

## Mt Edgecumbe an alternative

I have read with great interest a letter by Donna Lee Kious of Barrow in the Dec. 23 issue of the Tundra Times. Her plea for keeping Mt. Edgecumbe High School is powerful and worthy of attention.

She feels that Mt. Edgecumbe High School gives Alaska Native students an alternative and "gives students an opportunity to get away from a troubled environment and the opportunity to become someone — to have dreams and to have goals."

Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, which for many years was available to Alaskan Native students, is an alternative high school. Recently, new facilities were constructed at a cost of \$18 million. This school belongs to

the Northwest. Most Indian students attend their local high schools, but some of them don't "fit."

Then Chemawa Boarding High School gives them "the opportunity to get away from a troubled environment and the opportunity to become someone," and that is worth the investment in human lives.

While growing up in my native Denmark I went to school with Eskimo students from Greenland. Many of them did not "fit" the home town environment. Today many of those young people are the leaders in Greenland and Denmark.

I came to the United States in 1928 to attend high school in Spokane, Wash. As I look

back I must confess that I didn't "fit" the mold of my Danish village. I wasn't in any kind of trouble. I just needed an alternative high school. In 1938 I received my Ph.D. in Education from the University of North Dakota.

Yes, many young people need an alternative high school. I have worked with Native Alaskan children and young people for 20 years. Many of these students need an alternative school. Mt. Edgecumbe High School offers quality education to high school youth who, during their high school years in the village, discover that "they don't fit" the local mold.

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## Edgecumbe issue solved with Mollie Hootch

To the Editor:

For quite some time I've received the Tundra Times but lately it's been quite boring due to the fact that comments, letters, etc. to keep Mt. Edgecumbe School open, appear in every issue. I definitely believe the school should be closed immediately. Why the issue?

Wasn't there a big issue when Miss Mollie Hootch sued the State of Alaska for a high school to be located within the regions of the villages?

Didn't she win? Now the issue is Mt. Edgecumbe.

How long do you think the state or federal government is going to listen? I think that the Natives have gone far but there are certain limits.

If Native leaders or Natives take on every issue brought by one concern or group we will eventually mess ourselves up royally.

In the meantime, the students going to Mt. Edgecumbe should be educated within

their respective regions to understand the needs or the issues within their regions. Their ideas for better living, improvements and health may be a help in the long run for the underprivileged, elderly and handicapped and to keep their culture alive which they forget in Mt. Edgecumbe.

This opinion is my own and maybe it will give second thoughts to most concerned.

Concerned  
North Slope

## Correction on cheerleader

To the Editor:

The pictures from Mt. Edgecumbe were most interesting. This appeared in the Dec. 16, 1981 issue.

As a former student (1950-1953) I believe the picture stating a student to be the first male cheerleader stands to

be corrected. We had a male cheerleader by the name of Charles Hayward, and I believe he was from Metlakatla.

I enjoy your newspaper very much and I wish you and your staff a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Irene E. Roberts