

# Letters to the **EDITOR**

## Shareholder upset with clear-cutting Tongass

Dear Editor,

The following paragraph and quote is out of the July 1996 issue of the *SEALASKA SHAREHOLDER* newsletter. It is from the profile of Clarence Jackson, Sr. who is on the Sealaska Board of Directors.

"Our lifestyle is changing and if we don't continue to fight for our traditional lifestyle in terms of food, we will lose it," (Jackson said). He feels the assault on the subsistence life will continue, and he feels that Sealaska has been a strong political advocate for Native people on this important issue.'

Mr. Jackson does not name the threats to our subsistence lifestyle, but obviously he does not cite Sealaska Corp. I would like to remind Mr. Jackson that Chichagof Island and Hoonah receives an annual snowfall that far exceeds the snowfall on the southern islands in our archipelago. The deer are only one of our primary subsistence foods that depend on the old-growth forest for protection from our harsh winter conditions.

If Mr. Jackson is concerned about our subsistence lifestyle, he would support the Hoonah native organizations and their resolutions to stop all clearcut logging by Sealaska Corporation and the Forest Service on the already overharvested Hoonah traditional usage area.

In the same edition of *SEALASKA SHAREHOLDER* is an eight-page color brochure depicting Sealaska as saviors of

our homeland and culture. On the cover of this brochure is a beautiful setting of pristine forest land.

I despise the goal Sealaska has undertaken to present themselves as forest preservationists. In my opinion, they are the worst offenders of the Native culture in the state of Alaska. To be honest, the cover photo should have been of a massive clearcut. As a shareholder, I detest helping finance Sealaska's shoddy propaganda.

I would be proud of our state government if it would speak out against the violators of natural laws, but, I guess that would be politically incorrect.

I am sorry that Hoonah is a Native community surrounded by so-called private land which makes us ineligible for help from non-natives who really care, but are afraid of Sealaska scorn.

Yes, Sealaska is very powerful. Their power shows in the disrespect in which they treat our land without fear of reprisal.

I will hold Sealaska responsible for the demise of our deer population. I hold Sealaska responsible for the desolation of our old growth forest which is the essence of our culture, traditional lifestyle and future.

Floyd Peterson

Hoonah