

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

Tundra Times



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Other Voices—

The Value of Fairbanks Detoxification Center

The Fairbanks Detoxification Center has been the subject of considerable controversy recently. Some site the cost of operation, others the futility of sobering up drunks so they can go out and start all over again, and others just consider the whole program a waste of time, effort and money. I for one disagree with this theory completely. I consider the Fairbanks Detoxification center one of the most important and vital social services serving not only the residents of Fairbanks, but the residents of all of Alaska.

Drinking is apparently a part of the way of life in Fairbanks if not all Alaska, unfortunately the less affluent are by their circumstances coerced into drinking in public establishments, while the more affluent can imbibe in the privacy of their homes, either alone or with friends without fear of public ridicule or incarceration. But, what about the visitors to our city from the outlying villages and neighboring cities? It's human nature that they want to socialize, meet their friends and in general enjoy their stay here; where else are they going to meet but in a bar? Naturally some of them overindulge.

My purpose is not to discuss the private or public drinking habits of anyone, but to bring to your attention the one organization in Fairbanks that is taking positive action to help those people who for some reason, real or imagined, cannot help themselves.

The organization is the Fairbanks Detoxification Center, located on Airport Road at what was formerly the North Slope Lodge.

Anyone who needs professional help is welcome there with no "Red Tape" and a minimum of interrogation. The main interest of the professional staff headed by Dr. David Cannack and his competent staff of Registered Nurses and several non-professional assistants, is to get the patient sober, coherent and in a condition to return to the community as a useful and productive citizen.

The mere fact that some citizens who were considered to be incurable alcoholics were treated at this clinic and returned to society as useful and productive citizens is justification for the support of the state, the city, the BIA, the ANF, the UGN, the Liquor Dealers Ass'n, the Bar Owners Ass'n, and every church and civic group as well as private citizens.

Richard R. Grunder
1101 Noble St.
Fairbanks, Alaska

Likely to Huddle in Anxious Silence

Unless Student from Bush Has Warm, Demanding Teacher

FAIRBANKS — The Indian or Eskimo student who leaves his village to attend an urban high school is likely to huddle in anxious silence in the back of the classroom unless he has a teacher who is both warm and demanding, writes Dr. Judith S. Kleinfeld in a new University of Alaska report.

But teachers who are effective with urban white and black students are not always effective with village Indian and Esk-

imo students.

"Effective Teachers of Indian and Eskimo High School Students" is the second collaborative report from the university's Center for Northern Educational Research and the Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research.

It follows Dr. Kleinfeld's study of the Boarding Home Program, which also emphasizes the positive approach — finding out what kinds of boarding

home parents work best with native students. Both studies were requested and supported by Jim Harper, director of the Division of Regional Schools and Boarding Home Program in the Alaska Department of Education.

Because teachers today are trained to be "professional," which means impersonal, it is often difficult for them to express personal warmth to native (Continued on page 6)

Letters from Here and There

'As If I Saved All I Made'

Nulato, Alaska
Dec. 17, 1972

Dear Friend Howard the Editor:

Lots of people tell me that I'm a lucky bastard. They don't know how tough it is for me sometimes. I got one big fat social security check since the raise. And they tell me, that's it. You made too much money, as if I saved all I made.

I make \$1200 a month at Eielson. I get \$750, \$450 a month goes for tax. This is why I don't like the white people. I have good reasons why. They're sneaky and greedy. Ever since I was a kid here, they tried to grab all the land they can with fence around their houses, and jealous. They sneaked around some way and found out how much money I make. I don't even know how much money I make. Whatever I make, I don't have one cent.

Why would they stop my social security? I paid every-time I worked since 1938 or so. Them white people in the office act like little school kids. Just like that money is coming out of their pockets. They don't know how much they hurt the old Indian. That's me.

I didn't know they were going to send union men here. But they did last summer for the one and a half mile road, the bridge, and the airport. All union operators. They didn't even know how to put the culvert in Mukluk Slough. The first heavy rain it washed away. But that's the union.

Lucky I'm not chief or council member here anymore. They vote me out. That's the way I wanted it. Soon as I was elected chief here, they wanted me to shoot dogs, have curfew, put two fellows in jail for shooting at houses or just shooting while intoxicated. I told them I don't want anyone shooting through any window.

