## 'Guard culture,'Hooper Bay grads warned

Speaking of hard challenges in the near future, Thomas Richards, Jr., told graduating seniors in Hooper Bay that they are the "keepers of the spirit" and have a responsi bility "to keep alive the spe cial knowledge of your com munity."

Richards, representing the Association of Village Council Presidents was the keynote speaker at the Naparayarmiut Elicarviat graduation. Other ad dresses were given by Louis Bunyan, Sr., and Agatha Na poleon, both of Hooper Bay

Richards, an Inupiat, noted that he had been a little sur prised to be asked to deliver the main speech at a graduation with the theme of "Yup'ik Heritage, the Past, Present, and Future."

After speaking with Ronald Brower, a friend of his in Barrow, he had concluded the relationship was only natural. Brower had told him of an Inupiat man who had jour nied to and from the Aleutian Islands during the 1700's stop ping at a place which "could only be Hooper Bay" as he came and returned by kayak

He had been warmly received Richards also cautioned stu dents of impending events which could impact their culture. "Oi companies will drill wells in the sea not so far from here in a couple of weeks, and that may affect animals upon which you depend for your livelihood," Richards said
"Multinational corporations want to mine the bottom of the Bering Sea. Urban hunters are jealous of your right to hunt birds and marine mammals. U.S. Congressmen want to make English the official language of this nation, and end bilingual programs that keep Yup'ik language in your schools. The outside world is hungry and overpopulated, and wants your lands and resources for its own purposes.
"Your own corporations need dollars to survive and may consider development which you would never dream could happen."

Graduating seniors incuded Patrick Lake, valedictorian; Feena Nanuk, Salutatorian, and Arlene Bell, Carlton Bell, Eddie Bell, Jr., Gabriel Moses, Leota Smith, Ron Friday, Lucille

Green, Adrian Lake, Rosemary Stone, and Naaman Tomaganuk. Lake, Johnny Mann, Bernie Ramona Hill and James Smith
also participated and were expected to receive their diplomas before June ends.

