

Letters to the Editor:

If you have a thought, a concern, an opinion to share, or something to get off your chest, send a letter to the editor! The unspoken word cannot be heard.

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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.

A Siletz family found my daughter's pouch and returned it a week before Christmas.

This made Christmas very special for me and my family.

Thank you very much for it's safe return.

The Whitehead-King
Family

The above paragraphs were true but someone has stolen my daughter's pouch again. This time I am going to turn it over to the law. So, if you have this pouch, put it back or return it to me or my family and save yourself some big trouble. My phone number is 444-2279.

Betty Whitehead

DEAR COUNCIL:

Many tribes have per-capita payments at the end of the year, so I think it was a nice gesture, giving our Tribal Elders 50 dollars at Christmas. The problem I have with this nice gesture is you are discriminating against some of our Tribal Elders. Our Tribal Elders who work for the Tribe did not receive this payment. I was told they received a bonus with the other employees who work for the Tribe. I have a couple of questions I would like answered.

1. Who decides when you are excluded from being a Tribal Elder?

2. Are you excluded from being a Tribal Elder if you work for the Tribe?

3. Is it the Council who decides whether you are not part of our Tribal Elders?

This decision could not have been based on income, because there are Tribal Elders who received this payment that make much more than our Tribal Elders who work for us. So, I think the Council should realize they are discriminating against some of our Elders. You need to respect all of our Elders, not disregard them because they work for the Tribe.

Fonda C. Jackson

TO TRIBAL MEMBERS:

When my father, the late Stanley Strong, was on Tribal Council in the late 70's, there was a man that just got out of prison who was looking for a job in the Tribe. My father spoke for this man in order for him to get hired. One stipulation was that this man was to further his education. He promised that he would, but he never did. Now, this person stood up before Tribal members and put down block voting, which has been done since the 70's. I feel if you can't keep a promise to do something

that was very important, then you should not be criticizing others.

Then there was a council person with the help of the GM at the time put her own family member into a tribal position. The family member had no special skills, no higher education and did not have to fill out an application or go for a job interview. Now the Council demands you have special skills, higher education and go through due process to get a job with the Tribe.

I remember when a group of people from the valley came forward in the late 70's and stated Paul Washington was not an Indian. The reason behind this was they wanted to change the name of the cemetery. My father, Art Bensell, and other Tribal Council Members put a stop to this lie. My point is, people from the valley do not necessarily know anything about the people of the Tribe.

Whoever sits on Council and takes credit to what the Tribe is doing is garbage, because no matter who is on the Council, this was going to happen anyway. The Tribe will keep on going regardless.

Why hasn't anything been done for a special program for our tribal members that have disabilities? There should be some type of program set up for them.

One last complaint: all Tribal Elders should of received a Christmas gift regardless if they work for the Tribe or not.

Royce Strong
15/16 Blood Degree

Council Resolution #95-016, passed 1/21/95 giving all Tribal Elders a Christmas bonus retroactively.

TO THE EDITOR:

I have concerns, but one keeps popping up: the blood degree lowering. The Tribe cannot take care of current Tribal members. How is the Tribe going to handle the influx of new Tribal members created by lowering the blood degree? Besides, the blood degree is low enough. The Tribal Council that keeps pushing is only thinking of their family.

If the Tribal Council was putting the same energy and effort they put in the blood degree issue into getting our "High School" back, we'd have one great school.

In response to a letter written by a Robb Pearson in the last newspaper, I feel Mr. Pearson does not know the problems that Tami Hickie is having. He is only hearing one side of the story. The chain-of-command does not always work. Sometimes people block it to protect themselves.

And yes, I'm a Tribal Member.

Joella Cain

Council Member Rosemary Breon Landis extends Valentine's Greetings to everyone. Her Council report will return in the next issue of the Siletz Newsletter.

TO WHOM IT

MAY CONCERN:

I would like to say a big thank you to Delores Pigsley and whoever else has been working so hard and long on getting this gaming going. I certainly admire her courage to overlook her critics and keep on going forward. I'm sure no one will ever know the amount of time and energy that has gone into getting the gaming going and still has a long way to go yet. It is

