

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks

Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting

Yupiit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk

Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak

Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

## ***Donations to fight the spill***

To the editor:

Here is a letter to the editor which I hope that you will be able to print. Thanks very much.

Alaskans not directly affected by the Prince William Sound oil spill would, I believe, like to help their neighbors whose communities and livelihoods are being affected by the spill. Here is how I propose this could be done:

Each Alaskan should have the opportunity to donate \$50 of his or her 1990 Permanent Fund Dividend to the Alaska Conservation Foundation.

The foundation could then share these funds with other nonprofit groups serving the areas affected by

the spill. While the primary use of the funds would be for cleanup and restoration of the sound and other affected areas, I am sure that other beneficial uses for these monies would be identified.

But most importantly, this plan would let all Alaskans show individual concern by becoming personally involved in helping their neighbors and in helping to prevent future environmental disasters.

It would be an important step in the healing process needed in the aftermath of the oil spill.

Dean Coon  
Fairbanks

## ***Kenaitze views on Kenai fishery***

To the editor:

Mary Ann Mills and her followers have chosen to go their own way regarding the Kenaitze fishery, and, in addition, to organize a new tribe. This is of their choosing, and they have the right to disagree with Kenaitze decisions.

It is not within their right to break state and federal laws and flaunt tribal law and custom, then question the legality of actions taken against them by authorities.

They speak of exercising their basic human rights — human rights can only be fully realized when responsibility is also exercised.

They have openly stated that they don't recognize the court decisions, state or federal laws, yet they quote freely from these laws, as well as the Kenaitze decision and act on their own interpretations of them.

Two years ago, Ms. Mills was a Tribal Council member, and acting on

her own, notified young Native people that the tribe was issuing Tribal Commercial Fishing Permits. She also supported some Chickaloon people who arrived on the peninsula, declaring jurisdiction over Cook Inlet waters and launching the *Chickaloon I* in preparation to salmon fish commercially without proper authorization.

Ms. Mills and Ms. Atchison resigned from the Subsistence Task Force because they say they believe I "sold out the tribe to the state." From the beginning, Ms. Mills advocated tribal limited entry permits and total priority over all the fish and submitted a Fishing Ordinance to the task force which was not accepted by the council. This proposal does not support subsistence fishing for all residents of Alaska.

The tribe has worked for years, following the rules and jumping

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# • Kenaitze prevail in court

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through administrative hoops in an effort to recapture tribal security and rebuild pride and identity. It must be noted that Kenaitze has also prevailed seven times in court; this certainly has some merit!

The tribe clearly feels the weight of its responsibility to work with other Alaska tribes and organizations to obtain the best result for everyone. Reality demands consideration and respect for the tribe and the community as a whole. Others live and work on the

peninsula; they love this place. It is their home, too!

I don't judge the actions of Ms. Mills' group too harshly because 20 years ago, I would have considered doing the same, I am sure. But working with consensus, and working for the greater good are worthy goals, and these times and circumstances certainly call for them.

Yours truly,  
Clare Swan  
Tribal Chairperson  
Kenai

