

Inupiaq Ilitqusait is a possible answer

To the Editor:

I would like to share with some of you people of my thinking lately. I wrote this paper about a year ago and had it stored in my desk not really thinking it would benefit anyone. But some days drag on and on and for some people it's an eternity just to survive a day. If even one or two people get something out of this it's worth the thought.

Many of you people are aware of the Inupiaq Ilitqusait Committee that have been going to all the villages. I hope that everyone is aware of their intent.

We have strived in this western culture for about ninety years or so. But majority of our people are not adjusted yet. WHY? Simple! It takes time to adjust, and to some people totally refusing the western culture, and some people are slowly acculturating. The list goes on. We are not white people. Some are too lazy. Drugs. No education. No skill to get a job. No purpose in life. No self-esteem. No self identity. All the high paying jobs taken by the white people. Most importantly no language to pass our history, culture, values and our ancestral pride.

We are people that once lived in harmony with nature, never a dull moment, never a day of idleness. In those days if you didn't do the work no one did for you especially if you are the man of the house. Every day survival was by hunting. To be a hunter you must educate yourself in the environment, the animals, their habitat. Without this education you and your family were poor and often hungry.

In a sense we are all the lazy hunter who wants to take every short cut, simpler techniques and easier work. So we take everything the white man gave us without thinking if it's good for us or not. We have accepted so much of the white

man's way that we are sick inside without knowing it. We have to be pretty stubborn to continue living this way; sicker than a dog but still trying to hang in there. Yet we wonder why they commit suicide and die of heart attack, and why alcohol and drug abuse is high.

We are like cheap winos accepting everything the white man gives us. It don't matter as long as it makes us happy for a little while. We are so addicted to it we just continue accepting the easy solution hoping it will cure itself. But no dice, friends, it just continues to get worse.

Our easy life has gotten us nice and fat. We are so used to easy living that we don't want any hard work anymore. People don't even know how to hunt. It's easier to go on welfare, store, home and then to the stomach. Sure, it's easier but it has gotten out of control. We are not only fat but we are really fat. We are so fat our own people dying left and right that we are so lazy to move our fat body to help our own people. Everything has a bottom to it. I think that our eating has caused us enough grief. Let's get control of our own destiny and get that lazy fatso on the ball.

I think it's about time we went on a strict diet; not by anybody's standard but the Inupiaq way of doing the doctoring. First let's accept the fact we the Inupiaqs are the fatso. We will never turn white; let's slow down the pace and really think our future and where it's going to take us. Because no matter how fast you go you will never win the game. Because it's too complicated and most of the time the rules are set for the benefit of themselves not the Inupiaqs, if you know what I mean. Materialistic things make you happy for a little while but once you look at it for couple of weeks it's down to earth living again.

Let's start teaching our people about our grandfathers' ways of surviving. We don't have to go all the way back but far enough to get our people to start working together and for a good cause to live for. Let's start being ourselves again. Brown is beautiful. Inupiaq is beautiful. Respect yourself. Quit fooling yourself and be what you are and what you want to be. Not what they want you to be. Once this realization opens up the fatso will want to go on a diet. The Inupiaq Ilitqusait is starting to put this fatso on a good diet. With the villages developing

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Key to survival is knowing

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committees and getting people involved is helping the fatso lose few pounds that needed self awareness to get one going again.

I know for a fact that there are many young people out there that are Inupiaqs that were never taught; that are very interested but was too ashamed to ask someone about their heritage of the Inupiaq culture; willing to learn if some Inupiaq could take time to show them how to be Inupiaqs. How must one learn to be of any culture if someone does not show them how to be Inupiaqs? I taught sixth grade for two years and the students are willing to learn if they are taught and show them the things they must do to be Inupiaqs.

The key to survival is knowing your self. We tried so hard to educate our people in the western world that we got blinded by the system and we almost forgot that one must know their culture before he could learn another culture. He must know how to walk in his mukluk before he could walk in a pair of boots. But we have been walking aimlessly in the tundra for so many years this saying is hard to believe anymore.

For you that are still doubt-

ful, in closing, Kipling once said, "One of the hardest thing to realize, especially for a young man, is that our forefathers were living men who really knew something."

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