

More Letters....

so easy to sit back and find fault but something else doing it. That is one of the things I look at when voting. Do they make a statement of how they can help make a difference or find fault and criticize the ones who have been working at it? I think the Tribal Council we have has been doing a good job and to change now would be a step backwards. I agree with Phil Rilatos, now is not the time to change Council members with so much left to do. They know who to see and the right buttons to push.

I would also like to comment on Mr. Strong's letter about lowering the blood degree. It was my understanding it was voted to lower it one degree. Personally I think if we want to build the blood lines higher we need to include the younger generations. If we do not, they will not grow up knowing the Indian ways. My granddaughter just married an Indian boy from another tribe (no blood limit). They grew up together going to pow wows, etc. They were married in an Indian ceremony and it was very beautiful. But, if they have children, the children will be able to be on the rolls but not their mother. Does it make the ones with 3/4 degree blood better than those 2/3 and 2/3 better than one with 1/4?

Well thanks again Dee and I hope you know how much your work is appreciated.

Wanda Melton

Tribal Council:

I would like to make a comment on the letter that certain Council members sent.

In this letter, it was stated that if

you didn't vote for the same three Council, our Tribe will no longer exist. It also said that there are no tribal members capable of being on Tribal Council.

This is misleading our tribal members, does this mean that no tribal member has the ability of being a leader?

A couple of newsletters ago, a Tribal Council wrote a letter encouraging you to vote to re-elect the same people by not letting other people mislead you about them.

Yet, by this letter, you are misleading our tribal people and there are actually people that believe you. They think that the Tribe will die without you.

There must be something wrong if you would stoop to this level, what are you afraid of? What secrets do you have? Is there something you don't want the tribal members to know?

We know of the high life our Council members have: fly first-class, staying in the most expensive hotels, a charge card, some make more than tribal employees. It would be hard to depart from this lifestyle.

We need leaders that will represent our people.

Our people have the right to know our history, where we came from, Southern Oregon and Northern California, start of our reservation, how the land was being lost to termination. What happened!

Have this researched, print Council meeting minutes, any type of agreements and put them in the newsletter.

Then start with restoration, print the speeches from Washington to the signing of the restoration and what the goals were.

Maybe we need some type of committee that will oversee Tribal Council, so our funds from timber are spent on our tribal members, not to be used for Council.

Over a million was spent on the casino in 1994. This could have been used for education, health, and for tribal members in need (especially those outside the service area) and to research what happened to our Tribe.

We need to know why we don't have fishing and hunting rights, why we can't file land claims in

Federal Court, there was a document that our ancestors signed that gave control of Yaquina Bay to the whites for 100 years, the 100 years is up, why don't our leaders pursue that in Federal Court?

It's getting late, if we don't elect leaders that will fight for our rights, then we will never be compensated for all the land, timber, bays, ocean frontage and our rights will be lost.

Don't be misled is right, Tribal Council, you are guilty of that, too.

Tribal members, vote from the heart not from the mouth.

Sincerely,

William Stanley Strong
Tribal Member

FELLOW TRIBAL

MEMBERS:

I have debated for years with myself about writing this letter. I procrastinated back and forth about whether I had the right to voice my personal opinion about tribal matters. I actually felt that since I have not lived on the "reservation" since 1958, it would be wrong for me to sit up here in Washington State and critique business practices and tribal concerns.

But lately I have noticed a trend in the *Letters to the Editor* section of our newspaper. People are angry. They are fed up with the way our Tribal Enterprises are being run. They are angry about the decisions that several of our Council people have made concerning the future of the Siletz Tribe. They are angry about the monies being paid to non-tribal or non-Indian employees. These are just some of the points of concern. I am an enrolled member of this Tribe. I am also an enrolled disabled Elder of this Tribe. And, I am also finally angry!

No matter where I reside, I am a Siletz Tribal member. Sometimes being far away from a situation, a person can see things that those close cannot. But, now people are starting to

see, and better yet, to speak out on issues concerning the welfare of our Tribe.

I, too, think it is time for new leadership. I have nothing personal against the present Tribal leadership. They have done great things for the Siletz People. But, sometimes, I think complacency sets in and perspective is lost. Maybe ever self-importance clouds decisions and judgment. Being an Elder, I know sometimes it is best to let new blood and new ideas step in and take over. The experience and knowledge of our former Tribal Council people will always be there to draw on if needed.

Thank You,
Clifford W. Case, Sr.
P.S. I have been trying to get a house so I can move home for four years. I hope I make it before I die.

DEAR TRIBAL MEMBERS:

I am writing to ask your help. Last summer an article appeared in our local newspaper reporting on the Indians of Oregon, their problems with the IRS, the State of Oregon, business problems for the Indian merchants in Oregon. Unfortunately, I did not save the article. I have gone to our library who told me that because the article (story) was not of local origin, they (the library) would have no index of the article. So, I am asking for your help. Can you fill me in on details surrounding the tribal problems within the State of Oregon? Can you send me a reprint of the article as it appeared in the Oregon papers?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Gary J. De Dell
1010 Turtle Street
Syracuse, NY 13208

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