

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

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Wednesdays.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707. Telephone 452-2244.

Second class postage paid at Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, corresponding secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

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Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$10.00	6 Months \$ 5.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$21.00	6 Months \$12.00

The Ousting of AFN President Don Wright

The ousting of Donald R. Wright as president of the Alaska Federation of Natives by the board members of the AFN, Inc., is not a real surprise to some but it is a real jolter to others. Such an eventuality has been expected for some time as rumors of mismanagement and misappropriations of funds within the organization persisted.

With the signing of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act on December 18, 1971 by President Richard Nixon, the effectiveness of the AFN as a decision-making force ended. Some of us deplored this eventuality because we had known and respected the great effort the organization expended toward the settlement of Native land claims fairly and equitably. When this particular history is written, that part of the action of the AFN will be a bright one for Alaska's Native people. It was a superb effort and an historic one.

Even as this was happening, there was also some evidences that something was amiss within the inner workings of the AFN. This was disturbing, to say the least, because the Native people needed a good image of their statewide organization. This desire of the people should have been a moving force in itself to maintain a good organizational setup. Those people who are taking up the reins of the organization should keep this in mind — definitely.

Don Wright more than met the challenge of the difficult and complex fight for the settlement of the land claims. His influence was unmistakable, even to the level of the White House. On this end of his work, he was relentless in seeking a fair resolution to the land problem. His utterances regarding this matter were convincing and usually right. His superb lobbying abilities were reflected among other Native leaders.

Don Wright also had some faults. He tended to be extravagant in dispensing of funds. He tended to be arbitrary in decision-making, which meant that he did not adequately consult his board of directors. We feel that the board should always be consulted on any important decision.

It is not pleasant that Don Wright has been divested of his duties as president of the AFN but we also feel that it was a necessary action by the board. The action will clear the way for a newly aimed central group that must involve each and every regional organization, or corporation. It must be given enough teeth to command respect of each group. It should have the financial backing of each regional corporation just enough to make it operate efficiently but not extravagantly.

This one will take first rate powers of thinking and thinkers had better go into it right away.

Pesticides, Fungicides— FDA: Package 'Poisons' Child-Resistant

The Food and Drug Administration announced plans to order that pesticides, fungicides and similar types of household "poisons" be packaged in child-resistant safety containers.

The regulation would include those products which have been found to be highly toxic by tests in laboratory animals as determined by regulations of the

Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA administers the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act which covers insecticides, rodenticides, nematocides, fungicides, herbicides, amphibian and reptile poisons or repellents, plant regulators, plant defoliants, and plant desiccants.

(Continued on page 6)



YOUTH SYMPHONY AUDITIONS — These young people are practicing for their auditions to be held for the Fairbanks Youth Symphony

Orchestra to be held soon. The young people are, left to right: Atsuko Ohtake, Jimmy Truitt, Heidi Madsen and Druska Salisbury.

Youth Symphony Orchestra—

Youth Musicians Urged to Give Auditions at UA Arts Complex

Open auditions for the Fairbanks Youth Symphony Orchestra will be held Saturday, Oct. 7, 1972 in the Eva McGown Music Room in the Fine Arts Complex on the University of Alaska campus.

All young people who play a stringed instrument and are interested in auditioning for a seat in the orchestra should call 479-6597 or 479-6117 for an audition time or more information.

Wind and brass auditions will be held in November.

A membership fee of \$10 is required of all players in the orchestra. It is also planned that there will be a preparatory group of instrumentalists who are not yet ready to play in the

orchestra.

The orchestra is beginning its third season with the cooperation of the North Star Borough public school system, the University of Alaska Division of Statewide Services and the University of Alaska music department.

It is under the sponsorship of the Fairbanks-University Symphony Association.

This year the orchestra will be under the conductorship of George Weasy who is a music teacher at the Nordale and Ryan Schools.

The youth orchestra provides many young players with the opportunity to play in an orchestra which is not provided elsewhere in this area. They learn the feeling of accomplishment in working to make music together.

The members of the Youth Symphony Committee now consist of Inga-Lisa Wright, chairman, Helen Frank, Delores Kirby, Donna Matschke, Barbara Perles, Frances Randall, Leslie Salisbury, Nancy Stone, Mildred Wenger and Dorothy Jane Wood.

It is the aim and purpose of the committee to solicit support and develop interest in oppor-

tunities for young orchestral players in the Fairbanks community.

In addition to the committee's work, many university students, instructors and other people in the community and in particular, Gordon B. Wright, conductor of the Fairbanks-University Symphony, give much of their time in advisory position, coaching sectional rehearsals, and assisting in musical functions.

The young people of the Youth Symphony have selected their own officers with Heidi Madsen, president, Brady Pigg, vice president, and Gretchen Madsen, secretary-treasurer.

The ideas of orchestra members are solicited through their officers in the planning of the orchestra activities and programs.

The orchestra is designed for all young people who play a musical instrument and can qualify for a position in the orchestra through their auditioning.

So if you, or someone you know, would like to play in the youth orchestra, call one of the above telephone numbers for your audition time.

Alaska Air Delivers Schools

ANCHORAGE, AK. — Alaska International Air President Neil Bergt announced that Alaskan villages will have new school houses this week — with the help of a big AIA Hercules turbo-prop airplane.

The schools — long trailer-looking affairs — are too big to be shipped in any other kind of aircraft. And they are destined to fly by Hercules to Cape Romanof, Bethel and St. Marys — which cannot be speedily reached except by air.

A U.S. Army Sky crane will then transport several buildings to the outlying villages of Chevak, Napakiak and Alakanuk.

The sixteen shelters were built by ATCO Structures, Inc. of Anchorage. Trailers from Mukluk Freight Lines will be carrying the buildings from their resting place, at the side of International Airport Road, to the International Airport where they will be loaded onto the big plane.

According to Bergt, the availability of the Hercules air-

craft in the state has expedited aid and development of rural Alaska.

Recently, AIA transported post office buildings to Kaktovik in a similar manner.

The bureau of Indian Affairs has contracted the building and transport of the school houses.

New Fire Station

JUNEAU — A new fire station opened recently at Anchorage International Airport enables fire and rescue units to reach any runway location within two minutes Public Works Commissioner George Easley said.

Previously maximum response time was three minutes.

The new station, the airport's second fire and rescue facility, is located west of the north/south runway.

It is equipped with two water-foam trucks, a 5,000 gallon water tanker and a tracked vehicle with water-foam and dry chemical capability.

LETTERS

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I recently had a meeting with the new management of Alaska Airlines to discuss with them their plans for improving service to Alaskan air travelers. As we all know, service has been extremely poor. Each of us who travels regularly has his own story of inconvenience.

I am encouraged by what appears to be a sincere desire and willingness by the Company to improve customer services, and I believe they should be given a fair chance to make good on their promises to upgrade their operations.

However, I intend to keep on top of them to make sure they translate their words into deeds. To this purpose, I would be grateful if your readers would inform me of any complaint they have with Alaska Airlines' service. I will bring each complaint to the attention of the firm's management and demand that they either rectify the situation or explain fully why that cannot be done.

I do not intend to let up on this issue until Alaskans receive the quality of air service to which they are entitled.

Sincerely,

Mike Gravel