

# KYUK hires first Yu'pic director

As the Tundra Times was going to press, word was received that Peter Twitchell of Bethel has been named the new General Manager of AM radio and Public TV station KYUK, Bethel. Twitchell is the first Yu'pik to be named to the post in its 12-year history.

The 33-year-old Twitchell has worked for KYUK since its inception in 1971, starting out as a translator of the news into Yu'pik, and has worked in every capacity for KYUK since.

KYUK AM Radio broadcasts approximately 18 hours a day while the Public TV station broadcasts from 18-20 hours daily. The radio station reaches a 100-mile radius around Bethel and with translators reaches as far away as St. Mary's and the Yukon Delta region, and employs more than 30 people in part-time and full-time jobs.

Twitchell was born and raised in Bethel and his family consists of his wife, Elizabeth and three children.

Announcements of congratulations and support were sent to Twitchell by Ivan M. Ivan, president of AVCP, and Eddie Hoffman, Traditional Chief of AVCP.

In his announcement, Ivan said: "I pledge the full support and cooperation of AVCP and the Native people of this region for Mr. Twitchell's successful management and improvement of KYUK."

Hoffman stated, "It is especially pleasing to have one of our own people finally

assume the position of head of KYUK."

Among his other positions, Twitchell is chairman of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference Communications Broadcasting Commission, is AVCP's representative to Rural Alaska Television Network (RATNet), and is a Bethel city council member.

"On behalf of the 56 villages of the AVCP and Calista Regions, I wholeheartedly congratulate the Board of Directors of Bethel Broadcasting,

Inc. on the selection of Peter Twitchell of Bethel as KYUK General Manager.

"Peter's expertise in the broadcasting field is well known throughout the region, state and international Native communities. The appointment of one of our own well-qualified Yu'pik individuals to this vital post in our region is in keeping with the spirit of self-determination through which our people aspire to achieve

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control of our destiny and way of life.

"I pledge the full support and cooperation of AVCP and the Native people of this region for Mr. Twitchell's successful management and improvement of KYUK," said Ivan.

"The job of managing KYUK is one of the most important jobs in the region. It is very important to the 56 villages of the AVCP region. On behalf of the villages, we pledge our full support to Peter. We will do our best to work with him, and help him with his responsibilities.