

Civic Journalism in Alaska: Ideas from Friends

for

Michael J. Sexton
President and Publisher

Patrick Dougherty
Senior Vice President and Editor

Anchorage Daily News

Feb. 25, 2005

compiled by Tim
tim@timpearson.net
www.timpearson.net
(907) 562-1568

A Declaration for Public Journalism

A Declaration

Written by the Charter Members of the
Public Journalism Network
Kennesaw, Georgia, January 25, 2003

The Public Journalism Network is a global professional association of journalists and educators interested in exploring and strengthening the relationship between journalism and democracy.

We believe journalism and democracy work best when news, information and ideas flow freely; when news fairly portrays the full range and variety of life and culture of all communities; when public deliberation is encouraged and amplified; and when news helps people function as political actors and not just as political consumers.

We believe journalists should stand apart in making sound professional judgments about how to cover communities, but cannot stand apart in learning about and understanding these communities.

We believe the diversity and fragmentation of society call for new techniques for storytelling and information-sharing to help individual communities define themselves singularly and as part of the whole set of communities.

We believe the stories and images journalists produce can help or hinder as people struggle to reach sound judgments about their personal lives and their common well-being.

We believe we must articulate a public philosophy for journalism that helps journalists reach deeper into the communities they serve and that helps communities work more closely with the journalists who serve them.

We believe democracy benefits when journalists listen to the people.

We believe we can learn and grow as practitioners, educators and scholars – and strengthen practice, education and scholarship – by examining, experimenting with and enhancing the theory and practice of journalism in relation to the theory and practice of democracy.

We believe in the value of studying the dynamics of communities and the complexity of public life. Just as journalists need to adhere to professional and financial discipline to succeed, we believe they must adhere to democratic discipline.

We believe the best journalism helps people see the world as a whole and helps them take responsibility for what they see.

[View Photos from the Charter Meeting of the Public Journalism Network](#)

<http://www.pjnet.org/charter.shtml>

**The email asking for ideas about civic journalism stories from 126 friends:
responses from 26
20.6% response rate**

From: Tim Pearson [mailto:tim@timpearson.net]

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 4:39 PM

To: 'Tim Pearson'

Subject: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Question:

What are two or three of the most significant, newsworthy stories in Alaska that the Anchorage Daily News could:

--start to cover?

or

--cover even more deeply?

The purpose: to strengthen our life together as informed, active citizens and Alaskans

Story ideas:

1.

2.

3.

Reason for asking:

I'm meeting on Friday morning at 10 am with the second and third most influential people in Alaska:

-- Michael J. Sexton, President and Publisher of the Anchorage Daily News

-- Patrick Dougherty, Executive Vice President and Editor

I've asked for 30 minutes to discuss civic journalism with them – journalism that helps to build an even stronger democratic society in Alaska.

I will compile your responses, give credit (or preserve your anonymity if you ask for it) – and will share them with this list again – as well as with Michael and Patrick on Friday.

Thanks in advance!

Tim

(907) 562-1568 v/f

(907) 952-3498 cell

www.timpearson.net

LINKS:

Civic/Public Journalism:

journalism for increased public deliberation, civic problem solving, volunteerism and innovative public policy

A Declaration for Public Journalism:

<http://www.pjnet.org/charter.shtml>

Written by the Charter Members of the Public Journalism Network
Kennesaw, Georgia, January 25, 2003

Pew Center for Civic Journalism

<http://www.pewcenter.org/>

Journalism:

Hundreds Enter, Few Win, Many Are Worth a Look

After processing almost 600 entries to the ASNE awards, we highlight some that caught our eye.

http://www.poynter.org/content/content_view.asp?id=78557

2005 ASNE Awards judges comments

<http://www.asne.org/index.cfm?id=5484>

ASNE announces 2005 Award winners

<http://www.asne.org/index.cfm?id=5483>

Responses in order received:

1.	JP Godfrey	Business Consultant	Anchorage
2.	Alice Galvin	Director, Learning and Organizational Development, BP	Anchorage
3.	Gary Chythlook	Entrepreneur and Business Owner	Anchorage
4.	Margaret Stock	Law Professor, West Point, NY	NY and Anchorage
5.	Rick Wolk	University Instructor and Executive Director	Anchorage
6.	Sven Haakanson	Museum Director	Kodiak
7.	Larry Jorgenson	Lutheran Pastor/former Bishop	Anchorage
8.	Ken Hughes	Mayor of Teller and Business Owner	Teller
9.	John Chase	Entrepreneur and Business Owner	Anchorage and Bethel
10.	Jason Evans	Entrepreneur and Business Owner	Anchorage and Nome
11.	Martin Leonard	Asst. Professor, Entrepreneur and Business Owner	Bethel
12.	Jason Metrokin	Public Policy Executive	Anchorage
13.	Brenda Akelkok	Social Service Executive	Dillingham
14.	Diann Darnell	Professional Coach	Fairbanks
15.	Janet McCabe	Community Builder	Anchorage
16.	Kevin Dee	Management Consultant and Trainer	Anchorage
17.	Sharon Kelly	Business Executive and Community Builder	Anchorage
18.	Sergei Bogojavlensky	Medical Doctor and Social Anthropologist	Anchorage
19.	Wayne Don	Asst. Professor of Military Science	Fairbanks
20.	Nina Malyshev and State Librarians	Librarians, Alaska State Library	Anchorage
21.	Dennis McMillian	President, The Foraker Group	Anchorage
22.	Barbara Brown	Director, Leadership Anchorage	Anchorage
23.	Teresa Seybert	EMS Director	Dillingham
24.	Anonymous	Attorney	Anchorage
25.	Anonymous	Business Owner	Anchorage
26.	Becky Roth	Professional Coach	Juneau

