

# letters

## Losing lands

Roy Bedsole  
P.O. Box 81666  
College, AK 99708  
December 18, 1978

Dear Editor:

Sir, probably its foolish of me to point out the obvious, but Alaskan Natives are still losing their lands.

As long as any government other than the one you create is able to tell you how to live you are only a slave. What happens if twenty years from now the Native corporations are unable to pay their taxes?

Will you continue on the Great White Path and sell Mother Earth until the land is sterile and the cash economy is once again irrelevant? When the land dies your entire race will dissolve.

Having allowed geographical alien powers to overcome your natural independence you have been tricked into believing both are right. Why have not the Alaskan Natives resisted?

Do the Native Alaskans have so little respect for themselves that they'd just sooner switch to White than stand and fight?

Over the last ten years I've seen something of thirty different countries and in none of them were the Native people as beaten as they are in North America.

In Alaska Natives are outnumbered ten to one by aliens and their children. Feel crowded? You ought to.

There is a natural boundary winding its way from Eagle to the sea. The Yukon River could divide North and South Alaska. I'm not a Native of Alaska but I seem to be living here and I'd gladly fight for those who are to govern themselves. Many non-Native people feel as I do — we'd rather live in the Native Republic of Alaska than be No. 49 in the U.S.A.

Yours,  
Roy Bedsole

## Independence view

P.O. Box 40  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707  
December 26, 1978

Dear Editor:

I would like to ask you and all the others who have viewed Independence for Alaska as an extreme remedy for our problems, to look at the present status of U.S. vs. Alaska.

(1) Seventeen million more acres of Alaska set aside as parks, forests and refuges than the national average in the 48 (before any of the recent reservations).

(2) 110 million acres set aside for 3 years under section 204(e) of the BLM Organic Act (Public Policy and Land Management Act).

(3) 56 million acres preserved in National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 19-06.

Are not these acts of a distant master, preventing much of our customary uses of these lands, in effect confining us to certain lands? Are not these edicts published in the Federal Register, actually paper fences restricting us to certain areas (by keeping us out of other areas)?

Are we to accept the Park police, Forest Rangers and Refuge police, whatever they may call them, as something other than federal herdsmen to reinforce the paper fences?

Is this nothing other than a concentration camp, 1978 A-

merican style? It does not take prison walls to make a prison, nor does it take barbed wire and guard houses to make a concentration camp.

We are being limited in our activities and movement in our own land. Who is extreme now? Is not Independence For Alaska the only logical, rational and reasonable solution to seek, by all lawful and peaceful means?

Alaskan Patriot,  
Joseph E. Vogler

## Keep snow machines

December 26, 1978

Dear Editor:

In relation to the comments of Caleb Pungowiyi, Kawerak/BSNA; I fully agree (page two, Dec. 6, 1978). I am sure the elders would agree with what I have to say.

During the days when my grandfather and my father had to rely on the dogs, as a means of transportation, they had to stock up on walrus to feed the dog team during the winter months, but since the early 60's, the quota (per family) decreased drastically.

Changing from the traditional means of transportation to modern-day snow machine, therefore, we cut down on the quota to keep from wasting what used to be dog food.

Thomas Nusunginya  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

## F.B.I.

Lower Tonsina  
Copper Center, Alaska  
December 19, 1978

Dear Editor:

I believe Eugene Geffe hit the nail right on the head. I am F.B.I. — Full Blooded Indian — no 1 or 1/2 pint short. I have not been to the blood bank for almost 10 years. I am still full blooded Indian. Athabaskan Indian. I was born and raised in Chitina, Alaska.

Yours Respectfully,  
Axel H. King  
P.S. We didn't have no D2 land also no kind of "Act."

## Please continue

Joe T. Mekiana  
Anaktuvuk Pass, AK 99721  
17 December 1978

Dear Editor:

I love to read of peoples problems but I cannot give direct solutions.

My skills, knowledge of people and wisdoms are for personal use and income. I can only enter in where others benefits me. I have no regards as to how many lives we lose

Please continue on — I have not benefitted from native governments.

I didn't subscribe to your paper — thank you for the free papers anyway. Good reading past time.

