

TO THE EDITOR:

This is a letter letting people of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz know that I will no longer be responsible for them. The efforts that I and others have made in the people gaining control of their Council and other operations of Tribal Government I believe has had positive results. My priority is one of service today. In the journeys I have made through Tribal government I have made some friends and some we differ. With those that I differ with there has never been anything personal. It is time for my spirit to rest and walk like I believe a warrior does. My love and prayers to all.

Truly,

Kevin Strickler

Oct. 12, 1995

TO THE EDITOR,

This letter is in regards to our Tribe's Educational Goals and Programs. First, our family lives out-of-state, therefore out-of-the service area. So I guess we don't qualify for any assistance with any program.

We needed assistance for our son to attend a special educational program to obtain college credits. This program would have cost a minimal amount. We requested this in early September. Our son is now a Senior in High School and has been and is an honor student and has already received several college credits. We called the Tribe and spoke to several tribal staff and we're still waiting for a response of some sort.

My major concerns are these: First, I feel that I shouldn't be given the run around and should be treated with respect when I call my tribe. Second, if we are a self-governance tribe, then why can't funds be allocated for tribal members outside-of-the service area? And lastly, When is the Tribe going to assist us tribal members who live

outside-of-the service area?

With the Chinook Winds profits, I am hoping that the Tribe will make our youth a top priority. An activity center would be a good place to start. Possibly when the offices will be vacant downtown, programs for tribal members outside of the service area and for education and cultural programs.

We would like to thank Terry Persson, JOM Coordinator, for at least trying to help, even though we don't qualify, but for going the extra mile. It's so frustrating to call your tribe and be treated like this. Elections are coming up soon and I will be casting my vote for the candidates who truly want to help ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS - like the original intent of Restoration. My beloved dad, Robert Rilatos, Sr., was very instrumental in the Restoration success and education was always a top priority of his and of the people at the time of its birth. Respectfully,

Marlene R. Stuart
Siletz Tribal
Member

Tribal Members:

The election for Senator Packwood's Senate position is coming soon. I hope all eligible Tribal Members have registered to vote in the Senate Primary. If not, please get registered for the vote in December.

At the Oregon Tribes meeting in Salem, the Democrats Ron Wyden and Peter DeFazio were the names most mentioned. In my opinion Ron Wyden seems to lead a little because of the population base of Portland. Both candidates were mentioned favorably as Indian-Friendly.

On the Republi-

can side, Gordon Smith of Pendleton was most mentioned because of his help as Oregon Senate President when the Oregon Tribes were working to increase the penalties for Indian burial grave robbing.

If he becomes the most favorable candidate, then the Tribes need to remind him that the Oregon Indian Tribes "Contract With America" began in 1853 not 1994.

We as Indians have to unite for "Indian friendly" candidates because the Federal Congress can TERMINATE US. This seems to be the agenda for Washington's Senator Slade Gorton and for those of us who had to endure the Termination in 1954, this is no option.

Tribal Members please vote. It is a serious situation in the lives of Oregon and American Indians.

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians office in Portland is helping the Oregon Tribes set up meetings with all of the Senate candidates and the first meeting will be with Norma Paulis and Peter DeFazio in Portland October 20th.

Thank You for listening to me on this,
PLEASE VOTE!!!!

Bensell Breon

*Our thoughts & prayers
to Grant & Agnes
Pilgrim*

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Siletz News, P.O. Box 549,
Siletz, Oregon 97380

Dear Friends,

I am sending this poem that was inspired by the ceremonies at Oak Flats, September 16th.

The lower Rogue River has been my favorite wilderness area since I first saw it when I was 12 years old. Now that I find my ancestors came from this area, it holds an added attraction. I am happy about the return of Oak Flats to our Tribe.

The Circle of Friendship

Our Elders a few
generations ago
Lived on these lands
where wild things
grow;
Were free to worship in
their own way,
To work and roam and
dance and play.
Then came the enemy
deceitful and strong,
They cheated and fought
and forced them along
Off of the land that was
truly their home,
To places too small they
were forced to come,
Herded like cattle no
mercy was shown,
To a place that really was
not their own .
What shall we do, their
descendants today?
Shall we hate and fight and
angry stay
Or live at peace and let the
wounds heal?
Returning good for evil
seems far the best
deal,
Retaliation is a vicious
circle without an end;
Everyone loses no wrongs
amend,
Our circle of friendship on
the other hand
Lets us dwell in peace and
enjoy our land,
We'll work together , and
pull together, do good
to everyone,
We'll worship together,
friendship together,
until our work is
done.

Velma Redmer

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