Tundra Times

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Founded and edited by HOWARD ROCK, from October I, 1962 until April 20, Dear Ms. Gamache,

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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The power of communication is absolutely essential the fight for human rights and social change. The ability to stand astride cultural gaps and slash through ignorance and misunderstanding with the power of voice and pen is a gift which many people have but which few have the chance to develop. The development of communications skills is vital to the social and cultural well-

being of Native people.

It is saddening for this writer to look around and see so many Native students following careers in business, management, natural resources and education. It is not saddening because these areas are unimportant, but because the field of public communications seem so neg-

This year, while Native people continue to battle bureaucracy, we celebrate the American Bicentennial, the tenth anniversary of the Alaska Federation of Natives and the fifth anniversary of the Fairbanks Native Center. This year, while Alaska Natives continue to fight for their lands, and aboriginal people around the world flex their political muscles for the first time, there are indeed some victories to celebrate. This year, there is an urgent need to consider the power of communication and the role it has played in the struggles that have made the celebrations possible; there is urgent need to acknowledge the role that communication must play in the future if the struggles of today are

to be won. It is regrettable that Native journalists from major Alaskan papers will not be in attendance at the AFN convention-there aren't any. It is unfortunate that the state's Native newspapers cannot field enough articulate Native writers to cover the convention the way it should be covered—by people who understand the convention and the issues before it because of their education and cultural background. Those writers are nowhere to be found. It is sad too that Native journalism students in bush high schools may lose their incentive to enter the public communications field because the delivery of public communications field because the delivery of adequate journalistic education is given such low priority.

This editorial is not simply a cry of lament; it is a call upon people who care—who say they care—to fill the tremendous void that now exists in Native communications. It is a call upon AFN, regional profit and non-profit corporations, AFN Youth Council, Alaska Native Foundation and the University of Alaska to waste no more precious time in addressing themselves to the problem of developing public communications skills in young Native people

Several of these organizations had in their hands last fall a proposal for Native journalism scholarships. To the best of this writer's knowledge, the proposal was completely ignored. That's fine, perhaps it was a bad proposal. It was not offered so much for its own value as it was intended to begin a discussion of the problem of the lack of Native journalists. Perhaps these remarks will serve in some small measure to begin that discussion now.

Letters from Here and There

Conference Delayed

October 1, 1976

Ms. Sue Gamache, Editor **Tundra Times** Box 1287 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

The response to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference has been so great that, after conthe Inuit sultation with of Canada, Tapirisat Northern Quebec Inuit Associthe Committee for ation. Ofiginal Peoples Entitlement and Carl Christian Olsen from Greenland, we have decided to let some line out: the extra time will better enable us to prepare

The Conference is being regarded as far more important than was anticipated when our original planning began, and we are now scheduling it for the week of June 13, 1977 when the Nalukatak (whaling Barrow feast) will be taking place.

A copy of our brochure

"Inupiat Under Four Flags" will be sent to you under sepa-

We look forward to seeing you in Barrow next June.

Eben Hopson

Students Speak Out

October 3, 1976

Dear Editor,

The whole State of Alaska undoubtedly swept into a 'wave of change." Whether or not it is realized, the Alaska Natives are all involved in a poliworldwide interest. This world already looks up to Alaska for our rich natural resources. It has used many of them for their own benefits, and will continue to do so. Why is it, the resources in the land we live on are owned by people other than the Native people? Who is the main attraction and who gets the money from Tourism? All around us there are many rich resources being used without our knowledge and consent, yet our Native villages remain poverty stricken. Why?

Today one of the main rea-sons is a lack of well-educated Natives to uphold our local and statewide governments. Another reason is a lack of involvement in becoming politically active to get what we need.

Youth, the AFN Youth Council nized by our local and regional members recognize the continuing problems in education as a result of "Cultural Shock." "Cultural Shock" contributes to the high dropout rate among the Alaska Natives coming from rural Alaska.

