

Tundra Times

Shaktoolik Housing Fund

LETTERS



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Anchorage-Based Conservationists Back Natives on Sea Mammals

This Anchorage-based group of Alaskan conservationists strongly supports amendments to the proposed legislation which would allow the Native Peoples of Alaska to continue their taking of sea mammals for subsistence and handicrafts. Our support is based on two major considerations: (1) economic necessity; (2) cultural respect and admiration.

As to the matter of economic necessity, all of the relevant factors have been thoroughly expressed and documented by others, and we believe the case to be an irrefutable one: the taking of sea mammals is absolutely essential to the economic well-being of many Alaskan natives, especially the Eskimos and Aleuts. We do not believe the numbers of animals to be taken would seriously affect the population levels of the sea mammals concerned.

In regard to the merits — we would also say the necessity — of preserving the native cultures which still depend to a significant degree on subsistence hunting and handicrafts, we believe the case to be an equally compelling one, perhaps more so. The protection of what remains of the traditional culture of these people is essential not only to them but to all Americans, and indeed to all peoples of the world.

This is so because we are all benefitted by the continued existence of cultures different from our own; we are all enriched by the presence of different lifestyles — by the successful reality of alternative ways-of-life which may provide standards by which to measure our own. More hopefully, such alternatives may help to show us where we might find ways to improve our own culture in those areas where we have failed. The preservation, then, of Alaskan native culture is as important to us as it is to them.

If it seems a bit strange for conservationists to be so strongly in support of such a measure, the answer is that it is not strange at all but, rather, entirely consistent with what is central to the conservationist concern: DIVERSITY. This plea for the preservation of cultures based on subsistence hunting and handicrafts is based on the same fundamental concern underlying our plea for wilderness preservation, for parks, for open-space, etc.: on DIVERSITY. The animal species that is man has need of alternatives in human cultures as in physical environments — in either case he is the less healthy without them. Indeed it would be self-destructive to have a world without such diversity of cultures and physical environments.

In the present case it would be more than tragic to allow the cultures of the Alaskan natives to pass from the scene, not only because they incorporate ways different from our own, but because their ways-of-life still have much to tell us about how to re-learn to live in harmony with our natural environments — a desperate need throughout our world.

For all these reasons we are in support of the amendments to allow continued taking by Alaskan natives of sea mammals for subsistence and handicrafts.

And we can only hope that those who are united on behalf of this cause of the Alaskan native will also apply the same concern to the inevitable impact on Native culture by the current mania for economic development that pervades our state administration and business interests, including elements within the native population itself. If the culture of the Alaskan native is worth preserving — as it most certainly is — it is worth preserving against all forces, not matter their source. — CHARLES KONIGSBERG

Foundation to Fund Earthquake Study

The National Science Foundation has included more than \$8 million in the budget for fiscal 1973 to study earthquakes, including economic and social aspects as well as methods for predicting timing and magnitude.

In making the announcement Senator Ted Stevens said the studies, some of which are already underway, can have a significant effect on the future of Alaska and Alaskans.

A \$20,000 award will be immediately available to support the work of the Committee on the Alaskan earthquake. Other federal funding announced by Stevens include:

Studies of ground motions in local earthquakes.

Studies to develop a reliable method of forecasting time, location and magnitude of earthquakes by studying the tremors that precede the main shock.

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved a preliminary loan for planning of 20 low-cost family housing units at Shak-

toolik, according to Senator Stevens.

Recipient of this \$15,000 preliminary loan is the Alaska State Housing Authority.

The Metis Society of Saskatchewan
200 - 1935 Scarth Street
Regina, Saskatchewan

Dear Sir:

Would you please enter this in your next edition of your paper.

"Back to Batoche" is a yearly native gathering of Native people from all of North America. Last year's event had in excess of 6,000 people. At that time there was much concern over the fact that not all our brothers and sisters were invited.

Therefore, at this time we would like to invite you to "Back to Batoche" 1972. Batoche being the last battleground or our forefathers who fought so bravely at that time. The dates of this event are as follows:

(1) There is going to be a "Back to Batoche."

