

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Wednesdays.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707. Telephone 542-2244.

Entered at the Post Office at Fairbanks, Alaska, as second class matter under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, corresponding secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$ 8.00	6 Months \$ 4.50
Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states)	1 Year \$19.00	6 Months \$10.00

Editorial—

The Discordant Echoes

During these times of extreme importance to Alaska's native people, we are hearing of disturbing behavior involving our leadership who are seeking ways to help resolve the native land claims in Congress. Some of our leaders, especially those from the Arctic Slope Native Association, seem to be using unreasonable tactics in their efforts to affect their demands. We have heard that they are using threats of a political nature in dealing with our congressional delegation.

As a result of these kinds of action of some of our leaders, there is evidence of a breakdown of working relationships between the leadership and the congressional delegation as well as with other members of Congress.

The finesse of diplomacy, it seems, has broken down. Even if this is on a partial level, it would be serious—serious because the native people should be expected to depend on fair and determined efforts by their leaders in their behalf. They have a right to expect a diplomatic but hard try at getting a land settlement with justice. They have the right to expect responsibility. They should not be made to fear manifestations of irresponsibility.

There is still a good nucleus of able leadership working in Washington, D.C. This was demonstrated recently when Laura Bergt arranged a meeting with Vice President Spiro Agnew and the representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

AFN President Donald Wright made an eloquent presentation at that White House meeting and the weight of that presentation might have had far-reaching influence in the administration in favor of the native people. This is the sort and caliber of efforts that should prevail toward the all-important goal of arriving at an equitable and justifiable settlement of the Alaska native land claim.

At Harvard—

Hopes to Enroll Natives

The Harvard Graduate School of Education hopes to obtain scholarship funds for the 1971-72 academic year for post graduate study for Native Americans at the School of Education.

Last June, the Graduate School of Education admitted 11 Native Americans to a 12 month program leading to a masters degree in education. Participants in this program come from a wide variety of backgrounds, representing 11 tribes and 10 states.

While at Harvard, they are taking professional level courses in a variety of areas—administration, guidance, curriculum development and educational planning.

The aim of the program is not to teach these persons more about Native American education, but rather to increase their knowledge of educational theory and techniques.

Due to a general shortage of scholarship money and the intense competition for admission to graduate study, potential applicants are encouraged to explore non-university sources of financial aid and to apply to several graduate schools.

Applicants for the American Indian Program should be at least ¼ Indian, Eskimo or Aleut descent. Those applying to masters degree programs should have a B.A.; to doctoral programs an M.A.; with above average college grade records.

In rare instances, persons with outstanding leadership and job records will be considered even if they do not have a B.A., M.A., the requisite two years teaching, or administrative experience with Native American students or above average grade levels.

Applications are sought from persons who are in (or intend to move into) administrative positions in schools or education-related programs serving Native Americans. Preference will be shown to persons under 40 and to those who have shown exceptional administrative ability or innovativeness.

Alaskan applicants may contact Dr. Niilo E. Koponen/Director: Research Planning and Federal Programs/ Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools/Box 1250, Fairbanks, Alaska or Mr. Robert A. Matthai of the American Indian Program at Harvard.

Letters from Here and There

Letters Welcomed

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter is obviously controversial. We are printing it to generate some dialogue on the matters discussed in it. Any persons having knowledge of the subject raised by Mr. Notti, whether or not in agreement with him as to facts or opinions, is welcome to contribute a letter to the Editor of the Tundra Times.)

Box 488
Aniak, Alaska 99557
March 15, 1971

Mr. Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Editor:

I can remember back—when the Tundra Times was instrumental in bringing about a drastic change in the social status of the "forgotten ones" on St. Paul Island. I am writing this letter to ask help in bringing about a Human Rights investigation concerning the problems here in Aniak.

Although, I am not writing this letter concerning my own problems; (though I have experienced intimidations and coercion by the same people) I know nothing will ever be said by those who are suffering the most.

It appears that some fly-by-night, by the grace of God, has become a self appointed welfare agent and informer to various agencies with the sanction of our local—and completely biased—magistrate, and the area State and BIA Welfare agents.

I can go on and on about his doings and sayings, such as the one which he has stated to many, that he has "to do our thinking" for us because we are too inadequate to do our own. Or where he "takes" children from their parents because they are "branded" unfit by no one but himself—but he must have the welfare aid for any of the children whom he "SAVES."

There have been repeated complaints to the Bethel Welfare offices, about appointing a preacher as welfare agent here in Aniak, to no avail. We have asked for one of our own who is more familiar with the ways of the people.

There are many here who find it tough to adapt to a welfare-state. To be asked to adapt to a Church-Welfare-State is going too far. We ask for an investigation.

