

Levelock teen wishes her friends would stop

by Tammi Peterson

Levelock eighth grader

LEVELOCK — I will be in eighth grade this fall. I live in a small town where barely anybody chews. I know a few people here who chew and many kids from villages in our district who do.

I wish they would stop. Most of them are my friends, and one of them who used snuff stopped a long time ago. I'm glad he made the right deci-

sion and hope you do, too.

Even if snuff wasn't bad for me, I still wouldn't do it. One reason is that it is a waste of money. And that's what this whole essay is mostly about.

A can of snuff costs about \$2.25 and lasts my brother four days. One year of snuffing would cost about \$204.75. If I took a plane from Levelock to King Salmon (round trip) it would cost \$70, and from King Salmon to Anchorage (round trip) it would cost

\$664. From King Cove to False Pass it would cost \$1,060.

If I didn't snuff for six years I would have saved enough money to go to False Pass and visit my cousins whom I haven't seen for five years, and I'd still have spending money.

My teacher took a trip around the world with Northwest Airlines for \$2,100. She could have gone anywhere she wanted to go. If I started snuffing right now, in 10 years I would

have spent enough money to go around the world.

If I had the money to go around the world and kept going in one direction, I would stop at Los Angeles because my mom was there once. The next place I would go is Houston to visit my friends who moved there. Next I would go to London, then to Honolulu. I'd like to travel, but I have never been outside of Alaska.

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● Expensive

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If I had about \$205 I would get my gram a heater because her furnace doesn't work, and she is also running low on oil for her oil stove. An electric heater costs \$39.95, and I would have \$160 left over to get something that I wanted. But I would take \$50 and give her the rest of the money to get oil for her stove. I would use the \$50 to get bicycle tires for my bicycle.

Smokeless tobacco is the number one health problem for kids today. It contains nicotine which is very addictive and flavoring salts which increase high blood pressure. Some chemicals in tobacco juice delay wound healing. Eighty-five percent of the people who get mouth cancer chew smokeless tobacco, and 45 percent of them die.

I wish that nobody did chew so that it would make it easier for everybody in this huge world. One true thing is we have enough problems in this world of ours.