

**"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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## Boarding Home Rural Students

By DIANNE ANDERSON  
Thirty eager faces turn toward Robert Lintott, 25, each morning. Lintott is an English teacher at Dimond High School but he is much more to these particular high school aged youngsters.

Lintott teaches them English, true. He also teaches them social studies and how to get

along in an urban environment. He talks about dictionaries and he talks about application forms and the Alaska Medical Center. He also talks about native land claims, government, and the role of the citizen.

Lintott is one of six such teachers in the Anchorage Borough School District who are working with new-to-the-city native students in a two-hour-a-day Core program. All of the students are participants in the boarding home program.

Core is not a new concept: taking several subject matters such as English, history, geography and current affairs and combining them into one course.

But this class is new in that it was especially developed for the native youngsters coming to the city with few or inadequate communications skills.

Most of the youngsters, although all of high school age, read at about fourth or fifth grade level.

"This in no way reflects on their ability, drive, potential or intelligence," Lintott says.

But lack of skill does affect their progress in other areas. Much of the problem can be attributed to their competency with the English language.

The youngsters are also very shy and withdrawn in the world at large. Anchorage and the large student body at Dimond High are sometimes overwhelming.

By way of background the state of Alaska began its boarding home program some five years ago in answer to an ever present educational problem in Alaska: lack of secondary school facilities in the bush. Alaska had traditionally sent its high school aged native children Outside to Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools.

Under the recent program, some youngsters can elect to stay in Alaska by coming to

one of the more urban areas, living with foster families, and attending an urban high school.

A number of cities and towns participate in the program but the vast majority of youngsters come to Anchorage. Of this year's 980 boarding students, Anchorage has 337 and Fairbanks has 186.

Not all of them will succeed in their new life.

It was this lack of probable success that particularly troubled Lintott last year when he first became acquainted with a few of the students.

Not to be defeated in his attempts to teach, the young, fourth year teacher began interviewing other teachers at random about their experience with boarding home kids in their classes. He found that he was not alone.

"The hard-core silence can be a bit disconcerting to any teacher," he commented while talking about the students' reserve.

Lintott then talked to the state's boarding home coordinators. He stopped by the police department. One Saturday night, note pad in hand, the teacher explored Anchorage's "Native Strip," the string of bars along several blocks of Fourth Avenue.

The section serves as a meeting place for many persons, including natives newly-arrived to the city looking for friends and relatives who came before them. Lintott met a few of his students.

It was evident that something was wrong. "We brought them into a large school and a large town, something they aren't used to. Then we said, 'sink or swim.'"

"We hadn't made any overt effort to provide for their success, and therefore we were contributing to their failure," the teacher said.

Lintott made the same statement (Continued on Page 6)

## Letters from Here and There

October 26, 1970

Mr. Jack Anderson  
1612 "K" Street, N.W.  
Suite 906  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Jack:

I want to thank you personally for taking the time to keynote this year's Tundra Times banquet in Fairbanks, and especially for drawing attention in your column to the important but difficult work Howard Rock is performing on behalf of the Alaska Natives.

I am strongly committed to the goals which Howard Rock is striving to obtain and I am delighted when he receives the recognition and support of someone as notable as yourself.

Your public stand in his behalf has provided him with a tangible boost, I am sure, and I applaud your efforts.

You've done a real fine thing, Jack. I just wanted you to know that it has not gone on unnoticed, and unappreciated.

Sincerely,  
Mike Gravel

Patrick Pietnikoff  
Student:  
1400 N.E. 41st  
University of Washington  
Schmitz Hall  
Seattle, Washington 98105

## Aleut Raps New York's 'Friends of Animals'

University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington 98105  
October 23, 1970

Dear Editor:

Because of the continuing attack by the Friends of Animals, Inc. directed to our only industry on the Pribilof Islands, I would like for the people of Alaska and elsewhere to know of our unique problem.

