

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks

Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting

Yupiit Kaniautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk

Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak

Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Why wasn't captain fired?

To the editor:

If the skipper of the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* had a record of alcoholism for many years, why wasn't he fired long ago by Exxon?

Let's have answers to: Was the neglect by Exxon to fire a known drunkard due to restrictive laws and labor union contracts?

Are prospects of long drawn out grievance procedures and threats of lawsuits making it almost impossible to fire an unqualified employee?

Are spineless, wimpy management and politicians to blame?

Frank J. Meinen
Chippewa Falls, Wis.

It's time to adjust ELF

To the editor:

Now is the time for all Alaskans to encourage their senators to adjust the Economic Limit Factor (ELF) and to see that oil companies pay their way in Alaska.

This bill must come before the full Senate for a vote this year. It should not be buried in committee for the third year in a row. Here are some of the reasons I support House Bill 118:

- This critical economic issue currently costs Alaskans between \$150 million to \$200 million a year.

- Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk are the two richest oil fields in the country. They are in no way marginal and should not qualify for the massive tax breaks afforded by ELF.

- HB 118 provides an even greater incentive to the really marginal fields.

- The oil industry ships most of its cash flow south, in fact, according to

Gov. Steve Cowper's office, about \$12 of every \$13 leaves the state right now. And, according to 1988 figures, the industry makes about \$6 million in profit every day from the North Slope.

- It doesn't seem right that we are put in the position of hurting Alaskans through budget cuts so that the industry can protect a massive tax break.

Others can help by writing or calling their senators or calling their Legislative Information Office to send a free Public Opinion Message to all senators. *But do it now. Time is running out!*

The message is simple: Save tax breaks for the fields that need it. Modify ELF. Vote now.

Sincerely,
Grace Anne Heacock
Fairbanks

Spill likened to nuclear attack

To the editor:

One of the recurring analogies I've noticed being made by the governor and others about the oil spill disaster in Prince William Sound is to the effect of a nuclear attack.

The loss of life, the destruction of

the environment and the failure of both technology and human performance all mirror our worst nightmare: an accidental or deliberate nuclear war.

There is much to be learned from this comparison because, while the

(Continued on Page Three)

• Nuclear costs

(Continued from Page Two)

rhetoric flows and the public becomes more complacent, the nuclear arms race continues and the threat of extermination increases. Consider these facts:

- In the time it took to negotiate the INF Treaty, the United States and the USSR built more weapons than the treaty eliminates.

- The current proposal for deep cuts in nuclear weapons (START) would *not* prevent any of the new generation of nuclear weapons from being built.

- Congress currently approves more money for *secret* Pentagon programs than for education, agriculture, transportation or the environment.

- The United States still produces three nuclear bombs every day.

- The Pentagon still spends \$1 billion every working day (a stack of \$100 bills two miles high).

We aren't helpless to deal with these realities. The influence of concerned citizens in our democracy is still the most effective way to resist the forces that perpetuate the arms race and threaten our future.

Christopher Toal
Anchorage