

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor & Tribal Members;

"The Hatfields and the McCoys;" that is what the General Council Meeting of 11-30-90 reminded me of. Feuding, bickering, power struggling, controlling and none of you really know why. It's no wonder I hear comments such as; "I'm Siletz Indian, but I'm not proud of it," or "I'm going to relinquish my position as a Siletz Tribal Member, as nothing gets done the way we want, so why bother?"

Leave your personal grievances at home. The childish-petty behavior that was displayed Saturday (11-03-90), does not belong at a General Council Meeting. This meeting provides you an opportunity to air Tribal concerns, (as a whole). It is not the time to be vengeful and spiteful or for personality conflicts. If any of you need lessons on how to conduct yourselves in public, start by observing yourselves in public, start by observing a person that has earned the name of IRON LADY-Delores Pigsley. She always conducts herself in a very professional and lady-like manner; always a smile, always composed. IRON LADY-you bet! Her position requires iron. I've seen her 'put up' with situations that would break most people. (My hat is off to you, Delores. I may not always agree with your decisions, but you are one fine lady and one to be greatly admired.)

Tribal Members, you are so fortunate and have come so far-BE THANKFUL. You have POWER-YOU ARE THE POWER-USE IT!! STAND UP-STICK TOGETHER-BE HEARD.

You, as the General Council, are the BOSS over your General Manager and Tribal Council. No one can fire you or change your position as a Tribal Member.

Use your power-BE THE BOSS. Get those changes made, get the candidate of your choice on Tribal Council-VOTE!!! Get rid of the people that are hindering you, go to the Council Meetings. (Just remember to leave the garbage at home!)

**TO BE QUIET
MEANS NO VOICE-NO
CHANGES MEANS YOU
DON'T CARE. SO STAND
UP, STICK TOGETHER,
BE HEARD, SHOW 'EM
YOU DO CARE.**

Don't be like the Hatfields and McCoys.

Sincerely,

Susanne Flanary
Wife & Mother of
Siletz Tribal Members

Dear Editor;

For a year now, I have been following the Andy Viles saga and have increasingly become disgusted by the whole thing. I am also very concerned that this matter is serving to disrupt Tribal harmony, something the Siletz have worked hard toward. Since Restoration, 13 years ago, our Tribe has accomplished many wonderful things, including the building on Government Hill, housing and education for our people, food for the needy, and now a new Health Clinic. Our Pow Wow is regarded as one of the best and is getting bigger every year.

However, since Andy's firing, almost every newsletter has contained an article written by Andy, about Andy. This is getting old, folks! I would be very interested about finding, in a dollar amount, how much of our Tribal funds have gone toward attorneys fees, Council expenses, office expenses, etc., in justifying Andy's firing. I have a feeling the amount is staggering, judging by how many times Andy's name appears in the paper in the Council Meeting minutes. Would it be possible to have these sums totaled and

published? I think everyone has the right to know how their Tribal funds are being "wasted".

Andy now has his own newsletter, Siletz News II. In this newsletter, (which I have neither solicited nor paid a dime for, yet still receive one), Andy's negativism comes through in every article he writes. I find it very maddening and generally throw his newsletter away before getting through it all.

The feeling I get from this whole matter is that Andy wants the Tribe to pay him, although he was fired justifiably. Wouldn't it be nice not to have to work and have the Tribe pay you? However, in this world, that is not the way it works. I have to work to pay my bills; so should Andy.

If anyone feels the same as I do, please write to the newsletter. Perhaps if we show strength, Andy will find some and give up this nonsense.

Finally, Andy, do not send me your newsletter. There are enough negative reports in my daily newspaper. I don't need more from you.

Sincerely,

Amos B. Arden

Dear Tribal Members:

I agree with Royce Strong that Tribal Members deserve to know what's gone on, (and is going on) at STEDCO. There have been two investigations of STEDCO. The Tribe and STEDCO have kept the results of both private. What became of the stolen computer? How much fish was missing? How many dollars were lost or stolen? Could any of this happen again? Is it happening again? These are all questions that need to be answered. Fast.

I wish I could answer them. But in terms of the recent past of STEDCO, I'm in an information black-out. Despite numerous assurances

from STEDCO officials, I still haven't received one shred of the documents I've requested. When I showed up at STEDCO with the purpose of going through the files, more important business made the Executive Director put my appointment on the "back burner." I left without seeing a single file.

I did however, contact people involved in STEDCO last year. When I talked to Royce Strong, he refused to be a source of information.

Everyone enjoys a right to privacy. If Royce didn't want to talk, that was his decision. But he shouldn't blame me for his silence. I did the best job I could covering the STEDCO crisis last year.

I invite Royce Strong (and anyone else) to send information they might have in the direction of the Siletz Free Press, Inc. 1541 Taft, Eugene, OR 97402. Or call me at 688-7116.

The editors at Siletz Free Press believe that it's better to go to jail than reveal a source. We also believe that letters need to be printed, uncensored, even if they are more than 350 words.

This is a related point: I read in the T.C. minutes that "it was suggested" and Tribal Council approved a 350 word limit on letters to the editor. This is a lousy rule, an obvious abuse of governmental authority.

What's the problem? Let Tribal Members write letters. Let Tribal Members read letters. Keep your censors scissors to yourself.

Who's afraid of a free and open public forum? That's a good question for the upcoming elections.

Sincerely,
Andy Viles

To the Editor:

I would like to Congratulate my son Shawn Thomas, he was chosen for Super Kid of the Month at Lyle Elementary in October