Page 7) would rather have high school where he lives.

The cost of sending Alaska students to Mt. Edgecumbe or Beltz is between \$5000 and \$6000 per student per year. This money could be used to provide the student with an education in his own village without taking him away from his home and family. "Whether or not a village has a BIA school, education is

has a BIA school, education is a state duty and the state must see that it is provided in every place," says Mr. Cooke. Village residents and leaders are asked to contact Chris Cooke, Alaska Legal Services, Box 73, Bethel, Alaska 99559, or the closest Legal Services office for help in bringing their needs for local high school clas-ses to the attention of the school ses to the attention of the school officials.

Mr. Cooke also gives the name of Stanley Friese, Superinten-dent, State Operated Schools, 650 International Airport Road, Anchorage, Alaska, and recom-mends that villagers let Mr. Friese know their needs.

Friese know their needs. "Ten years ago," according to the DOEA booklet on the Small High School, "when a village student applied for ad-mission to high school, unless his test scores on culturally biased tests were high, he was told he was not high school material. Alaska is still paying the penalty for inporting the edthe penalty for ignoring the ed-ucation of Alaskan young people

More and more, in growing numbers, these young people, like the students of Kivalina, will not ignored.

Classified

CLADSTITUE PLANNING DEVELOPER required by Rural Alaska Community Action Program. Requires extensive travel throughout rural Alaska identifying rural problems, mobilizing state & federal resources and familiarizing 9 regional development corporation stafts in the planning process. Send completed RurAL CAP, State of A-isska or SF 171 application to Percen-nel, RurAL ACAP, State of A-Anchorege, AK 99501. Recruitment closes May 31. Equal Opportunity Employer.

Horoscope

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: You have an odd chance of reaching people at more pro-found levels than usual. Be candid with them.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: It is time to stand up for what you believe in. Compromises only create worse problems at a future date. Add something to your reserves.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Carry on at yesterday's speed, without letting stressful news make you change directions. Fresh and inter-esting assistance is at hand.

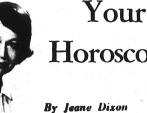
Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Don't play games with whatever it is you're doing. Friends and acquaintances are better left out of preliminary stages.

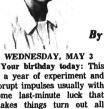
Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan] 19]: There is a practical lim-it to how hard and how long you can push vocation or business action. Rest, focus your energy on home and loved ones

Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: if you can stay out of the front lines, long-standing isrow mes, ong-various ap-sues can clarify. Your ap-peal to people in authority should be direct. Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]:

Modest advances on all important personal projects are indicated. Keep your own counsel about any financial prospects







is a year of experiment and abrupt impulses usually with some last-minute luck that things turn out all right. Emotional ties deepen. Today's natives are intrigued by all forms of magnetism,

by all forms of magnetism, ranging from physical to p sychic forms, usually skilled in its application. Aries [March 21-April 19]: Try to simplify your work and your attitudes toward it. You may be wasting time it. You may be wasting time and temperament on mere

side issu Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Being rushed into anything is unlikely to make a difference in either direction. Rather, the one who encourages others.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: Old friends help you along, but somewhere during this busy day you come to con-flict about what to do and where.

Cancer [June 21-July 22]: Varied discussions may run longer than you'd like, but are preferable to silent disagreements. The evening hours are rich with good

feeling. Les [July 23-Aug. 22]: Your persuasive powers come to a peak according to how badly you want the re-sults. Be sure you don't ask for too much.

By Jeane Dixon

SHELDON DRIGGS, laboratory trainee at the Arctic Health and Research Center on the University of Alaska campus, handles mice used in virology experiments with forceps and rubber gloves. The colony of mice must be kept highly sterile for responsive testing

NEN!

Page 14 Tundra Times, Wednesday, May 3, 1972