



OFFSHORE OIL DEVELOPMENT MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT WHALING AND SUBSISTENCE HUNTING. NOT ONLY THE NORTHWEST AND ARCTIC COASTAL VILLAGES WILL BE AFFECTED BUT THE SOUTHWEST, ALEUTIANS, PRIBILOFS THE GULF OF ALASKA AND KODIAK ISLAND COMMUNITIES AND THE PANGHANDLE. THE ALAKANUK CONVENTION, THE VILLAGE CORPORATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION MUST PLAN TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE COOPERATIVELY. (Tundra Times Photo)

Letters to the Tundra Times

Oil and lifestyle

March 12, 1980

Alaska OCS Office
Box 1159
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Sirs:

I attended the SCOPING meeting held here in Nome at the King Island Hall on the 11th of March.

I would like to address the issue of lifestyle.

First, I think it's a great idea to hold these types of meetings, however, the village people are and always have been quiet people. So, how is this going to work? As, you may know it is virtually, impossible to get them to speak up.

The "numbers game" used by the Secretary of the Interior would not be practical, as I don't feel the numbers you get for the Environmental Impact Statement, from this area, would reflect the feelings of most of the people in this area. I feel the numbers would not be indicative of the feelings of the majority of the people, who always remain silent.

The people have gone to numerous meetings through the years and are sick of attending meetings. I don't think they are aware of the importance of the SCOPING meeting.

The lifestyle have been here for thousands of years. The oil operation and the using up of the oil may last from five to ten years at the most. If an oil spill destroys life here, the marine mammals used as food for thousands of years and years to come would be gone. This isn't a fair trade. The two hundred million people wanting oil are just going to have to "tighten their belts".

Lets not add another mistake to our history books.

I am not aware of any ads put out in the native dialect - about a three months time period passes before most villagers disseminate the new ideas and respond.

I feel, before there are any drilling for oil in this area, the effects from the oil spill that occurred in the Pribilof Islands area should be studied over the next ten years. The study would focus on the effect of oil spills on marine mammals that are used as food by the Native people.

Sincerely,
Hugh Walker

cc: Tundra Times

Home sends thanks

Bethel Prematernal Home
P.O. Box 269
Bethel, Alaska 99559
March 7, 1980

Emmonak Corporation
Lower Yukon River
Emmonak, Alaska 99581

Gentlemen,

Thank you for your pledge and check of \$1,000.00 we just received.

I also want to take this time to acknowledge your Corporation's support to the Kingalret Witaviat over the past 3 years since we've build the new home. Yours is one of the few Village Corporations that comes thru every year when we ask for monetary support.

We are proud to receive such contributions from your village also as one of our Board Member is from Emmonak. I am certain Mrs. Barrett deeply appreciates your support of her efforts. Also, the Yukon Delta Missions is a regular donator of money. In fact, the lower Yukon villages have been and are continued supporters of the home not only in word, but also in deed for a ways back.

Once again, Thank you for your gift. May the Lord bless your work further.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Gregory
Adm. Director

Akiachuk Limited
Akiachuk, Alaska 99554

Dear Sirs:

Kuyavilnalutse whafit Kinagalret Witaviatmun ikayutitler-pitsinik akimik tesitsam avganik. (500.00) itilutse ume eralum matum tsukeliane.

Whangkuta mane tsaliliane Kinagarvigme tsikerkatke makumiungunrilngut kuyalartukut tsaknek. Tow-wha makumiut Mamteritlermiot kengita ikayut-siskumanrilamtku makumiut atuyuilatgo, taugam nunanik makut talret. Taumik kingunrita itilivikakatgo una wetawiat ukvir-aillutkilaraput. Atulatsia pitiktluko.

Tsala tamakin nunaftsinik talret arnat wetalartut mane aserluting, piunaktlutingtio mantilartut. Maligaurautliting, Atakaukiksauratingtio, whatio atanru-sangiksaurating ilamigtun. Taugam tsallret atankitluke. Natunrilnganakoko nikinrilkimigne whatio nunakinritikimigne kaitlun ayuktlune yum wetatlerka arutluke Kuyanga tsale tuan-tin tsuliamta alerkutimik nesngalriartanketlanik tsalae makunerne kasatun ayuktleringramta amtlerner.

Thank you for your donation and pledge of \$500.00 to the Prematernal Home. We received last month.

Those of us who work here at the home are very happy when we receive donations from other villages than Bethel. As we would rather receive not only from the people in Bethel, but also from the villages the ladies come from. Bethelites do not use the home, but they support it by their donations of food, recreation items, clothing and money. Even their professional time.

I also would like to comment on the ladies that come from your village while they reside at the home. Their disposition is good, indiscriminate, and friendly and they adhere to house rules and are willing to help out in keeping the home a pleasant place to be. I am happy to not that some of our younger people are still maintaining our way of life in conducting themselves in a manner that our ancestor would be proud of. Our

(Continued on Page Sixteen)

● Our readers write

FNA potlatch

(Continued from Page Two)
culture is still alive. Even though some of us are getting to be modern. Eskimos with much freedom for this and that. Those ladies seem to appreciate our efforts while they are here. Hoping you have a good year this year.

Thank you again for your contribution to our work. Mr. Joe Lomack also for getting the people to respond to our request. You are doing a good job being on the Prematernal Home Board. Also enclosed is a copy of the statistics on from what village used the home and whose village helped support the ladies while they were here.

Sincerely yours,
Mary M. Gregory
Administrator/Director

Alakanuk City Council
Alakanuk, Alaska 99554

Dear Friends:

I want to thank you for the \$800.00 check you sent us on January 1980 for your pledge 1979.

