

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

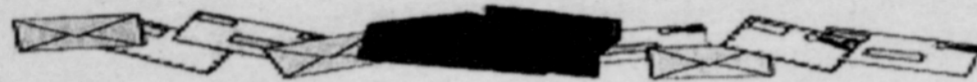
To the editor:

I write this letter with great appreciation for the wonderful people of the Siletz Tribe whom I've worked with and for during the last 3^o years. It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as the Alcohol & Drug counselor and I've had the opportunity to work in Portland, Salem, and Siletz.

I'll always look back with fond memories on my days working for the Siletz Tribe. What makes the memories fond are the great people I've had the opportunity to get to know. Highlights for me have been participating in Run to the Rogue, the A&D float in the Nesika Illahee parade, white-water rafting on the McKenzie River, Restoration Pow-Wow, and the wonderful staff retreat at the Inn at Seventh Mountain.

There really have been too many wonderful times and great people to mention in this letter. I will always have a special place in my heart for the people of the Siletz Tribe. For those I've had the privilege to know, I hope our paths cross again in the future. Until we meet again, peace and happiness be with you.

Terry McDowell



To the editor:

It's important to teach your family members and friends about respecting those who are deceased. When loved ones pass on, many people place items and/or trinkets at gravesites. These tokens, often handmade, are used to help remember the deceased or are things you know would have been enjoyed. The intent of leaving items is for the items to remain at the grave. You don't expect them to be removed.

Some items have been removed from Everett V. Butler Jr.'s grave. They include a Harley Davidson medallion/necklace with black and orange beads, a cross that includes text of 1 Corinthians 13, and a deer horn with a fish engraved carving. The numerous pennies, nickels, and dimes placed on Everett's headstone have been taken too.

It's very sad that people take things from graves; it's very disrespectful to the deceased and their family. If you, your family, and friends visit your loved ones or walk through the cemetery as a short cut to your home, please don't take anything from the graves.

If you or someone you know has taken any of the items above, please return them to Everett's grave. These items are for a very special person whom we love and will cherish forever.

Respectfully,

The family of Everett V. Butler Jr.

To the editor:

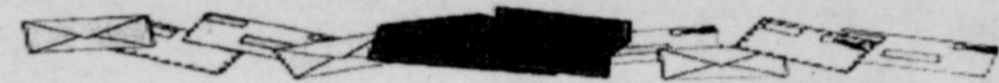
Our eldest son, Welo, is graduating from PSU this spring with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. This is a pivotal event. It marks a whole new road never before traveled by either side of our family. Our children are dreaming new dreams.

Upon reflection, I realized that this is an accomplishment that all my fellow tribal members share. Our dedication to education has put each individual's future in a whole new light. This is how we impact our communities, our nations, and our world. This is power!

This family's gratitude goes out to each and every tribal member and to those dedicated individuals who work for our tribe every day. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David and Barbara Watson, Welo, Jaden, Ilsa, and Malik



To the editor:

I would like to thank the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon and the Education Department for the assistance that made it possible for me to reach my educational goal.

On Mother's Day - May 12, 2002 - I was able to honor my mother, father, and family by participating in the 130th commencement ceremony at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore. As one of the 380 graduates in the Class of 2002, I obtained my bachelor's degree with a major in business-economics and a minor in communications.

Attending Lewis & Clark College has enabled me to meet professors like Stephen Dow Beckham, Native American historian and author of *The Indians of Western Oregon* and *Requiem for a People*. The entire college experience broadened my life and has focused me on my future endeavors.

I am also thankful to my mother, Shirley B. Walker, and father, Russ Walker, for their encouragement and moral support. Without that, there are times I could not have made it.

It has been a long journey to reach this point in my life. From here, there are many roads to travel. It is my hope that my next path will lead me to use the knowledge I have gained to benefit the tribe so future generations can obtain the same assistance I have.

I want to impart to all tribal members the importance of education. It is the key to self-improvement and your posterity, whether it is high school, college, or graduate school.

Brent T. Walker

Siletz News Letters Policy

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, personal attacks, 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.



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

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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: _____

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Deadline for the July issue is June 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.

Change of address: **Tribal members** should call the Enrollment Department at 541-444-8258; all others should call the newsletter office at 541-444-8291 and leave your new address with the editor.