

Woody, Reva Morrison Graduate from University of Minnesota



ALASKANS GRADUATE AT UMM — Woody and Reva Morrison are the first Alaskans to ever graduate from the University of Minnesota. Woody carried a double major in economics and

sociology and Reva majored in political science. Reva made Dean's list twice with a high grade average. Shown with them is their young daughter Erika.

The first Alaskan Indian students to graduate from the University of Minnesota will officially receive their degrees this June from a coordinate college of the 'U', 150 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

Woody and Reva Morrison, husband and wife, are also the

first from their Alaskan villages to graduate from college. They have attended the University of Minnesota, Morris for one year.

A combination of heavy course loads, some previous work at a number of colleges and what Woody terms "determination" has made graduation

possible.

Woody Morrison is a member of the Haida tribe at Hydaburg on Prince of Wales Island and Reva is a member of the Athabaskan tribe at Shageluk, a village of 150 on the lower Yukon River.

Reva is a former member of the (Alaskan) State Central Democratic Committee, was Miss Bethel in 1967 and was also a

policy will probably sit well with Indian voters.

In matters of contracting, he would authorize by executive order the right of tribes to contract for services, rather than waiting for Congress to act. He would also authorize grants-in-aid paid in advance to the tribes which would run for periods of up to three years.

All contracting laws and regulations in conflict with Indian programs would be waived.

In resource conflicts, the administration would provide legal representation "whenever requested" to prevent conflicts over natural resources, water, hunting and fishing rights.

In funding matters, McGovern would increase appropriations for every field of Indian activity "to levels that will assure funding adequate to achieve the goals"—including special appropriations for school contracting, roads, irrigation and water projects, resource surveys, childhood programs and an end to relocation.

For urban Indians, they would be eligible for "identical services and benefits" now available to reservation Indians. Costs would not come from present or projected reservation expenditures.

Such services would include urban health and medical care councils providing free health services, increased higher education scholarships, and the creation of urban and rural centers on federal land.

"In 1972," says McGovern, "it is still shamefully true that the Indians of the United States are not free. The first order of business is to clear the way—fully, quickly and without equivocation—for them to secure for themselves every freedom enjoyed by other Americans."

It remains to be seen whether Indians will choose McGovern as their Abraham Lincoln to lead them out of that bondage.

McGovern Position ...

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ervation in 1972 following the murder of an elderly Oglala Sioux, Raymond Yellow Thunder.

McGovern's Indian critics discuss his absenteeism from regular Senate subcommittee working sessions on pivotal reform Indian legislation, and his frequent absences from the Capitol during critical floor votes in the Senate.

They question whether he has used his chairmanship on the Indian affairs subcommittee to its fullest in serving the legislative needs of Indians.

In his home state today there is some disenchantment with him on the part of Indians, who believe that once he won his Senate seat he lost his working concern for Indian needs and instead devoted himself exclusively to "national issues." Consequently, he has a "credibility problem" with the Indians at Home.

Now the senator has taken the lead among Democratic candidates by announcing the major lines of a new policy on Indian administration which emphatically elevates the status of Indians within government.

An Office of Indian Affairs in the White House staffed and directed by Indians is one of the bolder strokes of the new policy. The work of the new White House office would be to see that all new policies on Indian affairs are carried out rapidly and effectively through-out government.

The Indian director would report directly to the President.

The core of the outlined McGovern policy is to develop "an integrated program with a single purpose—the acceleration of the Indians' attainment of their own goals." McGovern has pledged himself to an enhancement of Indian preference in staffing top position, and consultation with all sectors of Indian America.

Particulars of the McGovern

Miss Alaska Contestant. Both Woody and Reva graduated from Mount Edgecumbe BIA boarding school in Alaska.

Woody served two years in the Atlantic squadron of the U.S. Navy. They have one child, and are expecting another in the Fall.

Woody and Reva will actually be graduating from the University of Minnesota, Morris "in absentia" since they will be home in Alaska for a short visit when the diplomas are distributed in mid-June.

Current plans call for Woody to attend law school this summer at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, where he will major in Indian law.

He hopes to be admitted to Harvard Business School in the Fall. While at UMM Woody mastered a double major in economics and sociology, while Reva was a political science major.

Reva made the Dean's List two consecutive quarters with a high grade point average.

While at UMM Woody was co-chairman of the Minority Student Program Advisory Committee and has been active in the development of programs for students from a variety of minorities. His current research is in public finance dealing with taxation and regulation.

As a result of this research,

both Woody and Reva are very much opposed to the Alaska oil pipeline because "the taxpayers will realize no price benefits from the pipeline".

The University of Minnesota, Morris was originally the site of a mission school for Indian children, later a federal government Indian school and then an agricultural high school operated by the University of Minnesota.

Established in 1960, UMM is a four year liberal arts college of the University. It is one of very few colleges offering free tuition for all American Indian students. It has an enrollment of 1700 students.

In the midst of moving preparations, both Woody and Reva stopped long enough to say that they both "highly recommend" the University of Minnesota, Morris to other Indian students.

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