

Letters To The Editor

Dear Tribal Members

I am a mother of two Tribal members - they are 10 & 12, and I am married to an actual member. My husband asked me to attend this weekend's Tribal Council meeting. I have never attended one before, but if all Tribal Council meetings are like this one, I think it's a very unhealthy environment or government meeting at all.

The Tribal Council was very hateful towards each other and General Council. I will not name names, but everyone that was there knows who they were. Accusing a Tribal Council member of sleeping with someone else just to get off the discussion that was going on was out of order and had no business even being in the discussion. Their personal lives should be their own business, not anyone else's. As a concerned mother, I am glad there were no children present at this meeting. This would not be something I would like my children to see or hear. This Tribal Council, I noticed, did not listen to the General Council members. It was a fiasco.

As a mother, I would not have some of the Tribal Council giving the impression that they are representing my children. I do not allow my children to be so hateful. I know that most tribal members would say I have no right to write or say anything, but I am a very concerned mother of children that are on the tribal rolls. Maybe the younger generation should attend and maybe they would think twice about their actions and comments to each other, and realize this is for all tribal members young and old. I have one more comment as for the rudeness that was shown to some of the Elders: I thought everyone is supposed to respect their Elders. I know I was taught this when I grew up, but in this meeting it didn't matter if you were an Elder or not.

I feel sorry for the people that tried to get their point across to the Tribal Council and were told it didn't matter what General Council said. I think the General Council should stand up and not take this, being disrespected by this Tribal Council. As a concerned mother, I think I will attend more of these Tribal Council meetings on behalf of my children. Because someone has to.

I think that when you come into a Tribal Council meetings your family name and personal life should be left outside those doors. Because it seems to be getting away from what's trying to be accomplished in these meetings.

Thank you for your time. A concerned mother of tribal children.

Brenda Mason

General Council Members,

In the October 97 issue of the News, Kevin Johnson wrote a letter to the editor regarding an incident that occurred at the October 1997, Tribal Council Meeting. I feel I must reply to inform you, the people, of the facts, as Kevin Johnson did not present the incident factually. And how could he? He was not at the meeting. As most of you know me, I don't

generally speak out on issues, but it is time we all started to stand up and be heard.

I did not scream or cuss at Reggie Butler or Geneva Johnson. I had only stopped at this meeting for a few minutes to discuss something with my wife, Kristi Martin-Bayya, and during this time, Reggie Butler was making accusations about Kristi and Nancy McCrary as HIP Committee members and requesting they both be removed from the Committee. Mr. Butler implied he had good reason and Howard Roy agreed with him. The hatred that Reggie and Geneva have towards my wife is no secret within the Siletz Community. I became very upset, Kristi was discussing the issue with Tribal Council and she was definitely not laughing. This was not a laughing matter!

My wife sensed my agitation and told me to leave the meeting. On my way out the door, I made a statement in anger directed toward Howard Roy and I quote, "Howard Roy is an ____." At that point I heard Geneva Johnson tell me, and I quote, "Watch your mouth." Once outside the door I turned, looked at Geneva and made a gesture which she returned and replied, "Same to you," with her fist in the air.

As far as my demonstration of respect to our Elders being long gone, in all honesty, with these two Council members, they have not earned my respect! I have never treated anyone with disrespect who has earned it. Respect does not come with age and position, but is earned. Many tribal elders came to me during my recent loss of my beloved mother, and I deeply appreciate each and every one of them, they helped to ease my pain.

Thank you.

Bristo Bayya

Memories

Memories of the days gone by, woke up early for a shower before school, the smell of bacon and potatoes frying, pancakes, syrup or jelly - my favorite and Dad's, too, strawberry.

I Love my Dad - Alton Ivan Butler

The Rambler, warming for the ride to the mountains for a day of picking fern from daybreak to sunset, and the darkness covered the woods, the lights would come on for the drive home. Dinner, hot and ready on the stove after a shower. Then we sat down for an hour after dinner to fix the fern, watched some TV and go to bed to start another day. Those are the memories I have of growing up and so many more to share. I love my children, JR, Jacob, and Sarah. I want to share the love and happiness my Dad brought me. Sometimes life gets hard and we get confused and wander down many different paths of life's learning, but right or wrong, our love is always there to share. Our family is strong and has been through a lot - but faith, love and prayers are our strength. Thank you, Dad, we love you. You are our world. Thank you, our family, for being there for us.

Love Ya lots

Sylvia, JR, Jacob, Sarah

Dear Tribal Members,

I oppose Reggie Butler Sr.'s reelection to the Tribal Council. I believe Mr. Butler's actions as a member of the Tribal Council demonstrate his intent to carry out his personal animosity towards certain Tribal members and that he no longer fulfill the duties as a member of the Tribal Council without bias or prejudice. Mr. Butler states he works for the people, yet he continues to support and pursue actions against our own tribal members.

At the November General Council meeting, Mr. Butler voted to RIF the Assistant CEO position, a position held by a tribal member. During the discussion of this proposal, by far the majority of the comments made from the general membership, opposed this decision and they asked the Tribal Council to reinstate the Assistant CEO position. Mr. Butler was one of the five Tribal Council people who voted twice to eliminate the position, in spite of the overwhelming support of Tribal members to retain the Assistant CEO position, and keep a tribal member in a tribal job.

Mr. Butler was, also, one of the five Tribal Council people who voted to NOT hire a Siletz Tribal member for the General Manager position in order to place a non-Siletz tribal person in the position. It has always been the policy and practice of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians to hire Siletz tribal members first before considering any other applicants. Mr. Butler chooses to ignore our established practices. Why?

Go back and read the Tribal Council minutes, go to the meetings and see for yourself how Mr. Butler conducts business.

Respectfully,
DeAnn Brown

Fellow Tribal Members;

Following last week's Tribal Council meeting, I have talked to many General Council members and no one went away from that meeting feeling good. How embarrassing how we treat each other. One of our teachers attended to see how our Tribal government was run because November is "Native American Month" in our schools. She was appalled at how our Tribal Council conducted themselves, as leaders of our people.

Many general council members feel that since the last elections, our Tribe has taken a giant step backwards. Instead of becoming the proactive Tribe that we have always been known for, our leaders spend all of their time pointing fingers and trying to fix the blame.

It is no secret that there is a recall campaign underway. It is no surprise. No one is proud of our Tribal Council at this point. It is time to go forward. We were Terminated by the government the first time, let us not do it to ourselves this time.

Mike Darcy