

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Melvin Ashue, Shirely Walker, Tiffany Stuart-Miss Haskell 2005-2006, Tasha Rilatos-Miss Siletz 2005-2006, and Thomas Stuart at the Haskell Indian Nations University Pow-Wow to feather dance for Tiffany's Miss Haskell giveaway. (photo by Tim Stuart)

To the editor:

The circle has now been completed for my year as Miss Haskell 2005-2006.

I attended over 150 events. Highlights include the National Indian Education Association Conference in Denver; Miss NCAI Pageant in Tulsa; American Indian Higher Education Consortium Conference in Green Bay; Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow, Siletz; Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days, Warm Springs; Lawrence St. Patrick's Parade; Sac and Fox Pow-Wow, Kansas; and KU Pow-Wow.

Haskell events included freshman orientation/enrollment, convocations, tours with visitors/high school groups, Haskell Earth Day, Miss Haskell and Haskell Brave Pageant Week, fall and spring commencement, scholarship ceremony, Haskell Homecoming, Welcome Back Pow-Wow, ACCES Stomp Dance, and Spring Fling. As with all royalty, it costs to attend events. My estimated out-of-pocket cost was \$3,400.

Haskell president's office sponsored me to attend the AIHEC conference and a photo (poster size) for the Miss Haskell wall (started in 1969) in Navarre, the president's office.

I served on the Haskell Royalty, AIHEC, Constitution, Student Life Policy and Procedure, Vision Quest, and Homecoming committees this past year. I attended University Council meetings to represent students. I was a club member of KNEA-SP and children's church teacher at Calvary Temple Assembly of God.

I also graduated with my para-educator elementary education degree on May 12 with all A's and B's. My goal now is to make all A's in the next two years.

The crowning of Miss Haskell 2006-2007 took place after the pow-wow grand entry and Siletz Feather Dance exhibition for my giveaway. The

new Miss Haskell is Rebecca Jamison (Yakama/Seneca) from White Swan, Wash. The new Haskell Brave is Darren Altaha (White Mountain Apache) from White River, Ariz.

I've been accepted into the School of Education at Haskell. I qualified by making 170 or above on all three PPSTs (Pre-Professional Skills Test). I'll graduate in May 2008 with my elementary education degree and start teaching K-6.

This October, I'll travel to Anchorage to attend the NIEA conference. I'm running for the student board position. If you're an NIEA member and cannot attend the conference, please request an absentee ballot and vote for Tiffany. Thanks to the Haskell School of Education for sponsoring my trip.

I'd like to thank my great-aunt Shirley Walker, cousin Tasha Rilatos, brother Thomas, and Melvin Ashue for feather dancing for my giveaway.

Thanks to my parents Thomas and Marlene Stuart, brother Thomas and his wife Cheryl, brother Tim, cousins Lynette and Heidi Hibdon and Tasha, aunt and uncle Val and Larry Hibdon, grandma Maxine Rilatos, great-aunt Shirley, and Mike Wisdom, who came and supported me during this time of graduation, pow-wow, and passing on my crown.

Thanks to Elliot Bryant (Diné), Haskell Brave 2005-2006, for all your encouragement and advice during my year of reign. Thanks to aunt Selene Rilatos, Robert Kentta, and Bud Lane for all the information you provided for my events and schoolwork.

God will bless you tenfold what you have blessed me with during my life.

Hvm'chi,
Tiffany Dawn Stuart
Miss Haskell 2005-2006
www.haskell.edu

To the editor:

Every day, people deal with life issues of varying caliber. In most cases, these problems are strictly our own and with the right approach can be alleviated.

Sometimes problems exist that seem to have no definitive answer and with time grow more complex, problems with money, health care, elder care, or education. Higher education should be given to all of our graduates, but currently is not.

What do you want? What do we want as a tribe? What do we need but don't have? Are our leaders really doing their best? Is there really not enough to ever cover basic services to tribal members?

Do we really need a shopping center in Keizer? Is our casino making enough money? Is there strict accountability? Is every trip our representatives take really necessary?

These are just some of the questions I hear every day by our General Council, meaning my people! What can be done about the negatives in this tribe? We can come together as one – one thought, one heart, one action.

With our yearly revenue after taxes, we have enough to cover every need in this tribe and then some.

Education: If we educate tribal members to our highest standards, we can provide gainful employment to all.

Private Tribal Member Entrepreneurial Enterprises: If education is in place for all adult tribal members and funding is right, we could make personal revenue per family and as a tribe together.

Profit-sharing: Other tribes have shown that profit-sharing is an excellent source of individual non-taxable revenue on top of what individual tribal members make who work or go to school. With our annual casino revenue, if we invested right, we could see quarterly profit-shares per tribal member of over \$3,000. We could ensure that all of our people are working or in school by stipulating that in order to receive individual shares, they must be working or be in school, whether collegiate or vocational.

Excess spending and neglect are real, everyone has complaints about it. Nepotism is also real and an appalling tactic that has no place in this tribe. Leadership is a privilege, not a right.

Our elected officials have been blamed for several problems with ICW, elder care, health care, and Contract Health; ignorance, spite, and sheer disrespect on all levels, also for spending money from tribal accounts for their own gain. Maybe it's true, maybe not, but let them all prove their innocence in a public forum.

If they're doing the best job possible, let all tribal members see it. But if they're not, let them give way to real leadership and savvy business professionals with a desire to share the wealth!

Any questions or comments can be addressed to me at (cell) 503-309-9436 or 408 E. Wilson St., Yacolt, WA 98675.

Until next time, thank you.
Ronald V. Belgard

Elder Council Meeting

June 10, 2006 – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Chinook Winds Casino Resort

For more information, please contact Angela Ramirez
1-800-922-1399, ext. 1225; 541-444-8225; or angelar@ctsi.nsn.us

Attention All Siletz Tribal Elders

Chinook Winds Casino Resort provides a limited number of complimentary tickets for Siletz Tribal elders. There has been a change for calling in for these tickets.

Starting with the Clint Black concert tickets that go on public sale July 13, tribal elders now can call in on the day **before** the public sale date of the tickets. This is in order to provide better service for those calling in.

The elder must still say they are calling in for elder tickets, the name of the show, and their roll number. Elders must call in for themselves.

If there comes a time when the elder has received tickets that they will be unable to use, they should contact the box office to have their name removed from the list.

If they already have picked up the tickets, the box office can re-issue tickets in order to give the tickets to an elder on the waiting list. There are always elders with their names on the waiting list for the concerts or who are at the casino the night of the show who need a ticket.

If you have any questions regarding this change, contact Angela Ramirez at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 1225, or 541-444-8225.

Upcoming Ticket Call-in Dates for Siletz Tribal Elders

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons:
June 22

Clint Black: July 12

Dionne Warwick: July 26

Howie Mandel: Aug. 16

Charlie Daniels Christmas Show:
Sept. 7