

# LEGAL SERVICES...

project, wrote the curriculum materials for secondary schools. Pat McDermion handled the kindergarten through sixth grade materials, and attorneys Steve Conn and Bob Bundy advised the writers and helped develop the materials.

Called "Alaska Natives and the Law," the curriculum currently being printed is made up of four units: juvenile, and criminal law; community law; family law; and consumer law. A fifth unit on native land claims is nearing completion but because the LEA emphasizes criminal and juvenile law, Barthel is having to look elsewhere for funds to print the fifth unit. He's hoping to attract some interest from the regional corporations.

The materials are taking the form of 2,000 bound secondary student textbooks, 200 loose-leaf secondary teacher guides, and 800 loose-leaf elementary teacher guides. Barthel and his staff have also prepared a three-volume supplemental teacher reader which supplies a wealth of background material for the instructors.

Although a few models do exist for this type of project in such things as the American Bar Association's compilation of various programs under their Special Committee for Youth Education, Barthel says that it's only been in the last five years that the idea of legal education for younger students has been taken seriously.

Add on the unique nature of the ALS Legal Education Project and that means the staff had to start practically from scratch to create what might also be the first model of a bi-cultural legal education curriculum. The material is in English but the possibility exists, if funds exist, for translating it into Alaska's native dialects.

Altogether the project now stands at 2,400 pages collected into small illustrated books which emphasize an active approach to learning. Frank Barthel says one of his big biases is that if you're going to teach something, it should be something relevant, and if you're going to break down the complexity of the law, you need to use games, activities, and stimulating methods so the material doesn't start reading like a boring law book.

So "Alaska Natives and the Law" attempts to sue as many Alaskan examples as possible and tries to show how old ways can be successfully combined with the new. Still, Barthel admits that it's not easy: "We're trying to allow people to maintain their identity yet we say, 'this is what you've got to do,' which is counter to their identity."

He says that native people like to alleviate conflict quietly among themselves, whereas the American legal system presents them with an "open adversary" method.

But another belief held by Barthel and the one that makes him feel that the project is important and will have positive effects is that "you're going to get took so you might as well know something." Hence, his emphasis on practical, useful learning.

He cites the case of Ketchikan students who write up a juvenile rights handbook for their area as part of their school activity, a perfect example of the kind of teaching/learning method Barthel would like to see happen with his material.

To date 35 schools have

requested the ALS material in addition to the list of villages slated to receive it under conditions of the LEA grant. The curriculum was intended for students in grades 1-12 but Barthel says that anyone can use it. He suggests some of the state's popular Adult Basic Education programs or the rural community colleges.

A hold-up in funding meant that the books will not arrive in the schools until January instead of the beginning of the school year as hoped. As the materials are distributed, Alaska Legal Services staff will travel to the bush to hold teacher-training workshops for which the teachers can get university credit.

Then, as the program gets underway, Barthel hopes that students and teachers will exchange a lot of their problems and successes with the project staff. He firmly believes there are good teachers in the bush with good ideas. Barthel adamantly desires communicating with them and has included a section in the teacher guides on feedback.

He also wants to know what the students feel and admits to having wished for a student advisory committee during the writing process.

What feedback did come from the three pilot villages ran the gamut from "it's too hard, it's too easy."

In general, the project was praised for creating student interest which was relevant to the areas in which they live, but was criticized for lack of organization.

The concrete results were recorded in Selawik where teacher Chuck Johnson measured knowledge and interest of students before and after teaching the legal program. He found that there was a marked increase in both cognitive skills and interest. Grades went up and the school created its own course on law.

Along with revising the material in light of the feedback, Barthel is also exploring the possibilities of marshalling a force of resource people in the bush to aid teachers and students get a grasp of the material.

He is questioning bush lawyers, state troopers, and the growing staff of bush paralegals as to the time and effort they might have to answer questions and support the teachers, saying it's not realistic to expect teachers to become lawyers.

As for the future, Frank Barthel says it's open. Funding for this second phase runs out early next year. Laws change, materials will need updating and more LEA money might be sought.

Video materials are also very much in the picture. Three early tapes funded with JOM money portray a civil mock trial, an interview with a juvenile going through the justice system, and the way in which students can make tapes themselves.

