

Sees Generation of Orphans . . .

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for secondary and post-secondary education.

Upward Bound aims to generate the skills and motivation necessary for success in education beyond high school for enrollees from low-income backgrounds and with inadequate secondary school preparation.

Special Services for disadvantaged students in college provides for remedial and other special services for students with academic potential at schools covered by the special services grant.

"For too long now the student has been told that he has to go out and get an education, but in order to get an education he has had to totally divorce himself from his background because his cultural heritage was something bad, wrong, evil, sinful, dirty...and he was made ashamed," said Morrison, a Haida Indian.

"And now they tell him to be proud. How do you be proud of something you know nothing about?" he asked.

His is the story of thousands of Alaskan Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts forced to leave home to get the free public education guaranteed but not provided for in their local villages by the federal government.

It is a story so far without end; a story of annual migration of youth hundreds of thousands of miles from home to get an education.

"We are seeing the same thing happen again in this boarding home program," Morrison said. "We find the Native having an extremely difficult time adapting to an alien world because he does not have the support of his parents; no family ties."

So the emphasis now is not so much on telling the Native student he's got to be proud of his heritage. "No, we are just saying you have nothing to be ashamed of," Morrison said. "Being proud is not having to be ashamed or guilty of anything."

"That area is one of our major thrusts. The other is that in the past we've had to take whatever's given to us; programs administered to the Natives, for the Natives and about the Natives, but never with the Natives! Now we're saying all right, you are going to have a program deal-

ing with the Natives. We will serve in a policy-making capacity or we won't serve at all.

"We will no longer accept positions as advisors," Morrison said.

History and statistics show that Morrison's attack on the state of Alaska Native education is not merely an emotional argument.

Students have suffered psychologically from being taken from home in their early teens to attend school far away.

"The dramatically sharp increases in suicide among the 15-25 year olds began at almost the same time as the Alaska Boarding Home Program began," Morrison noted in a report to IHEW Region Ten officials at Seattle.

In 1947, the U.S. Naval station at Sitka was turned over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and converted into a school subsequently named Mount Edgecumbe. The curriculum was primarily vocational education and two airplane hangers were used as classroom facilities.

Students came from as far north at Pt. Barrow (2,000 miles) and as far south as Metlakatla (300 miles) to remain nine months, with half a day off for Thanksgiving and one day for Christmas. Due to the distance involved, some students were forced to remain at school for periods ranging to six years, Morrison said.

Modernized transportation has made it possible for Mt. Edgecumbe students to return home every spring, but they are still forced to spend most of their teen-aged years away from home.

The new system of high school education for bush youngsters instituted in Alaska in 1967 is the foster parent or boarding home program, which places most Native students with predominantly white families of the middle to lower-upper income levels. In nine months of school, the students become accustomed to the modern conveniences which are luxuries at home and indoctrinated with the norms and mores of non-Native life.

"In the village, binge drinking is socially acceptable, cleanliness is not necessarily next to Godli-

ness and the clock runs on seasonal increments rather than on minutes and seconds," Morrison said.

"The student is faced with being bounced from one world to the next and back, resulting in many students finally arriving at a point of total normlessness. The end result sometimes is suicide."

Under the federal grant, the AFN, Inc. formed a board of 12 Native regional representatives and that consortium board hired Morrison.

He, in turn meets with student boards on the campuses of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Sheldon Jackson College, University of Alaska-Anchorage, and Alaska Methodist University to hear and recommend policy changes to the statewide consortium board.

Field counsellors for the program talk to village students about available educational opportunities in adult basic education, education for veterans, welfare recipients and persons who are under-employed.

While the program is in its early stages, Morrison is optimistically contracting with Native associations and universities within Alaska to seek out Native students and guide their education, with supportive services in

Chamber Orchestra Tours Bush . . .

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wind players took out their instruments and made the first tentative and intriguing sounds of tuning and warming up, curious school children gathered around, fascinated. These were the first performers of classical music to visit their village.

Conductor Gordon Wright made informal comments before each piece, some times referring to pictures of classical instruments the children had put up beforehand on the blackboard.

The audience listened quietly and applauded generously. The orchestra performed several movements of Symphony Number 6 in D Major by Joseph Haydn, Quiet City by Aaron Copland featuring soloists Candy Down on the English Horn and James Kowalsky on Trumpet. Paul Rosenthal, Concertmaster, gave a virtuoso performance of

the Mozart Concerto in D Major for Violin and Orchestra.

The villagers, who asked the orchestra to come again and play for them, gave a potlatch for the orchestra, featuring moose head soup and other delicacies.

