



DIRECTOR — Dennis Demmert is the newly installed Director of Native Studies at the University of Alaska. He is also Director of Alaska Educational Program for Intercultural Communications.

Director of Native Studies—

Demmert Takes a Hard Look

By AGNES PETE

Dennis Demmert, director of Native Studies at the University of Alaska said that one of the objectives of the Board of Regents — "To increase and apply through research, knowledge of

value to mankind and particularly to the residents of the State" fits his idea of what the Native Studies Program should be.

Demmert interprets this objective as including Natives. "If you look at the curriculum and

ratio of Native graduates, the University is just not meeting the needs of Native people.

"Fifteen to 20 per cent of the state population is Native. According to the Board of Regents objectives, the different colleges should deal with the issues," Demmert said.

Asked what he plans to do about the problem, he said he will come up with classes and also incorporate relevant information into existing classes.

Demmert, born in Klawock and raised in Craig, attended Sheldon Jackson High School and Junior College. He lived in Ketchikan 15 years, participating in Native education committees, and was on the Ketchikan School Board from 1968 — 1971.

Based on all Demmert's education experience, Harvard University accepted him in 1971 for their graduate degree in education program.

After receiving his master's degree in education in the spring of 1972, he attended Harvard another year and Boston University his second year, working toward his doctorate in education.

With his dissertation to complete, Demmert is getting a firsthand view of University education as Native Studies Director and Director of Alaska Educational Program for Intercultural Communication (AEPIC), which deals with cross-cultural curriculum development.