

letters

Dog racing

Anchorage, Alaska
February 23, 1979

Dear Editor:

I lost interest in the dog race the second day, after George Attla took the lead. I was 18 years old when the serum came in to Nulato. My brother was crippled, and 12 years older than me. He had the job to take the serum to Kaltag from Nulato 36 miles. He had a store pool hall and he just got married and it was night time, pitch dark, I ask him to go but my mother didn't want me to go because its superstitious for a person to be out at night. At 18 you cannot go in the Pool Hall and play pool you had to be 21. He had the best dog team in Nulato, so he picked out Tom Patsy to take the serum to Kaltag. We timed him over the telephone. Less 3 hours and 20 minutes for 36 miles. Thats the best time made on the Yukon, 12 miles an hour. I won my first race at Nulato, 1926, 27, I worked all summer for Alaska Railroad at standard halfway between Fairbanks and Nenana. I did that for four years. 1928, 1929, 1930, I won the Endicott Race only 2 times. You had to win 3 times for the Trophy, but I didn't go back. Signal Corps donated the trophy by Endicott. Them days people like to gamble on the races. One morning the cook wanted to bet with me. He got me so mad so I bet him. 20 dollars then he kept after me. So I got mad and I said, say John (Crooked Neck John) his name, I said, If I lost the race will you feed me till I leave. He said I'd feed you for two weeks free. So I bet \$100 dollars. I had 3 dollars left. He turned around and bet \$1500.00 on me. I beat the next team by 10 minutes in the 17 1/2 mile. That was around the Farmers Loop Road. I used 6 dogs. I had my dogs two miles from town in a House Barn. Someone went down and turn my best dog loose and I had some 6 fish in there. He had diarrhea all the way that 58 miles race to Chataneka thats how I just came in second. That the same happen the first year. The one that beat me was one of three brothers from McGrath. They sold everything. They had horses and wagons. How he beat me they pulled him up 4 miles with the car, Fox to Scrafford and he summit from cheer, 6 1/2 miles. There was 6 teams, I passed four teams, the last one was George Nollner from Galena. He told me when I pass him I lost the race. He said, they pulled mutchles up with a car. I didn't believe him till I seen the tracks up the Hill where and how they pulled him. I passed all the 4 teams, and came in 2nd. We went to the Marshall Lynn Smith about it. I also went to him and told him, and told him, I'll bet you one thousand dollars and have the race over again. He said no. Tibbits gave me the money to bet. So I ask him I wanted to fight with him, I swore at him at the Pool Room and he just smiled in the Pioneer Hotel. Thats where I stayed.

I came here for the Tundra Times banquet. I went there and John Sackett was on the mike, then I got mad again. Then when Ted Stevens got on the

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mike, then I got mad again, worse. I was the one should be on the mike. I'm old I went to six Grade, but I'm Local had more experience. I want to get cash money for My land before I die. I went to the hospital Christmas day. Lots of people don't like Hospital and Jail. The Nurses scrub my back every day and treat me like a king. So I like to to go the hospital again. One morning three doctors came up to see me, ask me if I was depressed I said no. I told the nurses, its no use to live anymore, since I quit drinking. I can't dance no more, lost all my Gal Friends and so on and so forth.

OLD MAN
FRED STICKMAN, SR.
From NULATO, ALASKA

War on children?

February 21, 1979

Vern Shimanek
Service Unit Director
ANHS Hospital, Bethel
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Dear Mr. Shimanek:

We as parents of fifteen children on the PHS Compound desire further clarification as to the memorandum, dated 2-21-79 subject: Children disrupting hospital services, instructing all hospital staff members to call the city police to remove all unescorted children to the city jail. As you know, presently, our children await the bus in the hospital waiting room on week day mornings which places them in the unescorted category for this waiting period. Are these children to be left out in the sub zero temperatures in our small unheated shelter?

Should our children be turned out into the cold? Our family illness rate will increase and add to the present work

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load the hospital staff will have to contend with.

We as parents know the responsibility you carry for the operation of the service unit and appreciate your efforts in publishing these memo's to the staff. We do suggest you make a general announcement to the public over the radio station KYUK and also a similar announcement thru the Tundra Drums newspaper since the Bethel Police department will be participating in this new policy. It would not be in the best interest of the service unit for some children from Bethel town to be carted off and placed in the slammer for trespassing, since there will be other parents involved. It could be a horrible happening for all participants concerned.

