

# Kodiak students to go on whaling hunts

From Kodiak Times

Sometimes rare opportunities for the realizations of dreams come in unexpected ways. For example, it was last summer while visiting her brother, a dentist in Kotzebue, that Pat Jacobson met Point Hope School Principal, Gaylen Searles, long time Alaskan educator.

Pat mentioned her interest in the traditional Point Hope whaling expeditions, especially in light of possible future restrictions of such hunts. At that time, Ms. Jacobson and "a few students" to attend the hunts held this May.

Upon returning to Kodiak, Ms. Jacobson drew up a cultural enrichment proposal, including a budget, which she submitted to KANA. In January, official word was received by Pat that KANA had granted the funds necessary for carrying out her proposal.

She'll be taking five students of Native heritage (at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ ) on the trip, which is scheduled for early May. They will be staying at the Point Hope School. Each student will be expected to provide his own sleeping bag. Food will also be provided by the school. "Actually," said Jacobson, "they will probably be eating out on the ice-covered land much of the time."

In a recent letter, Searles revealed that two crews have invited the students to accompany them in their umiaks on the actual hunt, a privilege rarely extended to strangers. Unfortunately, because of taboos, only males are permitted to accompany the hunting parties, while the women remain ashore preparing food for the hunters'

return.

After the five students are selected, Jacobson hopes to have archeologists Mike and Linda Yarborough give them an intense "mini-course" on the traditions and culture of the Point Hope Eskimos, one of the richest historical sites in the state.

Students interested in being considered for one of the five openings should contact their

counselors, Ms. Jacobson (teacher at Main Elementary School) or Ms. Bealey for further information on requirements. Final selection will be made by a team of judges which includes the two counselors, Chris Bealey, Dave Kubiak, and Marvin Frost.

It is hoped that the group will be able to take a "considerable amount of Kodiak seafoods with us as a gesture to the people of Point Hope who are generously

giving of their time and talents to expose a group of our students to some of their most treasured traditions."

Upon returning, Ms. Jacobson intends to have the group make presentations (via videotape, slides and tape recordings) to local clubs and organizations, and prepare articles, complete with photographs for various Alaskan publications.

Pat is already planning ways

in which students selected will be able to keep up with their studies while on the trip on/or prior to leaving. She also told us that "I haven't received the names of too many students, but a lot of would-be chaperones have applied!"

Ms. Jacobson is especially grateful to the People of Point Hope, KANA, and local school board for making this trip possible.