

Abuse victims need our help

To the editor:

I am writing regarding our attitudes as Native leaders, Native people and Native helpers on sexual abuse.

It seems as though we have become tolerant to sexual abuse. We, as leaders of our communities, villages, turn our heads and hope no one makes noise that's too loud — so we don't have to take action. Another word for tolerate may be suffer or endure.

When action is taken, then we blame, blame the victim rather than deal with the horrible issue of sexual abuse, sexual abuse of our children — boys and girls — our women and men.

I want to reach out to our Native people, leaders and ask for a change in our tolerant attitudes in order to bring about change. Change is not easy. It's scary and painful. Sexual abuse scars last a lifetime. They never go away.

If we can spare a child or person this pain, we have succeeded. We have truly helped our people.

Sincerely,
Elenore McMullen
Port Graham

Juneau inspires many feelings

To the editor:

As I went out in the quest to learn the inner workings of our municipal and state government, I was glad for the backing of my city council. For the issue always comes to funding these trips, for I have to travel far and wide, and it is very expensive for a small community as ours.

I have been able to make it to the Alaska Conference of Mayors at Point Barrow, the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention at Anchorage, the North and Northwest Conference of Mayors at Noorvik, and also the

Alaska Municipal League at Juneau.

Here is the version of my trip to Juneau for the AML convention, if you can try to understand the wording and the meaning of this letter:

As I entered the environment of our land and state capitol, I felt I have found the latitude and the infrastructure of our state. I felt as Columbus must have felt when he discovered America, for the infinite structure of Mother Nature was at its work. Thirteen inches of snow descended in the first three days, and the next couple of days the rain absorbed this snow

and ascended it into the atmosphere as fog, blocking the rays of our sun.

As I traversed the narrow, sloping streets from the Westmark Baranof to the Centennial Hall, which was two blocks away, I could view the buildings of the state capitol and the Legislature. What do I feel? Remorseful? For all the priorities and capital improvement projects for our community sent to these buildings all these years and never heard from. Remorseful for our people who even haven't seen these buildings, except a

continued on page eight

• Trip to state's capital

continued from page four

very few, but which now affects their way of living.

As you can notice some of the words I use I don't quite understand. I can notice the high ranking sophisticated people with probably \$500 suits use this kind of language, for it is their tool and trade in implementing the laws of our land, and they probably are \$500 words.

You can see that the need for education is therefore our people.

It is also with great pride I see our people up there in the political arena — the honorable Sen. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue; Rep. Eileen MacLean, D-Barrow; Delbert Rexford of Barrow, first Eskimo president of AML; the great Gen. John Schaeffer; Commander Milton Cross; and many

others. When they are dressed up they are just as handsome, and their wives are just as beautiful, even more so because they are our people.

I see people like Art Fields reaping their rewards for honesty and helpfulness to others. I know Art Fields. One time I lost my wallet with over \$300 in it. When he found it he looked for me for three days to return it. How many people would do that?

With those people in mind as we inject ourselves and our way of living into the stronger culture, I can start feeling the belonging; pride and joy when the colors are being posted and the National Anthem is sung.

We as people have gone a long ways and still have a long ways to go,

Thank you,
Raymond E. Lee Sr.
Buckland