

# Alaska United gets contract

Gulf Oil Exploration & Production Company, a division of Gulf Oil Corporation, has contracted with Alaska United Drilling Inc. (AUD) to drill the Gulf/Tenneco Cross Island No.1 wildcat well in the Beaufort Sea in November. AUD is owned by NANA, Sealaska, Bristol Bay, Veco Inc., corporations.

AUD is a 75 percent Native-owned company based in Anchorage. According to AUD, the drilling operation will bring training and employment opportunities for North Slope residents.

Native workers would also be trained for employment in

future production operations if the well is successful, according to a Gulf-North Slope Borough agreement.

Gulf and Tenneco Oil Exploration and Production, a unit of Tenneco Inc., each owns a 50 percent interest in three Cross Island area tracts. Gulf is operator for the \$35 million well on Block 54, 17 miles northeast of Prudhoe Bay, which will be the most northern offshore Alaska well.

The Gulf/Tenneco wildcat will also be the first test along the northern edge of the federal and state tract area and will test a new geological province. The well has a permit depth of 15,500 feet.