

# Article should not blame Exxon for everything

To the editor:

I have recently read a newspaper report that inferred that Exxon Corp. and Veco Inc. are responsible for the relapse into alcohol abuse and domestic violence in the communities affected by the oil spill cleanup operation.

I was upset because articles like that could be fatally misleading to a still-suffering alcoholic.

Alcoholics invariably have numerous irrational, unreasonable "reasons" why they drink to such ex-

tremes. In an effort to relinquish responsibility for their drinking, drunken behavior and their recovery they engage themselves in the "blame game."

Initially, why someone drinks destructively is not important, that they do drink destructively is what's important.

To infer that something or somebody out there is going to get me drunk is taking away hope of a meaningful, lasting, quality sobriety.

Recovery from alcoholism begins with making the alcoholic responsible for his behavior. Every summer most of the people of our village place work at the top of their list of priorities, lowering the importance of their sobriety maintenance program inevitably leads to relapse.

Untreated drug and alcohol addictions, plus money usually mean trouble — the more money the more trouble.

As one village elder said, "This

summer and fall are very much like the real good fishing seasons in the past."

This has been a high stress summer, but I do believe that it has shown some people that they have got to get some help or more help in order to live soberly.

So please, let's not blame Exxon for everything.

Sincerely,  
James Miller  
Port Graham

## Student wants Alaskan pen-pals

To the editor:

My name is Jill Kugler. I am 11 years old and I am in the 7th grade at Hawthorne Junior High (Pocatello, Idaho.) I am in a letter writing class and our goal is to have pen-pals in every state in the United States.

I want to know more about the different cities and states in our country.

I also want to make new friends from different places.

I have two sisters and one brother. We have a dog and a female cat. I like to cook and I collect stickers and keyrings.

Sincerely,  
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