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Henry Napoleon, Wenda DeWitt, Peggy Favorstrom, and Okalina Schwartz offer college advice to Alaska Native high school students; Dee Oland talks about tourists' impressions of Alaska Natives. Jeff Kennedy, moderator

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Series: Potlatch series

Eskimo music compiled by Lorraine Koranda by permission from the University of Washington Press. Jeff Kennedy said the Eskimos composed songs about almost every activity in their lives. Among the most important were the weather and power songs. The first song is sung by Paul Green.

Jeff Kennedy said high school students get advice about how to study. Much of the advice comes from those in a different generation. Alaska Native high school students may get this advice from someone from another culture. Jeff Kennedy said he asked three Alaska Native students to give advice to high school students of their own region. Henry Napoleon from Hooper Bay graduated from St. Mary's High School. Napoleon talks about coming to college from St. Mary's. He said in the past few years the university has come up with programs like Upward Bound. That tells you how college operates. The students get an idea of how college is. They get a feel for college. He tells high school students to study good. Wenda DeWitt is a third year college student at UAF and is a graduate of Wrangell High School. DeWitt told students to study more than what you are expected to learn in high school. When she first went to college she felt unprepared in the type of work she had to do. She said in addition to the required courses she recommends taking typing, speech, and more science courses. Her high school teachers told her what to expect in college so it wasn't that much of an adjustment for her. She attended Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka which is a smaller school. She started at the university and she said it was hard to get used to the weather. Jeff Kennedy said Peggy Favorstrom comes from Golovin and is a third year student in office administration. She said she likes to tell students coming to college to prepare themselves for being away from the guidance of their parents. She said when you get here you are pretty much on your own. You have to become accustomed to making up your own study habits. There are weekend activities. Jeff Kennedy asked her to grade the performance of high school in preparing her for college. Peggy said a "B" because she wasn't prepared for the math courses that she had to take or the science courses. In high school they were only required to take general math and a couple of years of science. She recommended taking all the math course you can get in high school as well as science. She went to a boarding school so she was accustomed to living in a dorm and being on her own. She rated the services of the University of Alaska in the classroom and outside of the classroom and said they do pretty good. She said the classes aren't very large. She said you get used to the larger classes. As you progress you get into the smaller classes and you can get to know the professors and the students. Jeff Kennedy said Henry Napoleon rated his high school. Napoleon said at St. Mary's they had term papers, essays, and research papers. They got him set up for college. Okalina Schwartz is in her second year at the

university. She said she had been hearing complaints about some of the courses that they have been dropping. Some people are majoring in dental assistance and they aren't offering those courses. Business administration and Office administration's major points are covered very well. For some students it isn't very good. They don't get the interest fields that they want. She rated the school at a B. She attended high school at Mt. Edgecumbe and gives them a C. She thought they were a little too lax. She thought they should have been a little harder on the students. In college you have to have a different skill set than high school. She said they need to teach you to take notes. She said when she attended high school there were 650-700 students. She said most of the high schools are catering to the Natives. They give special classes for Natives and they don't prepare you for college. She said when you get into college you won't get any special treatment and you have to conform. They shouldn't be given mediocre.

Hazy shades of winter by Mamas and the Papas

Jeff Kennedy said Dee Oland, born in Ruby, is now studying at the University of Oregon in pre-med. To earn money for college she worked on the Riverboat Discovery in Fairbanks. She talked about how tourists reacted to her when they learned that she was an Alaska Native. Dee Oland said one question they asked was if there was any difference between the Eskimo and the Indians. The tourist's first impression about Alaska is there are mostly Eskimos here and they still lived in igloos. She said they had no idea that there were five other ethnic groups besides Eskimos. They wanted to know how the Athabaskan Indians were related to the Eskimo. She would like to point out that there are six ethnic groups all together. They live no different than anyone else. They are all human beings. The way they do things up here is simply because of their environment. She said people are amazed that they dry moose meat and smoke fish. She said if they were in their shoes they would do the same thing to survive. She said they aren't as ignorant as everyone thinks. There are a lot of Alaska Natives who are trying to keep their culture going. In Oregon Oland found that people thought Natives from Alaska were wealthy. She talked about the Indians in Oregon who receive payments and people thought it was the same in Alaska. She said people are sincerely interested in learning about other cultures. She felt good about educating people about Alaska Natives. She talked about how people perceive Alaska. She said a lot of people in Oregon are interested in the education of her parents. Her mother didn't finish high school and her stepparents got to the sixth grade. She said they are very educated in traditional skills and knowing how to survive on the land.

Unidentified song

Station announcement