

# Sex offenders need to get treatment

To the editor:

This is an open letter to all parents, parent-teacher groups and all groups dedicated to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

I am a sex offender incarcerated at Fairbanks Correctional Center. I was sentenced for (and guilty of) the sexual abuse of a minor.

I would like to stress very highly the importance of treatment for sex offenders. If you lock sex offenders up without treatment, they will gradually get worse and upon release will be more dangerous to society, and their chances of re-offending are very great. In addition, their chances of committing murder or other physical harm while committing sexual abuse are far greater than they were before.

I have heard people say that a child molester should be castrated. Let me point out that this would not solve the problem, as women as well as men sexually abuse and rape children. Sexual offences are the result of deviant sexual thinking.

I have always hated a child molester, and I did not start molesting until after I became impotent. Again, I say that therapy is the only way. I am not saying that sex offenders should not be incarcerated. I am saying that they should be incarcerated, but that they should receive treatment every day while they are incarcerated to help change their deviant thinking.

I am currently in a sex offender treatment program here at Fairbanks. I have had 33 months of therapy, in-

cluding eight months before incarceration. One of the things I have learned is that I have to trust myself. And this I have to do before I can expect others to trust me.

To all parents: I urge you to talk to your children. Teach them what is an appropriate or an inappropriate touch. Ask them if anyone has touched them inappropriately. Tell them that anyone can be a sex offender, both males and females.

Continue to teach them to beware of strangers as this is very important. But also stress the fact that a child molester can be, and usually is, a close friend, family member or someone close that you think you can trust. The fact is, less than 1 percent of all known sex offenders were strangers to their

victims.

Take time to listen to and believe what your child tells you, especially if the child says he or she has been molested. Tell them they are in no way responsible for or to blame for the molestation.

Report any suspected sex offence. A sex offender needs help, not only for self-improvement, but for the protection of others. And remember, sex offenders will not stop molesting until they are caught and receive treatment.

My sincere thanks to the Fairbanks Treatment Associates.

Sincerely,  
Gene Cessna

Fairbanks Correctional Center

## Fishermen should oppose seafood irradiation

To the editor:

Alaska is again targeted for a seafood irradiator. Sen. Fred Zharoff, D-Kodiak, is contributing to this outrage by attempting to kill Alaska's ban on irradiated foods.

Most consumers refuse to buy irradiated foods. These foods have been banned in Japan, Australia, Great Britain, Maine, New York and New Jersey, the state where most irradiation firms are headquartered.

Irradiation advocates rightly contend

it extends shelf life by killing bacteria. Yet the carcinogens it creates are ignored, as is the albatross that irradiation imposes on seafood markets.

Unless Alaskans ban food irradiation, it appears that some Alaskan seafood will be irradiated. This would set the stage for a scam known as "dutching," a common crime in Europe which is undermining legitimate seafood markets.

"Dutching" illegally covers up high levels of bacterial contamination in

spoiled seafood. Brokers purchase spoiled seafood shipments otherwise destined for disposal at rock-bottom prices. They send these shipments to the Netherlands (hence the term "dutching") for irradiation, which kills bacteria.

Without bacteria, the spoiled seafood smells and appears "fresh." Thus, cheap spoiled seafood undercuts legitimate seafood markets. The London Food Commission has documented five cases of "dutching" since

1986. These are widely recognized as just the tip of an iceberg.

The United Fishermen of Alaska overwhelmingly passed resolutions strongly opposing seafood irradiation in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

As fishermen, we should demand accountability from Zharoff. Tell him to support — without weakening — House Bill 25 now!

Dennis Specht  
Homer

## It's important for rural Alaskans to be counted

To the editor:

The 1990 census is upon us here in Alaska, and I want to emphasize how important it is for rural Alaskans to be "counted."

In order for rural Alaska to get its "fair share" in federal funding and voting power, it will be important for each individual to be counted. And we must let everyone know that the forms they fill out will be held in complete confidence by the Census Bureau and

the information will not be released by any other division or department.

So the final point is this: answer all the questions you can as truthfully and completely as possible.

There are many personal questions on the census form, and some people in the past have felt uneasy answering such personal questions. But not to worry. The information you give to the census people will be kept confidential.

This time around the feds have hired

some Alaska Natives who are familiar with rural Alaska. These people are also responsible for getting people trained in our rural regions and communities. There is supposed to be someone in every village to conduct the census.

The results of the 1990 census will be used in helping to figure out future federal funding, housing improvements, revenue sharing grants, Bureau of Indian Affairs grants, as well as size and population of

legislative districts in Alaska.

Now, since rural areas are growing in population, it is important that we let the feds find this out directly via their census. By making a good show in the rural census, rural Alaskans will be showing their numbers and their strength.

Stand up and be counted. Let's show our strength in numbers.

With respect,  
Rep. Kay Wallis  
Juneau

## • Natives won't give up subsistence

Thank God, Alaska Native people have never approached the Alaska Judicial System or for that matter, any judicial system for justice. If we had, we would still be second class citizens in Alaska, according to the present political mood of the Alaska Supreme Court. We would still have "No dogs or Indians allowed" signs in business windows and theaters.

However, the politically astute Natives, as we are, went to the political arm of government for justice. We, historically, as all Native Americans, have been subjected to a legacy of tragedy with the American court system. The Alaska Supreme

Court is no exception.

There is not a legal flaw in their decision... but a moral, ethical flaw as wide as the Jordan River, regarding Native subsistence rights.

What are we going to do now... start putting Alaska Natives in federal penitentiaries for practicing their customs that have existed since time-immemorial such as the case with my brother and fellow Haida Indian?

Let me tell you this, I'm a Haida Indian, and the other Alaska Natives won't take this sitting down. We have our homework cut out by asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision of Alaska's Supreme Court, and we hope to overrule the Alaska Supreme Court.

Alaska's smooth polished Southern lawyer governor can be very persuasive in Alaska. However, I believe we have much more powerful advocates in Washington, D.C., who are Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, on our side.

Nothing is final, certainly not the Alaska Supreme Court's decision. We may have lost one battle, but the war is not over.

My cry is to our congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., the politicians who are sympathetic to who and what we are.

Sincerely,  
Diann L. Morrison  
St. Paul, Minn.



## Voters should decide fate of Education Fund

To the editor:

In your editorial Feb. 12, you registered "a vote against the Education Fund."

The truth is that neither you nor the people of Alaska will have an opportunity to vote on this important measure if our state senators refuse to give us the opportunity in November!

You asked why we would "set aside money through a constitutional amend-

ment for education and not fish and game management," etc. The answer is that 25 cents out of every \$1 in the state budget goes for the education of Alaska's children.

Right now 80 cents of every \$1 of state revenue comes from oil. In 10 years, oil revenue will decrease by a third — more than \$700 million.

Unless we plan for this inevitable decline in revenue, there will not be

enough for the education of our children or anything else!

Personally, I support the Education Fund. It was proposed two years ago by the Alaska Coalition for Education — parents, educators and administrators. The Education Fund would not come from the portion of the Permanent Fund earnings used to pay our dividends. The principal of the Permanent Fund will never be

touched.

Most of all, I believe in democracy. Let's let the people of Alaska decide the future of our children's education. We should all urge the state senators to support House Joint Resolution 13 and let the people decide!

Sincerely,  
Richard K. Heacock Jr.  
Fairbanks