

letters

my people, let's quit drowning in this liquor and start living for the future. Talk, walk, live and bless it. Be proud you are human.

When you're into your spirit, please write. My addresses are: AFN Youth Council, 670 Fireweed Land, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 or 4706 Harding Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Join the Youth Council. We're fighting to be true Native youth. When you are in your spirit, you are as the universal eye looking into itself.

Howard Rock, the one who lived in his spirit has died from the killer, cancer. He showed the Eskimos inspiration. How we sing, dance, stomp our feet to the world, praising to be alive. He will rest with the old ones, with his people, he will Eskimo dance forever!

Keep smiling folks, remember, laughter is the best medicine.

Have a happy, happy!
Mary Jan Brower
President
Alaska Federation of Natives
Youth Council

Training rural residents . . .

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Natives today so that they could share their experiences and, hopefully, begin to coordinate their efforts more effectively throughout the state.

The meeting was a success in many ways. People from around the state with common interests were able to sit down together for the first time and talk to each other openly about their successes and failures.

Accountants and bookkeepers from several Native organizations had an opportunity to clear up misconceptions and assist some of the educators in understanding what the immediate as well as long-term training needs are in rural Alaska.

At the end of the meeting the acting director of the Kellogg Project, Eric Ekvall, was charged with appointing a Task Force to carry out the recommendations of the group.

The Task Force met May 7 in Anchorage. The members

Dean Pushruk of the Norton Sound Health Corporation, a federally funded health firm serving some 8,000 people in Nome and over a dozen surrounding villages in Northwest Alaska.

Their entry into the field of prison counseling is an offshoot of another counseling program they run for Norton Sound, to get problem drinkers out of the bars to work out their problems in rap sessions.

"Most of the guys here I've known since they were kids, but still we represent authority," said Murphy, whose casual attire suggests he might be going fishing instead of guarding a jail. "We don't go back and play ping-pong with them. Besides, I can't beat them anyway," he said.

Other than ping-pong, cards, a radio and television set, the only diversion is reading.

Prison library volumes run the gamut from "The Courage of Divorce" to Pat Boone and Readers Digest condensed books.

Inmates, especially those with no friends or relatives in the area, were obviously pleased

to see Leavit and Pushruk on a recent visit.

Pushruk lit up a cigarette for one inmate strumming a guitar, while Leavit introduced a visitor to the 17 by 19 foot library-dining area. Then Leavit got a quick discussion going on the possibility of a special Eskimo meal.

Though 99% of the inmates are Eskimos, prison food is strictly of the white man's variety. Two inmates in on the discussion said an Eskimo meal would be a welcome change.

Levit said the local senior citizens group — dubbed "XYZ" for extra years of Zest, might be willing to cooperate. The group has a weekly meal of Eskimo foods in Nome.

A check later with Murphy found the associate superintendent agreeable. "I see no problem," said Murphy, who is familiar with the area's soul food. "We're just not budgeted for it."

It's the little things that count for inmates here, like a change in diet or a chance to leave jail, in custody, for a

visit to the doctor.

Inmates may ask Levit and Pushruk to check on qualifications for a GED (general equivalency diploma) but mainly just talk about personal problems.

Though the jail is described by both guards and inmates as the best of its kind in Alaska, with few disciplinary problems, the basement location gets depressing, especially in winter months when daylight averages three to four hours.

Inmates with six months or less to serve may get work releases under state guidelines, to work in the Nome area.

Occasionally too, juveniles get a "furlough" from the court which allows for their release in Pushruk's or Levit's custody during the day, to cash a check or have coffee several blocks away.

Weekly trips to the local armory to play basketball also help relieve tension.

Levit donated an extra pair of tennis shoes he had for an inmate who needed them on the court and is encouraging others to do the same. A local Eskimo social services firm donated the ping-pong net.

Levit got the idea of prison counseling several months ago and set out to win the trust of jailers and inmates alike.

First he had to convince the jailers that they were not going to make trouble and create dissatisfaction. Then the pair put up signs inside the prison to advise inmates of their availability.

