

More conn on Hippler

To the Editor:

Your recently voiced concern regarding the writings of Arthur Hippler has additional elements which should be stated.

Enclosed is a letter which I sent to the Anchorage Times in response to an anti-Native column published by Hippler in 1982. It was not published. Nor were other letters by scholars who sought to set the record straight published.

This disallowance of any opportunity to respond to Professor Hippler's recent interpretations of Alaska Native life flies in the face of the First Amendment. The right of free speech and comment is not one-sided but two-sided. If debate is what is sought by Professor Hippler, then this debate is not allowed by his editors.

A second matter is just as important.

Your editorial calling for the resignation of Arthur Hippler from the University of Alaska accompanied by articles by Sylvia Carlsson and Bill Hess does not treat a question which must plague those who have studied Dr. Hippler's earlier works on Alaska Native peoples and who joined with him in experiments to improve the delivery of justice services in Alaska, now more than ten years ago.

Anyone who reads these annotated bibliographies and articles published during the late 1960's and early 1970's must wonder: is this the same Arthur Hippler who is now so ready to reaffirm the worst prejudices of those who would see Alaska Native people disappear into an Alaskan underclass, stripped of their land, their culture and their pride.

What happened to the Ar-

thur Hippler who worked and lived among Alaskan village peoples and who offered them the hospitality of his Fairbanks home? What happened to the Arthur Hippler who stood up for Native people when state bureaucracies denied them fundamental services owed all citizens?

What caused him to transform himself not only as columnist, but as hired expert witness, into a person ready to heap disdain on Alaska Natives and all others who would dispute his positions, employing the same red baiting tactics and cheap demagogic tricks which he had disdained in an earlier time?

The explanation does not come clearly to those who knew him then. In those early days he was threatened with dismissal from the University for advocating the right of persons to privacy and free choice. His theoretical preference for viewing culture from a psychoanalytic (culture and personality) perspective caused him to suffer rebuffs both personal and professional at the University.

Few of us who stand up for our beliefs do not suffer similar rebuffs from members of Alaska society.

Arthus Hippler's transformation into a persistent critic of political and legal activism by Native peoples flies in the face of his own former commitment to the same democratic process.

I must admit my own bemusement with this transformation on Hippler's part. Whether or not he accepts your recommendation that he resign, the Alaska community has already lost one of its brightest scholars to the dark waters of right wing fanaticism.

Let us not follow his lead and reject the principles of the Constitution which form the basis for recognition of Alaska tribal sovereignty as well as for recognition for free expression of unpopular opinions however repulsive those opinions might be.

Sincerely,

Stephen Conn
Professor of Justice
Justice Center
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Anchorage

TV harmful

To the Editor:

I hope that you will choose to print this letter because it is a concern for the benefit of the remote villagers all across Alaska.

There has been a steady increase in violence, rape and all sorts of crime in rural Alaska. People might wonder why? It is high time that the state officials take note of the dirty, vile television programs that are being thrown into many innocent homes by the Cable TV operations across Alaska.

Since the state has Alcohol Control Boards, why don't they form Television Program Control Boards also? This has been an area of concern of "helpless" villagers which is a "typical" neglect on the part of the State officials for the Native villages.

The state police departments would do well to release the statistics of "rape" especially in the villages ever since the Cable TV began hard core programs. These programs in the homes are definitely an attack on the morality of the Natives in the northern villages.

A Concerned Villager
Barrow