

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Wanted: Vietnam veterans

To the editor:

Alaskan Vietnam veterans: I'm writing a book and would like to hear from you about your experience.

For more information, please contact Paul Panamarioff, Box 15, Ouzinkie 99644.

Paul Panamarioff
Ouzinkie

Bean's offers shelter to women

To the editor:

Starting Dec. 7 and continuing through February 1991, the women guests at the Brother Francis Shelter will be asked to spend the nights sleeping at Bean's Cafe.

The women will go over to Bean's either after the supper/snack in the evening, if they want to get to sleep, or after the television room is closed and the shelter is shut down for the night.

This change is due to a need to find more sleeping spaces in the shelter and we need your help to make it possible. The reason for sleeping at Bean's is simple:

•To allow the shelter to sleep more people during the coldest winter months of December, January and February.

•To shift 30 women guests to sleep at Bean's at night enables 30 more men guests to come into the shelter from the cold.

Women monitors will be on duty at Bean's at night for the safety and security of women guests.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and cooperation.

Bob Eaton, Director
Brother Francis Shelter
Anchorage

The history books don't tell all

To the editor:

I am responding to a letter read on the talk show on KYUK by Buster Richardson several weeks ago, and the issue was prejudice against non-Natives.

It is unfortunate when one is bothered when a Native directs unpleasant emotions toward a non-Native. On the other hand, one needs to step behind in time to understand the history of the Natives of Alaska.

Maybe it is time society takes into consideration our history since discovery. Maybe our stories need to be understood and heard, as opposed to society constantly being heard itself.

If one studies the history of the Native American in black and white it will infuriate you as it did many. As

we see it, history books reveal one perspective and not what actually occurred. A facade.

In the 1880s, missionaries came into our area to banish our traditional activities. We were suppressed for speaking our language especially when schools came into existence. Many people brought up in this generation were physically punished for speaking their language. And that is the reason why the language is not as prevalent as it once was.

Then in 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was enacted by Congress. This is where we had no choice in the decision-making process. Why? Because the decision was made

• *Natives resilient, despite history*

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for us. Forty-four million acres of land (11 percent of our land) was returned to us, and it was divided into the 12 regional corporations.

The federal government took 230 million acres (60 percent of Native land), and let's not forget the state of Alaska taking 103 million acres (28 percent) of Native land. We also cannot forget the national park land within Alaska which was Native land.

It amazes me to think about when we were given a corporation and expected to be business minded, even though we did not have the education and philosophy of economics. Why that's like giving a baker a disassembled clock and asking him to reassemble it without any directions.

Currently, our subsistence lifestyle is infringed upon by the character we

know, Sam McDowell. Our subsistence is being played with by lawmakers and federal/state officials. These bureaucratic agencies are not aware of the spiritual connection with the land — for the land and the people are one.

Personally, I do not believe we have prejudiced feelings toward non-Natives. What we do have is indignant feelings which arose from avarice — people coming to Alaska since discovery.

In retrospect, we are resilient Natives despite the history of the Native American. Since the Englishmen landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620, our world as Natives has been changing. Our world is still changing, but we are strong people of heart.

Sincerely,
Carol B. Gregory
Bethel



**We welcome letters
to the editor
on any subject.
We need to hear
from you.**

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