

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

As a tribal member with a long-held interest in tribal government, I pay close attention to any information presented by the tribal government. And so it was while attending the General Council meeting of Aug. 5 in Siletz. While listening to discussions on many issues, I wrote down items that were brought up by the Tribal Council to support their statements. These are items that I want to learn more about because they are news to me. Here's that list:

1. Financial reports about the '99 boxing event.
2. The completed, audited financial report prepared by Deloitte and Touche for the casino FY '99.
3. The letter from the state of Oregon that gave its position about the NIGC Notice of Violation.
4. The comp-receipts used by the Tribal Council.
5. The comp-use reports that listed the date of use, amount of item, and related business prepared by the individual Tribal Council members in response to the NIGC.
6. The latest BIA correspondence (as of

8/5/00) Tribal Council "Proposed Constitutional Amendments."

7. The IRS letter approving Tribal Council to continue receiving retirement benefits (401k).
8. Anything to substantiate the claim made by the Tribal Council that they know who reported them to the NIGC.

Before leaving the meeting, I respectfully requested that copies of each of these items be sent to me by mail. To date, I have not received any of my requests. I am extremely discouraged about having invested the time and effort to attend the meeting, which unlike the Tribal Council members, I am not paid by the tribe to attend.

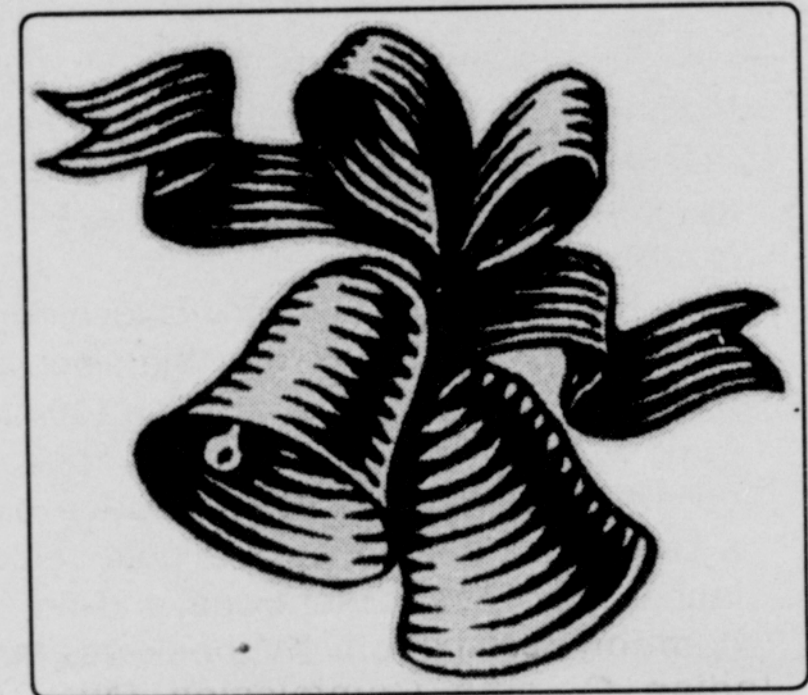
I believe that Tribal Council members must provide information to tribal members because they are paid, elected representatives to uphold the Constitution, which requires open records. Instead, from my request they have provided nothing – absolutely no response from Tribal Council.

"Elected" Tribal Council members act unprofessional whenever they do not provide information or acknowledge the rights of tribal members. They act

unprofessional whenever they are unhelpful or unresponsive to tribal members. Full accountability should be a standard operating procedure for the tribe and anything less is irresponsible and should not be tolerated by the tribe.

What can be done? Tribal members do have rights – to take an interest, to question, and get information without being ignored, blacklisted, or treated as a troublemaker.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Viles



LETTERS, DEADLINES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in Siletz News and other tribal issues.

All letters **must include** the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. Siletz News reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Siletz News, tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

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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 January issue is Dec. 11. 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.

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