

Haida master carver offers class

Robert Davidson, Haida artist/master carver, will present an advanced, level class in "The Philosophy of Northwest Coast Indian Design," Feb. 6-17, from 7-10 p.m. continuous, at the Totem Heritage Center. The class is sponsored by the City of Ketchikan, the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency in Washington, D.C.

Davidson was born at Hyda-burg, Alaska, son of Claude and Vivian Davidson. The family soon returned to Old Masset,

British Columbia, ancestral home of the Davidson family where young Robert grew to manhood strongly influenced by the rich cultural heritage of the Haida people.

Before reaching his teens, he was carving miniature totems in wood and argillite under the tutelage of his grandfather, Robert Davidson, Sr. At the age of 19, Davidson apprenticed to Bill Reid of Vancouver, B.C. where he studied design and engraving. After making his own tools, he and Reid carved a six-foot

cedar pole with the apprentice duplicating shapes, on one side of the pole, which the master had sculpted on the other.

The public is invited to a seminar, co-sponsored by the City of Ketchikan and Ketchikan Community College with space being donated by the Ketchikan Indian Corporation. It will be held at the Tribal Hall on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 7-9 p.m. with no charge for admission. Davidson will be showing slides and lecturing on Northwest Coast Indian art.