

Letters from here and there

Encourage them

Ms. Marilyn J. Richards
Editor, Publisher
Tundra Times
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Marilyn,

We read the good news in the *Sitka Sentinel*. We heard the good news ASTP Channel Two Alaska News: Tom, Jr. and his sister Marilyn are setting up to resurrect the *Tundra Times*.

Here is fifty bucks to continue my subscription.

I went to high school with your father. Some at Eklutna called us Mutt and Jeff. Who was Mutt and who was Jeff you, you ask? I can't remember. 'Twas so long ago. We knew each other by other names, not Thomas and Irving.

It so happened we went on to be a part of Alaskan Aviation, he to run them flying machines, me to run them radios from the ground.

It will be good to again receive TT, our paper. Good Luck from Mabel and me. She said, "You must encourage them."

Sincerely,
Irving Ungadruk
Sitka

Long press run

Mr. Tom Richards,
Chairman
Board of Directors
The Tundra Times
P.O. Box 992247
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Dear Mr. Richards:

Congratulations on your decision to reopen *The Tundra Times*.

I read the Associated Press article on the reopening in the *Anchorage Daily News* and am pleased to learn that another perspective and voice will be available to Alaska's newspaper readers.

Again, my congratulations on your decision to reopen *The Tundra Times* and my best wishes for a long and successful press run.

Sincerely,

Jay Kertulla
State Senator

Into the 21st

Dear Editor:

As I flip through the pages of this edition of the *Tundra Times* I hope all readers feel

the excitement and anticipation that I do. Welcome back *Tundra Times*! We missed you. The statewide Native voice that Howard Rock and others launched many years ago -- the voice that united the Native community on many issues and always the tireless advocate, will once again be heard.

As we approach the 21st century, Alaska Natives more than ever are facing the proverbial crossroads of change. Important policy decisions lie ahead that will require cooperation and unity from many people. Approaching this crossroad also brings to light the stark reality of the importance of Native culture and how it must continue to be emphasized. Otherwise, our heritage so rich in tradition and history, may risk losing its roots forever.

The *Tundra Times* has played an important role in carrying this message to the farther most corners of our vast state. Contributors who want their words to echo in the Aleutian Islands, the Yukon River, Prince of Wales Island, St. Lawrence Island, Cook Inlet, Kodiak Island, Norton Sound, among the many outlying regions in our state, once again have this opportunity.

The *Tundra Times* enables the many voices of Alaska's aboriginal peoples to speak in a singular fashion; to speak loudly and articulately on many issues and concerns. The *Tundra Times* offers a weekly summit where Alaska Natives can speak to their neighbors and relatives hundreds and thousands of miles away.

As we leave the 20th century and progress toward the 21st century, Native affairs will continue to evolve and become more prominent. Unfailingly, the *Tundra Times* will continue to be viewed as a cornerstone for the advancement of Alaska Native people.

Sincerely,
Rep. George Jacko

Nuclear pollution

Senator Frank Murkowski
709 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

I am communicating with you today regarding heartfelt concerns by the people of our state on the very serious issue of radiation poisoning and nuclear pollution.

We hope that you, Senator Stevens, Representative Young and Governor Hickel can work together to address responsibly the problems existing at the Point Hope/Cape Thompson nuclear waste dump.

We believe that now is the time for files on these issues to be open for access by U.S. citizens. Regarding the secret nuclear waste dump at Cape Thompson and any other activities or "experiments" of its type in Alaska, we would like to be able to see all relevant documents pertaining to the site or sites, including letters, studies, memos, notes and trip reports.

We would like you, as our Senator, to file requests for this information with the appropriate federal agencies including: the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Energy (DOE), Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Interior and the National Archives. We also request that you use your position as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee to push for rapid declassification of these requested materials presently excluded from public scrutiny by being "classified."

We further ask that you, as our Senator, stand behind and assist any public FOIA or information request on these subjects. We would like you to ask responsible agencies what they propose for ongoing radiation monitoring for Cape Thompson/Point Hope area residents and their environment.

As was done for the community of Fernald,
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More Letters

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Ohio, we think that a parallel study of the radioactive contamination problems and a plan of action should be conducted by a group of independent researchers,

scientists and toxicologists not under the control of the agencies of the federal government. We request that the funding be allocated by the federal government and given to the people of the

North Slope Borough to choose their own consultants.

The outlaw behavior, which many perceive as "environmental racism," by federal agencies who cre-

ated this problem prevents the affected people from having much confidence in their word or work. This is why we need an independent study.

I would like to submit a

few questions about the Amchitka Island nuclear weapons test site and respectfully request that you ask them of DOE. The following questions are raised by conclusions published in

More Letters

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"The Environment of Amchitka Island, Alaska" prepared for the Division of Military Application Energy Research and Development Administration in 1977 (see enclosed document).

1. What is the status of the total Amchitka test site, including the marine environment, with regard to characterization of radioactive contaminants?

2. What is DOE's long-term plan for stabilization and cleanup? Please include milestones.

3. What is the cost estimate for stabilization and cleanup?

Finally, we request your assistance in asking the following questions of DOE and DOD regarding the nuclear reactor which operated for ten years at Fort Greely, Alaska:

1. What do the Seattle offices know about the Fort Greely reactor?

2. Does it have a license?

3. What is the operating history?

4. What kind of wastes were generated and what was done with them?

5. What kind of environmental characterization has been done for the reactor? For example, has Jarvis Creek been measured? What about the area ground water measurements, pipe scale measurements and surrounding area measurements?

6. Does Fort Greely fall under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program?

7. How much reactor effluent was disposed of into the environment?

8. Have any efforts been made to characterize contamination from effluent discharges?

9. What is the current status of the reactor?

10. What levels of radioactivity remain in the reactor?

11. Please supply a characterization of the existing isotope contamination in the reactor.

12. Will the isotopes

outlast the concrete buildings?

13. Have the Tetlin Village residents been monitored for radiation exposure from the Fort Greely reactor discharges?

In conclusion, we want to take the opportunity to tell you how much we respect and appreciate the important work that you have done to help prevent the proposed plutonium flights over Alaska. We also would like to thank you for your recent vote in support of the proposed nuclear weapons testing moratorium. This test ban is definitely a step in the right direction and is long overdue.

We are confident that you share our outrage and concern over the deplorable and reprehensible behavior conducted against our peoples by the very agencies mandated to protect our "national security" during our federal government's forty-odd year history of nuclear secrecy. We feel confident in calling upon you to help us answer questions of public and environ-

mental health and safety for our state and look forward to your response.
Sincerely,

Dennis Specht
Director Pacific Alaska
Networking