

To correct any false impressions from last issue--

A note on Native News in Fairbanks

SHARON McCONNELL

Photo by William Ares

Our front page photo and caption last week gave some readers the wrong impression about Native news programming in Fairbanks.

We pointed out that news broadcasts by Sharon McConnell of Bettles and Fairbanks aired over KIAK and KFAR were an example of the type of response that radio stations could make

to local broadcasting needs. The photo referred to an inside story about Alaskans for Better Media (ABM), a group which is trying to persuade Alaskan broadcasters to introduce more public service programming.

Contrary to the impression we may have created, KIAK sought a Native news reporter on its own initiative, not in response to demands presented by

Alaskans for Better Media. KIAK hired Sharon, a former correspondent for the River Times, to research and write news of interest to its Native listeners in the Interior. ABM has not filed a protest against KIAK.

Sharon also produces some news programming for KFAR under contract.