

Culture Shock

Alaska Methodist University at Anchorage has been awarded a \$190,000 grant from the Carnegie Corp. of New York to improve education of Native students.

Thirty-nine per cent of the student body at AMU is drawn from the Native population.

John Picton, university president, said, "Alaska Natives have not been able to truly affect the education available to them because so much of it has been actually a transplant of the pattern of the lower 48."

"This grant will allow us to tackle some of the basic problems of Alaskan Natives as they move from a subsistence culture to a more cash-oriented economy brought on by Alaskan pipeline activity and the Alaskan Native Claims Settlement," Picton said.

The funds are to go to two areas. First, to lessen culture shock for students coming in from bush villages and secondly, to devise a counseling system to provide the individualized academic support and attention necessary for minority students in an unfamiliar situation and to develop the curriculum and teaching styles that work on cross-cultural lines.