

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks

Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting

Yupit Kaniautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk

Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak

Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

## Thanks for Howard Rock article

To the editor:

Thank you for the remembrances of Howard Rock carried in your issue of March 13. I remember Howard as a mentor, teacher and friend from the time near the end of his life in the late '70s.

I always felt privileged to share his table at Tommy's Elbow Room in Fairbanks or to be greeted warmly by him at the Alaska Federation of Natives Conventions or the *Tundra Times* banquets.

I also will always regret that I did

not go with him to Point Hope in the last season of his life to see the place where he began and to see him rendered the honors that were his due.

Howard Rock has left a legacy beyond the powerful voice of the *Tundra Times*. He has left the legacy that we can work with one another — white and Native — while holding true to our heritage and become friends.

Sincerely,  
Allen D. Blume  
Washington, D.C.

## A lesson from the Exxon oil spill

To our fellow Alaskans:

We, as Alaskans, share in a collective sense of loss and shock as a result of the tragedy in Prince William Sound. There must be a lesson learned.

Alaska's history is marked by adversity. Now, as in the past, we call on all Alaskans to join together to overcome our current dilemma. Today we must look forward and again focus on the dream that we hold for Alaska and its future generations.

A period of grieving is necessary, but soon we must cease to grieve and move forward together. The future will come and we must be prepared

for it by developing a method of protecting ourselves from a recurrence of this tragedy.

Responsive failures existed in all levels of industry and government. Therefore, we call on industry and government to work together to develop an operable plan which will absolutely assure the protection of our environment while allowing development of our state's industries to go forward.

Sincerely,  
Val Molyneux, president  
Alaska Support Industry Alliance  
Anchorage

## Worldwide pollution strains Earth

To my Native brothers and sisters:

This is a very powerful time on the Earth Mother. It is a time that we speak of as a time of earth changes. This time has been foretold in many Native prophecies.

One of the prophecies that was given to me by the spirit said that "the time will come when one area will be too

hot, another too cold, one place too wet, another too dry, and the Earth Mother will withhold her increase."

In 1988, three-fourths of the United States suffered major droughts, and at the same time in Europe, they had so much rain that much of their crops

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# • Earth's resources strained

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could not be harvested. At this time, both Russia and China are buying large amounts of grain from the United States to feed their people.

Right now the world has only a 58-day, or less, supply of food. Last year was the second year in a row that the world ate more food than it produced. In 1988, the Quaker Oats Co. had to buy oats outside of the United States to supply its needs.

In the state of Washington there is a prophecy that says, "The time will come when the Little Sister will speak and the Grandfather will answer and the land will be swept clean to the ocean."

In December 1979, a medicine brother said, "Now has come the time for the fulfillment of the prophecy," and he moved his people over into Idaho.

And in March 1980, the Little Sister began to whisper and on May 18, 1980, the mountain that the geography books call Mt. St. Helens and the Indians of the Northwest call the Little Sister spoke.

Some people that didn't believe the Indian prophecy are now buried beneath the mountain. To those of us that believed, we acknowledged the Earth Mother for her cleansing and renewing process. We had planted our gardens, and we had planted a pasture in the old way of broadcasting the seeds on top of the ground, and we were praying for rain.

Instead, the Great Spirit did us one better. First, half an inch of topsoil from the heavens, then it rained and we had the best crop yet. The entire Inland Empire produced the best crops that year, with the replenishing of the soil.

The Grandfather who will answer is a much larger mountain, Mt. Rainier, and that answer will sweep the land clean to the ocean. The earth, with the help of the great Spirit, is in the process of re-creation.

Because humankind has lost respect for the earth, it will now act to make the necessary changes, whether

humankind likes it or not. The earth is like a great big shaggy dog, and humans are like fleas in the hair of that dog, and when the earth starts shaking, they become frightened.

In 1953, I talked with Daddy Bray, a kahuna and spiritual teacher from the Hawaiian Islands. He told me that the big changes would start for the Hawaiian Islands when two volcanoes would erupt at the same time. This happened in 1984.

Some of us feel that the beginning of the time we call "Earth Changes" started in 1973. This was the year that a hundred million mice invaded Tule Lake, Calif., showing an out of balance with Nature.

Everyone is causing pollution, from the great industries of the East, the coal burning electric plants to our own Native American Indian people. Everyone is guilty.

I go to an Indian pow-wow, and I see most of my tribesmen have no respect for the Earth Mother. They throw their beer bottles all over, contributing to the great litter we leave on our reservations. We have forgotten our old laws of respect for the earth.

Our elders should be teaching this and, instead, many of them spend time bad-mouthing each other. We need to teach our young people respect for the earth again so that we have a right to live upon it. We need to teach our people self-reliance.

The time may come when there is no food in the supermarkets, or because of short supply the costs may be so high that we cannot afford to buy it.

Free yourselves of being dependent on welfare or commodity foods because one day they may not be there.

Be sure of this, the earth changes are happening. I feel a responsibility to make my brothers and sisters aware of this.

With good thoughts,  
Sun Bear Tribe  
Spokane, Wash.

## Industry has duped us

To Gov. Cowper:

This morning I was listening to you vent your frustration about the cleanup effort in the Valdez Narrows.

It seems once again the petroleum multi-nationals have duped us, as I and other conservationists have again and again tried to tell you.

How many times did we present testimony during the early 1970s warning of an impending disaster at precisely the place where it happened?

How many times, after we were forced to swallow the bitter pill of the pipeline terminus in Valdez, did we warn that there must be a fail-safe cleanup contingency plan?!

And now... we must pay the price of the oil companies' hollow

reassurances. I am so completely outraged about what has happened to the environment that I know so well that I can only refer people to an article in the latest *Harrowsmith* magazine by an insightful and equally frustrated author by the name of Noel Perrin. I highly recommend it to you and all those who may have questions as I do.

I know you are as concerned as my family and I are about this catastrophic oil spill, Gov. Cowper. Please do all you possibly can to force the oil companies to comply with what really amounts to common sense.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Frank J. Keim  
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