

# Congratulations to honor roll students

To the Editor:

I was proud to read of the students from rural villages who earned honors for excellent performance for fall term at UAF. (3/3/82 issue).

Congratulations to you and to all other village students who are putting forth their best effort! Yes, we are faced with a multitude of problems which threaten our livelihood,

but determination and intelligence, along with a clear sense of identity, continue to strengthen and sustain us. (In my struggle to balance the best of both worlds, I have come to view education as a tool, one of many tools to be used to protect the lifestyle of our choice.

The skills and concepts offered in my program I receive

at arm's length. I learn them well but choose to accept only if they do not undermine my Inupiaq values.

The Times is a crucial link to home during the two years I have to be away.

Sincerely,

Mary Miller (Nome)  
Graduate Student Management  
University of Oregon, Eugene

# Boards' make-up questioned

To the Editor:

I have a question that bothers me very much.

I live in a small town, like most places we have several organizations such as the city council, Native-owned corporation, IRA, school board and a couple of non-profit firms.

My question is: Can the Mayor, or should the Mayor, be a Chairman in at least three of the above-mentioned organizations, along with 2 other peers in the same organization as the Mayor (one shy of a

quorum!)?!?!!

I'd think with a set-up like this our town would be the most happiest place to be in! But our people see no progress, which is discouraging to the ambitious, some withdraw from society from years of the "run-around" game amongst the offices.

I realize these officials were elected, I don't know by whom, because a lot of registered voters do not vote, which is a problem also because once in office the offic-

ials get accused of hiring family members by the non-voters most likely.

What, as voters, can we do to correct this political situation which exists in our community? I think we need a drastic change to get our people back on their feet to meet any challenge for the better of the community instead of feeling discouraged enough to withdraw from society.

Believe me, we're losing faith!

Name withheld by request.

# Stand united for the future

To the Editor:

I enjoyed the article My Turn, by Tommy Ongtooguk, in the Jan. 20th issue.

I would like to comment on this section of his letter: "Has the American system found a way to treat us fairly or are we being molded to fit into a system that will destroy us and rob us of our land?"

The latter is already happening on the issue of subsistence rights. If that law is repealed as the non-Native sportsmen group want, what is to prevent them from repealing all the

laws pursuant to the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement Act!

Needless to say, in 1991 our stocks will be up for sale and our lands will be taxed. Will we be strong enough to prevent the special interest groups, waiting on the side lines preparing to move in?

With the changes in the Native Claims Act for additional protection after 1991, our survival remains to be seen.

Truly hope we can stand as a united group.

Margaret Misikin

Seattle