

What others say...

Don't run advertisements for alcohol

To the editor:

Your paper must be really hurting for funds. People who know what they are talking about have written to your paper telling you that alcohol is a killer.

In the Nov. 9, 1987, issue I have in front of me you have written what alcohol will and can do sometimes to a person. Hospital, prison or six feet under.

Have you forgotten how to listen with your hearts? Or talk from your hearts? Please stop advertising about alcohol. I have wanted to write to you for a long time now.

I hate what their ads say. No, it is not funny at all. I hope you will print this.

Vince Pikonganna
Nome

Aleut actress wants to write play

To the editor:

I am an Aleut actress living in New York. I need to speak with a real Aleut person who knows about the Aleut history. I am going to present this history in the form of a play. For all I know it's been done before, but I don't know.

This person must be Aleut because the Aleut philosophy is very important in terms of the presentation. I certainly don't want a "Tonto" result.

Let me explain a little further, and then can somebody see if they can help me, please?

I am a student, theater major, at New York University. In one of my classes, I have been attending Peter Brooks' production of *The Mahabharata*. People familiar with Mr. Brooks' work admire him for the cultural understanding he brings to his productions. My professor at NYU goes wild over cultural things. He nearly had a heart attack when I told him I was Aleut.

Anyway, our assignment for the

semester is to present something from our own field of study that was inspired by the *Mahabharata* performance.

I can't help but want to present the Aleut history like Brooks did. Not only will it be fulfilling my course requirement and impressing my professor, but I will also be learning about my heritage.

I don't know anything. I am one quarter. My father was half. I only met him once. I never met my grandmother. I've only heard she died of smallpox or something when my father was very young. When people ask me if I'm part Oriental, I say, "No, Aleut!" They think that's neat, but I want to know more.

Can anybody help me? I'm feeling very cut off here. Any response would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Barbara Acey
211 Thompson St., No. LLB
New York, New York 10012

Renegotiate treaty for SE salmon

To the editor:

I am a recently retired salmon troller with 60 seasons behind me. I have seen the trolling business go from a paying full-time way of life to deteriorate to a part-time job manned by government workers and school teachers on vacation from their regular jobs.

Some of us have working wives that subsidize the trolling enough to stave off bankruptcy. Over half of the fleet has diversified into other kinds of fishing so that trolling is just a side-line because we have consistently got bad deals.

This arbitrary ruling by Fish and Game that trollers cannot range any farther out in the Gulf of Alaska than Cape Suckling on the Southeast entrance to Prince William Sound forces the trolling fleet to bunch up and compete in less than one-fourth of Alaska waters.

Then this miserable small king salmon quota allocated by the coast wise treaty enacted a few years ago has been the result of the rest of the Pacific Coast states and British Columbia ganging up on Alaskan trollers and forcing us out of business.

This treaty has got to be renegotiated upward in our favor, or discarded entirely. The king salmon business has been booming on the Columbia River for the past three years while Alaskan trollers are forced to quit fishing kings, and go to cohoes only, while the ocean is loaded with large king salmon.

This year over one-half of the trolling fleet quit in disgust long before the final coho closure because there were more king salmon than cohoes. It was illegal to have a king salmon in your possession, even for your own use. Only sport fishermen were allowed to take king salmon and halibut.

The commercial salmon fishermen are paying the bill for enhancement while the freeloaders are taking the lions share of the catch.

The nonprofit Aquaculture Association should be given large grants from the federal and state governments to enhance chinok and silver salmon so ALL salmon fishermen would benefit.

Sincerely,
Al Brookman Sr.
Juneau

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Kotzebue panel seeks changes in RATNET

To Mr. Isaac Kayutak, Chairman
Rural Alaska Television Network:

Since television is a very powerful medium in the lives of all Alaskans, we would like to propose some changes in the RATNET policies.

We would like to see more regional programming broadcast on RATNET. This is important to your viewers in that they need to see themselves as role models. Our young people are only seeing a strong Western influence on television. This practice needs to be balanced with increased Alaskan programming in a variety of languages.

We will never succeed in teaching our young people that learning about their culture, values and languages is important if it is not being used in the various mediums in an acceptable manner. Television can play a very important role in our mission since it is so powerful and is the medium of the times.

We would like to see more programming containing traditional skills in as many of Alaska's diverse cultures as possible. These would include a variety of programs on subsistence hunting and fishing, sewing, carving, basketmaking and various other art forms of the major Native cultures. Programming should also include public affairs programs of interest to modern Native communities around the state.

This type of programming should be developed as a form of leadership training and address areas such as municipal management, local option laws, the subsistence issue and marine mammal management, education and the Molly Hootch settlement, bilingual education, values, health issues and AIDS education, state government and politics, Alaskan economics and

A C H G G H I K L L L M N N N P O R S R S T U V Y

Inupiaq Language Commission
Box 51
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

others.

Other programs should be developed that stress the important role that Natives played in the history of Alaska. This all important aspect of Alaskans' history is not being taught and would be a first step in improving the self image of Alaska's Native youth.

Native experts could be used in all of the programs, reinforcing the important role Natives play in Alaska today. There are many elders, young people, politicians, educators and others who can speak to the issues mentioned above.

