



THE SLAVIK—Slavik, the traditional Russian-Orthodox native holiday celebration will be described during KUAC's Prelude to Christmas on Christmas Eve. The Slavik discussion will be aired at 8:30 p.m. Talking about Slavik

are: Left to right, Mrs. Katie Pete, Napaskiak; and three University of Alaska students from the Bethel area: George Charles, Natasha Andrew, and Noah Jack.

—Photo by DeJULIO

Slavik, a Native Holiday Observance

Brightly lit stars, a procession, songs sung in Russian, visiting and eating with friends—these are all a part of the Native holiday celebration known as Slavik.

On Christmas eve at 8:30, KUAC will present an informal conversation with natives about Slavik.

Natasha Andrew, Noah Jack, and George Charles—University of Alaska students from the Bethel area—as well as Mrs. Katie Pete from Napaskiak will discuss this much loved holiday celebration.

Slavik was introduced sometime during the 1800's by the Russian Orthodox churches in Alaska. Today, villagers near Russian Orthodox settlements take part in this three-day early January custom.

At first, Slavik was mostly

a religious celebration. Today, however, there are many social as well as religious meanings attached.

Basically, Slavik involves a procession of villagers led by a hand-carried brightly lit star. The procession winds from house to house singing Russian Orthodox songs.

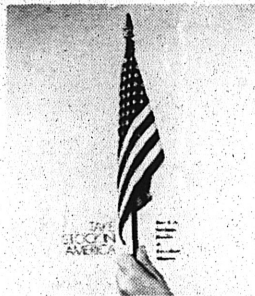
At each house, the procession of villagers stops for visiting and eating.

From village to village, customs within Slavik may vary slightly. Perhaps one village will have a special children's Slavik, while another may have a Slavik for the dead.

Regardless of possible differences in customs, for many villagers, Slavik is the highlight of the year.

As one native girl says, "I never knew there was an Amer-

ican Christmas until I went away to school; I only knew about Slavik. And, Christmas still can't compare to Slavik for me!"



UA Language Workshop Preserves Yupik Dialect

One of the efforts afoot in Alaska to preserve the old languages and culture is a magazine published six times per year by the Eskimo Language Workshop of the University of Alaska.

Naaqsugenarqelriit is, according to its authors "a periodical devoted to the preservation and perpetuation of the Yuk, Yup'ik, of Yupiaq language as spoken by the Eskimos along the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Togiak, and Nushagak Rivers and their surrounding areas in Alaska."

What makes this particular magazine unusual is that most of it is written in Yuk Eskimo by members of the Eskimo Language Workshop in the UA linguistics department.

So far, the students have produced many traditional stories, legends and poems from Southwest Alaska. Martha Tee-

luk, one of the writers for the magazine, has reproduced stories she collected while doing research in the Lower Yukon for Dr. Michael Krauss.

Other writers contribute poems, stories of what life used to be like for the Eskimo people and even political statements and articles.

According to its contributors, Naaqsugenarqelriit will be published six times in 1970, with subscriptions available for the year for \$3.00 through the Eskimo Language Workshop.

The other way this unusual publication is available is on tapes. All Eskimo portions of the magazine are available on tape, recorded by their authors. The tape of one issue is about 45 minutes long and will be sold for \$6.50.

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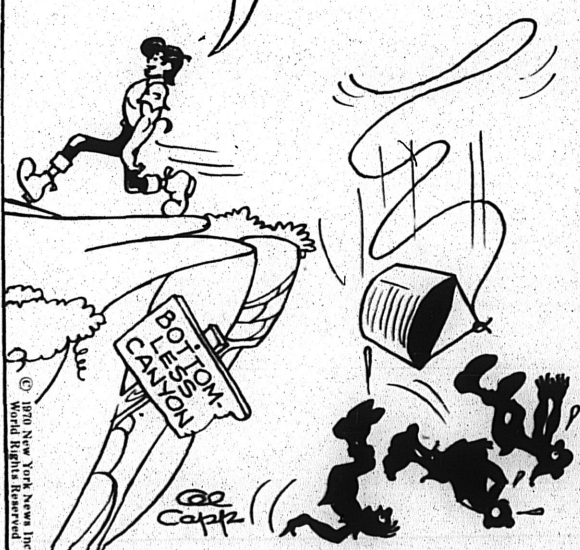
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