

"More Quotes, etc." continued from page 1

"In considering possible locations for a gaming facility, the Tribe discussed the option of locating in the Portland area ... However, the Tribe felt strongly that its facility should be located in an area with strong aboriginal ties, and those ties are not as strong in the Portland area." Delores Pigsley in a letter of transmittal attached to the Tribe's fee-to-trust land request to the B.I.A. dated June 22, 1992.

While it is true that Tribal Council pursued a potential gaming site outside of the town of Donald (a dice toss from the Portland suburbs of Newberg and Woodburn) unfavorable land use zoning, and not lack of "strong aboriginal ties," was the generally accepted reason that the Tribe abandoned the Donald locale.

"The problems voiced by the Department of Justice and opponents of Indian gaming both in and outside of Congress have not been with the games owned and operated by the Tribes but those with speculators and developers who front the money to build the facility and rip off the profits." Forrest Gerard, Tribal Consultant and former Assistant Secretary of the Interior, speaking to the Siletz Tribal Council at its Feb. 17, 1990 meeting.

By October of the next year, the Siletz Tribal Council had entered into an agreement with First Astri of San Diego, by all accounts a group of "speculators and developers" who are eager to "front the money to build the facility."

"Actually, we're really stretching the law under what I did. Housing [Siletz Indian Housing Authority] was rather desperate to get this one party removed from the reservation because of threat to life and property and things that this fellow was causing." Chief Judge John Roe at the June 20, 1992 Council

Open Forum

Dear Editor:

I read your article, "What Goes Round" (Vol 4, No. 2) and had to comment. My reason for writing is because I have heard your type of message before and it doesn't go far enough to suit me. While it is true that we can't change the past, we can make choices as adults, to break the cycle.

It is not enough to tell people, "It is time for it (abuse) to stop." Recognizing abuse is only the first step. There has to be forgiveness then a conscious change in life style for the abuse to end and the healing

Meeting in Portland.

Most observers of Tribal Courts would agree that Judges who are willing to "stretch" laws are a danger themselves to legal justice and a threat to fairness.

More T.C. Action and Inaction

Thumbs Down—Following a grassroots effort to protect Indian graves on land scheduled to be logged outside of Siletz, Tribal Council member Bensell Breon requested that Tribal Council write a letter to the landowner of the timber tract requesting that logging recommence [6/20 meeting in Portland].

Thumbs Up—The other Council members present decided not to act on Breon's request.

Thumbs Up—Council defeated a motion to leave the position created by the resignation of Frank Simmons vacant until the next election. The vote was 3-4-0 [6/18 meeting in Siletz].

Thumbs Down—Tribal Council's decision not to take action on the request of a tribal family for permission to camp on tribal land in the Siletz area. T.C.'s inaction on the request indicates that tribal government shares the general inability of federal, state and local governments to deal effectively with the reality of rising homelessness [6/18/92 meeting in Siletz].

Thumbs Down—Tribal Council's pursuit of casino-style gaming without the benefit of a General Council election.

Thumbs Up—Tribal Council's assurances that alcohol will not be served on any tribal property, including the proposed gaming center.

to begin.

There are books on abuse, codependency, etc., and there are organizations like A.A., Alanon, N.W. Indian Children of Alcoholics, Parents Anonymous, and many others. Most importantly, there are people who are concerned and care about the well being of all Native People. There are ways to end the abuse and begin to heal the wounds.

Sincerely,

Diane R. Poitras Walker
Klamath Tribe

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