

# Tlingit Cross-Cultural Education Course to Begin in Juneau

The Tlingit Cross-Cultural Education Course will begin on January 31st at Juneau. The principal instructor will be Walter Williams, a full-blooded Tlingit and fluent speaker of the Tlingit language. Walter earned his bachelor's degree at Gonzaga University and was selected by the Alaska Native Brotherhood to be the instructor, coordinator and director of the program.

Assisting him will be Wally Olson, assistant professor of anthropology and sociology at the Juneau-Douglas Community College.

Mr. Mike Kennedy and Peter Corey, both from the Alaska State Museum, have agreed to work with the program and will provide material to show something of the art and crafts of the Tlingit people.

The principal approach of the program will be to present the

Tlingit culture and history in terms of the way the Tlingit people see it. For example, rather than present "ethnohistory" or the history of a group as outsiders and historians see

it, the course will emphasize "folk history." Folk history is the history of a people as they themselves see and understand their past.

Tlingit legends and oral tra-

dition will be used to present to the students the culture and past as the Tlingit see it. The underlying assumption is that people live, etc, and make decisions not on the basis of the way that outsiders see them, but the way they see and understand themselves.

If teachers and administrators truly want to understand how and why the Tlingit make the

decisions they do, or hold to specific values, they must first see things from the Tlingit point of view.

By presenting the Tlingit culture through the eyes and terms of the Tlingit, it is hoped that cross-cultural understanding can come about.

The course has been fully approved by the University of Alaska. It has been designed

to meet both the academic qualifications of the University and the intentions of the Tlingit people.

The entire program appears to be a "first" in the sense that native people will conduct a university-level program in their own culture and language.

If the program is successful, it is hoped that other ethnic groups in Alaska may follow the same program style.

## Natives and North Star

Continued from page 2 as well, and to the other members of Cooperative Stores.

Sincerely yours,  
Jerry Tungiyen  
Secretary, IRA Council  
Gambell, Alaska

SAVOONGA IRA COUNCIL  
SAVOONGA, ALASKA 99769

TO: Senators  
Representatives  
Area Director, BIA  
Superintendent of the  
North Star III

Gentlemen:

At this time we would like to express our deepest concern to the possible loss of the services of the BIA Vessel North Star as a carrier for coastal Native villages of Alaska.

Not only does the North Star perform superior services in our village for so many years but become part of the village greatest activities as soon as the vessel landed in our coast.

We, the people of Savoonga admire the endurance of its captain and it's crew despite of unfavorable weather condition until all our yearly supply is landed safely and secured before moving into the next village.

Some of the facts that we, the people of Savoonga do not want to see the North Star III replaced by some other carrier that the freight rates would possibly become higher. Since we have very limited employment on the island our small income will be affected if this occurs.

This, our request may be of small in big Firm's or Agency's office but to us it is part of our daily lives in the great land of America, and to its people above us. We humbly ask your consideration on this matter on behalf of our fellowmen.

If only half of our yearly supply delivered to our village, this means we will placed a constant order to the nearest city in order to get what the village need. Most of our people cannot afford to get what their need because of high air freight charges.

Not only did North Star bring in the supply but the happiness and friendliness and working together as well. So, what we will say, keep her going.

Sincerely yours,  
Abner Gologerger  
Secretary

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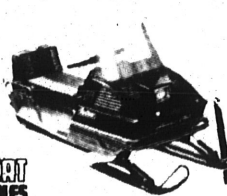
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