As an example, the Canadian government spends literally millions of dollars a year to pay for the Inuit Broadcasting Corp. Using the CBC as the delivery system, television and radio production houses have been built and local Natives have been trained in production. They produce programming that is broadcast regionally to their people. These programs range from news in the local dialect of Inuit to public affairs and children's programming.

The CBC has committed to providing each production house with a set amount of time on the network each week for this programming. This year alone, the Canadian government

is starting up seven new production houses, recognizing that their small system is inadequate to meet the need of the Inuit living there. Therefore, the Inuit living in each area of Canada are producing their own television and radio programming in their own language and about their own culture.

All the while, they are struggling for more time on the network, citing less need for "As the World Turns" when they can offer their own programming.

When you look at the role Alaska has played in the delivery of television to rural Alaska, there is a tremendous disparity with Canada. In Alaska, it is a struggle to maintain television production at a time when state dollars are so short. But it is also important to realize that television has a great impact on the lives of people.

Look at the way our children have been brought into the current century. Consider that just 100 years ago there were few permanent settlements, no long-distance communications and few schools. English was a foreign language.

Today, we are living with an older generation wondering where the current generation is going. Our younger people have absorbed the Western culture, emulating it in the way they

speak, dress and react to each other. It is no longer "awesome" to be a good hunter; in many areas the language is hanging on by a thread; and the generation gap widens.

We need to strike a balance by instilling pride in being Inuit. It is not enough to teach our cultures out of books. It's time to step in and use modern technology to represent ourselves and our languages as well as the Western cultures have.

Take a look at what is being done at KYUK as an example of what is taking place in Canada. KYUK's productions are of local interest; some done in Yupik; and of topics of importance to the people in the Bethel area. We need more of this.

We would like to consider what is already available and push for increased development of television as a medium for education in the rural areas. For example, use programming from those produced by KYUK. At the Northwest Arctic TV Center in Kotzebue there is a considerable library of video programs useful to the type of network we are talking about. In addition, the North Slope Borough has a teleproduction studio that produces this type of programming. KUAC in Fairbanks has some materials that would be useful, as has KAKM in Anchorage.

We need to pull together the strengths of these teleproduction houses to set up a strong Alaskan network of programming. We hope the programming would use a great deal of Native language.

We hope you will recognize the significance of our proposal.

Sincerely,

The Inupiaq Language Commission
Kotzebue

Hope residents criticize bear baiting in Alaska

To the editor:

Bear baiting is a practice which state biologists claim is rapidly gaining popularity. Bait can be anything edible that might attract a bear.

To avoid personal injury, the sportsman often uses a tree stand. Because of the nature of this type of hunt and the design of the regulations, baiting often attracts indiscriminate hunters. It is wide open for abuse.

Not only does bear baiting violate basic hunter ethics, as described by sportmen's clubs, but is also poses a very real public safety threat.

It is widely recognized by both independent and state biologists alike that conditioning bears to garbage often results in serious problems for bears as well as people. State statutes recognize this and prohibit the placing or leaving of garbage in such a way that it attracts wild animals.

Many rural communities, such as Hope, Girdwood, Talkeetna and Minto, have complained about problems ranging from excessive bear encounters near baits to loss of local bear populations.

Hunters often pay up to \$600 to rent a bait station and up to 40 bears have been reported taken from a single site. Poaching incentive is amply provided through the lucrative black market for bear parts, including gall bladders which sell for up to \$350 an ounce.

Although about half of the states and provinces in North America allow baiting, almost all regulate baiting with seasons and bag limits. Baiting in Alaska is year-round, and most places have no bag limit.

More importantly, Alaska is the on-

ly state or province where baiting is allowed in areas where brown bear are known to occur. This is because browns are endangered in almost all their remaining habitat, and they are more aggressive in nature.

In Hope, during one three-week period this summer, several brown bears, the first seen in Hope in over 25 years, marauded around town, chasing kids on bikes and to rooftops, defending bait piles, destroying property and raiding garbage cans.

Ultimately, at least two were shot in defense. Baits are often as thick as 40 per square mile near populated areas. Enforcement is virtually nil due to lack of personnel. Unrecorded kills in most areas are far higher than recorded harvests.

Police reports show that many browns are taken illegally from bait sites and that hunters commonly use defense as an excuse to take a brown bear.

An objective reflection on historical game management policies will reveal a steady decline in almost all species as a result of liberal seasons, bag limits often figuring in increments of five, and excessive take of breeding stock and immature animals.

As game regulations implement the continued reduction of our wildlife resources, the use of the lottery or drawing hunt as a management tool is rapidly expanding. Although this certainly doesn't benefit the average Alaskan, hunter or tourist, the state benefits enormously from the proceeds.

Alaska does not refund unsuccessful applicants as do most all other states

who use lotteries. A basic economic axiom applies quite accurately to this situation. The fewer the number remaining of any species, the higher the price and the higher the demand.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is currently proposing to allow the purchase of multiple lottery tickets to give the illusion of increasing hunter odds, but the reality is that the number of animals is not increasing and the number of hunters is not decreasing.

Bear baiting, aerial wolf control, hunting of cows, multiple bag limits and numerous other state policies are in no manner consistent with constitutional mandates. It is high time the people of Alaska spoke out and took action to remedy these inexcusable situations.

Sincerely,

Heidi Robichaud
Chuk Rice
Hope

