

*"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—

### Statement by Anthony Vaska to the Bethel Economic Development Committee

A group of concerned people came together to discuss tourism in the AVCP Calista region. There were many ideas expressed about tourism, the majority of which were firmly opposed to it. After everyone expressed his feelings, I was asked to write a position statement, expressing opposition to tourism.

I am unqualifiedly opposed to tourism in Bethel, but, especially in the AVCP region. I oppose the whole idea of tourism for reasons far more importantly than the fact that the money and control of it lies with the non-Natives who live in this area. The first question I have is, why should we be the show cases for outsiders who for so many years have not understood us, and, will continue not to understand us for many years to come?

To use the excuse that they will understand us by getting to know us is one of the weakest excuses there is. For example, for many years there have been teachers, traders, missionaries, and others in this area who are supposedly helping us.

There is little evidence of understanding among those groups I just mentioned, and, it is evidenced by the fact that there are so many programs made to "help" the Natives. I seriously doubt that tourists who are not as "knowledgeable" as those "specialized people" I just mentioned will gain any more insight, much less understanding, of us. If anything, they will get a stereotyped idea of what Natives are.

To understand a lifestyle takes a long time. And my most important point lies with this aspect of lifestyles. As has been said often enough, though unfortunately, to deaf ears and closed minds, we Natives have a right to our own way of life.

As the elders of Nightmute said in 1973, "Please try to fathom our great desire to survive in a way somewhat different from yours and thus see why the hunters will continue to go out."

Those of you who choose to make a living through the use of money as a medium of exchange don't fully understand what it means for use to want to use out land for own purposes.

We are not competing for money like you are, but we are dependent upon the furts of the land directly. And the competition for the use of the land is of utmost importance to us. If our land is run over by people who do not understand how to use it, and perhaps abuse it, our lifestyle will be threatened. That, for many of us, will not do.

If you choose to bring in more unnecessary competition for the scarce natural resources, you will be in effect, killing our way of life. That too will not settle very lightly with us.

There are avenues we can take to fight for our lifestyles, short of outright violence. The first, lies with the control of the land as private property set up under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Failing action by the Federal government and the some protection for subsistence can be achieved by closing Native corporations' lands to everyone but shareholders. Secondly, village corporations can prohibit all but subsistence hunting and fishing within their

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## Letters from Here and There

### Concerning impasse between NSB and BEA

May 6, 1976.

Acting Editor, Sue Gamache,  
Tundra Times,  
510 2nd Avenue  
Room 220,  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Dear Ms. Gamache,

I am writing with respect to an article published April 30th in the Tundra Times regarding impasse between the North Slope Borough School Board and the Barrow Education Association. Your article certainly does not meet the usual standards of quality and fairness people have become accustomed to expect from the Tundra Times.

I feel obligated to set the records straight regarding several of the inaccuracies printed in the article. The Board has never objected to a teacher raise for those aspects of the cost of living increase which have actually effected North Slope Borough teachers.

The teachers' Association, however, wants a cost of living raise without a corresponding rent increase. In other words, they want to be paid as if their housing costs have gone up significantly and yet not have a significant rent increase.

In the article David Jaynes, President of BEA, implies that workloads and class size are also involved in impasse. This is a typical maneuver of teacher groups trying to win public support for their position, by implying that, they are not really after more money; only better working conditions. The fact is, the only disputed items causing our impasse are money matters. Workloads, class size, and all other non-money matters were resolved prior to deadlock.

Tundra Times reports Mr. Jaynes' assertion that under the Board's final proposal a beginning teacher would earn \$2,583 less than the present rate. This is simply untrue. The Board has never suggested a pay schedule which would require any teacher to suffer an paycheck pay cut. It is true that the Board wants teachers to pay a more equitable amount of rent for their apartments.

The Teachers' Association would like to pay only \$200 a month for furnished, two and three bedroom apartments with all utilities paid. It costs the District almost twice that much to pay for the utilities alone on teacher apartments.

