

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

Thanksgiving for nearly 500

To the editor:

Nearly 500 homeless and hungry people — 488 — partook of the Thanksgiving dinner at Bean's Cafe due to the generosity and kindness of so many in our city.

If you missed your chance to par-

ticipate, you can help prepare and/or serve dinner on Christmas from 1-3 p.m. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Bob Eaton, Director
Brother Francis Shelter
Anchorage

Alaska's First Lady says thank you

To the editor:

I have had the pleasure of encouraging young children and their families across Alaska to take time to "Look to a Book."

With the monetary and moral support of numerous individuals and companies I have been able to reach many Alaskans with the message that reading is fun, family fun!

I'd like to recognize those who have generously contributed to the "Look to a Book" program and enabled me to spread the message.

They are: Alaska Airlines, IBM, Barney Gottstein, Debenham Electric, Sealaska, First National Bank of Anchorage, UPS Foundation, Chugach Alaska Corp., Harbor Enterprises Inc., Alascom, Ken Wray's Printing, National Bank of Alaska, MarkAir, Videoplex, Office of the Governor,

Department of Education, Seley Inc., Cook Inlet Region Inc., GCI, Klukwan Inc.

The publishing houses of Harper and Row; Vicking-Penguin; Houghton Mifflin; Picture Book Studios; Farrer, Straus and Giroux; Lothrop, Lee and Shepard; and Interlink donated books and/or allowed discounts. In addition, many Alaska television stations gave airtime to "Look to a Book" public service announcements.

Warm thanks to all who participated and assisted me with "Look to a Book." And a special thank you to our teachers for their continuing dedication to the education of Alaska's young people.

Sincerely,
Michael Cowper
Juneau

ANF plans Christmas food baskets

To the editor:

The Alaska Native Foundation wishes to celebrate a joyous Christmas Holiday Season of the 1990s and hopes all Alaskans would join us with care and giving for Alaska Native families in the greater Anchorage area.

We look forward to another successful year in our efforts to provide our brothers and sisters with things we sometimes take for granted. We here

at the Alaska Native Foundation anticipate many hours of labor by our volunteers to make this celebration another one of our best, so please give generously toward our goal for those in need so they may appreciate this happy time of the 1990s.

Each Christmas basket will contain a complete Christmas dinner with all

Liberals, Natives are long-time allies

To the editor:

Recently John Lindauer, the owner of *The Village Voice*, was interviewed on the Alaska Public Radio Network.

He indicated that one of the purposes of starting the paper was to reduce the influence of young, white liberals who in his view have too much influence over Native people in the Bush.

This caught my attention because I used to be a young, white liberal. (I am now a middle-aged, white liberal.) I was born and raised in Alaska and have spent almost 20 years working with Natives and Native issues in Alaska.

I do so because I support and identify with the Native way of life and its

Praise for Barrow council, mayor for aid to homeless

To the editor:

I would like to say congratulations to the Barrow City Council for recognizing the urgency of shelters for the homeless teen-age students.

This news caught my eye in an Associated Press account. I was glad to read that steps are being taken to understand the needs of the children of Barrow.

Upon the election of the new Mayor Leslie Kaleak and his outstanding campaign slogan, "Grassroots," I am glad to see the dream of his campaign promise unfolding into a reality.

As the North Slope Borough is deciding whether to take on the project, I would like to say that it is now truly time for the general public of Barrow to take a stand in the rationalization of this dream to be made possible.

I believe that everyone that has a conscience and knows the pain of substance abuse and stressful circumstances of the tragedies which it imparts, with all honesty and courage and with all-out spiritual determination can learn new and constructive ways in rebuilding the family unit out of the

reliance on the protection of natural resources.

I find this attempt to "divide" young, white liberals from Natives and Native causes somewhat disconcerting.

I've always observed that Native people, by and large, hold similar political views as young, white liberals: concern for protecting subsistence, wildlife habitat and the environment, adequate education and health care, prevention and treatment programs for alcohol and drug abuse and domestic violence and others.

I think the recent election for governor is testimony to that: Democratic candidates Tony Knowles and Willie Hensley won hands down in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, which is about 90 percent Native.

Liberal Republican Arliss Sturgulewski and Jim Campbell came in second. John Lindauer's conservative Independence Party candidates Wally Hickel and Jack Coghill got less than 15 percent of the vote in Bethel, even though they won statewide.

Saying that white liberals have "too much influence" in rural Alaska implies that Native people can't think for themselves. I think just the opposite is true.

Native leaders know that, statewide, they are a minority culture and that their causes will be further advanced if they have friends in the dominant culture to help advocate for them. Thus in many cases, Native people and white liberals have formed a partnership.

