

Documentary on Rock wins award

KOTZEBUE — A television documentary on Howard Rock, the late Alaska Native artist and founder of the *Tundra Times*, recently gained national recognition for promoting "better understanding among people and helping to eradicate prejudice."

The National Conference of Christians and Jews, a non-sectarian civic organization established in 1928 to promote religious, ethnic and racial inclusion in American society, recently gave one of its Certificate of Recognition awards for the Howard Rock portion of the television documentary written and produced by Susan Andrews.

The documentary is called *Portraits of Leadership: Chief Katlian and Howard Rock*. It was a project of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District in Kotzebue.

Since 1953, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, with 70 regional offices nationwide, has been recognizing members of the mass media "who promote better understanding among people and who help to eradicate prejudice," said Harry A. Robinson, NCCJ's senior vice president.

As one of just 11 winners selected nationwide, Robinson said the Howard Rock documentary impressed judges because "it definitely broadens the

understanding of history in Alaska, and certainly the cause of Alaska Natives."

Inupiaq Eskimo Howard Rock founded the *Tundra Times* in 1962, editing it until his death in 1976. An artist most of his life, Rock turned to journalism in middle age to fight for Alaska Native land claims at a time when the mainstream media generally were not shedding much light on the Alaska Native point of view.

Through his influential editorials, Rock was instrumental in passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Nevertheless, the mass media in general today still only focus almost exclusively on either Native social upheaval or cultural heritage. The Howard Rock program broadens all Alaskans' awareness of the contributions of Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts in shaping Alaska's history, said NCCJ's Robinson.

Native people who appear in the Rock film include Inupiaq Dr. Ted Mala, director of the Institute for Circumpolar Health at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Mala was a friend of Rock's as a student in Fairbanks and wrote for the *Tundra Times*.

Inupiaq Nellie Ward Moore, originally from Kotzebue, hosts of the *Portraits of Leadership* program and

reports local news for UAF's KUAC-FM. In addition, Tommy Richards Sr., also originally from Kotzebue, appears in the documentary as a lifelong friend of Howard Rock.

The program has aired on the Rural Alaska Television Network, KUAC-

TV in Fairbanks, KYUK-TV in Bethel, KTOO-TV in Juneau and KAKM-TV in Anchorage. It had been distributed to every high school in Alaska for use in social studies classrooms and also is used in UAF college classes.