

Business and INDUSTRY

From vision to reality Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center

In 1977 the Siletz Tribe was restored to federal recognition. In twenty short years the Tribe has come full circle, always with a vision for a better future for it's members.

Chinook Winds Casino and Convention Center, owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, made possible through the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the dedication of Siletz Tribal leaders, is a benchmark of progress for the Tribe.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) requires that: "net revenues from any tribal gaming are not to be used for purposes other than (1) to fund tribal government operations or programs; (2) to provide for the general welfare of the Indian Tribe and it's members; (3) to promote tribal economic development; (4) to donate to charitable organizations; or (5) to help fund operations of local government agencies."

Chinook Winds offers the opportunity to build a brighter future for generations yet to come, while at the same time providing employment for Tribal Members and members of the community today.



1996/1997 Siletz Royalty (left to right: Honorary Princess Katie Thompson, Little Miss Siletz Sissie Rilatos, and Junior Miss Siletz Sash Shoemaker.

Rent to own stores gouge consumers

Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) released a report which examined the outrageous interest rates the Rent To Own (RTO) industry is charging its customers, a large majority of whom are low income citizens with poor credit histories. The report surveyed 124 RTO stores nationwide, including 5 here in Oregon, and found that the industry charged Oregon consumers an unbelievable average of 115% interest just to buy a household appliance. This was higher than the national average of 105%.

The RTO industry in Oregon and 45 other states, unlike other retail and credit businesses, is not subject to mandatory interest rate caps and is not required to disclose the sky-high interest rates it is charging. "The Rent To Own industry, through past lobbying, has been able to dodge out from Oregon's disclosure and consumer protection laws," said Matthew Berndt, an OSPIRG consumer researcher, "thus, it can charge consumers hundreds, or even thousands of dollars more in interest."

In addition to the high interest charges the RTO stores collect, these stores also set the initial cash

price of the item far above its true retail value. A Portland area Rent-A-Center charged \$408 for a 19" TV that retailed for around \$200. Used items are also sold at a much higher rate. A Portland Rentown USA store charged \$419 for a used 27" TV, hundreds of dollars more than the market value. When coupled with the high interest rate, a consumer could pay a RTO store 3 to 8 times more than the items retail value.

Also in each of the stores OSPIRG surveyed, the interest rates were nowhere to be found. When OSPIRG calculated the Annual Percentage Rates, it found that the Oregon stores charges as high as 123% APR. Compare this to credit cards which have an average of 20% APR. Berndt advises that consumers are much better off using even a high interest credit card than purchasing through a RTO store. Plus, unlike the retail market, RTO stores have a very limited selection of goods, restricting the consumer's ability to choose and shop for the best bargain.

The most frightening aspect of these incredible interest rates is that the RTO industry admits it targets consumers who are low income or who have poor credit histories. The industry claims it helps these con-

sumers establish credit and purchase items they normally couldn't. Counters Berndt, "The RTO stores will only help the consumer go further into debt." RTOs generally don't report anything to credit bureaus, so a purchase through a RTO store wouldn't improve a customer's rating.

OSPIRG and consumer groups nationwide are pushing for federal legislation that would subject the RTO industry to the same rules that apply to all other forms of credit. OSPIRG advises consumers to:

Buy the item off the retail market;

Use one of the wide variety of purchasing plans stores offer, like layaway or instore credit cards;

Use a bank credit card like Visa or MasterCard.

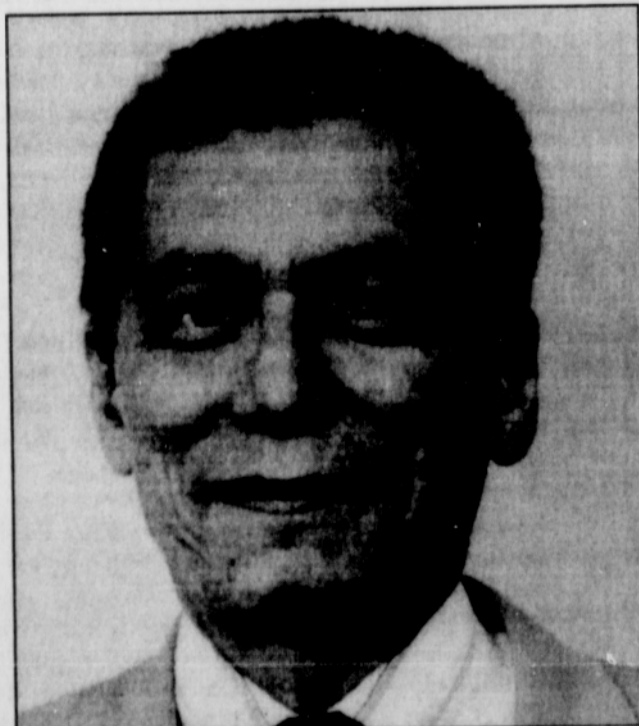
If a consumer needs financial planning advice, the Consumer Credit Counseling Bureau (800-338-CCCS) is a non-profit agency which can help those having credit difficulties.

Until consumers enjoy protection from the outrageous and misleading practices of the RTO industry, OSPIRG advises them to avoid RTO transactions altogether.

Borunda joins The Community Advisory Board of Union Bank of California

Union Bank of California, N.A. (UBOC) has announced that Portland resident and Executive Director of the Oregon Native American Business & Entrepreneurial Network, Patrick Borunda, has joined its Community Advisory Board (CAB). Borunda, along with nine existing board members, will advise the bank's executive management on the financial needs of low income and undeserved communities. He is fulfilling the unexpired term of former California Supreme Court Justice Allen E. Broussard.

