

# Journalist: Soviet TV less structured

by Geoff Kennedy

for the Tundra Times

BETHEL — Not too many television stations broadcast news in Native languages, but Soviet journalist Katya Astakova has worked in two of them.

The Anadyr journalist recently spent a week at the Bethel television station.

Her week-long stay enabled Astakova, 20, to compare news operations at KYUK-TV and the Anadyr television and radio community.

Television is less structured in Magadan in the Soviet Far East, she said. Soviet programmers are less concerned with length of programs or the times when they appear, she said.

The Anadyr television station broadcasts news in Russian on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and devotes Wednesdays and Fridays to Native language news and cultural programs, Astakova said.

Unlike the Bethel television station, where Native and non-Native reporters share a common area, Native and non-Native reporters have different work areas, she said. But Russian and Native-language reporters all write stories in Russian, she said.

News gathering techniques compare on both sides of the Bering Strait, but the Soviet television stations use only one news anchor, Astakova said.

In her week-long stay in Bethel, Astakova covered a visit of Soviet dancers from Uelen and interviewed two students from the Magadan Institute of Teachers — Ira Pankova and Ina Ragiamova, who are spending a semester at the Kuskokwim campus of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Astakova plans to return for a longer stay in Bethel, providing she can find funding for an exchange of reporters between KYUK and the Anadyr television and radio community.

"It is necessary to exchange specialists in radio and TV between the two sister cities — Bethel and Anadyr," she said. "It would be a good experience."