

# THE BATTALION CLASSIFIED

## Alaskan seeks land giveaway

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Dr. Michael Francis Beirne, pathologist, conservative Republican and unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor of Alaska, wants to give away 30 million acres of land Nov. 7.

His creation, Proposition 10 on the general election ballot, would give Alaskans varying acreage based on the length of their residence.

Beirne's Homestead Initiative follows the trail blazed in California by Howard Jarvis and Proposition 13.

Beirne, too, offered it to the Alaska Legislature and watched it suffocate in the quicksands of legislative committees. He then circulated petitions which were enthusiastically endorsed, forcing the issue before the voters.

Beirne, like Jarvis, blamed "over-government" and capital bureaucracy for the delay in making public lands available to private owners. Also, Alaska's Gov. Jay Hammond is as opposed to 10 as California's Edmund G. Brown Jr. was to 13, and, like 13, the pollsters predict 10 will pass by a large majority.

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Beirne struck a responsive chord when he proposed that every Alaskan 18 years or older be given acreage in proportion to the time he has lived here. Three years of residency would qualify for 40 acres, five would be worth 80 acres and a decade in the 49th state entitled those sourdoughs to 160 acres.

When granted statehood, Alaska was given the right to select 104 million acres from the 375 million federally owned lands comprising the state. But the delays and federal land freezes have slowed the transfer much to the frustration of the land-hungry Alaskans.

"The cheapest thing in Alaska should be land," said Beirne, "but it's the most expensive. Farming up here has all but disappeared as farmers are selling their land to real estate developers for fantastic prices. The state government is merely the trustee of these lands; it is only holding the acreage and managing it for us. Now we want it back."

Beirne says cheap land will not only help Alaska agriculture, but will also make for a "happy and industrious people."

Hammond refuses to endorse Proposition 10, but the man who defeated him in his bid for re-nomination in the August primary, former Interior Secretary Walter Hickel, is all for it.

"Sure there are lots of things wrong with the Beirne initiative," Hickel said, "but the people are entitled to land. There are those who say it will bring chaos. Well, if free people bring chaos, then it's government's chaos. There will probably be adjudication and some legislation needed but we'll clean it up. The idea of getting land to the people is paramount. That's what we're all up here for."

Hammond calls the Beirne initiative "a bummer" and presents statistics showing he has turned more state land over to private owners

than all his predecessors. "It's a phony issue to the Hammond explained. "It's going to be mass conversion of land, far more than all the land that has been conveyed since the governor. But the Beirne is loaded with inequities and frailties."

To begin with it is unconstitutional. Second, when gets out in the lower 48 that land is available in Alaska, we'll have a land rush that will make the Oklahoma rush look like a Sunday school picnic."

Beirne, who got into the Legislature via a Hammon pointment and was later describes Hammond's action as a "rat's nest of socialism." "All the rats in the colonies were in private ship," Beirne said, "and state was supposed to come state with the same privileges original 13."

"Here the state is holding the land, they don't want to give it to the people."

Hickel points out that 1 percent of Alaska is in the hands. "We have 375 million acres of land in Alaska," he said, "but only a million of it is in the hands. Think of any other where they only had 1 percent. What in the name of God is wrong if 10 percent were in the hands; the 13 colonies had 10 percent."

Beirne is not disturbed by prospect of a mass immigration of people from the lower 48 free land.

"Why not?" he asks. "Come. We've been trying to get people up here ever since statehood. My initiative will get the Alaska economy even with the trans-Alaska pipeline. "Land in Alaska today is worth for as much as \$10,000 an acre just doesn't make any sense particularly when you can buy land in my birth state, Wisconsin, for \$500 an acre. Why land cost more than a dollar up on the Yukon?"

"Here the state is holding the land, they don't want to give it to the people."

Under the terms of Proposition 10, the acreage would be given to residents absolutely free. The requirement would be residency. Unlike previous land acts, nobody has to live on or develop it to get ownership.

Republican Edgar Boyko, attorney general of Alaska and popularity of the Beirne stems from Alaska's failure to land.

