

Bigjim Attends Harvard's Graduate School of Education Meet

Fred Bigjim, of Nome, Alaska was one of ten American Indian students at Harvard's Graduate School of Education attending the National Indian Education Association Conference in Seattle, Washington, November 1-4, to acquaint other American Indian students with the programs and opportunities of the School.

Many of the 15 American

Indian students at the School are members of the American Indian Program, and are receiving Fellowships from the United States Office of Education and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The program also serves as an information center and provides such services as tutoring and counseling for the students.

"Unity Through Communications" was the theme of the fourth annual conference, which

was called to stress the need for American Indians and native Alaskans to make a greater effort to pool economic, social and educational resources.

Attended by 1,500 people, many of high school or college age, the conference also called for "a critical evaluation of Indian education in 1972, and recommendations for sound and feasible measures towards correcting existing deficiencies detrimental to the educational

needs of American Indian people."

Harvard students at the conference found its members receptive to their efforts to recruit American Indian for the School.

"We took about 500 brochures on our program with us, and 50 catalogues. Every last one of them was needed," one student said.

"We met many people from grass root community groups, high school principals, and officers of the Bureau of Indian affairs who would like to come here," another said. "We need to bring our own people to Harvard to give them the tools and training to shape Indian Education into a realistic pattern."