

UA Student Assistant Rose Smith

By AGNES PETE

Five years ago, no one would have ever dreamed of a Native being a student assistant (S. A.) at the University of Alaska.

S. A.'s help resident advisors (R. A.) counsel and guide dormitory students on their floor. If a student has a problem the S. A. is there to help them.

Rose Smith, 21, of Hooper Bay, is one of two dozen S. A.'s and R. A.'s on campus.

Rose, majoring in Early Childhood Development, plans to finish her associate degree this spring. Then she will go on for a bachelors degree in education.

Having gone to Hooper Bay for grade school, Mt. Edgecumbe, Copper Valley, Bethel and then Anchorage for high school was an asset to her as an S. A. For she has experienced the differences in attending each type of school: bush, private and small and large public schools.

Rose became an S. A. last spring on Second Floor, Skarland Hall. Five girls are returning students. The rest are either new to the dorm, or first year students. That means Rose has a challenge of meeting the girls' needs and helping them adjust to college life.



ROSE SMITH

"I enjoy being an S. A. because I get to talk to different kinds of people other than my associates," Rose explained.

"Having a Native S.A. on call is easier for the girls from the bush," Rose says, "Having come from the same background, a

communications gap is eliminated."

"I encourage more Natives to become S. A.'s. It would be a bigger breakthrough and an accomplishment for Native students. It strengthens the desire to be more responsible."