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Fire-damage Repair Plans Rushed at UA

Plans for repair of the fire-damaged University of Alaska Commons were being expedited this week in an effort to have the university's main dining facility opened in time for the fall semester.

Fire last Friday (June 14) caused an estimated half million dollars damage to the five-year-old building and resulted in the death of a student. It was the worst fire in the university's 51-year history.

Charles Sargent, executive director of planning and operations for the university, said the first step in the repair program would be to clean up debris and remove equipment so that total damage could be assessed. Meanwhile, he added, architects will prepare bid specifications for repair of the building. "We will make every effort to have the Commons ready by fall.

This will depend upon the assessment of damage and the availability of equipment and materials," he explained.

The morning after the fire, members of the Campus Planning and Development Committee of the Board of Regents met in a special session with top UA administrative personnel to hear a report on the fire and to chart plans for repairs.

Dr. William R. Wood, UA president, voiced a need for fast action if the facility were to be ready by September. He noted that much of the equipment for the building had been custom-made and might be difficult to replace in a hurry.

He also said the university would seek a temporary loan from the state if insurance funds were not sufficient to pay for the cost of repairs.

However, Robert K. Dellanbach, assistant comptroller for management, told the meeting that the Commons was fully insured—not only for the building but also for the contents.

The building is insured by the Employers Group of Insurance Companies and officials of the firm were on campus this week, inspecting damage.

Fire Chief Willard C. Whitaker of the UA Fire Department reported that the fire apparently had not

Brandley Proposes Industry for Villages

An increased emphasis on tourism and light industry in Alaska's bush villages was urged today by Kent Brandley, Democratic candidate for the State House of Representatives from District B.

"There is no reason why, with the proper incentives, Alaska's Native people should not directly share in money spent by visitors to Alaska."

Brandley proposed a state incentive loan program to encourage construction of small hotel facilities in bush villages such as Chalkyitsik, Stevens Village, Venetie, Beaver and others.

"Light industries could be centered around arts and crafts at the beginning," Brandley said. He suggested

caused any major structural damage.

He said, however, that the interior finish throughout the building, with the exception of the basement, had been destroyed.

The fire started in a deep fat fryer, holding six gallons of grease, when the grease overheated and ignited, Whitaker said. Efforts to douse the flames with fire extinguishers proved futile.

The chief said the cause of the fire was believed to be a malfunction in a thermostat that controls the temperature of the fryer. An investigation of the cause and also of the circumstances surrounding the death of the student were underway this week.

Whitaker said the student, Robyn A. Aubrey, 20, of Fairbanks, was found under a charred desk in the office of the Commons, only 15 feet from an exit to the building.

Efforts to revive Aubrey after he was taken from the office failed and he was pronounced dead at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fairbanks.

Whitaker said the student, a part-time employee of the Commons, may have gone into the office in an attempt to get something or may have mistaken the office door for an exit.

that instead of sending furs outside Alaska for tanning that this could become a village industry in the Interior. Villages could specialize in an item such as parkas, mukluks or other functional wearing apparel.

"I would like to see the state begin to get out of the welfare business and into the business of encouraging light industry in the villages through a program of loans and instruction."

He said similar programs have worked well in the Southwestern part of the United States and tribes there have formed cooperatives which have raised the living standard of the people considerably.

Most of Alaska's tourists would enjoy visiting our Interior Indian villages if facilities for their comfort could be constructed. This would mean improving airport facilities as well and this in turn would generate more jobs. "I think the people are willing to work if we come up with the jobs," he said.

Police Trainees

We are currently accepting applications for a police training course to be conducted by the State Department of Public Safety from July 8, 1968, to February 14, 1969, at Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka.

Graduates are expected to be hired as police radio dispatcher, process server, driver's license examiner, or correctional officer. These graduates will be employed in Alaskan cities.

Trainees should be single, at least 22 years of age, and in good physical condition. They must have completed at least the eighth grade, and some high school is preferred.

Trainees will be fingerprinted and background inquiries will be made. Prior arrest records will be evaluated in regard to seriousness of offense and other factors.

Anyone interested in this course should contact the Alaska State Employment Service, Sixth and Barnett Street in Fairbanks.



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