

A grieving father's view

Dear Editor:

On Oct. 4 my son, Duane Samuels, answered his door and was confronted by an armed juvenile, who forced his way into the house and then killed him. After the killing he took my son's car, bragged about the killing to a friend and then returned to the house with another friend to view the body. They then hid the body, drank my son's beer, took what belongings they wanted and drove around in his car until they were caught two days later.

There is a very real possibility that the killer will be walking the streets of Anchorage in the near future without ever being tried for this crime. It seems that in order for someone under 18 years of age to be tried for a crime, his juvenile status must be waived. If no waiver request is made or if a judge of Superior Court rejects the waiver, then the maximum time that a judge can hold him in custody is two years. The friend has been charged with joy riding and burglary and will not be tried as an adult.

My immediate family and I have petitioned the court to allow us to attend the juvenile status hearings of the person who killed our son. But public defenders Susan Orlansky and Blair McCune have objected to our presence at the hearings on the grounds that our "presence may not be in the best interest of the child." This contention is absurd. Are we going to hurt his feelings?

Another contention of the public defenders is that "since there has been no publicity about the case there is no need to allow the family to attend." The public defender apparently feels that what the public doesn't know won't hurt them.

We want to be there to ensure, in some small way, that this terrible crime is not swept under the rug of a system of justice that says persons under 18 years of age are not responsible for their actions, a system that says that the public, family and friends of Duane have no right to know who killed him or the circumstances of his death.

I urge everyone to write their state representatives and ask them to change the law so that any person, regardless of age, who is charged with a violent crime such as murder, rape or assault is automatically tried as an adult. The present system, as witnessed by the defense objections, is an obscenity.

Charles B. Samuels
7805 Linda Lane

ANCHORAGE TIMES DEC. 6, 1989

Civil engineer enjoyed hunting

ANCHORAGE TIMES 8 OCT 1989

Duane Samuels worked as a civil engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers until his death this week at his Anchorage home. Mr. Samuels, 29, was found at his Anchorage residence on Oct. 5, 1989.

He was born in Anchorage on Dec. 31, 1959, and had lived in Alaska for most of his life.

He was a graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1983 and was a civil engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. He enjoyed computer programming, hunting, playing pool and his family.

He is survived by his parents, Charles and Barbara Samuels of Anchorage; a brother, Ralph Sa-

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muels of Anchorage; a sister, Paula Lindstam of Anchorage; his paternal grandmother, Linnie Hall of Arlington, Texas; and many uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Evangelical Covenant Church with the Rev. Don Bruckner and the Rev. Keith Fullerton officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Missionary Aviation Repair Center, Box 511, Soldotna, AK 99669.

Arrangements by Evergreen Memorial Chapel West.

Daily News 8 OCT 1989 OBITUARIES

DUANE SAMUELS

Duane Samuels, 29, was found dead Thursday at his Anchorage home.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Evangelical Covenant Church with the Revs. Don Bruckner and Keith Fullerton officiating.

Mr. Samuels was born Dec. 31, 1959, in Anchorage and lived in Alaska most of his life. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1983 and worked as a civil engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers for the past three years.

He enjoyed computer programming, hunting, playing pool and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his parents, Charles and Barbara Samuels, of Anchorage; his brother, Ralph, and his sister, Paula Lindstam, both of Anchorage; his paternal grandmother, Linnie Hall, of Arlington, Texas; and many uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be sent to the Missionary Aviation Repair Center, Box 511, Soldotna 99669.

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