

Native Arts Festival Set

By MARILYN RICHARDS

Plans are now under way for what is hopefully the first annual Festival of Native Arts in Fairbanks.

The festival is scheduled for the week of March 9-16 to coincide with the Fairbanks Native Association's annual potlatch which is to be March 17.

Sally Isto, an SOS English teacher at the University here said about 16 faculty members and 18 students have been meeting since early October working on the festival.

Isto said that the festival committee needs over \$5,000 to fund festival participants' traveling expenses and material costs. She said the committee needs contributions. Interested persons can reach her at 479-7105 or Terry Tomzak, a teacher of Native dance at 479-7205.

In order to meet the schedule date the money is needed by the middle of January.

The festival will be held on campus. Its specific goals are to increase understanding and pride of the Native students in their own and related cultures, to increase understanding and respect for these arts by non-Natives, to inform the Fairbanks community about some of the traditions, techniques, artists and questions involved in present day production of both Eskimo and Indian arts and crafts.

The festival would extend knowledge to the public through exhibitions, displays, demonstrations, drama, films, storytelling and dancing. A discussion on the role of Native arts in Alaska to-

day and the roles of school in supporting and disseminating information about the arts is planned.

Some of the students going home to their villages this Christmas vacation will be talking about the arts to people in their villages about participating in the festival who may be traveling to Fairbanks for the Potlatch. Many of the students are accomplished artists and craftsmen who will also be involved in festival demonstrations.

Isto said that with the festival coinciding with the FNA potlatch maybe both the festival and the potlatch could share performers and activities.

Student chairmen for the Inupiat Eskimo events are Elmer Jackson, the reigning Miss FNA Neta Sheldon, and Emily Wilson. The Yupik Eskimo committee are John Naskoanak, Moses Chanar and Stanislaus Nevak.

In charge of the Athabascan events are Julia Nicolai and Violet Esmailka. Student Karen Eddy and Al Hill, an SOS counselor are working on Southeast activities. Students Cindy Samuelson and Diane Nelson will arrange the Aleut portion of the festival.

Each night of the festival would feature one specific cultural group such as the Inupiat Eskimo or the Tlinget or the Athabascan. Isto said that hopefully there will be no admission charge and reminds everyone that the festival committee meets tentatively every Friday afternoon.