

# Career education means more now

BY DR. NANCY C. CURTIS

Until recently, career education was looked upon as a curriculum for students who had behavior problems or for those who couldn't succeed in the more prestigious college preparatory curriculum. Students with good grades and academic promise were steered into liberal arts classes where they received instruction in math, science, English, literature, and history, which the "others" were channeled into the vocational courses that all too often were low in content or outdated.

Not any more. Today, business firms are increasingly looking for employees, even at beginning levels, who have skills, a knowledge of the working world, and

At the Career Center he studies Graphic Arts. Michael, who is from Alakanuk, a village at the mouth of the Yukon River, plans to get a job in printing or to study printing in college as preparation for a job in this field.

Sam Friemering, 17, a senior at Dimond High, is a student electrician at the Career Center. Named Cook Inlet Native Association (CINA) Student of the Month for May, Sam has studied electricity at Dimond and the Career Center, has learned to wire a house completely, and has studied State codes on electricity. His grades have been good, and his Career Center instructor said of him, "Sam Friemering is an exceptional student. He is hard working and does an excellent job with electricity. I have the impression that his fellow students respect him as a person and as a future electrician. He is helpful to other students and is interested in them."

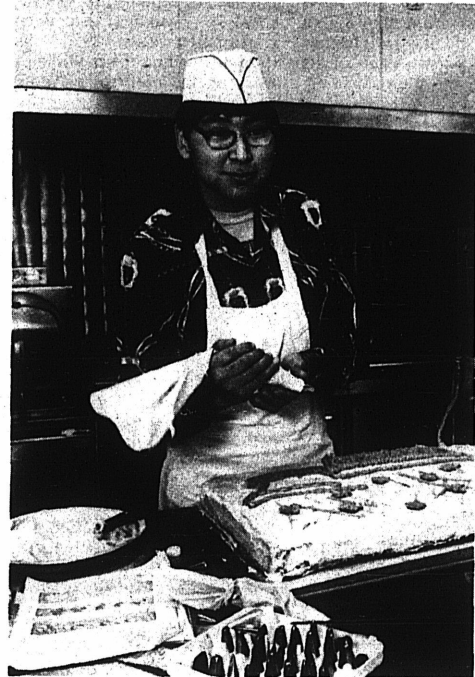
Annette Dally, 19, from Chugiak High, studies commercial art at the Career Center and recently has had her work honored in many ways. Her drawing of a Dall sheep was selected for the official CINA letterhead and was framed to hang in the new CINA headquarters building. Because of her potential, Annette's Career Center instructor arranged for her to have weekly instruction by Alaska wildlife artist Gary Lyon. Recently her work has been exhibited in the Sear's Mall at the Very Special Arts Festival and in the Anchorage School District's Art Exhibit at the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum.

For the Native Alaskan student, Career Center courses offer an opportunity to try out different careers. Native students will have many career choices in the future as a result of land claims, corporation, and regional education needs. The serious student who selects a Career Center course will be prepared for continuing college or vocational education, or for seeking immediate employment with entry-level skills.

Registration at the Career Center is underway now for the 1978-79 school year in the following areas: Construction (Electricity, Masonry, Carpentry, Surveying), Child Care, Food Service, Fashion Merchandising, Tourism, Cosmetology, Media, Graphic Arts, Commercial Art, Auto Body, Recreational Vehicles. The Career Center also houses a Work Study group, and in addition, SAVE and SEARCH, two programs that give individualized attention and instruction to potential dropouts. For information on registration, call 278-9631.



ABOVE, Patty Analook practices cardio-pulmonary resuscitation for her EMT class; LEFT, Peter Egelak prepares cake decorations in the Food Service area; BELOW, Michael Joseph, student in graphic arts, prepares to put a plate on the Heidelberg press; BOTTOM LEFT, Sam Friemering, student in electricity, practices the wiring of a house wall; BOTTOM RIGHT, Annette Dally, commercial art student, has received many honors, and has been accepted for study next year at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Taos, N.M. Dr. Nancy Curtis, photos



responsible attitudes toward employment. At the same time, however, that employers are demanding better "job" skills, they also want workers with competence in the basic "school" skills.

The new type of career education, as offered by the Anchorage School District Career Center, permits a student to have both the basic education and the career skills. This is brought about because students spend half of their school day at their high school learning math, English and similar courses, and half at the Career Center in elective career courses. The high school student doesn't have the conflict of being forced to choose one type of education at the expense of the other.

The new career education is different too, in that the equipment is modern, providing the latest skill techniques in each field. Students have the chance to try out different areas to find out which type of work they really like. Peter Egelak, 16, from Chugiak High, studies Food Services at the Career Center. According to his instructor, Peter is "a very dependable and conscientious worker. He does an outstanding job in cake decorating. If he chooses this as a vocation, because of his work here he would have good references for work in different areas of food service."

Patty Analook from West High studies in the Emergency Medical Training Course. Patty, who plans to go to college, wishes to study further in the paramedic field or in police work.

Michael Joseph, 15, is a sophomore from West High.

