

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire



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Other Voices—

Easements: Blind Date with a Monster?

The easement monster is due to be awakened on Nov. 15 when the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission decides whether to create a mechanical robot of standard criteria to make easement decisions or to wait until realistic land uses are agreed upon before rattling the easement cage.

The problem is not simply a question of whether or not easements are necessary for development. But there is a question whether easements established now would serve a useful purpose when there are presently few certain uses for most proposed easements. They are like a proposed marriage during a blind date.

Of course, one might create the necessity for later marriage during a blind date, but such marriages usually result in mismatched partners and disoriented offspring. In fact, it's obviously better not to marry at all until a relationship jells and the need is established through mutual understanding and maturity.

So that's really where the easement question is at this time. Why hurry it? To do so appears to be contrary to all sound planning responsibilities and contrary to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Act calls for the Land Use Planning Commission to "identify public easements across lands selected by Village Corporations and the Regional Corporations, and at periodic points along the courses of major waterways which are reasonably necessary to guarantee international treaty obligations, a full right of public use and access for recreation, hunting, transportation, utilities, docks and such other public uses as the planning commission determines to be important." During the coming meeting the commission will decide whether to accept, reject or modify criteria which will not necessarily be based on planned development. Instead, it's based upon supposed and disjointed needs and plans which could well change within coming years.

The possible impact of this decision could be long-range and devastating. The monster could become the trained pet of every special interest which decides to figure out a way to override the land claims settlement. Easements would be used, not because they are or were needed, but because they are available to serve in the absence of the more useful routes.

At this time, the monster's master should ask himself whether it's worthwhile to let the beast run rampant over Alaska-land before its energies may be channeled safely into well-defined needs.

Most responsible people would agree that the land claims was designed to allow Alaska Natives to enter the money economy and become involved in the Alaska of tomorrow at whatever level of participation they can handle. But his easement monster threatens to move in and run roughshod through the Native land, controlled only by the whims of the Planning Commission, and after that, the Bureau of Land Management. The blind date began as a beautiful dream but it could turn quickly into a nightmare.

— Donn Liston

Letters from Here and There

No Slightest Idea on Award

Anchorage, Alaska
October 28, 1974

Dear Editor:

I started, or kind of like Anchorage now. Good weather, good food, no taxes, when you eat like in Fairbanks. And the African girls tailing you. I kind of like it.

October 16th, day before I quit the Old Man's Camp, North Slope, Bill Bowens came back. He's the Native counselor. I asked him where is the Tundra Times. In my room, he said. Then when he brought it while I was eating. He said to me, why don't you go to the banquet? That's when and why I started to think about all the people I was going to meet at the Tundra Times banquet, especially the singer Sainte-Marie.

I never had the slightest idea that I would get an award. That was something else.

Also went down there to ANS Hospital to see a doctor, just to ask him a question. Fifteen minutes. I waited two days and three hours, just to see him for 15 minutes. That's when I told the doctor for waiting two days and three hours. He told me to write to Washington about it, they have not enough doctors for the hospital or not enough money or something.

Then from there I went straight to the AFN meeting on Thursday at the Captain Cook Hotel. That's when I asked what's the definition for AFN. Six White men by the mike, no Indians.

Then I introduced myself to Roger Lang. He just ignored me. I thought if he asked me to talk I was going to tell them what the doctor just told me, and also Social Security and Old Age Assistance. They been taking a lot of money out of my checks but they don't want to give me Social Security especially when I'm past 67 years old. I can't understand that.

Fred Stickman, Sr.

Tundra Times Like Personal Mail

Oct. 16, 1974

Dear Howard:

You cannot guess how much I enjoy receiving our copy of Tundra Times.

I am one who loves to receive personal mail, and I count Tundra Times as personal mail, especially if I can read one of the letters you receive from your friend, Fred Stickman Sr.

To be truthful, I look for his letter first and then I read the rest of the paper, leaving Arctic Survival for bedtime reading so I can read it word for word.

These stories are so interesting to me, an Athabaskan. I wish your friend, Stickman, would write stories about our race (I'm supposing he is an Athabaskan. I'll bet they would be quite colorful.

