

Inupiat U. prepares for Conference

Following the leadership of Eben Hopson, Mayor of the North Slope Borough, who is spearheading an Inuit Circumpolar Conference to be held in Barrow next June, Inupiat University is designing the complex and the activities within to be concerned with the entire Inuit world. Work has already been initiated on an interdialectal dictionary and grammar to eventually include the 17 dialectical families and the 30 dialects of this widespread language. Duncan Pryde, author of *Nunage: Ten Years of Eskimo Life*, and currently Chairman of Inupiat University's Department of Inupiat and Arctic Studies, is heading this language project, having already completed most of the necessary work in eight dialects of Canadian Inuit peoples.

The Inupiat Renaissance is expected to contribute essential aspects of a postsecondary education appropriate to and desired by the people of Alaska's North Slope. In addition, it will provide a much need people-oriented research facility, as well as providing for student employment and additional attractions for tourists.

Right now, however, the need is for funds to develop the dog sled component of the comprehensive program. Anyone wishing to assist is invited to send contributions, no matter how small, to Sled Dog Project, Inupiat University of the Arctic, Post Office Box 429, Barrow, Alaska 99723. For information, call Duncan Pryde or Lyle Wright, (907) 852-6671 or 852-7800.