

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

It has been one year since I, Royce Strong was fired at STEDCO. I have been waiting for a DA investigation to find out if it is true that one million dollars did in fact disappear. Why was there no police involvement? Why is this STEDCO happenings so hush hush?

Two people did admit that they out right lied about me. A Tribal member/STEDCO employee did tell the Council at a General Council meeting that people down at STEDCO did lie. False charges were brought against me and I want the DA involved. A computer and other items has been stolen, was the police notified?

I feel that all Tribal members would want to know the truth about STEDCO and the money, lying and sex involved. There are sexual allegations that has occurred with a couple of Tribal Council members. I feel everything should be brought out in the open.

I talked with former Council member Bud Lane about STEDCO, way before I was fired, and now I understand that when he was running for re-election he never knew anything about what happened at STEDCO. Well, I know different because I had talked to him.

Doug Brown did in fact talk to Andy Viles for about 2-3 hours and told him the truth, and Andy did not print one word. Why?

I was told I would get a letter to clear up my name in any wrong doing at STEDCO, but to-date, I received nothing.

The "money" that did get lost should be all Tribal members' concern. The Tribal Chairman should demand an investigation now, or is there a reason that is stopping her?

We need to know the "REAL TRUTH!"

Royce Strong
Tribal Member

To the Editor:

I was struck by an ironic juxtaposition of items in a recent issue of the Tribal Newsletter. The front page pictured the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new health clinic. Turning the paper over, I was faced with a plea to collect lids from cans of chewing tobacco to be used as adornments on ceremonial garments.

I am frankly concerned about this exhibited naivete surrounding the critical health issues. The life expectancy for Native Americans does not exceed fifty in most parts of the country. All too often members of our communities succumb, in what should be the prime of life to diseases wrought by the poisons of modern western culture.

My wife and I are raising our children to lead spiritually, physically and intellectually rich lives and would like the Tribal Community to be a touchstone for reinforcing these values. I would like to see your editorial staff take an aggressive and sophisticated position concerning fundamental quality of life issues.

Finally, there is a sad irony in the fact that we are eager to adorn ourselves in the expression of our Tribal Selves, with the by-products of those unwholesome elements that are unraveling our culture.

Sincerely,
Clayborne W. Arden

To Council Men and Women:

I am writing this letter in regards to your job as a Council person. We the people elected you to office to do the best job you can for us. But you are not, I urge you if you haven't got the back bone or stamina to fight to make the tribal system run like a well oiled machine then I urge you to resign and let the people elect someone

into your position. Don't just sit there and draw pay or travel around the country. Have some pride and respect for yourself as representatives for your people.

But yet you as our nine chiefs let one man disrupt and cause chaos among our working staff and tribal members. The people working for the tribe are scared to speak in their own defense for fear of being reprimanded or fired. We can't have things like this going on in our tribal system. It's up to you to step in, if you don't know who I am talking about: It's our General Manager, Phil Rilatos.

I will give you an example of how he operates. A job was advertised, he hired a non-tribal member saying that no qualified tribal member applied for the job, but when one of our Council persons checked, the truth was that a tribal member applied for the job. But to our General Manager that didn't mean anything. The tribal member has worked at a technical job for several years but yet wasn't qualified for the job. When confronted with this by one of his boss's, Phil still held his ground that the tribal member wasn't qualified.

Two days later, another job comes up for hiring, the General Manager overrides the hiring committee's number one pick for the job and does the hiring himself without interviewing anyone. A nephew of his that wasn't recommended got the job. You Council men and women are our leaders. You're Phil Rilatos's boss, he is not your boss. I believe you Council people will have to act on these issues.

I've worked in the logging industry for 40 years and I've seen a lot of Phils, they think the business is going to roll over and die without them and I think some of you think the same way. I want you Council people to keep it in mind than any man or woman can be replaced. I have

never saw or heard of a business shutting down on account of one employee being terminated.

I urge you as a concerned tribal member, don't let the General Manager run our tribe like a dictator. I believe deep down in my heart the tribal members would like to see a change in the General Manager position. I think it will save a lot of trouble for everyone in the future. The tribal members are being pushed in to a corner where something will have to give.

Reginald Butler Sr.

Dear Editor:

I'm a U.S. Marine in Saudi Arabia who is an enrolled member in the Siletz Tribe. During the day we have a lot of down time because of the heat. This is the time we write home or read books. Unfortunately, the Marine Corps can't supply my platoon with sufficient reading materials. Would it be possible for you to collect up some used books for myself and fellow marines to read? If so, it would be greatly appreciated by myself and others who would benefit from this. I'd also like to give a special thanks to my family and friends for supporting myself and other servicemen who are here in Saudi Arabia.

Thanks for your cooperation.

If you want to write, pen pals, etc, here's my address:

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Sincerely,
Nathan Metcalf

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