

Alaskan Spill Sparks Concern in Carolinas

by Elizabeth Fennell

"The two Alaskas: one is wild, one is industrial, and they coexisted in harmony until the oil spill set off a raging debate over the future of the largest state" in the United States of America, as stated in the April 17, 1989 issue of *Time* magazine.

"The state's name comes from an Aleutian word that means 'great land.' And no one who has ever seen Alaska's panoramic peaks, its rushing rivers and teeming wildlife would argue with that description. Alaska is great in beauty,

in majesty and in sheer size. If laid a top the lower 48 states, it would stretch from Florida to California...Alaska is truly America's last frontier, a place of wonder that is virtually unspoiled and a priceless treasure that is largely unspent.

"But there is another Alaska—a land of mining towns and tourist boats, of developers and exploiters. Gradually, but inexorably, oil rigs encroached upon the wilderness, and a huge pipeline now snakes its way across the icy expands where caribou roam. Loggers have cut ever deeper into the lush forests, and

fishermen have eased ever wider nets off the winding shores...Swarms of settlers have tapped the state's wealth as fast as they could.

"For a long time, most Alaskans were not disturbed by any of this. They assumed that the two Alaskas—one wild and the other industrial—could exist in harmony. Surely the logging companies would not be able to make a noticeable dent in the state's vast forests. Surely the bears and wolves and snow geese would not be bothered by a few oil rigs."

Until now. A known drunkard by the name of Joseph Hazelwood, put the ship's course on autopilot "that pointed it toward treacherous Bligh Reef...then allegedly left it" to an uncertified third mate. As soon as he "realized he was headed for disaster and tried to steer the ship, he could not." And so now, Alaska has ten million gallons of oil, "some of it with a consistency like that of hot fudge," continues to spread across the surface of Prince William Sound—"fouling 800 miles of shoreline in one of the world's richest wildlife areas."

"Like the accident at a once obscure nuclear-power plant known as Three Mile Island, this single disaster could be the turning point for an entire industry. Says Alaskan Governor Steve Couper: 'There's going to be a permanent change in the political chemistry of Alaska as a result of this tragedy. Most Alaskans are going to reassess their attitude toward oil and

development in this state."

For Exxon, though, the company owning Hazelwood's ship, attempts for cleaning the ten million barrels of sludge have been so disorganized that the Coast Guard has taken over and cleanup efforts continue. "Qualified approval" has been given for the Bush administration to "provide personnel and equipment" for the cleanup, but so far only four percent has actually been removed from the waters. The Minerals Management Service, here in North Carolina, claims that "cleanup of off-shore spills recovers no more than fifteen percent of the spilled oil."

The Alaskan people now so frustrated about their destroyed land and the breakdown of all their ecological systems that physical displays of emotion are sociologically "permitted" by men. Cliff Davidson, who is a longshoreman and a member of the state legislature, openly cries out: "How many more things are going to die? How many more livelihoods?"

Mobile Oil Corporation now is trying to acquire leases and permits to be able to drill exploratory wells in search of oil and gas off the North Carolina's coast, mainly off of Hatteras Island and all along the outer continental shelf in the Atlantic.

Michael McOwen the vice president of LegaSea, is the leader of a group of people fighting to control the eight oil companies plans in drilling on North Carolina's coast. In talking about the

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Who Am I Tonight?!?

by Strat Newitt/Tammy Taylor

Never let it be said that Salem students aren't ingenious. They are some of the most creative souls on Earth when it comes to passing themselves off as another person. Driven by the desire to be legal, if only for a few hours, they will search high and low to find a fake I.D. or make every attempt to create one.

Many, if not the majority of Salem students, have either used a fake I.D. at some time or been with another person who has. Trying to find that older person that we can pass for, or attempting to make ourselves look more like someone else's I.D. becomes a challenge. And when that doesn't work, people will attempt to make or alter an I.D. This whole scenario may seem like a game or a joke but it's not, not when you're caught.

Alcohol Law Enforcement Officer Chris Watkins answered all of our questions and explained things to us in a very elementary manner. The topic we discussed was fake I.D.'s. Possession of a fake I.D. is a misdemeanor and you can receive a jail sentence of up to two years and/or a fine that would be determined by the judge.

Depending on the I.D. itself, you can receive a variety of punishments. If the I.D. has the North Carolina state seal on it, or just appears to be an I.D. card

and not a license, you will receive up to a two year sentence. A conviction report is filed with the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, and your license could be suspended up to one year.

Mr. Watkins stated that the ALE department does come in contact with a lot of fake I.D.'s. He said they usually observe a purchase and often times, the suspect will be looking for their real I.D. and the fake one will be in plain view.

Many of us have been with people that used a fake I.D. or even used one ourselves. We need to think about all the consequences at hand. Possession of an altered identification card can be a felony and can give you a criminal record. Also, a Salem or Wake Forest student can be expelled from school if caught in possession. This expulsion will not help you when you are trying to get in medical school or law school.

At the time, I'm sure we don't think about all of the long term results. However, we all need to think about our futures and how taking that little chance might hinder us from doing things we have wanted to do all of our lives. Unfortunately, the use of fake I.D.s and drunk driving go in hand. But that's another story for another time, and hopefully you'll still be around to read about it.



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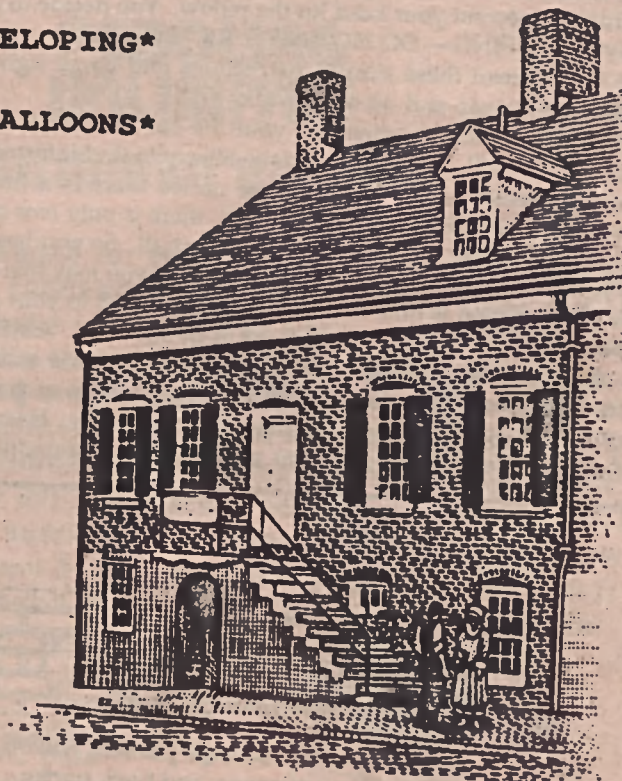
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