

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks  
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting  
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## *A vote for Sturgulewski/Campbell*

To the editor:

At the recent meeting of POWER — political opportunists with egos runamuck — Wally Hickel decided that he'd extend his record-breaking gubernatorial "spoiling" streak with his old buddy, Jack Coghill.

Coghill was a bastion of Republican ideology and ethical behavior; but all that changed recently. Not only did Coghill get bamboozled into running with one of the biggest losers in Alaska political history, he somehow allowed Hickel to run on the top of the ticket.

Based on their performance so far,

Coghill and Hickel will need at least another 20 weeks to fight their way through all of the political skeletons in Hickel's closet. By that time, the election will be over and Wally can go back to figuring out another clever way to screw up the election process just in time for the next governor's race.

I do want to thank Wally for one thing: I've made up my mind to vote for Sturgulewski/Campbell.

Lynn Cochran  
Eagle River

## *Seeking a non-military solution*

To the editor:

One can understand the outrage over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but it is clear that a military solution to the conflict will not serve anyone's interests.

A war with today's high tech weapons would mean an unacceptable loss of lives and resources, including the probable destruction of oil production facilities. It would also mean an escalation from conventional to chemical and possibly to nuclear weaponry.

It is imperative that we seek a non-military resolution to this crisis. The economic embargo should be allowed to work — exempting food and medicine — and diplomatic initiatives, especially by the Arab states and the United Nations must be given top priority.

However, the Bush administration has repeatedly downplayed negotiations and appears committed to a military solution.

It also appears that the administration and many in Congress are ready to put the needs of the military before

the needs of the American people in responding to our nation's financial crisis.

The Gulf crisis is being used to justify everything from Star Wars to the Stealth Bomber. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, is one of the Senate's biggest advocates for these useless and expensive Cold War programs.

Yet only 5 percent of U.S. forces will be used to confront Iraq, while we currently spend about \$170 billion a year defending Western Europe from our current ally in the Gulf, the Soviet Union.

We must not let the drama in the Middle East overshadow the real security threats that face us at home. Our economy has weakened so much that it seems the only thing we can export is soldiers and tanks.

If our congressional delegation wants something to shoot at, it should aim at our nation's distorted federal budget priorities.

Randall Holmes  
SANE/Alaska  
Anchorage

# Homesite information is vital

To Carlton Smith:

We have been following with great interest your column in the *Tundra Times* and fully support the promotion of real estate education to the Alaska Native owners of more than 40 million acres, one of the largest land owner groups in the nation.

I would also like to thank you for your expression of interest in MTNT's Shareholder Homesite Program. We appreciate the opportunity to share this information with your many readers.

As you know, in today's world there are very few issues more important to the financial security of any individual than the issue of owning one's home. This is especially true for Alaska Natives.

When the Europeans first came to America, their goal was to "get a piece of the rock" and have a deed to prove it. This deed and the concept of private land ownership drastically conflicted with our own Native concept of family, clan and community ownership.

As Alaska Natives, we have over 300 years of catching up to do if we are to secure and protect our chosen culture and lifestyle.

Many of our young adults who want to own homes in their villages are faced with some very harsh choices:

- Come up with the cash to buy land if it is available at all.
- Sit with their parents in already overcrowded homes.
- Move away from the family they love and the village they call home.

This is why MTNT has made this program its number one shareholder priority and has dedicated the corporation's efforts toward implementing a shareholder homesite program.

This program, based on the Alaska

National Interest Land Conservation Act, section 1407 (21-)), allows Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations to provide to each original shareholder up to 1.5 acres of tax free land on which to build a home.

We believe that home ownership is critical to the economic and cultural survival of each Alaska Native family. How can a family begin to protect and nurture our Native culture without the security of a family owned home?

This is why it is so important to have Alaska Natives, such as you, who understand and can share the non-Native concept of land ownership.

As with many federal programs, the homesite program has many challenges to resolve. The most difficult challenge is the legislated termination date of Dec. 18, 1991. The act states that each and every shareholder must receive their ANILCA homesite lot before Dec. 18, 1991.

As you recall this is the same date that the ANCSA restrictions and protections were to be removed. The 1991 amendments to ANCSA extended the restrictions and protections to a future time to be determined by each corporation.

Unfortunately, due to an oversight, this extension was not applied to the shareholder homesite program because it was part of ANILCA, not ANCSA. As such, unless Congress acts to extend this date, the ANILCA homesite program will end in less than 15

months.

Considering that more than 85 percent of ANCSA corporations have not yet begun, there is very little chance that they could complete a full blown homesite program in time. Unless Congress extends the deadline, the only option for most ANCSA corporations, seems to be the Tenancy-In-Common or Condominium Solution.

With your knowledge of Alaska real estate law and MTNT's knowledge of the shareholder homesite program, I feel this option could be made available to all ANCSA corporations that still desire to provide their shareholders with homesites.

With less than 15 months remaining, we believe that this issue must be addressed by every ANCSA corporation officer and director that desires to provide this opportunity to their shareholders.

Thank you again, for your dedication to Alaska Native home ownership and your continuing work with the landless communities.

I look forward to working with you on the homesite solutions.

Sincerely,

Thom Harris

Chief Executive Officer/MTNT Ltd.

McGrath

*Carlton Smith is a real estate agent who writes a regular column for the Tundra Times. A Tlingit, he is also a member of the Sealaska Board of Directors.*



## Letters to the Editor

## Don't ban fishing in Glacier Bay

To the Editor:

I am writing because of my concern about the present move by several environmentalist groups to ban fishing in Glacier Bay National Park.

The boundaries to Glacier Bay are enormous and the contiguous waters that border it are abundant with fish and active fisheries. Most of these fish are anadromous, are bound for other areas of the state and are harvested in both the waters of the park and other waters.

These fresh, ocean-caught fish are highly prized on the fresh fish markets all over the world and are an asset to the United States in balance of trade.

Since statehood, these stocks have proliferated and there is added value to everyone — commercial fisheries, sports fisheries and the casual observer.

The economies of Pelican, Hoonah, Gustavus, Elfin Cove and Sitka are all lucratively influenced by the direct usage of these fisheries resources. This influence also affects the support industries and freight lines involved with the fisheries to a major extent.

Down the line are the U.S. citizens who are able to purchase a quality product. We have used this resource inside the marine boundaries of Glacier Bay National Park since the inception of this park, without diminishing the quality of the park.

Make decisions on this issue with care. It involves a large social and economic association. Locating and rebuilding a complete economy is next to impossible.

Ralph Guthrie  
Petersburg