

More Letters.....

Special Dedication

I would like to dedicate this poem to the singers, dancers and keepers of our feather dance in my lifetime:

In loving memory of my beloved Grandpa Honorary Chief Archie Ben & Family, in loving memory of my beloved dad, my loving mom, Rilatos and Ben family, to Bud, Cheryl Lane and family and to Loren, Lena Bommelyn and family.

Shell People They Call Us

I dance for those who can't
I dance for those who've been
here before and for those to come.

With each step, each heartbeat
I'm one with the spirit.

This is the center of the universe,
a ceremony of world renewal.

It's close to dusk,
the women are dressing their hair,
putting on their finest shells,
laughing and smiling
to try and calm the butterflies, like
their grandmothers before them.

The sacred fires are built outside,
as there is one for the men
and one for the women.

The people are filling up the
dance house,
waiting patiently for their
grandchildren and relatives to
dance for them.

The medicine is burned,
to cleanse the dance house,
the people, the future generations.

The prayer song is given,
the men move to the rhythm of
the music.

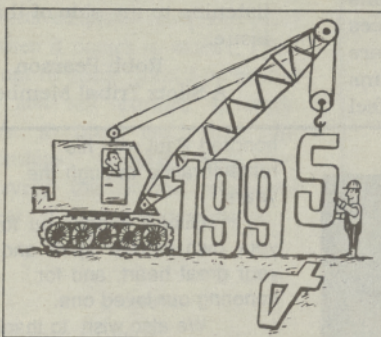
Then come the women to make
the line complete.

We connect our arms, the men
and the women, the line is dancing
all in time with the singer,
this is unity - at it's finest.

The dancers are praying with
every step, every heartbeat
we dance for our ancestors,
for the future generations and
for the new year.

The dancers' shadows reflect
the spirit of our ancestors,
as they are smiling with them,
as the fire is burning, the prayers
are unspoken and the abalone shells
are glistening all over this land.

by selene rilatos
12*15*94



Happy New Year!

**They can do all because
they think they can.**

-Virgil

Letters to the Editor

All letters received will be printed except those which are determined to be slanderous. Please type or write legible, **no profane language will be printed.** The Siletz Newsletter and Tribal Government accept no responsibility for statements made in the letters to the editor. The opinions expressed are solely those of individuals writing in. **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. Attn: Teresa Miller, Managing Editor.

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



*It's time to send in your
Valentine Greetings for the
February paper. Please keep
it at 50 words or less. You
must supply us with your
name, address & phone
number for verification.
However, you can sign the
greeting with a nick name for
printing.*

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AQUARIUS



The Water Bearer

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Always looking for new experiences, you are quickly bored by sameness. You demand originality and don't like someone else pressing you with their ideas. The monotony of your nine-to-five job can be like "fingernails on a chalk board" to you, so you constantly search for ways to make your day-to-day life more interesting. When you feel strongly about something, it gets 100% of your effort, but deadlines are too constraining. You are an innovator, and when you give your word, it's as good as gold.

At work: Your fellow Aquarians always keep things interesting. You will find them enthusiastic and unpredictable. They want to try everything themselves, and if they can't, they'll want every last detail from someone who has. You can count on your Aquarian boss to deal with everyone fairly.

Famous Aquarians: Placido Domingo, Mary Lou Retton, Edwin Newman, Douglas MacArthur, Oprah Winfrey.

