CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Lillie Butler

November 15 was a big day for the Siletz Tribe. The Tribe celebrated the 20th anniversary of Restoration. The day started with a buffet dinner prepared by Chinook Winds staff. We were honored with speeches from Governor Atiyeh, Attorney Charles Wilkenson, Yakama Councilman Joe Jay Pinkman, an Oregon State University representative read a letter from Oregon State President Riser, and Historian Steven Dow Beckman. Bob Tom spoke of Restoration and the accomplishments the Tribe has made in the last twenty years. Our Councilmen who are no longer with us were remembered through video slides. Those that assisted the Tribe were also mentioned through video.

The Pow-Wow followed the Restoration speeches. Honor dances were done for all the Pow-Wow Princesses. Quite a few of the Princesses were in attendance. Honor dances were also done for other tribes that assisted the Tribe through Restoration. Thank you to the ten drums that were in attendance and the many dancers. There were a lot of tribal members attending the Restoration speeches and Pow-Wow.

Thank yous go to the Restoration Committee of Ed Ben, Bob Tom and Dee Pigsley, and the staff that assisted. The Restoration Committee, Pow-Wow committee and staff at Chinook Winds did a great job on the 20th Anniversary Restoration.

A case filed in State court stating that the records of the Tribe were not subject to being public was won by the Tribe. The State of Oregon appealed the decision of the lower court to the 9th District Court. On November 5, Tribal Attorney Craig Dorsay went before the 9th District Court for a Public Records appeals hearing. The attorney was allowed to speak for twenty minutes and the State had the same amount of time.

The Tribe, as of October 1, has taken over a program from the State which came about through the Welfare Reform Act. The Tribe has General Assistance, JTPA, and the welfare program combined into a TANF Department. The staff in that department are seeing a lot of changes and they have been doing training through November.

The Council made the decision to draw down investment funds to pay the balance on the Salem property. The balance of principal and taxes will be approximately $900,000.

General Manager Burgess Harmer of Chinook Winds was let go on November 2. Council had hired a consultant to work with Burgess on improvements for the casino. Dennis O'Brian, Consultant, is the temporary General Manger. Dennis has been given the task of advertisement for a General Manager. The consultant has made recommendation on upgrading the video machines and building structure remodeling, so there will be some changes in the near future at Chinook Winds.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Tribal Members,
I am writing this letter in support of three of the people running for council. I hope that all members will vote. In the past our future has been left to only a handful of voters. I am in support of:

Delores Pigsley. While I do not agree with all that she has done in the past, I have people from across the nation tell me what a good job she has done representing our tribe. I deal with many tribes and government officials in my job and these people all speak highly of Dee. She is able to run a meeting effectively and represent our tribe in a professional manner. She was willing to delegate her authority to her Vice Chair, when it was appropriate in order, to follow direction from the rest of Council.

Jessie Davis. Again I have not liked all that Ms. Davis has done in the past, but she has worked hard on our Gaming. She admitted to me that she made a mistake in supporting the General Manager as long as she did. It does take a lot of courage to admit a mistake. Since as long ago as October, 1996, she has worked to replace management at Chinook Winds in order to make it a money maker.

For those of you who say she tried to manage the center, remember she was appointed by Council to work with the Center and with the Gaming Commission. She did not do this on her own, but at the direction of Council. I think she worked hard to overcome the bad management we had at the Center.

Stan Werth. Stan will be a neutral party on Council. He has worked with and for the Council in the past. As a past Bureau person who worked at Chemawa and at the Area Office, he is familiar with many of our programs. He has not agreed with past actions of the Council and with some recent actions. I know that Stan is willing to listen to all sides of an issue and make a decision based on fact, not allegations.

Please keep in mind all that has gone on in the past has not been negative. We were able to show many accomplishments during our Restoration Pow Wow. Our Health Clinic has to be at the top of our achievements and I hope we can build in the future.

Gerald Ben

Tribal Members:

Many, many years ago, about July 1960, I asked my Dad for permission to leave home to attend Business School in Portland. If any of you remember Archie Ben, he was very strict. Mom and Dad gave me permission to be away from home for one weekend all through High School. That was to attend a Church function in Portland. When Dad gave me permission to leave home to go on my own, his only request was "remember who you are."

I am so proud of my Mom and Dad. They took care of so many families other than just their children. I never heard Dad say anything derogatory about anyone. He was kind to all people and listened to many young people who were troubled. Many young people whose parents didn't have time to listen to them. He was a true Christian. Maybe if more of you people were lucky enough to have such caring parents, this world would be a better place to live.

If my parents would have been at this weekends meetings, Mom would have slapped a few people and Dad would have stopped the meeting and prayed. I thank Wilma Strong for her prayers while my sister, Maxine, was speaking. It really hurts me deeply to see so much anger, hurtful words, and hatred. Where will we be in ten years? If we cannot care for each other, respect each others' opinions, who will care? My request for all tribal members is to please try to be more considerate of others.

Your child is going to behave the same way you do. If you do not set a proper example, how do you expect your child to know any better? They are not going to do what you say, they are going to do what you do. Don't teach them to hate. Leave that fault with Satan. He loves it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.

Shirley Ben Walker

Letters To The Editor:

All Letters received will be printed except those which are known to be slanderous or racist. Please type or write legibly, no profane language will be printed. The Siletz Newspaper and Tribal Government accept no responsibility for statements made in the letters to the Editor. The opinions expressed are those of the individual writing in. LETTERS THAT EXCEED 450 WORDS WILL BE EDITED FOR LENGTH as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142. All letters must include your name, address, and signature.

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PLEASE NOTE: The General Manager of the Siletz Tribe is the Chief Editor of the *Siletz News*.