

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Editorial—

Commendation for Lowell Thomas, Jr.

We were pleased and heartened by the stand declared by State Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. by publicly opposing Gov. Keith Miller's position on the native land claims.

Sen. Thomas' stated opinion on what the state's position on the claims should be at this crucial period would spell vindication, we think, on the state's role on the land solution in Alaska and which could set well in the minds of great many people in the state today and those in the future. We say vindication because of the hard line position the governor has taken to date against the native claims.

It is indeed difficult to understand why the servant of the state, Gov. Keith Miller, has taken the position he has. It seems to smack the flavor on his part of serving special interests instead of the people of Alaska as a whole. Such men as Sen. Thomas and others might have sensed this possibility and have begun to speak out because the direction Miller is leading his state might be a dangerous one for Alaska and its people.

It is most imperative that the state administration takes a more realistic position on one of the most crucial issues Alaska has faced. Gov. Miller should take a considered hard look at the situation. To heed what Sen. Lowell Thomas, Jr. has said can well mean salvation for the people of Alaska. We also hope that other men in important positions will join Thomas so the Alaskan public can fall in behind them and force the powers that be to take a more realistic position on the land claims. The Congress would then have a firmer base from which to spring a strong legislation to solve the native land claims in Alaska. And time is of the essence.

Editorial—

Salvation for Wolf Coming at Last?

The Metro Goldwyn Mayer documentary film, "The Wolf Men," recently shown throughout the Lower 48 and more recently in Alaska, may turn out to be the vehicle that will be the salvation of the wolf in Alaska.

The animal has been the target of hate, or something evil, for centuries probably due to the nursery rhyme, "Red Riding Hood." At least some of it can perhaps be attributed to it. What nature had intended for the animal to do was all but forgotten—the gleaning of the infirm among animals it preys upon, thereby keeping herds in pretty healthy condition. The best bred the best under the system, or nearly so.

The wolf has been under great pressure for centuries. It may not be pretty the way it goes after its prey, but nature put it there. We are most inclined to go along with Mother Nature.

UA Native Students Find Lower 48 Indian Collegians Face Similar Schooling Obstacles

By CHARLENE YACOFF

Indians looking over other Indians? That's exactly what five of us had a chance to do on a trip to the Lower 48 last month.

I was one of five University of Alaska students who, with our advisor, Robert Egan, visited four universities in the Lower 48 who have or are in the process of developing programs to graduate more Indian students from their schools. Our mission was to look over their programs to gather ideas to start a similar program at the University of Alaska. And ideas we got!

Our group included Helen Atkinson, senior from Metlakatla; Liz Charles, sophomore from Bethel; Dorothy Jordan, freshman from Tanana; Sam Towarak, sophomore from Unalakleet, and myself, Charlene Yacoff, senior from White Mountain.

The Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage was our first stop, where Sam and Liz had an opportunity to tell the convention our purposes for going on the tour. From there we proceeded to the University of Montana and Eastern Montana College in Montana, Fort Lewis College in Colorado and Brigham Young University in Utah.

The trip was a real eyeopener! Like many native students attending the University of Alaska, the Indian student outside has many obstacles to face and overcome if he is to finish his college education. While a couple of the schools are making an all-out effort to keep their Indian students in school until graduation, the other two seem unaware that there are several large reservations nearby.

At the University of Montana, with a student body of 6,000, only 40 Indian students are enrolled. Eastern Montana College has 115 Indian students enrolled compared to a total enrollment of 3,000.

This is a very small percentage of Indian students as there are seven reservations in Montana totalling an estimated population of 25,000. Ten per cent of the student enrollment at Fort Lewis College are Indians, representing 35 tribes—27 of these students are from Alaska.

Brigham Young University has approximately 300 Indian students in their student enrollment of 25,000.

The most revealing aspect of the trip was our contact with the students. We had many opportunities to exchange ideas in class, club meetings and informal get-togethers to which we were invited.

At Montana, we were surprised to discover that the tribes

Poem—

Off the Shelf

Willie Smitus went to school
He knew not what he was,
After many years a fool
He knows what he does.

He was taught the laws of life
He knows the Golden Rule,
His teacher knowing all the strife
Lead Willie as a tool.

The question that I ask myself
How can good work be done?
Take Willie Smitus off the shelf,
Teach our Native Son!

