

Letters

Reader asks for assistance

To the Editor:

I belong to the 13th Regional Corporation and I like to know where I can get help in collecting my share of money from the 13th Regional Corporation. So far I haven't receive anything from the 13th Regional Corporation.

I wrote them a letter and I haven't got a reply.

Arnold Brower

Natives are first environmentalists

To the Editor:

I firmly believe that there is a kindred spirit common to the Alaska Native and the Indian in the lower forty-eight. Both are one with nature, take what they need from nature, use everything they take and, in every respect, are natural environmentalists.

As the whale comes in time of need, so also came the buffalo in time of need. It is said that the animal was willing to give up its life to those one with nature, but those who violated nature would likewise suffer in the hereafter. So it is today in 1985.

One hundred years ago private enterprise slaughtered the buffalo, leaving the meat to rot, taking only the hides. The railroad shot hundreds of buffalo to keep them from railroad right-of-way, often keeping nothing. Whole life lines were ended or nearly exterminated.

Today we are still faced with similar problems. Spawning grounds are eliminated by dams, rivers destroyed for their gravel or yellow iron, waters polluted by sewage and man-made chemicals, air polluted by hydrogen sulfide and other components to make up acid rain.

Today things are more encouraging because the natural Native environmentalists are being supported in greater degree by the government and a lesser degree by private enterprise. This will mean better things.

The buffalo is all but lost to subsistence users and the whale is facing the same ultimate fate. Alaska is one of the few places on earth where pollution can be reversed. There is still hope for our corner of the planet.

Don Kelly
Anchorage

Grand jury censures *Daily News*

The Special Grand Jury investigating the Fairbanks state office complex lease strongly censures the Anchorage Daily News for its June 30 story covering grand jury proceedings.

Under Alaska law, the proceedings and deliberations of a grand jury are conducted in secret, both to ensure the integrity and impartiality of the process and to protect those who may be under investigation but against whom formal charges or recommendations have not yet been made.

Attempts by the press to obtain and publish records of any portions of grand jury activity while it is in session is, in our opinion, a flagrant disregard of these statutory protections. Such actions are to be even more strongly condemned when they reveal portions of legal advice given to

the grand jury to assist it in its deliberations.

In the case of the June 30 story, the comments of both Mr. Hickey and Mr. Frampton were reported in a fragmentary manner and often taken out of context, giving a misleading impression to the public. It is our understanding that through Attorney General Norman Gorsuch and Assistant Attorney General Dean Guaneli, both the reporters on the story and the editor of the Daily News were advised of the fragmentary nature of the notes and of the potential harm to the proceedings which could result from publication of the story in that form and at that time.

Fortunately, the grand jury had completed its deliberations by the time the story appeared, although that fact cannot have been known when your paper made its deci-

sion to publish. Since the status of grand jury proceedings was unknown, publication of the article in the manner in which it appeared could be considered, at worst, as an attempt to influence those deliberations. Even if that was not the intention, the grand jury can find no argument which would lessen the gravity of publishing any portion of proceedings which are expected to be kept secret under Alaska law.

We on the grand jury have faithfully kept our oath to divulge nothing of what occurred during our proceedings. We decry the fact that your paper did not exhibit a similar respect for the law.

—Mary Lou Madden, jury foreperson

—Don McKinnon, deputy foreperson

—Karen Doxy, secretary

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted and will be printed on a space-available basis. Letters must be signed by the author, and must be accompanied by an address or telephone number. Name and address may be withheld from publication, if requested, under certain circumstances. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length, and for profane or libelous content.