

Let's hope casino 'craps' out

Laura Cameron
The Clackamas Print

Gov. Ted Kulongoski needs to be a bit more careful. I think he doesn't quite understand the power of the precedent.

Gov. Kulongoski has just given the green light to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to build a new casino in Cascade Locks — and off of reservation lands. I am disturbed by this for two reasons.

First, it is directly contradictory to the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Second ... well, I'll get to that in a minute.

As it stands, the IGRA restricts Oregon's nine federally recognized Indian tribes to one casino each, to be situated on reservation land. Notice that there's a stipulation there: *on reservation land*.

Warm Springs tried to get a casino in Cascade Locks once before, back in 1999. John Kitzhaber was governor at that time, and he steadfastly opposed the proposal. When the subject was first broached to Gov. Kulongoski, he took the same stance. However, he recently caved in and signed off on the proposal — in fact, he was described as "exuberant" at the signing ceremony. Why the sudden about-face?

Well, it seems that Warm Springs promised to eventually

donate up to 17% of the profits from their casino to the state, and in the current budget crisis I can understand the appeal of that offer. Tribal officials say that the casino could provide up to \$270 million to the state over the first ten years. That's not exactly piddling small change.

Of course, the money wouldn't go *directly* from tribe to state; it would pass through a non-profit organization first. Gotta get that extra tax write-off!

Tribal officials, having learned quickly from politicians, are touting this plan as a great way to help pay for schools; specifically, tuition aid

for college students, which I'm sure *you*, dear reader, would appreciate.

While I like the idea of more money to help out cash-strapped students, I do find myself feeling a little wary about this particular supply-line. Bluntly, I think that we should focus on finding a more reliable revenue source for our schools than profits garnered from someone's bad habit and possible addiction. "Slots for schools" really doesn't sound that attractive, does it? And what's next, blackjack for blacktop? Craps for cops?

But to get back to my second reason for not liking the governor's decision; if you must build

a casino, why in the Columbia Gorge?

We've been assured, of course, that the casino and convention complex have been designed to "blend in" with the landscape. Forgive my cynicism, but I have yet to see *any* casino that has been anything other than eye-catching. Therein lies my problem; when I'm in the Gorge, I would rather that my eye be caught by the staggering beauty and spectacle of the Gorge itself, and not some shiny building where people go to lose money.

Of course, none of this is certain yet. Though Gov. Kulongoski has approved the

plan, it still needs to be approved by Gale Norton, the secretary of the Interior Department. Since the IGRA was passed in 1988, only three exemptions have been granted to build off of reservation land.

"Generally, across the nation, the administration has been pretty cautious, pretty slow, with off-reservation projects," says Joe Bowen, an attorney at the Seattle office of Ater Wynne, who helped draft the IGRA. The dice appear to be loaded against the tribes just now.

If, however, they get the exemption, a new problem will arise; it's something I call the "What about me?" principle.

Now that Gov. Kulongoski has moved away from limiting tribal casinos to reservation land, to reservation land from other tribes has declared their intention to get in on the action. It would be quite advantageous for them, after all, if suddenly the too, could have a casino within leishurely driving distance of Portland. The governor has dismissed this, saying that the Warm Springs situation is unique, but they have a hard time accepting that. After all, there are lawyers out there who specialize in making "unique" situations magically apply to more people than thought possible.

So I would suggest to Gov. Kulongoski, he awaits the Interior Department decision that he read up on the term "opening the floor



Photo illustration by Jeff Sorensen Clackamas Print

Oregon finally passes parental notification bill for abortion

Shannon Armstead
Commentary Editor

The Oregon House Judiciary has taken a step in the right direction with their passing of the new parent notification bill known as HB2605. The bill requires parents to be notified before their teen daughter has an abortion.

Teenagers cannot get a tattoo, get their ears pierced, or even take an aspirin at school without their parent's signature. Parents are also held responsible for their children's destructive actions, yet when it came to making an important physical and moral decision the state has assumed that teen girls know best.

The idea of letting a 13-year-old girl decide that she will have a surgical procedure done (unless it is to save her life) without her parents giving their consent or even knowing about it is unheard of, yet that is what our state has been allowing.

HB2605 should have been in place from the time teen girls were even allowed to have an abortion at all.

Unfortunately, the bill only requires that a parent be notified but does not require that they give their consent for the procedure. The implications of this bill are nonetheless good news for parents who care.

Any parent who takes an interest in their child would want to know if she were about to have an abortion procedure. Yet many schools across the country allow children to go off campus and undergo "confidential" medical services that include abortion, AIDS treatment and psychological analysis, without a hint to their parents.

This represents a serious

glitch in our system. Teen girls are often pressured into an abortion by their boyfriends or



friends. Aftereffects of abortion include Post Abortion Stress Syndrome, a form of post-traumatic stress that can

result in substance abuse and potentially even suicide. It is imperative that the girl's caretaker, most often her parents, know what she might be going through. Moreover there are many alternatives to abortion that must be discussed with a teen before she goes through with an abortion. Planned Parenthood and other providers rarely educate girls about abortion alternatives or potential complications or aftereffects of the procedure.

According to a nationwide poll 80 percent of citizens agree that parents should be notified when their teenage daughter wants to get an abortion. Either consent, which requires the parents permission, or notification laws are in place in all but three states—Hawaii, New Hampshire, and New York—plus the District of Columbia. Legislation has been under works to pass the parent notification law for

years yet the resistance has waged legal battle after legal battle, in their zeal for keeping parents out of the picture.

The opposition to parent notification in Oregon includes the Department of Human Services and Planned Parenthood, an institution quoted on FreeRepublic.com that makes an estimated \$98 million from abortions each year. When these laws are in place, the number of abortions will drop significantly and Planned Parenthood does not want that to happen.

Optimistically, in the future there will be more legislation to bring significance to the importance of parents in the lives of their children, like letting parents have a say in the daughter's abortive procedure rather than just informing them that she is going to have it. This will come about when we stop allowing the government and dollars to dictate how much, and about what, parents are allowed to be involved in their children's lives.

the CLACKAMAS Print

19600 S. Molalla Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 657-6958 ex. 2309

The Clackamas Print is a weekly student publication and is distributed every Wednesday except finals week.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Isaiah Creel
COPY EDITOR: James Tombe
NEWS EDITOR: Ben Maras
COMMENTARY EDITOR: Shannon Armstead
FEATURE EDITOR: Karlin Johnson
SPORTS EDITOR: Mike McCormack
A&E EDITOR: Hilliary Ferguson
PHOTO EDITOR: Jeff Sorensen
AD MANAGER: Ben Wolm

DESIGN EDITOR: Michael Cooper
STAFF WRITERS: Frank Jordan, Joe Piazzisi, Jadon Triplett, Katie Wilson, Laura Cameron, Christa Danielson, Mike Guidice, Christa Slate, Elizabeth Tobey, Norma Martinez, CJ Ciamarello, Sam Krause, Jimi McDonald, Jenna Johnk
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: Jesse Arguello, Joanne Bergstrom,

Norma Martinez, Jadon Triplett, Randy Thrall

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Brie Daykin, Angela Gerhart, Stephen Hayes
DEPARTMENT ADVISOR: Linda Vogt
DEPARTMENT ASSISTANT: Pat Lichen

GOALS: The CLACKAMAS Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty or The Print. E-mail comments to chiefed@clackamas.edu.