

# Bilingual project hears 'distant voices'

FAIRBANKS — "Distant Voices, Shared Dreams" is the theme of the 14th Annual Alaska Bilingual-Multicultural Education Conference to be held in Anchorage Feb. 3-5 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel.

The conference is designed especially to train school district personnel, including school board members, bilingual program instructors and advisory committee members, as well as parents, elders and students.

The main goal of the conference is to improve bilingual education pro-

grams in 38 of Alaska's 55 school districts. The conference will focus on reading, writing, literature and the oral tradition in bilingual-multicultural education.

Topics to be covered in conference workshops include: using the written and spoken word; teaching literacy, English as a second language and comparative literature; developing bilingual-multicultural curricula and materials; and involving parents in reading and writing. Special workshops for high school students,

school board members and multi-ethnic cultural presentations will be additional conference highlights.

Primary conference speakers will be University of San Francisco Professor of Education Alma Flora Ada; Sealaska Heritage Foundation representatives Richard and Nora Marks Dauenhauer from Juneau; Edna Ahgeak, special assistant for Rural and Native Education, Alaska Department of Education; and Howard Rainer, representing the American Indian Services Program at Brigham

Young University.

Persons interested in registering for the Alaska Department of Education conference should write to: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Office of Conferences and Continuing Education, 117 Eielson Building, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks 99775; or phone 474-7800.

The Bilingual-Multicultural Education Conference is an annual project of the Alaska Department of Education, the Alaska Bilingual/Bicultural Advisory Council and the Alaska Association for Bilingual Education.