

LETTERS FROM HERE AND THERE

Fairbanks, Alaska
April 6, 1973

Dear Editor:

The Chena Bar is one place where it's at. You will also find it at radio stations, music stores and even in peoples homes. It's a song. A song that is highly negative towards native peoples. The name of the song is, "Squaws Along The Yukon". Here is an example of some of the words . . . She makes her underwear, from hides of Grizzly bear . . . She has the air-corps down, the sourdoughs hang around, cheechakos tryin

to date her night and day. Sounds like a hot chick. And dig the chorus . . . and I can hear her say, "Ooga Ooga Mushka which means that I love you, if you will be my baby I'll Ooga Ooga Mushka you".

This song really bothers me, but what bothers me more is the fact that its been around since 1958. The fact that natives let this continue. I hear the song is a favorite among some of the older white men. I also hear that some natives tap their feet and sing along when it's playing. What a Bummer.

I asked the manager of Chena

Bar if he would remove the song from his juke box. He tried to convince me that I was wrong in disliking the song. We ended up in a heated argument and I walked out furious with intent to remove the song from his bar. But, I have come to realize that just removing the song isn't where it's at. If the natives aren't collectively protesting the song, then maybe natives don't care. And, if I take the song out alone than nothing's changed.

Bob Gregory