(2) "Back to Batoche" dates are as follows:

- a. July 18 - 19 Annual meeting and Metis Society business.
- b. July 20 - 21 - 22 Batoche festivities.
- c. July 23 Finalize festivities and break camp.

Batoche is directly between Saskatoon and Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, Canada. Although, we cannot make any guarantees we are hoping to be able to provide food rations for anyone who attends.

The majority of the festivities consist of Native games and most important, this will serve as an opportunity for yourselves and others of this continent to get together and exchange ideas.

Yours truly,

Bruce Flamont
Co-ordinator
"Back to Batoche"

Nulato, Alaska
May 26, 1972

Mr. Howard Rock
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Friend:

I had no time to see you before I left Eielson. I was too anxious to get here to my spring camp "Happy Dough." I'm sure enjoying it. So send the Tundra Times to Nulato, Alaska. Thank you.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C. 20242

Tribal Operations

Howard Rock, Editor
Tundra Times
510 Second Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Rock:

We have followed with interest your coverage of the activities involving implementation of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act, especially the enrollment process. Your articles have been clear, informative, and most important of all, accurate.

Publicity of this caliber is most helpful to us in completing the enrollment and other phases of the Act. Thank you for excellent coverage in the Tundra Times.

Sincerely yours,

Sandy Mae Nabbs
Acting Deputy Commissioner

Your Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

Your birthday today: You are relieved of old burdens, given new responsibilities in a changing world. All depends on how you bring together resources and skills. There is no time to waste this year or next. Today's natives demonstrating mind over matter, are versatile and agreeable.

Aries [March 21-April 19]: Your community shows its shortages. Serious consideration in legal matters, participation in neighborhood affairs is advocated.

Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Use your intuition and common sense rather than the suggestions of influential people. Short-term agreements are enough for the time being.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: You may be quite volatile—realize others who see things differently may be the same way. Being fair and objective might be difficult, but is helpful.

Cancer [June 21-July 22]: You begin to prevail, gaining ground in conflicts important to you. Protect your health and well being. Watch where you are going.

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: Friends and older members of your family cause some concern. Reflect on what you can offer, how your life is going, what can be done to improve matters.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: You are on your own all day. Proceed boldly but carefully where you are sure you are right. Stay out of situations you can't handle.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: Tales and plans are all around you. Just getting your full quota of routine done is an achievement. Older people require special consideration.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: You will be rewarded for your extra caution and self-restraint. Normal actions will be changed to fit circumstances temporarily.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: Endless discussions are likely, most of them relating to misunderstandings or discrepancies. With patience you can reach agreements.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Health holds top priority for changes; plan it into your schedule. So many people need your advice you forget your own worries.

Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: The moment of truth in financial accounting arrives. Check your figures, make new plans in accord with the facts and your limitations.

Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: Important negotiations can rest while you tend to your personal life. Seek serenity in meditation, get through the day in peace.

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In Memoriam— KESHORNA

How cold the sword about you,
Keshorna,
Glinting frosts, swirling drifts
of snow,
Driven by unfeeling wind!

Then a brief respite of a single
moon, whence
The great sun traverses the sky
around,
Defying the accustomed horizon,
nourishing therefore,
A cluster of forget-me-nots that
burst into a soulstirring blue
upon your simple Arctic grave.

How slight and frail you were,
But you faced with humble
courage
The unkind elements, that were
your lot,
And, thus, emerged triumphant
With a generous share of love
for your fellow man.

I was blessed with deeper love
You bestowed upon me,
Keshorna,
Love, divinely tender,

Love that seemed caressed with
a touch of heaven.

Recollections fail me now.
You uttered no words of
endearment,
But I remember well a
gentle hug.
Adoring light within your eyes
that told me of love more
than ten thousands words.

How cold the sword about you,
Keshorna,
Glinting frosts, swirling drifts
of snow,
Driven by unfeeling wind!

However cold your resting place,
My heart within me whispers,
"Your rest is blessed in quiet
peace.
Because you gave so well your
love
To your fellow man and me,
A son to you, Keshorna."

—HOWARD ROCK