

# Balance education for culture

To The Editor:

It is about a month and a half until high school students all over rural and urban Alaska start going back to school. It is also a time for elections of local Advisory Boards, the District School Boards, and other committees on State and Regional levels. For administering the "educational and cultural needs" of our future generations.

Although there is a lot of controversy today about the quality of education in public schools and how they are operated, my opinion is that the school curriculum should be based on the individual needs of our communities. I'm not saying we should do away with general

educational requirements such as English, science, mathematics, P.E., or other subjects necessary for graduation, but rather, supplement those requirements with subjects that are career oriented.

In the past two years we have seen construction of schools all over rural Alaska. Most of the Advisory School Boards in those communities have limited organizational abilities and therefore have not considered many options open for them in administering their jobs effectively to serve the needs of their communities.

Never before in rural Alaska has there been employment opportunities open to young people today in business, public administration, law enforcement and other professional and tech-

nical fields.

The passage of ANCSA opened fields in Land Management, Business Admin. and Management, and corporate management to name a few, for future generations to come. To be successful in today's business environment the village corporations or any other businesses need people with technical and administrative skills.

The situation in rural Alaska is unique. It is not like urbanities where everything is established. The school curriculum should be balanced so that students will maintain their cultural identity and still offer courses necessary to further their education to succeed in today's world.

Paul D. Mark  
Quinhagak

# Village wary of compromise

To The Editor:

It brings me great displeasure when I read in the papers that our Native leaders, and Politicians are contemplating to implement a compromise on the subsistence issue.

We, the Tyonek People have done without Subsistence King Salmon Fishing for close to 20 years, and in 1980 was the first time, we got to fish them, as a result of our Law Suit, against the State.

The same year we filed our suit, the sports fisherman were fishing the rivers and also the year before, by playing politics the sports fisherman were a preference over us, the rivers they used are inaccessible to us, the nearest river of which we could fish King's are closed to King Salmon Fishing. Now who is being treated unfairly?

If there was a conflict of interest in the Legislature, Rep. Ken Fanning, and Rep. Ramona Barnes, of the Alaska State Legislature, would surely have a

conflict of interest, as Mr. Fanning is a king salmon guide, and Ramona Barnes's husband is also a king salmon guide.

These people are playing politics with our lives. How many times have Native Americans paid for their greed. I'll bet you my last dollar, if the laws are changed, you will see fly-in fishing trips sprout up all over Alaska.

I have stated Tyonek's position, we do not want to settle for any type of compromise, because if we start talking compromise the resources, and our life style will no doubt disappear, we are being politically over run.

If you read your history, they have done the same thing with politics, to the Indians in the south. These people are like a disease, they always want, want, they will never stop.

I hope I'm not around to watch, when there is nothing left to get, and watch all the pollution kill all the plants, and all the water get poisoned, and no one can drink it.

Alaska is the last frontier in North America, and it's being conquered today, all of us Native people must stick together, and save our beautiful home land.

Donald Standifer, President  
Tyonek Native Village

*Editor's Note: Mr. Standifer appeared before the Alaska Federation of Natives Land Claims Committee which discussed subsistence this week and was assured that in any compromise, the interests of the Tyonek village would be totally protected.*

Letters to the Editor are welcome — you may send them to The Editor, Tundra Times, 639 "I" Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. We request that you keep letters at 250 words or less, out of consideration to other writers. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or omit letters for questions of libel or slander or other legal liability.