

## **Educational TV—**

# **Via Space Satellite**

**FAIRBANKS** — Tests are scheduled to begin next week on a communications system which will be used to broadcast educational television programs to 16 Alaskan communities, and to transmit and receive medical program information both inside and outside the state.

Two ten-foot-in-diameter dish antennae have been constructed on top of the Gruening Building on the Fairbanks campus at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

The dishes were set up as part of the ATS-6 satellite project.

The head of the KUAC-TV production department, Myron Tisdell, said the project would broadcast programming in four subject areas throughout Alaska.

The areas are "Early Childhood Development," "Oral Language Development," "Health Education," and a program series called "Alaska Native Magazine."

Tisdell said the "magazine" will consist of a series of programs produced by KUAC with the help of Alaska Natives and will deal with matters of interest to the Native community in the state.

The satellite being used in the project is currently in orbit over the equator. Each of the villages involved in the project will be equipped with a dish antenna similar to those installed in Fairbanks and two television sets for receiving the programs.

While many of the programs will be broadcast in the English language, Tisdell said some would also be carried in Native dialects including Athabascan, Tlingit and Upik.

Nearly three-quarters of a million dollars in funds have been awarded to the State Division of Media Services, University of Alaska, by the Office of Telecommunications to assist in installation of the antennae and production by the 160 instructional programs by KUAC.

The programs are being designed by the Anchorage office of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory under a separate contract with the telecommunications office.

Two other uses are planned

for the antennae according to KUAC officials. They will be used to carry educational medical programs for the WAMI Program — Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho Medical Program — between Fairbanks and Seattle, and for carrying experimental medical communications between KUAC-TV and the Native Health Service clinic in Fairbanks.

The project is financed by the National Institute of Education, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

There are five communities which will have the capability of receiving and transmitting both audio and video material. They are Fairbanks, the primary transmission location, Juneau, the back-up transmission location, Tanana, Galeana, and Fort Yukon. Fort Yukon will be involved in the medical experiments only.

Communities equipped only to receive video material but capable of transmitting and receiving audio are Anchorage, Petersburg, Valdez, Angoon, Nenana, McGrath, Craig, Aniak, Yakutat, Allakaket, Minto, Nikolai, Sleetmute, and Little Russian Mission.