

## What others say...

### *Preserving heritage*

To the editor:

This letter expresses how I feel concerning 1991 ANCSA and our struggles of trying to preserve our cultural heritage, original languages and lands that the higher spirit gifted to us original natures of Alaska, Canada, Mexico, South America and the U.S.A. long before anyone ever set their White Eyes upon our lands in their boats that they rode over here on.

We realize the importance of our culture and the keeping of our ancestors' teachings, but we are so much into the White man's way of thinking that we, too, are beginning to think as them. What means more

to you or your children and all the unborn: land or money?

Myself, I believe that these lands are not to be sold, but to be lived upon by our people. If our lands are sold and developed, where would all your children and their children's children live when the money is gone?

American Indians and Alaska Natives have struggled and died for our lands, so we, too, must at least show respect and keep the lands or die fighting the communists inside America that are constantly trying to steal from us.

Ron Mancil Tegoseak  
Anchorage

### *Molesters go free*

To the editor:

S.L.A.M., Society's League Against Molestation is a local organization working to prevent child molestation through a three-fold program of education, legislation and child and family support.

In these days of exploding child molestation, just what are we doing to protect them? It is our supreme responsibility to protect and provide safety for them! "But if any provide not for his own and specially for those of his own house. He hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." 1 Timothy 5:8.

Millions of children are winding up on the garbage heap. Someone is going to answer for every one of them!

Meanwhile these molesters go free, only to destroy more lives. By lenient sentences and allowing them to escape through loopholes, judges are sending out signals of safety to the molester.

One such judge is Beverly Cutler, and she is up for retention on Nov. 4. S.L.A.M. has been monitoring this judge ever since she was appointed to the bench. She has drawn considerable heat numerous times for her lenient sentencing on child molestation. Do we want or need this judge? We in S.L.A.M. are very concerned about this judge and we can only urge you to vote "No."

Celia Warrior, Pres.  
Anchorage

### *Permits too limited*

To the editor:

My name is Shaay-Xaak and Kukeish next of kin to our tribal chiefs, my brother Walter Sobolef now bears the name of our Dog Salmon's Chiefs name Kajacte.

I am a bonafide resident of Southeastern Alaska for 71 years, born and raised in Killisnoo and Angoon. My grandfather's name Pete Hobson a tribal chief of the Killer Whale clan at the time of his death. After he died my second grandfather was also from the same tribe. His name is Skoo-Daa (Augustus Hart). He was a youngster when the Russians sold Sitka Harbor and the buildings.

One time our Tlingit lawyer the late William L. Paul Sr. showed us a book about Alaska Tlingits and tribes, a history of our ancestors where they used to live and which they claimed. Each tribe used to own salmon streams and bays where they used to get subsistence food for their winter supply. No other tribes bothered their area unless the sole owner or tribal chiefs gave their permission to hunt. This is Native Sovereignty.

When Sitka Harbor was sold by the Russians, our tribal chiefs did not sign any bill of sale to the Russians or to

the Federal government. Our tribal chiefs did not say, "The Russians sold us and our land. Let's abandon our land and give up our hunting and fishing rights." No, not that I heard of.

There was a treaty between the Russians and the United States that we are not to be bothered with our fishing and hunting rights because the Russians don't have a claim on us when Sitka Harbor was sold to federal government. I have never heard of this treaty amended in Washington, D.C.

Now, the State of Alaska gives us a limited subsistence permits for what we have to eat: to tell us that we can only get 20 cohoes, 25 sockeyes and 50 dog salmon. Without having a subsistence permit I would be arrested for violating the subsistence law, and they gave us questionnaire to report on what stream we catch the fish from and how many fish.

Our ancestors never used subsistence permits for what they used off the land. They used to put species of fish by the hundreds for their winter supply. If a white man catch fish without subsistence permit, a defender would say it's unconstitutional.

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## *Permits too limited*

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Why was it so strict for us aboriginal Alaskans? Our main diet is fish and meat, etc. If Alaskan canneries can pack unlimited species of fish thousands of cases each summer, why can't the state of Alaska give us back our hunting and fishing rights?

We like to maintain our standard of living in our Alaska Land for as long as God gives our lives in our great land, especially us senior citizens.

These 95 fish assigned to us for a family of eight or nine is insufficient, not enough for our winter use.

This 1991 issue confronting us is like the Giant Goliath in the Holy Bible. We were told that after 1991 we

will lose everything when we sell our stocks to non-Natives, and we will pay so much taxes for our land. This is when we need the help of our Congress, elected representatives to protect us and our great land Alaska.

We are the aboriginal Alaskans who were given certain benefits in consideration of all the natural resources forever taken from us. Let's turn this 1991 issue into our favor by including our children, our grandchildren that are excluded from the claims act, and by further considering those other methods of compensation so that benefits are enduring for our children.

Paul Fenton James Sr.  
Angoon