

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

Questioning Swetzof columns

To the editor:

Vituperative personal attacks are usually not something I respond to. However, there comes a time when necessity demands clarification.

I refer to columns and letters by a person calling himself Paul Swetzof which vilify the Kenai Subsistence Women, who have now been jailed collectively longer than was *Exxon Valdez* Capt. Joe Hazelwood.

Previous columns included me and described us as people who flitted about, creating confusion. If you and other Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act oriented people are confused, it can only be because you are so involved in perpetuating the most monstrous land and resource theft in history that you cannot understand our message.

It seems odd that an employee of Alaska Legal Services also sits on the council of Kenaitze Indian Tribe. It's even more unseemly that an employee

of Alaska Legal Services is involved in subverting rights and doing everything he can to prevent people from exercising their rights, while claiming loudly to be in favor of fishing rights!

I personally know Paul Swetzof. I have personal experience dealing with him and mostly unpleasant memories of meaningless tirades.

I also personally know the Kenai Subsistence Women, the Kohlers, the Boes and almost all the other persons actively involved in litigation and going to jail. The integrity of our actions is being carried forth on the highest moral plane. Our support grows and our cause is just.

Perhaps it behooves us to find out just who Paul Swetzof is and for whom or what he speaks. Who are you Paul? For whom do you speak?

Thank you,
Thomas Abel
Craig

Cowper is truly a 'lame duck'

To the editor:

During the past weeks, Gov. Steve Cowper has desperately lobbied the Legislature for a constitutional amendment to address the issue of subsistence.

He went on a carte blanche spending spree with no accountability to the state and citizens.

The Legislature had 120 days to find a solution to the difficult issue of subsistence.

In reality, for thousands of years Alaska Natives have lived off the land, long before the Alaska state constitution. For generations, they hunted and fished to feed their families.

Today, they must be recognized and respected for their aboriginal rights as indigenous people. As a Yupik, I

know and respect my culture and heritage just as I expect the governor and Legislature should.

The governor has continued to limit the information from Juneau in reference to subsistence to the citizens of Alaska. The calling of the special session has only created a greater distrust to his position, and reinforced his title as the "lame duck" governor.

Recently, the governor stated that Outsiders do not know how to run the state.

The past two gubernatorial administrations have been enamored with Outsiders whose only interest is to make money. Yet, the governor has deliberately turned his back on the marijuana issue that is in direct con-

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• *Subsistence*

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flict with the current federal drug laws.

The governor and Legislature should not plan another special session and should stop wasting any more time and state money. The issue is not solely on subsistence, but whether the citizens will allow them to make a constitutional amendment for every issue that they fail to properly address within their 120-day session.

If the amendment were to pass, we can guarantee that the 1991 special session will be on how they can control an out-of-control budget and government.

There are many other avenues for the Natives and non-Natives to address subsistence other than making constitutional amendments.

The legislators need to just say "no" to the amendment and just say "yes" to subsistence.

Sincerely,
Juliet Hartwick
Anchorage