

## *We must all fight alcohol*

We are saddened to read in recent news reports that an autopsy showed high levels of alcohol and drugs in the body of a man who drove down the wrong side of Egan Drive in Juneau last month and collided with a car driven by Ivan P. Gamble.

The Associated Press reported that Christian Peterson, 42, had a blood-alcohol level of .181 percent, above the legal limit of .10. The autopsy also showed that Peterson had a high level of cocaine in his blood at the time of the accident, according to the AP.

Ivan Gamble was one of the Native community's most promising young leaders. That he was killed so unexpectedly and at a time in his life when he was just getting started on many of his goals is a tragedy beyond words. All of us will continue to suffer from this loss for a long time to come.

Alcohol is killing Alaskans. So are drugs. These are problems we cannot avoid. We must continue to look into our own lives and see what each one of us can do in the fight against these devastating problems.

There are probably very few among us who have not seen an intoxicated acquaintance, friend or even loved one climb into a car. Often, nothing happens. The intoxicated person makes it home — one way or another.

But they often don't. And the havoc they leave in their wake takes a frightening toll.

We've got to stop looking the other way at alcohol. If we are to learn anything at all from Ivan's death, it is that each and every one of us must carry on this battle.

### **JUDSON L. BROWN'S BOOK**

We're pleased to print an excerpt from a book being written by Judson L. Brown, who is originally from Haines. He has spent much time in recent years gathering oral history from many of the Tlingits and Haidas from throughout Southeast.

We feel this is a very moving account and we're proud to offer it to our readers in the *Tundra Times*. We hope we will be able to offer further installments in the coming months.

We are also proud to announce that Judson Brown will be the emcee for our 25th anniversary *Tundra Times* banquet. Details for this banquet are still being decided, but anyone who wants to attend should contact Mary Lekanof, our business manager and banquet coordinator, as soon as possible.

You can contact her at 274-2512 or write to us at Box 104480, Anchorage 99510-4480. Tickets are \$50 each. A table of 10 is \$500.