

# Is the harpoon mightier than the sword

Dear Editor:

I find your editorial (A Whaling Challenge) in the November 2, 1977 issue of the Tundra Times in very poor taste. It is self-evident that the shoes you stepped into are much too large apparently causing your disorientation. Or could this be due to your over-indulgence in what you accuse the Regional Corporation Presidents of doing (cocktail hours).

A poison pen is not mightier than the sword. Your call for unity among Alaskan Natives after using snide adjectives to describe our revered leaders stinks. I suggest you put the pen down until you learn how to use it.

Your misuse of the Pen may well have written the epitaph of the great traditional culture of our friends on the arctic coast. Therefore I recommend you join Jeffrey under his rock (he should have found one by now) but first inscribe it with "A Whaling Challenge."

Sincerely,  
William P. Johnson  
Dillingham

## Cheap whaling shots?

Dear Editor:

I read with considerable disappointment your references to me and members of the AFN Board of Directors in your November 2 editorial.

In the interest of unity and because I can't believe you really were serious in making what can only be termed cheap shots, I will not respond to the really saddening references you make to AFN, myself, and individual board members.

I would like, however, to refresh your memory regarding AFN's involvement in efforts to convince the federal government to object to the IWC resolution banning the taking of bowhead whales. First, it was in a meeting in my office on the bowhead whale crisis that I suggested to you that an editorial in the Tundra Times inviting Assistant Secretary of State Patsy Mink to come to Alaska personally to meet with Eskimo leaders might be a good idea. Second, I personally urged Governor Hammond to send senior members of his staff to the August 31 Barrow meeting. Third, you will recall that when AFN was notified of the August 31 meeting in Barrow, I immediately called you to inform you that AFN had at a much earlier time scheduled a Board of Directors meeting for August 31 and that it was not possible to reschedule the AFN meeting on

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# **shots . . .**

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such short notice. I informed you that I would immediately send a telegram to each member corporation of AFN urging that each send a representative to the Barrow meeting. The telegram was sent, and as I recall, most AFN corporations did have a representative at the Barrow meeting. Fourth, at its July 25 meeting of the AFN Board of Directors, the Board unanimously adopted a strongly worded resolution urging the federal government to object to the IWC resolution and to ignore the resolution as it might apply to Alaska Eskimo taking of bow-head whales. A copy of the AFN resolution is enclosed.

In response to your challenge to engage in civil disobedience by coming to Point Hope for the spring whale hunt should no satisfactory resolution of the