

John wins titles — in triplicate

by **Aldolf Lewis and Geoff Kennedy**
for the *Tundra Times*

BETHEL — Question: What do Miss Kuskokwim, Miss World Eskimo-Indian Olympics and the queen of the National Congress of American Indians have in common?

Answer: University of Alaska Fairbanks student Jolene John.

The Tooksook Bay woman took her first title during the Fourth of July pageant in Bethel. That propelled her to the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics

in Fairbanks. Another trip, another title.

Next stop was the National Congress of American Indians pageant in November and title number three.

Along with the title came several scholarships to enable her to fulfill her ambition to teach high school.

The experience also enabled her to learn about Lower 48 Native cultures and to teach Natives from around the country about Yup'ik culture, she said.

"I believe it's a very important role

of playing a representer to other people to tell them of the great knowledge you received from your ancestors," she said. "It's a very important value that you need to survive in the culture in the future."

Her advice to other young Yup'iks? Be proud of your identity. Take advantage of competitions such as Miss Kuskokwim, set your goals and get after them.

"It's a wonderful experience that I have had," she said. "I'm sure I will cherish it for many years."