Your council was 1 of 3 that came thru on the AVIC convention resolution of October 1976. Your five (5) year Pledge has helped the home every year since then.

With the escalation of our way of life and the cost of such, especially in the bush. We are grateful for the Village Councils and Village Corporations that recognize the need of the Prematernal Home and has supported it. You are helping to improve infant mortality in the Bethel Service Unit are by your gift.

Once again, Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,
Mary M. Gregory
Administrator/Director

cc: Tundra Times

Village education

Nulato, Alaska 99765
March 12, 1980

The Editor
The Tundra Times
639 "I" Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Editor:

I wish to comment on the article "The Cost of Education is High" in the March 5th paper.

Having spent 10 years teaching in the same village, I think the writer has accurately described what has been happening in many of the small villages. I do wish though, that someone in the near future will assess possible factors, the same negative factors as seen by some administrators, which have led to degrees of success in education in villages like Nulato.

We have three elementary teachers who are teaching in their home village. We have had long term commitments by staff. We have had teachers involved with community life and who have a respect for the students. And, above all, we have had continuing success in getting the majority of our graduates involved in postsecondary training and education.

The cost of quality education is not only monetarily high, but almost prohibitively high in time, effort and dedication for all but a few, whether they are Alaskans or Outsiders.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth I. Simpson

P.S. Two of our ex-student are working for Tundra Times.

Fairbanks Native Association
950 Cowles, Suite 220
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

March 18, 1980

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Fairbanks Native Association, Inc. Board of Directors I would like to thank the following people for their most generous help on the FNA Potlatch March 15.

Festival of Native Arts, Minto, Klawock, Wainwright, Nome, Barrow, Kotlik and Nenana dancers; Jim Stevens, Tuma Theatre, Moe Samuelson and fiddlers, Debby Fickus, Al Grant, Richard Frank, Sam Demientieff Shirley Lee, Al Morgan, Chester and Helen Seveck, Jom Pre-School, baby and princess contestants, FNA Queen Albina Augustine, Lenora Bird, Malorie Peter and Laura Ascraft.

Cook, Daphne Gustafson, Ethel and Parker Nation, Carol Jackson, Ralph Perdue, Dorothy Bergmaschi, Agnes Moore, Rachael Mullen, Mary Jane Fate, Sally Hudson, Al Woods, Janice McNary, Ruth Samuelson, Lillian Preston, Shirley Butler, Ruth and Brenda Wright, Gloria Ramsey, Ingrid Omdal, Drena McIntyre, Brad Books, Jake Butler, Ester Pass, Rick Butler, Walter Lord, Anna Jacobson, Charlotte Douthit, Anna Frank, Delores Sloan, Marilyn Pete, Thomas Albert, Mable Hopson, Poldine Carlo, Lena Evans and Carol Hess.

Servers Virginia Oyen, Pearl Chanar, Peter Lake, Cheryl Butler, Sandy Ollice, Julie Fate, Verna Chandle and Lu Kelly.

Youth Center for selling pop; Rose Rice and JOM for making posters; CAP volunteers who paped gym floor; David Chanar; Wayne Attla, Katherine Peters and Silas Alexancor for help in cutting up fresh moose meat; Virginia, Debbie and Dawn Sweetstir, Ruth Wallace,

Malorie and Jim Ricka, Valda Butler and Johnny David for selling tickets; and Terry Preston.

Etta Lord for making summer parka; and Hannah Solomon for making mooseskin gloves.

Frank and Jimmy Minano for donating beaver; Ollie Anderson, muktuk; Fred Pete, Fish; and Carol Jackson, berries.

For those that I failed to mention many, many thanks.

My most special thanks goes to Marilyn Oliver who helped with purchases, publicity and organization, cooking and serving.

We also thank the public who made the potlatch a success and Lathrop High School for the cafeteria and gym rental.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Sincerely,

Agnes L. Griffith,
Chairperson
FNA Potlatch

Teach the language

Gakona Village
Box 124
Gakona, Alaska

Dear Editor

I am a Stockholder in the AHTNA Region and I am writing this letter on behalf of all the younger generation as I notice that they are slowly losing our culture, tradition and language. I think that the Bilingual program is slipping or the students are just ignoring what is being taught to them. (I strongly urge all parents to get their children to get to know their language and the ways of their old ways. I have been able to understand the Athabaskan Language since I was a small boy because my folks use our language more than the English.

I can say that it is partly the parents fault, because I was brought up to learn the ways of our Ancestors and it really is a unique way that our people

before us were raised and survived.

I hope that the younger generation wake up and proceed to keep our culture, tradition and language as their ancestors would have them to do.

Sincerely,

Henle Gene
Stockholder
Gakona Village

Come closer

Pt. Hope, Alaska

Dear fellow members:

Can we remember back about seven to twenty years ago the land of ours? If we can, look back and see how many programs, services, and enterprises the natives had.

The jobs were scarce and few, money was scarce. Many of our people left home to find employment to support their families. Many of our people hunted games for their subsistence and income. Our corporations then were established to be self-determined.

Look back and see what we had, and now open your eyes and see what we have today. It may not be perfect yet, but with support to our corporations it will get better.

What we need is Unity and the only way we can have unity is to take one step: start working together with cooperation, good fellowship and enriching communication.

Remember, we are all one big tribe of all kinds.

Listen to your souls for we are one. Come Closer, let us speak the dreams of our people, tell the tales of love and longing and sing the songs of yet unborn. Let us come closer and unite. Oh my soul speaks.

Respectfully,

Unity Supporter