Anchorage
Business Consultant

-----Original Message-----

From: JP Godfrey

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 4:54 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

How about "who owns the Alaskan economy?" or "is Alaska's economy still a colonial economy?".

Have them look at the main Alaskan resources, fish, timber, minerals, oil/gas, tourism, etc.

How are they dominated by "outside" companies vs Alaskan companies. Who profits the most from the exploitation of Alaska's resources? Are there any meaningful trends towards a less colonial economy?

JP

Anchorage
Learning and Organizational Development Director, BP

From: Alice J Galvin, Ph.D.
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 5:03 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Great questions, Tim. And kudos for taking the action. By the way, who is the first most influential person?

Here are some rambling ideas that may be different than what we've done before. Don't have the time to read through the attached sites, but I look forward to it.

1. One story should be about emerging leaders, who they are, where they are, maybe tell some stories of the journey of existing contemporary leaders. This piece could also include places where Alaskans can go to develop their leadership skills, and ways in which people can get their voices heard in a powerful and constructive way. How does a state plan for the succession of leadership?
2. Another story could be an exploration of the Alaska mindset: from where it began-with rugged, spirited, visionary individualists-to where it is-reliance, dependence, and entitlement. What is the mindset that is needed for a vigorous Alaska future, where can you find it, how can you become engaged as a citizen? How do we recreate the culture that captured the minds and hearts of so many?
3. Another could be on the virtual state – what role does technology play in keeping us connected, keeping us apart, creating new space for entrepreneurial activity (could even be a separate topic), making our distances invisible.
4. The ties that bond: I've always loved that phrase, and last week Beth Bragg wrote a great column, a valentine to Alaska. Wouldn't it be great to see what the ties that bind are, across age and gender groups, rural and urban groups, etc. What is the magic (commonly held) of Alaska, how can we share that knowledge/passion as a community and then find ways to celebrate and sustain it?

Alice

From: Galvin, Alice J
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 3:55 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Here's another idea for tomorrow:

Education: Review of the state's responsibility constitutionally; and given that, how well are we doing, and are we doing the right things? Do we have the right statewide system in place? What is the role of charter schools? Correspondence/Home schooling? If we are spending more money per capita, are we getting the outcomes we need? How would we know?

I can imagine this being a really intriguing and controversial series. And an important one!

Let me know how the meeting turns out.

Best,
Alice

Anchorage
Small Business Owner
Alaska Native

From: Gary Chythlook
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 5:14 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

Answers below...

----- Original Message -----

From: [Tim Pearson](#)

To: [Tim Pearson](#)

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 4:38 PM

Subject: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Question:

What are two or three of the most significant, newsworthy stories in Alaska that the Anchorage Daily News could:

- start to cover?
- or
- cover even more deeply?

The purpose: to strengthen our life together as informed, active citizens and Alaskans

Story ideas:

1. The opinions of people that live in villages that are downriver from the Pebble Mine near Iliamna.
2. What detailed plans does Northern Dynasty have for "Being a Good Neighbor" as the article that the ADN published last week.
3. Is it a 'coincidence' that so many of the major natural resource finds in the State of Alaska have been on State land? Rather than Native Corporation land.

Get more information on what Gov. Hammond said to Channel 2 news about the Pebble Mine benefits to the state.

If Pebble is supposed to be one of the largest open pit gold mines in the world, why is it not getting more press coverage? Are there forces asking the news agencies to not focus on it?

(you can see my general topic of interest ;)

New York and Anchorage

Associate Professor of Law in the Department of Law, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY; an immigration attorney; and a lieutenant colonel in the Military Police Corps, U.S. Army Reserve.

From: Stock M. PROF LAW

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 5:06 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

[How about an honest assessment of the impact of post-9/11 "homeland security" measures on Alaska? No, that would be too much to ask . . .](#)

[I'm attaching an Op Ed that I sent them . . . but they ignored me. I know I write like a lawyer, but still--this is an important issue. Even the Wall Street Journal thinks this is a bad law . . .](#)

[Margaret](#)

--

Mr. Sensenbrenner's Scarlet A

By Margaret D. Stock

[The author is an Associate Professor of Law in the Department of Law, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY; an immigration attorney; and a lieutenant colonel in the Military Police Corps, U.S. Army Reserve. The opinions expressed herein are the author's only, and not the opinion of the United States Military Academy, the Department of the Army, the Department of Defense, or any other government agency.]

In Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous novel, *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne is forced to wear a scarlet letter "A," connoting to all who saw her that she had sinned. If R. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wisconsin) has his way, in three years, Alaskans will have the equivalent of a scarlet "A" on the driver's license in their wallets—unless Alaska agrees to the new national ID card, Mr. Sensenbrenner's "REAL ID."

Mr. Sensenbrenner's bill, H.R. 418, the "REAL ID" Act—which passed the House of Representatives recently by a vote of 261-161—mandates that States comply with new and onerous federal requirements for their driver's licenses—or put the equivalent of a "scarlet A" on noncompliant licenses. Licenses with that "scarlet A" cannot be used—even by American citizens—for voting, entering a federal building, boarding an airplane, driving on a federal military base or in a national park, obtaining a federal firearms license, hunting or fishing permit, or applying for a US passport or other federal identity document such as a military ID card.

The bill has been pitched by some as a bill that only affects aliens—or states that issue driver's licenses to undocumented aliens. While the bill does require verification of immigration status upon issuance of a driver's license or state identification document, the burdens of the bill will fall mainly on American citizens. Alaska's DMV is not complying with the requirements of the REAL ID Act, and Alaskans will be particularly vulnerable.

Mr. Sensenbrenner's new requirements threaten to deprive Alaskans of their ability to travel and interact with the federal government. These provisions will not enhance our security—in fact, they will hurt the security of many Alaskans. The Sensenbrenner bill fails to take into account Alaska's unique geography. Flying is the only reasonable mode of transportation in many Alaskan communities, and a law that bars Alaskans from using their driver's licenses to board aircraft is just plain silly. Another odd requirement is the mandate that all Alaskans put their primary residential address on the face of their license—no PO Boxes or mailing addresses allowed. While some Alaskans may laugh at having mileposts listed on their driver's licenses, the address requirement may not be a laughing matter for Alaskan victims of domestic violence: Under the Sensenbrenner bill, the Alaska DMV will be required to put the principal residential address of battered women on the face of the driver's license. If the DMV refuses to do this, even for the safety of the woman, the woman cannot use her license for any federal purpose—including entering a federal courthouse to testify against her attacker.

Mr. Sensenbrenner's bill also presents a problem for the military. If a young man or woman wants to join the U.S. military, he or she must present an identity document—and most Alaskans present their state driver's license or ID for this purpose. In three years, however, states that have not complied with the Sensenbrenner bill—and many will be unable to do so—must issue those young people “scarlet A” licenses, which can't be used for military enlistment. If Alaska doesn't comply with the federal mandate, Alaska families won't be able to drive on post, cash a check at the post exchange, or obtain a family member identification card. Ironically, most foreigners will be better able to comply with the Mr. Sensenbrenner's law than Americans—foreigners can at least use their home country passports for identity purposes, while Americans will have a very hard time even getting a passport unless their state is “REAL ID” compliant.

There are many other questionable requirements of the REAL ID Act. Alaska's DMV will be required to verify the birth certificates of all US citizens with the agency that issued the original certificate, no matter where that agency is located or even if DMV officials have no doubt that the document is valid. Alaska must also upgrade its computer systems to verify documents, digitize them, and store electronic copies, and obtain security clearances for DMV employees. While the intent behind these requirements is laudable, the burden they impose on states is tremendous. It would be far easier and less expensive simply to require everyone in the United States to carry a passport.

States have three years to comply with the requirements of the Sensenbrenner bill. If they do not comply—and the requirements of the bill make it unlikely that many will be able to comply without a hefty tax increase—their licenses will be invalid for federal purposes. It will also be nearly impossible for many Americans to obtain substitute documents, because all acceptable federal identification documents use the driver's license as the base identity document.

H.R. 418 goes far beyond the common-sense driver's license provisions of the Intelligence Reform Act of 2004. Mr. Sensenbrenner's latest bill would preempt state regulation of driver's licenses, create a national ID card by federal fiat, and force the Alaska DMV into a backdoor enforcement of immigration laws that even the Department of Homeland Security has been unable to enforce. Congressman Don Young of Alaska

was one of only nine Republican House members to recognize that this “anti-terrorism” bill would do nothing to make Americans more secure. Now that the REAL ID Act is on its way to the Senate, it’s time to let Senators Stevens and Murkowski know that they should join Congressman Young in rejecting it.

From: Stock M. PROF LAW
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 8:30 AM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

Here are some talking points from the National Council of State Legislatures, about the REAL ID Act. These are easier to digest than what I gave you earlier.

Margaret
--



The REAL ID Act Talking Points

In response to the 9/11 Commission report, Congress enacted legislation in December 2004 to create federal minimum standards for driver's license security. Although all States have worked vigorously to strengthen driver's license issuance and verification since September 11, 2001, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (S. 2845) for the first time creates federal minimum standards that will ensure that State-issued documents are secure and identities are verified.

The Intelligence Reform Act established a negotiated rulemaking committee of State and federal officials to create effective, workable minimum standards for driver's license security. The U.S. House now has passed H.R. 418, "The REAL ID Act," which would dismantle the Intelligence Reform Act provisions, including the negotiated rulemaking, and instead impose rigid, prescriptive, unworkable federal mandates for State-issued driver's licenses. The bill would mandate rigid requirements for states to verify birth certificates and federal immigration documents; establish federal security standards for locations where driver's licenses are produced and stored; regulate personnel training and security clearances; set federal data storage requirements; and prohibit financial assistance to a State unless it joins an undefined interstate compact, which has not been enacted by a single state.

