

# Teachers apply for trip to space

Sixty-three Alaskans from 30 communities as far north as Barrow to as far south as Juneau have applied to become the first teacher in space, according to Commissioner of Education Harold Raynolds.

A team of Alaskan educators will meet in early April to select two of the 63 as Alaska finalists. The Alaskan finalists will compete with two finalists from each of the 49 other states for the privilege of accompanying astronauts on an early 1986 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) flight. An

alternate for the flight will also be selected.

State finalists will be announced during the week of April 15.

"The intent of this opportunity is for the teacher to help communicate the space flight experience to the public," according to Raynolds. The selected teacher will be required to maintain a relationship with NASA for one year following the flight and be available for public lectures, consultation and other activities.

Selection of the teacher will be

based on a number of criteria, Raynolds said. The teacher will be selected on their creativity and originality in sharing the flight experience with the American public. For doing this, the teacher must have good communication skills both in writing and speaking, the second of the criteria. Other criteria includes assessing a teacher's background for commitment, professional background and community involvement and knowledge of their local community as well as knowledge about regional, national and international issues.