

This new year marks the 25th year of publishing for the *Tundra Times*. As we here at the paper look forward to 1987, we feel very thankful for all the help we have received recently which has allowed us to begin this milestone year.

Although this newspaper has weathered many tough times in its history, there probably have been few threats to our existence more serious than the financial crisis we faced last summer.

We are so grateful we have been able to continue operating these recent months, and there are many people who deserve special thanks in that regard. While the staff has been cut to four full-time employees we have been able to continue to offer our readers a weekly newspaper.

The reason we have been able to do this is due in great part to the many volunteers who continue to work hard here. It's inspiring to see these people put in many hours of their time without pay.

We also have received a great deal of financial assistance from Native corporations, individuals and a number of businesses.

At the same time, we want to take this space to remind everyone — subscribers, advertisers, volunteers and others — that we will continue to need a lot of help.

We hope everyone who has an interest in this paper will try to think of ways to help us, such as buying gift subscriptions or encouraging others to subscribe. We also continue to need regular advertising.

The most exciting thing about the *Tundra Times* is that it operates successfully only when the entire Native community gets behind it. The good thing about this financial crisis is that it has forced us to ask lots of people for help. And by sharing the burden of the responsibility for our success we can truly remain a newspaper that founder Howard Rock would be proud of.

This newspaper serves one purpose, and that is to be a strong voice for the Alaska Native community. Our goal this year will be to publish as much information for and about the Native community as possible, particularly rural Alaska.

One of the key areas where that voice will be heard in 1987 will be the subject of alcoholism. This is a grave threat to the Native community, and to the entire state of Alaska.

We will not shy away from the subject of alcohol abuse. We welcome letters to the editor on this subject, and we hope that Native leaders who have battled this terrible disease will continue to come forward as an example to others.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we also will focus as much attention as we can on Alaska's economy. The state is feeling and will continue to feel the effects of lower oil prices, and many people are directly affected by the downturn in the economy. Thousands of Alaskans have lost their jobs.

Rural villages will be particularly hard hit by the economic downturn, and rural Alaskans will probably continue to pour into Anchorage. The *Tundra Times* will seek to focus attention on their plight, as well as look for solutions to their problems.

The coming year will have many challenges, but we believe the *Tundra Times* as well as the Native community as a whole is up to the task.