

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS

On January 29th and 30th the Regents of the U. of Alaska met on the Anchorage Community College Campus. The faculty of ACC were not invited to attend until the day before the meeting began. Students, of course, had no part on the agenda and were not invited. This should not surprise anyone as the students don't really matter to the Regents anyhow. A few faculty were informed of the meeting and equally few were in attendance. I attended the meetings on Saturday and was appalled at the sterile presentations delivered by dull personages. The presentation was an insult to myself and my students who sat through the plethora of trivia. For some six hours we heard one doctor (PHD) after another tell of his innovative programs

which sounded like something I once heard back in 1957 at a YMCA conference on "Meeting Contemporary Problems". One personage did offer some innovations in the areas of "Open Classroom" and "Informal Learning". However, he confided in me that the U. of Alaska, of course, was not ready for such programs, One Presentation almost defies description. An archaic gentleman, obviously pleased with himself, showed colored slides for two hours of the outstanding programs sponsored by the University. His travels were extensive, the University's accomplishments meager and often apologetic in tone for the still unmet needs of the Natives. Oh, yes, the Natives. Special program after special program was explained.. but the 80% dropout rate of Native students at the

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BLEWETT QUILTS POSITION... "AMU should provide leadership," says Professor!

Community College professor Peter Blewett announced his resignation from the chairmanship of the Consortium Task Force at Wednesday's meeting. Blewett said, however, that he is not resigning his membership in the group at large.

In citing his reasons for his resignation Blewett said: "Until the concept of student and faculty participation in decision making is accepted by the universities' administrations, the consortium group has no real reason for being and, therefore, has no need for a chairman."

"Second, it is time for Alaska Methodist University to provide some of the leadership for the Task Force -- until now, most of it has come from Community College.

"Also, the duties of chairman have been cutting too much into my teaching activities. The Task Force chairman should be relieved of at least half of his teaching load."

Blewett's resignation, after a year in office, comes during the second reading of a new consortium constitution. If accepted, the new document would considerably change the responsibilities and make-up of the Task Force.

The proposed constitution calls for equal faculty and student representation. Also, the new constitution calls upon the administrations of Alaska Methodist University and University of Alaska to include faculty and students in the decision making process.

Professor William Bedsworth was elected pro tem chairman of the Consortium Task Force after Professor Blewett's resignation Wednesday. Bedsworth, an Economics instructor on Elmendorf, will serve as chairman until the reorganization of the Consortium is completed. Obviously AMU has not assumed leadership.

Adult Education - the new imperative

BY Pat McCollom

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free...it expects what never was and never will be."

Thomas Jefferson's sapient words are as relevant today as they were during the inception of our educational system. Yet there are eight million Americans 25 and older who have 4 years or less of school. These people can hardly return to the classroom where they left off. They have passed through the experiences of childhood and adolescence which provides an approach to life, but their lack of traditional knowledge may lead only to the frustration of a locked door.

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OR A DONATION BROKE, WE SURE
OR ONE CENT OR UNDERSTAND HOW
FREE IF YOU'RE THAT CAN BE!

letter to regents, cont.

U. of A. was not explained nor the almost total poverty and Welfarism in the rural areas. The sampling of U. of A. students, which showed that 50% of the students were experimenting with drugs was not discussed. Above all, not one single societal problem facing America today was even remotely discussed.

Due to what I considered a gross oversight, I decided to ask the gentlemen present if I might make a comment or two.

Gentlemen, my name is Bill Babcock, I am an Assistant Professor of sociology at ACC. I am here on behalf of my 194 students enrolled in my courses this semester. I haven't found today's discussion very stimulating. I feel that there are very important matters that we should be talking about that were not on the agenda, nor even considered in any way. There has been a good deal of violence in the lower '48 over the years due to administrators and Regents ignoring very important social issues. I myself have seen violence in Venezuela where a corrupt dictator, financed by Oil Companies maintained a ruthless dictatorship. When violence came, bodies lined the streets and there was a 15 month curfew. I do not feel this kind of violence is necessary.

John Dewey said that the philosophy of education is "How to have a World". Many young people today feel that we have done our damndest over the past fifty years hell-bent on "How not to have a world". They feel we have overpopulated our planet, polluted our air, rivers, and oceans. To prove this, sufficient scientific evidence is available to anyone with an open mind willing to fully understand the gravity of the situation. Educators must take a responsibility in this area and this means restructuring our institutions and reevaluating our goals. This must be done at the highest administrative level. If you do not do this, the same violence that has continued in the lower '48 will surely hit Alaska.

I was, of course, ignored!

