

Arctic Menace?

There seems to be some concern this month in the environmental community. The Inupiat whalers of the arctic are going whaling, in pursuit of the bowhead as they go south from the calving grounds in the Beaufort Sea. All summer long, the whales have been there, facing more fearsome dangers than they do now.

We didn't hear any uproar about the endangered bowhead when arctic slope Natives reported there had been a blowout at an oil exploration drilling ship, anchored 45 miles off the Canadian coast in the Beaufort this summer. There were not hot wire news stories about man upsetting the balance of nature, endangering the whale with his "superior" technology.

No, we suppose that only the Eskimo is perceived as the great human menace in the arctic. But it was only the arctic Native, this summer, who sounded the alarm. Because it is only Eskimos who kill whales, not the masters of technology from the "superior" culture.

In the cult of the Greenies, the Eskimos are the savage bloodthirsty eaters of raw flesh. So, it will be the arctic Native who is closely observed this month, and who will be condemned for living the culture. But, there is scientific evidence to damn the misdeeds of the greedy savage! Oh? Well, you say maybe there are a few more bowhead than you thought? And, did the Eskimo dare to suggest that to the scientific community? Well, maybe there are a few more whales than was estimated. But, we suppose there is still the President's international environmental policies to consider.

And, those greedy Eskimos ask such embarrassing questions. For example, why does one agency appear so anxious to protect the whales from the Eskimos -- while another is giving the go-ahead for untested arctic oil exploration in the midst of the bowhead calving grounds? Well, it must be in the national interest. What about basic nutritional needs and human rights? Perhaps, a MacDonald's or two would suffice.

What greedy, bloodthirsty savages these Natives are to go out on the ice like this. The great human menace in the arctic.

We wish them well, and hope they send us some muk-tuk.