

Letters

Dear Editor,

As a strong supporter of Fran Ulmer in the last election, I want to remind the public that in my opinion, the only thing Frank Murkowski has achieved, in this current public service career is his retirement.
RoseAnn S. Timbers
Nome, AK

To the Shareholders of Norton Sound and Bering Strait Region,

This is the third letter I have submitted to the public and *The Nome Nugget*, I do not know our leaders of Native corporations, and Native run business are deaf, dumb and/or blind! But they are people in high positions of hiring or have a big say on whom to hire. I thought that Native hire came first. But that's what I get for thinking?

Before I went to school in Kotzebue, I had tried to get a job at one of my corporations, and a non

shareholder had told me that I had to have a Boiler Card. I had told him that I was entering A.T.C. in Kotzebue in the fall and all I was doing was to find a temporary job so I could have some spending money, for school. Then I had sent thank you letters to all my sponsors and they (native sponsors) had told me that after I had finished schooling that I would have a job.

Well it's mid-March, 10 months after I finished school but with all the certificates that I had earned at school I cannot find a job. The job I was laid off from ran out of funding, and plans to start in mid-May. I had two temporary jobs, which I had quit because of knee problems (slipping on ice). My knee had swollen up and I had to stay off my feet for two days. I had called my so-called boss five hours before my shift had started.

That person could not understand and I told him I quit, and I did.

But the moral of the story is— if our Native-run business are hiring all these non-Natives, I can see why there are no Natives in our corporations or Native businesses.

No wonder all these non-Natives are so damned defensive about their—or I mean our— jobs for which qualified Natives had sacrificed long months and years of schooling

and being away from their families, friends and Nome.

So I urge all the Natives to speak out. Write letters to your Native leaders to tell them what's on your mind. Don't be afraid to let them know we have elected them to high positions, and we can vote them out of those high positions.

This letter will disturb a few peo-

ple, but this letter is just my opinion, my thoughts. No one convinced me to write, but it is what has been bothering me for some years and will bother me for years to come. But that's beside the point.

Thank you.
George S. Minix
Nome, AK

Letters to the Editor must be signed and include an address and phone number

Editorial

Maybe It's Time

The legislature is kicking round the concept of taxing the rural school districts. The urban politicians seem to think that rural Alaska is getting a free ride for educational funding. They want to tax the rural school districts such as the Bering Strait School District. Sure, they would exempt the poor and the elderly and the unemployed. That means just about everybody except the teachers will be tax-exempt. How do they propose to tax a fish or a hunk of seal meat? How do they propose to collect such a tax?

About the only tax source for the Bering Strait Rural Attendance Area would be miners and commercial fishermen. Of course, there are many people who reside outside of the Nome City limits who are technically part of the Bering Strait School District (they vote in the White Mountain precinct.) Everyone who lives outside of the City of Nome in such "suburbs" as Banner Creek, Cripple Creek, Osborn, Snake River, etc. would pay taxes to the Bering Strait School District.

Every year the Legislature rattles the sword and tries to draw lines to form boroughs for the bush. Maybe it's time to preempt the politicians. Let's think about expanding Nome's city limits and make our own borough that includes Rock Creek and the Snake and Nome river drainages. This area could be part of our borough tax base. This would also allow residents of the Nome suburbs to run for Nome public office. We have to be proactive in our own behalf. — N.L.M.—



Photo courtesy of Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum
ARCTIC BEAUTY— This photo from the Bell collection shows a splendidly dressed woman on the ice.

Ulu News

By Senator Donny Olson

Here's to the Winners!

Congratulations to Jeff King for winning his fourth Iditarod! He pulled into Nome after nine days and eleven hours on the trail. He was followed by Doug Swingley, Paul Gephardt, Dee Dee Jonrowe, and Kotzebue's own John Baker, who took fifth place crossing the finish line in Nome a mere six hours behind King.

Congratulations to our athletes who took home medals from the Arctic Winter games! Alaska won a total of 191 medals, seven by participants from our neck of the woods. In the Dené Games, Kohren Green from Nome won four medals: a gold in the men's junior finger pull, one silver as the men's junior all-around athlete, and two bronze, one each in the men's junior hand games and the snowsnake. Also taking home a medal in the Dené games was Marjorie Tahbone from Nome with a silver in the junior women's stick pull. In the Inuit games, Billy Bodfish from Wainwright took the gold in the Alaska high kick men's open division, and Katherine Commack from Nome took the bronze in the Alaska high kick women's open division.

