

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

NIGA Convention

On April 20-23, several Tribal Council members, along with more than 500 other Tribal officials and gaming industry vendors, were represented at the 17th Annual Indian Gaming Trade Show and Convention in San Diego.

In addition to meetings on a variety of Indian gaming issues, the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) recognized and honored Sens. Tom Daschle and Ben Nighthorse Campbell for their active support of Indian Tribes not only on gaming issue, but also on various programs of vital importance to Tribes.

It was an opportunity for our representatives to participate in training workshops and to be exposed to a wide variety of innovative equipment and systems introduced at the trade show. It was another opportunity to visit with representatives of other Tribal and casino organizations.

The National Indian Gaming Association is the strongest voice representing Tribes on gaming issues. Our



Delores Pigsley

Tribe has been a member of NIGA since its inception.

Jessie Davis served on the NIGA board when she and the Siletz council were actively involved in trying to get land in trust for gaming and during the planning and establishment of Chinook Winds.

Oregon Revenue Department Proposes Taxing Tribal Businesses

The Siletz Tribal Business Corporation hosted a workshop on a recent issue whereby the Oregon Department of Revenue proposed taxing Tribal corporations. It was an agenda item at the Oregon Commission on Indian Services when first discussed with the Tribes.

Those in attendance were Tribal Council members, lawyers and staff of all nine Oregon Tribes. We stated that the Oregon Tribes are, of course, opposed to this action and have established a group from the attendees that will review and make recommendations on what Tribes must do to address this issue.

The Tribes will meet in June to review these recommendations. Tribes like us suffered under the federal government's ill-conceived and disastrous termination policy of the 1950s, the result of which was we lost whatever reservation land base we had.

Except for our casino, we have businesses that are not on trust or reservation land. The notion that these Tribal businesses should be taxed is simply unfair, especially for "restored" Tribes that have lost enough.

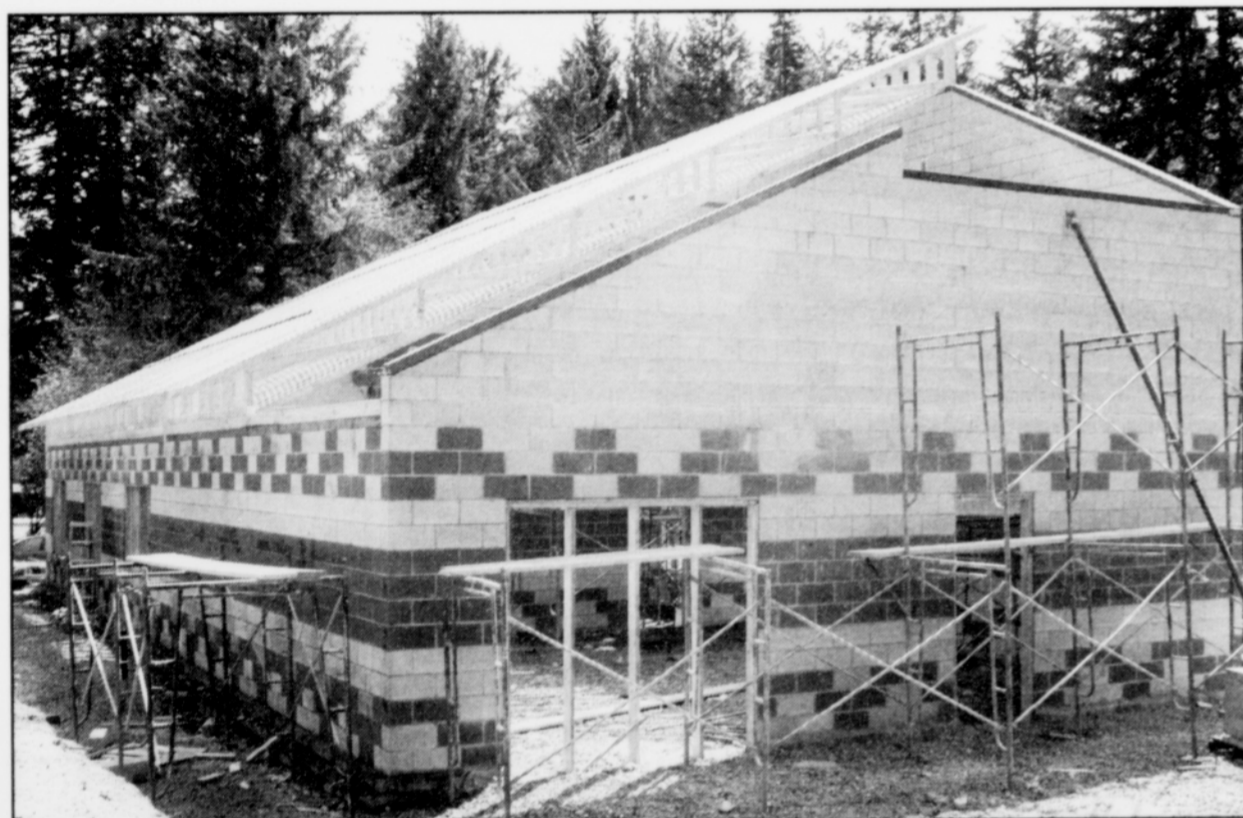
Restoration was the process by which we were to regain some sense of dignity and hope that we had lost. The Oregon Tribes will develop a position and plan of action to address the tax issue confronting us.

The state should understand that the purposes for which all revenue generated by Tribal businesses (whether gaming or from any other source) are unlike private businesses; they are not for individual profit and gain.

