

Letters to the Editor

Upicksoun's commentary on AFN

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the Martha Upicksoun Feenstra discussion about the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. and its 1995 Convention (10/20/95).

Under the pretense of ANSCA to Protect our lands, resources, and rights, just the opposite happened. What it has effectively done is take our fishing rights, hunting rights, and economic subsistence rights away. Those are our cultural inherent rights, that we as first people, possess forever. The disclaimer clause of the State Constitution and the Sacred Trust Obligation embodied in the Federal Constitution to protect our lands and rights has been violated. Corporate rights have taken our cultural rights away.

Our Government of the

Katalla-Chilkat Tlingit (not to be confused with the Haines Chilkat) questions the old type of colonialism and mercantilism vs. new forms of colonialism and mercantilism. We feel that ANSCA was devised as a new approach to a colonialist and mercantilist act to steal the lands, resources, and cultural rights of the Indigenous Natives of Alaska and is nothing more than Apartheid!

We question the legality of when AFN went from Village representation to Corporate representation without a referendum, ef-

fectively stripping the Villages of true representation.

U.N. Resolution 742 part 73e (non-self governing territories) must be revisited due to the fact that we were not informed of our rights. Those villages that would like to participate in the restoration of our rights can call Katalla-Chilkat Tlingit of Alaska (907) 338-3814.

Sincerely,
Gary C. Patton
Katalla-Chilkat Tlingit
Anchorage, Alaska