Inupiat Paitor People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Alcuts Speak

Wednesday, May 5, 1976

Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

Vol. 13, No. 18

Fairbanks, Alaska

# Second KCC graduating class



CHRIS COOK University of Alaska Regent presents Elena Olick her health aide educa commencement exercise of Kuskokwim Community College. In the background is Jan Gibson -Photo By LAEL MORGAN

### \$1.6 million in

#### grants received

Four Native regional corpora-Four Native regional corpora-tions and six village corporations would receive a total of \$1.6 million in grants under budget additions the Office of Man-agement and Budget has re-quested to the Fiscal Year 1976 supplemental appropria-tions bill, the last chance for the authorized grants to be funded. funded.

The regional corporations of The regional corporations of Juneau, Sitka, Kenai and Kodiak would each receive \$250,000, and grants of \$100,000 each would go to the village corporation of Arctic Village, Elim, Gambell, Savoonga, Tetlin and Vanetie

These funds were authorized for FY 1976 under an omnibus Native claims bill which was signed into law in January, but a FY 1976 appropriation is also necessary.

The FY 1976 supplemental appropriations bill, which the Appropriations Committee will begin working on at the end of the month, was the last oppor-tunity to get the necessary funding for the grants.



MARK JOHN, 2), from Toksook Bay, received the University of Alaska Fairbank's, Native student of the year award at the annual awards banquet preceding the university graduation. John is a business management major and is attending the university on a sholarship from the Calista Corporation. He was president of NSO (Native student organization) on campus this past school year and a staff assistant for Special Orientation Services. He was also chairman of the Festival of Native Arts Yupik committee. Mark is the son of Paul and Martina John of Toksook Bay.

-Photo By MARILYN COGHILL

#### IUA and UA may officially get together

BARROW - After stubborn mutual avoidance and rocky beginnings, it appears the Inupiat University of the Arctic
(IUA) may get together officially with the University of
Alaska (U of A).

"My initial statement when

we began our university was that we did not want the Uni-versity of Alaska involved," recounted Eben Hopson, North

Slope Borough mayor. "It was because the U of A had not, at any time since statehood, even suggested an extension program for Barrow. I had to have a real hard line in the beginning."

The Barrow university got off the ground in 1975 with borough funding and the help of Antioch College with Sheldon Jackson.

"U of A finally sent a man from Fairbanks to Barrow and I told him frankly that we'd waited since statehood but they'd chosen not to help," Hopson continued. "You stay away from my way," I told him. "The third time he came up here, though, we softened our attitude."

This softening lead to the

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## Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel graduates 67 students

By LAEL MORGAN

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BETHEL-Graduation was in color for the local television station, KYUK, at the Kuskokwim Community College. (KCC) this week and, although speeches were brief, there was some heady ideas for the pioneering grads to think about.

"One of the lessons of the 1970's is that change does not always mean progress," cautioned University of Alaska Regent Chris Cook, "Changing from an oil stove to an electric stove, is not progress if the power plant burns down. Changing from a wood stove to an oil stove is not progress if the winter oil supply runs out before

winter oil supply runs out before the first barge arrives.

"The energy crisis is our nation and the power crisis in Bethel have taught us that our resources are limited and our technology is imperfect.

"Therefore, as you take your places in our changing world,

take some time to evaluate these changes as they come. Remember that to every change there are benefits—and there are costs. Use your education to help you decide what the costs and benefits are, and the value to be placed upon them. Consider what you have learned in the classroom, and consider also what you have learned from your family and your cultural

heritage."

Cook, a lawyer who came to Bethel years ago as a VISTA Volunteer, spoke also for Elaine Ramos, vice president of Rural Educational Affairs for Ramos, vice president of Rural Educational Affairs for University of Alaska, Ms. Ramos was to have been featured speaker but was rerouted to save educational funding in the legislative budget in Juneau.

Ms. Ramos speech noted the newness of Kuskokwim

ne wness of Kuskokwim Community College (this is the second graduating class). "Now you can come to see your own people graduate from your own people graduate from your own community college programs and with every graduation your strengthen your ability to have the kind of communities you want." she wrote. And she too, was concerned about change in the fast moving Yupik Speaking area.

"In the past, change in the rural areas of Alaska has meant increased dependence on the outside world. We still depend on the land for much of our food, yet we often find it easy and necessary to buy food from stores," Ms. Ramos noted. "much of our clothing is made

outside of Alaska and now with

entertainment is shipped in, too. There is no denying that the (Continued on Page 6)

#### Barrow Bilingual program

By LAEL MORGAN

While other Native language programs are getting bigger and flashier with more federal funding, the Barrow program is understaffed and only modestly equipped to take on one of the

equipped to take on one of the biggest assignments in the state. Nine out of 10 parents polled in the area favor bilingual education with equal time for Inupiaq and English. Yet the North Slope Borough School District has only eight bilingual teachers to handle 700 youngsters and produce books and teaching materials for the entire Slope area.

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At the year's beginning there were bilingual instruction in K through 12, but due to increased need to produce instructional materials, only grades seven through 12 are currently being taught in Injunion

taught in Inupiaq.
"One serious problem is that we're too dependent on federal maybe money", explains Dave Baumgarther, who heads the program. "Here, where the language (Inupiaq) is spoken in 90 percent of the homes, this should be a permanent program".

Tronically, short funding comes at a time when Borough

Mayor Ehen Hopson is calling for more local control of schools and hopes to make Inupiaq the first language of the borough.

"I would like to be able to require all persons employed by

require all persons employed by the North Slope Borough to work in both Inupiaq and English. But, our working language needs restoration and development," he recently wrote Elaine Ramos, vice president of Rural Education, University of Alaska. "I feel that, if we develop a strong, modern industrial language, our traditional vocabulary will be restored over time without special effort."

The bilingual teachers at North Slope work with the University

The bilingual teachers at North Slope work with the University of Alaska Language Center but because their situation is specialized, they prefer books of their own making. It is their hope to keep Inupiaq pure-as the oldtimers spoke it-and not lap into the modern version often spoken by todays youngsters.

youngsters. (Continued on Page 6)