

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:

My name is Amber Owen. My grandma, Marcelene Flagg, and I had the opportunity to go on two mission trips this summer to Alaska and to London, England.

In June, we traveled with Leonard and Debbie Nance from Youth With A Mission and a small group from the Salem First Nations Gathering. This group meets the fourth Friday of every month at 6 p.m. in Salem. Everyone is welcome!

We went to Ketchikan, Alaska, to help celebrate in the first year of their gathering. The celebration included nights of Native dancing, singing, drumming, good food, and a giveaway. We also went to the Prince of Wales Island to help start a gathering on the island. The food and hospitality of Alaska are amazing!

In July, we went with Pastor Gomez and a team of 40 people from Jerusalem Center to London. We participated in the first annual "All Nations All Tribes Holy Ghost Conference." There also is one in the states in Medford, Ore.

The highlight of the trip was the march through the streets of London exalting the name of Jesus Christ. Africans, Polynesians, and Native Americans were in their regalia, waved banners, and sang as we were escorted by the Metropolitan police through the streets of England. I thank God for both of these opportunities to represent our tribe, meet new people, and see new places. (See photo on page 10.)

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my grandma, my mom, Beverly Owen, Sonya Moody, and Bud Lane for their generosity in getting me ready for the two mission trips. Thank you so much!

Amber Owen



Marcelene Flagg and Amber Owen

To the editor:

I attended the REO Speedwagon concert on Saturday with my sister. We were standing about halfway up the left side hallway watching the last few minutes of the concert.

A man was standing a few feet away by the wall smoking a cigarette. I looked at him and then looked around for an usher to report this violation, but then the man dropped his cigarette on the carpet and stepped on it once.

I looked at the floor and saw it was still burning. I looked around again for an usher. I then tugged on my sister's sleeve and pointed to the burning cigarette. The man looked down, saw it was still burning, and stepped on it again.

This incident brought all sorts of "what if" thoughts to my mind. What if there was a fire in the concert hall?

I went over to where the "Total Capacity" sign used to be because I **have been wondering** ever since they moved the first row of tables out and put in chairs, added more chairs in the back, and made the tables slimmer to put more in **about the capacity**.

I'm worried now about the chance of a fire there because I think the concert hall is over the capacity. I realize this makes more money for the tribe, but what difference will that make if there is a fire, people are hurt or killed, and Chinook Winds is hit with lawsuits because they had too many people in the concert hall. Where will be the profit then?

Why was the capacity changed? Did that change go through the council? Who ordered the capacity to be changed? Was the change approved by the fire marshal? What happened to the "capacity" sign? Isn't it supposed to be in public view?

I'm very concerned about this. Can someone check out my concerns?

Chinook Winds was built to help aid tribal members and making profits at the risk of lawsuits does not help tribal members.

Has anyone else brought this capacity change up to anyone? Am I the first person to be concerned about this?

There are supposed to be strict fire laws when it comes to public safety. Who is responsible for this outrageous violation of public safety?

Seeing that lit cigarette burning into the carpet was an eye-opener for me. There are many upcoming artists I would like to see, but now I worry about my safety and others.

I also worry about why our tribe has people in charge who will jeopardize our safety and others just to turn a bigger profit!

I expect to see some response that will assure me that I'm safe attending a concert there.

Thank you in advance for considering my concerns.

Virgene F. Blair



To the editor:

I want to say thank you to Delina John and Jenifer Metcalf for honoring me at the Wellbriety dinner on Sept. 7 at the kick-off for the Run to the Rogue. This means more to me than any other award that I have received – to be honored for walking the good red road.

The notoriety of this endeavor has been a road less traveled and it is a road that I hope many of our people will join. We want the vision of our ancestors back and the words of our ancient ones recited – that we are one tribe, one people, and



we need to come together in unity for our great Siletz Nation to be restored.

The treaty blanket that I received will be a reminder of the warmth of the love and support you have given to me, for walking beside me. I honor my mom, Maxine Rilatos, for showing me the way and for her constant prayer, love, and "for walking the talk." Thanks, Mom.

Always,
Ta Gaa Huska Shoo Na Shisly
May the creator bless each and every one
Selene Rilatos

To the editor:

To the Siletz Tribal Housing Department,

I would like to thank Robert Smith and everyone involved with putting in the handicapped-accessible shower, toilet, ramp, etc. Being handicapped is not easy, but these things sure make it a lot nicer to cope with.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Marvin Jordan Sr.



Don't forget to fill out your elk tag/permit drawing form on page 8.

The process is a bit different this year, so please pay extra attention to the instructions printed with the forms.



Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, 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.

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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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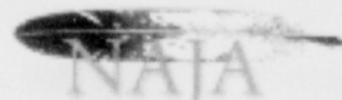
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