New faces at AFN

Margaret Nelson, Public Information Officer

Margaret Nelson, formerly a Fairbanks reporter, has been named Public Information Officer for the Alaska Federation of Natives.

A lifelong Alaskan, Ms. Nelson is a Tlingit Indian originally from Juneau. In 1980 she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Upon graduation Ms. Nelson accepted a position as a reporter for the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* in Fairbanks. During the past two-and-a-half years at the newspaper, she covered municipal government affairs.

As Public Information Officer at AFN, Ms. Nelson will be the primary contact for Alaskan media and will coordinate information campaigns and production of AFN's newsletter.

"We are very pleased to have Margaret aboard," stated Janie Leask, President of AFN. "She has the background and experience which will greatly help us in our efforts to increase the public's awareness of the many issues affecting Native people today."

A primary function of AFN is to represent concerns of Alaska Natives before the U.S. Congress, the Alaska State Legislature and federal and state governments.

Current issues of concern to Alaska Natives are proposed amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, state legislation on subsistence and any other topics relating to human service programs for Alaska Natives.

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Vernita Vestal, a shareholder of NANA and KIC corporations, has joined the AFN staff as receptionist.

Brenda Gronn, formerly AFN's receptionist, took a position with Universal Services at ARCO's camp on the North Slope. Gronn had been with AFN for about two-and-a-half years.

Most recently Vestal worked in the Anchorage Legislative Information Office as an information assistant.

Vernita Vestal, Receptionist

Prior to that she worked with the North Slope Borough as an administrative assistant.

Vestal is originally from Selawick and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School.