

Letters to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

The blood quantum investigation of the Martin Family, instigated by the Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee, proposed to and approved by the Tribal Council, was ill-conceived, unscrupulous, unethical, childish and had malicious intent.

Christine Martin was not the only child of Abby Wilson which the documentation indicates the investigation involved, however, the Martin family was the only family investigated.

The secrecy with which the investigation was carried out, these facts indicate an unscrupulous intent.

At the November 6, 1993 meeting the Council members indicated they had not seen the letter that was sent to members of the Martin family.

The Council Chairman stated that the Council members had discussed what documentation should accompany the letter. How could the Council decide what documentation should accompany the letter without knowing what was in the letter?.....forked tongue!

At the November 6 meeting, the Council members I spoke to, including a member of the Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee, stated that blood quantum of Tribal members who were on the 1955 tribal roll could not be changed, and yet, that is exactly what they proposed to do.----another fork in the tongue-----.

The morning of November 6, the Council voted to rescind the action involving the Martin Family, not because it was wrong, but only because of an error in the paperwork. This indicates the action will continue after this error is corrected.

A few days prior to the November 6 meeting, the Council issued a statement saying the Martin Family was not being singled out and all Tribal members would be investigated. Why was this statement not issued when the investigation began?

Why didn't the investigation involve other descendants of Abby Wilson?

The purpose of this

writing is to point out to the Tribal membership only the action involving the Martin Family was addressed.

Other Tribal members are still open to the same unethical, secretive investigation.

Dennis Lane

TO THE EDITOR:

On 10/29/93, I received a certified letter from the Enrollment Department regarding my blood quantum. This letter said that the Tribal Council, on 11/20/93, " will be making the FINAL decision on reduction of blood degrees or REMOVAL from the Tribal rolls at this meeting." I ask you to take a moment and imagine what you might feel if you received a letter like this. This was a very ugly time for 70 descendants of Christine Selsic Martin. I hope not one of you will have to receive a letter as the Martin family did.

At the General Council Meeting on 11/06/93 the Tribal Council said they NEVER saw the letter...only documents that were to be attached to the letter. If they never saw the letter, did staff take it upon themselves to send out the letters? The Tribal Council rescinded their resolution that Saturday morning with the reason being that they did not give us adequate time to reply. I assume this means that they intend to continue with this? Tribal Council has DIRECTED the enrollment department to research ALL families. Will this mean corrections to blood quantum as needed and REMOVAL of present tribal members from the roll? When the Tribal roll was being looked at, the decision then was to use the 1954 final roll. At that time the Tribal Council had a period of six months to make corrections/removals to the roll. Why now, after 15 years, does Tribal Council decide to redo the tribal rolls? What purpose does it serve?

We elect those to serve on Tribal Council for the betterment of ALL tribal members. As a tribal member I think the Tribal Council should address the following questions:

- Will you continue to decrease blood degrees and removal of tribal members presently on the roll?
- If Enrollment by descendency becomes a reality one day, what is the purpose of

these actions now?

- Can we amend our constitution so that decreasing of blood quantum and removal will not be in the control of 9 people?

Carlotta Edenfield

Hello,

My name is Lisa Arden. I am an enrolled member of the Siletz Tribe. My heart goes out to the Martin Family. They were dealt an injustice. The Tribe as a whole united and righted that wrong.

I was dealt an injustice at the age of 33. I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I did not have medical insurance. I contacted the Indian Health Services at Siletz. Doreen authorized the proper treatment. For that I am grateful, Doreen. Without this Tribe, I would have died. I am now 35 and am cancer free. I survived and so will the Martin Family. It's been a difficult time for everyone.

I would like to thank all the people involved in my case: The Arden Family, this includes William and Shadow Helsper; the Ladies at IHS, Doreen and Shannon; and the Ladies at the Portland Area Office, Connie, Lori, Kelly Ball, Kelly Brugh, Irene, and Katy. Without the love and support of these wonderful people, I would not be writing this letter. That support helped me keep a positive attitude and beat this awful disease. When I trusted in The Higher Power, I survived. The Higher Power has never let me down. Do not feel sorry for me or my family, we don't. We are proud of my accomplishments. The Martin Family should be proud of what they accomplished at the Council Meeting.

When you are dealt an injustice, just pick yourself up off the floor. Dust yourself off and move forward. Rise above your pain and grow from it. I did. My family and I learned a valuable lesson in life. You can too.

As was stated at the Council Meeting, we need to stop backstabbing each other, unite as a tribe, then we will survive. As a Tribe we will be able to accomplish many good things.

I Love You All,
Thank You,
Lisa Arden

TO THE RELATIVES & FRIENDS OF OUR LOVED ONE, VERNON BROWN:

Our family would like to thank the people who helped support us through this time of loss. It was a shock even to us that Jesus decided to take our father/husband to Heaven on October 15, 1993. The absence of this man is so awfully hard to accept sometimes, but Jesus lets us know that even at this moment Vernon Brown is singing a song that even the angels in Heaven cannot sing, the song of redemption.

What a beautiful reassurance. The promise of being reunited with our father/husband is what is keeping our family going. We are happy that he is where he wanted to be, with Jesus.

My family and I will take this opportunity now to extend our appreciative hearts and say "Thank You" to all those who have shown kindness and respect to us in different ways.

To those who knew Vernon Brown before Jesus saved him know that only a true and mighty God could have performed a miracle like that in his life. Vernon Brown served a living God.

He often prayed and cried before God for all his relatives and friends. Vernon Brown had a genuine love for everyone and his prayers will not go unanswered.

Thank You,
Marie, Debbie, Virgil, and Nicholas Brown

The Family of Henrietta "Chuggy" Williams would like to say "Thank You" to all the caring people who helped us in this time of great loss. Especially the staff at the Salem Tribal Office and at the Siletz Tribal Office, and the Tribal Elders who with your help made this difficult time a lot easier.

Thank You Again,
Norman Williams, The Richard Koehler Family, the Elmont Koehler, Jr. Family, The Helmig Family, (Betty) Bonnie Kraft, and Henry Morgan.