

Editorial —

Biggest Village

The Alaska Native community in Anchorage is estimated to number about 12,000 persons. Some observers note that the south-central city is the largest Alaska Native village in the world. We have been pleased to see the beginnings of a cohesive Native community in Alaska's largest city. A huge amount of groundwork needs to be accomplished in order to motivate the large Native population into a block which will influence attitudes toward significant public issues. Whether the rest of the state likes it or not, we are increasingly beginning to realize that the citizens of this Cook Inlet town play a strong role in determining public policy. The future of rural Alaska will depend to a large degree on the influence the Native community has over Anchorage's attitudes toward the rest of the state.

We encourage our readers and friends in the Native community in Anchorage to become involved with the Anchorage Native Caucus, the Alaska Native Brotherhood of Anchorage, and the Cook Inlet Native Association. It is important for our people to lend their collective talent and hard work to these organizations. We need to become a stronger voice in Anchorage in order to have some impact on the role that city plays in deciding major state issues.

To join the Anchorage Native Caucus, call President Bert Cambell at 264-7730. The Anchorage contingent of the Alaska Native Brotherhood will also welcome new members. Its President, Herb Hope, may be reached at 265-5247. For information about how to get involved in Cook Inlet Native Association activities, call President Jake Lestenkof at 278-4641.

Native people throughout the state help shape the destiny of Alaska through their activity in regional and village organizations. We need the involvement of the vast majority of the Native community in Anchorage in the city's Native organizations, also. It would be a shame to live in the largest Native village in Alaska and not have a voice in deciding public issues.