Perhaps Robert Ardrey best explains it; "The crisis in our schools is larger than the educator, the educated, or the perplexed parent can know. Our beleaguered species may face student demonstrations, sit-ins, protest marches, campus violence, school vandalism beyond explanation. Yet, we face not only the flaming torches of a new flaming youth but the frozen orthodoxies of educators as ignorant of advances in learning theory as was Neanderthal man of the planted field." Social Contract, page 83.

Regretfully,

Bill Babcock

Afro Studies

by Vonnie Powell

Did you know black people were more than slaves, did you know a black man wrote the "Three Musketeers, did you know a black man invented blood plasma? If you didn't it is time for you to find out.

In the past educational system the Afro-American has been forgotten, his social culture ignored and his dignity torn. Don't you think it's about time you learn about yourself or your black brother or sister.

Why stay in the dark? We at Community College need Afro-studies. This is a must for us and for our time. Why put them aside anymore? Let's find out about the history, culture and contributions of the Black American. I can learn and I'm quite sure you can learn as well. None of us really know much about the black race whether we are black or white. Let's travel through the dark tunnel of the past and open up a brighter future.

You the students of Anchorage Community College push for Afro-studies. We must venture, we must begin somewhere. Support it, ask for it and let's get it!

adult education - cont.

This special need provides the foundation for Adult Basic Education. Anchorage's coordinator, Wayne Hussey, defines "basic ed" as "a literacy program for adults 16 or over who have less than an eighth grade education." Approximately 200 students are presently attending the 14 sections operating in the Anchorage Borough. English is offered as a second language in some of the classes which is of special benefit to the Natives as well as foreigners seeking citizenship.

A full-time student may attend day classes from 9:00--4:00, or evening classes from 6:30--10:30. Or, he may choose to go only part-time with greater concentration in the area of his particular need. "Our classes are conducted through the one-room-school concept," says Mr. Hussey. "The basic series program is designed to help students adjust in a complex society. It provides studies in science, literature, social living and the functions of government and the community."

Adult Basic Education is funded through federal, state, and local agencies, and all text books are provided. A \$5.00 registration fee is charged for incidentals. "Students often attend art shows and other cultural offerings," Mr. Hussey explains, "and tickets are purchased from these funds when they are not donated." Students are encouraged to take the GED tests after each semester for they often learn quickly and are ready to proceed toward more advanced training.

The premise of adult education is not new. It is in fact as old as Aristotle and Plato who aimed their efforts at the mature minds of their day. Nor is it restricted to "basic" learning. Professors of the Adult Education Association of America jointly express the view that "the education of children and youth must be reoriented to a conception of learning as a lifelong process." Between 750--800 Anchorage residents enroll each year in adult education, Mr. Hussey says, and "many go just for self-improvement."

Renaissance, Reformation, and Western Civilization--social movements that effected the world--were possible when adult minds accepted the responsibility of change through learning. Perhaps it isn't too late to prevent human obsolescence.

KERMIT the hermit

BY Ken

part 2

When Kermit woke up we worked on the rest of his mail. There was a letter from the Bureau of Land Management replying to his query of last year about the status of the patent for his homestead.

The BLM said that a patent could not be issued because his homestead was located in an area claimed by three different native tribes. One tribe claimed the area as ancestral hunting grounds and offered as incontestible proof a handful of chipped stone "artifacts" which, incidentally, looked suspiciously like some crushed roadbed ballast. Another group based their claim on the fact that salmon had always come up the river to spawn, and nobody in his right mind would have failed to avail himself of good fishing like that. The third tribe maintained that since every body knew the best berries had always grown on the slopes of those mountains, naturally their ancestors must have picked there too.

Kermit agreed with the logic of their arguments, knowing full well the bounty of the natural resources of the area, but why is it, he asks, that the only natives he has seen in years are those in town when he makes a rare trip to the city?

Another letter, this one from the Department of the Interior, informed him that his homestead application was being "reviewed and reconsidered."

It explained that the Consolidated Sludge Oil Corporation was planning to build a billion barrel burn pit for waste by-products, and that aerial surveys showed that Kermit's compost pile and cabbage patch lay directly in the path of progress.

His isolated location had been selected because Consolidated Sludge was well aware of the dangers of atmospheric pollution, and desired to build their burn pit in an uncontaminated area where the hazards of additional air pollution would be minimized.

"Thanks a lot," said Kermit.

There was also a letter from the Board of Health. This friendly little notice gave him seven days to correct what they considered must be an unsanitary condition around his outhouse.

