

# Letters

## *We all need a good laugh*

To the editor:

In these cold dark winter months we all need a laugh.

In 1949 I went to work at the hospital in Mt. Edgecumbe Alaska — Alaska was still a territory.

I was filling out my job application where it says your nearest relatives. Most of my immediate family were dead - so I put: George Washington - Uncle; Ethel Washington - Aunt; Abraham Lincoln - Uncle; Blanche Lincoln - Aunt; address - Kotzebue, Alaska. And I filed my application so far so good.

In the next few days nothing. Then one day I was wanted in personnel office. Boy was the man angry. He said - I can't send this out you're making fun of my government, the fathers of my country George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were not your uncles - they were presidents of the United States of America. I'll be kicked out

of my office and you don't get a job - change it.

No-no I'm not making fun of your government - I really do have uncles named George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and they live in Kotzebue Alaska. I'm not changing my application.

So that winter our orthopedic surgeon went to the Kotzebue hospital to do surgery - he also checked on my nearest relatives I had on my application. He found out that when the Quakers came to Kotzebue area they could not pronounce Eskimo names so they gave all the villagers presidents names.

When the surgeon came back to Mt. Edgecumbe he told personnel office - she's telling the truth - she does have two uncles named George Washington and Abraham Lincoln!

E. Dexter  
Anchorage

## *Think tribal, says reader*

To the editor:

I am writing in blue, because it is within my heart. I ask how it is that A.F.N. could possibly accept the tribes under an umbrella of protection when they don't even think tribal. We are more worried about corporate assets than we are of tribalism, yet it is the very foundation of our worry that is so slowly eating away at our very existence. Our heritage, as it sits today is linked undeniably to the corporation as an asset and the corporation is linked to us through our shares. As we sell our shares so we sell our heritage, the very foundations of our existence. I see in the future a time of great unhappiness for our children and theirs. I ask where will they live, what will be their existence? I see nothing.

I see nothing wrong with corporations which exist, but I see the wrong in their marriage to the land.

We need do nothing more than to move this asset back into the hands of our existing governments and out of the hands of corporations to free our very beings from self destruction. The intent of those who worked so hard to get this settlement for us was good, but the extent of damage that may be caused by such an action may be more than we can manage. Each person who sells their

shares is selling a piece of the rock, so to speak. This being because the shares are the corporation and the corporation is the land.

I would ask that each and everyone of us look at this problem and study the facts as close as possible, ask yourself am I willing to give up my heritage for a mere pittance and deny my children and theirs a heritage. Is money more important than life itself? Ask yourselves why was the land given unto the corporations and not to our then existing governments, and still existing governments.

Our lands lay exposed to many dangers. The sale of shares by both holders and corporations, leveraged buy-outs, taxes, state authority, local authority, and numerous others, warrant our utmost attention.

I say our thoughts must be expressed and these matters settled, before there can be any unity. There are those who would down play the importance of these issues and again I ask why? Why the smoke screen? Lets get at the meat of the problem and see if it shows life or would it be that we will eat it all in a season.

I will leave you with these thoughts to think on.

With care,  
Clarence