

Letters to the Tundra Times

Start the New Year out right!

Greetings:

For a Xmas holiday season and a New Year to all your staff.

To make an advanced resolution: Please find enclosed \$20 for yearly subscription.

Thank you,
Morris & Samantha Oviok
& Family
Pt. Hope, Alaska

Citizen critical of Barrow school

Dear Editor,

Recently, Barrow citizens were shown a demonstration of "Texas Democracy"...The newly elected P.T.A. president was "recalled" at the next meeting following his election by 72 teachers, administrators, employees, and/or their spouses. Apparently, the administration "encouraged" their employees to "recall" P.T.A. President John Danner because they wanted a president more supportive of the following accomplishments during the past 7 years as a public school after assuming "local control" from the BIA in 1974:

1. Lowest student achievement in the nation, possibly;
2. Highest drop-out rate in the country;
3. Most G.E.D. Certificates awarded, proportionately;
4. Highest paid teachers and administrators "in the world";
5. Lowest student-teacher ratio;
6. Most money spent per student—over \$4,000 per year per student or \$18½ million for 1,000 students;

7. Largest percentage of prospective Barrow High School students voluntarily attending schools elsewhere—25 of approximately 100 students are currently attending Mr. Edgecumbe, Unalakleet, Anchorage, and "Lower 48" schools.

8. Proportionately, the smallest number of "graduates" of the last 6 years attending college, technical schools, or other post-secondary programs—the writer is aware of 3 or 4 in 6 years;

9. "Most texans employed in any one school district outside the state of Texas."

Coincidentally, the three (3) school board incumbents were, soundly, defeated in the recent election by Emily Wilson, Ilene McLean, and Jana Voss Panigeo.

(Name withheld by request.)

Reluctant to become assimilated

Dear Editor,

I have never realized this before, but the Alaska Land Claims Settlement Act is used as a means to indoctrinate and conform the Alaskan Natives to the modes of Western Civilization.

It is also frightening when you think of the land that your parents and great grand parents lived on for the past thousand years can be taken away from you without the consent of Congress, the President, or the People.

People that had a hand in the settling of the Alaska Land Claims Act shouldn't be to blame. As Willie Hensley said, "The only thing they fought with was broken bows and broken lances on alien soil with a very few troops."

Then who is to blame are we as Indians or Natives of Alaska going to be swallowed up in the main stream of todays "Civilized America?"

In Spirit,
Harry John

Poor T.V. programs

Dear Editor:

Life in the bush is still great and good, but there is a growing problem. T.V. For it makes our lives more rich, we cannot exclude the television, for we are all brothers. Yet it seems as though poor programming, late broadcasting, and little home supervision may be a serious threat to bush life and culture, even the learning of old ways.

What can be done to improve the quality of programs, or cut down on the violent ones? The Lower 48 seems caught in the T.V. trap. How can we work together to help all Alaskans avoid some of this?

We'd like to help! Thank you Quyanna.

Joseph A. Davis and
Martha R. Davis
Koliganek, AK 99576

Standing by in disbelief

The people lived and lived for thousands of years on land that they loved, and now they are shedding tears, standing by and watching in disbelief, as men with greed, plunder and ruin our subsistence. Men with greed have lots of worries now, pollution, oil spills, bad water, bad food, drugs, alcoholism, diseases, crime that we never worried about. They have created lots of things that will destroy us, and then they tell us we do not know how to live. I think if they would listen, they might learn something from us, for the people lived and loved for a lot longer on this land and did not create problems that might destroy us.

Wayne R. Hill

Life begins at 40

Dear Readers and Staff:

I want to apologize for my personal progress braggers — I made a survey of villages progress — personally.

I realize not everyone hit big time life style as I has visualized people to be since Native land claims.

I am not rich, but well-to-do foodwise. I want to wish you a very personal feeling of happiness in the Holiday Season and throughout the coming year, 1981.

My world came crashing down on me after my survey. But — regardless we do well or not, people never change, human-wise. Happiness is where it counts. Happiness is priceless as are people. I love ya —

I got me an Eskimo (full) girl, a love I cherish for life to come. We are already talking marriage. At 40 and 46 we act like teenagers. They say life starts at 40! And it does!

I had definite needs to understand my own people. And I'm starting by picking a full Eskimo girl for life mate.

Love,
Joey Mekiana