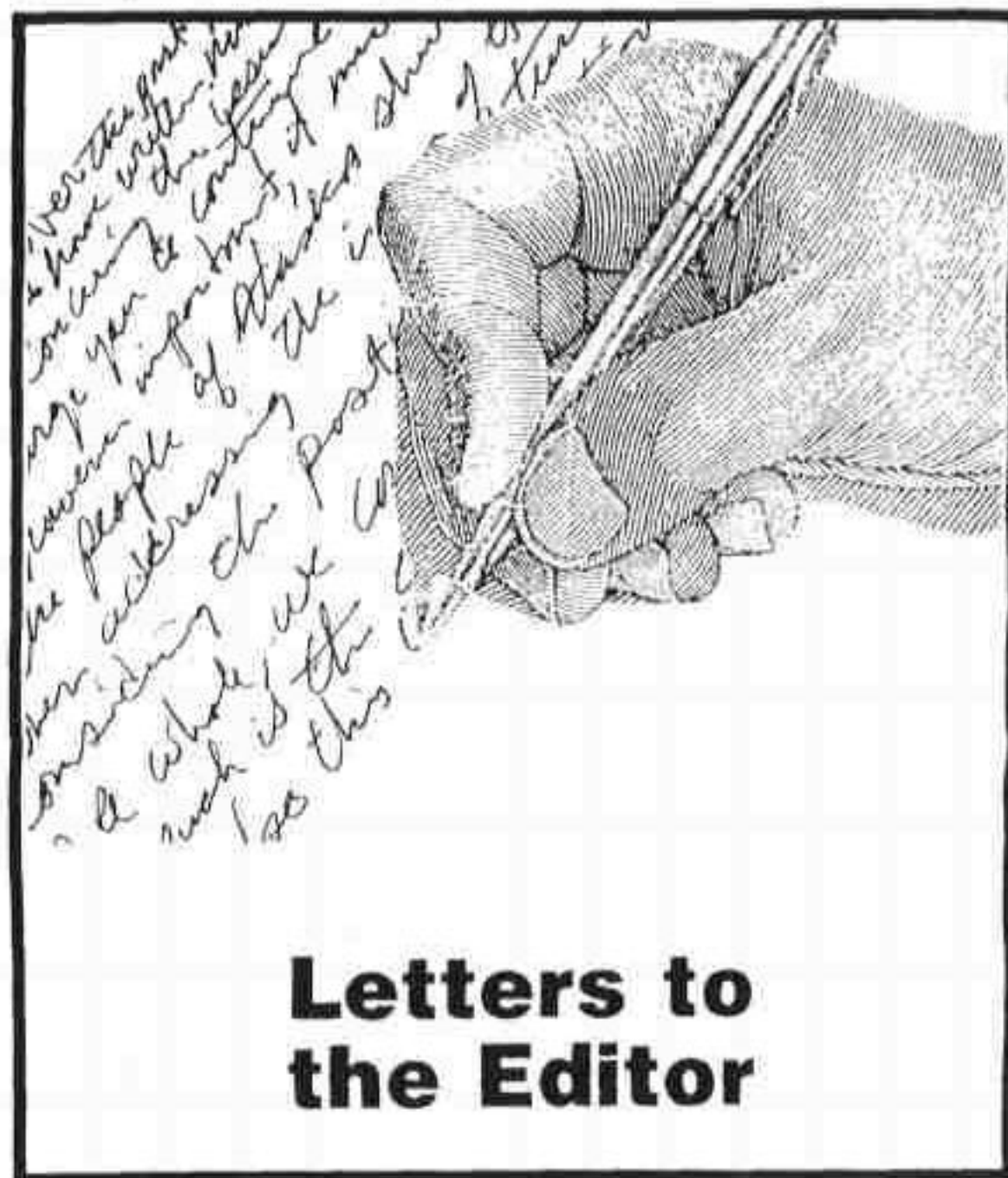
This partnership does not just

benefit Native people: it also benefits we young and middle-aged, white liberals who gain from being around Native values of sharing, community, tradition, economically sustainable subsistence societies and respect for the land.

1, for one, hope this partnership between Natives and white liberals will continue. It is when like-minded people of both races work together to protect what we believe that we accomplish our goals.

Therefore, I'd like to urge everyone to keep reading and supporting the *Tundra Drums* and the *Tundra Times*, which have never tried to divide us.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Wentworth
Indian



Laws should protect Native people

To the editor:

Each time we assert our authority we will be challenged. There is no question of our authority, only a question of what needs to meet first.

Because revenue sharing monies have been denied the tribes, it has been a real challenge for the Natives to maintain their governments on a par equal to that of others.

As such, this makes the invasion of our country even more insidious. Now, today, we watch the continued problems of alcohol and disease and economic genocide, as well as continued denial of our rights. Not of our making, these continue to decimate our people. Poverty continues among

our people. Enough is enough.

Each resolution, code, law or regulation passed by tribal bodies is valid law and enforceable at the time of enactment. The challenge of these laws is just another waste of money that could be used to solve the many problems we have.

Because monies are being withheld, our governments have suffered a severe recession and have been forced to survive by drastic change. But survive they have.

What we need are laws to protect our people and their lives, their right to pursue a livelihood of their choosing and the management of our environment in the best interest of those who live there — not Juneau or

Washington, D.C., nor the oil companies.

We need laws that require the banning of alcohol (the number one killer of our people) and require complete recycling of all garbage and oil companies to detoxify their waste. These are laws that protect us. For these are laws of nature — laws requiring enhancement programs of fish and game populations, selective cutting of our forests and prudent development so that these resources will be there for our children.

Respectfully,
Clarence McConkey
Anchorage

- *ANF to deliver food baskets to needy*

continued from page two

the trimmings and will be abundant to last through the holiday season. The cost of the food is \$25 with everything to get delivered by donation of time and packaging, so you can see full benefit of a contribution is realized by our needy families. Please give generously to our program.

Individuals wanting to participate

please consider increments of \$5. Any and all will be most greatly appreciated by us and mostly by our people.

The Alaska Native Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, and your contribution is tax deductible. I am sure families receiving a Christmas basket would wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you and a very Merry Christmas!

Kindly make checks payable to: Christmas Dinner Basket, Alaska Native Foundation, Box 100278, Anchorage 99510; or deliver to 411 West Fourth Ave., Suite 1-A; phone, 258-7452.

Sincerely,
Emil Nott
Col. Joseph Beans
Anchorage