

Letters to the Editor



Dear Council Members:

Amendment of Constitution

I was made aware that the Council was taking suggestions on the possible revision of the Constitution.

There are five (5) areas that, if amended, would greatly benefit the tribe, tribal council, and tribal member. These are:

(1) Article IV - Branches of Government, Sec. 1, page 4:

Tribal Council: This section gives council executive and legislative powers. I would suggest that this be amended to either limit the executive powers, or the Council, by ordinance, or divest the council of all executive powers delegating those to the administration. Council would retain the power to review, and veto after showing good cause.

(2) Article V - Procedures, Sec. 1, page 5:

I suggest that a subsection be added. This would call for the general council electing 3 members of the General Council to interface with tribal council as a advisory committee, reporting back to the General Council, and also acting as a channel for General Council concerns, and suggestions.

(3) Article V - Sec. 2, Tribal Council, page 5:

I suggest that a subsection be added. This would require the Tribal Council Chairman, or their delegate, to be employed by the tribe on a day to day basis, interfacing with tribal members, other council persons, and administration, insuring the goals and direction of tribal council are fulfilled.

(4) Article V - Sec. 3, Tribal Court, page 7:

Adding a line here to read: Tribal Court shall have the power to regulate its own

(5) This suggestion is not included into the Constitution presently. It would require the Executive and Legislative branches of government to provide the General Council with a detailed financial statement, at the end of each fiscal year. This statement would include all sources of income and show how these funds were disbursed.

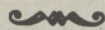
These changes would answer many concerns currently being raised. They would prove to the Tribal

budget and personnel.

Membership that council is being open, above-board, and fair. Currently, most issues become political, due to the council having both executive, and legislative powers. This would also show the tribal members that Council is not power mad, and is willing to provide a true separation of powers concept.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of assistance.

Raymond J. Blacketer



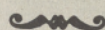
To the Editor,

On behalf of my family, I would like to take this time to thank Pat Darcy. She recently recognized my family for the work and commitment of keeping our traditions alive. Our traditions were carefully nurtured by my dad, the late Archie Ben; my mom, Victoria Ben; and my late husband Robert Rilatos Sr. They worked hard to keep these alive so they could be passed on and shared. Pat also asked in her tribal way to adopt our family to help her through her memorial and we gladly accepted her into our family. We were all moved by the memorial and stand proud with Pat and her family.

Pat and my daughter, Selene, have spent many hours with our youth teaching traditional practices. They have stressed the importance of education to our youth and I am very proud of them for all their dedication and commitment to our people.

Many good things have come to pass by people such as Pat Darcy. My family and I are very proud of her and we would like her to know we do appreciate the honor she has given to us.

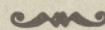
Much Love and God Bless,
Maxine Rilatos



To Mike Fisher:

I would like to apologize for what happened at the Taft Middle School, and also that you feel sorry for coaching, because I know that our boy's 7th Grade has really had a lot of fun learning and playing ball for you. It's sad that there is such prejudice in our school.

Sylvia Brock



Mike,

I would like to apologize for my actions at the Newport/Siletz game held at the Taft Middle School.

Paul Brock

To the Editor:

My name is Ralene Butler and I am an enrolled member of the Siletz Tribe. I have been sporadically absent from the Siletz area for a period of approximately nine years. While absent, I zealously obtained a Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Oregon; worked for the Navajo Nation as a judicial intern and for Lane County Legal Aid Services as a legal intern; and resided in Lewiston, Idaho and Seattle, Washington, finessing my newly acquired legal skills.

Throughout this unusually grueling period of time I was fueled by a naive determination and burning desire to return home with the earnest hopes of lending my much coveted skills to the Siletz Tribe. As such, I applied for the position of assistant chief executive officer. Unfortunately, I failed to satisfy the minimum requirements as decided by the tribal council (with the exception of Lillie Butler) and Nelson Witt. A notice of intent to appeal this decision was filed. Interviews were nonetheless conducted.

The denial of this appeal right results in a gross deprivation of my constitutional rights as a member of the Siletz Tribe pursuant to the Siletz Constitution and the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Redress from the Siletz Tribal Court was ideologically sought but foolishly ignored because "Chief Judge Robertson could not arrange a time for this matter, and no other Judge is able to sit for this issue" as stated in a tribal court order, dated April 17, 1993 and signed by Diane Robertson. Once again, deprivation of my constitutional rights occurred through failure to conduct a hearing. This time, however, the perpetrator was Judge Robertson, an esteemed member of the judiciary whose sole purpose is to uphold the laws of the land.

To be continued...

Ralene Butler



A Special Thank You:

I would like to take this time to thank Matt & Connie Williams for the yummy pies on Easter Sunday for my mom and myself - mmmmmm good!!

Also to Douglas Brown, for the chicken & homemade noodle soup and homemade biscuits he prepared especially

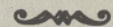
for mom and I - it also was soooooo delicious!! Thanks for caring and sharing!

Also to my daughter Val and her hubby, Larry & family. Thanks for the extra T.L.C. I received in their home, as I stayed with them one month after my foot surgery. I only intended to stay one week, but Val wouldn't let me leave. I was kind of in a bind as my car was at my home (just kidding). I really enjoyed my time there. They all were super good to me, especially Val.

Thanks again Matt, Connie, Doug, Val, Larry & Grandkids.

Love You All,

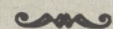
Maxine Rilatos



To the Editor:

There has been a lot of talk about lowering the "blood quantum" to descendants. Before this should ever happen, the Enrollment must be cleaned up. There are people who are enrolled here that must be taken off. They do not belong. An adoption that took place long ago and some knows, is a person that is very active in the Tribal politics that should not be. We must go to a real federal court in order to straighten out the enrollment. It is not fair to all. We need to clean up the enrollment so our descendants can get the help they need. I will not fight lowering the blood quantum, but this is a very serious step, due to the ones that couldn't benefit and the ones that have been benefitting and should not of been.

Royce Strong



To the Editor:

My name is Diane Millard and I would like my voice to be heard on the subject of blood degree for new Tribal membership enrollment. I believe it should be lowered to 1/32nd or direct descendent. I am 1/4 Rogue River Indian and have been a member a short time, but my children are also enrolled at 1/8.

I am proud of my heritage and wish I lived closer so that I could connect better (mentally, physically & spiritually) with our history & culture to keep it alive and growing in generations to come.

Thank You for hearing my voice.

Diane Millard