

# ● Our readers write to us

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him anymore?  
cc: Tundra Times

**Carlos Frank**

case

Nenana Native Council  
P.O. Box 322  
Nenana, AK 99760  
February 9, 1979

Alaska State Supreme Court  
Carlos Frank Case

Dear Editor:

Let it be known within the system of justice, within the courtrooms, and among all concerned in the case of Carlos Frank, behind him stands the whole of the Athabascan Indian Nation. We appeal to you, not by the guidelines of law, for let this be the voice of a simple race within, yet apart from society to often over-run, to often silent, and becoming steadily a smaller minority upon their homeland. Words are too cheap for barter, for you are too well educated within the system. The words of our Councils are without strength, and so by the names of our people, let our voice be heard. In the fact that Carlos Frank has become involved in such law procedure is recognized as a threat to the continuance of our cultural inheritance. In this concern there are no laws that shall govern, we shall hunt no matter what time of the year, and take whatever game that we will need, we shall continue to live in our way. We shall continue to make potlatch, in our way!

cc: Tundra Times

*Editor's Note: A letter of support from the Tok Native Association and the Tanana Chiefs Conference resolution below, accompanied this letter along with several pages of signed petitions. The signatures came from places such as Alatna, Allakaket, Arctic Village, Beaver and Chalkyitsik.*

WHEREAS, For the Native Americans in the interior of Alaska, it is religiously imperative that fresh wild game meat be provided for Potlatches to honor friends and family of the deceased member of a tribe; and WHEREAS, Fresh wild game meat is sacredly believed to console the spirit of the deceased in passing from life to another; and WHEREAS, The taking and providing for such foods for Potlatch activities is the traditional and cultural religious practice of the Interior Native Americans in generations pass; and, WHEREAS, Fresh wild game meat is found to be nutritionally balanced for the Native Americans in Interior Alaska; and, WHEREAS, as Native Americans it is a constitutional right to practice freedom of religion in the United States of America, and, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Board of Tanana Chiefs Confer-

ence, Inc. supports any efforts toward having existing State and Federal regulations changed to allow for the taking of Fresh wild GAME MEAT FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES SUCH AS POTLATCHES.

## **Bush motor vehicle licensing**

February 19, 1979  
Tanana, AK 99777

Dear Senator Sackett:

I just read the Tundra Times editorial (2-14-79) on bush motor vehicle licensing.

I think that licensing motor vehicles is wrong if we don't have state maintenance here in Tanana. If the state is going to spend all the money on roads in the urban area then why license trucks or cars in the rural areas when the state is not going to repair our roads?

I wish you would support my views and reconsider the state law.

Sincerely,  
Mae Grant

cc: Tundra Times

## **Alcohol abuse**

February 7, 1979

Honorable Russ Meekins, Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Chairman, House Finance  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mr. Meekins:

The problems of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism in Alaska have been well documented over the past four years in: the Kelso Report, the Kraus Report, the Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee Report, the Public Forum Hearings, the Senate Select Committee Hearings, the three Health Systems Agencies Plans, the Proposed State Health Plan, the Citizens Participation Council, the Criminal Justice Plan, and the Corrections Master Plan.

Those documents reflect the fact that Alcohol Abuse and

Alcoholism are at epidemic levels in Alaska, that the problems visibly and massively impact all Law Enforcement, Judicial and Human Services Systems and that these problems are costing the State far more than it takes in annually from all sources of Revenue from the Sale and Distribution of Beverage Alcohol.

In spite of the size, complexity, visibility and exorbitant costs of these problems, no action has yet been taken on proposals to: Raise the Excise Tax on Beverage Alcohol; Appropriate a small portion of the increase to expanded Training, Prevention, Evaluation and Rehabilitation programs; Strengthen the Alcohol Beverage Control Laws or integrate the Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Those proposals were put forward two years ago, after thorough research. They have been discussed in community groups throughout the state, and considerable agreement reached on them through citizen participation. Extensive public records exist documenting that interested citizens and members of the Human Services, Law Enforcement and Judicial Systems largely agree with those proposals. In the face of such broad agreement, the lack of action on these proposals remains a mystery.

In spite of the fact that this is a "tight budget year" we should point out that nothing has been done to increase taxes on beverage alcohol since 1961. The only revenue increases from the Beverage Alcohol Industry since that time have gone through growth in population, growth in the numbers of retail outlets and growth in per capita consumption. While our revenues from Beverage Alcohol have remained relatively static, the human and economic costs for Alcohol-related Accidental Death and Injury, Suicide, Assault, Homicide, Child Neglect and Abuse, Lost Production, Excess Medical costs, and Alcoholism, have continued to rise.

There has been no budget increase for Prevention, Training, Evaluation or increased rehabilitation programming for the Alcoholism programs funded by

the Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, since 1976. Instead, the budget for that Office and its programs has remained static for three years, except for very minor increases for inflation. The budget for these programs has always been too low. Because of the insufficient budget for these programs, they have been forced to fight for their economic and programmatic lives, in addition to trying to maintain services of reasonable quality in their communities.

It now begins to look as if, far from increasing the effort to Prevent and Treat Alcohol Abuse problems, the Legislature intends to further reduce the effort, in spite of the fact that the effort is essentially at the same level it was three years ago. Such does not seem reasonable to many of us whose responsibility has been to advise policy on these matters for the past several years.

We would like very much for you to afford ourselves and the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse local program managers an opportunity to discuss these matters with you, face to face, during this legislative session, and before your deliberations on these

matters are finalized.

There will be a meeting of the Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism in Juneau, on March 15th, 16th, and 17th, 1979. Most of the local Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program Managers will be in town for the meeting, as will representatives of other concerned organizations from throughout the state.

We would like very much to be able to have an open hearing on these matters, with the leadership of both Legislative Bodies and Chairpersons and other members of both the House and Senate Finance and Health and Social Services Committees on the 16th of March.

The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss your concerns with the quality of the existing effort, the Excise Tax increase, Title 04 revisions, the reorganization bill and the question of increased appropriations. We would like to further request, as a matter of fairness, that we, the local program managers and other interested parties be afforded an opportunity for full discussions of our concerns, without interruption from members of or lobbyists for, the (See OUR READERS, Page 10)

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wholesale or retail licensed beverage industry. Our experience in the past has been that any information we put forward is dwarfed in comparison to the sheer numbers of Industry representatives present.

We do not have, individually or collectively, the economic muscle of the beverage industry. We are however, citizens, voters, and constituents who are vitally interested in these problems. We think we have a right to be heard and further, to expect that our input and recommendations will

be given at least equal weight to that put forward by any economic special interest group.

Your kind consideration and approval of our request would be very deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Reverend Paul N. Jordan  
Chairman  
Governor's Advisory Board on  
Alcoholism  
Lutheran Church of Hope  
Box 4-1930  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509  
cc: Tundra Times