

"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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## Other voices— Eskimo Indian Olympics

Approximately three weeks from today, Natives from all over Alaska will converge on Fairbanks to participate in the World Eskimo Indian Olympics.

The Olympics are to be held at the Patty Gymnasium on the University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks on July 29, 30, 31, at 6 pm daily.

There will be mukluk eating contest, one and two foot high kick, knuckle hop, ear weight, drop the bomb, greased pole walking, Indian and Eskimo dancing competition both from Alaska and the lower '48, baby contest, fish cutting, seal skinning, Native sewing, and the queen contest.

The Olympics, which began in 1961 and has been held each year since then. Years ago it was held outdoors but now it has moved in doors which is better for both contestants and spectators.

This year the Olympics will be named the "Howard Rock Memorial Olympics" in honor of Howard Rock, former editor and publisher of the Tundra Times.

A Howard Rock memorial trophy has been established and will be given to the outstanding athlete at the Olympics based on competition spirit and sportsmanship. This way it is felt that Howard shall always be at the Olympics as in the earlier years, not in body, but at least in spirit and name.

All those who are considering entering and competing in the Olympics are urged to do so and as space is limited at the U of A. Contact the Olympics committee c/o the Tundra Times as soon as possible.

All villages, Native organizations, or Regional corporations who are going to, or contemplating on submitting a representative to compete in the queen contest do so immediately as the queens must be in Fairbanks before the 20th of July to be tutored on what is to be expected of them.

The days are fleeting and before we know it, July 29 will be upon us. If there are any questions on events contact Tundra Times or the Chamber of Commerce. Any one wishing to help, W.E.I.O. meetings are held at Careage North on Wednesday at 7:30. The dates are July 7, 14, 21, and you can contact the chairman, John Heffle or the co-chairman George Bele, c/o the Tundra Times.

Tom Richards Jr. and Alfred Grant are to M.C. the festivities this year. Senators Mike Gravel and Ted Stevens have been invited as well as Representative Don Young.

Hopefully, with the bi-centennial year our Olympics will be a huge success in attendance but what will really be accomplished this year will only depend on a hard working committee that donates its valuable time to organize and follow through with its work on the Olympics.

Advance tickets will be on sale at the Tundra Times, Chamber of Commerce and at other places to be announced later. Don't forget the Olympic dates, July 29, 30, 31, 1976. Hope to see you there.

John Heffle, Chairman W.E.I.O. Committee

## Letters from Here and There

### Pin signed Howard Weyahok

June 21, 1976

Tundra Times  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Gentlemen:

While in Juneau on a short visit while cruising Alaska aboard the "Sun Princess" recently, I queried Mrs. Ethel Montgomery of Alaska Native Arts and Crafts concerning a Scrimshaw pin that had been the property of my mother.

I had erroneously believed that the pin must have been handed down by my grandfather who had been a sea captain, however, I now know that it must have been purchased by my brother who spent five years with the Coast Artillery near Sitka during World War II and is now deceased.

The pin is signed on the back "Howard Weyahok." Mrs. Montgomery informed us that this was "Howard Rock," who passed away recently of cancer, after a very distinguished career.

She said that the Tundra Times ran an article on his life a few weeks before. She mentioned that he was the owner of the Tundra Times, the only Eskimo paper published in Alaska, and that we should write for the article.

I shall cherish the pin because it was a gift from my brother to my mother. Knowing the background of the man who made the scrimshaw should be very interesting and exciting. Please send a copy of the paper containing the article and advise me of any change.

In deep appreciation,  
Mrs. Ralph W. Ferrier  
1098 Huntingdon Drive  
San Jose, California 95129

### Concerning alcohol and Indian medicine

Mr. Art Tahl  
Box B40988  
Reprea, California 95671

Dear Mr. Tahl:

Thank you so much for taking your time to write. I was surprised to get an answer so quickly. Believe it or not, I first read the letter from Tundra Times before I received your letter in the mail.

It's good to know that you have formed a native involvement group there. I would love to have a copy of the constitution, bylaws and the introductory letter of the NATIVE TRIBES AWARENESS MEETING, and share it with my group.

