

**"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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## Editorial—

# Five Megatons of Dangerous Uncertainty

"They are fooling around with the very elements of our earth."

So said Governor William A. Egan of our state as he expressed concern over the proposed five megatons of atom bomb detonation in the bowels of Amchitka Island. Egan has expressed the deep concern of many of our Alaskans over the nuclear experiment. There are too many ifs and too many probabilities if the gigantic explosion is allowed to take place.

One of the greatest probabilities is the chance of leaks of deadly radioactive wastes into the ocean which would contaminate rich sources of food from the sea. The blast that is expected to register 7 on the Richter scale could trigger a major earthquake. If the 7 register does not create a tsunami wave, which it might, the detonation-triggered earthquake could.

There are also indications that new discoveries have made the Atomic Energy Commission's experiment Cannikin obsolete and that the blast need not be triggered. If this is true and the blast is allowed to take place as planned, it would be one of the greatest criminal acts against mankind and his environment.

The public now knows that President Richard Nixon has indicated that he might call off the Cannikin blast on Amchitka Island on the grounds of political expediency. This is heartening news to great many Alaskans especially the Aleuts on whose immediate surroundings and food sources the explosion would take place.

The Aleuts have also indicated that they may direct an injunction against the Amchitka blast. If AEC persists in its plans for detonation, we hope the Aleuts will impose their plan.

We also hope that President Nixon will call off the planned explosion. If he does, it could be one of the greatest humanitarian services any man could do.



## In Memoriam—

# KESHORNA

How cold the sward about you, Keshorna, Glinting frosts, swirling drifts of snow, Driven by unfeeling wind!	Love that seemed caressed with a touch of heaven.
Then a brief respite of a single moon, whence The great sun traverses the sky around, Defying the accustomed horizon, nourishing therefore, A cluster of forget-me-nots that burst into a soulstirring blue upon your simple Arctic grave.	Recollections fail me now. You uttered no words of endearment, But I remember well a gentle hug, Adoring light within your eyes that told me of love more than ten thousands words.
How slight and frail you were, But you faced with humble courage. The unkind elements, that were your lot, And, thus, emerged triumphant With a generous share of love for your fellow man.	How cold the sward about you, Keshorna. Glinting frosts, swirling drifts of snow, Driven by unfeeling wind!
I was blessed with deeper love You bestowed upon me, Keshorna. Love, divinely tender,	How ever cold your resting place, My heart within me whispers, "Your rest is blessed in quiet peace. Because you gave so well your love To your fellow man and me, A son to you, Keshorna."

—HOWARD ROCK

## Parents: Speak Your Native Language to Children— Tragedy of Dying Native Languages

By MADELYN SHULMAN

Staff Writer

(Third of four parts)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third article in a three part series tracing the present state of native languages in Alaska. Most of the information for the articles was obtained from Dr. Michael Krauss of the University of Alaska.)

Go from one Indian village to another in Alaska - from the Interior of Alaska to the Southeast corner of the Alaska panhandle. How many children in the villages speak to each other in their native language?

Painfully few, found Dr. Michael Krauss, a University of Alaska linguist whose work has included tracing the death throes of Indian languages in

Alaska.

Dr. Krauss is one of, if not the, foremost expert in Alaskan Athabaskan Indian languages. In recent years, he has devoted most of his time to preserving a record of the Eyak language - a separate Indian language in Alaska still spoken by only three known residents of the Copper River area.

About 3500 years ago, the Eyaks came down the Copper River out of Interior Alaska and settled in the Cordova area. From the east, the Tlingits expanded into the Copper River area.

Then, white America, civilization and alcohol wreaked their work on the few Eyaks who remained. In Cordova, there is an Eyak Gas Station and hardly

anyone remembers the Eyak Indians who used to own that part of Alaska.

To linguists, Eyak is unique. It is not Eskimo, not Athabaskan, not Tlingit or Haida either. It is a separate language group which differentiated from the Athabaskan languages long enough ago to be a third branch of Alaskan Indian languages.

From comparing the languages, linguists derive valuable information about their origins - and where the people who spoke them came from.

So, Eyak had to be preserved and what it lacks in speakers it makes up for in the excellent documentation of an Eyak dictionary and grammar, which Dr. Krauss spent several years

(Continued on page 6)

## Letters from Here and There

### Refunds from Sleeping Bag Co.

Twin Hills School  
Via Togiak, Ak. 99678  
May 14, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

Late last February I wrote you on behalf of several villagers who had been gypped by Alaska Sleeping Bag Co. of Beaverton, Oregon. I complained that letters to the company and to the State Attorney General were repeatedly ignored.

