

'I may not agree with what you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it'—VOLTAIRE

Congratulations to winners

The *Tundra Times* would like to extend congratulations to the two top vote-getters in the Aug. 26 gubernatorial primary election.

Both Republican Arliss Sturgulewski and Democrat Steve Cowper fought tough battles to win in difficult races.

Now that the fight is on for the general election, we are certain the Bush vote will be important to both candidates.

That makes it all the more important for rural Alaskans to study the positions of both candidates thoroughly before the general election in November. The voter turnout in the primary was relatively high, and it probably will be even higher in November.

It will be particularly important to study the two candidates' stands on subsistence, development in rural Alaska and Native issues in general.

Praise to Sheffield

We'd like to take this opportunity to praise Gov. Bill Sheffield, who has worked so hard for the Bush and for Alaska Natives during his term as governor.

Although the governor lost the primary, he will be remembered fondly by many Natives fondly because of the many accomplishments of his administration.

No one fought harder for subsistence protection for Alaska Natives than Gov. Bill Sheffield. The governor really believes that for Natives, subsistence is a cultural imperative.

It's not just a way of providing food for the table. It's not just clothing. It's knowing that culture comes from the land: that Natives are part of the land. And the governor understands that.

The governor also worked hard on the Red Dog mine, and he has fought hard to protect Bristol Bay. He also did much to fight alcohol and drug abuse.

Another of the governor's key accomplishments has been to provide juvenile detention facilities in the Bush — not just Fairbanks and Anchorage, but Bethel and Nome.

During Sheffield's term much progress was made in eradicating Hepatitis B. One hundred thousand people were screened for the disease, and 20,000 people, mostly Alaska Natives, were immunized.

We can also thank the governor for protecting \$100 million in programs for elders around the state, and putting more money into the Alaska Permanent Fund.

And he worked out arrangements to get a treaty with Canada for joint U.S.-Canadian management of the Porcupine Caribou herd, which is vital to subsistence in the Upper Yukon and the North Slope.

Benedetto to be missed

It is with great reluctance that we say good-bye to our editor, Jim Benedetto, in this issue. Jim has been a great resource for the paper, and we will miss him greatly.

We hope we will continue to receive reports from him, and we hope to publish more of his work.