As for the memorandum from Dr. Ray Shields dated 2-15-79 subject: "Children on Hospital Premises". The recent installation of said pin ball machines in the employees lounge are for the purpose of raising money for the Hospital Employee Association's treasury. This arrangement was agreed to between Mr. Nelson Brown and the association. As a result of these machines being installed several members of the Clinical staff, who did not join the organization or even bother to attend one of several stated meetings have voiced dissenting opinions ranging from criticism of the candy offered to the soda pop in the vending machines.

(See OUR READERS, Page 12)

Letters to the Editor are invited and should be addressed to 639 'I' Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. The Tundra Times reserves the right to edit letters which are excessively long, and to edit or omit letters which may be considered libelous.

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Are the adults at the hospital unable to decide for themselves how and on what they desire to spend their hard earned money? Pratermatism perhaps?

We appreciate your backing the fledgling employees association in their attempts to revive the proverbial dead horse. Since the above mentioned memo has in no uncertain terms declared War on the children of all parents PHS employees and Bethelites alike, we find this war on children extremely inappropriate, especially since the United Nations have declared this, "The Year of the Children" and to mask this action under the guise of patient care is in extremely bad taste.

During our meeting on the evening of 2-21-79 at 6:00 p.m.

the situation was discussed and in this discussion members of our group recalled seeing two doctors careening down the entire length of the hallway extending from north wing waiting area to the administration area on a unicycle of all things, also a nurse wheeling around in the Outpatient treatment area on a unicycle, practicing for the Bethel state fair perhaps. Were these people practicing good safety? Did these antics contribute to sound patient care? These antics are expected of children, were these people threatened with the chain gang, ala cool hand luke?

We have also taught our child-

ren to seek out policemen for help, protection and guidance, yet here they are set up as Ogres whose sole job is to haul off children from the hospital premises. This is a great injustice to our Bethel Police Department being put in this role. Can you imagine what is in our childrens minds when they see a policeman now? A strong desire to run, to hide? Are we encouraging juvenile delinquency by starting these innocent minds off believing they are master criminals, Attila the run type of Barbarians?

If this tour of duty was to be offered only to married, childless couples, the jobs

should have been advertised as such. The moral of our families at this point is under the proverbial cow chip, we hope this letter will help in arriving at an end of this War on the Children in the name of patient care.

Perhaps a meeting with the compound children after duty hours? Hopefully, we will arrive at an amiable solution for all concerned.

Respectfully,
Beverly Jefferson
Charles Jefferson
E.A. Golh Jr.
Willie Gibson
George Kee

Human rights

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
Health Authority
Doyon Building
1st & Hall Streets
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
January 31, 1979

Open letter to the Alaska Native people:

Last June, I wrote my opinion on the Indian Self-Determination, Education and Assistance Act, P.L. 93-638 and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, P.L. 94-437. These two laws are important to the very existence of the American Indian and Alaska Native people.

It is up to the American Indian and Alaska Natives and our supporters to see that Public Law 93-638 is adhered to by all Federal and State agencies. If we, the Native people, are to be successful in self-determination, then we must motivate and encourage our youth on to higher education.

At this time, I would like to say thank you to our non-Native supporters. Without their help, self-determination will be more difficult to achieve. The difficulty we encounter in the process of achieving self-determination makes it all more important. We, Native people must unite our resources to confront these problem areas created by the bureaucratic system of our government.

Parents of every child, young adults, and the older Native people from both the villages and city, it is up to us to see that our children receive the education they desire, under P.L. 94-437, Title One.

We must continuously agitate the federal and state agencies that are responsible for providing assistance to the Alaska Natives to establish self-determination.

The Congress of the United States makes the laws and the President signs them into law, when it is advantageous to them. They do not hesitate to make amendments to many clauses they make as part of the law.

To demonstrate their point of view: When P.L. 93-638 came out, Indian Health Service was having a workshop of orientation on the package. I said to an employee of Indian Health Service, "this is like tying a rope around the neck of the Alaska Native and telling him to cross the river of success, when he gets halfway across, They, the government, pull the rope tight, here stands the poor Native in the middle, we can't go forward or backward." All because of the federal government leaving out the most important ingredient, "money." Money to develop college-trained minds to implement the Indian Self-Determination Act, also the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Sure, these laws are good and the intent is most wonderful. Everything is in the law that is needed for the implementation. But, before it gets off the ground, the President, through his advisors, pulls the financial part of the whole program out, to give it to some foreign country for their Human Rights program. With the other hand he slaps down the hand of the American Indians. Who's human rights are left hanging in the air?

Sincerely,
Tanana Chiefs Health Authority
Stephen A. Matthew
Community Liaison Officer