

CINA Elders reach out to youth...

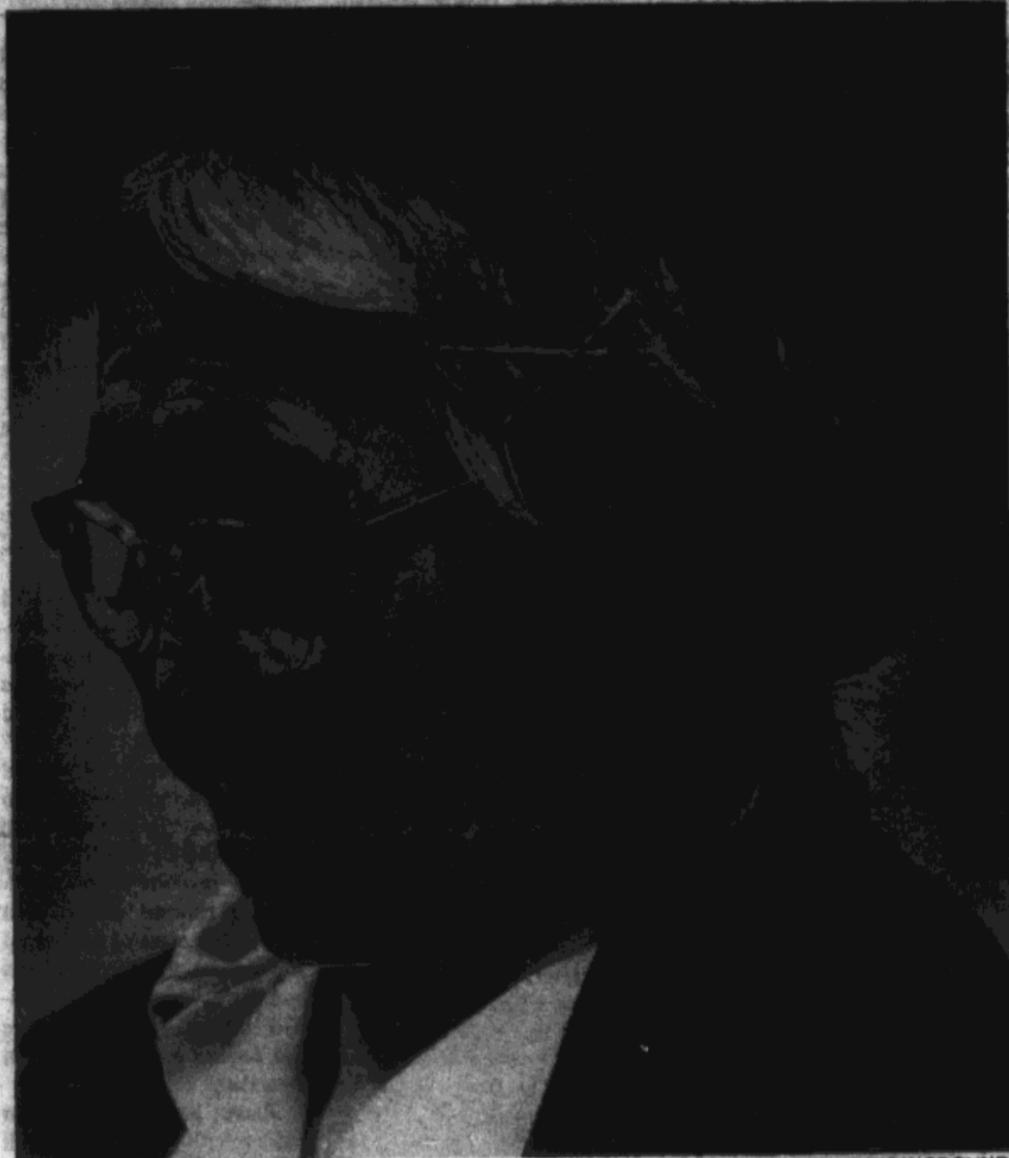


PHOTO BY TOM BIRDINGROUND

Maggie Sipary listens as others speak at the Cook Inlet Native Association's elders' conference.

By Janice L.L. Hudetz
Tundra Times

Renewing relationships with Native youth and bridging the communication gap was the focus of an Elders Conference held at the Fairview Community Center here on May 10 and 11.