Borunda, a Certified Management Consultant and MBA graduate of Wharton, has 17 years of strategic management consulting experience in diverse industries. Along with his work at the Native American Network, he has worked with The Navigator Group, Arthur Andersen & Co., the City of Port-



Patrick Borunda

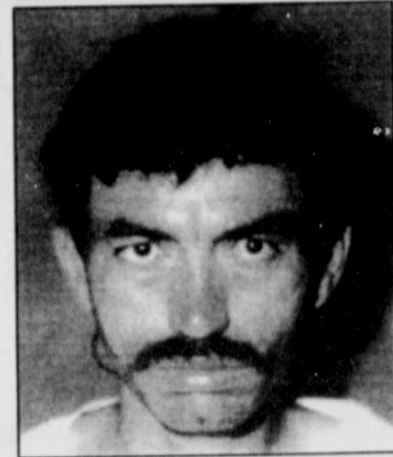
land, and Urban Indian Council, Inc. He also served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry from 1969 to 1971.

POLICE NEWS

Wanted rape subject

The Portland Police Bureau in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Sergio Lara Martinez. An arrest warrant is on file charging Martinez with Rape and sodomy. Bail on the warrant has been set at \$520,000.

The charges stem from an incident which began in February, 1996, when Martinez, looking for work, contacted a Northeast Portland family. Over a period of time, Martinez not only worked for the family, but also became a trusted family friend. But on the afternoon of March 26,



Sergio Lara Martinez

1997, Martinez went to the residence where he raped a young teenage girl who was home alone. Martinez has not been seen since.

Sergio Lara Martinez is a 37-year-old Hispanic, with a date of birth of December 29, 1958. Martinez is 5'9" tall, weighing 150 pounds with black hair and brown eyes.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Give crime a going away party!

There is no time like the present to do something about crime in your community. Why not start by planning an event in your neighborhood for this summer's National Night Out Against Crime?

Always the first Tuesday in August, this year's National Night Out celebration is August 5.

On this night, neighborhoods in Oregon and across the U.S. hold block parties to boost neighborhood spirit, learn about crime prevention and strengthen community/police partnerships.

People are encouraged to lock their doors, leave their porch light

on, and spend the night outside getting to know their neighbors. In past years, parties have included barbecues, games, entertainment, parades, bike registrations and neighborhood walks.

As a sponsor of National Night Out, PGE will once again donate door prizes to area block parties. The company's involvement in NNO represents its commitment to fostering safe and caring neighborhoods, the objective of PGE's "Our Neighborhoods First" program.

This year, Kinder Vision, a child safety education program sponsored by KINK and PGE, will bring its

safety message to North Portland's Columbia Villa National Night Out celebration.

In an effort to prevent random child abduction, Kinder Vision representatives will distribute valuable safety information to families and will videotape, voice record and fingerprint children for parents' safe-keeping.

A National Night Out kick-off party will precede the main event in downtown Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square on Monday, July 21.

For more information on how to organize a block party in your neighborhood, call (503) 823-4519.

Mr. Kenneth Wayne Taylor arrested for child abuse

On June 6, 1997, the Multnomah County Child Abuse Team received information that Mr. Kenneth Wayne Taylor may have engaged in sexual activity with a male subject under 14 years of age. The alleged incident occurred over the last year. Subsequently, an investigation was conducted and Mr. Taylor was arrested at his home on June 17, 1997. Mr. Kenneth Wayne Taylor was charged with ten (10) counts of Sex Abuse in the First Degree and was lodged in the Multnomah County Detention Center.

Investigators from the Multnomah County Inter-Agency Multi-Disciplinary Child Abuse Team are concerned that there is potential that additional children might have been abused. To facilitate an exchange of information, investigators spoke with parents of children who may have been at risk.

The Child Abuse Team asks if you, or a child, has had direct contact with Kenneth Taylor and suspects that the contact resulted in, or might have led to, sexual contact of an unwanted nature, please contact the Multnomah County Child Abuse Team at 248-5249.

STATEMENT BY MAYOR VERA KATZ REGARDING PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU'S GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The following statement was released by Mayor Vera Katz regarding the status of the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team (GET).

My office and I have spoken to many people regarding their concerns about the proposed cuts to the Portland Police Bureau's Gang Enforcement Team. I want to assure everyone I have not only heard those concerns, but I also share many of them. Recent events have been tragic, but our city is generally safe. However, we all need to make it safer. Both Chief Moose and I have said that restoring the Gang Team alone will never solve our

problem; we need the involvement of community leaders, parents, teachers, and friends to give these kids something to do and something to be proud of, so they don't have to turn to the streets to boost their self esteem.

My highest priority has always been to maximize the number of officers on the street; moving the officers from special units back to the street enabled us to do that. That said, we have additional resources from Ballot Measure 50 that I am working with the Council to allocate. It is my hope that a portion of that will go towards a public safety package.

C O M M U N I T Y

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The Portland Observer
At 503-288-0033**

D I V E R S I T Y

Join a Night Out against crime, August 5.



Neighborhood crime prevention volunteers promoted National Night Out in the Rose Festival PGE/SOLV Starlight Parade.

On August 5, thousands of Oregonians will hold block parties, barbecues, flashlight walks and bike registrations. It's National Night Out—America's annual night out against crime. You can get to know your neighbors, make your neighborhood safer and have fun!

PGE proudly sponsors National Night Out because we share your concern for strong, safe neighborhoods. Plan now—contact your neighborhood association or call 823-4519.

Portland General Electric
OUR NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST

