

Letters

Exchange student in Brazil shares Tundra Times

To the editor:

Thank you so much for the material you sent me. Living in Juneau, I never really learned very much about my own state or the different people who live there. I have learned more about Alaska here in Brazil than I knew when I was in Juneau. My mother sent me alot of the *Tundra Times* but I haven't received anymore. The airfreight here is very expensive and I don't know if its feasible to receive more.

I will try to get a picture of me and the *Tundra Times* with some of my friends. Do you know something about Brazil or it's people? Well, they are both very different from Alaska. I'm living in the interior of Brazil

in the state of Sao Paulo. The town I live in is the worlds capital of oranges with 60,000 people. When I tell them that I live in the capitol of Alaska and it has 30,000 inhabitants, they don't believe me. The whole population of Alaska could fit in a medium size town here. I'm eating fruits that I've never seen or heard of and they have a hard time understanding that practically everything (food) is imported. I told them that I ate seal pizza every night and they believed me! I would like to write to you more about the different way of life. Write back and tell me what you think.

Sincerely,
Heather Ferguson
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Inmate praises AFN concern for inmate problems

To the editor:

I'm a concerned inmate concerned about me and all inmates in state Correctional Facilities throughout this state of Alaska. The reason I'm concerned is I'm incarcerated in a Correctional Facility here at Juneau Adult 4c. It is hard to adjust to a real locked in jail it also feels weird at times but I do try and forget where I am for awhile by occupying my mind in something elso and slowly return my mind back to where I'm at. Not always good but it helps some. I'm glad to hear that the Alaska Federation of Natives is being concerned and dealing with problems with inmates from around the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta areas such as being deprived from my community and people it bothers me alot cause I'd rather be around family, friends and relatives to keep a stronger hold on my heritage and supporting them in better standards. Other concern is I feel about Natives way of living. I as a Native and our cultural ways of existing for thousands of years. I myself as a shareholder do pay close attention to the *Tundra Drums* also the *Tundra Times* News papers. I read a great deal of our Subsistance fishing and hunting way of living that seems to be getting more restricted to hunt only a certain amount of fish and wild animals can be brought to the homes to eat and the fur for clothing material. Thats the

way we natives were born and raised to survive by the land to fish and hunt freely thats the way I feel it should be today and forever. I would like to see it still exist when I am released after my punishment is over by serving my time.

It would be real sad to see that our cultural heritage and way of living be demolished for the way I see it for no reasons at all it shouldn't disappear never. We are like one us Eskimos and Indians by coming together will be the strongest hold you can get and working and helping one another to fight for what right that is ours and have been for thousands of years. The land was made by a great spirit for us to eat and clothe ourselves with, and be proud to be a native to hunt and get only what is needed and go on home, and fishing season catch enough to get by the cold winter season. I thank and I'm proud of the people that are getting involved and dealing with these most important problems that are effecting everyone as a native of our tribal and way of surviving in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and throughout this whole state of Alaska. I thank you all that read this letter and I strongly feel that our way of life as Eskimos and Indians still exist. Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully Yours,
Julius J. Passamika

Hoffman calls on Congress to restore HIP money

To the Alaska Congressional Delegation:

AVCP has been notified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs that all Housing Improvement Program (HIP) projects currently underway in several villages must be suspended immediately. We understand that all Alaska Natives and American Indians are affected and that the reason for this is the Reagan Administration, subject to approval of Congress, intends that Natives will no longer be eligible for federally-funded BIA Housing Improvement Program (HIP) services, effective immediately.

Due to the freeze, village employees working on Housing Improvement Program (HIP) Housing projects in six villages were notified today that they are being laid-off of work, effective immediately and that AVCP has no choice in this matter. Villages which presently have HIP housing projects underway in their villages, or which were scheduled to receive HIP housing projects this year, are

affected by this freeze.

The Native people most affected by the Administration's actions are elderly on fixed incomes or impoverished families with no other source of assistance. Often they have no housing and live in overcrowded homes with two or more other families. If they do have housing, it is substandard, drafty and poorly insulated. The ones most affected are those who can least afford this hardship. The Administration has done this without consulting affected families and gave no advance notice whatsoever, leaving a number of projects uncompleted. It is up to you and the Alaska Congressional Delegation to correct this problem. On behalf of our 20,000 members in the 56 villages of the AVCP Region, I call upon you to take immediate action to do so.

Sincerely,
Edward Hoffman, Sr.
Traditional Chief

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