—CHRIS G. ANDERSON & NELS A. ANDERSON, JR.

still feud among themselves. Historically, their disagreements date way back. Even as we talked with the students from the various tribes, their tribal disagreements were expressed.

The students themselves admitted that whenever the tribes try to work together their attempts are often beset by discord. Too, according to the students, the old tribal leaders have a strong hold at the reservations so that when a young person returns to his reservation steaming with new ideas, he is often rejected.

We visited one class at Eastern Montana College—speech. Like

many students at the University of Alaska, the students in this class were afraid to speak up in class. Though most of the class was Indian, the students were still shy. According to the instructor, they are experimenting to see if such a class would help the student out of his reticence.

Fort Lewis College has a very successful inter-cultural program in operation especially geared to Indian, Spanish-American and foreign student.

The Indian students welcomed us with fried bread and Indian tea. The center itself gave me a sense of belonging—the walls

(Continued on Page 4)

Letters to the Editor

576 Camino Del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico
November 23, 1969

To the editor:

Who listens to the voices of the Indians?

In the hope that the schools and the students might hear those voices, if they had an anthology devoted entirely to historical and contemporary American Indian writers, Dr. Shirley Hill Witt (a member of the Mohawk tribe) and I (author of The New Indians) are collecting the writings of Indians for publication in an anthology to be used in the high schools and colleges.

The anthology will be made up of the wide rainbow of Indian thought and opinion. Past and present, poetry and politics, will be included, to give what we hope will be some small idea of the breadth and beauty of American Indian expression.

Our project has been undertaken with a grant from the Metropolitan Applied Research Council, Dr. Kenneth Clark, director. Harper & Row has expressed interest in publishing the book next year.

In the belief that you will be interested in the idea of the anthology, I write you to ask: are there any texts, either historical or contemporary, which you might suggest to us, which we might overlook? So much of the literature of the American Indian has been hidden and suppressed, that we are seeking the help of everyone, Indian scholars and people on the reservations, to make the anthology as forceful, representative and truthful as we can.

In peace,
Stan Steiner

Pinon Boarding School
Pinon, Arizona
November 21, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

The TUNDRA TIMES is ably fulfilling a great need which has existed for a long, long time in Alaska—Native owned and controlled instrument to champion the cause of Native Alaskans. You are doing a great job, in keeping our Indian people and the general public well informed of the perplexing problems facing all Native Alaskans. It also states well the aspirations of our Indian people. Keep up the good work!

I am very proud of our articulate and able young men who have come to the fore front, trying to work out suitable solu-

tions to the increasing and complex land problems. I am especially proud of the able leadership being provided by Mr. Emil Notti, Mr. John Borbridge of the AFN, Mr. Willie Hensley, and the old "pro" Mr. Eben Hopson, Executive Director-Arctic Slope Native Association for their untiring efforts towards an equitable land settlement. Collective land ownership, adjacent to each Native village is vitally essential for future economic and social development of the Indian people. It is my hope, that some day the efforts of these fine Indian leaders will prove a great turning point for a brighter future for all Native Alaskans. They will need our confidence and full support.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph M. Kahklen

4904 Rothman Place
Monona, Wisconsin
Nov. 27, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

My name is Lisa Jean Hume. I would like a pen pal and I was wondering if you could find one for me.

I have alot of hobbies and here they are—playing instruments, pets, cooking. We are studying Alaska and we are writing letters to Alaska. I am 9 years old and I go to Winnequah school and my teachers name is Mrs. Okay. I'm in fourth grade. I have two sisters and I'm the oldest in our family.

Sincerely,
Lisa Jean Hume

4904 Rothman Place
Monona, Wisconsin
Nov. 27, 1969

Dear Mr. Rock:

My name is Julie Ann Hume. I would like a pen pal and I was wondering if you could find one for me. My hobbies are: making things, collecting things, playing instruments. Like, accordion, organ, flute, bandgo. And other things. I go to Maywood School. And I am in thurd Grade. And I am eight years old.

Sincerely,
Julie Ann Hume

WANTED: Chilkat Blankets; totem poles; ivory pipes and carvings; argillite carvings; pot-latch bowls; fish hooks; spoons and all N.W. items 50 years of age or older. Send photo or sketch and prices to: Albert T. Miller, 2235 West Live Oak Drive, Los Angeles, California 90028.