I am enclosing my personal check for \$10. Please send a one-year subscription to my sister in Georgia. Her address is as follows:

Mrs. Mary Denton
Rt. 2
Nicholls, Georgia 31554
With best wishes to you, I

am
Yours sincerely,
Connie Harper Paddock
1800 Glacier Avenue
Juneau, Alaska

Wood Supports Testimony vs Sea Mammal Act

FAIRBANKS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT CORP.
619 11th Ave.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Oct. 21, 1974

Dear Howard:

In the Oct. 2, 1974 issue of Tundra Times you feature on the front page an article by Margie Bauman on proposed regulations restricting the creative activities of Native craftsmen. The point well made is that the proposed regulations would limit Native handicrafts and clothing made from Marine mammals to items "which are the same or similar to articles produced by the Natives before Dec. 21, 1972."

I am strongly in support of the testimony against the proposal, that was presented by Ron Senungetuk and by you. To propose any regulations of the sort is absurd and unworthy of consideration by legislative bodies. Any attempt to freeze human creativeness and culture at a point in time is nonsense.

Atty. Gen.'s Column—

Consumer Protection

REPAIRS

Appliances and vehicles are very complex these days. Repairs often require the services of a trained repair person. The average consumer many times cannot identify the cause of the problem. When repairs are needed, the following guidelines will prove helpful.

List the problems or the symptoms of the problems with the item.

Obtain estimates of repair-work from several companies. Ask friends to refer you to companies they have found to be honest and reliable.

Compare prices for parts and labor. If one estimate is much lower than other estimates, find out the reason before dealing with the company. The estimate may be legitimate or it may be used to obtain customers who will be billed a higher price later. Have the estimate put in writing and broken down according to labor and parts. Have the company put in writing just what repairs are needed, when the work will be done; and that approval will be obtained before any changes are made. Keep a copy of this agreement.

If for some reason the agreement cannot be put in writing, take along a friend to witness the terms of the agreement.

If the work takes longer than was agreed to, call the company and ask the reasons for the delay. If there is no good reason for the delay and the delay continues, contact this office or call a private attorney.

When the repairs have been completed, check the item at the store to make sure it is functioning properly. Accept the item only when you are satisfied that the problem has been corrected. If the final bill exceeds the written estimate, bring this to the company's attention to find

It is also silly for legislators at any level — local, regional, state, national — to waste time on trying. This is not a legislative matter, but, a try at gross interference with personal freedom to think, to feel, to create.

We are proud of the past, but the better world for us all is tomorrow. We can make it so by our own efforts.

To regulate in the proposed manner is to stifle imagination and productivity and to destroy one's pride in doing — in even seeking the beautiful, the useful, and the good.

Sincerely yours,
William R. Wood
Executive Vice President

Writer Wishes To Come Back

Oct. 24, 1974

Dear Mr. Rock:

I got your name from the October, 1974 issue of the Alaska Magazine from the article: "A Powerful Spring in the Arctic." I am hoping that someone there would be kind enough to write to me. Also I entertain a hope (very slim I must admit) of finding some way to return to your beautiful land and my most cherished dream of having my two remaining children know the goodness of living away from so-called "civilized" places.

I am a middle-aged woman
(Continued on Page 11)

out why. If not satisfied with the reasons, or if the bill is much higher than the written estimate, contact the Consumer Protection Office or call a private attorney.

FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT

This federal law provides protection for person denied credit, insurance or employment based on information provided by a credit report. When this happens, the company denying the credit, insurance or employment must provide the name and address of the credit bureau which supplied the report. The individual has a right to examine the contents of the credit bureau's file on him.

If the information in the file is incorrect, the credit bureau must investigate. If the investigation does not resolve the matter, the individual may submit his or her version. This version will then be read to anyone asking for the credit report.

A reasonable fee may be charged to an individual wishing to check his or her file without having been recently denied credit.

DECEPTIVE PRICES

A price may be advertised as reduced from a former price or cheaper than a competitor's price.

By using "comparative pricing" (comparing prices between stores) the consumer can make sure an advertised price is lower than a former price or cheaper than a competitor's price. Some comparison shoppers have found that the former price was not less than the "reduced price" and that a competitor's price was the same as the seller's reduced price.

When the words "special discount", "marked down", "low price", or "save", are used, comparison shopping can show whether the advertised special is really special; it may be cheaper elsewhere.