

## LETTERS

Dear Tribal Members,

As newly elected chairman of the Elders, I would like to say few words.

First of all I would like thank Jane John for the vote of confidence.

A special thanks to Jessie Davis and Burgess Harmer for providing us with a room for our meeting also with the complimentary buffet passes, and concert tickets for all of us at the Elders meeting.

We are also planning to put together a committee to sit in on the Council meetings.

We, as Elders, need more input with our Tribe.

Tribal members have needs that are not being met.

I feel too many things are put aside by saying we will look into it, but when.....next month, next year?

We need some answers or to show us something positive is taking place.

Our Elders need home repairs, furniture and the list goes on... too long to list.

And last, but not least, we invite all you Elders out there to please come and attend our meetings.

The next meeting of the Elders is Jan 25 1997 at 10:30 A.M. at the Chinook Winds. We were told that there will be passes for lunch.

Also, my thanks to Tribal Council Elders who are attending our meetings. So, please, we need more.

Thank You  
Melvin La Chance

### Western Oregon State College's Multicultural Student Union

Invites you to our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Pow- Wow and celebration Saturday January 25, 1997 new P.E. building, Grand entry: Noon dinner break 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Dance Competition scheduled Vendors contact: Andrea Butler (503) 752-5571 or Multicultural student union (503) 838-8195 all drums and dancers welcome.

Dear Editor:

I would like to explain to fellow Tribal Members how IHS was there when I needed them the most !!!

In May of 1996 our septic was failing and needed replaced. I called for an emergency application. They came out, saw the problem, and replaced the septic, also including new water line and pump. The project was complete December 6, 1996.

I feel that IHS is a service that should have a letter of all their services to the Indians that qualify. Let them know what benefits are available to them.

Thank you everyone who participated.

Art Caba  
Tribal Member

Letter to the Editor:

I recently held a drum making class at the Tribal Center. Many very nice, new drums came into the world that day. When that happens a good thing has happened. Bringing people and the raw materials together to make drums has become a "calling" with me. It feels like God's involved in this effort from beginning to end; from a majestic elk standing atop a mountain to a teenager who builds a drum and begins to find the right path.

I want to thank you for allowing the class and I want to thank those who attended the class for the pleasure and privilege of helping you build drums.

I hope we can do it again.  
Clifford Latta  
Drum Maker

### FUND RAISER FOR THE ART BENSELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tribal members, once again the Education Committee is seeking your support with our efforts to raise money for the Art Bensell Memorial Scholarship Fund. At the February General Council Meeting we will sponsor a meal (stew this time) and are soliciting donations of desserts to be served along with our main dish. We are asking that dessert donations be delivered to the Tribal Community Center on Saturday, February 1, 1997 and expect to begin serving around 11:00 AM. Please bring your appetites and desserts to the next General Council Meeting and we'll see you there!

To Tribal Council:

A real good topic is Housing Commissioners. If these people are going to sit in judgment of others, they should at least be law abiding citizens and a good example to their community. They really should hold a higher standard. When the Tribal Chairman, and Council vote these people in as commissioners to judge others, do they check that persons record to see if they participate in domestic violence, alcohol or drug abuse, or if they are behind in their rent, electric, telephone, water & sewer? I don't think so. How do you expect them to oversee a program it is obvious they do not understand? If they understood it, they would not be involved in domestic violence, alcohol/drugs, or constantly on the verge of getting their electricity or water shut off! I am still waiting for your response to a letter I sent to you some time ago in which I brought 5 major problems along with some solutions to your attention.

Royce R. Strong

To Our Readers:

It's been a great pleasure and a rewarding experience to have been the Newsletter Editor for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for the past seven years. It is difficult to say goodbye to all of you: those who have written, those I know only by a voice on the phone, and the many people I've had the pleasure to work with personally. We've struggled together through good times and tough times. I appreciate all the thank you's, the pat's on the back and the criticism as well, because with that, I learned what you needed to see and read about in this publication.

Once a month for these past years I've laid awake the night before the paper was printed, wondering what may have been left out or missed, hoping that the paragraphs weren't scrambled, words weren't misspelled, and "Oh Lord, please let me have the right name under that photo"! With each issue I learned something new.

In this position I was able to participate in events that I would have never had the occasion to otherwise and also to meet such interesting people. From the little boy posing and asking for his photo to be taken at the Pow Wow to the dignitaries I had the chance to meet, it was a

totally AWESOME experience.

What other job would have a person taking photos on a logging landing one day and photos of the Governor the next?

Putting together a publication can be demanding in the sense that deadlines have to be met. Often times help was needed to label and mail out the Newsletter (which goes to over 2,000 households all across the United States), to type set the articles, paste up, take photos, or pick up supplies. In a pinch there were many willing people who helped out including tribal youth and at times my own children. Thanks to everyone.

I've had the opportunity to train over 30 people in this office through the JTPA program, Work Experience, and Summer Youth Programs. I especially enjoyed working with the youth.....they taught me as much as I taught them.

I want to thank CEO Nelsen Witt for his support in times of crisis, the Council Members who supported my efforts over the years, Phil Rilatos, Sr., for his confidence in me in those first years, and the Tribe as a whole for being who you are.....a big family, with hurts, needs, laughter & tears who were willing to share these things with me.

I'll miss you.  
Teresa Miller

### SILETZ NEWS DEADLINE

January 15, 1996

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

### Thank You Mom!

I live outside the area and I am not eligible to receive assistance for the University. Thanks to my mom, Virginia Hedrich, I am able to attend WSU starting in January of '97.

Thank You Mom, Go Cougars!!

We would like to thank the clinic staff for adjusting their schedules to cover our positions during the illness and death of my uncle/brother Joe Lane.

Thank you,  
Laura & Rose