

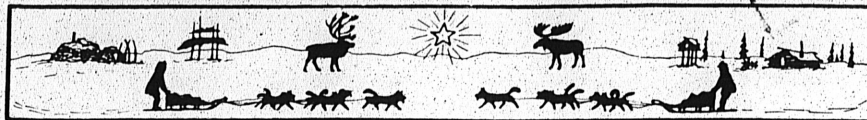
Tundra Times

25c

Inupiat Paitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Timuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Thlingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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Fairbanks, Alaska

Second KCC graduating class

Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel graduates 67 students

By LAEL MORGAN



CHRIS COOK, University of Alaska Regent presents Elena Olick her health aide education degree at the commencement exercise of Kuskokwim Community College. In the background is Jan Gibson.

—Photo By LAEL MORGAN

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television, much of our 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 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.

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 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".

Ironically, short funding comes at a time when Borough Mayor Eben 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 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 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 today's youngsters.

(Continued on Page 6)

\$1.6 million in grants received

Four Native regional corporations and six village corporations would receive a total of \$1.6 million in grants under budget additions the Office of Management and Budget has requested to the Fiscal Year 1976 supplemental appropriations bill, the last chance for the authorized grants to be funded.

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 Venetie.

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 opportunity to get the necessary funding for the grants.

(Continued on Page 6)

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 University of Alaska involved," recounted Eben Hopson, North



MARK JOHN, 21, from Toksook Bay, received the University of Alaska Fairbanks, 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 scholarship 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

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

(Continued on Page 6)