

'I may not agree with what you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it'—VOLTAIRE

Editorial:

A story on our front page of this special election issue points out that the voters in just one village may be the determining factor in the election Nov. 4.

It's easy to think that one vote may not make that much difference, but political analysts are predicting a photo finish in the race for the governor's seat between Republican Arliss Sturgulewski and Democrat Steve Cowper.

We'd like to again remind our readers that Alaska's governor is unique among the 50 states because of the immense amount of power granted to that person under the Alaska Constitution. Voters in rural Alaska need to think particularly hard about this race because the winner will have a big impact on development in rural areas, as well as protecting — or not protecting — subsistence.

There are many other important races, including ballot measures, and we've tried to offer you information to help you make up your mind.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

We're working hard here at the *Tundra Times* to update our subscription system. Mary Lekanof, our office manager, has been working on a computer donated by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation almost full-time in order to get this new system on line.

We're finding that some of our readers have not been receiving their paper for many weeks. We apologize to you for that. We've also found that many subscriptions have expired. We will be sending out postcards soon, encouraging you to continue subscribing. We can't stress enough how much we need your support.

If you have any concerns or adjustments to make, please let Mary know so that she can take care of these problems.

We'd also like to take this time to recognize the many volunteers who are helping us here at the *Tundra Times* during this difficult financial period. One person who deserves special recognition for his volunteer work is Dave Elias, who has been working tirelessly with Mary to improve the outdated subscription system we had.

We also have several volunteer writers, G.D. Renkes, Pamela Cravez, Barbara Page, Jill McGuire and Sara Townsend, who are all working hard to provide coverage on a wide variety of issues. And our volunteer photographer, Norris Klesman, deserves a special thank-you. We can't stress enough how much it helps to have their help.

Because of our financial condition we are unable to make long-distance telephone calls or travel to villages. People who submit articles and photographs help us greatly. It might be a good project for students throughout rural areas to consider sending us some of their work.

And while we're on the subject of thanks, we'd like to commend Jim La Belle, our business manager who is now leaving us after putting together a very successful *Tundra Times* banquet. We appreciate all his hard work and will miss him.