

PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

At one time
life was grand
when our people
had this land

There was such beauty
it was breathtaking
our people's future
was in the making

Then the whiteman
took our place
began to destroy
our Indian race

Now is the present
and it is still the same
not only the Whiteman
is to blame

Our former Status
we could regain
but all our people do
is argue and complain

Time for change
to this I quote
get off your butt
go out and vote!

J.M. Cain



TO THE EDITOR:

My husband and I had the distinct pleasure of attending some of your Restoration Pow Wow activities November 18: We toured your beautiful new Administration Building; we partook of the dinner at the Tribal Community Center; and we watched the dancing at the Pow Wow in the school gymnasium. We want to thank all the people who contributed the food for the dinner! We particularly enjoyed the salmon! We felt really welcome and especially noticed how warmly and lovingly you greeted one another. We saw lots of smiles and handshakes.

At the Pow Wow we got a big kick out of the dancing and special activities. As we recalled our generous meal at noon, then experienced the spirit of the giveaway in honor of Arlissa's grandmother, we could not help but come away feeling you are indeed

kind and gentle people. I wondered if this was what potlatch was all about.

I was especially moved when I watched the older veteran ride around the gym floor during the dancing, cradling a little child in his lap, presumably his grandchild or great grandchild. I watched his heel tapping to the drums and saw how the little one sat entranced by it all. What a wonderful gift he gave to his little passenger: an exposure to his heritage. Things like that make deep impressions on a child's unconscious.

He will hear those drums in his heart.

While we are both non-Indians, my husband lived on Washington's Quileute Reservation for five years when he was a boy of 5, an adopted son of Chief Hoebucket. He gained a keen appreciation for that culture during those years. I, on the other hand, am gaining it through my "Native Americans of Oregon" class from Linfield college.

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Siletz. Thank you for being wonderful hosts!

Sincerely,
Rita Gardner



TO THE EDITOR:

Our November news-letter had a couple of items which caught my eye. A letter to the editor that described one of our families difficulties finding funding for education troubled me. Later, in the same edition, the Tribal Council minutes described a resolution to apply for a grant from the Howard Vollum Trust of the Oregon Community Foundation to continue funding the successful summer education program conducted by the Portland Area office.

I am honored to serve on the Howard Vollum Council and due to the quality of summer program administered by the Portland Area office

our group chose to recommend funding for the program again this year. We also recommended funding for various scholarships and the OMSI Salmon Camp program which directly benefit our Siletz families. I look forward to a time when our children can depend on the tribe for such support for their education.

In my family education is precious. My grandfathers were teachers. My father was a teacher and I was a teacher before I took my present job. Our experience has been that education offers opportunity.

I look forward to a time when Siletz students will have greater financial support for their education. As a father I've seen my son benefit from his education opportunities. I also know that his choices are limited by education costs.

I hope that in the future we might create a program which could reimburse tuition expenses for personal education for Siletz members of all ages. I would like to see a share of the gaming revenues dedicated for education grants.

Thank you for
your interest,
David R. Hatch



TO THE EDITOR:

It just amazes me how the Tribal Council donated \$24,500 to Lincoln City for a new high school. It's a shame that the Tribal Council don't even think of their own here in Siletz. We haven't had a high school in years. We need one here. Donating this money to Lincoln City will not make them change their minds about how they feel about Siletz. Face reality

Tribal Council. At one time this land was ours, we don't need to be letting these white people step on us anymore. Speaking of school, it's sad how the teachers do not want to take the time to teach children. There is a lot of prejudice in schools, including here. Minorities don't stand a chance here, because they have no one to stand up for them. I told the Siletz school principal, "If the teachers smiled here, their faces would crack." Sad, huh?

Another topic is vicious talk. I have said it before, this is a small town and everybody knows everybody's business. When it comes to my business, I rather the people confront me and not my family or no one else.

Joella Cain

SILETZ NEWS DEADLINE

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mail articles and photos to:
Siletz News, P.O. Box 549,
Siletz, Oregon 97380

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 News-letter 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.

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