

# Take this test to find out how much Tlingit you know

by Holly F. Reimer

*Tundra Times* writer

Louis F. Jacquot has recently turned a study of Tlingit words into a sort of intelligence test called the "All Alaskan Intelligence Test, a Tlingitized Version for Southeastern Alaska."

The test is comprised of 10 Tlingit words with multiple answers.

Jacquot, a Tlingit from Haines, has been an educator in Alaska for more than 20 years. He currently is the Indian Education tutor/counselor at McLaughlin Youth Center in the morning and holds the same position at Wendler Junior High in the afternoon.

"This is a learning device, not just a test," Jacquot said. "My original idea was to teach any professional living with Natives a little about the people that they work with."

Jacquot strongly recommends the test as a cultural awareness pre-test for teachers, potential teachers, administrators, police and other employees who intend to work among and come in contact with Southeast Tlingit villages and people.

The test is college level language. Jacquot is also going to revise it for high school students, and he plans a "just-for-fun" test for grade school pupils.

"Students at APU liked it and found it hard," Jacquot said. "They thought they couldn't do it."

"It's a special project for the Native students at APU. They're using it as a model for developing similar tests in the other Alaska Native languages," Jacquot said. The students who are involved with this project are mostly juniors and seniors, and they get credit for doing it, he added.

Jacquot has been passing the test out to various businesses and Native corporations around the state to see how much Tlingit most people understand.

The highest score so far was achieved by Avis Deunkin, an Athabaskan elder from McGrath who scored a perfect 100.

Elaine Abraham of Yakutat, the coordinator of Student Orientation Services at Anchorage Community College helped Jacquot with the development of the test.

Although all the statistics haven't been rounded up, both Natives and non-Natives who have taken the test have done fairly well.

Average scores so far are Tlingit and Haida, 70 percent; Klukwan Inc., 60 percent; APU, 50 percent; University of Alaska graduate level special education class, 40 percent; and Wendler Jr. High School staff, 60 percent.

These are a couple of questions from the test:

•When you hear kids on the playground (or adults at a sports event) shout: "Gook, gook! . . . Gook dei!" their meaning in English is (A) "Stop, stop. . . Stop look!" (B) "Slow, slow. . . Slow down!" (C) "Stupid, stupid.

. . . You're stupid!" (D) "Go, go. . . go forit!" (E) "Sakes. . . I'm so very sorry!"

•"Jook!" when said to children tells them to do it (A) quickly (B) slowly (C) later (D) backwards (E) never. ★ ★ ★

Besides the test, Jacquot is also writing a book *On Being Tlingit* and challenges others who are educated to do something like this on being Aleut, Yupik, Inupiaq and other Native cultures.

Jacquot is also thinking about the turn of the century.

"1991 doesn't bother me, but what about 2031 and 2051. Are there going to be Natives?" he asked.

"What about the coming generations that haven't been born yet? Will they know their culture? Will Natives save their cultures? What good is 1991 if you've lost your culture, your history and background?" he asks.

In 1962 Jacquot received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Western Washington University and in 1967 a Master of Education degree from the same school. In 1973 he received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Oregon.

★ ★ ★ *The answers to the test? You'll have to contact Jacquot at 561-1433 in the mornings or 277-3591 in the afternoons.*