

# Akasofu sure of getting funds for Arctic center

By JEFF RICHARDSON  
Staff Writer

For more than two years, Syun-Ichi Akasofu has been taking an advanced course in international diplomacy.

Every month or so, the director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Geophysical Institute makes pilgrimages to Japan and Washington, D.C., as part of his long, complicated quest to fund the International Arctic Research Center. The budding IARC, which Akasofu has been nurturing for 10 years, will bring some of the world's top scientists to the UAF campus to study high-latitude global changes.

Akasofu speaks of the \$32 million project, which will be completed in the fall, with obvious pride. But with construction under way, he faces a second challenge—once IARC opens, he must find money for its operation and research.

He has learned nothing is simple when it comes to two nations, their politics and their money.

"It takes awhile to get going," he said. "It's just the process—the two countries have to work

together, and that takes a long time."

Akasofu estimates the center will need about \$10 million a year from the U.S. and Japanese governments to get research moving. By 2003, he hopes to be raising \$25 million a year. The money will pay for equipment and project costs for the hundreds of scientists and technicians who will fill IARC by March 1999.

He has brought in \$3 million in the past two years and is confident IARC will meet its goal. "It just takes time," he said. "I don't think there is any question the money is coming."

Japan has put about \$20 million toward construction, with the remaining \$12 million coming from UAF bond sales, the U.S. government, the state of Alaska and local sources.

Project Manager Dave Dobberpuhl said the center will be ready for an unofficial christening in late October, when the American Association for the Advancement of Science will hold a 300-person reception at IARC during its Alaska conference.



**PANELS ADDED**—Carpenter Ron Elliott completes the installation of the exterior panels on the fourth floor of the International Arctic Research Center on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus Tuesday afternoon.

Matt Hage photo

"We're expecting to meet all our deadlines," he said. "It's actually even a little bit ahead of

schedule."

Akasofu said IARC has solid support in both Japan and the

United States. But his fundraising has been slowed by simple bureaucracy, with more than a

dozen agencies to wade through before any funding is approved. See ARCTIC, Page B-4

# Teen held in drive-by shooting

By AL SLAVIN  
Staff Writer

A Fairbanks teen-ager faces weapons and assault charges following his arrest for what police have described as a gang-related drive-by shooting.

Isyann "Shawn" Kendricks, 19, was arrested early Tuesday morning after he allegedly fired shots in the area of two people on the 200 block of Seventh Avenue. No one was injured.

Kendricks was driving in Julie Jabber's car when he leaned from the passenger window and hurled obscenities and gang-related slang at the two, police said.

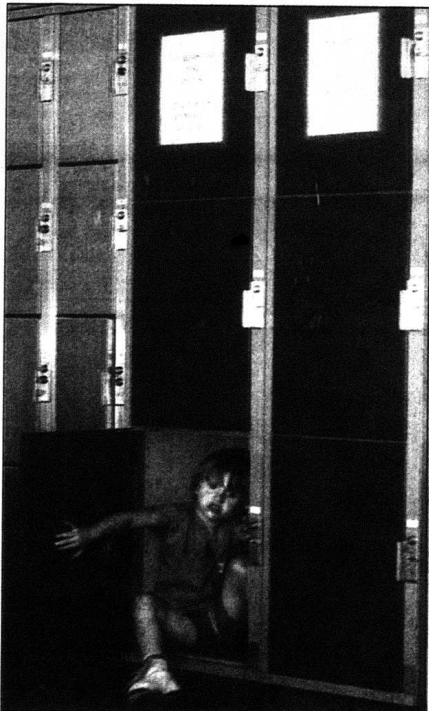
Kendricks later admitted to police that he fired into the air "because he wanted to scare them," according to court records. The victims told police that Kendricks pointed the gun directly at them. He also called the victims "slobs," a term considered derogatory to members of the Bloods street gang.

After the shooting, police received information that the victims were shot at by a car full of individuals wearing blue bandanas, a color affiliated with the Crips street gang, which is considered a rival of the Bloods.

Jabber, and two other passengers, Justin Snider and Rashad Gay, identified Kendricks as the one who fired the weapon. None of those three has been charged with a crime.

It marks the second time in See SHOOTING, Page B-4

# Hanging out



Eric Engman/News-Miner

Derek Longoria, 3, of North Pole finds his own hiding place in some lockers at the Big Dipper Ice Arena Tuesday afternoon. Derek was at the arena while his three older brothers were at hockey practice. He plans to play hockey when he gets older.

# Corps extends Northstar comment period to Aug. 31

By SEAN COCKERHAM  
Staff Writer

By public request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has granted additional time for citizen comment on the proposed Northstar oil project.

"The colonel conducted public hearings on the North Slope and the communities asked that we extend the comment period due to the magnitude of the project and all the associated documents," said corp spokeswoman Pat Richardson.

The public comment deadline for the corps has been extended until Aug. 31, as has the cutoff point for providing input on the project to the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

This is the second deadline extension for the corps. The original deadline of July 30 was

pushed back until Aug. 10 after the death of a village elder in Nuiqsut forced postponement of a public hearing there.

BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. spokesman Paul Laird said the company does not object to an extended public comment period—so long as it doesn't hold up final approval.

"As long as the entire process does not get pushed back 30 days, then we're fine with extending the public comment period," Laird said. "If the entire process gets pushed back 30 days, then that could very well force us to delay island construction on the North Slope by a year."

Northstar would be the first oilfield in the Alaska arctic developed from an island not connected to shore by a causeway. Production would occur on a

manmade gravel island in the Beaufort sea near Point Storkersen. The gravel has to be shipped to the site over the ice.

Earlier this month, more than 40 Fairbanks laborers held a rally to urge quick federal approval of the project. Last week, the Fairbanks North Star Borough assembly passed a resolution calling for a timely process.

BP believes the project can produce 145 billion barrels of oil over a 15-year time period, and wants to start work as soon after the new year as possible, Laird said.

The final U.S. Army Corps of Engineers environmental impact statement is tentatively set for year's end with a decision to follow about a month later.

"We'd certainly still be trying See NORTHSTAR, Page B-4

# Northrim donates \$200,000 to museum

By Staff report

The University of Alaska Museum's big expansion plans are closer to reality.

During a fund-raising event last week, Northrim Bank head Marc Langland announced that Northrim is donating \$200,000 in honor of former bank chairman Arnold Espe. An auditorium in the expanded museum will be named for Espe, who was a volunteer and fund-raiser for the museum.

Also, Arco Alaska Inc. announced a gift of \$20,000 to help pay for the federally mandated archaeological survey that's taking place on the museum's lawn in anticipation of the expansion.

The goal is to raise \$20 million for the expansion through a combination of public and private monies. So far, \$7 million has been raised.

"When the UA museum opened in 1980, it was expected

to be the first phase of a larger structure," said UA Museum Director Aldona Jonaitis. "Unfortunately the funding never came through. Now we have simply run out of room."

The Legislature last session kicked in \$500,000 toward the effort. The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, chaired by Sen. Ted Stevens, has approved \$2.5 million for the project. The measure must now pass both houses. See MUSEUM, Page B-4

# Lavelle Young wheelhouse deserves worthy display