

What others say...

Jones, possible basketball prodigy

To the editor:

I am writing this letter for the purpose of calling to your attention the talents of a young high school student from Kaktovik. This young man's name is Edward Jones.

Ed is the son of Suzie Akootchook and the grandson of Isaac Akootchook. He is one of the best basketball players I have ever had the pleasure of coaching.

He is a 16-year old junior at Kaveolook School and has a list of accomplishments that are unbelievable.

Last year, 1986-87 as a sophomore, Ed averaged 27 points per game, had 114 steals, 115 assists and pulled down 180 rebounds. He was also a member of the All District First Team.

At Washington State University summer camp in Pullman Wash., Ed was a member of the All Camp Defensive First Team, which won the Camp Mr. Offense award. He averaged 38 points per game for 15 games there and was selected as the Most Inspirational Player in the camp by the WSU coaching staff.

The 1987-88 basketball season is just about half over and Ed has some amazing statistics. He is averaging 48

points per game after 13 games. He has scored between 60 and 29 points per game in all of the games, and he has 114 assists, 100 steals and 194 rebounds.

This year, Ed had one game against Tri-Valley High School at Healy, Alaska in which he scored 60 points. That is the second highest in the history of Alaska state high school basketball.

Ed received word today that an article about him and his accomplishments was recently printed in the national newspaper *USA Today*. He received a letter of recognition and will also receive a beautiful plaque to commemorate his first appearance in a national newspaper.

I sincerely hope that you give some time and space in your newspaper to the amazing talent of this young Native from Kaktovik, Alaska.

Ed is 5 feet 11 inches tall and is being looked at very seriously by some major universities as a basketball prospect.

Sincerely,
Gary Lawrence
Kaveolook Ram Coach
Kaktovik

Shareholders should voice opinions

To Native shareholders:

Upon calling Sen. Ted Stevens on Dec. 8, I learned that the 1991 Senate version of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Amendments went to the U.S. House informally, and if passed by the House *without any opposition*, will go back to the Senate for either approval/disapproval.

It does not appear that it will go to a Joint House/Senate Conference Committee for evaluation or to be analyzed. The 100th Congress will/should adjourn about Dec. 15. If the 1991 amendments are left in limbo, then they would be taken up again in January 1988 when Congress reconvenes.

Our Native shareholders need to exercise their rights to individual expression in the form of letters or wires to Congress simply for the reason that their voices will be forever silent if they don't.

We cannot complain that we haven't had the chance, because we have had

almost 20 years time to think about it.

It is interesting to note that the Senate Energy Committee on Natural Resources was the only committee that analyzed the 1991 amendments. This was at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives and regional corporations.

The Select Committee on Indian Affairs was not asked to review these amendments although they have the expert Indian attorneys to study these amendments. If you write them, perhaps they could intervene.

If the registered settlement trust fund goes through, the board of trustees will be the regional board of directors.

If you as a shareholder with a lot at stake feel strongly about the 1991 amendments, please, I urge you to send your messages to Congress as no opposition means we approve of them.

Sincerely,
Harriet Beale
Anchorage

Quyana for newspaper subscription

To the editor:

I received my first issue of the *Tundra Times* around the third week of October and was very surprised that my corporation, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, had paid for my subscription. Quyana ASRC! Quvaisuk tuza! I'm very happy to receive the subscription. I've been meaning to subscribe but really

couldn't afford to.

Being a displaced Alaskan down here, I've really been through some pretty hard times being homesick for Nome and Barrow.

My latest disaster happened recently. I wasn't a bit fazed when the stock market plunged, but when I ran out of seal oil, my world collapsed around me.

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Letters

to the

Editor



What others say

• ASRC buys subscriptions

(Continued from Page Two)

I moaned and groaned for two days after I had turned my jar of seal oil upside down to get the last drops. Each of my four children ate and shared our precious drops of seal oil from Northern Alaska.

I kept saying, "My link to my culture is gone." Then, my brother William Franklin Brown from Barrow, Alaska called and said my muktuk and quaq was coming. What a life saver!

I want to thank Jemewouks of Elim,

my mom Orella Brown of Nome, my friend Leora Kenick of Nome, my cousin Mary Hanke of Bettles, my sister Sharon Korwan and step-mom Mabel Brown of Anchorage, my sister Donna Erickson of Unalakleet, Reese Fosdick of Fairbanks and Kevin Locke for thinking of us and sending nigipiaq when we were desperately in need of it.

Now, Qu yana Billy for surprising us! Paised be God for such kind folks.

Qu yana,
Mary Jane Litchard
Roanoke, Va.

Herrmann asks for conference funds

To Gov. Steve Cowper:

I will be working with my colleagues in the Legislature to support continued funding for the Legislative Teleconference Centers (LTCs) in the Fiscal Year 1989 budget. I believe this is an item important to rural Alaska and worthy of continued funding. This program reaches many constituents and costs the state very little in dollars.

The LTCs can help you, too, in getting your word out to the villages in rural Alaska, and I would ask for your support in funding the LTCs. Should the Legislature decide to increase funding for these remote sites the endorsement or support from your office to keep the funds in the budget would be requested.

For your information, I have included some background information on the services provided by the LTCs. The Legislative Teleconference Network operates 10 Legislative Teleconference Centers throughout Alaska. Two of these sites, one in Homer and one in Wrangell, have been funded. However, the remaining eight sites, six of which are in my district, were not.

It has been proposed to reduce the remaining sites to volunteer status. The LTCs operate to provide teleconferencing on an as needed basis. They are not open unless a teleconference has been scheduled and a public hearing announced. The people working at these sites are paid on an as needed basis and only for the hours worked. The cost to continue the six LTCs in my district, for example, would be only \$15,600.

For the service we get from these people in getting the word out on legislation and keeping the people informed, it is well worth the few thousand dollars to continue funding their part-time salaries.

The proposal to make all LTCs volunteer sites will require that we rely on the goodwill of local people to come in and work for free, something

I don't think you would expect your employees to do.

I believe it is not realistic to expect continued and dependable service from volunteer sites. Furthermore, many meetings are called on short notice and oftentimes people are just not available to drop by to work without advance notice.

Because of the seasonal nature of the economy in rural Alaska, people may leave for days at a time to hunt, fish or trap. To reduce the LTCs to volunteer sites would be a disservice to rural Alaskans and would also severely hamper the communications network we have worked so hard to develop. Alaska's teleconference network has been the focus of national attention and is something we have prided ourselves on in the past.

There have been several instances this year when we could not get people on line at teleconferences because volunteers were not available. In many cases, it is beneficial to have participants from rural Alaska involved in the hearing process. We talk about having a democratic system, one of the best examples is when we can have rural Alaskans involved in our state decision making process at the flip of a switch.

The LTCs provide an efficient and economical means for rural Alaskans to become involved in state government. They keep people in touch with some of the issues in Juneau that may very well have an impact on their lifestyles, without the expense of traveling to Juneau. In some cases, a round-trip air fare in my district can exceed \$1,000. This is perhaps the only chance many people in rural Alaska have to participate in the legislative process.

Your support for continued funding of the LTCs will be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Rep. Adelheid Herrmann
Naknek