That was on January 12, 1970 election. So I'm automatically out. But I'm still going to fight the union next spring when they come here. Somebody with guts have to stick up for the village.

They ruined our gravel bar for landing field and left 10 feet or 12 feet high gravel pile on the end of the runway.

I don't know what's wrong with our new field. Nobody is using it.

What's a representative, what we vote for? Does anybody or anyone represent us? They talk about doing this and that. They

need guts like mine. I should lend it to some of them.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

NIAAA Asks Help Of Village Councils

Dear Village Council President:

The seriousness of alcohol problems among Alaskans, especially out in the villages, has been observed and emphasized to us on many recent occasions. We are rightfully being encouraged to work closely with Alaskans to provide a solution to this harmful situation. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) is very much committed to this understanding. The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a responsible elected representative of your people, to help us plan how this Institute can be most helpful to your village.

We are quite familiar with alcohol problems in general. However, the heavy use of alcohol by some Alaska Natives occurs under unique circumstances with which we are unfamiliar. Thus, we feel that programs initiated locally with funding from NIAAA would be more successful than those developed here in Washington.

The NIAAA intends to provide \$5,000 - \$10,000 to many individual Alaskan villages to assist the people in developing some alternative pathways to the harmful use of the drug, alcohol. Under our Indian Alcoholism Program, a specialized alternative program for Alaska Natives will be developed and funding will be earmarked for Native villages. Some examples of projects which might be developed are: recreational activities, arts and crafts centers, library centers and other creative programs which you feel would be of particular benefit to your village in dealing with this problem, and on which the village could work together to provide new activities with which to combat this serious problem.

The one basic requirement of the Institute is that the local community assume the leadership in deciding on its needs and doing the actual planning for these projects. Also, the local community would perhaps help to build them and definitely operate them once completed. We will be happy to provide any consultant help which you may request. We have placed a staff member in Alaska to provide assistance to you. Mark E. Small, Consultant to the Special Projects Branch, will be responsible for this program in our Institute for the

Alaska area. He is anxious to work with you on this, so please get in touch with him as soon as possible. He may be contacted at the Alaska Area Native Health Service - Area Mental Health - P.H.S. - Box 7-741, Anchorage, Alaska 99510.

I look forward to working with your village. I sincerely hope that our organization can be of some real assistance in helping you to deal with one of the most difficult problems facing Alaskans - as well as all Americans.

Sincerely,

Morris E. Chafetz, M.D.
Director - N.I.A.A.A.

Book Review— Indian History

"This Country Was Ours: A Documentary History of the American Indian" (\$12.95), by Virgil J. Vogel, presents American Indian history in original documents from the Mayas and Aztecs to the occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1968. It will be published by Harper & Row on December 20.

Historians have created or perpetuated false impressions of American Indians by treating them either as "unpersons," or as subhuman nomads, by ignoring their virtues and emphasizing all faults, and by denying that they have made any cultural contribution, according to Mr. Vogel.

Mr. Vogel begins with distorted history of such eminent historians as Charles Beard and Carl L. Becker. He presents descriptions of early Aztec life; Christopher Columbus's account of the Indians, Indians in early diplomacy, Black Elk recounting the Massacre of Wounded Knee, Benny Bearskin's "Getting Urbanized," and the Proclamation of the Great White Father and All His People," from the Indians of all Tribes who occupied Alcatraz Island.

There is a Foreword by Sol Tax of the University of Chicago. In addition, appendixes include significant dates and events in American Indian history, brief biographies of prominent Indians, significant museum collections, a list of Indian organizations and publications and a bibliography.

Virgil Vogel, an associate professor of history at Mayfair College, City Colleges of Chicago, is the author of "Indian Place Names in Illinois," and "American Indian Medicine."

Survey Includes Alaska Passengers

Passengers flying in and out of Alaska will be included in a proposed Civil Aeronautics Board of survey of national airline traffic.

The office of Senator Ted Stevens has learned data would be collected from respondents by means of a brief questionnaire.

There will be about 15 questions to determine vital characteristics frequency of flying, reason for and duration of trip, and importance of discount fares.

The proposed sample would be selected on the basis of ticket serial numbers. Stevens said he had been informed by Secor Browne, chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, that the program is intended to be as representative as possible of the scheduled air travel market.

However, the CAB has determined that the additional information obtainable by including inter-Alaska carriers would not be commensurate with the burden it would impose on them.