

# Violence to Native prisoners 'Outside'

To the Editor:

During the third week of August, an Alaskan Native was assaulted at the Lompoc Federal Penitentiary. He sustained injuries that need medical attention outside of the institution, at a nearby airforce base.

Since the incident, he has been confined in a segregated detention unit, (the hole) isolated from the inmate population. Presumably waiting for transfer to another federal facility with a similar environment.

Be that as it may. Alaskan State prisoners transferred outside of the state to federal facilities are not normally aware of the extent of unforeseen violence. Alaskan Natives from rural areas must accept violence to the events of everyday life, without any choice.

In the issue of Tundra Times dated July 20, 1983, he authored a poem called Northern Tales. The poem expressed the wonders of the northern life and hopes of having the northern life to remain unchanged.

The question that idles in mind is whether each state prisoner transferred to federal facilities has his life subject to be endangered. In accordance to the proposed settlement agreement of the class suit Cleary v. Beirne, any state prisoner whose life is endangered would be returned to state facilities, that is, until the state prisoner can provide the necessary support to be granted transfer. The irony of the situation remains in the fact that the day before the incident, correctional officers and supervisors conducted a thorough cell search of each individual throughout the institution.

To be assured, a brief investigation has been conducted and concluded. Yet, without any doubt, a questionable "if" remains.

Sincerely,  
Michael Shewfelt  
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