The appearance of that letter in Tundra Times brought an inquiry from the Attorney General's office. With their help, the refunds have finally been received. The last of the complain has been satisfied this month. At least the folks have money now to order winter coats for next year from a more reputable outfit.

Thank you for your help. Without it we would still be whistling at the moon. And shivering.

Sincerely,  
Jim Baenen  
Principal - Teacher

### Grad Asks Better Mt. Edgcombe

Anchorage, Alaska  
May 17, 1971

Dear Sir:

Another year has gone by here at Mt. Edgcombe School, with 144 Seniors graduating, including myself. I hope parents of Mt. Edgcombe students will think about what I have to say.

I often wondered, especially in the past year, "HOW MANY" parents actually think that their children are really getting quality education here at Mt. Edgcombe, much less the proper "care." What a sad thing to say... but, they are not!!

How do I know? I have lived here for the past four years. Parents ... I beg you don't just stand (or sit there) DO SOMETHING! For the sake of your other children that will be coming to Edgcombe. Talk to your child when he comes home for the summer. Also, take a good look at your child's report card. Is there an improvement? As I saw it in the past years I was here, this school keeps getting worse, the saddest part was that this year many of our students DID NOT go to school at all, just plain skipped school,

day after day.

Was something done about it? NOT AT ALL. Parents ... if your child was at home and skipping school, what would you do? Naturally you would discipline them. Also, so many of our students were "drinking" this past year, and nothing being done. It's unbelievable. Then, we lived in the so-called "Honor Dorm", big deal! with no supervision or dorm matron during the week night. I believe even colleges have supervision or dorm mothers.

Again, I beg you parents to do something about our school. Talk to your Native Organization, AFN, etc. Maybe they could help get the right people to run this school. I noticed too that so many of these white people come to the school that cannot stand Native people, hate natives. This I do not understand, and it's a shame, because when these type of people are hired our kids are neglected, ignored and pushed around. This adds up to one thing, the white people are here for one thing "money," that's their main concern.

The administration seem to worry more about their own people. They promote each other to higher position. All they have to do add the word "specialist" to some stupid name, they get their promotion right now. Then ... they don't even know what their job is. To me, the people working for BIA are simply getting BIA welfare (white people). I often wonder if they ever stop to think, if there wasn't such a thing as "natives," where would they be working and making all that "big" money. I say this because majority of them don't like natives. I can't help but think that is why they are not giving kids the proper education, they're afraid we will take over their jobs. From what I saw here, their kids are getting a pretty good education, going to a very good school.

I'd like to see their kids go to this school. Then ... they'd really get on the ball and straighten this school out. Many of times I have gone to the Principal and Superintendent's office with a problem or a simple question. Would you believe I never got an answer? When these people have a problem they should solve or work on, instead of working on it themselves, which is their job, they form a committee to do their job. How very frustrating!!

Don't let these people brainwash you and tell you that your child is getting a good education. I have seen my mother get let-

ters from this school saying, what all her child is learning, and what a fine school this is, let me tell you that isn't so. We, native students usually find out after we get out in society, our lack of education. Such a shame. Thank god in couple or so years, our students will be going to regional schools. This I am really thrilled over. Now I know maybe my kids will be going to a decent school.

Now, for you students, that are going back to Mt. Edgcombe, at least try the best you can, think about your future, what do you want out of life. That is so very important. Myself, I still don't know what I will do. Isn't that a shame, especially with all the counselors we had at the school, also, social workers, psychiatrist, recreation specialist. Seems they don't know what they are doing. Pitiful ...

Finally I hope and pray the school will be "a little better" in the future.

Sincerely,  
Graduate of Mt. Edge. "1971"

### Crushers May Work in Villages

United States Senate  
Committee on Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
May 20, 1971

Mr. Donald S. Dorsey  
Manager  
Alaska Native Industries  
Cooperative, Inc.  
1306 Second Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Don:

I very much appreciate your writing to me and explaining the ideas you have for utilization of the type of "drum crushers" now being acquired by ALCOM. I have written to General Ruegg forwarding a copy of your letter and asking for his comments as soon as possible. This sounds like an extremely worthwhile venture and I assure you I am anxious to help make it a success.

With best wishes,

Cordially,  
TED STEVENS  
United States Senator  
cc: John Shively  
Don Perkins  
Morris Thompson  
BIA Superintendents  
(Nome, Bethel, Anchorage & Fairbanks)  
Harry Carter, AFN Executive Director  
Tundra Times  
ANICA Delegates