The NCSL Position

State legislatures are committed to working with Congress and the Administration to implement effective, workable federal standards that strengthen driver's license security. NCSL supports the approach to driver's license security recommended by the 9/11 Commission and included in the Intelligence Reform Act. NCSL urges opposition to the REAL ID Act and any similar legislation.

GET THE FACTS—THE REAL ID ACT IS:

- UNECESSARY—The Intelligence Reform Act will ensure that driver's licenses are secure and identities are verified. In fact, the 9/11 Commission and the President last

year supported the Intelligence Reform Act's approach over the rigid, prescriptive mandates of the REAL ID Act.

- **DISRUPTIVE**—The process to create federal minimum driver's license standards is underway. Congress should let it work rather delay and disrupt effective, workable reform.
- **PRESCRIPTIVE**—The REAL ID Act repeals the negotiated rulemaking and takes away States' seat at the table where State and federal officials can work through complex, difficult challenges. Instead, it imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate without regard to technical or functional problems.
- **UNWORKABLE**— The REAL ID Act threatens to handcuff State officials with impossible, untested mandates, such as requiring instant verification of birth certificates without providing the time or resources needed to bring 200 million-plus paper documents into the electronic age. These provisions threaten bureaucratic complications and delays for ALL who visit a State DMV.
- **COSTLY**—State experts estimate that the REAL ID Act will be real expensive! It will cost \$500 to \$750 million over 5 years plus an annual ongoing cost of \$50 to \$75 million to operate.
- **RIGID**—The REAL ID Act would tie States' hands as they promote traffic safety and look to reduce the more than 42,000 lives lost and the 100,000s of Americans injured on the roads each year.
- **MISDIRECTED**—The REAL ID Act would compel States to enforce federal immigration policy, while doing nothing to make driver's licenses more secure. It leaves States to navigate federal data systems, application backlogs, and the 100-plus types of issued visas with little federal assistance or accountability. It also fails to fix troubled federal immigration systems to provide States links to verifiable and timely data on immigration status, duration of stay, and application filings.

For more information, contact Cheye Calvo (624-8661, cheye.calvo@ncsl.org) in the National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Washington Office.

Anchorage
University Instructor / Executive Director

From: Rick Wolk
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 5:24 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Fun meeting. I was a newspaper publisher for several years and the idea of civic journalism gets a bit problematic but I like what you are trying to do...so here goes.

Since civic journalism begins to edge into 'editorial' and away from 'news', I will suggest three opinion columns

- 1) A business column (Money section) once per week that is written by recent MBA grads from Alaskan universities.
- 2) A business column (Money section) once per week that is written by a mix of entrepreneurs who are women/minorities.
- 3) Two pieces (point/counterpoint style) once per week in Ideas section that gives two sides to an item that had been in that week's news.

Feel free to use my name.

Sitka

Economic Development / Workforce Development Director

From: Sheila Finkenbinder, WDC Director

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 5:52 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

This is a new concept to me. I normally read the Daily Sitka Sentinel, and couldn't tell you whether they practice Civic Journalism.

I'll think on it.

From: Sheila Finkenbinder, WDC Director

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 8:34 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

This may be way off base for what you have in mind, but here goes, for what it's worth.

After watching a movie and discussion last night on PBS about possible terrorist attacks with things like 'dirty' bombs. It is only a matter of time before many people in this country could fall victim to some horrendous plots from fanatical believers out to destroy us for who we are. Maybe even in Alaska.

I would recommend stories and discussions and how tos about how citizens can be prepared for emergencies and ready to respond with the least amount of panic and the most amount of thought for the public good. (Sounds impossible maybe). I believe that (a la Rush Limbaugh) Americans are capable of much good and should be reminded often, and in many ways, of what we and our countrymen have accomplished and are capable of accomplishing when the chips are down. We hear too much negativity, handwringing, and excuses for poor behavior. Why not encourage and support courageous, intelligent and positive behavior?

You can keep these comments anonymous, unless, of course, someone thinks they're worth something. :-)

I could explain more if you get this message before heading for your meeting in the morning. You didn't give us much warning or thinking time. I should be at 966-3066 by about 8:30 am.

Sheila

Kodiak
Museum Director
Alaska Native

From: Sven Haakanson, Ph.D.
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 6:28 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Hi Tim,
Three most most significant stories in my opinion: (Okay I am giving a Native bend!)

1. the challenge that Native Alaskan Artists face with the increasing fraud in the tourist industry of Native Art as being authentic, when most of the objects sold in tourist shops are from overseas. Why are we ignoring the fact that we are taking money out of our own pockets and allowing these dollars to leave the state.
2. why are there so many young Native Men in jails? Why aren't we trying to change this where it will make a difference, in the rural communities? Instead we are stuck with paying for those in jail.
3. Is there a greater Alaska or do things just happen only in Anchorage? How can the ADN go beyond its limits and see what is happening in the rural areas, what is happening, really happening to all our fishing towns, what happens when the oil monies run out? Is anyone planning beyond the current fiscal year for our state and if so why aren't we planning for our future, the future of our children and our state?

