

Let's continue cooperation in oil spill cleanup work

To the editor:

As we approach the close of the winter operations associated with the Exxon Valdez oil spill, it is important to note the sense of purpose and dedication that has been exhibited by all involved.

Throughout this winter there has been an atmosphere of cooperation and productive communication that will carry over to the spring and summer clean-up schedule.

Everyone involved and affected — the state, the communities and their organizations, the federal on-scene coordinator and his staff, the media and Exxon — have and are focusing on the primary objective: treatment.

The treatment of the shoreline mandates that a reasonable effort will be made to restore the beaches to a state as near their pre-spill condition as possible. However, we all recognize that the final resolution must lie with

nature and time. Yet each of us agrees that our initiatives and energies will be directed to providing the most productive operation possible.

Recent articles and editorials in local newspapers as well as coverage by the broadcast media, assure me that even though at times there may be varying opinions, there exists a possible and unified concern for the welfare of the state, its resources and its people.

This attitude ensures that any differences will be settled in a constructive manner. Therefore, I am confident that during the ensuing months we will see this constructive and positive atmosphere work in the best interests of those most deserving: the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

D. E. Ciancaglini

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Anchorage

Subsistence is a way of life

To the editor:

Food is a need in everyone's life. With subsistence I can provide many meals without having to rely on the village stores, which can become very expensive. We are fortunate when we have moose or caribou meat.

Jobs can be hard to find in small villages. There are only a few jobs available in the winter months. Without subsistence hunting and fishing, the people in the villages would not satisfactorily feed themselves.

Recently, the Alaska Supreme Court declared subsistence hunting and fishing unconstitutional, because it

favors rural residents over urban residents.

The people who are against this issue do not understand one big difference. When urban hunters don't catch their animal or fish, they have so many stores to buy food at reasonable prices.

For most of the rural people, it is the way of life; it has been for thousands of years. I feel that the rural people should keep their subsistence rights. It is our lifestyle and our way of hunting for food.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Forbes

Togiak

Subsistence is not welfare

To the editor:

My name is Pete Ezi. I am known to many people in my 29 years experience on different boards and councils involving Native issues.

I am a 100 percent Athabascan Indian from Eklutna.

I believe the Alaska Native has an image problem. The "subsistence" hunting and fishing problem is adding to the image.

We know it means a traditional lifestyle; the dominant society believes it to be another "welfare" program. Everywhere I go I attack the word "subsistence" used in conjunction with our lifestyle. Does a person in

China have to be poor to eat his traditional food?

I've heard a non-Native person tell me, "What more do you want? We give you free hospital, land and money by ANCSA, BIA takes care of you."

Any form of laws, while the word "subsistence" is included will only add to the discriminatory factor in Alaska.

The state educational system should offer a course entitled "understanding the Alaska Native Culture." I don't believe they know us.

Sincerely,

Pete Ezi

Anchorage

McAlpine gets endorsement

To the editor:

A breath of fresh air.

As a 17-year resident of Alaska, 15 years in the Anchorage area, I am very excited and happy to hear that Lt. Gov. Steve McAlpine is running for governor of our great state.

As I have adopted this fine city and state as home, I follow closely and participate actively when time permits. As a concerned citizen I have not been very happy with many of our local and

state elected officials in their abilities nor the directions of their politics.

A breath of fresh air is the lieutenant governor. I have had the pleasure over the past few years to hear and see him in action. Here is a man who speaks to you, not around or over you, a man who will answer questions, not evade them.

G. Pyle

Anchorage