

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

It's me again, with another ache in my heart. Most of you have read my last article about **Jim Thorpe** by now (I hope), but this time I am writing about something closer to home.

We have a nice modern health clinic, and I am very proud of it. It took a lot of hard work by a lot of people (not just the chairperson) to upgrade the clinic to where it is today.

**But**, if we continue to let unqualified people who are on power trips interfere in the running of our clinic, I can only see disaster staring us in the face.

I recently learned the tribe is losing Dr. Steven Christensen. I can only say **shame on us!** I have been around for 66 years in this world and Dr. C is one of the finest men I have ever met. He is a caring, sympathetic, professional doctor. We here in Siletz have been subjected to many so-called physicians in the tenure of our clinic. Most of them considered our "Indian" clinic a step on to bigger and better positions.

No matter where I went in this state, when I was asked who my primary doctor was, I replied "Dr. Steven Christensen." I received only positive answers about what a fine, professional doctor he is.

I recently had an appointment to see Dr. C and brought up the fact that he was leaving. He became very quiet and just nodded his head. Now, me being me, I asked why. He replied "It's just time to move on." Knowing what a hotbed of politics the clinic is, I asked if tribal politics had entered into his decision. Being the professional he is, I really had to draw out his feelings. Without naming names, he admitted he "could not do it anymore." I finally got him to admit that tribal politics had played a big part in his decision to leave.

Now, it is very well known throughout the tribe that we have some very unqualified people leading our clinic staff, people who allow family, politics, and personal feeling to sway their decisions.

So now, how do you replace another fine doctor who got tired of banging against a stone wall? Well, you don't replace a Dr. Steven Christensen.

Dr. C was very adamant in saying we have a lot of good, caring, well-qualified hard-working people at the clinic. But as usual, they are the first employees that have to go if they "go against" the upper echelon.

With an ache in my heart, I am  
C.W. Case, Sr.

To the editor:

Our family would like to express our appreciation to the HIP Program, especially Tammy and Howard. The new bathroom and furnace made for a most comfortable winter.

At times, there was uncertainty

To the editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the tribal members who supported me in the last election. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the tribe in my many travels and meetings over the last two years. I hope to continue to find ways to represent my tribe in other ways.

The tasks in front of us are tremendous, but at the same time exciting. I am especially proud of the young people starting to step up to take on the challenges that face us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mike Darcy

To the editor:

I am writing to urge you to vote against the proposed constitutional amendments by Tribal Council.

As a past member of the now defunct Ad-Hoc Constitution Committee, I was pleased to see one of the three recommendations that the committee made to Tribal Council, changing the Council election date from February to May. This change also is listed as one of the "Comments from Community Meetings on Revising the Tribal Constitution" that Tina Retasket put together as staff representative for the ad-hoc committee.

However, the rest of the proposed changes that Tribal Council is asking for are not on that list. If you would like a copy of the "Comments from Community Meetings on Revising the Tribal Constitution," please write me at 1541-1/2 Taft St., Eugene, OR 97402, and I will send one.

The proposed changes to Tribal Court are more Tribal Council attempts to control the court. If you believe that we need a separation between Tribal Council and Tribal Court, vote no on the proposed changes.

Our current Constitution allows five Tribal Council members to vote to dissolve our tribe. If you allow these changes to be made, only three Tribal Council members will be needed to vote to disband our tribe. And, only two of those three need to vote in favor of the breakup. If you believe you know three tribal members who would vote to terminate us for personal gain, vote no on the proposed changes.

Please study these proposed changes very carefully. Once more, the General Council has made its wishes known to Tribal Council, only to be ignored. Power corrupts, and absolute power absolutely corrupts. Vote no on the Tribal Council's proposed constitutional amendments.

Sincerely,  
M. David Viles

about the work and production. Howard's professionalism straightened things out. Great job, Howard! Thanks to all,

Denise Downey  
Mill City, Ore.

### LETTERS, DEADLINES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

All letters received will be printed except those that are slanderous or racist. Please type or write legibly. No profane language will be printed. The Siletz News and tribal government accept no responsibility for statements made in these letters. The opinions expressed are those of the individuals writing them. Letters of excessive length may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142. **All letters must include your name, address, phone number, and signature.** Send letters to:

Siletz News  
P.O. Box 549  
Siletz, OR 97380  
541-444-8291  
1-800-922-1399, ext. 291  
Fax: 541-444-2307  
e-mail: [pias@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:pias@ctsi.nsn.us)

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of Siletz News.

**Editor-in-Chief: Brenda Bremner**  
**Editor: Diane Rodriguez**

**Deadline for the May newsletter is April 10.** Photos are encouraged. Everyone loves to see photos of events, tribal members, and especially babies. Don't forget those birthday or anniversary wishes for loved ones.

The newsletter is free to enrolled Siletz Tribal members. For all others, a \$12 annual subscription fee applies. Fill out this form and mail it with \$12 (make check payable to Confederated Tribes of Siletz) to Siletz News.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Change of address on your newsletter: **Tribal members** call Lisa Norton, enrollment clerk, at 541-444-8258; all others, call the newsletter office at 541-444-8291 and leave your new address with the editor.