We both wondered how the Board had arrived at this conclusion since there had been no strangers, who could have been sewer inspectors, around his place in years, but paragraph two soon satisfied our curiosity. One of the new SAPS (Super Anti Pollution Satellites) had detected an unusually luxuriant growth of wild roses out behind his cabin, and a complex computer read out of all the geological, climatological and several other logical and illogical factors and confirmed the existence of a serious leak in Kermit's oil drum

disposal system. The Board recommended that he arrange with one of the commercial pumping contractors for a weekly trip to siphon out his septic tank, or else his property would be condemned. They did not specify how the pump truck was to negotiate the 100 miles or so of glacial fields between his cabin and the nearest road, nor did they specify into which creek the contractor could later dump the contents of his tank.

Another solution occurred to Kermit, like hack down the rose bushes. However, the seven days of grace had expired six months ago and Kermit said his condemned cabin was just as comfortable as ever. Besides, he thought the roses added a welcome touch of delicate beauty to the austere scenery of his surroundings and deserved all the encouragement and nourishment he could give them.

Another intriguing letter was personal plea from the Director of the Social Security Administration pointing out that Kermit had never applied for and obtained a social security number. His failure to do so would not only deprive himself of numerous benefits, but was "causing untold complications and expense to the Administration and the Taxpayers of the nation." The Director complained that his computerized files could not digest a numberless individual, and each time Kermit's name came up the machines would belch a batch of punch cards. This necessitated putting clerical personnel on overtime to clean up the mess. It also jeopardized the accuracy of the files since it was extremely difficult to find clerks who could arrange them in proper alphabetical order, and the cost of calling in a skilled repairman to push the reset buttons was excessive.

Obviously, this was Kermit's opportunity to make an invaluable contribution to the Great Society, but he said he was superstitious and did not like the idea of having his number come up, so that letter too joined several others in the trash.

The last letter was a rather unpleasant notice from the State Department of Revenue. According to this, a routine check had revealed that although, Kermit's income tax return reported a small profit from his artistic efforts in carving bone and antler jewelry items, he had apparently never applied for a Business License.

This was a violation of numerous Public Laws which carried grievous penalties, and he was ordered to comply with the laws forthwith.

"That does it," said Kermit; "When you have to buy your Artists License from a bureaucrat the next thing you know they'll be selling sexual licenses too!"

Then he rolled up his sleeping bag, shouldered his pack, said his thank-yous, headed for the mountains and will probably never be seen again.

When I finally woke up, we were in the back of a car. I remember that there was a little boy in the back seat with me, and I remember that he was looking at me with a very curious expression on his face. I don't know why he was looking at me like that, but I was sure he was looking at me for a reason.

The man said that a certain couple had been found because his house had been searched in an area claimed by three different Native tribes. The tribe claimed the area as ancestral hunting grounds and offered an incontestable proof a number of chips of stone "artifacts" which, indisputably, looked suspiciously like some crashed rounded balls. Another group based their claim on the fact that salmon and always come up the river to spawn, and nobody in the tribe would have failed to avail himself of good fishing like that. The tribe also believed that since every boy knew the best berries had always grown on the slopes of those mountains, naturally their ancestors must have picked there too.

A girl sat next to the logic of that argument, knowing full well the poverty of the material resources of the area, but she said that she had seen in a certain area a large pile of stones when she was a child in the city.

Another letter, this one from the Director of the Interior, informed me that his house had been searched and reviewed and rechecked.

I explained that the consolidated letters were planned to build a better future for our people. We had had our share of trials and tribulations, but we were now ready to build our future on a more solid foundation than the one we had before.

His letter had been received and his letter had been well received. It was a letter from the Director of the Interior, and it was a letter that was very important to us. It was a letter that was full of hope and promise for the future.

"Thank a lot," said Kevin. "There was also a letter from the board of directors. It was a letter that was very important to us. It was a letter that was full of hope and promise for the future."

We had worked for the board and we had worked for the board. It was a letter that was very important to us. It was a letter that was full of hope and promise for the future.

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Russia Trip

An exciting, once-in-a-lifetime, 21 day tour to the USSR is being offered jointly by ACC, U of A and AMU. The tour, carrying 3 academic credits under the course title:

"The history of social and political change in the Soviet Union" promises to be a memorable experience for students. The course is designed to provide an in-depth analysis of Russia's cultural heritage through sightseeing and a series of lectures conducted by Russian and American professors.

The tour will commence at Anchorage Community College with several introductory lectures about Russia, its history, social culture, common Russian phrases (i.e. "where's the bathroom?"), what to expect, what to bring along, etc. Blastoff occurs on May 7 when we depart for Copenhagen, rest overnight and then on the following day arrive in beautiful Leningrad.

Sightseeing tours in Leningrad will include the Winter Palace, Hermitage Museum, Kirov Stadium and Peter Paul fortress. We'll also attend an evening performance at the Kirov ballet or opera. From Leningrad we'll proceed to Samarkand, one of the oldest cities in the USSR, Tibilisi, Yerevan, Kiev and 4 glorious days in Moscow. On May 25th we'll leave Moscow and return for another day in Leningrad. On the 26th we'll depart for Copenhagen on May 27 we'll fly back to Anchorage. The total itinerary covers approximately 15,000 miles.

