

What Towarak didn't do

To the Editor:

While I agree completely with your very favorable article concerning the accomplishments of Sam Towarak while serving as director and the president of Chukchi Community College, I feel you failed to mention a number of things which he did not do which are of equal or greater significance than his accomplishments. Let me explain.

He didn't surround himself with "yes" men. The staff that he recruited and hired over the past two years have only two things in common. They are extremely capable in their field and they really care about Chukchi and the NANA region, its people, its students, the quality of life.

He didn't try to cast a giant shadow. He has always seemed far more concerned about mak-

ing the college work to serve students than in titles and meetings and bureaucracy. His door always seems to be open and his concern for whomever it is that comes to see him, real and genuine.

He didn't roll over and play dead with the Northwest Arctic School District. You may remember that one of the factors which contributed to the continued closure of the college was the power play on the part of a previous NWASD administration to gain control over the college (during a period when many of us questioned the ability of the NWASD to deliver good elementary and secondary educational services, let alone college level work).

Finally, he didn't make himself indispensable to the college. He gathered an outstanding group of professional educators,

explained the mission and purpose of the college, molded them into a team, and then stood back with oil can in hand ready to deal with the squeaky cogs and wheels in the machinery, so to speak.

The best tribute to any leader is not how the organization functions when he is there but how it functions when he is not there. And so while we'll miss Sam very much, the best tribute we can pay him will be in watching Chukchi continue to deliver high quality educational services to the NANA region.

So the best we can wish for Sam as he returns to the Bering Straits region is (pardon the pun from the old movie), Do it Again, Sam!

Sincerely,
Charles M. "Sandy" Huss

Reagan article misleading

To the Editor:

What a surprise, to see an article entitled "Reagan Better than Democrats for Natives" in the March 21 Tundra Times, as if the paper was endorsing this candidate. Surely this is not the case???

The article made it clear, anyway, that it is only according to the chairman of the Reagan-Bush campaign in Alaska that Reagan is better than any Democratic contender. It's no surprise to hear that coming from him.

So many issues affecting Alaska Natives have important long-term effects that are not obvious at first. ANCSA is just one example. This election year, we all need to consider the long term and not-so-obvious effects of policies that the incoming administration will have, and decide which administration, Democratic or Repub-

lican, will best serve our needs in the long run.

Reagan may have speeded up land conveyance or provided a few military jobs for Native Alaskans, but certainly the negative effects of his cuts in social services, and the greater danger we all face because of his destabilizing nuclear weapons buildup, outweigh the shorter term positive effects.

For just one example: in Anchorage in 1980, approximately 20 percent of the Native population fell below the poverty level in terms of household income. This is the largest percentage of any major population group to do so.

And Reagan's actions while in office have served to hurt, not help, the poor. Alaska Natives are a disadvantaged group in their own state, and short term band-aid solutions are not going to help anyone.

Likewise, we are all surrounded by a growing number of lethal weapons that, even if they are not used intentionally, could very well destroy precious life - a LOT of it - through a computer error or mechanical breakdown.

Maybe the most important thing we can do this year, for our own good, is to support those candidates, whether Republican or Democratic, who are working for a nuclear freeze. That means that we first have to register and get out and vote.

Please, Tundra Times, don't title your articles so misleadingly. Reagan is not better for Alaska Natives - he is not good, in the long run, for any of us. Well, at least you put the Reagan article where he, politically, belongs - on the obituary page.

Susan Schomburg