

Chief Harriet "Hussy" Wulf--

Harriet of Shageluk May Be Youngest Elected Chief at 19

A young woman who was told that "woman's only function in life was to be domestic and bear children, nothing else," is refusing to fit comfortably into that niche, as she is far too busy organizing some new programs for her village.

Two weeks ago, the Tundra Times announced the election of Harriet Wulf to the post of village council president of Shageluk. Harriet, or Hussy as she was nicknamed by her father, is perhaps the youngest village president ever elected in Alaska male or female.

Recently graduated from Anchorage West High School, Hussy is only 19 years old.

She is described as being interested in everything -- reading, sewing, beadwork, drawing, painting, knitting, writing, visiting, arguing, sled dog races, berry picking, cutting fish, and all the activities that make up

this thing called life.

"With a talent for creativity and for grasping details, she is



HARRIET WULF

totally at ease in whatever situation she happens to find herself."

It was after her graduation from the 8th grade in Shageluk that Hussy was encouraged by BIA teachers to go to the Indian High School in Chemawa, Oregon.

One teacher admitted that the school might be inferior but felt it was "fitting for females" and "for one of her mentality."

That was exactly the wrong thing to say to Hussy Wulf. She made up her mind that she would go to a school of her own choosing and not one recommended by the BIA.

Working in the Neighborhood Youth Corps, Hussy bought her own ticket to Fairbanks, lived with her older sister, Reva, and attended Lathrop High School.

She quickly rose to the top

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Chief Harriet . . .

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of the class, both academically and otherwise. The next year, she transferred to Anchorage West High School and lived with two sets of boarding home parents, one of which was Robert C. Erwin, Associate Justice to the Alaska Supreme Court.

In Anchorage, Hussy became involved with the work of the Alaska Federation of Natives and soon she began to feel the pull back to the village to help in the great work ahead.

She returned home and announced her intent to run for village council president, clearly stating her concern and her stand on all the issues that faced the village.

When elected she said, "I'm so happy! Now I'm involved!"

On the eve of her election, Hussy wrote a letter to Reva, her sister, another young woman who is "involved", working with the Alaska Native Health Board to upgrade health care for Alaska Native people.

Hussy wrote, "Every Chief wants advice. I want yours."

With a mutual respect for each other, the two sisters are understandably proud of their achievements, not for themselves but for the opportunity to improve the quality of life for the native people of Alaska.

Both before and after her election, Hussy has worked as a teacher's aide in the Shageluk Day School, but the people of her village no longer call her "Teach." Today she is "Chief."