

Mademoiselle

Honors Brenda



BRENDA ITTA

ANCHORAGE — Brenda Itta of the Arctic Slope Regional Corp., Barrow, went to New York City January 24 to receive a special award from *Mademoiselle* magazine.

She is one of 10 young women in the United States chosen to receive the award for outstanding work in a number of fields. As *Mademoiselle* put it, they are looking for women who do things, ask questions, look for answers and find them.

Brenda, 29, attracted national prominence last autumn when she staged a successful primary campaign in the race for the District 19 seat of the Alaska State House. Had she won, she would have been the first Eskimo woman to be elected to

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Brenda Itta Honored . .

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the legislature. She lost the race to Rep. Frank Ferguson, I-Kotzebue.

Brenda is presently an administrative assistant for the regional corporation at Barrow and one of her most recent accomplishments is the publication, with Editor Nancy Gray, of Iqalunich Inupiat (The Voice Of The Eskimo), a new newspaper for the North Slope. She is Secretary to the board of directors of the Alaska Native Foundation, and secretary of the Democratic Central Committee for the state of Alaska.

Prior to lobbying for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Brenda served as secretary for three years to U.S. Sen Gruening, D-Alaska, in Washington D.C.

"My experience with Senator Gruening has been one of my highlights throughout my life time," Brenda wrote in a biographical sketch prepared on request for Mademoiselle. "At the time, he was struggling virtually alone to get people in America more aware of the wrongness in the war at Vietnam."

While working for Gruening, Brenda traveled to 65 Eskimo villages throughout Alaska. "Communication between the Washington office and the villages was almost non-existent; therefore since I knew the language of the Inupiat, I took down problems, needs which were tremendous, and brought them back to Gruening," she wrote.

Brenda said that while work-

ing in Washington she also learned more about the rights of an American citizen. "I saw by comparison how lopsided some goals were in serving the people . . . all people . . . in America," she said. "Personally, I thought that the first Americans were being neglected," she wrote, citing several examples of a federal government values system which allots more for foreign wars than children and the elderly at home.

She also talked about the Land Claims Settlement, the Environment, women's lib, and her philosophy on living. "I'm just one person in the world," she wrote. "The universe is so immense that I sometimes feel that what I do is so tiny that it may not matter. However, on the other hand, I find that to care a little for other human beings goes a long, long way. We need people to express their true selves, to be honest first within themselves, then with others. The young people all over are looking for honesty and I believe more and more of our leaders are aware of this expression."

Brenda was escorted by Arctic Slope Regional Corp. President Joseph Upicksoun and political consultant Michael Rowen to the Mademoiselle awards banquet at the Carnegie Mansion in upper Manhattan.

Brenda wore a steel grey pants suit designed by Sue Bevins, formerly of Barrow, and jewelry designed by Ron Senungetuk, a University of Alaska art professor from Wales.