

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire



Owned, controlled and edited by Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Company, a corporation of Alaska natives. Published at Fairbanks, Alaska, weekly, on Wednesdays.

Address all mail to Box 1287, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99707. Telephone 452-2244

Second class postage paid at Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Eskimo, Indian, Aleut Publishing Co., Inc. Board of Directors Executive Committee: Howard Rock, president; Thomas Richards, vice president; Mrs. Ralph Perdue, secretary; Jimmy Bedford, comptroller; Mary Jane Fate, corresponding secretary. HOWARD ROCK, editor.

| SUBSCRIPTION RATES | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|--|
| Regular Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states) | 1 Year \$10.00 | 6 Months \$ 5.50 | |
| Air Mail (including Alaska, Canada and other states) | 1 Year \$21.00 | 6 Months \$12.00 | |

"WHY DO WHITE PEOPLE SMILE SO MUCH?" OR WHY NATIVES DON'T CONTROL THEIR SCHOOLS? by Judith Kleinfeld

Eskimos recently have been asking two surprising questions about whites. "Why do white people smile so much?" several in Bethel have puzzled. "Why won't white people look at me when I talk to them?" I was asked with great earnestness by an Eskimo university student. Ironically, these are precisely the observations whites have been making about Eskimos for the last fifty years. Indeed, whites have come to view "smiling" and "shy withdrawal" as basic Eskimo characteristics of "model personality traits," to use the anthropological jargon. What is happening?

Smiling a lot and not facing another person are common non-verbal responses of any member of a subordinate group to any member of a dominant group. Recall, for example, the grinning black Sambo stereotype of another era with his head hung before his "massa." The subordinate group member tends to smile to curry the favor of the dominant group member so that this person will not use his greater power against him. Similarly, the subordinate group member may avoid looking at the face of the dominant group member because he is embarrassed and uncomfortable in the presence of a person of higher status or because he is frightened and wishes to hide since the more powerful person could harm him. While such feelings are rarely conscious; they are the message communicated by smiling a lot and not facing the person in such circumstances.

Are the tables finally turning? Are white people becoming the subordinate and Eskimos the dominant group? Nonverbal signs of white subordination to Natives are not yet common. However, they are becoming more and more frequent, especially among certain academics and government agency people.

Is this new pattern a healthy sign? Are Native groups at last achieving their due status and power in society? While I wish this were so, I do not think that this is what is happening. Rather a new form of patronization seems to be developing and it could do as much damage as the old paternalism which is now disavowed in respectable white circles.

A new game is being played in public affairs called "Proving I'm Pro-Native". Since I know the rules for white players only too well, I can describe them. I am not sure of the rules for Native players, but I think that they are about the same. This game is played in meetings concerned with Native related issues. It is usually played where both Natives and whites are present, although I have seen whites play it all by themselves. The game begins with all players making a move — presenting some proposal regarding the Native-related issue at hand. Whatever white has made the most apparently extreme pro-Native move gains points and is well on his way toward victory. However, it is important to recognize that this proposal is only superficially pro-Native, since usually it will totally disregard possibilities of implementation, longterm effects on Natives themselves, or fairness to other minority groups. However, in following rounds, it is still possible for one of the other players to recoup his losses and even win the game. A white player can, for example, agree with the most superficially pro-native position in which case he gains points. If he is a very clever player, he may be able to top this position with an even more extreme superficially pro-Native proposal of his own and thus knock out the previous white in the lead. Should any white player criticize a proposal made by a Native player, he loses points. Should any white player show deference to a Native player (completely irrespective of whether the Native's proposal was brilliant, indifferent, or absurd), he gains points. The white player who gains the highest point total, of course, emerges as the winner and rakes in the pot — the status of being the most pro-Native. But the pot is fool's gold. The white players know, although they may not verbalize it even to themselves, that is has all been a game. And the winner knows that the white players know and wonders if the Native players know, too. Whatever Native-related issue was at hand, is, of course, the loser because no intelligent discussion of it has taken place. So everyone goes away from the meeting vaguely puzzled and wondering why, for example, "Everyone is in favor of

(Continued on Page 8)

Letters from Here and There

1215 Hess
College, Alaska 99701
24 March 1972

Dear Mr. Rock:

Now that the Land Claims Settlement has passed, Congress, I feel that I should be allowed to state my opinion. This is my own opinion and I take full responsibility for it. In other words, don't use it against any other Indians.

