

Unit 1

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

Your vote is an important responsibility

This is our Primary '86 election issue, and it would be impossible to stress enough how important it is to vote in this crucial election.

Among the most critical ballot issues is the selection of a final slate of candidates to run for Alaska's governor. The field is more crowded than usual, and voters will be faced with an almost dizzying array of candidates. Many of us have trouble even remembering the names of each of the 15 candidates, including nine Republicans, four Democrats, one Libertarian and a person representing the Alaska Independence Party.

Alaska's governor is unique among the 50 states because of the immense amount of power granted to that person under the State Constitution.

Our concern in this election for all the races is deciding which candidates will best serve the needs of rural Alaska. The population of the Bush has been declining in recent years in proportion to the state's urban areas, particularly Anchorage. So it is all the more important to select people who will be sensitive to the special needs of rural areas.

As the state's revenue continues to take a nosedive you will hear many empty promises. Some candidates will tell you they can solve the state's problems, although many are vague when it comes to explaining exactly how that can be done.

The voters' task is to sift through the rhetoric and decide which candidates will offer leadership in a troubled time. That's not an easy one, but it's particularly important for rural Alaskans to use their voting privilege and make themselves heard.

On the other hand, we also must remember that the Bush is still an important area for politicians because it quite likely has the power to determine the election.

If you are out fishing or will not be able to vote in the primary for any reason, be sure to get an absentee ballot. This is an election where your vote really will make a difference.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The *Tundra Times* continues to experience grave financial difficulties, but we have made some progress in streamlining our operations and reducing costs.

We have moved to a smaller office within the Sunshine Plaza, reducing our rent by more than half. We have negotiated a lease for a used telephone system, and we have made almost no long-distance telephone calls.

At the same time, a number of volunteers have offered their time to help us through this difficult period. It is inspiring to see that these dedicated people care enough about the newspaper to offer their services, free of charge.

One area that we are working hard on is our subscription list. We still have much work to do, and we hope our readers will be patient with us as we try to solve this critical problem. After printing the paper on time, this area is our highest priority.

We continue to need volunteer help, and we encourage anyone who is interested to contact us. Areas where we still need help include volunteer assistance in the office, purchasing advertising space, subscribing to the paper and sending in articles and photographs.