



by **Steve Kakaruk**

Tundra Times

Nome is preparing for the **Heart Throb Biathalon**. Participants battle the elements of an Alaskan winter to run the outdoor 5 kilometers proceeded by a 1 kilometer indoor swim. In the past temperatures have dipped to 17 degrees below zero with a wind chill of -40 degrees.

**Dog team races** continue every weekend along with cross-country ski meets, snowmobile races and broom ball on Sundays. **Reindeer roundup** has been under way for about a week now, and Elders begin to look forward to the **Elders Conference** scheduled for **February 24-28**. The kick off of the **Iditarod Fair** begins **February 21**. The **Bering Sea Island Club** will host a **Valentine's Day Dance** for all ages.

**Kake** began the **South East Festival** last Wednesday. 500 people have showed up for the regional event. As many as 20 Southeast communities participate in the festivities. The Mayor, Clerk and City Council met with **Governor Sheffield** in Juneau. The trip covered topics that effect **Kake**. A new Health Facility has provided services for residents and a Nurse Practitioner, **Judy Dant**, has been hired to provide health care to the residents.

**Larsen Bay's** newly formed **Sisterhood** is raising money for the completion of a church. **Father Davis** appointed **Lucy Davis** to take care of the Sisterhood. \$200.00 was earned by cake walks by the Sisterhood and donated to the new church.

In school, students are preparing to compete at all levels in **Battle of the Books**. Students read books and are quizzed on their contents. Students compete in each community, then can proceed to the regional and state levels. Students compete by grade.

A **potlatch** is hosted for all competitors in **wrestling**. Teams from **Kodiak Jr. High**, **Ouzinkie**, and **Larsen Bay** will meet for a grappling competition over the weekend.

Funds were raised during **Russian Christmas** during an "operoke" dinner. It was a huge success and **Larsen Bay** would at this time like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all village organizers and participants.

The "**Natural High**" student organization has been meeting regularly and a **Valentine's Day Dance** is scheduled for next Friday for the entire community.

A member of the student body has built wooden trash bins to collect aluminum pop cans. The bins will be placed in front of the store and city hall. The recycling of cans serves a twofold purpose: to clean up unsightly cans in the community and as a fundraising tool.

Students also are preparing for the summer greenhouse. There students can grow plants and learn about horticulture.

"Beating Around the Bush" is a new column which we hope to be able to offer on a weekly basis. You can help us out! Is there anything of interest going on in your community? Write to: **Bush Beat**, c/o **Tundra Times**, P.O. Box 104480, Anch., AK. 99510. Or call **Steve @274-2512**. —Ed.