Sincerely,
Fred A. Notti

cc: Nora Guinn, Judge
Commissioner: Health & Welfare
BIA Welfare-Juneau
Commissioner: Human Rights-Anchorage

Thanks for TT

513 C Street
Cheney, Washington 99004
March 12, 1971

Dear Editor:

ALASKANS AT EASTERN
WASHINGTON STATE
COLLEGE

First of all, we would like to extend our thanks to you for sending Tundra Times to our college. We enjoy keeping up with the news of good old Alaskan Natives.

We miss our homes and our families but realizing that our disposition is temporary, our in-

centive to finish college is at its apex. We also realize that college education is a factor that is an inadequacy we have had in the past and we, for the Natives of Alaska, are willing and are going to complete college so we can be able to stand stronger beside, if they need us.

We have twenty-six tribes represented here at the college, two tribes from Alaska, the Eskimo and Tlingit. There are eight of us from different areas of Alaska:

Alice Panigeo, Barrow, freshman; Roy Nageak, Barrow, freshman; Fenton Rexford, Barter Island, freshman; Sam Leavitt, Barrow, freshman; Art Demmert, Jr., Kake, freshman; Robert Paulo, Juneau, freshman; Barb Cleveland, Shungnak, sophomore; and Bert Greist, Selawik, sophomore.

If anyone is interested in coming to Eastern and needs information, write to: Indian Education Program, Eastern Washington State College, Cheney, Washington 99004.

We will supply you with the information immediately.

We will write more the next time and we will probably have more news then, knowing the Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Barb and Bert

PS. The boys said that they will answer the girls' letters.

Governor Answers

State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
Juneau
March 10, 1971

Senior Class Students
Saint Mary's High School
Saint Mary's, Alaska 99658

Dear Students:

There is no question in my mind but that the insights and benefits gained from travel experiences such as those afforded graduating seniors in past years is extremely valuable. I wish that every student who has not had an opportunity to do so, could visit the major areas of the State and gain a better understanding of our State's problems and potentials.

Because of my strong belief that our young people should be active participants in the democratic process and in government at all levels, I have thoroughly reviewed this matter with my Department of Education to discover why the project has been discontinued. Essentially, the facts presented to me are as follows:

Project applications for Federal funds available under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act were submitted to the Department of Education for three previous years—1968, 1969, and 1970. The Department staff members who have the responsibility for administering these federal funds agreed that the stated purpose to "expose students to life vocational opportunities as exhibited in a broader American culture outside their immediate environment" was an eligible expenditure under the Federal regulations and guidelines. Therefore, they approved the applications and made the funds available.

During this past summer, however, U.S. Office of Education officials reviewed all Title I programs conducted in prior years, and audited all expenditures. Their tentative ruling holds that the annual field trip did not meet

with the intent of the Title I program and recommended that all funds previously expended for this purpose be refunded to the Federal Government. Under these circumstances, then, the Department of Education has had no choice but to withhold approval.

Short of a direct appropriation by the Legislature, there does not seem to be any other funds available which could be diverted to this purpose. However, it is possible that your school administration and community, through the school board, might find some way of re-aligning priorities to permit this expenditure to be made from the school operating funds that are available. Perhaps it could be included as a specific budget item in future years.

Sincerely,
William A Egan
Governor

Writer Concerned

3-11-71
1603 Cason St.
Lafayette, Indiana

Dear Mr. Rock:

It is disheartening to me that more of Alaska's natives seem to be concerned about the money they are going to receive from the land claims settlement than what the pipeline will do to Alaska. No matter how well designed the pipeline might be, there will still be a road built along the pipeline, and this will open up the interior to commercial development. Maybe the Alaskan natives can share in this development, but of what value is this in the long run is the land is destroyed?

The Arctic Slope Native Association is the only Alaskan native organization at present that believes in the desirability of stopping the pipeline altogether. If ASNA and the environmental organizations can raise enough objections, maybe the pipeline idea will just prove too costly to the oil companies.

There has already been a tremendous amount of environmental destruction here in the lower forty-eight, a great deal of which can be traced to the level of petroleum consumption. It seems to me that we could do without oil from Alaska; we would be much better off without it.

Charles R. Chilver

Help AMU

Marh 17, 1971

Dear Editor:

I am urging you to use your far-reaching influence to help Alaska Methodist University to keep its doors open. We are on the verge of financial collapse. If the Committee Substitute for H.B. 52 passes the House, we at AMU may be allowed to continue our quest for higher education. There are approximately 100 Native students attending now. We urge that native people write their state legislators now and help us. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn J. Kalkins
215 Loussac Manor
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

P.S. Write and address it: Pouch 5, Juneau, Alaska 99801

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