The meeting, which drew approximately 200 people in the Anchorage area, was sponsored by the Cook Inlet Native Association and included other cultural activities such as singing and dancing, storytelling, and closed with a potlatch on Wednesday evening.

Representatives from other Elders Conferences around the state were present and also shared their experiences. Alaska's older generation of Natives have been meeting in Sitka, Nome, and one is planned for June 2 in Minto. Walter Outwater was elected official spokesperson. Another conference is set for September 15 here in Anchorage.

Many times the Natives voiced the concern that "we are living in a different kind of age and different kind of world," from the one in which they had been raised. The move from rural to urban area has been an especially traumatic scene.

Years ago "We needed no laws, there was no idleness. Now with the state and its seasonal hunting and fishing

laws, there is no hunting at certain times, thus creating idleness." The general feeling is that a restlessness has developed out of inactivity.

Many years ago, the older people didn't share what information they possessed of Native life. According to Carolyn (Lollie) Demientieff of Wasilla, "We now want to listen because we see what is happening from this rapid development." Today's young to middle-age generations are not able to think well, she said.

"Coke, hashish and mind-altering drugs that the very young experience with, and then the nicotine, caffeine, alcohol that the middle-age have grown addicted to," she continued, "has finally brought the Elders to a point where they must talk to the younger generations."

The problem of utmost concern to everyone, Demientieff said, is that the two groups are slowly dying.

The old people are getting senile or dying; and the young are killing one another, or killing themselves with drugs, or they are spending their time in prisons, she said.

One Elder spoke of a 40-year-old son who is dying of alcoholism, saying, "you don't dare bawl out the kids, because their lives are on the edge, one blow could be the last."

Paper charges Lewis favored Calista

The Associated Press

State records show that Community and Regional Affairs Commissioner Mark Lewis has shown favoritism in a drive to award a \$395,000 state contract to a politically powerful Native regional corporation, an Anchorage newspaper reported Sunday.

The Anchorage Daily News reported that resistance within Lewis' department to his actions and objections from other bidders for work on the Yukon Kuskokwim Regional Planning Program Needs Assessment have stalled the project.

A pattern of bidding changes, contract review procedures and reassessment point toward favoritism of the Bethel-based Calista Corp.'s planning arm, Calista Professional Services, the newspaper said.

Criticism of Lewis' performance regarding the contract has prompted at least two complaints to the state ombudsman's office and may have played a role in the forced resignation of a senior department official last week, the paper reported.

Lewis said the allegations are "absolutely, categorically not true. This contract is not wired for Calista."

Jed Holly, general manager and vice president of Calista, said charges that the contract was "wired" for his firm were "preposterous," the newspaper reported.

The newspaper said that Lewis since January has:

*Thrown out all bids for the project and started anew after circumstances made it impossible to give the entire contract to Calista.

*Ordered bidding rules changed, eliminating resubmission of a bid that had scored higher than the Calista proposal.

*Changed the rules a second time, allowing a nonprofit organization, The Association of Village Council Presidents, to enter the bidding. The newspaper reported the council has strong ties with Calista.

*Asked for and received the resignation of Lawrence H. Kimball Jr., director of the Division of Community Planning who says he resisted Lewis' actions and warned of possible legal and ethical problems.

Asked if he thought the award has been deliberately steered toward the Calista planning firm, Kimball replied, "I'd be lying if I said no."

"In my own mind, although

State won't assume control of Edgumbe: Sheffield

By Cecile Kay Richter

Tundra Times

Gov. Bill Sheffield announced Monday that the state will not assume control of Mt. Edgumbe Boarding School next fall but, at the same time Sheffield expressed hope that the federal government could be persuaded to keep the school open for the 1983-84 school year while negotiations over a possible transfer to the state continue.

Sheffield said the question of keeping the boarding school for Alaska Native students open for another year hinged in part on discussions this week between Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, and Bureau of Indian Affairs officials.

"Regretfully, the state does not have sufficient funds or

time to upgrade the school and begin operating it next fall," he said.

Mt. Edgumbe, on Japonski Island near Sitka is one of 10 off-reservation boarding high schools operated in this country by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. The bureau is prohibited in its current appropriations act from using any of its funds to continue academic and residential programs at Mt. Edgumbe after June 30, 1983.

Mt. Edgumbe is expected to graduate its last class as a boarding high school for Alaska Native students on May 27.

This will be the 36th spring commencement

In March, the new Alaska State Board of Education passed a resolution calling on