

Rural areas aren't so isolated

To the editor:

I'm sitting here in my house in a rural village. It may seem isolated to a lot of people, but to me it brings the whole world into view.

Around me are books and materials that tell me how the modern world functions and how it came to be. I also have tapes and journals that tell me about the aboriginal man and his beliefs and value system so that I can trace man back to the beginning.

Off to my side is my telephone within easy reach, where I can make a call in case I have any questions I have not yet found an answer to. I also have phone books and directories that I can use to get information on anything at any given moment.

I listen to both the state and national news on the television every night so I am aware of what's going on at all

times.

Communications, being the way they are, the village outside my window is also to a great extent a reflection of the nation's and state's attitude and behavior.

I understand the social, economic, political and moral systems of both my Native society and that of the modern world. I can pretty well surmise how they came to be and where they are going.

Now I can understand why the elders always seem calm and collected. To a great extent what you can do and can't do can be very obvious.

Yet with all my learning and understanding I feel like a little boy in a crowd of big people, trying to get across that the house is on fire.

Lincoln Tritt
Arctic Village