

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks  
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting  
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk  
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak  
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

## *Cotten: Enthusiasm gratifying*

To the editor:

As the 1989 Alaska chairman for America Remembers Campaign, I wish to thank all the people who participated by sending Christmas cards and letters to American servicemen and servicewomen stationed overseas.

I received a number of poignant letters from students and teachers expressing how their involvement helped them gain a greater appreciation of the sacrifices made by our servicemen and servicewomen.

As a Vietnam veteran, I found the amount of enthusiasm and support for the campaign gratifying. I was

especially pleased by the number of rural students who participated in this effort.

As with all endeavors, this project would not have been possible without financial support. I wish to extend a special thanks to Juneau VFW Taku Post 5559, the Darman H. Baker American Legion Post No. 11 (Fairbanks), the Jack Allman American Legion Post No. 17 (Kodiak), MarkAir and BP Exploration for providing financial support for this project.

Sincerely,  
Rep. Sam Cotten  
Juneau

## *No-cut buffer falls short of goals*

To the editor:

Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, told the Alaska Legislature on Jan. 17 that during congressional negotiations in November over the fate of 4,000 miles of streams on the Tongass National Forest he agreed to ban the U.S. Forest Service from allowing clearcutting within 100 feet of anadromous streams.

His speech position is but a short step in the congressional negotiations if the wealth of fisheries production in the Tongass is to be maintained.

First, the senator failed to tell the public whether he endorsed permanent protection for more than 10 watersheds of the Tongass which each produce at least a million dollars of fish a year for commercial fishermen, canneries and shoreside workers.

The Chuck River, Naha, Salmon Bay Lake, Kadashan River, Nutkwa and Yakutat Forelands come to mind. The senator should tell us if he supports permanent protection for these watersheds.

Second, the senator's endorsement of buffers falls far short of its goal, even though it is the first public endorsement by a member of our congressional delegation for a mandatory minimum 100-foot-no-cut buffer I have ever heard made during the 18 years Southeast fishing groups have repeatedly attempted to create buffer laws.

The senator's revelation follows the united position of every fishing group in Southeastern for 100-foot-no-cut buffers.

The public and fishing communities should be aware that because his endorsement covers only a tiny fraction of the streamside miles on the Tongass, the senator's endorsement still results in a significant irreparable loss of habitat and a decline of salmon production.

For instance, on the Ketchikan Pulp Co.'s 800,000-acre, 50-year sale, which covers roughly the southern half of the Tongass, the Forest Service

continued on page three



## • Salmon streams must be protected in Alaska

continued from page two  
five-year plan states 1,745 acres of streamside trees will be cut. This probably translates into tens of miles of streams that will be cut within the 100-foot zone.

But of the 1,745 streamside acres to be cut, only 45 acres are on anadromous stream sections called class I stream sections. Why only 45 acres? A lot of class I streams have already been cut — 30 percent of anadromous streams have already been cut to the banks.

So for the South Tongass, Murkowski endorses protecting only

45 out of 1,745 acres of vital streamside habitat during the next five years.

There is no doubt the remaining 1,700 acres on the upstream class II and III stream sections, which Murkowski would allow to be clear cut in the next five-year plan, do affect salmon habitat and production on the downstream class I anadromous sections.

These 1,700 acres of class II and III streamside trees are most important; they hold back mud, keep banks from falling into the streams, prevent upstream landslides, contribute large pieces of trunks and branches which

become the dams for important pools, and they regulate temperature.

If Murkowski were a plumber, he would not allow connection of sewer pipes to fresh drinking water lines in a high rise building. But by protecting only the 45 acres of downstream class I streams on the South Tongass and allowing loggers to clearcut the remaining 1,700 acres of upstream class II and III streams, Murkowski is allowing continued landslides, mud flows and hot water to flow, with the impact of sewage, into the salmon habitat.

I hope in upcoming congressional negotiations Murkowski will broaden

his position on the application of the 100-foot-no-cut buffer strip to include all class II and III streams which also affect salmon production.

After all, such protection will only dedicate six to 11 percent of the timber acreage to salmon stream protection. Isn't that what multiple use is all about?

Alan Stein  
President,

Salmon Bay Protective Association  
Petersburg

## Abortion is wrong, no matter where or why it takes place

To the editor:

Regarding an enlightened respect for life, Alaska's laws reflect a cave-dweller's attitude. In this state, there is no protection for the unborn child, whether the child is wanted or not.

This is different from all other states, which provide some protection for and recognition of a viable child.

In Alaska, there is no legal protection against the non-consensual destruction of a fetus, and, in an attack on a pregnant woman that results

in the death of the unborn child, the only crime that has been committed is an assault on the mother.

Alaska took a giant step backward as a civilized society when it changed the definition of "personhood" in the 1970s when pro-abortionists cleaned out the Alaska Statutes of any favorable reference to the unborn to make way for legalized abortions.

Now we are dismayed to hear legislative leaders proclaim that abortion is a "non-issue" this session, and that everyone finds Alaska's laws ac-

ceptable as they are.

This is not true. Alaska's statutes on "personhood" place us in the Neanderthal ear of knowledge of human development.

If the father believed the child could not amount to anything the ancient Greeks practiced infanticide by depositing unwanted newborns — most often girls — on a hillside, soon to die of starvation, predation or exposure.

What makes those in our society who resort to abortion more civilized

than the ancient Romans, Greeks and cavemen?

They are just as surely accomplishing the same end, even if it does take place in a modern, sterile clinic, with reassurances from likable, pleasant people that there's nothing wrong with it, that it's a "woman's right."

Sincerely yours,  
Rep. Terry Martin  
Anchorage