

Coverage understood importance

To the Editor:

On behalf of New and Classic Performances, a volunteer network to present Alaska's fine writers, performers and musicians, I would like to thank you and Tundra Times for the very fine article on Gary Waid, the Tlingit actor in "Lady Rankin Meets the Pagan."

Coverage from other area press for this event was extensive, but Bill Hess was the only writer who understood what was really most important about it: That a Tlingit actor was being given an opportunity to work with material con-

cerning his own culture and doing a professional job of presenting his own reality.

By the way, Gary Waid was superb in the role because he played the part with all the dignity and understanding that Mr. Hess' sensitive interview indicates was present in his work on the play.

The play, which won the Great Alaska Playrush competition for 1982, was produced originally in Juneau with a white professional actor playing the Tlingit role. Gary

Waid's complete embodiment of his own history went as far beyond acting as the interview by Bill Hess went beyond usual arts reportage.

Thank you for knowing what the real story might be and for giving it to someone able to bring it out for Gary and for those of us who greatly appreciated his performance.

Sincerely,

Maurice McClelland
Anchorage Arts Council
New and Classic
Performances

Response to Wien criticism

The following letter was sent to Robert Lohr, executive director of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program in response to a letter, written by Mr. Lohr, complaining about Wien air service between Anchorage and Bethel. That letter was published in the June 8 issue of the Tundra Times.

Dear Mr. Lohr:

I have received your May 25 letter concerning the unfortunate incident involving Ms. Dora Moore. I would like to respond to your specific complaint, while at the same time addressing some of your more general concerns.

According to our Passenger Service Manager John Bridgeman, the Passenger Service Agents did close the flight to Bethel. Apparently Ms. Moore, who was the only person who missed the flight, did not hear the agents do so. This is unfortunate and we regret the inconvenience and disappointment it caused.

I wish to correct your impression that Wien Air Alaska gives special treatment to passengers flying to Prudhoe Bay. We value all of our customers, whether they are flying to Deadhorse, Bethel, or Seattle.

We do recognize that our counter area in the Anchorage Terminal has been insufficient to accommodate the number of passengers travelling during busy times of the day and busy seasons during the year. We have just completed remodeling of our ticket counter area to increase the number of Passenger Service Agents positions from six to twelve. We feel that this will alleviate much of the problem and allow us to provide better passenger service.

Thank you for the opportunity to explain our policies and outline what we have been doing in recent months to facilitate the handling of all our passengers utilizing the An-

chorage Airport Terminal.

Sincerely,

Wien Air Alaska, Inc.
James J. Flood
Chairman of the Board
and President