

Letters To The Editor

Tribal Members:

Lillie stated in her letter that "STEDCO has failed." They (Lillie, Reggie, Clifford, Geneva, and Denise) made sure STEDCO **was going to fail**. Starting in February 1997, when they took control of the Tribal Council, nothing was approved for STEDCO. In fact, Clifford made a motion to shut STEDCO down at that time. She also states, "Millions of dollars have either been spent or obligated. How much money has been invested in STEDCO and **how it was spent?** No one **knows**. Tribal Council should know. But they don't." What Lillie fails to inform you of is that she was the Tribal Council representative on the STEDCO Commission for 4 years (1990-1994). Why doesn't she know? I can tell you that during the period Lillie was on the STEDCO Commission, (1990-1994) STEDCO lost \$2,615,338.

There are some important dates that I would like you to remember. (1) The Mill was purchased in 1993. (2) The \$625,000 loan from US Bank to purchase the Small Mill was made in January 1995. (3) Phil Rilatos, Sr., was hired by STEDCO June 1995.

When I was hired as the Executive Director of STEDCO in June 1995, STEDCO owed the Tribe \$4,190,843; the Mill was losing over \$100,000 per month, STEDCO owed US Bank \$625,000. As of August 1997, the \$4,190,843 was paid back to the Tribe, the mill no longer costs STEDCO or the Tribe \$100,000 per month. The US Bank loan has been paid down to \$325,000. The Smokehouse was leased out and generates several thousand dollars a month in revenue.

Could we have turned STEDCO around? You bet we could have. Tammi, Jeff, Jay, Tina, and I were on the verge of doing just that except that Lillie and company didn't want that to happen. A check of the Tribal Council Meeting minutes from February-August 1997 will prove that to be true.

STEDCO borrowed \$1,300,000 (not \$1,656,828.99 as Clifford/Denise quote). \$852,166 was spent on the mill. The rest was spent on STEDCO Enterprises and Administration. The Line of Credit was to be paid back from revenues from STEDCO Enterprise profit. In February 1997 when the Tribal Council shut STEDCO down and stopped all STEDCO Projects, including not approving any Timber sales to STEDCO, the Tribal Council cut off all possibilities for STEDCO to succeed or repay the loan. That was no accident, that was planned.

During my tenure as Executive Director of STEDCO, only one Timber sale was sold to STEDCO. STEDCO made a gross profit of approximately \$92,000 on the Headwaters Timber Sale.

STEDCO has more than repaid the Tribe for its financial investment through the purchase and transfer of land to the Tribe. STEDCO received \$3,608,518 from the Tribe. STEDCO purchased and transferred \$3,492,379 in land to Tribe (purchase price, not current market value). STEDCO paid the Tribe \$1,431,585 in Taxes from profits generated from Timber Sales and Enterprises. Yet Clifford and Denise are telling you that STEDCO made no profit from Timber sales.

The \$100,000 loan from Ross-Simmons was

an agreement that was made to make the US Bank loan payments on the \$625,000 loan that was taken out January 1995. Ross-Simmons would be repaid out of the sale of the Big Mill Equipment. If that was not possible, it would be repaid to Ross-Simmons out of future profits from the small mill. It's pretty clear in the loan agreement.

STEDCO has been a big smoke screen for the Tribal Council since February 1997. As long as they could keep STEDCO out in front and use STEDCO for people to vent their emotions on, then the Tribal Council would not have to answer for the \$10,600,000 they mis-managed in 1997. Where did it go? Where is the projected \$26,000,000 profit from the Casino? Where are the added services that were supposed to come about after the 1997 election?

Clifford Case and Denise Peterson's Letter to the Editor had a ton of false information. It starts out with "I think it is time for some facts to be given out to Tribal Members about STEDCO..." What is included in that letter is no facts at all. Not one line of Clifford Case/Denise Peterson's letter to the Editor contains actual or accurate information.

Remember folks, "JUST BECAUSE A TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBER SAYS IT, DOES NOT MAKE IT TRUE OR ACCURATE."

Phil Rilatos, Sr. Roll #784

Dear Tribal Members,

I attended my first regular Tribal Council meeting on November 22 and again on November 23. I was very embarrassed by what went on. Tribal council members, Pat Duncan, JoAnn Miller, Delores Pigsley, and Jessie Davis raised concerns on behalf of the membership. When they did, the other five members disregarded the issues and retaliated against the members who brought forth these issues.

Although four Council members raised issues, the other five would not address them. They responded in some cases by making personal attacks that had nothing to do with the concern being raised. They evaded issues by changing the subject or going into executive session (there were four executive sessions over the two days). I felt like they were hoping the General Council members would get tired and go home.

I was also shocked by how some of the tribal Elders were treated. When Shirley Ben Walker tried to make a comment, Lori Johnson told her to shut up. Lori also said the same thing to Denise Jordan. When Elder and Tribal Judge Gladys Bolton was making a statement, Geneva tried to talk over her and cut her off. I never thought I would see the day that Elders would be treated so disrespectfully.

The meeting ended with Council member Jessie Davis in tears and with a shouting match going on in the audience. It was an awful thing to see. Our leaders should be role models for behavior. I hope tribal members wake up to what is happening and support a change in the next election. What's going on now is disgraceful.

Sincerely Yours,
Tim Mason

To Tribal Members,

It was a sad day to attend the 20th Restoration Pow-Wow and hear that some of our present and past Councilmen were asking those attending Restoration to sign a recall petition. This 20th Restoration was a day to honor our past leaders and others who were involved in getting our Tribe on the road to where we are today.

Where was the integrity of the past and present leaders in soliciting signatures from visiting Tribal members who came to honor our former leaders and to have a good time at the Pow-Wow?

I stated that I am re-running for Council and I want to let you know of a situation that I am working on.

I have been the Council representative to the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) standing committee for the past two years. A standard practice for the recipient of any HIP grant is to verify proper use of grant funds through submission of written documentation in a form of a receipt. A client, who is also chairman of the HIP Committee, refused to present a receipt to verify the award she received was utilized according to HIP regulations. I was verbally attacked by four HIP committee members who stated that the client did not have to produce this receipt.

Frank Petersen, Programs Manager, was notified of this situation. Mr. Petersen echoed the same tune as the four committee members and also stated that I was singling the client out for no reason, and I should "let bygones be bygones." Mr. Petersen further assured me that "it won't happen again." To sweep this kind of thing under the carpet is a major problem of management of the Siletz Tribe.

My job as an elected Councilman was to notify the Council of this matter. Delores Pigsley defended the HIP client, who is her niece. Why was I asking for a receipt at this time? Delores did not see anything wrong with her niece failing to adhere to the standard practice of the HIP program.

The Assistant CEO, who is, also, the niece of Delores Pigsley and cousin of the HIP client, said the Operations Manual does not require a receipt. All clients are required to produce a receipt. There are no exceptions according to HIP protocol. It remains to be seen how the Council resolves this situation.

If you did sign the petition, and we are recalled, the kind of situation I just described will continue. My advice to you is to make sure you get truthful information and research the manner in which each Councilmen vote.

Reggie Butler, Sr.