

# A true role model

We saw one of our favorite people on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson last week.

Reggie Joule, Eskimo Olympian extraordinaire, advisor to the NANA Inupiaq Ilitqusiak Youth Program, travelled to California to talk a little about his home and to demonstrate the simple games his grandmother had made for him such as the Eskimo Yo-Yo, ice worm and others. He then demonstrated his prowess at some favorite WEIO games such as the one-foot high kick, the Alaskan high kick, greased stick pull and ear pull.

As always, Reggie was informative, amusing in a very natural, wholesome sort of way, and entertaining. He was as usual, very positive and, sitting on that stage in sneakers, black pants and a WEIO T-shirt, he exhibited the sort of inner calm and quiet strength that we have come to expect from him.

After Reggie's performance, Saturday Night Live performer Eddie Murphy, dressed in a space-age grey leather costume came on and spent some time poking fun at the traditional games which Reggie had demonstrated a short time before.

His jokes were the sort of jokes that one would expect from someone who has grown up with televisions and toy stores and a space age society. They poked fun at the games demonstrated and commented on how "bored" people in the Arctic must be.

They were not malicious jokes. Being the gentleman that he is, Reggie might have laughed at the jokes but we found ourselves thinking about them a little more.

The games they joked about were certainly different from those played in New York, New Jersey or wherever Murphy grew up but the skill required to play them is none-the-less for that difference.

We then thought of watching Reggie Joule as he competes in those games at past World Eskimo Olympics. We remembered that he spends as much time counseling other athletes — competitors against him — in how to compete better, as he does in his own competition.

His example is repeated in other young WEIO athletes and that is always — to us — the best part of the Games.

Reggie has repeatedly been lauded for his sportsmanship and rightfully so.

We are proud that Reggie Joule is called upon to be a spokesman for the World Eskimo Olympics, for the people of his region, and in a way for all the Native peoples of Alaska.

We only wish that people watching could respect his achievements for themselves without poking fun and could be more like the person doing the achieving than the man doing the joking.

-L. L.J.