

Letters to the Editor

(the following letter is a continuation from the August Newsletter)

TO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

.....I can run for Council and get on Council. I don't have enough education to mow grass for the Tribe, but I am not required to have any education to be a leader of our Tribe, but I guess that's the uniqueness of our Tribe. I can picture it already, talking to Senators, Governors, and maybe the President and not have an education. What happened to on-the-job training? If our people are trainable, then let them get on-the-job training.

Our Council is so square headed, I guess they don't understand that the Tribe was restored for the people. I would like to see all our young people get high school/college degrees, but it will never happen. There will be Tribal Members without high school degrees looking for a job. Our people can get vocational training with federal grant dollars and finish the training but cannot work for the Tribe without the highschool or GED.

The only way I can see to change is to change the Council. Some of the Council have been there for two and three hitches and they get set in their ways.

Now the Council's big thing is the gaming center. All the red tape they have to go through will make the attorney and consultants rich. Maybe I will be around or my grandchildren will be here when the gaming center opens, but we can forget about getting a job there to even clean up the parking lot if we don't have a high school or GED.

Reggie Butler, Sr.

To the Editor:

A Tribal member's letter in the last issue of the Siletz News who stated that he was denied consideration for the job of groundskeeper because a requirement included that he be a High School Graduate or have a G.E.D. was rather shocking!!

Without suggesting who should have received the job both mentioned being friends and fellow Tribal Members, the

idea that a high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate is necessary to qualify for the job of groundskeeper is preposterous, and appears to be the result of an over-zealous but well-intentioned staffer who knows little about groundskeeper functions.

The ability to read and understand instructions, recognize labels of hazardous materials, fertilizers, weed killers, and safe operation of equipment for the safety of the operator and those around him should be all that is required. Most people have acquired such reading skills for these purposes in the 6th grade.

Many of our Tribal people were given jobs in the genesis of our restoration in positions they had never held before, and have done a good job, jobs that now have high qualification requirements--but being done by persons who never went to high school. This is proof that people can perform and achieve if given an opportunity to do so. Idiotic and ill-conceived job requirements such as this has a super negative impact on Indian people, simply eliminating good workers from a chance to work! It smacks of the bureaucracy of old--the system that has held Indians down for over a hundred years, and from which restoration should have extricated us!

Tribal Council should take cognizance of this, and instruct management that present qualifications for all job openings be reviewed at once. It is sad that senior Tribal members--capable of performing, with a history of long, hard work cannot be placed in some type of employment. They should not be turned away because they have never studied algebra or world history, when they have the will to perform! Lets be sensible in our job requirements and employ Siletz people first!

Sincerely,
Joe Lane, Sr.

Dear Tribal Members:

I noticed that tribal member Reggie Butler, Sr. was limited to 350 words in the last issue of the tribal newsletter while non-tribal member D.L. Barth had a letter printed a few months earlier that contained 560 words?

Let me see, now. A non-tribal member sends a letter

that's longer than 350 words to a non-tribal newsletter editor and the newsletter editor publishes it in its entirety. And then a few months later, a tribal member sends a letter that's longer than the 350 word cut-off and the newsletter editor decides it is "excessive" in length.

Are letters to the tribal newsletter now subject to a Non-Indian Preference?

Or maybe the "powers-that-be" just liked what D.L. Barth had to say more than what Reggie Butler, Sr. had to say?

In any event, I will add the following question to the list of things about tribal government that I fail to understand: Why was Barth's letter printed in its entirety while Butler's letter was not?

I also do not understand why tribal government cannot devote some of the \$400,000 additional money they received this year from federal grants to make it possible for Reggie Butler, Sr. and other tribal members to publish letters in excess of 350 words.

Sincerely,
Andrew Viles

P.S. If it's possible, I would like to donate the remainder of my 350-word monthly newsletter allotment to Reggie Butler, Sr. or any other tribal members with letters longer than 350 words.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the August issue of the Siletz Newsletter reference was made to the salary of our Personnel Manager as being around \$35,000 per year. For the sake of clarification, the Personnel Manager's salary is \$ 20,519.

Letters to the Editor :

All letters received will be printed. Please type or write legible, no profane language will be printed. LETTERS THAT EXCEED 350 WORDS IN LENGTH WILL BE EDITED as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #91-04. All letters must include your name, address and signature. Send letters to : Siletz News, P.O. Box 549, Siletz, Oregon 97380.

PLEASE NOTE: The Chief Executive Officer of the Siletz Tribe is the Chief Editor of the Siletz Newsletter.

Resolution 92-145

DATE APPROVED: 6/21/92

SUBJECT: Personnel

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Siletz Tribal Council hereby approves to have the Personnel Manager when jobs become available, bring to Council for review, the qualifications to apply for that job, or whether a Drivers License is required, prior to advertising.

Dear Tribal Members:

My husband and I would like to address this letter to all Siletz Tribal members, the Elders and our many, many friends, new and old.

Congratulations on another well-done Pow-Wow. We are of Costanoan descent originating from the Watsonville, California area and our Indian family is now considered extinct. In 1932 the census shows approximately 700 of our people left and we have continued to decrease in population until today there are only a handful of us left.

So much of our tradition and culture has been lost forever and it is very SAD not to know about your people. Please, young people, take an interest and practice your traditions and learn about your background for it is so important! If you don't, as you grow older you will regret it and then it's too late to go back.

We have been welcome at Siletz and we feel it is our home away from home.

Special thanks to Selene Lynch, Maxine Rilatos and her family, Paul Whitehead, Craig Whitehead, Lilly Butler, Karen Bell, William and Vivian DePoe all of our other friends so numerous for their kindness and time spent teaching us.

God Bless you all,
Jan and Tom Meggersson
of Toledo

SILETZ NEWS DEADLINE September 15, 1992

mail articles and photos to:
Siletz News, P.O. Box 549,
Siletz, Oregon 97380

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