

Letters To The Editor

Tribal members:

First, I didn't like what the editor (Ray Blacketer) did to my letter. It was uncalled for.

I'm requesting the Tribal Council will let both letters be printed side by side, so, you the people what Ray Blacketer is really like.

With the election coming up in February, you notice by the letters that no one cares about the 20 years of Restoration. That is because we never had a Tribal Council that cared about our people, until now.

What I would like to see in our tribal paper is why STEDCO was shut down; what their decision was based on (facts); all documents that show how much money was loaned to them; how much was paid back and how much is un-accounted for. You would be amazed to see who was the director of STEDCO, Chairperson of Tribal Council and what they got away with.

We need the names of all of them involved. If you knew, these people would never be re-elected to Tribal Council, no matter how many of their families BLOCK VOTED.

I hope no tribal members will be put in General Managers/ CEO position. This will only cause more problems. They'll hire their own family members first, refuse to hire tribal members they dislike, refuse to pay increases for certain employees and play favoritism. We don't need this!!!!

I urge you to re-elect Reggie Butler Sr. and two (2) new people, if we don't we are in for more trouble.

William Stanley Strong

Dear Tribal Members,

Well, it's getting close to that time of year when tribal members will be announcing their candidacy for the up coming election and we as tribal members will again be asked to vote in the best of the candidates to be our Council.

I believe that despite what has been printed in the newsletter lately that our Tribal Council has done a great job. I think that their job is not an easy one and despite all that they have had to come up against that they managed to do what they believed they needed to do in the best interest of the Tribe & tribal membership.

I hope that you as tribal members will exercise your right to vote and that you will gather as much information on the candidates as you can so that you may make the best choice possible.

The Tribal Newsletter has had many negative letters to the editor recently, of course, it's election time but it's to bad that we cant seem to put our personal DISPUTES & BITTERNESS aside long enough to get beyond all that. What good can come from running down our own people?

Remember the reason we lost the war was that we were so busy fighting ourselves that we were unable to fight the real enemy. Why put additional ammunition in the hands of those who would like to see us defeated? As Tribal Members we all have a common goal and responsibility and that is the success of the Tribe for the Tribal Members. So with that said, I hope to see more support for our Council. Again to the Council keep up the good work. We are behind you 100%.

Yours -
RONDA AUSTIN
(WILLIAMS)

To all concerned Tribal Members,
All or most of you who read this letter, know I am a Tribal Councilman. But, first and foremost I am also a Siletz Tribal Member. I think it is time for some facts to be given to all Tribal members about STEDCO, this just for 1995-97. These are some of the facts or concerns that Tribal Council had to consider when the decision was made to "close STEDCO as it is today," and also to deny Mr. Rilatos the General Manager's position. During Mr. Rilatos' tenure as director of STEDCO, the financial reports read as follows.

1. A total of \$1,656,828.99 was drawn from a line of credit set up by the Tribe. This was from tribal monies.
2. When STEDCO was finally "closed" they left the tribe with a debt of \$ 334,818.00 owed to U.S. bank.
3. A loan was also made (unknown to council) of \$100,000. This was to pay back an advance given to STEDCO by Ross Simmons/STEDCO joint venture (the small log mill operation). In truth, there has been no profits since the inception of the joint venture and none are expected in 1998. The tribe is also making the payments on this.
4. In 1995, STEDCO received a net profit from timber sales in the amount of \$ 29,315.
5. In 1996- No timber sales.
6. In 1997, a net profit of \$ 30,162 from timber sales. When Mr. Rilatos took over as Director in 1995, he knew STEDCO had never made any money from it's timber sales profits. Yet, he said he "would turn it around".
7. With potential income of \$3,400 a month, the apartments managed by STEDCO showed a deficit of approximately \$4,000 after being turned back over to administration. The Tribe is currently in court trying to recover these back rents.

When Mr. Rilatos was asked to step down as director of STEDCO, not ONE (1) CENT of profit was returned from the money above!!!! Look into your hearts, my people, is this the leadership our Tribe would want? Our administration is in the business of providing for our tribal members. Administration is a business. We need a business leader to run it.

Again, I will state that this my own personal opinion as a concerned tribal member.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS.

I am urging all tribal members to attend Council meetings so that you can see and hear Council as they make their decisions.

As I have been pondering the decision of this Council to RIF the Assistant CEO position, held by Brenda Bremner, I thought back to the process of decision making that many of us use. We look at a set of facts, make assumptions about these facts based upon our morals, ethics, policies, laws, knowledge of the issues, input from others we respect and then we make a decision.

Here are a few facts:

Chairman Lillie Butler's daughter Ralene applied for the assistant CEO position in '93. Her experience wasn't enough to make her minimally qualified for an interview. Craig Dorsay defended the case for Council. Council won. Lillie Butler was excluded from discussions because of a conflict of interest.

Judy Muschamp is the Health Clinic Director. Geneva Johnson expressed a council concern on 10/18 and wanted Judy moved from the clinic to the administration building. Judy was notified by the General Manager of the transfer. An INDEPENDENT DIRECTIVE to the General Manager on 10/20 by Chairman Lillie Butler, accompanied by Councilman Clifford Case, initiated the change.

Phil Rilatos was not chosen as the new General Manager after Nelsen Witt. This council changed Personnel Policies earlier this year, then did not follow the changes that they had made regarding qualified tribal members. Phil Rilatos has taken this Council to Tribal Court.

How do you or I process these facts? Can we still trust council to make decisions for our collective good? When I look at other facts, I see patterns which lead me to the conclusion that Judy Muschamp, Sharon Edenfield, and Craig Dorsay are in danger of losing their jobs.

Just as you could make assumptions based upon the above FACTS and come up with different CONCLUSIONS than I have, some segments of my 3,000 tribal member family have made outrageous conclusions about Tribal Council Candidate Dee Pigsley. I believe that Dee has REPRESENTED ME in an intelligent, comprehensive and politically astute manner. I will continue to support Dee again this year, even though I have not always agreed with her 100%. I still trust her leadership in the big picture issues such as gaming, health, administration budgets, and national political issues which affect our tribe. When she REPRESENTS YOU AND ME at Council meetings, I believe decisions are for the betterment of ALL Tribal members. We all have 9 elected people representing us.

The main point of my letter: MAKE DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF AFTER A CAREFUL DELIBERATION OF ALL THE FACTS AND HOLD YOUR COUNCIL PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

Rosemary Breon Landis