

### Still missing family heritage

Dear Editor:

I am an Athabaskan who was born in a doctor's office in Seattle, WA on December 22, 1961. I was given up for adoption and raised by a white mother who is the most wonderful person in the world. Not a day of my life goes by that I don't give silent and heartfelt thanks to my birth mother for having the courage, the wisdom, and the strength to give me up to the possibility of a better life. I do not know what my life would have been, I only know what it has been, and I am grateful.

But, at the same time there's a great emptiness within me that comes from being separated from my people and my heritage, which I desperately want to be a part of. For all that my adopted mother unselfishly and unfailingly gave me she could not give me that. I read everything I can get my hands on in an effort to learn all I can, but there just isn't much information out there. I need my own people to teach me. I feel as if I'm lost, and I want to come home, but I don't know the way. I will continue to search for the path.

I would be grateful to her from anyone who wishes to write to me.

Sincerely,

Donna Kayser  
Maple Valley, WA

### State discriminates against Natives

Dear Editor:

Within the pages of the JUNEAU EMPIRE on July 2, 1993, I found a very interesting statement from the State of Alaska - Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Carl Rosier, when he was making comments about the Native Corporation-Koniag - who has declared their land to be off limits to State and Federal Wildlife Officials.

The statement of my concern was written about the two employees who had signed a petition against Koniag's development plan to build an airstrip and a hunting and fishing lodge on their own land, and I shall quote the Juneau Empire which states, "Rosier said there would be no reprimand of the employees involved."

## WORLD ESKIMO-INDIAN OLYMPICS

Watch for our coverage of the 33rd Annual World Eskimo-Indian Olympics including complete results and photo coverage by Rob Stapleton in the next issue of the *Tundra Times*.

This causes me a great deal of concern because to me it is a discriminating remark and more or less expands the view that the State of Alaska has toward the Alaskan Native People.

The question arises, "That would the large oil companies do if they had the same incident do unto them from the State of Alaska?" We all know that the oil companies would contact their lawyers and they in turn would contact the State of Alaska. The State of Alaska would then turn to the responsible department to seek appropriate action(s) against those who signed the petition and, at the very least, those who signed the petition would no longer work for the State of Alaska.

Is the word "DISCRIMINATION" too strong to use in this instance? I think not; look at the State of Alaska's record. There has been numerous resolutions from almost every Alaskan Native organization; requesting the State of Alaska to improve the hiring/working percentages of Alaskan Natives within the State of Alaska's work force to bring the work force closer to the percentage of the states Alaska Native population over the last two decades; but the percentages remain about the same, approximately 3% to 5% whereas the Alaska Native population is near the 18% mark.

Another example is the Class

Action "Yakutat Surf Fishing Discrimination Suit" which started in July of 1980 by 16 Yakutat Surf Fisherman against the State of Alaska's Department of Fish and Game. This case went through the State of Alaska "Human Rights Commission" (which found the State of Alaska guilty of discrimination as charged), the court system found the State of Alaska discriminating against Yakutat fishermen; AWARDED \$-0-, and the appellant court ordered the same judge who had awarded the \$-0-; to render a cash settlement. The judge then awarded the Yakutat Surf Fishermen less than \$9,500 that was to compensate them for their losses occurred by the State of Alaska's act of DISCRIMINATION. Is this JUSTICE or is it CONSPIRACY? It has been reported that the only white involved in the case settled out of court for \$19,000, and the state court system awarded less than half to the others that were left. Naturally, there is another appeal.

But just view these incidents regarding the State of Alaska's attitude and their history in their dealings toward the Alaska Native is downright sad and in dire need of improvement and overhaul for the betterment of all Alaskans!!!

Sincerely,

Walter A. Johnson Sr.  
Yakutat, AK