

City Schools VS. Bush Schools

By TAMI FRENCH

In September 1979 I moved to the bush, unaware of the experiences that lay ahead. I started school about 3 days after I arrived. Everyone made me feel welcomed and in a very short time I knew most of the people in the village.

In November of 1980 my parents moved to Anchorage. I was scared of the city, the big schools, and all the traffic. I didn't start back to school until we got settled down.

The first day I was totally terrified! Nobody said hi, I got lost and I couldn't find the bathroom! It was a day I wouldn't forget! The days after seemed much better.

I noticed the differences between the city schools and bush schools and I often thought about them. In the bush, people seemed more friendly and that helped me to get back on the "school track." But in the city everyone had their own groups to go with.

The teachers in the bush differed greatly from city teachers. They helped each kid individually. In the city, while they tried to help all the students, the shy kids missed out because they never went to the teacher.

To my surprise the courses offered in the city school were also offered in the bush. Most of the basics - English, Math, Government, History, Science - and advantageous ones such as Shop, Business, Home Economics, and Media.

I'm learning more about government now that I'm here. I took half of the course before I came. I started the same courses over and I couldn't remember anything that I had supposedly learned! I used to have an opinion about government with no reason to back me. But now that I've learned more about it I feel I can speak freely about it.

I may plan on a career in business, so I'm learning to keep records. It's important and will be a great help.

Media could be a help too. I guess with a little experience and some knowledge I could be a newscaster.

In these classes, and all the rest, a key factor is that we have learned to get along and to accept each other and that helps when it comes time to learn.

Being at a bush high school has helped me to be patient. With the teacher's help, I've been shown how to detail things in order to understand them and to learn from things I'm taught. I believe if I hadn't come to this bush high school I wouldn't have graduated.

All articles for publication should be sent to:
Terry McCarthy

c/o Mt. Village High School
P.O. Box 201
Mt. Village, Alaska 99632
99632