

By MARILYN RICHARDS

The Alaska Native Arts Festival held April 3-7, was a successful cultural event which enabled the Fairbanks and university community to learn more about the various Native groups in the state.

Opening the festival were the Yupik Eskimos who represented the southwestern part of the state. The Pilot Station Dancers set the pace for the festival. They were lively, expressive dancers whose humor was enjoyed and shared by all.

Sam Kito spoke on the arts that night. The Yupiks also had the opportunity to demonstrate their crafts, which included beadwork, doll making, spear and skin boat making.

The following night was devoted to the Aleut culture. Larry Matfay explained that there were actually three Aleut groups, the western, eastern and coastal which were all separated geographically and linguistically.

The Russian Orthodox singers sang several church songs, and "The Lord's Prayer," all in Aleut. They included Alfred Stepetin, George Bourdukofsky, Eliodor and Anna Phildmonof, Anatoly Lekanof, Jr. and Father Paul Merculief. Originally from the Aleutian Islands, they all now reside in the Kodiak and Anchorage areas.

William Tcheripanoff and others told stories first in Aleut and