The total cost in only: \$875.00 (\$460. down). This price includes food, hotel, air travel, course registration, and all the educationally exciting experiences possible.

Deadline for reservations is April 7, 1971. So if you're interested, please contact Mr. Jim Irany, ext. 139 or 146 for further details and information

RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL
Holy Rosary Mission
Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770
Telephone: (605) 867-5439

NEWS RELEASE

CASH AWARDS FOR INDIAN ART

Pine Ridge, South Dakota -- More than two thousand dollars has been contributed to Red Cloud Indian School here to be used as prize and purchase award money in the third annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show.

Any American Indian artist, 14 years or older, is eligible to enter art work in the show. There are no entrance fees and Red Cloud Indian School does not charge any commissions on any of the artworks which are sold during the show.

"Our purpose is to bring the work of Indian artists to the attention of the public, and to encourage the development of the artistic talents of the Indian people," Father Ted Zuern, S. J., school director, said.

Last year Indian artists of more than 30 different tribes, as well as Eskimo and Aleut artists, were represented, and more than half the artwork displayed was sold to the visiting public.

Anyone wishing to enter artwork should let Father Zuern know by May 1, and all pictures to be entered should be at the school on or before May 31. The show opens June 13 and will be open to be public, free of charge, through August 15. Application blanks can be obtained by writing to Red Cloud Indian Art Show, Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge, South Dakota 57770.

Japan Trip

Who wants to go on a tour of Japan in May? You can still register at Alaska Methodist University up through the last of February to spend 20 days of travel for only \$800. You can also earn four semester-hours of college credit by joining the group of fifteen who have already signed up.

Professors Tsuguo Arai and Atsuko Yamamoto, who teach Japanese language and Oriental literature at AMU will guide the trip. They will also present an intensive three-week program of study in advance of the three-week trip so that travelers will have a better understanding of what they see in Japan. The classes begin May 3, and the students will take off for Tokyo on May 9, returning to Anchorage on May 28. The \$800 fee includes airfare, lodging, and food for the entire 20 days.

The tour will include some of the most important historical and literary landmarks of Japan, as well as its most modern cities. The students will visit Nikko, site of the Toshogu Shrine dating from the first Shogunate of 1542 to 1616. They will go to Kamakura, which was the capital during the Kamakura Era from 1205 to 1297. They will see a Kabuki play at the Temple of Shuzenji, and at Izu will visit the setting of the 1969 nobel prize-winning novel, "Izu Dancer," by Kawabata Yasunari. They will take part in a Zen seminar at Eihei-ji Temple, center of Zen Buddhism, and will also visit the Ise Shrine at Kyoto, capital of Japan from the 9th century until 1869, and center of the Shinto religion.

But it will not all be lesson-learning by any means. The tour leaders will take the group to enjoy a variety of entertainments, from sophisticated modern Tokyo, to rural old-fashioned inns.

The minimum needed number, 15, has already signed up, but there is not a limit in the total who may take the trip, so that spaces are open for as many as would still like to sign up. But get there before February 28. See AMU's registrar at Grant Hall, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Wanted desperately black students to form a strong, active BSU (Black Student Union). Let's get ourselves united and work to better ourselves and our communities. We are taking too long, time waits for no man, therefore we must not let time pass us by. If you are interested contact me, Vonnice Powell 754-4147.

Remember the BSU wants you!

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the writing on the wall

by D. G. Wallace

When one enters the hallowed halls of ivy, he finds it marked for two types, "men" and "women". Although, sometimes there is some confusion as to uses which. The two denotes the general outline in society today.

Another method of grading universities, colleges, and prep-schools is being scholastically compared with other institutions. There is a new need, rather a hallmark for grading these social classes. There are those among us who wish to leave their mark, and still remain anonymous; although, they leave phone numbers, vital statics about themselves, and a friend or two. Some times they get carried away and become quite graphic in detail about the facts of life. Since these pages are indeed quite "heavy", you must sit upon the throne of higher education to view them.

Personally I find some of these gems enjoyable, it's amazing how much continuity of subject material remains, everywhere, if the author shows a little originality. An example of this is: Superman is a FEM; John Wayne smokes virgina slims, and my favorite , J. Edgar Hoover sleeps with a night-lite. I believe that originality is a must. I was once driven to writing my contemporary art on the men only section, but alas, I used the handiest paper I could find and everything went down the drain. Therefore, I am doomed to spend my time reading the writing on the walls.

the many faces of SPECTRUM



photos by John McLin and Chuck Orr

