

80 UPWARD BOUND STUDENTS ASSEMBLE AT UA

Preparing to Enter College

Some eighty students, mostly native, have assembled from across the state at the University of Alaska to participate in the Upward Bound program. All are of high school age, or have recently graduated from high school.

For several years, the Upward Bound Program has sought to supplement the high school education of educationally disadvantaged Alaskan students.

It has also functioned to prepare students for heavier academic loads in college, as well as to increase basic requirements necessary to enter technical, or even professional schools.

The project this year places heavy emphasis on development of communications skills. The curriculum offers such diversified topics as anthropology, electronics, secretarial training, theater, mass communications, photography, composition, film making, mathematics, and even pilot ground school.

Project Director Robert Egan said that the program is geared to the majority of the students, which are native, rather than the non-native minority.

In keeping with native desires to identify with his culture and achieve an awareness of his history, a seminar on the history and anthropology of Alaskan natives is one of the more popular electives.

Such classes as found among the communications skills options aid students in self expression and in the ability to comment meaningfully on timely issues. One class will study motion picture filming and hopes to produce a documentary before the end of the program.

Another class, in drama, will concentrate heavily on the presentation of an Indian-Eskimo pageant.

A skill much in demand in Alaska is being taught. Private Pilot Ground school meets three times each week. The aim of this course is to enable students to pass the initial FAA exam before the end of the program.

Students are also receiving exposure to the field of electronics. This class is divided with half the students exploring electronics as it relates to communications. The balance of the class is learning about computers and computer programming.

One group of girls is training in the secretarial field. The course, described as a saturated exposure to secretarial activities, involves such projects as the construction of a secretarial handbook.

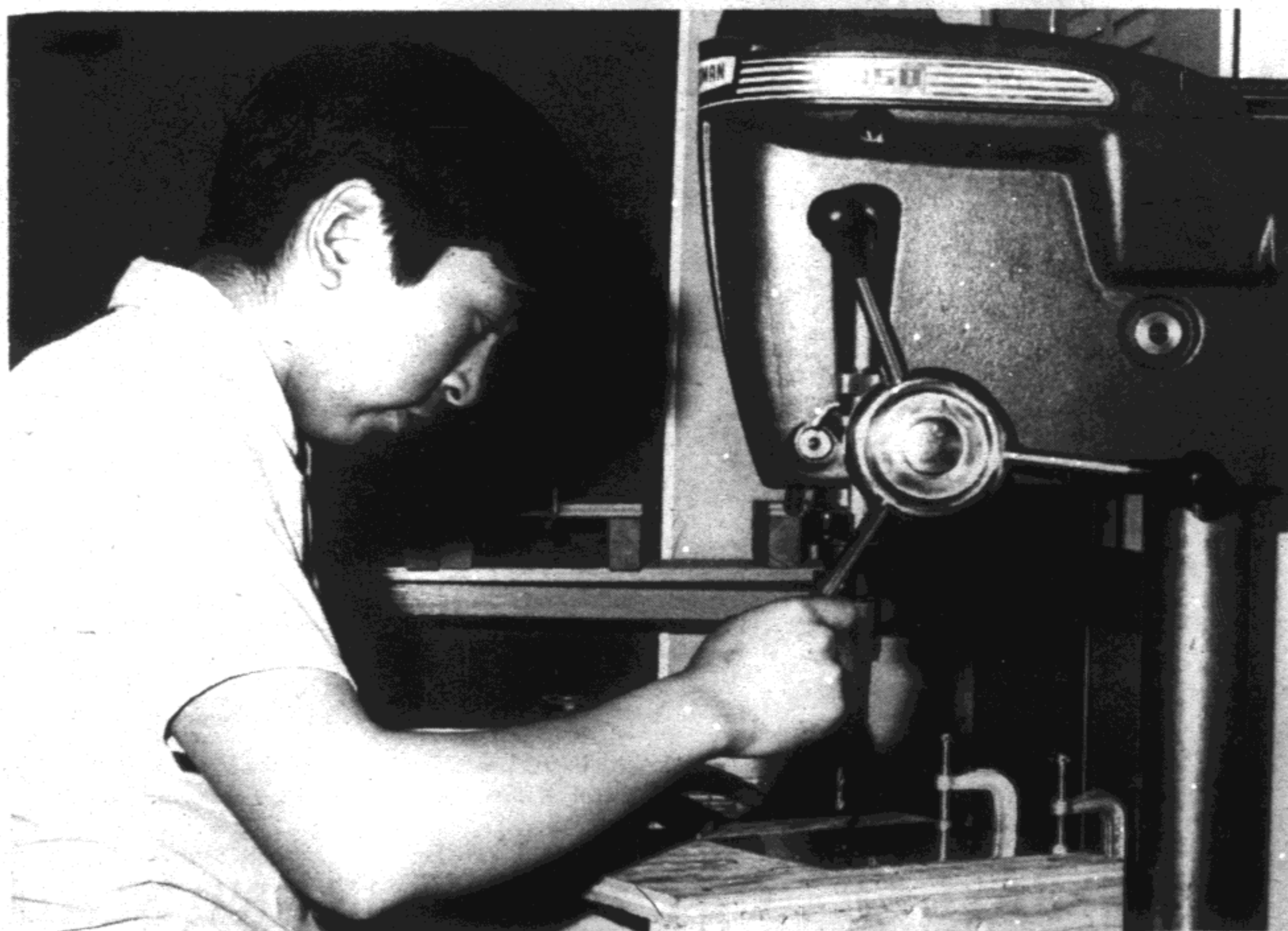
Photography is another popular class. The course, taught by John Metzger, will give students the basics of photography. Students in this group will comprise the back-up team for the yearbook.

The schedule, however full as it may appear, still allows students time for relaxation. Most of the core classes are taught in the morning, allowing time in the afternoon for swimming or tennis and other recreation.

The entire project amounts to a comprehensive approach to a college preparation, self-expression, and self-realization. It is actually a survival course for students wishing to further their education.

The many communications projects offer the students a channel through which they can react, and consequently express their thoughts on a variety of subjects.

In realizing their capabilities, these students will have already surmounted the greatest obstacle to furthering their education.



UB STUDENTS—The photo at the top shows Philomena Brush, left, of Nulato, and Anna Marie Westdahl, Bethel, working on a project in the electronics class during the Upward Bound program at the University of Alaska. The girls are constructing a radio. The center picture shows Cindy Ahwinona, left, and Tom Leonard, right, both of Nome, anxiously awaiting comments from photography instructor John Metzger, center, on a recently developed roll of film. Photography is one of the electives offered to students enrolled in the Upward Bound program at UA. The bottom photo shows Leland Oyoumich from Unalakleet drilling a hole into a chassis which he will use to construct a radio for his Upward Bound electronics class.

—THOMAS RICHARDS, JR.
Photographs

NCAI ASKS...

(Continued from page 1)

Belindo called for the appearance of the nominee before NCAI and other Indian groups, to make his programs known in an open discussion with the Indian people, prior to confirmation.

"We firmly believe that further delay is unwarranted, and will be disastrous to the implementation of any kind of a meaningful program," Belindo said.

NCAI is a national, Indian-directed organization, including in its membership 105 tribes, representing 350,000 American Indians.

John Belindo's letter is printed in its entirety on page 2.

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