Joey T. Mekiana

## Why complain?

December 14, 1978

Deborah Amos, Producer  
"All Things Considered"  
c/o National Public Radio

# letters

225 "M" Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Amos, Mr. Killian:

This letter is in regards to an article I read in the Tundra Times published December 6, 1978, regarding the Eskimo Subsistence Whaling.

I am a full-blood Eskimo from a family of six. I have seen the hardship of the people of Barrow. My family lived in Barrow at one time, being born there, I have only been there several times to see what it is like to live these hardships my people are being forced to live with, which makes me realize why I am living in Anchorage now.

Who is Michael Killian? Where does he live? Does he have running water in his home? Can he flush his toilet? Does he also complain about the food prices? Has he ever been to Pt. Barrow? Has he ever lived in Pt. Barrow? So why is he complaining?

He should consider the way the Eskimos are forced to live. *Subsistence is a way of life, without Subsistence there would be no life.* Many of the people of Barrow and other North Slope villages are dependant on the bowhead and many other animals in Alaska, to provide them meat and sometimes clothing. For many people in America, taking a hot bath is a necessity, having transportation is a necessity. To the Eskimos a hot bath is a luxury, even having a toilet to flush is a luxury.

These "healthy shares of Alaskan oil revenues" are very limited, and I'll be damned if the Eskimos buy something that can't be used. Of course they will take advantage of the money to buy a motorboat or a 4-wheel drive, so they can continue their way of life. Who is Michael Killian to compare the folks of Georgia to the Eskimos in the North Slope?

If he wants to shun the Eskimos for living a life of Subsistence, why not shun those rich for hunting endangered species for trophy?

Sincerely,  
Sarah L. Smith

cc: Tundra Times

## Governor responds

State of Alaska  
Office of the Governor  
Juneau  
December 21, 1978

Tundra Times  
639 I Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Editor:

I share with you a growing concern about the safety and welfare of Alaskan women. Increasing incidence of abuse, abduction and murder presents a chilly prospect and unquestionably threatens the Alaskan way of life. We must do what we can to create a safe environment for all Alaskans. If women in particular are being subjected to violent attack, we need to

(See READERS, Page 11)

Letters to the Editor are invited and should be addressed to 639 'I' Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. The Tundra Times reserves the right to edit letters which are excessively long, and to edit or omit letters which may be considered libelous.

# ● Our readers write to us

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consider special enforcement action to increase protection.

I agree with your assessment that additional research may be necessary. In response to the AFN resolution recommending an investigation by the Department of Public Safety, I have asked the Department and the Commissioner on the Status of Women to work together to review this problem and make recommendations to me of ways

to improve the public safety of Alaskan women.

Sincerely,  
Jay S. Hammond  
Governor

## North Star III needed

Tigara Corporation  
P.O. Box 4

Point Hope, Alaska 99766  
December 22, 1978

Mr. G.W. Taylor, Director  
Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Seattle Liaison Office  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Mr Taylor:

First allow me to felicitate you as becoming a director to an

operation in which many villages in the past years comfortable accustomed to, and relied on to fill their human needs.

Personally, I have been engaged and exposed to B.I.A. cargo operation as employees of Point Hope Native Store twenty-one years. During that time I have learned the persistent determination by the carrier to deliver the needs to the villages regardless of hazards.

Needless to say, the efforts and achievements of one performed its role and responsibility there are unsatisfied customers occasionally. The Tigara Corporation Board recognized how systematically the scheduling of carrier was planned initially. The Board is also aware of two scheduling of carrier. 1) Southern Coastal Villages, 2). Northern Coastal Villages.

Due to this scheduling, name-

ly second voyage, the villages along the Arctic Coast, Central Brook, Seward Peninsula, etc. are affected by one call Full two months, July and August favorable deliveries for these points should be seriously considered for future deliveries One other possible advantage in considering the pros and cons to the carrier is the elimination of waiting time for better delivery weather in each stop.

On behalf of Tigara Corporation Board of Directors and its shareholders I would like to express a full support for future continuation of the North Star III to deliver the services to villages.

Very Truly Yours,  
John C. Oktollik, Sr.  
Tigara Corporation

cc: Tundra Times