

There is no Difference

by Joseph James

Just from reading the newspapers, I would gather that America is against South Africa's apartheid policy, or "home rule".

Would someone kindly explain the differences between African home-lands and American Indian reservations to me?

Or is it that these things are all in the past and what grand-pa did, grand-son would never do?

Then what about the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the natives fears for 1991? Daddy did all that and son's hands are clean?

Well, son of the pioneers, I don't quite swallow that; especially when there are more natives, per capita, in the Alaskan prison system than any other group; and less natives, per capita, in the best jobs, in the best homes, with the nicest cars in Alaska.

Natives are not as industrious, intelligent, ambitious or reliable? They have not been ordained by God to be successful, well fed and as happy as you? To the victor go the spoils? Evolution favors the most adaptable of any species? All of the above?

"Would someone kindly explain the difference between Apartheid and American Indian reservations?"

What I think is that the strong preys upon the weak. Then invents rationalizations to justify the means. And I think that race has no more to do with it than to provide an easily identified target group, with any weaker group, regardless of race, being oppressed in one way or another. The Alaska natives merely being the largest with the most to take.

Subsistence; your commercial fishermen over-fished a land of plenty and now want to restrict our livelihood. Your ships destroyed the whales and now you want us to quit taking our coupla dozen. You destroyed the forests and we need a permit to cut firewood. You killed most of the game and now fight us for what is left.

You have made yourselves fat with the good of the land and still you want to stop us from what little is left. What you couldn't eat, you wasted without regard for those whom you took it from.

Gussuk, your eyes are full of greed, your hands are covered with violence and your hearts shall turn to stone within you when you run out of excuses.