"I didn't know what I'd do — talking to a murderer, say . . ." Levit said. But soon he found himself at ease wandering around the jail dormitory, asking how things were going, if they needed to see a lawyer or had other personal matters to discuss.

Only after one distraught

prisoner hanged himself did Levit and Pushruk start getting more aggressive in their counseling, seeking out problems before they became insurmountable.

It's too early yet to evaluate long-term effects of the counseling on inmate morale, but indications from both sides are that it's having a healthy influence.

CIRI . . .

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Marrs of Seldovia.

Re-elected to the Board of Directors were Robert Kallander, At-Large, Charles Roehl, At-Large, Gerald Brown, Kenai, Larry M. Oskolkoff, Ninilchik and John Colberg, Seldovia. The annual meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Immediately following the annual stockholders meeting, the Board of Directors convened its annual meeting for the election of officers. Roy Huhndorf was re-elected as President of the Corporation.

John Colberg retained his position as Chairman of the Board. Bob Rude was re-elected first vice president; Gosta Dagg was elected second vice president; and Andy Johnson was elected third vice president.

Agnes Brown was re-elected as Secretary of the Board, and William Prosser was elected Treasurer.



A Family Is — A unit composed not only of children, but of men, women, an occasional animal, and the common cold.

corporation, you have participated in a training session designed to help you better understand the workings of your organization, and if you still have copies of texts or other kinds of materials used in the training, please send them to Daphne Gustafson, Rural Educational Affairs, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Her phone number is 479-7715, if you have any questions and can place a call to her. If you wish to keep what you have, please let Daphne know and the original will be returned to you promptly.

are Omer Carey, U of A Anchorage; Milton Fink, U of A Fairbanks; Terry Hoefferle, Kuskokwim Community College; Daphne Gustafson, U of A Rural Educational Affairs; Pete Probasco, Cooperative Extension Service; Mary Stachelrodt, RurAL CAP; Jan Fredericks, Kuskokwim Management Association; and Francis Gallela, Coopers and Lybrand. The Task Force set as its first order of business the review of all existing instructional materials which have been used to teach business management, office management, board training and other related subjects in rural Alaska.

Although efforts are under way to contact agencies and organizations involved in this kind of training, the assistance of Tundra Times readers would be very helpful in identifying teaching materials which have been used to this end. If, as a shareholder, board member, or staff member of a village or regional

Klukwan artifacts . . .

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The chief concern of the gallery was that the artifacts not be lost. The spokeswomen said that threats had been made against the property by members of other clans.

A Haines magistrate has refused to issue an injunction

sought by the Seattle art gallery for the removal of the artwork.

Joe Hotch of Klukwan said Monday afternoon that the blockade had been removed from the road and as of then no legal actions had been taken.

Eskimo-Indian Olympics . . .

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Native sports and a pageant of beauty queens, Heffle has called a meeting of the Olympics committee for today, at 7:30 p.m. at Careage North, 1949 Gillam. The Olympics committee serves annually on a voluntary basis and anyone wishing to assist is welcome to attend.

Heffle said the committee would meet every other week, until July; then begin meeting at least once a week. A number of volunteers are needed to make the games a success.

Heffle also announced the selection of George Bell, Fairbanks, a board member of the Bering Straits Native Corporation, as co-chairman of the Olympics.

While plans for Canada's

Northern Games the same week at Coppermine will prevent many Canadian Eskimo and Indian athletes from attending the Olympics in Alaska, there are plans to send some Alaskan athletes to the Northern Games and vice versa, said Jerry Woods another member of the Olympics committee.

Athletes interested in participating should advise the Olympics committee in writing. Address correspondence to the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, % Tundra Times, Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

Young women planning to participate in the queen competition should also advise the Olympics committee. Contestants will be judged on poise, beauty and knowledge of their Native culture.



CONSUMER LAW — UNORDERED MERCHANDISE

Under Federal law, any merchandise that you receive through the mail that you did not order, you can treat as a gift. You may do whatever you want with this merchandise. You do not have to pay for it and it is illegal for anyone to send you a bill for this unsolicited merchandise.

Sec. 3009 Fed.
Postal Reorg. Act
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