

# Facelift forgets some things

To The Editor:

Last spring an article of mine had an Inupiat word edited out. I did not think too much of it at the time, til now. How ironic that an Eskimo word could not appear in a Native newspaper.

I also told the paper about news of Prof. Jimmy Bedford's retirement. (An active retirement from the University of Alaska/Fairbanks, since he is working on a book, writing a column, traveling, and of course he has his photography, in case anybody would like to know.) He's been a familiar face and long time supporter of the old Tundra Times, the new one did not have space for him. At the banquet "The Walrus" could be seen auctioneering, generally ~~million and~~ "shooting" and actively selling stock. His many contributions to the paper are immeasurable. He did much to assist and encourage Native writers and journalists, including Emily Ivanoff Brown and myself. An article should have been written.

More coverage should have been given to the issues of whal-

ing, subsistence, and the CETA cutbacks. Though this is an urban based newspaper, its philosophy has been to focus on the villager, their problems, needs and lifestyle.

Then came the much touted facelift, after which there was no room for the editorial page quote, "I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." Voltaire and Howard would be shocked to see that gone. With its omission, it leads me to believe one of the founding principles has been abandoned. The original board of directors and Dr. Forbes gave the job of editor to an Eskimo artist without any journalism experience (not to decry the ability and assistance of the white reporter with a degree who helped found the paper and also became an illustrious editor in his own right - Tom Snapp of the All-Alaska Weekly.) a point in fact that no amount of empathy and sincerity can replace the pain and joy of being Native and being able to express it.

This year was the first time the Memorial Day issue did not

publish Howard's poem of Keshorna and Tom's tribute to Ahnah and Ahtatah. It saddens me to see such traditions ignored. (To prevent further mistakes in the future our past must be remembered. It's up to the readers to remind and to help the paper.)

Last year I dug into the old files and brought out of storage the paper's awards and commendations and placed them on the walls as a reminder of the paper's accomplishments, achievements, its reputation and its commitment to the future of the Native peoples - a responsibility to be shared by us all.

I have yet to see the scoop a week, but I'll keep looking.

Marilyn Richards,  
Anchorage

*Editor's Note: Marilyn Richards has been a contributor to the Tundra Times and is the sister of former Tundra Times editor Thomas Richards who now lives and works in Bethel. The Keshorna was printed in the July 15 issue of the Tundra Times.*

# Quakers support nominee

To The Editor:

Regarding the recent debate over the nomination of Judge Sandra O'Connor to the United States Supreme Court, I would like to share the opinion of the Central Alaska Friends Conference, expressed in the following letter sent to our Alaska senators and to the President of the United States.

"We, the members of the Central Alaska Friends Conference, representing Quaker meetings in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Chitna, Barrow, Wasilla, Palmer, Homer, Juneau, and Port Alexander, strongly urge your support in the confirmation of Judge Sandra O'Connor to the Supreme Court. Judge O'Connor comes highly qualified to the

position. She has demonstrated her ability and is highly respected by her colleagues for her integrity and judicious temperament.

"The purpose of the United States Judicial branch is the interpretation of the statutes and to provide a balance of power between the Executive and Legislative branches of government. It is, therefore, essential that the members of the Supreme Court be skilled in the unbiased interpretation of the statutes, sensitive to the principles of equality, freedom and human rights upon which our government was founded. Each nominee must be considered upon professional and ethical reputation. It is imperative that highly qual-

ified nominees not be discriminated against for personal, political and moral beliefs."

Cheryl Turner  
Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) in Alaska

Letters to the Editor are welcome - you may send them to The Editor, Tundra Times, 639 "I" Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. We request that you keep letters at 250 words or less, out of consideration to other writers. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or omit letters for questions of libel or slander or other legal liability.