

**"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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## Letters from Here and There

### Brenda Itta will not seek re-election

It has been an honor to have served the state and the people in District 21 in the Legislature the past two years. However, I will not seek re-election.

My heart, like many Alaskans, has been broken many times to see our people subject to divided homes, victims of alcoholism, dope and drugs, children sent away from home for school, elderly sent away for care, the sick shipped away for intensive care, sometimes dying alone without relatives.

These problems are added with the demand for instant growth of regional and village corporations to the Western cash economy. And surely, there are many service organizations such as the existing state and federal programs, charitable and church-type organizations that exist to serve the citizens of the state; however, we have to be truthful that these organizations, however credible people make them, are not meeting our problems; they fall short in reaching people to come out of the dire situation facing Alaska today.

We must admit therefore that we are reaching people only in the physical and material arena—just a skin deep. We need to go deeper into the root of the problems which lie in the spiritual realm of human beings. This is an area of first priority that Alaskans have to go into in order for our state to have a better future.

I believe the ultimate answer to solve the problems of mankind facing us today lies in the hands of the Great Creator and we need to re-establish contact with Him as a people.

Each person seeking an elected office in Alaska's government, local and statewide, should first enable himself to help others by straightening out his relationship with the mediator between our Creator and mankind; and He is Jesus Christ and the source of all healing needed by our state and the nation.

We need to set aside all hypocrisy and pride that we are self-sufficient and admit that we as mankind have a tendency toward self-destruction without this life, truth, and the only way for survival through Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Godhead, has demonstrated to me personally that he created the Inupiat people and accepts our language, the color of our skin and made us as we are, and most of all, really loves us.

I admit the traditions of former missionaries and most of the present rigid, stuffy, holier-than-thou churches have suffocated the beauty, love and joy of knowing God and have neglected to relay this important spiritual reality.

Throughout some of my studies of the Word of God, I am amazed to discover that some of the traditions practiced by our people are confoundingly the same as the one described in the Old Testament.

The former missionaries and the traditional churches have been ignorant of our way of life in this area, and I am greatly relieved that some of these old

traditions were inspired by God as our Creator.

Our state and nation faces many divisions between her people. The only hope for harmony, peace, and unity of people—no matter what race they are—is through Jesus Christ, our common denominator.

I thank the people for giving me the opportunity to serve them in the Legislature. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the growing years of our state, and I plan to continue helping Alaska's people in whatever way I can.

Brenda T. Itta

### CINA boarding home program

Marshall L. Lind  
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As you know, Cook Inlet Native Association has had a contract for administration of the Boarding Home Program since August, 1973. Some 767 high school students from rural Alaska have been oriented to Anchorage, placed in homes, and counseled since the first contract was signed.

This year, there have been approximately 100 young students in the boarding home program. Many of them have been attending high school in Anchorage for two or three years.

They have benefitted from the

broad curricular offerings that are available in the Anchorage high schools.

Many of these students (approximately 75 per cent) have expressed the desire to return to Anchorage next fall to continue their schooling. A number of these students are seniors who wish to complete a program of studies planned a couple of years ago.

According to their counselor, 10 per cent of the boarding home students are particularly academically talented and can probably best realize their scholastic potential in schools that are large enough to provide specialized and in-depth courses.

On May 17, I received a letter from Ms. Pat Darby, Supervisor of the State Domiciliary Services Program. She stated in that letter that "full responsibility for all education within the 21 new REAA's will be within the recently elected regional boards." Also, "All decisions regarding placement and supervision of students, travel, etc., will be made by the individual boards."

The Department of Education will play only a coordinating role in these activities." Perhaps I am incorrect but the limited information given to me by the state Department of Education employees has thus far implied that "education will soon be the responsibility of the REAA's so we'll let them hassle with these problems."

I do hope that my interpretation is incorrect and that you will be able to assure us that steps are being taken to facilitate the most orderly transfer possible of these responsibilities from the

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### Other voices—

### Committee to preserve limited entry

(reprinted from *The Alaskan Fishery*)

Dear Fellow Alaskans,

We, the Committee to Preserve Limited Entry, consist of one hundred and twenty fishermen, born and raised in the State of Alaska, who live year round in the City Old Harbor, whose main income consists of salmon fishing, are trying to stop the repeal of limited entry for the reasons stated below:

It is well-noted that Kodiak Island, and other regions as well, have in the past several years had a sharp decline in the salmon catch. It seems most strange that people should want more boats and more gear coming to Alaska. Do they want to kill the salmon off completely? As it is, and the way it's going, we will have to take pictures of the salmon to show our grandchildren what we caught for a living.

It is said that only a few fishermen want to keep limited entry so they can control the industry; this is NOT so. These men are trying to preserve a dying industry, an industry that made Alaska the great state it is. It will most certainly die if not for some type of control.

If it is not controlled by limited entry, Fish and Game will have to step in and control it by closing certain areas and then limiting the fishing time to a couple days and then just a few hours. We have seen this happen in other regions where they were too many units of gear, thus creating a heavy burden on the tax-payers of Alaska, who will have to subsidize by welfare the many fishermen and their families whose main income is salmon fishing. Money, that could well be used on education, roads, and building a better Alaska, will have to be spent on welfare recipients who have had a poor salmon season due to too many boats, too much gear, and not enough fish.

We do not want this to happen, but if we open our eyes to a few years ahead this could most certainly be a reality if the present law is repealed. We do not want welfare, we do not want to be a burden to the tax payers. We want to hold our heads high and be proud that we are sons of fishermen, and want to make our living as our forefathers have.

We know from fact that there are many outside fishermen waiting to come to Alaska to fish if it is repealed to take from the state a part of it, to take its fish, its heritage, leaving nothing.

On the bad years they will not come, they will instead home and stay with their present jobs and businesses or just vacation, as many are in it for the monetary gains only and will come in the big years such as the one forthcoming. They don't spend their money here, they don't raise their children here, they couldn't care less if we, the year-round Alaskans, live or starve . . . as long as they can come and take what they can, then go south and live good during the cold winter months. They are not concerned about building a dying Alaskan industry back to what it once was.

When the salmon industry once again regains its strength by limited entry and other means of restoration, we can foresee allowing more permits to those who want to fish here in Alaska.

People are misled to believe that the younger people who want to fish can't and their children won't be able to

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AND WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN—Five year old Michael Dirks was a member of the 1976 Joy School kindergarten graduating class. He is the son of Henry and Mary Dirks of Fairbanks and nephew of the late Howard Rock.

—Photo By SUE GAMACHE