

# Rondy magic

Everyone seemed to have been left with positive feelings from Anchorage's mid-winter holiday break, fondly known as Rondy Days. We should be able to endure the next few weeks of messy break-up, and usual icy roads, with good cheer and patience.

From an Alaska Native viewpoint Rondy 84 seemed special somehow as friends and relatives gathered from near and far to participate with great joy and abandon in the festivities.

Even the sadness of seeing George Attla, 10-time Rondy Dog Sled Race champion, come in 13th, was lessened a bit when Charlie Champaine of Salcha gave George credit for being a good teacher and gentleman, and the official Rondy parade was surpassed by the parade of beautiful people from the villages. We all admired the handsome Athabascan guys in beaver hats and the beautiful women from the Arctic in wolverine kuspuks were spectacular but so were the stunning Yup'ik ladies in squirrel skin parkas.

In the evening hours, folks from Kaktovik, McGrath and points in-between joined friends from Copper, the 'Chain' and Southeastern to exchange stories, tell jokes on each other, and to laugh at ourselves.

Rondy 84 brought a sense of unity which we sorely need right now. Let's hope that sense of unity continues to grow and carries over to the North American in Fairbanks next month.