

Happy Optimism

By NANCY BRELSFORD

The young people working on the Alaska Native Youth Conference say this: Happiness if Emily Brown accepting an invitation to express her poetry on unity.

Happy optimism still marks the work progress of these young people. The Alaska Native Youth Conference will take place May 2-3, 1975, at the Alaska Methodist University, Anchorage.

They have reason to smile on their good fortune. Howard Rock, editor of Tundra Times, has also accepted their invitation to speak on any subject he chooses before the conference. For the first time, they are able to express on a statewide level what they plan to do and to bring about what they want to do.

They don't have a gussak saying you should do this, or you should do that. They know it's their thing and it feels good.

The Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., supports the concept of holding a statewide Alaska Native Youth Conference. Roger Lang, president of AFN, Inc., and Gordon Jackson, executive vice-president for the Human Resourced Committee, will be present at the conference. Both will speak on topics of their choice.

Happiness is expressed sometimes by singing. Forty students from the Mt. Edgecumbe

High School volunteered to sing at the conference. They specifically adjusted their schedule so they could be here before continuing to Bethel.

Dennis Demmert may not be able to sing, but he plans to say something on Native studies. He's a strong man with solid background to voice ideas on Alaska Native self-determination.

Another Alaska Native organization, Cook Inlet Native Association, is giving a helping hand by donating the use of their bus during the conference. The University of Alaska, Anchorage, has chipped in by donating the use of the campus bus.

Alaska Methodist University, the host, is providing eleven classrooms for use, and food service for all attending. Again, it's Alaska Methodist University, who is cooperating to do something for Alaska Native; young people.

On the money donation side, Alyeska Pipeline has donated \$500; British Petroleum, \$250. This money helps to defray the expenses for the conference, and they are still working to get more moneys from other organizations to help with the expenses.

Hard work feels good when you know it's your own thing. Happiness is working towards Alaska Native control over Alaska Native education.