

Fairbanks Annual Festival of Native Arts

By MARILYN RICHARDS

Funds have almost reached the halfway point for the first annual Festival of Native Arts in Fairbanks.

The festival, which has been undertaken by several University of Alaska faculty and students, has received \$4,300 so far, but more is needed, said Sarah Isto, an English teacher with the university's Student Orientation Services.

The festival committee chaired by Theresa Tomczak, a physical education and Native dance instructor, has received \$1,300 from the Alaska Humanities Forum, \$1,000 from the university's special events committee, \$500 each from Usibelli Corp., Alaska State Council for the Arts, and ARCO.

The Associated Students of the U of A contributed \$400, and the Alaska Association for the Arts gave \$100.

The festival, originally scheduled for the week of March 9-16

to coincide with the Fairbanks Native Association's annual potlatch, has been rescheduled for April 3-7. The festival will be held on the University's Fairbanks campus.

Goals of the festival are to increase understanding and pride of Native students in their own and related cultures, to increase understanding and respect for these arts by non-Natives; to inform the Fairbanks community about some of the traditions, techniques, artists and questions involved in present day production of both Eskimo and Indian arts and crafts.

The festival will extend knowledge to the public through exhibitions, displays, demonstrations, drama, films, storytelling and dancing. A discussion on the role of Native arts in Alaska today and the roles of schools in supporting and disseminating information about the arts is planned. Among featured speakers is Ronald Senungetuk, Eskimo



TYPICAL FARE AT ART FESTIVAL — Dancing demonstrations similar to that pictured here are planned for the first Festival of Native Arts set for April 3-7 at the University of Alaska. Drama, films and story-telling are among other aspects of native arts to be covered.

mo artist and associate professor in the art department of the university.

Each day of the festival will feature one specific cultural group in a regional area. Opening day will feature Southwestern Alaska, the Yupik Eskimos, beginning at 7 p.m. Students Stan Nevak and Joe Slats head that committee.

The following day at 7 p.m. the Aleuts will be presented. Mrs. Emily Ivanoff Brown will introduce the Northern region, the Inupiat Eskimos, by lighting a seal oil lamp on Friday. Students Elmer Jackson and Neta Sheldon head the Inupiat committee.

Southeastern Alaska will be

represented by the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimpsian groups on April 6 from 2-5 p.m. and resuming again at 7 p.m. The closing day of the festival is for the Interior region the Athabascans from 2-5 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. Ray Titus and Ken Charlie are involved in that portion of the festival.

A souvenir festival poster, designed by Jim Shrock, will be sold to the public. Admission is free. Ms. Isto said the committee still needs contributions and local artists interested in participating. She can be reached at 479-7105. Theresa Tomczak can be reached at 479-7205.