Okay I have rambled on enough. Hope this helps with ideas for you.
Sven

Anchorage
Lutheran Pastor / former Bishop

From: Larry Jorgenson
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 6:42 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim, thanks for asking. I don't know if this has come up in any of our conversations, but I studied journalism--as have our last two interns (Lisa and Katie).

I will use one of my picks to harp on something of significance to virtually every pastor I know. If one were to compare the amount of time spent in the Anchorage bowl on religion to the time spent on sports, religion may not outdo (or come close?) to sports but probably does better than would be suggested by the present distribution of "news." Religion gets an article or two on Saturday and an occasional article at other times--sports gets an entire section every day.

Along those lines ... reading ADN over more than a decade now I notice that there are some "go to guys" for the religious news that actually gets covered. Before Hurley retired as archbishop he actually made quite a bit of ink. The other "go to guy" seems to be Prevo. I would welcome any attempt to expand the repertoire of "spokespersons." I would like to see more Orthodox and Lutherans in the line-up!

My other two picks ... I was at an Eagle review board last night where the Eagle-to-be (great candidate!) did a good job of describing the lack of contact between the various segments of our community (he spoke primarily of the ethnic diversity). In south Anchorage there is a mega awareness problem. I don't expect ADN to take that on as a responsibility, but it would be good for them to cover efforts at awareness.

Third pick ... lots goes on in the realm of social service and (something fairly new to Anchorage) community organizing. I am on the sponsoring committee for faith-based community organizing--which has made some progress on the issue of community policing. My own experience is that it's often hard to cross the threshold of what ADN's reporters consider newsworthy. Community organizing is an example of that.

Thus my thoughts. Quayana for asking. Larry Jorgenson

Teller
Mayor, Business Owner

From: Ken Hughes
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 7:26 PM
To: 'Tim Pearson'
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

I probably catch an issue two or three times a month, usually on the internet. The big problem is mostly that we don't have enough journalists to go to all the individual council (traditional, native corp, and city) and report back to the constituents about what happens at the meetings. You'd think in a small village everybody knows everything but that's only about the stuff that's nobody's business but somebody else's. That's where we need civic journalism, in the trenches, at the very core of where democracy starts, in the individual little villages and towns across the state. I think if all the stakeholders for all the councils that existed in our state actually knew more of the details about their individual entities activities they would be able to provide more appropriate feedback to their representatives. Too many times I see virtually no participation, even a large city like Nome (okay, it's not that big by YOUR standards) has nobody at the council meeting unless their reporting to the council or there is a burning controversial issue at the moment casting embers up into the bureaucratic morass. How can ADN do that? All the people in our town capable of writing a good story about whatever council meeting is probably already on the council.....we can't "waste" them on maintaining a separation between government and journalism. They certainly don't have the manpower to cover every village, even the offer to provide space would be meaningless if they don't have any significant readership from that village. There's no sense reading about Teller's city council meeting in the ADN if it's only going to affect at most 300 people, 6 of which may actually see it in the paper. However..... the converse argument. If every city council meeting minutes were published in a weekly edition; how many more village readers would seek out the paper; read about the concerns faced across the state, and once discovering that a problem is common across communities, flex their combined strength to address them. Imagine a "BUSH" version of ADN that's perhaps a weekly. Imagine the interest segments of the state government would have in following those meetings, tracking discussion of projects, personnel developments in villages their projects affect, etc. Perhaps not enough, but that's just my opinion. I could be wrong.

Anchorage and Bethel
Entrepreneur / Business Owner
Alaska Native

-----Original Message-----

From: John Chase

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 9:04 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- hope this helps, TP

> Question:

>

> What are two or three of the most significant, newsworthy
> stories in Alaska that the Anchorage Daily News could:

>

> --start to cover?

1. native families their bush lifestyle: why? so that urban Alaska and the rest of the connected world can get a better perspective of daily struggles and simple happiness that urbanites take for granted. (i.e. you think you had it bad? look at the "so-and-so" family from Small Village, AK)---this newfound perspective can influence the voter/legislation that affects bush Alaska.

2. non-native families and their bush lifestyle: why? so that urban Alaska and the rest of the connected world can know that bush Alaska isn't just about native people. (if he can do it, so can i--there are alot of non-natives in the bush, and many have family in urban Alaska)

3. The rising cases of HIV in bush Alaska. This silent killer is affecting many people everyday in Alaska. While there is talk of supporting the prevention efforts in Africa, there is not enough energies to the alleviate the problem in our back yard.

> or

>

> --cover even more deeply?

1. Native families and stories from the bush; there are still many things that non-natives don't know about natives and their lifestyle. Let the decision makers become more aware of the power of their actions and choices.

2. The successes or positive influences of native people. There needs to be more recognition of the positive and productivity of native people.

