

LETTERS

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More to it

Oct. 23, 1997

To the editor:

What happened to "innocent until proven guilty"? The coverage by your newspaper of the tragic murder of John Hartman contributes nothing to the basic premise of our legal system. To the contrary, your reporting seems focused on "racial" tension; as though the guilt of these young men is a foregone conclusion and that race was the motivating factor.

Marvin Roberts claims to be innocent of the charges made against him. I pray that this is so. It is extremely difficult for any of us who have known Marvin as an intelligent, easy-going, good-natured, and helpful individual, to associate him with an act of unprovoked violence. It is completely out of character. As a non-Native person who has lived for 20 years in this Athabaskan community, I am in a better position than most to speak of the issue of prejudice. I associate daily with members of the Roberts family and know them as friends and co-workers. This is not a family of prejudice nor is it a family of anger and violence. These are people to whom concern and caring for all other people is a strong family ethic. I do not know the other boys being accused in this case, but it strikes me that there must be much more to this event than we are now hearing.

John Hartman died of an act of brutality. Such violence sickens everyone I know in this village. But none of us know what happened that night and we won't know until evidence is presented at trial.

I suggest that you scrutinize your reporting and editorial policy; the bias long displayed by this paper sows the seeds of the prejudice and racism you profess to decry.

Sincerely yours,
Carla K. Bonney
Tanana

Individual choice

Oct. 23, 1997

To the editor:

Excuse me Sean McGuire, but last time I checked tobacco doesn't kill people; just like airplanes, automobiles, guns, icy steps, and the sun will not kill a person. People, and peoples' own actions kill people! Grow up.

When an individual turns 18 years of age, that person gains the right to act on one's own interests. Tobacco is just as harmful to a person's body as alcohol or an excessive number of

pain for borough mayor.

In 1991 Jim Sampson runs for mayor. His campaign chairman is Grace Schaible. Grace is appointed to the Permanent Fund Board. Sampson's terms is up in 1997 and he supports Hank Hove. Schaible leaves her position on the board to become Hove's campaign chairman then Tony Knowles appoints Sampson to Schaible's seat on the Permanent Fund Board. Tony Knowles' man in Fairbanks (Tom Moyer) becomes actively involved in Hank Hove's effort while Jim Sampson's special assistant quits her job to work on the Hove campaign.

But wait, there's more.

Jim Sampson was a business agent for the Laborers union. His sister is a business agent for the State Employee's union and his brother-in-law is a business agent for the Operators union. With Hove's support, Sampson was able to pass project labor agreements which excluded non-union workers from working on the school construction. As presiding officer Hove also allowed Sampson to negotiate the borough employee contracts with a negotiating team made up of two former labor union business agents and a borough employee.

If term limits accomplish nothing else they can be valuable in breaking up this kind of good ol' boy behavior.

Dave Dohner
Fairbanks

Ousted

Oct. 23, 1997

To the editor:

I am a road commissioner at the expense of one of the best road commissioners Aztec Service Area has ever had. Hank Hove helped orchestrate this outrageous ouster. Elected chairman by his peers, Del Moss took his duties very seriously and maintained the roads with the best interests of the people who pay property taxes in the service area in mind. When this meant firing the contractor, he had the courage to do it.

Rick Navin of rural services got mad about the decision. When his appointment came up for review, Navin called Del and boasted, "I got you fired."

The other road commissioners learned of this the day before the assembly was to approve the new road commissioners. In one night they gathered signatures from all the property owners in the service area but one on a petition calling for reinstatement of the chairman.

The day of the borough assembly meeting, one road commissioner went to Ralph Malone with the petition and said that the residents wanted the reinstatement. He also said they

want "business as usual"; I want change.

Sincerely,
Bud Violett
North Pole

Selective logic

Oct. 22, 1997

To the editor:

Borough mayor candidate Pete Kelly needs to study a few fundamentals about the boreal forest he is so eager to turn into oriented strand board.

In a recent press conference, hosted by the Farthest North Press Club Mr. Kelly had to be corrected on the rotation period for Interior trees. It's not 30 years, it's 60-80 years for hardwoods, and 120+ years for white spruce.

Mr. Kelly states he is against "large-scale industrialized logging," yet he advocates a "burgeoning timber industry" creating 1,000 jobs. This is clearly "large-scale" industrial logging.

Mr. Kelly also stated at the press conference that timber interests need to export raw logs first, in order to amass the capital to build value-added facilities. Great Mr. Kelly! What are we going to add value to...stumps?

And, Mr. Kelly claims that we need to clear-cut our forest before the spruce bark beetles get them. The fact is, in Interior Alaska, they are not a huge problem. So, Mr. Kelly, the sky is not falling, the air is not filled with swarms of spruce bark beetles.

Mr. Kelly speaks about attracting a "components" industry to Fairbanks. Wouldn't one attraction of the Fairbanks area be the relatively pristine appearing environment?

Why are trees "value added" only after being cut? There is, somewhere in the Tanana Valley, a 400-year-old white spruce that is 300 feet tall. Are you really adding value to this by slicing it into boards? Perhaps some trees add more value standing! I'm sure I'm not the only person that would like to see this tree!

I'm not opposed to selective logging, but I am opposed to selective logic.

We need more selective logging and clear cut logic, not selective logic and clear-cut logging.

Thank you,
Erik Holland
Fairbanks

Global warming

Oct. 23, 1997

To the editor:

Here in Fairbanks, many people laughingly say that they would welcome global warming. But seriously, the consequences to global weather patterns, ecosystems all over the world, and

er, Monday, October 27, 1997



disorder

ous visit." Another way of g this is that a screening funded by a drug company uged to double the number of e with psychiatric difficul- many of whom will therefore eding regular pills.

he psychiatrists are free to re as many people disor- l as they wish. But the effort the concepts behind it are ng deep into the culture, re- cing the victim industry and ing us to look for psychi- answers to social and per- problems. It's much easier ec an alleged ADHD gster with Ritalin than to do thing about the environ- al or family problems that e better explain his be- r.

financially, we are seeing a in resources, away from