

# Native journalists

Dear Editor,

This is concerning the editorial written by Jeff Richardson in the Oct. 13 issue of TT. In most regards I agree with Jeff that there isn't enough being done to train Native journalists.

There are more Native writers than there used to be, but there are several kinds—the news reporter, the editor, and the story teller.

There are people who tell stories or how to do something such as Emily Brown and Edna Wilder (Secrets of Eskimo Skin Sewing), and others.

There are several trained journalists I know of—Sue Gamache, Marilyn & Tom Richards, Jr., Janet Shantz of Bethel and myself.

But this is far too few.

There was one Native journalist I know covering the AFN Convention—Janet Shantz who is an associate editor of Tundra Drums, and newsperson for KYUK Radio Station in Bethel.

Of the other major newspapers, Jeff Richardson covered the convention for TT.

Then there are the editors—Marilyn & Tom Richards, Sue Gamache and myself.

Because the Native newspapers in this state are usually lacking financially, there aren't as many newspapers as people would like to have. Then there are the newsletters printed by the various corporation and village schools.

That is where I got my interest in journalism—by working on a high school newsletter in St. Mary's. My interest continued in college, where I was aided by scholarships such as the Howard Rock Journalism Fellowship in 1974 and the Emily Ivanof Brown Scholarship in 1975.

Therefore AFN is to be commended for its money raising at the TT Banquet by raffling necklaces, etc. at \$250 up. This will all go towards a Howard Rock Memorial Scholarship, which will help interested journalism students, but whom, like myself, needed all the help I could get to finish my degree.

Of course, trained Native journalists get fast promotion on a Native newspaper, for one must be good in all areas of journalism. I enjoy the variety of work I must do, but still need some study in areas I lack in.

It is with the reminders of people like Jeff that Native students are helped. We all need some prodding once in awhile.

Jimmy Bedford and Chuck Keim at the University have done much for the Native journalists on campus—but there are others who should help to see that Native journalists are financially and personally encouraged in their education.

Sincerely,  
Agnes Griffith