The need for people who can understand the Native Youth in Alaska is enormous. The lack of interest among many young Natives is partly caused by a lack of interest in them. This lack of interest causes Alaska to have an increasing mortality rate due to drug abuse, alcohol, and suicides among Native young people. The word "Youth" means "possessing youth, being youthful, one with vigor." revive our Native Youth there must be an awakening to meet their need with support and encouragement.

Some of our Youth are destined through their own makeup to become recognized leaders tomorrow, yet there are others that can excell in becoming leaders in their own way ... The Native Way. They want to carry on our heritage, they want to remain in their villages and learn the customs and life-styles of being Native. Is there any shame in wanting to be a true Native? There must be a way ably by providing travel supwe can keep our heritage and customs alive and be educated to run our land, our commun-

We the Youth all hold the future for the State of Alaska. Now is the time to educate ourselves, to come out of "Cultural Shock" and strive for our life-long goal to accomplish great and many achievements through education in the State of Alaska. We must build self determination among ourselves, we must act together, stick together in one direction, forming unity and forming power. Our land Claims started because we wanted ownership of our traditional hunting grounds. Doesn't that mean all our corporations combined have the same fundamental interest?

All our Native people, young and old, are involved in the Land Claims. That's why we the Youth say, "It's gotta be now!" There are so many problems that need to be solved, and the best step is to educate ourselves. To prepare ourselves for better governing to suit our Native needs. What can we do to save Janie Popp, DOYON our Youth, to better educate ourselves, now and for the future? How can we create leaders for our people? Perhaps the answer lies here at the AFN Youth Council

We, the AFN Youth Council members, represent Statewide Native Corporations. We are the offspring of our Native heritage. It will not help to blame others and wait around for someone to solve our problems. We the Youth must strive to reach our goals. Our goal is now aiming to create unity and self determination among our Native Youth. In order to

In the concern of Native reach this we must be recogcorporations.We were formed for the reason that there is a great need for Youth involvement in Native affairs within the growing State of Alaska.

In the Tundra Times editorial of September 1, 1976, the AFN Youth Council stated the biggest obstacle that the council is facing is the lack of formal recognition from each of the regional corporations and to be formally substantiated by a letter from each of the regions to designate a representative on Youth Council. It is imperative that this procedure be followed prior to the AFN convention as it is the goal of the Youth Council to be formally recognized by the Convention

Our next obstacle related to achieving the above goals is the lack of funding. According to the BY-LAWS of the ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES YOUTH COUNCIL, Article VI: Section 2A (Meetings) states: A meeting will be held at least 48 hours prior to the AFN Convention. This year the AFN Annual Convention will be held October 2lst to the 23rd. We will sincerely appreciate your support in any manner possible, prefe port for your Youth representative and his/her alternate.

If you have any questions please contact your Youth Representative or contact Mary Jane Brower, President, AFN Youth Council, 550 W. Avenue, Anchorage, 99501; phone number 274-3611 ext. 38

Sincerely,
YOUTH COUNCIL Mary Jane Brower, ASRC Evelyn Panigeo, ASRC alternate Anishia Angasan, BBNA Kathy Charley, AHTNA Doris A. Buck, AHTNA

alternate Sandra Tungwenuk, BSRC John Campbell, CRC Steve Eleshansky, CRC alternate Dood Lincoln, NANA Nick Laktonen, Jr., KONIAG Larry Chichenoff, KONIAG

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Mark John, CALISTA Arthur Heckman, CALISTA alternate

> REMEMBER **TUNDRA TIMES** BANQUET

A.F.N. Oct. 21-23

The

Board

Says

Thanks

In the midst of a difficult period of transition, the Tundra Times would like to recognize the extraordinary efforts of friends who put out recent editions.

JRR

The board of directors of this newspaper expresses its special thanks to Lee and Don Alder, for the enormous amount of time and effort they donated to the Tundra Times. Also Agnes Pete Griffith, Mary Beth Smetzer, Jeff Richardson, Geoff Kennedy, Mary Moses and Lucy Carlo. A special note of thanks also goes to Sue Gamache,

who served from the death of Howard Rock until recently as editor of the Tundra Times, and also to Virginia Sweetsir and Tom Richards Jr.