White Mountain School

Funding for the replacement school for White Mountain was added to SB 232, the fast track supplemental spending bill, in Senate Finance Committee, and the bill passed the Senate on March 16. SB 232 is fairly certain to pass the house also, and school construction can begin this year. It was a pleasure to be a part of the solution, working with Rep. Richard Foster and Supt. John Davis to solve this problem for the community.

No Energy Help

Three funding proposals by the governor to help low income and rural Alaskans with their high energy costs were deleted from SB 232 by senate Republicans. The proposals would have fully funded the PCE program for the rest of the winter and spring, fully funded the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for the remainder of this year, and given small communities an energy assistance grant. I've strongly supported these proposals because it just seems common sense fair that when the state enjoys surplus revenues from high oil prices, it should help those Alaskans most impacted by increased home heating and electrical costs. I am hoping that the house will better consider the merits of these proposals.

PERS Update

Last year when the legislature reworked the state employee retirement plan in SB 141, there were several major problems with the plan, one of which manifested itself last month in the form of an unexpected bill delivered to 23 communities and school districts requiring payments ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000, due at the end of this month. I am pleased to announce that a fix to this immediate problem has been incorporated into HB 475, although I still disagree with changing our retirement system from a defined benefit to a defined contribution based system.

Visitors

There were lots of visitors to Juneau this week. I was pleased to see Dennis Gerke, Superintendent of the Lower Yukon School District; David Herbert Superintendent of the St. Mary School District; Kristen Bomengen and Dr. Peter Nakamura from Barrow; Brad Reeve, Frank Stein, and Roy Fields from the Kotzebue Electric Association, as well as Ben Franz from Barrow Utilities and Electric Co-op, Inc. Although I was unable to meet with them personally, it was a pleasure to know Milton Cheemuk from St. Michael and Helen Simmons from Barrow were down here as citizen lobbyists on behalf of the Key Campaign.

Mail: State Capitol, Suite 510, Juneau, Alaska 99801
E-mail: Senator_Donny_Olson@legis.state.ak.us
Phone: (907) 465-3707 Fax: (907) 465-4821
Website: http://www.akdemocrats.org

Illegitimus non carborundum

The Nome Nugget

Member of: The Associated Press,
Alaska Newspaper Association,
National Newspaper Association
P.O. Box 610 - Nome Alaska, 99762
(907) 443-5235 fax (907) 443-5112
e-mail: nugget@nomenugget.com
ads: jayp@nomenugget.com
classified and legal ads: jayp@nomenugget.com
subscriptions: jayp@nomenugget.com

Nancy McGuire editor and publisher
nancym@nomenugget.com
Janet Ahmasuk staff reporter
Ted Meyer staff reporter
Jay Peterson advertising manager
circulation/distribution/
production
jayp@nomenugget.com
Peggy Fagerstrom photography
pfagerst@gci.net
Angus Mazonna photography
Nikolai Ivanoff photography
Gloria Karmun production
Nadja Roessek Webmaster
SEND photos to photos@nomenugget.com

Advertising rates: Business classified, 50¢ per word;
display \$14 per col. inch
Published weekly except the last week of the year
Return postage guaranteed
ISSN 0745-9106
There's no place like Nome
Single copy price 50¢ in Nome
USPS 598-100
The home-owned newspaper

Postmaster: Send change of address to:
The Nome Nugget P.O. Box 610
Nome, Alaska 99762
Periodical postage paid in
Nome, Alaska 99762
Published daily except for Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,
Saturday, and Sunday
Not published the last week of December

Weather Statistics		
Sunrise	03/23/06 07:51 a.m.	High Temp 22° 03/19/06
	03/29/06 07:29 a.m.	Low Temp -7° 03/21/06
		Peak Wind 31mph/E/03/17-18/06
Sunset	03/23/06 08:27 p.m.	Precip. to Date 2.66"
	03/29/06 08:45 p.m.	Normal Precip. 2.06"
		Snow Cover to date 24"
		National Weather Service Nome, Alaska (907) 443-2321 1-800-472-0391

The Nome Nugget

Alaska's Oldest Newspaper

Don't leave Nome without it!

Subscribe today.

The Nome Nugget Newspaper • P. O. Box 610 • Nome, AK 99762

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check Money Order Credit Card
 Visa/MasterCard/American Express/Discover
 Exp. Date: ___/___/___

\$65 out of state
 \$60 in state

Please enclose payment with form.