> The purpose: to strengthen our life together as informed,
> active citizens and Alaskans

>

> Story ideas:

>

> 1. inga for real, the messages behind the business. Empowerment. Discussion. Humor. Messages and information from breastfeeding to table manners. The world would benefit from seeing young, native people doing great things AND the issues brought up with the company's t-shirt designs.

>

> 2. Bethel AIDS Taskforce. Voluntary group meets to stabilize and decrease the growing cases of HIV in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Sexually transmitted diseases are the highest in the nation per capita in the YK Delta, yet there is not enough attention given to the issue.

>
> 3. a story of a commercial fishing family...how they're coping
with
> the
failing commercial fishing industry and making ends meet despite it.
Focus on a family in Kipnuk, Naknek, or wherever.

<break>

>
use your fingers!

www.ingaforreal.com

Anchorage and Nome
Entrepreneur / Business Owner
Alaska Native

From: Jason Evans

Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 10:47 PM

To: 'Tim Pearson'

Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

Hello from Nome. The weather is nice and seeing friendly faces. Here are my quick thoughts.

1. Bridging the rural/urban gap through positive success stories
2. on-going follow up stories that profile people (businesses) rather than one-time stories
3. Success stories on "networking" or "bring people together" either business helping each other, people helping each other, government helping each other, etc. There is so much success when synergies are built ($1+1= 3$, rather than just 2).

Hope these help.

Jason

Bethel
Assistant Professor, Computer Information & Office Systems
Entrepreneur / Business Owner

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin Leonard Alaskan Outdoor Center, Inc.
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 1:29 AM
To: tim@timpearson.net
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .
Importance: High

The purpose: to strengthen our life together as informed, active
citizens
and Alaskans

Story ideas:

1. Surely # 1...the focus on positive advancements, community building and 'improving and maintaining a quality of life" in rural Alaska...lessons learned / exemplary projects and people.
2. YOUTH as community leaders and activists...positive examples of youth as active participants in their community building processes.
3. How the power of 'technology' esp. the social uses of technology are taking the 'power' out of the hands of #s 2 and 3 and ADN...for example...Blogging and RSS/XML technologies...

Good luck

Anchorage
Public Policy Executive
Alaska Native

From: Jason Metrokin
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 8:21 AM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Hello Tim! Good to hear from you.

As to your request, I would certainly love to see ADN cover Native business, culture, education and other social issues on a consistent basis. I'm referring mostly to AK Journal of Commerce and Alaska Business Monthly's standing "Native Sections". There is more than enough news happening that's not always related to corporation issues.

On a similar note, Letters to the Editor and Compass Pieces are a way for the community to bring issues to light. I would love to see a portion of those sections dedicated (doesn't have to be daily) to community/civic involvement from a generation of younger leaders perspective. In other words, there are enough people with the ability to speak out on civic issues from a variety of avenues: ANPA, Leadership Anchorage, University Programs and otherwise. Even on a trial basis, our communities may appreciate hearing from this generation of folks who will likely be our standout leaders in a very short while.

Jason Metrokin

Dillingham
Social Service Executive
Alaska Native

From: Brenda Akelkok
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 8:49 AM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

You might also ask them what Howard Rock would think about the current state of civic journalism as it relates to the people he fought to advocate for so hard.

Fairbanks
Professional Coach

From: Diann Darnall
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 9:36 AM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Best of luck with your meeting. Tim, I haven't read the Anchorage Daily News very much, so I am unable to shed any light on the subject.

Thanks for asking,
Diann

Diann Darnall, Coach
"Develop Your Positive Possibilities!"
Possibilities! 907 479-5421
www.dianndarnall.com

Anchorage
Community Builder

From: Janet McCabe
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 10:01 AM
To: tim@timpearson.net
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

Here are my suggestions. Good wishes. Sounds like a terrific endeavor. Janet

Story ideas:

1. Therapeutic courts as a way to protect the public against DUI and other addiction-based crime. Or, expressed differently, therapeutic courts as a way of reducing the prison recycling system for addicted offenders.
2. The virtual elimination (except for a couple of federally funded programs) of prison rehabilitation programs under the current administration of the DOC. Is DOC following the Alaska Constitution in this regard? I have information on their old and new mission statements.
3. Trends in wages for retail and service workers in Alaska – Costco's "living wage" approach vrs. the "rush to the bottom" approach of Wal-Mart. (The Feb. 10 –16 edition of the Press had an excellent article on the subject with information that should be provided to readers of the News.)

Anchorage
Management Consultant and Trainer

From: kevin dee
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 10:43 AM
To: 'Tim Pearson'
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

1. Anything that helps define the values and quality of life that keeps us here (common ground)
2. Grassroots advocacy stories from start to finish (after they occur) in order to show how it is possible for individuals to empower change
3. Explore the strengths that comes from celebrating the diversity in Alaskan culture.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Dee
KMD Services & Consulting

Empowering Individuals and Organizations to Success

907 230 1771 ph
907 248 7140 fax
Kevin@kmdconsulting.biz

Anchorage
Business Executive / Community Builder

From: Sharon Kelly,
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 12:17 PM
To: Curtis lester; Rick Poage; Tim Pearson
Subject: RE:civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Question: What is **THE ONE** most significant, newsworthy story in Alaska that the Anchorage Daily News could:--

Alaska Speakers Bureau start to cover? **YES** and --cover even more deeply?

