

# Letters from Here and There

## Refunds in from Sleeping Bag Co.

Twin Hills School  
Via Togiak, Ak. 99678  
May 14, 1971

Dear Mr. Rock:

Late last February I wrote you on behalf of several villagers who had been gypped by Alaska Sleeping Bag Co. of Beaverton, Oregon. I complained that letters to the company and to the State Attorney General were repeatedly ignored.

The appearance of that letter in Tundra Times brought an inquiry from the Attorney General's office. With their help, the refunds have finally been received. The last of the complaint has been satisfied this month. At least the folks have money now to order winter coats for next year from a more reputable outfit.

Thank you for your help. Without it we would still be whistling at the moon. And shivering.

Sincerely,  
Jim Baenen  
Principal - Teacher

## Grad Asks Better Mt. Edgecumbe

Anchorage, Alaska  
May 17, 1971

Dear Sir:

Another year has gone by here at Mt. Edgecumbe School, with 144 Seniors graduating, including myself. I hope parents of Mt. Edgecumbe students will think about what I have to say.

I often wondered, especially in the past year, "HOW MANY" parents actually think that their children are really getting quality education here at Mt. Edgecumbe, much less the proper "care." What a sad thing to say... but, they are not!!

How do I know? I have lived here for the past four years. Parents ... I beg you don't just stand (or sit there) DO SOMETHING! For the sake of your other children that will be coming to Edgecumbe. Talk to your child when he comes home for the summer. Also, take a good look at your child's report card. Is there an improvement? As I saw it in the past years I was here, this school keeps getting worse, the saddest part was that this year many of our students DID NOT go to school at all, just plain skipped school,

day after day.

Was something done about it? NOT AT ALL. Parents ... if your child was at home and skipping school, what would you do? Naturally you would discipline them. Also, so many of our students were "drinking" this past year, and nothing being done. It's unbelievable. Then, we lived in the so-called "Honor Dorm", big deal! with no supervision or dorm matron during the week night. I believe even colleges have supervision or dorm mothers.

Again, I beg you parents to do something about our school. Talk to your Native Organization, AFN, etc. Maybe they could help get the right people to run this school. I noticed too that so many of these white people come to the school that cannot stand Native people, hate natives. This I do not understand, and it's a shame, because when these type of people are hired our kids are neglected, ignored and pushed around. This adds up to one thing, the white people are here for one thing "money," that's their main concern.

The administration seem to worry more about their own people. They promote each other to higher position. All they have to do add the word "specialist" to some stupid name, they get their promotion right now. Then ... they don't even know what their job is. To me, the people working for BIA are simply getting BIA welfare (white people). I often wonder if they ever stop to think, if there wasn't such a thing as "natives," where would they be working and making all that "big" money. I say this because majority of them don't like natives. I can't help but think that is why they are not giving kids the proper education, they're afraid we will take over their jobs. From what I saw here, their kids are getting a pretty good education, going to a very good school.

I'd like to see their kids go to this school. Then ... they'd really get on the ball and straighten this school out. Many of times I have gone to the Principal and Superintendent's office with a problem or, a simple question. Would you believe I never got an answer? When these people have a problem they should solve or work on, instead of working on it themselves, which is their job, they form a committee to do their job. How very frustrating!!

Don't let these people brainwash you and tell you that your child is getting a good education. I have seen my mother get let-

ters from this school saying, what all her child is learning, and what a fine school this is, let me tell you that isn't so. We, native students usually find out after we get out in society, our lack of education. Such a shame. Thank god in couple or so years, our students will be going to regional schools. This I am really thrilled over. Now I know maybe my kids will be going to a decent school.

Now, for you students, that are going back to Mt. Edgecumbe, at least try the best you can, think about your future, what do you want out of life. That is so very important. Myself, I still don't know what I will do. Isn't that a shame, especially with all the counselors we had at the school, also, social workers, psychiatrist, recreation specialist. Seems they don't know what they are doing. Pitiful ...

Finally I hope and pray the school will be "a little better" in the future.

Sincerely,  
Graduate of Mt. Edge. "1971"

## Crushers May Work in Villages

United States Senate  
Committee on Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
May 20, 1971

Mr. Donald S. Dorsey  
Manager  
Alaska Native Industries  
Cooperative, Inc.  
1306 Second Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Dear Don:

I very much appreciate your writing to me and explaining the ideas you have for utilization of the type of "drum crushers" now being acquired by ALCOM. I have written to General Ruegg forwarding a copy of your letter and asking for his comments as soon as possible. This sounds like an extremely worthwhile venture and I assure you I am anxious to help make it a success.

With best wishes,

Cordially,  
TED STEVENS  
United States Senator

cc: John Shively  
Don Perkins  
Morris Thompson  
BIA Superintendents  
(Nome, Bethel, Anchorage & Fairbanks)  
Harry Carter, AFN Executive Director  
Tundra Times  
ANICA Delegates