"The people up here have given only lip service to the demands for land," Boyko said. "Politicians in Juneau have said that more lands should be available to Alaskans, and then we have wonderful the old Alaskan homestead laws were yet fought both ideas consistent thwarted every move to get them to reality."

"Juneau seems to think ownership is the ultimate goal of the land, while many of us want private ownership of the land to have freedom, not the lock-up."

## Public funds allow man new kidney, life

WASHINGTON — For James D. Campbell, the failure of his kidneys five years ago cost more than \$45,000. But he is alive and well, thanks to public financial aid.

Nine years ago, a close relative of Campbell died from kidney failure because the family could not afford the cost of dialysis, the use of an artificial kidney to filter waste products out of the blood.

Public Law 92-603, passed by Congress in 1972, amended the Social Security Act to provide treatment under the federal and state Medicaid program for virtually everyone with life-threatening kidney disease.

That coverage became effective in 1973 and that was the year Campbell's kidneys failed as the result of Alport's Syndrome, a kidney ailment that had taken the lives of five male members of his family before the age of 25. He was 27 at the time and teaching at a small private college in Iowa.

Campbell went on dialysis and noted, "It was a visible means of proof that although renal failure had occurred, life could be prolonged." In a special report published in the New England Journal of Medicine, Campbell and his wife, Anne, said they decided to train to carry out the dialysis three days a week at home instead of the hospital where most kidney patients undergo the treatment.

"Home dialysis, like many things in life, had its high and low moments," the Campbells wrote. "There were times of sharing,

friendship and thankfulness. I tended life and its meaning assures. There were also times of despair, crisis, pain and weariness."

After 15 months of home dialysis, Campbell received a kidney transplant. But five days after he received a kidney from a donor, Campbell faced a severe rejection problem that lasted 100 days.

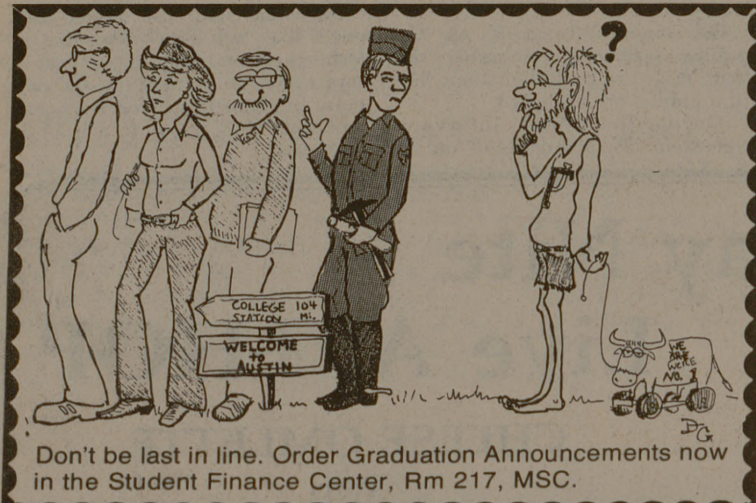
"It was during this time I realized that transplantation is an instant panacea and that, in respects, it was like trading one problem (dialysis) for another (transplantation)."

The kidney began to work, the rejection episode, but treatment went slowly. There were several unpleasant side effects from treatment administered to stop the body's immune system from vent further rejection.

"As time went on, however, kidney began to function better. The dosage of drugs was reduced to the point where the adverse effects began to diminish. In time, I began to realize a better life had experienced on dialysis. "We live a very normal life seldom have to think about health except for the problem susceptibility to infection and lack of endurance which must be accommodated."

The Campbells reported the cost of dialysis at home (far less expensive than in the hospital) aged \$1,907 a month. The transplant expenses, spread over months through Dec. 31, came to \$495 a month.

### SPECIAL NOTICE



Don't be last in line. Order Graduation Announcements now in the Student Finance Center, Rm 217, MSC.

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Rice organ, piano studio. 20 years experience, bachelor degree. 405 Montclair. 846-4478. 1815

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Lost, grey and white long-haired female cat. Last seen at 709 Cross St. behind Skaggs. Please call 846-6029 if found. Generous REWARD!

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693-2335 151fn

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