



'This is my son Benny'

To the editor:

This is my son, his name is Benny. He has entered a world filled full of greed, war, corruption and violence. I sometimes wonder if he'll ever see the beauty and peace that my ancestors enjoyed.

Will it be gone into someone else's hands? Will the wildlife disappear? Will the earth be raped?

As it has been done everywhere else. Society can torture me — take my money. They can take away my freedom; they can take away my ancestral lands.

One precious thing no one can take away, and that being my beautiful son.

Sincerely,
Ron Mancil
New Hampshire

Writer offers 'A Permanent Fund Allegory'

To the editor:

A few words of wisdom, from the Greek fabulist Aesop (620-560 B.C.). I have taken the liberty of renaming his 2,500-year-old story, "The Ant and The Grasshopper."

"A Permanent Fund Allegory"

Out in the fields on a warm sunny day an Ant was busy gathering grains of wheat and corn for his winter's food. A Grasshopper, chirping and dancing to his heart's content, saw the Ant at work and laughed, "Why not sing and dance with me instead of toiling all day long?"

"I am working to store up food for the long cold winter," replied the Ant. "Perhaps you will wish some time that you had laid some away, too."

"Why worry about winter when we have so much now?" asked the Grasshopper. And he went on his merry way. The Ant said nothing but went on busily working.

When winter came the poor Grasshopper was almost dead of hunger for the ground was hard and the snow had covered all his food.

Sadly, he came to the house of the Ant and begged for something to eat. "What," cried the Ant, "did you store nothing away when the weather was sunny and warm? What did you do all summer long?"

"I was so busy singing and dancing," said the Grasshopper, "that I had no time to store up food, and before I knew it the summer had gone."

"Singing and dancing, were you?" scoffed the Ant, turning his back on the Grasshopper. "Then sing and dance now!"

The poor Grasshopper crept away silently, regretting he had been so foolish during the summer in not providing for the winter that he knew must come.

It is wise to put something away for tomorrow's winter.

Those who fail to learn from their mistakes are doomed to repeat them!

I proudly support the Permanent Fund and the dividend program!

Sincerely Yours,
Lynnette Mailloux
Fairbanks