

# letters

## Haul road

Marie Ahvakana  
P.O. Box 105  
Wainwright, Alaska 99782

Dear Editor:

This letter concerns about the haul road being open to the public.

I am writing this letter to every Native in Alaska, also to the people who really want the road open to the public. The road from Valdez to Prudue Bay is not the road that I wouldn't want open to the public. Once it is open it will permently ruin our valuable land — the land we lived on and used. This land is the only one we "the Natives" depend on, it has been for thousands of years and we don't want our land to be ruined by the people who don't care about what happens to Alaska. What will happen to the animals that are slowly becoming extinct? What will we hunt? What will we trap? What will we fish for? I really hate people when they kill our animals just for the beauty of the animals, or killing them to showoff on what they kill. I think people who kill our

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animals just for fun are maniacs not knowing what to do with the meat, they just let it rot and ruin our land, also let it stink up. We "the Natives" on our homeland wouldn't want that to happen in Alaska, not for another thousand years. If they open this road they'll start killing the animals!

Money can't make animals, also money won't even replace our animals.

Marie Ahvakana

## Molly Hootch case

Law Offices of  
Smith, Taylor & Gruening  
605 West Second Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

April 11, 1979

Dear Editor:

The concern of many Anchorage parents over the decision to close the Government Hill and Woodland Park schools is both understandable and well-founded. Imagine the justified outcry, however, if some group from outside Anchorage petitioned the State legislature to force the Anchorage School District to combine all the Anchorage

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area's high schools into one area-wide regional high school. Since 80 per cent of the cost of school construction within the Anchorage Municipality is picked up by the State, this hypothetical group could argue that the legislature should intervene in what should otherwise be a local decision.

A major reason for dissolving the bureaucratic monster of the State Operated Schools was to allow Alaskans outside the organized borough the kind of local control of and participation in the education of their children that parents within the organized boroughs have enjoyed. Many of the same arguments now raised in the litigation over the closure of the Government Hill and Woodland Park Schools were made in the Molly Hootch suit.

The Molly Hootch case involved the basic right of rural children to be educated in their communities. Anchorage parents naturally want their children to attend the neighborhood schools and not to be transported across the city. Rural parents for years have seen their school children transported across mountain ranges, time zones, and state lines. The petition of Anchorage Municipal Assembly-

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man Don Smith to stop construction of community high schools in rural Alaska should be viewed with alarm by all Alaskans who want their children educated in community schools.

If rural communities wish to combine high schools, that is a decision which properly belongs to the rural school boards and not to the legislature. School construction is costly everywhere and particularly in rural Alaska. In the long run, however, I believe it would be a false economy and a tragic mistake to force regional high schools on rural Alaska.

Cordially,  
Clark Gruening

## Bush high schools

Kwigillingok, AK 99622  
April 12, 1979

Dear Sen. Hohman:

I'm sure you have heard or read about this man who is against the bush high schools, and him say that it would be waste of money to build bush high schools. And about him saying that it would be a waste of tax dollars to build schools in bush. But I am sure it would be the other way around if he was teacher, to teach at high school. Does he think that only the urbanites pay taxes? Or does he think that there are no tax payers in rural Alaska. Or is he jealous because there will

be new high school teachers in villages.

As you know from what I've told you or from seeing my school records that I myself have never graduated from any school, I am sure you will support us in getting high school in villages. And since I have one girl in high school here in villages, I never worry about her getting into many things that she might learn to do if she was not home. Things that are not worth learning such as smoking grass and other things. And I am sure the other parents feel the same as I do.

Now back to that urbanite, Isn't it so that he promise to have a proposal for statewide if he is not successful this time, is he talking about the bush villages when he says statewide. He ought to remember that statewide includes villages. He sound like he has never been to any bush villages in all his life. He should thank bush villagers who comes to help pay their hotel taxes instead of trying to take what they will get. (High Schools).

If only I had more education, I'd do whatever I can to get high school for every village in Alaska. I'd write longer letter but my hands are getting tired so I close for now. And I hope to hear from you on what you have to say about the bush high schools.

Sincerely Yours,  
David O. David

P.S. The man's name is Don Smith. I couldn't remember before that is why he is not named at start of letter.