I feel that it is a shame to settle for a little bit of Alaska and some money. Indians of America should have been able to band together, however diverse they are, and claim North America. Well we didn't. Be that as it may, the Alaskan Native people banded together in a homogenous group to settle the land claims of Alaska. I question how the United States government could legally settle the land claims of Alaska. You know that the United States of America bought Alaska from Russia. The question is; was Alaska, Russia's to sell? Did Russia own Alaska, or did Russia merely exploit this land for furs and other riches? If Russia did not own Alaska, how could she sell it to the United States of America? If she did not own Alaska but did sell it to the United States of America, then the U.S. came into possession of stolen property. Now even your most jaded unenthusiastic Alaskan will admit Alaska is worth more than \$100.00. Some may feel it is not worth much more than that, but all will agree it is worth at least \$100.00. If the United States government inadvertently came into possession of stolen property worth more than \$100.00, it could be logically accused of committing a felony. Possession of stolen property worth more than \$100.00 constitutes a felony by the laws of the United States of America.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Wescott

Scammon Bay, Alaska 99662
March 27, 1972

The Honorable Sen. Hollings
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Hollings:

I would like to write a few items of my own personal feelings regarding the Sea Mammal Bill. When Congressman Nick Begich report this from Washington, D. C. it was a shock to all the people of the Bering Sea coast. Now taking the meat from sea mammal for subsistence it's OK, but the products for commercial use should not be cut.

I carve ivory for living to support my big family of nine children, and I am already feeling to be guilty for feeding my children. This source of income is the only way I make a living on the Bering Sea coast.

If this bill is passed, a lot of families will suffer and that is bad. It's a dark future for all of us and I hope it will not pass. It must be looked over again.

I am very grateful for a few number of Senators who are fighting this bill for us. Most Senators must be thinking we are getting too rich from the land claims settlement. Alaska, our state, is rich for more than \$500,000,000 but we don't get any part of this money — only small amount of money we are

getting is from ivory and skins and so forth.

I also wanted to say this. If the Lower states want to get even with the rich state of Alaska, why don't Congress cut foreign aid bill and stop the costly Vietnam war?

I certainly hope that this bill will not pass. We must all understand one another as we're all united under one God.

This is all I have to say.
Good bye and God bless you all,

Sincerely yours,
Homer Hunter, Sr.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Bernice Sheldon's fourth graders at Point Hope wrote enmasse to Senator Ernest Hollings, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and expressed their concern, about the sea mammal bill pending action in the U.S. Senate. We are printing a few of the letters representative of the group. Due to lack of space, we are sorry that we can't print all of them.)

Point Hope, Alaska
March 24, 1972

Senator Ernest Hollings
Senate Commerce Committee
Room 432
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable Senator Hollings:

My name is Frank Patrick Attungana and I'm nine years old. I'm an Eskimo boy. I'm in the 4th grade. I live in Point Hope. My father catches some sea mammals and my grandfather catches some animals too. How can my grandfather make basket out of baleen. If you make a law that we can't sell things made from sea mammals? I don't like that bill. I hope you get rid of the Sea Mammal Bill.

Sincerely,
Frank Attungana

Honorable Senator Hollings:

I am an Eskimo girl who is 11 years old. My mother makes
(Continued on Page 7)

ALASKA RESIDENTS 46 to 87 YEARS OF AGE

- ★ PERMANENT LIFE INSURANCE ★
- EVERYONE ACCEPTED
- NO PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
- YOUR PAST MEDICAL HISTORY IS NOT CONSIDERED
- WE GUARANTEE YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY WILL BE ISSUED

FILL OUT THE COUPON BELOW AND MAIL TODAY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

"Guaranteed Issue" Life Insurance for Ages 46 to 87, Alaska Residents.

LIFE OF AMERICA INSURANCE CORPORATION OF BOSTON
40 BROAD STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 02109

Please send me information on your "Guaranteed Issue" Life Insurance. I understand that no salesman will visit me and I will not be obligated in any way!

Name _____
Age _____ Male _____ Female _____
Address _____
City _____ Alaska. Zip _____

Note: We also have special life insurance plans for other age groups; if you're interested, please fill in boxes below and mail the information to you.

Age ☐ Sex ☐ NMF A 3-17