

Alcohol Committee Explores Urban Native Drink Problem

The problem of alcohol and its relationship to the urban Alaskan native was recently explored by an Anchorage committee which is ready to report its findings to the Anchorage City Council.

Although natives comprise only 4 per cent of the population of Anchorage, the committee found that they account for 52.6 per cent of the arrests on drunk in public charges.

Selective geographic enforcement of "drunk in public" statutes, tendency toward racial en-

forcement of such statutes, and inadequate enforcement by the City of Anchorage of alcoholic beverage sales to intoxicated persons were cited as reasons for the disproportionate figures.

Drinking behavior among urban natives, it was concluded, results from a "matrix of cultural, psychological, socio-economic and educational factors, which often culminate in the commission of the criminal act of being 'drunk in public.'"

The committee proposes a four-

point program to be instituted as a new approach to the problem. The first calls for individuals arrested for being "drunk in public" to have charges dismissed twice during a 12-month period.

The offender may then sign a waiver and discuss his reason for drinking with a referral aide, who would refer him to the appropriate agency depending on his problem.

The second point of the proposal is the retention of a counselor to supervise referral aides and overlook the entire referral system, at the same time available for professional recommendations.

An evaluation and referral center for those having alcohol-related problems, inclusive of a community health program, would be established as the third point in the proposal.

The final point requests the abolishment of the drunk in public charge as a criminal offense. "The present deterrent system does not work as over 50 per cent of those arrested for DIP have more than one arrest," the committee stated.

It is reported that members of the committee included a number of Anchorage doctors, lawyers, as well as several native leaders.

The "drunk in public" statute is expected to be discussed at the July 8 meeting of the Anchorage City Council, in the council chambers at the Loussac Memorial Library.

1st School: Gets Magna Cum Laude

Cynthia Warbelow, a young lady who had never been to school before she enrolled at the University of Alaska, has graduated with high honors, magna cum laude.

Cynthia received her elementary and secondary education by correspondence through the Department of Education. Courses were mailed from the Department of Education directly to Cynthia's home, mile 1338½ Alaska Highway near Tok, Alaska.

For 12 years Cynthia's mother was her "home teacher," directing Cynthia's studies and issuing tests which were mailed back to the Department for correction and study hints. Cynthia went on to the University of Alaska directly from her home study course.

She completed the requirements for her Bachelors' Degree in seven semesters at the University, receiving "A's" in every course except one physical education course in which she received a "B." Her grade point average was 3.97 out of a possible 4.0!

Cynthia, majoring in biology, was this year's winner of the Marion Boswell Memorial Award as the outstanding senior woman at the University.

She was also named top student in the College of Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources, the winner of the Woman-of-the-Year award by the Soroptimists Club of Fairbanks and the Associated Women Students' Class Award for a senior.

Miss Warbelow was one among 11 students at the University selected for recognition in "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" and had

the opportunity to give the senior response to Dr. Wood's "Charge to the Senior Class" that is a custom at University of Alaska graduations. She composed and delivered her own five minute speech most competently.

This summer, Cynthia is attending a marine biology summer session sponsored jointly by Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire, spending two weeks on an island eight miles off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire and two weeks on campus at the University of New Hampshire.

This fall she will attend the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan for a year of graduate work in biology for which she received a scholarship at graduation this spring.

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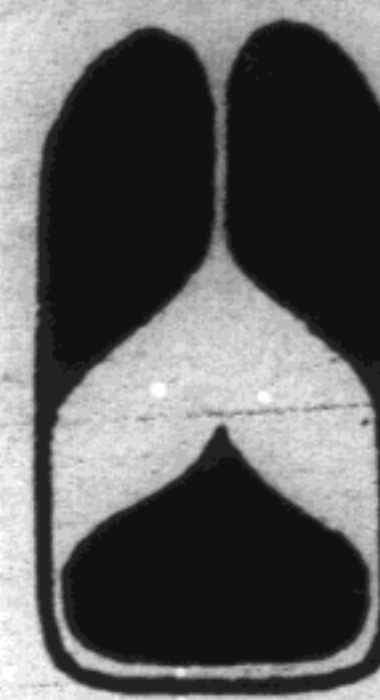
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