

2000-78-37

Louis E. Rey, interviewee

Karen Cedzo, interviewer

Series: University focus

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Karen Cedzo said despite a harsh climate and contrary to Antarctica the frozen north has been inhabited by ancient man for millions of years and has become for many diversified cultures. Development of the Arctic will require a multi-disciplinary approach. In a recent visit to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Professor Louis E. Rey reviewed the history of the Arctic. He shared his concerns for future development of the region. He said the Arctic has relatively young ecosystems. He said the northern habitat isn't substantially different from the present period climatically. In the past 200,000 years the northern lands have experienced major successions of glaciation with warmer periods. Discovery and exploration of the Arctic regions has been ongoing since the visit of the Vikings. Explorers looked for shorter routes to China. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was discovery for the sake of scientific research. Rey talked about the continued interest in the Arctic such as the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline. The Arctic is now at the turn of a new period. The rim of the Polar Regions hum with activities. Rey cautions despite multi-focal activity there are vast areas between small human settlements creating one of the real difficulties of the Arctic region. He talked about the huge potential of the resources and he discussed the difficulties of the environment where the resources exist. He talked about responsible use and a delicate balance. Professor Rey urges a multi-disciplinary approach to any new venture in the Arctic.

Karen Cedzo reports on the campus calendar and activities.