

# Letters from Here and There

## "Outsider's" Plight

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Dear Editor:

I am writing on the subject of the Land Claims Bill from the viewpoint of an Alaskan Native living outside of Alaska.

There are approximately 20,000 of us living in the "lower 48" and each and everyone of us are wondering where we fit in. We have been advised by Corporations in Alaska that enrollment back to our "home" will insure our rights as Alaskan Natives. But on the other hand we have been denied everything our Alaskan brothers now enjoy. Did you know that the land, Educational, Medical and dental assistance you take for granted, is denied us? It is hard for me to understand why we are considered less Alaskan Native because we do not live in Alaska. Surely our blood has not changed with re-location.

It appears that we are not the only Natives "forgotten" in the Land Claims Bill. Did you realize there are no provisions for our older Alaskan Natives?

How many do you honestly think will be alive in 20 years to enjoy their fair share of the Native Land Claims Bill? Surely something can be done to enable them to enjoy what they have fought so hard to achieve. It seems impossible that we would now forget possibly the only true natives that have struggled

and starved on the land we now hold so dear.

The Alaskan Native Land Claims Bill was signed and passed for the benefit of ALL Alaskan Natives. Only when it benefits each and every Native, will it become a just and right-ful Act.

Mrs. Sandi Connelly

## We Deserve To Die

Tundra Times  
510 2nd Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
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Letter to the Editor —

I lived in Hyadaburg and Metlakatla, Alaska before moving here to Indiana. I have remained sensitive to the people of Alaska and alert to the needs of the state. I have followed the proposed Alaska Pipeline from the beginning. I cannot say that I have read everything or know all the technical answers.

I respect the serious financial problem of Alaska and the energy crisis of our nation. I respect those persons who favor the various proposals for laying a pipeline. However, all proposals seem to have the economic factor at their root — corporations want more profit, Alaska needs the income, and persons need jobs to provide for their families. The real issues of any of the proposals is not the cultures and people of Alaska, the earth's structure and environment, or the energy crisis. The greed of man contin-

ues to be with us. We will prostitute ourselves for the securities of our god — money. How totally absurd for our lives to be bound by a ridiculous item. We compromise so much for so little.

I do not pretend to be a genius. I do propose that we stop serving mammon (money) and begin to serve God. To serve Creator God in concrete terms is relating to the real needs and feelings of people and taking care of this planet which God has given us.

The values and needs of people are more related to touch and love, than to technological needs which many of us have bathed ourselves in for too long. We have grown accustomed to an unhuman society, which cares nothing for people as persons.

As mankind takes civilization and builds up the frontiers he does so by putting a bar on life and nature. White traders and missionaries brought an end to the life of people in the old days, just as soldiers and industrialists today bring havoc to the cultures and morals of peoples.

I have read nothing recently which speaks of the people whose life style and traditions will be further bastardized by the onslaught of bulldozed progress. (Interesting to note that the homes built by our government in Wainwright, Alaska take twice as much fuel to heat as did the old homes). Not just the environmental structures of the earth and wildlife must be protected and cared for, but so

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