

'half-baked alaska' Lampoons Everything in Alaska

"half-baked alaska" is a light-hearted book that lampoons about everything in Alaska from the politicians in Juneau to the Eskimos in Kotzebue, salmon fishing, the oil industry, dog-sled racing, and of course, the weather.

Written by a young cartoonist, Mark Wheeler of Ketchikan,

this lively book makes no pretense at being an "accurate" picture of Alaska. The author gives his sources as reliable, unreliable, and drunk.

Nevertheless, it's obvious this young man has spent time in Alaska and knows the state well enough to aim his good-natured wit at its weakest spots. The

humor, however, is gentle, and never oversteps the bounds of good taste.

Wheeler is at his best when his humor takes form in the one-line cartoon. The art work is light and casual, but thoroughly professional. Many of the cartoons previously appeared in the newspaper, "The New

Alaskan."

While the book would make an amusing gift for outsiders, newcomers, and lower 48'ers, it will probably be most enjoyed by winter-tested Alaskans who can appreciate the full satire.