YES! YES!!!!

Because we:

1) share the "**purpose: to strengthen our life together as informed, active citizens and Alaskans**"

2)are poised to be recognized for "increasing public deliberation", adding a dimension for "civic problem solving", "volunteerism" and providing speakers who may instigate thinking for "innovative public policy",

Through our web site www.alaskaspeakers.com , our not-for-profit grassroots group now is offering:

Increased availability state-wide into Organizations and Companies through their listings.

Travel is always expensive. By utilizing our Organization/Company forum, speakers traveling into a town/city for other reasons may find a welcome new group with which to share ideas. As Alaskan business people it is imperative that we utilize the talent we have within our state. As professionals, we have for years had to think out of the box and we all know that business innovative ideas come to us from all sorts of places. This new idea lets our speakers take a look at what companies/ organizations they might also be interested in contacting.

Finely a forum - a space - a place that you can find talented Alaskan speakers

Not found elsewhere, our gathering of speakers in one place - one space - gives not only a forum but the added recognition to our diversity. State wide we have a tremendous number of undiscovered, creative and energetic folks in all walks of life that have something to share.

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From: aatours [mailto:aatours@ptialaska.net]

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 12:30 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: Idea on civic journalism

Tim --- what about **weekly column** for the newspaper **from the Alaska Speakers Bureau** foot lighting one organization and one speaker every week on an ongoing basis!!!

For the **Alaskan Speakers Bureau Footlights** column - they say how many words for the column - and the placement. We do the column ---- I would love to author it!!!!
Sharon

Anchorage
Medical Doctor / Social Anthropologist

From: Sergei Bogojavlensky, Ph.D.
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 12:45 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Hi Tim,
What a great idea. I think that the paper suffers from lack of deep, detailed Alaskan stories. The recent article on the Russian immigrants is quite slanted and shallow, for example. What did Yulia think?
I am planning to go to Nome and Bethel soon.
Sergei

Fairbanks and Mekoryuk
Assistant Professor of Military Science
Alaska Native
--led the first tank battalion into Kosovo

From: MAJ Don
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 1:37 PM
To: 'Tim Pearson'
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

Some interesting material. Probably worth some additional discussion at some point when we are able to sit down over a cup of coffee.

Several things interest me personally that I believe should be covered more frequently

1) Achievement gap between students in rural and urban schools. This issue has been around for a long time but has become increasingly more quantifiable since the inception of no child left behind and the increased attention on schools that meet their AYP goals and schools that don't. What is the state doing to close the achievement gap? What are schools in rural Alaska doing to prepare their students?

2) Suicide rate in rural Alaska. I believe there has been a lot of discussion and studies on this topic but I think more coverage and discussion on this could lead to more focused efforts to combat this epidemic problem. There are other well known symptomatic things like alcohol, drugs and a variety of other things that are contributing factors as well that would undoubtedly need to be discussed as well.

3) Much has been made of the power of the Native Regional Corporations and the increasing role they will play in the future of the state. I would like to see some more attention on the capacity of the ANCSA corporations and how they are meeting their original goals since their inception. I would also like a spin off on how if any the shareholders of some of the regionals have benefited with several of the corporations making the top 49 list.

Hope this is useful for you?

WAYNE W. DON
MAJ, IN

From: Nina Malyshev
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 2:50 PM
To: 'Tim Pearson'
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Hi Tim,

I passed on your questions to my colleagues, that is, the Library Development team at the State Library and here is their input. Feel free to use our suggestions, or not, in any way you choose. If ADN decides to use any of these story ideas, I can direct you to the specific person whose idea it was.

Thanks for asking and good luck with your meeting.

Nina Malyshev
Alaska State Library

ADN IDEAS:

1. Failure of Alaska to do any strategic planning for information infrastructure development, as most states have for done over a decade, and the failure of the state to promote private/public partnerships to bring true broadband (i.e., not cable, not DSL, but 10 mbps or more) to all Alaskans, and e.g., specific failures in building an information infrastructure such as: ATUC (Denali funding blocked by GCI); IITF (failed to get mandate renewed by legislature), RCA Broadband grants (failed to disburse funding in a timely way). (Tim, I can refer you to more specific
2. While giving some lip service to "knowledge economies," Alaska leaders, particularly in Congress, concentrate almost entirely on natural resource extraction for economic development - e.g., no plans to run fiber with new gas lines or roads, when that should be a requirement.
3. ADN should cover the oil/natural gas industry more deeply, since that industry seems to have the biggest impact on lives of Alaskans across the state. I see lots of small news reports about the industry, but I think analysis and a long-term outlook and the ability to gather information from industry insiders are sadly lacking. Also, what parallels are there between other oil producing states and Alaska? Can we learn anything from the growth, maturity, and decline of the industry in other states? Does the ADN have a reporter covering this industry and nothing else? I think it should. What will happen to Alaska once the oil is gone?
4. Another big issue in this state are the divisions that exist. The rural/urban and white/Native division is well documented, but what about all the other immigrants from other countries to Alaska? How about the wave of white immigrants that have arrived here since 1990? How do new white Alaskans differ from sourdoughs? How are their expectations driving politics and social issues? In my book group, there is a teacher who came to Alaska in the '50s. She frequently asks: "What happened to people in Alaska? How did this state become so conservative? We used to be liberal. We had one of the first pro-abortion statutes (or law cases) in the country. That would never happen now. How did this happen?" I think her questions deserve answers.
5. And on a related note, the future of village Alaska and what will become of the growing populations of villages that cannot function without the current influx of state and federal dollars.
6. Alaskan health issues (suicide, diabetes, alcoholism, accidental death, FAS, tuberculosis, mental health care)--Are there any efforts that are making impact on our high rates of all?

