Energy Civilization, spring 2013: 

Well written, interesting, but limited. Alaska has put all its economic chips on oil and has become almost totally dependent on the oil industry’s efforts. But with the oil and natural gas boom in the Lower 48, and the president talking about the U.S. soon becoming a net exporter of energy, the companies are increasingly questioning the economic value of continuing the costly investments in Alaska when there are much less expensive and easily produced sources available. As matters now stand, if the oil companies were to cut back drastically, Alaska’s economy would probably collapse. Unlike other producing states — Texas, say — Alaska has made no effort to diversify its economy. Any discussion of energy and Alaska should acknowledge that over the past several decades, Alaska has built a one-horse economy.

John Coyne, ’61

The spring Aurora knocked my socks off! It’s terrific, from the graphics to the subject matter to its diversity. With the emphasis on journalism in Alaska today and in the past, it is of itself a prime example of all that is best in communication. I was co-editor of the then Polar Star in the early ’60s, and a half-time reporter for Jessens Weekly Newspaper, a far cry from the publications today. The Starvation Gulch article with the wonderful King Neptune burning pile brought back those great years, not just of activity booths but of the pretty, long-legged gals doing the traditional cancan. Kudos.

Mary Halm Writer, ’64

Note from editor: We liked your description so much, Mary, we’ve incorporated it into Aurora’s mission statement “…In short, Aurora should knock your socks off.” Thanks for the perfect words.

I just received my copy of another alumni magazine from another of my alma maters, and I was reminded that I had intended to let you know how much I enjoyed the latest copy of the Aurora. I liked the format and the diverse articles.

I especially enjoyed the article about the Equinox marathon at 50 even though I was reminded of how old I am becoming. In the fall of 1963 I was a freshman at UA[F]. I heard about the marathon on campus and, unencumbered by training, I decided to give it a try. Wearing old tennis shoes and carrying my lunch in a paper bag I started out. It took me about eight hours to reach the finish line. I walked the whole distance. I remember that it was a glorious fall day with that oblique sunlight that is so characteristic of Alaska. I was happy to be in Alaska and embarking on new adventures.

After I read your article and realized what a groundbreaking event the marathon is, I found my patch and sewed it to my jean jacket. I hope to impress my friends as well as connect with former Alaskans. Thank you for helping me remember this event and my part in it.

Cathy Trost Wiggins, ’67