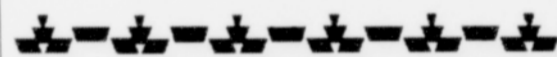
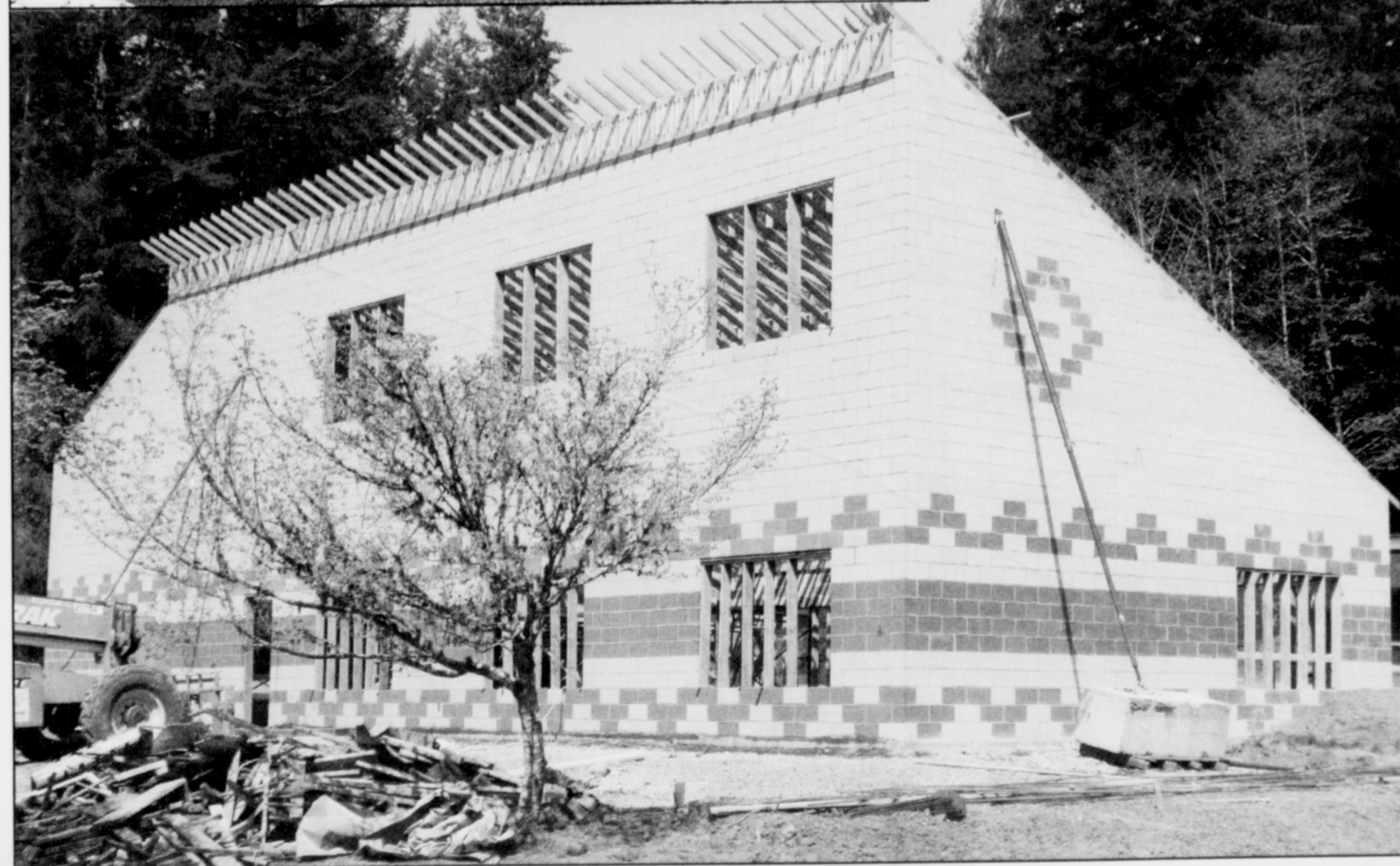
A review of the Tribe's goals and objectives as set forth in the Tribe's Comprehensive Plans clearly defines what the Tribe's objectives are and for what specific purposes Tribal revenues (and for that matter, all non-Tribal grants and funds from other sources) are used.

The Tribe's plan allocates its revenues, from whatever source, in order to accomplish a wide spectrum of Tribal purposes: vital health care, needed community facilities, critical cultural heritage objectives, vitally needed housing for our members, the restoration of essential cultural and natural resources, etc.

I believe the state has no right to tax the revenues that the Tribe allocates for these Tribal purposes.



*Work continues on the repository on Government Hill in Siletz. According to Tracy Bailey, construction project manager, the building should be finished prior to the Nesika Illahee Pow-Wow on Aug. 8-10.
(photo by Diane Rodriguez)*



Most Often Requested Numbers

- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
1-800-922-1399
- Salem Area Office
503-390-9494
- Salem Finance Office
1-888-870-9051
- Portland Area Office
503-238-1512
- Eugene Area Office
541-484-4234
- Springfield Siletz Tribal Head Start
541-747-0161
- Contract Health Services (CHS)
1-800-628-5720
- Siletz Community Health Clinic
1-800-648-0449
- Siletz Alcohol and Drug
1-800-600-5599
- Chinook Winds Casino Resort
1-888-244-6665
- Chemawa Health Clinic
1-800-452-7823
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
1-800-323-8517
- Web Site
www.ctsi.nsn.us

