LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

The following is from documented information how the Tribal Council spent $2,000,000 in 1999.

Published Tribal Council Spending For Fy 1999

	Indirect	Tribal	Gaming	Total	
TC Salaries	$ 70,000	$ 70,000	$ 60,000	$ 200,000	
TC Fringe	$ 22,400	$ 22,400	$ 19,200	$ 64,000	
Travel	$ 37,500	$ 37,500	$ 42,000	$ 117,000	
Supplies	$ 3,200	$ 3,200	$ 4,000	$ 10,400	
Postage	$ 1,200	$ 1,200	$ 2,000	$ 4,400	
Printing/Dupl.	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	$ 15,000	$ 20,000	
Dues/Subsc.	$ 5,200	$ 5,200	$ 6,000	$ 16,400	
Telephone	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ 10,000	$ 18,000	
Training	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ 6,000	$ 14,000	
Spec Events/Mtgs	$ 500	$ 500	$ 10,000	$ 11,000	
Elders Bonus	$ -0-	$ -0-	$ 30,000	$ 30,000	
Contractual Serv	$ -0-	$ -0-	$ 293,500	$ 293,500	
Contingency	$ -0-	$ -0-	$ 42,380	$ 42,380	
Indirect @ 31.5%	$ -0-	$ -0-	$ 73,420	$ 73,420	
Total TC Budget	$ 150,500	$ 150,500	$ 613,500	$ 914,500	$ 914,500
Margin loan of $100,000/month for monthly					
government expenses per TC resolution 99-188					$ 600,000
Payment by Chinook Winds to Tribal Council					$ 96,870
1998 Gaming Distribution Funds Spent in 1999					$ 455,982
		Tribal Council	$ 341,532		
		Match grants	$ 46,400		
		Econ Dev	$ 27,105		
		Investments	$ 40,945		
Total TC Spending For Fy 1999					**$ 2,067,352**

Sources:

- Budgets as printed in the November 1998 issue of Siletz News
- June 19-20, 1999, Tribal Council Minutes: Rosemary Landis moved to approve a margin loan of $100,000 monthly beginning July 1999 for monthly government expenses. Seconded by Jessie Davis. Motion approved 7-0-0. Resolution 99-188.
- Chinook Winds balance sheet, Dec. 26, 1999: Accounts payable to Tribal Council
- Gaming distribution as printed in the October 2000 issue of Nesika Illahee ($40,945 from investments was used for the History Research Project)

Compare the gaming distribution funds for 1998 and 1999. While government operations is virtually the same, health benefits are reduced. Also, the elders coordinator and matching grant funds were moved to general welfare.

In 1999, the Council received $1,404,000 in tribal government fees in addition to the distribution fund. In 1999, the entire membership received only 1/10th (approximately 2,000 adult members at $100 each) as used by nine Tribal Council members. How much did the Council spend in FY 2000?

It doesn't have to be this way. Our elders should at least receive the funds allocated to the Tribal Council ($340,000/year) in cash payments with increases as net revenues increase. Our casino should supplement our programs (health, education, etc.) to aid all our members. Think about it.

Sincerely,
Pat Duncan

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The above figures represent the 1999 budget – not actual expenditures – which were less than the budgeted amount. The margin loan was a loan taken out short term to allow the tribe to meet its financial requirements without losing investment interest by drawing down funds from our high interest-bearing accounts. The margin loan was included in the budgeted figures and was not in addition to the budget as expressed above. The payment by Chinook Winds was repayment of past loans and also is included in the budgeted figures and not in addition to the budgeted funds. The excess gaming revenues are being used to supplement tribal programs, which has allowed for the distribution of timber revenues to tribal members.*

To the editor:

I'm really amazed at some of the letters people write in. Delores sends out a financial statement every year telling what expenses have been and are going to be spent on. Then in the very next newsletter, someone says where is the money going? **Hello.**

As for those complaining we should be getting money like Grand Ronde, have any of you looked into the fact that they didn't have to pay for the land when they built their casino? There are so many casinos going up everywhere that you aren't going to be able to rely solely on the money from the casino. We have other projects going that are going to be bringing in more money later on. Some people can't see past today. Anyone should realize that to invest while you can is going to be the wise thing to do. As the saying goes, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

How many of you complaining about where is the money have told friends and relatives, "Do you need any aspirin, etc? I can get it for you free." **It isn't free**. Someone has to pay for it. What about the ones who turn in for commodities and turn in members of your family living with you, but don't mention they have their own income?

For the woman who said she's ashamed to let people know she's from the Siletz Tribe and the others who complain they can get more from another tribe, then I think this is where you should go. I heard this one party complaining we need a new Council, they aren't doing anything but spending our money, and yet they had never been to a Council meeting or even contacted a Council member about their concerns or the truth.

As for Pat complaining about the lawyer's fees and expenses going to Washington, D.C., this was through no fault of Dee's. Out of spite, someone contacted D.C., put

(See Wanda on page 5)