

Car crash claims life—

Educator Bill Vaudrin passes

One of Alaska's foremost leaders in Native Education, William H. (Bill) Vaudrin was

killed last week in an automobile accident with a moose near Cantwell.

State Troopers said the moose was thrown onto the roof of the car which collapsed on the victim. Vaudrin was pronounced dead on arrival at Cantwell.

Passenger Rita Topkok, 17, whose address was not reported to State Troopers was treated and released for minor injuries at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Vaudrin, 33, former president of the Inupiat University of the Arctic at Barrow, has served as executive director of the State Human Rights Commission in 1973-74, coordinator for the state operated school system and a teacher at Anchorage Community College.

He was born at White Earth, Minn., and came to Anchorage on his own at the age of 16. He worked as a commercial fisherman while studying at Anchorage High School and Alaska Methodist University. He earned his Masters degree at the University of Oregon.

Vaudrin was a strong

supporter of Native education in the villages.

(Continued on Page 6)

Barrow educator Bill Vaudrin Passes . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

In an article in the Inupiat University catalog he said, "not only have the systems of public education in Alaska failed to provide the kind of training necessary for Alaska Native students had graduates to return to their own home village and live happy productive lives, but despite the fact that Native languages and cultures and traditions were consciously and systematically stripped away and supplanted in the schools by use of English and a total educational program designed to

promote assimilation into the urban Anglo lifestyle."

Vaudrin defined the primary goal of the Inupiat University "as providing the education to our children that will enable them to live comfortably in any lifestyle ranging from the traditional subsistence way of life of the Inupiat to the technocratic society or any combination of the two."

Vaudrin was also a strong supporter of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome.

He said the race "was one of the few chances left to be fully alive in today's world...ask anyone who's ever crossed the finish line in Nome."

Vaudrin's father was a Chippewa Indian who raised his son on the Tribe's reservation. Vaudrin said while he regretted never having learned the Chippewa language, "the part

my father was hoping for has come about. I mastered English and I intend to use it."

He was a resident of Pedro Bay for several years, and published a book entitled, "Tanaina Tales from Alaska" in 1969. He also wrote "Native-Non-Native Communications," creating a two-way flow of communication.