

# Deaf, Young Native Man Exhibits Many Talents

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By AGNES PETE

Edward Hofseth, 23, deaf since birth, exhibits many talents including art at the University of Alaska.

Hofseth, part Indian, was born in Bethel, Alaska. He has a wife and a two-month old son.

He is studying art under Prof. Ronald Senungetuk in the Extension Center in Arts and Crafts at the U of A. He is creative in silver jewelry making, wood sculpture, oil painting and freehand drawing.

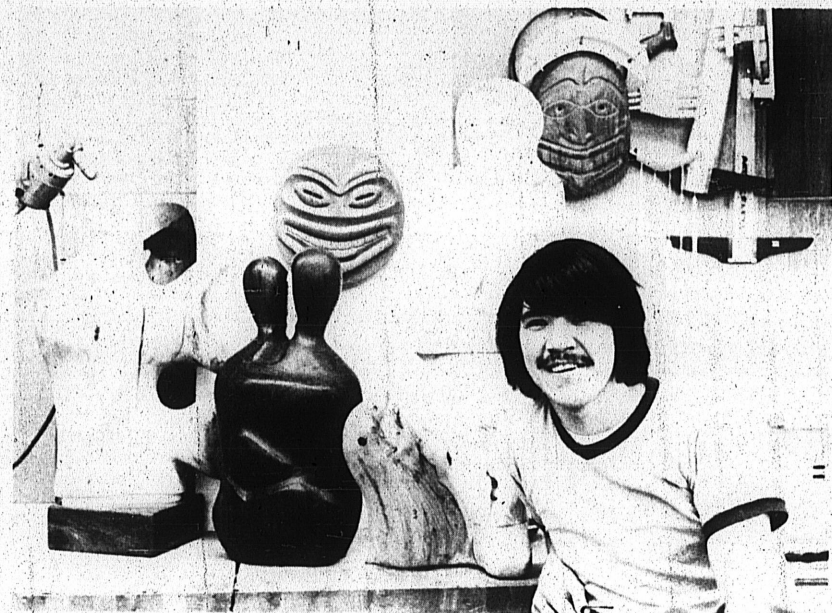
He began studying art at the U of A in September 1971 after receiving a certificate of completion from the Utah School for the deaf in Ogden, Utah. For eight years he took courses of academic instruction and also received industrial arts training.

"Ed has some learning disabilities and things have always come slow for him; he was actually discouraging some of our instructors until the art teachers found out that he has a knack in that area," said Tony Christopoulos, principal of the school, in the Feb. 15, 1971 issue of the Ogden Standard Examiner.

At that time he had hoped to continue in art.

The program Hofseth studies "is not academically oriented and no academic degree or diploma is offered. . . . The students are selected on the basis of their interest in art and culture," said Senungetuk, associate professor of design at the U of A.

"The Extension Center in Arts and Crafts is a workshop



**SHOWS ART WORK** — Edward Hofseth, a deaf U of A student, shows his art work. From left to right, the names are "Forms", "Lovers",

"Fishing on the Spring Ice in Alaska", and in the background are masks.

and learning center primarily for Alaska Native artists and craftsmen who are interested in the continuation of their arts, their artistic experiences, and an expanded development of their technical knowledge," Senungetuk said.

Though Hofseth does not hear he is proficient at expressing himself in his art work. He can talk and lip-read. He mainly

communicates with his wife by sign language.

Hofseth hopes to work in Anchorage, Alaska when he finishes his studies here.