Conductor Wright said of the concert, "I think what we communicated in Hughes was our joy in playing. We didn't come to bring the truth to them but to share what we enjoy doing."

Referring to Native traditions, Wright said, "This is our tradition and our background. Many Natives view the white man in terms of a caterpillar tractor."

If word spreads through the bush as it often does, by word-of-mouth, of the twenty-four people, all playing together, who made music in Hughes, there may be a growing number of concerts in places where Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn were never heard before.

Banquets . . .

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Jim Thomas of Washington, D.C.

Tickets for the banquet are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Tundra Times office in the Chena Building, at Sportland Arcade on 2nd Ave., and at the Chamber of Commerce on First Ave.

The theme of this year's banquet is "Beauty In All Culture."

Don Wright Sues . . .

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farmore than \$600,000 for funds borrowed to wage the lobbying campaign which led to the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

"The only way to do it sensibly is to let the convention do it, to reach a mutual understanding and agreement for the monied corporations to pick up the debts and set the policy for the future," Wright said.

State Sen. Willie Hensley, D-Kotzebue, recently elected to succeed Wright, said he had not yet had a chance to study the suit but labeled the court action "childish."

"It's unfortunate that he feels he has to take the organization that he once headed to court," said Hensley, who was en route to Washington late Monday to try and work out some solutions to the financial problems.

Reported financial difficulties from within have been irritated by failure of Congress to allocate so far more than \$500,000 to each regional corporation. The full balance of each of the yearly allocations cannot be legally forwarded until the number of people in each region is established, but the government has the option of making more advanced monies available. In Washington last week the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee approved legislation to allow the regions to pay on a pro rata basis the debts incurred up until the settlement was reached. This would allow quicker pay-

ment and a halt in mounting interest debts to the central organization, but the legislation now faces the senate appropriations committee and similar action in the House.

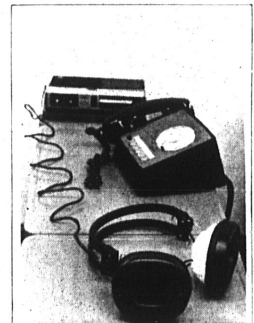
AFN, Inc. executive vice president Harry Carter said last week that the funds simply had not been forthcoming and that the Natives stood to lose some of the total \$962.5 million cash settlement in court battling for the right to get the rest.

Terms of the Native claims act also allow for the U.S. Court of Claims to pay a total of \$600,000 toward debts incurred in pursuing the settlement, but that \$600,000 is money being held aside from the total due the Native population not extra government monies, Carter noted.

At its last meeting the AFN, Inc. board of directors ordered an audit report within 30 days, in time to present to the convention that it has called for Anchorage on Oct. 26-28.

"We face the same problems of trying to resolve the indebtedness of the organization and administration problems that were here when he (Wright) was here," Hensley said. "He's making it difficult for us to concentrate on these problems."

"I don't see how any court suit he might bring will give him any more credibility with the board of directors," Hensley said.



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Air-Dependence . . .

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to "support the continuation of competitive service to these communities."

Giersdorf outlined his company's policy of tour promotion on a national basis with offices in New York to Tokyo. Of the 10,000 tourists on the Nome-Kotzebue route last year he cited that all but 1200 were through their airline.

"This business," he claims, "was produced through our brochures, our posters, our promotions. If there's a decline in the number of people who go to the Arctic," said Giersdorf, "it would be a disaster for those communities."

Wien Consolidated stated that it was "not their intention to lose service between Fairbanks, Nome-Kotzebue or Anchorage-Nome-Kotzebue."

"Wien Consolidated is very pleased with the new awards. We anticipate possibly even greater frequency of service."

Giersdorf reminded his listeners that the Alaska Airlines has historically "pressed for competitive service. We have pushed for bush service."

Noting that the stated intent of the CAB is to eliminate subsidy to air service in Alaska, Giersdorf said, "It doesn't make

sense that they should be allowed to withdraw their support in Alaska. Someone's going to have to pay for it. It's going to be the shipper and the user. With the exception of one or two ships per year, the Arctic is TOTALLY dependent on air transportation."

In southeast Alaska he pointed to the marine subsidies as a comparison.

The second phase of the hearings will revolve solely around bush routes. An important phase will be the handling of sub-contracts to air-taxi operators.

Field hearings similar to those held in June and July of 1970 will be scheduled for many communities. Curiously, some of the communities who participated previously no longer exist, while others were not sufficiently informed or funded at that time to have become parties to the suit.

Decisions that will affect air traffic patterns in Alaska for years to come will be decided. It is likely that other Native regional corporations will step forward and be heard in a matter which vitally affects their villages.

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