



Letters to the Editor

Bush forgets about Indians

To the editor:

I just thought I would drop you people a note. First of all, I didn't like what I read about us Indians — about the Alaska Native Medical Center cutting back.

What's happening to us out in the village? It's hard on people that depend on travel to the hospital.

My guess is that our president forgot

about us Indians. I see he's on TV over in a different country, trying to give billions to poor people over in Poland. He forgot about us good, old American Indians. We Americans are the ones paying the tax.

Thank you,
F. Simon Sr.
Huslia

Writer says Swetzof should read Alaska Constitution

To the editor:

Concerning an opinion by Paul Swetzof/Blank in the *Tundra Times* July 10:

Mr. Swetzof wrote quite a letter — a letter I am in total disagreement with. First, Mr. Swetzof, you talk as if you represent the whole Kenaitze Tribe. Let me correct you. You speak for yourself only.

I, as a Dena'ina (Kenaitze) member, never asked you to speak on my behalf, nor has my family given you permission.

You also advise the group of people you mentioned in your opinion to stay home. Must I remind you that you were not a Kenaitze until a few years ago? And your home is on the Pribilof Islands.

As far as your opinion goes, on a whole I would not want you representing me, as you are telling me I have no right to subsist to feed my family. I have no right to exercise my freedom of speech. That I should lie down and not exist, and if I learn of any important information to share, I should keep my mouth shut. And let someone

in a higher position run my life.

I also feel, Mr. Swetzof or Blank, that you think it's OK for four women to be put in jail for wanting to feed their families. You do not have much regard for human rights.

I think it's you who should go back to reading the Constitution of the State, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the 9th Circuit Court decision and the Madison case. Then after that our Basic Human Rights.

I am one of the subsistence women. I am not a follower. I walk beside

these women. We each have respect for one another and our abilities we share in our endeavors to subsistence fish.

We all have that choice to exercise our Human Rights. I, as have the other subsistence women, have chosen to assert our inherent rights to subsistence fish. We thank our families and friends for their support and encouragement.

Bernadine Atchison
Soldotna

Chris McClain was unsung hero of Operation Santa Claus

To the editor:

Sometimes the size of someone's contributions to worthy causes are either not obvious or distinguishable from other people's efforts.

The recent passing of Chris McClain caused many of us to reflect on the wide range of her interests and distinguished contributions to her community and Alaska.

During each of the past three seasons I've worked with "Operation Santa Claus" and have had the pleasure of also working with Chris. Her ability to incite interest and excitement went far in renewing and reaffirming interest in this annual gift gathering effort on behalf of children and young people in rural Alaska.

Chris was one of our "unsung heroes" who contributed best by rally-

ing and encouraging others through her stories and discussions about "Operation Santa Claus." She never hesitated to deliver timely articles and letters to the editors of our local papers. She was an important spark plug.

She was also generous with her candor and insight on ways we could improve community-wide involvement. She was an extraordinary person with

such a strong love of life.

When we begin gathering the gifts for this year's "Operation Santa Claus" we will surely miss one of our greatest supporters and friends. We will remember her for a long time.

Sincerely,
Lt. Michael L. Haller
Alaska National Guard
Anchorage