

Non-Native 1991 thoughts

Dear Editor:

I am a non-Native but have been associated with ANCSA for many years. I am deeply interested in the Native culture, tradition, heritage and the 1991 issue. I feel that the Native way of life is the way God meant man to live. I feel that every day I learn more and gain more knowledge of the Native way of life, and because of this I become a better person.

I have many questions, no answers and some thoughts. Following are some things each shareholder should think about before 1991:

Is your major interest in yourself alone and your immediate future? Do you think only of tomorrow and not of the days that follow? Do you lack interest in the land, the wildlife, the natural resources, the Native culture, traditions and heritage? If so, start making plans to sell your village and regional corporation stocks because they

are of no use to you and sale is the only benefit you will receive from them.

You can sell your stock, get some money and live high for a short time, but what will you have when the money is gone? The land will belong to outsiders and your traditional way of life will be gone because you sold it with your stock.

Don't think that your small amount of stock won't make a difference, because if enough shareholders think this way, all the shares will be sold.

Stop and think what could happen to your area if control falls into outside hands. That remote hunting area you used becomes a hunting camp for nonresident guided hunts, your fishing spots become recreational areas for outsiders, your wooded trapping area has been sold or leased to a timber company and clear cutting has left only the bare ground.

The land around your village has been subdivided and sold. New residents from the outside

control your school board and local elections. The newcomers incorporate into a city and you must pay taxes on your small house or lose it. The old village area will deteriorate. Native culture and heritage is no longer being taught in the schools. You have become the outsider in your own area.

This is just a sample of what could happen. Don't let your children and grandchildren become a forgotten and lost race. You may not have much now, but at least you have the land, and with the land there is a future, a hope for tomorrow and the days that follow.

Do not let non-Natives gain control of what belongs to you, your children and all future Native generations. Let non-Natives work with you and for you, and make them show that they are interested in your future and not in dollar signs. Talk to your friends about 1991. It is not far away.

Name withheld by request
Dot Lake

Thank you for your help, friends

To the Editor:

Acquaintances Remembered
... the best of 1983 Cheechako memories.

Moving from Hawaii to Alaska in January is a shock! That first winter, I would have been terribly homesick, if it wasn't for the gracious and congenial friendliness of Alaskans.

Father Michel (University of Alaska Fairbanks) used to introduce his class on Native Studies as the history of "real people."

It has been my honor to know and be accepted into your hearts.

While attending Alaska Pacific University, my roommate from Kipnuk, Loretta Kiunya, made me her big sister and shared her phone calls from her family with me. Lucy, her mother, made me a beautiful kuspuk for our school potlatch.

This summer my friends, Florence McIntyre of Eek and

Elizabeth Tulik from Chevak kept up my spirits during the busy tourist season at my job.

In September I received the AVCB "Wild Recognition for Service to Visitors," and AVA's "Heart of Gold" awards.

I had the encouragement from my friends at Calista, Sue Gamache, Matt and Margaret Nicolai who took me into their family. Ouyauna has helped teach me about Native art, so I

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can better answer questions from our visitors.

Without your help I would never have had the courage to start a newsletter called, "Camaï" for hotel guests.

My friends, who have taken me into your family celebrations and invited me home for holidays, I share my sincere wishes for a blessed New Year. You have been my inspiration. I share with others what you have shared with me, your ability to open your hearts.

My sincere gratitude and best wishes,

Wendy Louise
Concierge
Sheraton Anchorage