

Three Elected To Tribal Council

Three seats on the tribal council were filled on February 2nd. Tribal members elected to three year terms are Mary Alice Muncey, who received the most votes with 112, Douglas Brown, with 100 votes, and Vernon Brown, with 90 votes.

The three seats that were open were seats previously held by Douglas Brown, Mary Fisher, and Jane John. Jane John finished fourth in the election with 63 votes, while Mary Fisher decided not to run for re-election. Douglas Brown retained his seat.

At the the Siletz candidates fair Mary Alice said that she would make no promises about bringing change because she is only one vote out of nine. Rather, she stressed that she would do all that she could do to help, and when asked if she was easily swayed she replied that she has always believed that there are two sides to any issue and that the evidence must be weighed before a decision can be made. She also said that she would vote yes for a requirement that council members who travel to conferences be required to stay for the whole conference since the last day is when much of the business is conducted.

Douglas Brown in his candidates fair speech said that his experience on council has often been a hard job and that he considered not running for re-election. However, not satisfied with the way many things are being run at the present he decided to try again. He emphasized that he stands behind the tribal staff and the services that they provide.

Although never serving on council before now, Vernon Brown has probably attended



Three new council members elected February 2nd. The three are: Mary Alice Muncey, Douglas Brown, and Vernon Brown. Congratulations Mary Alice, Doug, and Vernon!

more council meetings than any tribal member in the last year, with the exception of the council itself. Vernon's two main concerns were that the tribe do everything in their power to serve tribal members everywhere and that hiring procedures be changed to ensure that more tribal members are promoted within the tribal organization. He said that past and present history shows that tribal members are often overlooked and that it has always been non-tribal members that have been promoted to the top positions. It was brought up that at the time of restoration it was the tribe's goal that in 10 years we would have 70-90 people working and that they would all be tribal members. At the present there are less than 50 full time employees, many of these are non-tribal members.

- Regression to more infant-like behavior such as bedwetting, thumb sucking, or excessive crying.

- Vaginal or rectal bleeding, pain, itching, swollen genitals, and vaginal discharge.

- Vaginal infections or venereal disease.

- Unusual interest in or knowledge of sexual matters, expressing affection in ways inappropriate for a child of that age.

- Fear of a person or an intense dislike at being left somewhere or with someone.

- Other behavioral signals such as aggressive or disruptive behavior, withdrawal, running away or delinquent behavior, failing in school.

CHOOSING A PRESCHOOL OR CHILD CARE CENTER

Although the vast majority of this nation's preschools and child care centers are perfectly safe places, recent reports of child sexual abuse in these settings are a source of great concern to parents.

- Check to make sure that the program is reputable. State or local agencies, child care information and referral services, and other child care community agencies may be helpful sources of information. Find out whether there have been any past complaints.

- Find out as much as you can about the teachers and caregivers. Talk to other parents who have used the program.

- Learn about the school or center's hiring policies and

practices. Ask how the organization recruits and selects staff. Find out whether they examine references, background checks, and previous employment history before hiring decisions are made.

- Ask whether and how parents are involved during the day. Learn whether the center or school welcomes and supports participation. Be sensitive to the attitude and degree of openness about parental participation.

- Ensure that you have the right to drop in and visit the program at any time.

- Make sure you are informed about every planned outing. Never give the organization blanket permission to take your child off the premises.

- Prohibit, in writing, the release of your child to anyone without your explicit authorization. Make sure that the program knows who will pick up your child on any given day.

IF YOU THINK THAT YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN ABUSED

- Believe the child. Children rarely lie about sexual abuse.

- Commend the child for telling you about the experience.

- Show your support for the child. Often, a child's greatest fear is that he or she is at fault and somehow responsible for the incident. It is vitally important that

(Continued on page 6)

Abuse Prevention Tips

By Frank Petersen

The problem of child sexual abuse has received a great deal of attention in the national media during the past year. Many parents wonder what can be done in the home to protect children from such abuse. I have recently received a copy of a booklet published by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect titled, "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention: Tips to Parents" which lists steps that you, as a parent, can take to identify and prevent sexual abuse. I would like to share this information with you. The following



is taken from the booklet:

LISTEN AND TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Perhaps the most critical child sexual abuse prevention strategy for parents is good communication with your children. This is not only challenging to every parent, but also can be difficult, especially for working parents and parents of teenagers.

- Talk to your child every day and take time to really listen and observe. Learn as many details as you can about your child's activities and feelings. Encourage him

or her to share concerns and problems with you.

- Explain that his or her body belongs only to them alone and that (s)he has the right to say no to anyone who might try to touch them.

- Tell your child that some adults may try to hurt children and make them do things the child doesn't feel comfortable doing. Often these grownups call what they are doing a secret between themselves and the child.

- Explain that some adults may even threaten children by saying that their parents may be hurt or killed if the child ever shares the secret. Emphasize that an adult who does something like this is doing something that is wrong.

- Tell your child that adults whom they know, trust, and love or someone who might be in a position of authority (like a babysitter, a relative, a teacher, or even a policeman) might try to do something like this. Try not to scare your children — em-

phasize that the vast majority of grownups never do this and that most adults are deeply concerned about protecting children from harm.

- Make sure that your child knows that if someone does something confusing to them, like touching or taking them gifts, that you want to be told about it. Reassure the child and explain that he or she will not be blamed for whatever an adult does with the child.

OBSERVE PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL SIGNS

Children who may be too frightened to talk about sexual molestation may exhibit a variety of physical and behavioral signals. Any or several of these signals may indicate possible abuse. Parents should assume responsibility for noticing such symptoms including:

- Extreme changes in behavior such as loss of appetite.

- Recurrent nightmares or disturbed sleep patterns and fear of the dark.