In accordance with State Law, the Board suggested several local Native citizens to serve as mediator for the dispute, but the Teachers' Association refused to accept any local citizen to serve as mediator and thereby forced the Board to request the U.S. Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to provide a mediator.

One could rightfully ask why the Teachers' Association was afraid to allow local citizens to serve as mediator. A conclusion one might draw is that the Teachers' Association feels that they would lose in mediation if

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## Book reviews

### Magazine dedicated to Howard Rock and Bill Vaudrin

A new magazine will make its debut this summer.

The magazine, symbolically named the "Forget-Me-Not", will be dedicated to the memories of Howard Rock and Bill Vaudrin. Rock was editor of the Tundra Times and an internationally reknown artist.

Vaudrin was past director of the Human Rights Commission and first president of Inupiat University.

"My hope is that the quality of the magazine will do these men justice," says Marilyn Richards, of the Folklore

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## MILEPOST field editor travels

Alaska resident Sharon Paul is again driving the roads and highways of the Great Land as field editor for the MILEPOST.

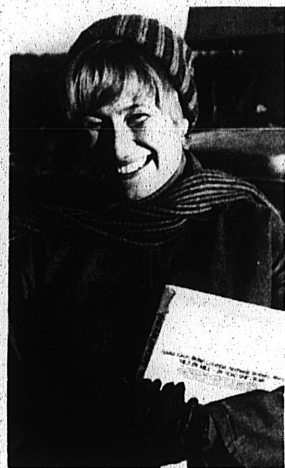
A petite blond with enthusiasm for travel, Ms. Paul is starting her third season as a Milepost representative. Her territory this year includes all of Alaska except Anchorage, Kodiak and Nome.

She was scheduled to start her tour near Anchorage in late April and will cover over 4,500 miles in a pickup camper before completing the job early this fall. Starting in mid-May, she will work in Southeastern Alaska for about three weeks.

Ms. Paul is a former school teacher and airlines hostess who moved to Kodiak from Idaho some ten years ago. She has also lived in Fort Yukon, Chignik, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

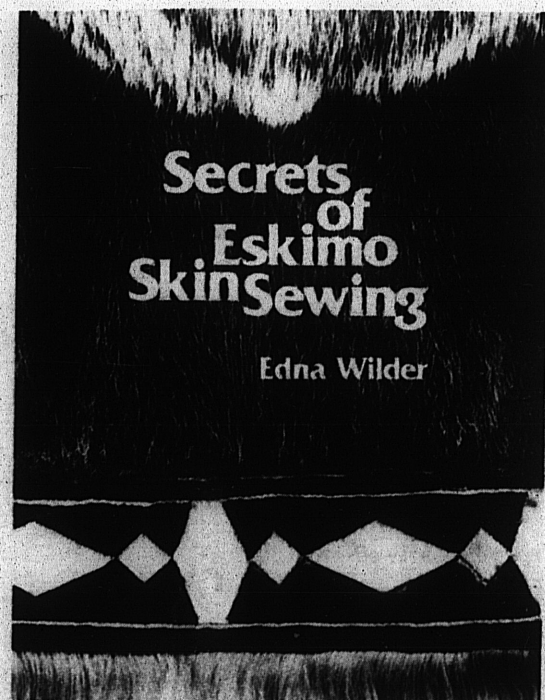
Ms. Paul is responsible for photography, editorial updating and advertising sales for the Milepost, the leading travel guide

to Alaska and all-the-north country.



SHARON PAUL

The publication now contains over 500 pages and its circulation in 1976 is expected to be near 80,000 copies.



## Secrets of Eskimo skin sewing

Centuries of coping with a harsh environment have won for Eskimos an undisputed corner on secrets to survival. An important element of that know-how is spelled out in SECRETS OF ESKIMO SKIN SEWING, a new book by Edna Wilder to be released by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company in May.

Designed for the novice, Secrets of Eskimo Skin Sewing is a guide to the basic techniques for using skin and fur to produce garments that are practical and fashionable for today or traditional toys that will delight any child.

Besides patterns for Eskimo doll, yoyo and other toys,

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