(Continued from page 1)

Barthel thinks those tapes should be copied for distribution at least to the regions and that more tapes should be made with a stress on student-produced video.

He says ALS is also looking into getting the material broadcast over bush radio and TV stations and in setting up a work-study program for young students with Alaska Legal Services offices around the state.

As stated in the grant proposal submitted to the LEA,

## ALASKA MARINE RADIO DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

Anchorage, Alaska—RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., has published an "Alaska Marine Radio Directory" which lists vessels, their call signs and owners, along with practical information on the use of Class II B Coastal Harbor and Class III B VHF Maritime radio services offered by RCA Alascom.

The directory, which is an expanded version of the "Marine Radio Directory" published previously, will be updated annually. RCA Alascom maintains marine radio services and installations for two-way communications between vessels and the land-based telephone network over a radiotelephone system.

The directory gives instructions on the use of the services, cost information and equipment requirements. An appendix gives frequencies for the various Alaska stations and equipment tables. Alascom maintains seven Public Coast Class II B stations and 13 Public Coast Class III B stations for the Maritime Mobil Service in Alaska.

Nearly 1,300 vessels are listed in the current directory. The directories, along with a United States Coast Guard booklet on Alaska Marine Communications and a letter outlining Federal Communications Commission rules on marine radio equipment, are being distributed without charge.

The information is being mailed out to persons whose vessels are listed in the directory, along with other interested persons and individuals upon request. Subsequent directories will be expanded to include more Alaskan vessels.

To obtain a directory, or to request a listing in next year's directory, interested persons should contact: Marketing Department, RCA Alaska Communications, Inc., 4465 Business Park Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Persons wishing to list their vessels should include the name of the vessel, its call sign and the owner.

### CORRECTION:

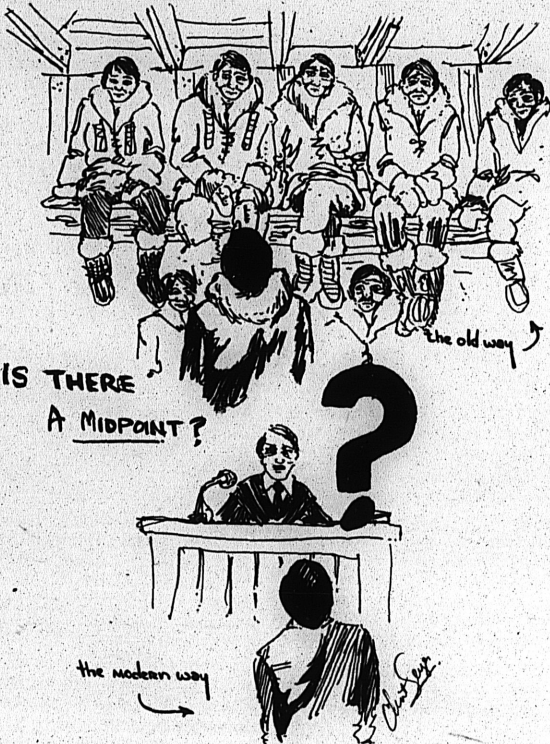
In last week's Tundra Times, Ted Mala was identified as a student at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Actually, Mala attends medical school at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara.

juvenile crime in Alaska is reaching alarming proportions: "juveniles who are natives either have absolutely no understanding of the criminal justice system and of law in general or have developed a hardened, antagonistic attitude towards the law and the criminal justice system. . . the people must be armed with knowledge of their rights and how to assert them in order to survive."

So for now, in an attempt to further that knowledge, Frank

Barthel is deep into arrangements with printers, binders, and teachers who will be using the new legal education curriculum.

Those interested in knowing more about the program or in obtaining the curriculum materials should contact Frank Barthel, Legal Education Project, Alaska Legal Services, 524 W. 6th St., Anchorage, AK 99501, phone 272-9431.



AN ILLUSTRATION from "Alaska Natives and the Law," the new elementary and secondary school curriculum written by Alaska Legal Services' Legal Education Project staff, now being printed and readied for distribution in January to schools around the state.

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