Friends of Animals, Inc. is dedicated to stopping the harvest of Fur Seals, which for many generations of Aleuts, has been the only means of support. The harvesting is done by the Aleuts in accord with conservation practices devised by the Federal Government and prevents the wasteful death of countless number of seals from disease, malnutrition, and overpopulation.

We of the Pribilof Islands feel that Friends of Animals, Inc. is putting information into minds of people which is far from being objective and accurate. Just recently on the Rowan and Martin comedy series, they had successfully encouraged Rowan and Martin to give a report on our activities. The report given by Rowan and Martin was very incorrect and distasteful. This goes to show that Friends of Animals, Inc. can get inaccurate information into the minds of people who have no knowledge of our operation. They are successful with even the most controversial T.V. figures, and get them to report to the nation, information which is far from being the truth. What bothers me and a great many individuals, is that just what exactly does Friends of Animals, Inc. think our nation of intelligent people are? Why do they not report accurate information and information that is objective? It seems possible that they feel our minds cannot tackle objective and accurate information. This, certainly is not saying too much for the people across the nation.

Those who come to the Pribilof's with a fairly open mind are generally satisfied that the seals are dispatched humanely. The operation is so quick and efficient that it elicits surprising little reaction from the tourists who visit the islands. However, representatives from the Friends of Animals, Inc. come up to the islands to satisfy their egocentric tendencies, in that they come for more evidence to substantiate their already established opposition. They also come as individuals who are looking and

observing an operation very narrow minded. There simply is no objective reasoning in their presentations. Our operation is wide open, and nothing is hidden from the people.

I personally feel that Friends of Animals, Inc. is a destructive organization, especially when it comes to our only operation which we are dependant on. They come to the islands and spend a couple of weeks, then proclaim themselves experts. The organization has not made one constructive suggestion on why the sealing industry should be halted. All they have said is that it should not continue, and have even gone so far as to suggest the removal of all the residents to the mainland. Just who do they think they are by suggesting such an outrageous thing as this? Now I would like to suggest that we of sound mind remove them from New York and their homes and put them somewhere so that they could do something honest and constructive.

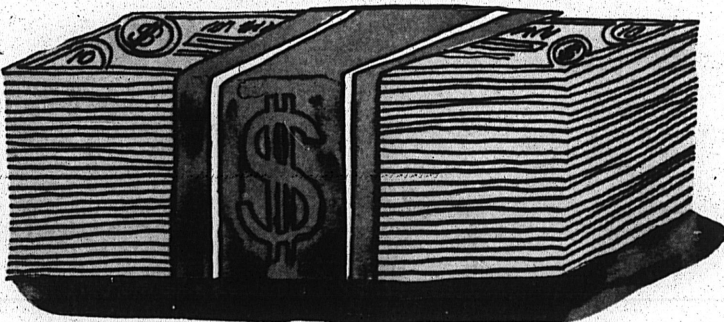
Alice Herrington, President of Friends of Animals, Inc. has expressed horror after viewing the operation. She sends a professional cameraman and a director of films to support her campaign to end our program. It's no wonder she expresses horror, for I believe after viewing skillfully edited films, so that all one sees is a bloody mess, I don't blame her. I express horror too everytime I see one of her films. After all, skillful editing of films can easily make any operation appear far worse and even brutal. Another conservationist, however, Margaret Stockton, who represents Cleveland Amory, and his Fund for Animals, also witnessed the operation and appeared satisfied there was no brutality. At least she is open minded and can view an operation such as ours with objectivity. She in this particular case, bases her judgement like many others on tests for new techniques for killing seals. All test results up to date indicate nothing yet that would warrant a change from the present method.

With what I have written in mind, I would like the support of all Alaskans and individuals from other areas to help us keep our only industry which means the survival of the largest Aleut community in the world. Our operation I can honestly and with objectivity say is far more humane than some of the operations carried on in Miss Herrington's home state.

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