

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

Truitt is truly one of Alaska's greats

To the editor:

I recently learned that Gil Truitt is retiring from Mt. Edgecumbe High School. He is a great Alaskan and an individual who brings back so many positive memories to his former students.

His dedication, quiet dignity and commitment are qualities that I will

always remember about him.

I am proud to have been a student of his and even prouder that a man of our race has so well distinguished himself.

He truly is one of Alaska's greats.

Sincerely,
Morris Thompson
President, Doyon Ltd.
Fairbanks

Voter apathy leads to arrogance

To the editor:

It is going to be a long hard road for us to get into and out of the '90s if we are not able to give our local, state and federal leaders clear directions on what we want them to do for us.

Incumbent arrogance is bred by a voting public that does not seem to care. Voter registration efforts need to continue. Those who register need to vote absentee or go to the polls for local elections in October and state and federal elections in November.

Subsistence, equalizing school funding for single and dual site schools, oil drilling in Bristol Bay, stopping interception of our salmon, recriminalization of marijuana, rural economic development, health aide funding, the Village Public Safety Officer program, Power Cost Equalization Program, tourism development that includes local people, outflow of limited entry permits, forced mergers of school districts and taxing policies are issues that I hope are debated by the candidates for the school board, city council, state House, state Senate, governor, U.S. Senate and U.S. House.

I hope that the candidates for these offices can hold on to the high ground and debate issues rather than run each other down. The low turnout around

the state in the recent Primary Election may be a comment on voters' dislike for negative campaigning.

I mention the issues that concern me because it may help us find candidates who will debate these as well as other vital issues. We are part of a nation where state and local initiatives can have an impact on state and federal policy.

Dillingham and other Bristol Bay communities are united in their opposition to exploration for oil in Bristol Bay waters. We oppose the exploration for a very good reason. The fish resources are a national treasure and give us and our state more than \$2 billion worth of economic activity. Much of that money goes out of state but much of it stays in our coastal communities as well.

The result of our united opposition to oil drilling has given us a moratorium for one year. If we continue our opposition to oil drilling because the highest and best use of our waters remains fishing, we should be able to successfully get a longer delay.

Further, we should encourage our state and federal government to adopt more aggressive on-shore oil exploration and development on private, state and federal lands.

We can't forget where we came from

To the editor:

I've been wanting to share this personal experience for those who may need to hear it. It pertains to getting a higher education to ultimately obtain a degree.

Today there are individuals who feel they are not adequate enough to attend a college class or even attend a university. Anyone has the potential to go to college as long as the work is completed and it is beneficial in the future.

School has begun in most areas and students are returning to universities to advance academically.

I had the opportunity to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the

spring of 1989. The experience alone was a culture shock which I wasn't prepared for. Who is?

Upon returning home there was an incident in particular which astounded me and shamed me later. It was when Mom asked me to cut up a bird for consumption. My hands got bloody, and I wanted to wash them immediately.

In previous times being proud never existed because there was no reason for it. I had forgotten our ways of Yupik life.

It seemed odd to cut up the bird then. Realization dawned on me. I forgot who I was.

When people are away from their

environment, their perspective changes, maybe even their thoughts.

I was ashamed for feeling the way I did. I approached Mom to reveal the realization. I forgot to be who I am. As Mom always has intuition, she understood.

Knowledge does give one the ability to express thoughts in numerous ways. Knowledge does broaden one's view or it can take you away from your traditional ways if you let it. A scary thought isn't it?

Strong parents are supportive even if you stray to a different sphere. It is necessity as a person walks up the stairs into the journey of knowledge

to not forget your ancestors, know who you are and have pride in your heritage.

In the past I tended to put individuals on a platform if they had a degree. Believe me, I know it takes work, but it doesn't make them better than you. What they do have is a broader perspective to be objective in areas of concern, and they can be right or wrong. We all have the capabilities to succeed if one desires to work and has positive support to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to bestow these thoughts.

Sincerely:
Carol B. Gregory
Bethel

• Subsistence issue

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Is our commitment to subsistence as deep as our commitment to preventing oil drilling in the most productive fishing area in the world? Subsistence has never been a threat to fish and game resources. If anything, subsistence has been a buffer against overharvesting. As long as subsistence use is allowed, we will always have enough fish and game for commercial and sport purposes.

Where does subsistence fit into the agenda of our local politicians? Will subsistence be an important part of local political debate?

Can the city of Dillingham influence other communities in rural Alaska by adopting a strong stand on subsistence so that our state and federal leaders

will get the message? Will Dillingham play a strong role in defining its agenda and help our state and federal leaders know how to help us live a better life in rural Alaska?

I believe it can be done. We who vote in municipal elections for the school board, city council, state and federal offices should help our candidates find the high ground for public policy debates on issues. We should also look beyond our city boundaries and find ways to get the state and federal government working with us to develop our community and region so that our children will have the best education, access to job opportunities and hope for the future.

Nels A. Anderson Jr.
Dillingham

