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Cecelia Koontz is interviewed by Walter Johns

A report on Kuskokwim Community College

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

Series: Potlatch series

Alaska Native music supplied by the University of Washington Press and the Alaska Festival of Music.

Cecelia Koontz talks about the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood in eliminating some of the discrimination against southeastern Alaskan Indians. Cecelia Koontz said in the past the people that organized the Brotherhood weren't as educated as they are today but they accomplished many things. They would go to the Alaska Legislature chambers in Juneau to have racial discrimination eliminated. Governor Gruening signed the bill against racial discrimination. Elizabeth Peratrovich was given the pen used by Governor Gruening. There were signs on business that said no Indians allowed or for whites only. Some of the Indian women went to the selective service office and asked to have a no Indians allowed sign posted. Native sons died for the United States yet they were limited where they could go. One time the Sisterhood went to the Empire office and complained about the publication of names in the newspaper who had gotten into trouble. They did not do that to the white children and that was discrimination. They put a stop to that practice.

A song by Buffy Sainte Marie.

Terry Heffley in Bethel talks about the programs offered by the Management and Business program at the Kuskokwim Community College. He said they are offering two different types of programs including a two year degree in business. Another program is a training track. They have named it the Management Institute or the Village Management Institute. These programs are designed for those people who are currently involved in business management in the region and can't take a two year program, but would like to learn more about doing a better job at their village and regional corporations. They are offering these programs in very two or three week modules. The courses are problem specific. In the past they had a village corporation course that talked about corporations and the claims act. It was aimed at information that boards of directors of village corporations should know. This year the Institute is offering more sophisticated concepts such as how to set up a corporation to work the way they want it to work and how to leave a paper trail. Twice a year they have enrollment period for degree program courses. For the track programs the Department of Labor Comprehensive Employment Training Act will be handling the enrollment and recruitment.

A song by John Angiak.

Nels Alexie, Kuskokwim Community College liaison officer, speaks in Yupik and English. He talks about being the liaison officer. After Russian Christmas they will begin filming and advertising the courses at KYUK TV in Bethel. He will also be going out to the villages to explain course at the community college.

The college is open to everyone who wants to attend school there and for those who want to finish school. They will be teaching some classes by television and radio as well as correspondence courses. He talks about an education at the community college helping people in Bethel. He said now we just don't make a living by hunting or fishing anymore. We have jobs that need special education. When you ask about a job now you are asked what kind of education or skill you have.

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The moderator said Potlatch is produced in the KUAC studios in College in cooperation with KTOO Juneau, KOTC Kotzebue and KYUK Bethel under Title One of the Higher Education Act.