

Den Nena Henash - Our Land Speaks
Ut Kah neek - Informing and Reporting
Yupit Qanlautciat - The Way Eskimos Talk
Unangan Tunukun - The Aleuts Speak
Inupiat Paitot - People's Heritage

Writer thanks Tundra Times

To the editor:

I just wanted to take this time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the support and encouragement that you have given me throughout the years while I have pursued my goals in the music business.

Thanks to friends like you, I've managed to cross some very difficult grounds in this world we live in.

I've found out dreams really do come true if you want them to, as long as you work hard enough at it and be true to yourself and believe in yourself.

Though no one is perfect, we could only be our best because we're only human. And with that note, you will always be in my heart and soul.

Now that I have completed my first album, *Alaskan Life*, I only have you and everyone else to thank for being a part of my life and making this all possible for me.

Again, I thank you, and like the song I wrote for people such as you, "You've got a heart of gold."

Sincerely,
Joseph Lind
Anchorage

'I cannot support Education Fund'

To Gov. Steve Cowper:

I am replying to your plea to support the Education Fund. The idea of an Education Fund makes sense. It is needed.

But I cannot vote in support of such a fund until there is a funding formula which will insure that schools throughout the state are given equitable funding and that there is not prejudice against single sites such as Dillingham.

As things now stand, Dillingham and other schools will be fighting for adequate funding forever.

The way to get equitable funding is for you to support passage of House Bill 185 and Senate Bill 179.

Get those passed and funded now so that our school systems can provide the staffing and courses our young people need to become literate, contributing members to our state, nation and world. Then I can support the Education Fund and we'll be in business.

Mrs. Dorothy A. Anderson
Citizen, parent, teacher
Dillingham

FAS is totally preventable

To the editor:

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a totally preventable birth defect. When a woman is pregnant and drinks alcohol, it can result in needless deformities in her child. Mental retardation, decreased birth weight, facial disfigurements and physical deficiencies are all characteristics of FAS children.

No amount of alcohol is safe to consume during pregnancy. It has been proven that even one ounce twice a week can pose serious damage to the fetus.

The mother suffers no physical damage, while the child suffers her whole life. I don't think this is fair.

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Keating's words rank with great chiefs

To the editor:

I would like to commend Elizabeth Keating for the letter she published in the your April 16 issue entitled "Subsistence, matter of life and death."

It was honest, factual, straight to the point, profound, and worth documenting as a historical momentum. I feel it ranks with the statements made to the government of our earlier great chiefs down here in the Lower 48, such as Chief Seattle, Chief Joseph, Chief Red Cloud, Tecumseh, Osceola, Geronimo, Sitting Bull, and many others who went down on record in history.

It is not my intent to be involved in local Native politics but I cannot help but to support Keating's contention by also pointing out a few facts to consider.

Prior to European contact, our Native people were probably the most healthy race on the face of the earth. The impact of Western "civilization" brought foreign foods and a diet that has proven to be devastating to our Native people, and to white people for that matter.

Under the Great Creator's law, we have the aboriginal right to hunt, to fish, to gather our foods, and to conduct our sacred ceremonies.

Nobody has the right or authority to interfere with that way of life given to us by the Creator and recognized in the Constitution, and under the Bill of Rights where it states that "Man's law shall not be higher than God's law."

Thus the question of subsistence, if still maintained according to Native custom, law, belief, and ceremonial

practice also qualifies for the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

And lastly, but just as important is the fact that the aboriginal foods are still considered sacred by our Native people on this continent. It is not just "food" but a special gift and power that has been given to us by our Creator. A power that our Native people need in order to be healthy.

It is priceless in this sense. Now we, as Native people, are confronted with the four white evils of Western society, white sugar, white flour, white booze and white food.

Our Native people have become one of the least healthy on the face of the Earth, followed by an array of health problems. Why? Mainly because we have been forced to change from a

healthy Native diet that is high in vitamins, minerals, nutrition, power, and spirituality, to a food that is totally garbage and poisonous.

And I cannot help but wonder how many of our Native people will have to die, suffer, and sacrifice before Western society realizes that it has committed genocide?

How many millions of dollars will be spent by the government now and in the future as a means to correct and remedy the Native health problems?

And is all this worth the loss of subsistence rights and living?

Sincerely,

Bobby Lake

Indian Education Resource &
Evaluation Center III
Spokane, WA.



Writer enjoys whaling cartoons

To the editor:

I've enjoyed your "Adventures in the Alaska Economy" series that has recently been spotlighting the Alaskan whaling industry.

Prior to the right whale fishery in the Gulf of Alaska, there was a major sperm whale harvest off Kodiak Island by the New England fleet for several decades in the mid-1800s.

In fact, the annual value of the whale harvest in Alaskan waters to the Yankee fleet exceeded \$3 million at least once during the years just prior to the sale of Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million in 1867.

Your articles briefly alluded to the near tragedy that struck the bowhead fleet in the fall of 1871, when 33 ships were trapped by the Arctic ice. Fortunately,

there were seven ships in open water 60 miles to the west of the ice pack.

One of the seven, the *Europa* was owned by my great grandfather, Samuel Osborn Jr. of Edgartown, Mass.

The *Europa* and six other whaling ships in open water saved the 1219 crew members of the 33 ships that were stove in the ice between Icy Cape and Point Franklin.

The American whaling era in Alaska definitely deserves an equal place in our history beside the sea otter, gold, and oil eras.

Sincerely yours,
Timothy Coffin Ward
Port Lions

•FAS brings strong reaction

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Besides affecting the child, a drinking mother takes a toll on society. Medical attention, special education and specialized care facilities are all things that tax monies provide.

In addition to all these burdens, we lose productivity and potential.

None of this needs to happen. All it takes is abstinence from alcohol and drugs when pregnant.

Now, please, think of this. Is one drink worth a child's life?

I don't think so.

Part of the reason I have reacted so strongly is that I am a drug addict myself. At this time I have been drug-free for almost a year, and I work every day to maintain my recovery. So I know that it is possible to keep off drugs.

And I'm learning just how much I can enjoy life, all of the opportunities for growth and all of the doors open to me.

All of this was not even faintly possible when I was using. And it

frustrates me to no end that people would not only hurt themselves but children as well.

I will vote for anybody who would ensure that these despicable women go to jail.

I must try to pass the message to others. This letter is one way for me to get the message out, and I hope all hear my impassioned plea for action.

With your help, maybe a child can be saved from suffering the effects of FAS.

If you think you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, DON'T DRINK. If you know women who are planning to become pregnant, tell them about the effects of alcohol on children. Help give every baby a chance for a normal life.

If you would like more information, I encourage you to consult your doctor or the nearest hospital.

Reach out and help today!

Sincerely,
Karol Dixon
Anchorage