7. And conversely, are there any civic, governmental, or non-profit organizations or entities that are making significant impacts on reversing or correcting some of the social ills in Alaska? ADN seems to do a good job of writing about some of the good and positive things going on in the city and the state but in my opinion they could do more. You can always find a multitude of problems where ever one looks but there are many things happening that are equally as uplifting and heartening.

Anchorage
President, theforakergroup

From: Dennis McMillian
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 3:10 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Tim,

I got it this time! No need to elaborate, I am a man of few words. Thanks for asking.

Dennis

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Pearson [mailto:tim@timpearson.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 2:42 PM
To: Dennis McMillian
Subject: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Dennis,

Hello! Here's the question that I sent to friends.
I've made note of your suggestions:

1. Fiscal – not just the fiscal gap
2. Subsistence
3. Permanent Fund – the role of the Permanent Fund in Alaska

Let me know if you want to elaborate.

From: Barbara Brown

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 3:11 PM

To: 'Tim Pearson'

Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

1. Why, when voters have voted to move the capitol from Juneau several times, does it never happen and Juneau is preparing to "pour the cement" so the change will never occur? I believe that our legislature, as isolated as it is, is not family-friendly. Women with school-age children wouldn't consider running until their kids are grown. We end up with a legislature that isn't very child-oriented (not to mention the fact that they're more available to moneyed lobbyists than the public). I simply do not understand how the electoral process ends up meaning nothing here. Another example ...
2. Didn't we vote against aerial wolf hunting? How do these things keep coming back after initiative processes have already addressed them? The legislature is not supposed to change initiatives until after a couple of years (I think), but it seems initiatives never go into effect. In other states I've lived, things we voted on actually happened.
3. What has happened to the people who were supposed to get off welfare within 5 years? Is their time up? Did they get jobs, training, child care, etc.?
4. Examination of the working poor: how do the Wal-Mart and McDonalds workers make do? Who's watching the children of working single mothers? Not to cover this in a "pity" way like Neighbor to Neighbor, but more an economic and social analysis.
5. What options are there for the Alaska consumer who ends up with a lemon, a runaround, an aloof bureaucracy, etc.? Years ago, there used to be a Daily News feature of someone who fixed people's nightmares about products. (The name escapes me now.) Why can't that come back?

This should do it ... for now! Thanks for asking.

Barbara

Dillingham
EMS Director
Alaska Native

From: Teresa Seybert

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 3:47 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

1. EMS in Alaska – Volunteers on the edge
2. Disasters on a daily basis – Somewhere in our state a village is undergoing a catastrophic event
3. Civic duty – (We need more volunteers)

Anchorage
Attorney

Anonymous

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 4:59 PM

To: Tim Pearson

Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

I would like to see more critical and realistic coverage of Domestic Security. There has been an enormous shift of resources here in Alaska as elsewhere to cover an essentially non-existent problem. Alaska is particularly problematic since the hazards (i.e. likely targets in comparison with more available, life-endangering and dramatic targets elsewhere) are all but non-existent and accordingly the risk factor for any individual Alaskan is near zero. All of these costs are not borne by the government. Most, in fact, are externalities in extended time spent sitting around airports. We also face an additional loss of valuable time and liberty in the many mindless official checks of identity, searches going into public buildings, etc. The emperor has no clothes. The Administration has embarked on a program intended to scare the hell out of everyone in order to allow the shift of government priorities to punch up ! domestic federal policing by a magnitude.

Anchorage
Business Owner

Anonymous

Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 6:14 PM

To: 'Tim Pearson'

Subject: RE: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

Poor business practices and business ethics would be a good one. The press should highlight instances where poor practices damage small and rural businesses.

From: Becky Roth
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2005 7:30 PM
To: Tim Pearson
Subject: Re: on civic journalism -- a special request from Tim . . .

The purpose: to strengthen our life together as informed, active citizens and Alaskans

Story ideas:

1. Good news! Who's doing life right? There are quiet heroes everywhere, let's get away from the glitz and disaster, and on to real life! It doesn't have to be miracles or sensational stories, just recognition for the common person doing good....making a difference, one step at a time.
2. Peacemakers. Again, is our world news really only about what's broken?

APPENDIX 1.0 The Cluetrain Manifesto www.cluetrain.com

(Note from Tim: Not to be in anyone's face about it, but this has relevance to the conversation about civic/public journalism.)