I'm also glad that you have gone through school and getting educated, even if it meant going through it in prison. I guess we all learn things the hard way, usually when we get older and realize how education is really important.

Our ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVE YOUTH COUNCIL held our first meeting here in Anchorage, Alaska on the 10th and 11th of this month.

I personally felt our first meeting went by too fast, we hope to schedule another meeting in August. We have passed a motion that we (the Executive Board Members) send each member copies of all our communication.

So with my reply to your letter, yours will be mailed out along with mine. We want to communicate as much as possible since we are spread out all over Alaska and each represent our regional corporation.

Have you read the June 21, 1976 Newsweek article under "Medicine"? Rand Corp. had released a study result suggesting that some alcoholics can safely resume chronic social drinking.

You know that when an chronic alcoholic goes in for treatment, many centers say that the individual cannot take another drink because he or she will not be able to control their drinking or that their liver and another body function is badly damaged.

I think the Rand report is reasonable since it may calm down the guilt feelings of a chronic alcoholic who was demanded not to take another drink while during treatment, and end up with no treatment at all because they wish to continue drinking.

Everyone has will power. Through treatment centers, that individual who has been drinking heavily and has pain due to their liver being damaged, should stop drinking for at least a couple of weeks.

They should get their treatment, eat good meals and take natural vitamins, as I stated in the May 19th issue of Tundra Times.

In every community, there should be provided a sleep-in center with hot meals for the individuals when they are sobering up.

The meals should contain a lot of proteins, because proteins are very important for tissue regeneration of their liver cells which die over a period of time by heavy drinking.

They should also be given natural vitamins, as a prescription, especially vitamin B12, B6, B2 and B1, which helps the alcoholics desire to drink calm down. Also there should be many activities in our communities.

We need cultural centers, where people can show off their traditional works of art, and also show their offsprings. I'm glad we have people working at this but we need to make it more recognized that this is very important to create unity among all our people and to bring self-esteem of being a native and being a human, being. We should not judge.

That is the main problem with the U.S.A., there may be laws against being prejudiced but it hands in the air wherever you may go. We all have one life to live and we should make the best of it and treat everyone the same you would want them to treat you.

I just remembered something. When America started to get so littered it took people a while to open their eyes. A small group recognized the problem and started to holler

"Let's keep our country beautiful! Don't Litter!" Heck, how can you keep it clean when we have all these factories making more trash for millions of people who care less where one piece of litter will fall where a couple hundred people have already thrown their litter?

People have to think of how our country started out and care to pick up all that litter that is cluttering up our beautiful countries, hills and streams.

They have to stop littering now and think of the future. Have you read my poem in the May 5th issue of Tundra Times, titled, "My Poor World. . ."? Here's a copy of it.

Please feel free to write whatever you feel relating to your experiences that were related to alcohol. What kind of horrible things have you seen in the prisons you've served in? Were they related to alcohol?

I know alcohol abuse has lead a lot of our people to their deaths, prison, useless beatings of family members, poorly fed and clothed children, physiologically affecting their children and related members.

People have got to get a chance to be more open related to all human beings and learn as an everyday progress. Educations should be considered equally, white culture (native) education.

There is alot to learn in this world. That's why we, the native youth, say "it's gotta be now!" Let's get on the go for education, especially now when the Native Land Claims exist, and there's so many opportunities are open for us. But we have got to have our problems solved out so we can be educated.

For example, natives wanting to go to school here in Anchorage Community College have a heck of a time finding housing and transportation. It's hard to get educated when there are so many problems that exist.

That's why alot of our native people quit schooling and go back home. We need more educated native people to better our communities so we can have better services.

Our people care and can understand their language and their people.

We need more natives interested in doctoring, schooling to teach their community children, pilots, business men and women, the list is so long that I can't put them all down.

We have so many Aleuts, Tlingits, Tsimphians, Eskimo, Haidas and Athapascans who need trained, educated persons in their communities and the state of Alaska.

Our AFNYC goals are to let our people create a sense of unity and self worth and to give our young people a chance to express their needs and, or let them participate in the education, health, social and Native organizations and programs that affects them.

I feel our group will have more done on our next meeting. There is so much we still have to do, have to retype our

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