

**"I may not agree with what you say but I will defend unto the death your right to say it." - VOLTAIRE**

# Publisher's Notes

## MORE POLICE PROFESSIONALISM PLEASE

Anchorage probably has one of the finer police forces, comparatively speaking, and we should take pride in saying so. We know that Mayor Knowles and Chief Porter are constantly looking for ways to improve this vital service including the upgrading of the standards required of individuals who dedicate themselves to enforcing the laws of our society.

Occasionally, incidents happen which cause us to wonder, however, whether enough is being done to ensure that professional standards are being adhered to by all those who serve in the capacity of police officers.

Recently, the staff of the Tundra Times witnessed an incident involving a member of the Anchorage Police Department. The officer was called upon to arrest a man who was obviously inebriated to the point of unconsciousness. The helpless man who had a broken arm in a cast was lying on the sidewalk, and it was evident that he was in need of professional assistance. The officer used at least two methods, in his attempts to rouse the unfortunate man, including the use of a stick, which he used to poke at various parts of the man's body.

When the man did not awaken, he was removed from the street and placed in a police vehicle and taken away. While such incidents are common place on the streets of Anchorage today, this particular one was most unpleasant.

Having witnessed the incident from beginning to end, we don't believe the man who was arrested was endangering anyone but himself. According to others at the scene, he was considered a "regular," which means that he was detained by the officers before. Whatever experience he had with the law before simply did not warrant the manner in which he was arrested this time.

We hope that the incident which occurred was one in a million and that the officer simply used poor judgment in performing his duties. As a professional, he would have realized this before anyone else.

## UNITY: KEY TO SURVIVAL

Preparations for this year's annual Alaska Federation of Natives convention are already underway. Our congratulations to the AFN Board of Directors and staff for selecting a most appropriate theme, "Unity: Key to Survival" has a lot of substance to it.

"Unity" as an ideal has not been discussed much in Native circles since Pre-ANCSA days. No one will disagree about the need for "Unity," but not too many seem to agree on how to go about getting it.

Combining the word "Unity" with "Survival" should cause each of us to stop and think about the future and the need to work together.