

# National Indian News Briefs

**AT HEARING ABOUREZK ASKS WHEN; JOSEPH SAYS MAYBE NEVER:** For Under Secretary James Joseph and Assistant Secretary Forrest Gerard, Senator James Abourezk had one basic question at the April 12 hearing on the BIA Reorganization: "When are you removing the area directors from power in BIA?" He didn't ask whether or how. He wasn't interested in the BIA's 130-page study report; he said he wanted action, not a study. For some two hours the Senator repeated his basic question. Finally, Under Secretary Joseph said that he anticipated that line authority would continue to be channeled from Central Office to the agencies through some kind of intermediate offices.

**WINDOW ROCK MEETING ON BACKLASH BEINGS:** Leaders and representatives of more than 200 Indian tribes were coming together April 12 at Window Rock, Arizona for a 3-day conference to make plans for a unified battle against organized efforts to destroy tribal rights. Veronica Murdock, president of the National Congress of American Indians, called it "a desperate fight for survival . . . to help defeat the backlash and change the public attitude that supports outrageous legislation." Peter MacDonald, chairman of the Navajo Tribe which provided \$100,000 for the conference, said: "We are under attack on several fronts, the courts, the media, legislatures, taxation, treaty rights, sovereignty, Federal funds, water rights, land claims, mineral rights, education, economic development, energy. Our old friends are gone — or going. We have found no new ones. We need to develop strategies and to form alliances, not just with each other, but with individuals, organizations and groups in the non-Indian world."

**NTCA COUNSEL COMMENTS ON MEANING OF OLIPHANT DECISION:** John R. Keys, Jr., a lawyer who acts as counsel to the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, was asked by the Indian Law Reporter to comment on the meaning of the Supreme Court's ruling that Indian tribes do not have criminal jurisdiction on reservations over non-Indians. Keys' comments included the following: "Cohen's fundamental proposition was that Indian tribes possessed all the inherent governing powers of a sovereign except as those might have been expressly relinquished by the tribe through treaty or expressly terminated by act of Congress. Justice Rehnquist, for the majority in Oliphant, tested that syllogism against the historical record and against the status of the tribes in the federal system and found it lacking in several crucial aspects. It is important to note first, however, that Oliphant did not totally undermine the principle of retained tribal powers. The tribes may still look to their inherent powers, especially in the areas of civil jurisdiction, but must do so with less certainty and a narrower, more restricted approach than in the past."

# Spilyay Now On Sale

"Spilyay Tymoo Sold Here" signs have sprung up around the community and people are trading quarters for 12 pages of news, sports, photos and announcements.

Every other Friday the newspaper goes on sale at a variety of locations in and near Warm Springs. Look for signs at the Administration Building, Macy's Store, Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge and Village, Burger Inn, the Information Center, Alice's Restaurant and Rainbow Market.

If you miss it on Friday, you'll have many more chances during the subsequent two weeks. A steady supply of papers will be available at all these locations, for 25 cents apiece.

And you can be sure of receiving your own copy if you subscribe. For \$6.00 a year the Spilyay will be mailed to your home or post office box. A subscription order form can be found on page 5 of this paper.

Join the hundreds who read Spilyay Tymoo regularly.

## To The Editor

We want to express our sincere thanks to Officer Robert Medina who drove the ambulance and Office Dean Seyler, EMT and Dr. Cecil for their alert and competent actions which recently saved our son's

life. Without their dedication and ability to make accurate and quick decisions, we fear we would have lost him.

Parents of Tracy Ray Van Pelt, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hicks and the Van Pelt children

### Card of Thanks

To my friends,  
Many thanks for all the visitors, prayers and kind thoughts during my recent hospitalization. A special thanks to my husband for keeping the household together.

Thank you again,  
Eliza Hicks

## Letter To The Editor

On behalf of the Madras chapter of the American Field Service, I would like to thank all of the Warm Springs people who did so much to make the past weekend such a memorable experience for 80 high school students from 33 countries around the world.

We especially appreciated the help of Bernice Mitchell, Gorky Mitchell, Mona Jim, Winona Spino, Alfreda Mitchell, Tonya Mitchell, Sonja Bryant, Ed Spino, Duane Miller, Sanders Heath, Roger Stwyer, Ray Moody, Jackson Mitchell, Louis Spino, Delson and C.C. Suppah, Alice Florendo, Satch Miller,

"Popeye", Andy Lucas, Chuck McKay, and the rest of the staff at Kah-Nee-Ta, Della Estimo and the Warm Springs Rodeo Association, Ed Manion, Margie Green, Maxine Clements, Sammy Colwash and Joyce Quinn.

Sincerely,  
Pat Creelman,  
President Madras AFS

## To The Editor

This letter is in regards to the Celilo Wyam Board and an overview of past activities which took place while I served as a delegate from the Umatilla Reservation. Since my resignation last year I have informally kept in touch with members of the three tribes and individuals from the community of Celilo.

I believe the Tribes' commitments to the Celilo community are there and they are strong commitments. However, it is impossible to coordinate the activities of the Board from three Reservations. There were many discussions about monies and financing from the three tribes for the Celilo Village.

However, funding is not going to address long range concerns which the people of the village should have. The impacts of attaining federal and tribal dollars were never really discussed.

The responsibilities of the community were not discussed either. These monies if attained will undoubtedly impact Celilo, but how? The By-Laws of the Board offer no real management capabilities nor did they tie us together as one cohesive unit.

We can't afford to deal in the emotional sense. We must deal with reality. That commitment will have to be a full-time commitment of the people themselves. The people on the river know better than anyone else what the reality of the situation is. The people from the reservations know that there are problems on the river but there are tremendous tasks and prob-

lems which need to be addressed at home.

It is the Tribes who have the responsibility of addressing the river as a regional unit of jurisdiction by way of the Treaties. For the people who choose to live there, it is up to them to develop their own communities. This means that they must determine for themselves what is feasible and what is not.

We're not just talking about Celilo but the entire region between the dams. How many people live there? Why do they live there? Surely fishing cannot provide for the entire needs of the community. What economic potentials are there besides fishing? What are the plans of the surrounding non-Indians jurisdictions? Does the Indian have a place in the plans? I would venture to say that these non-Indian jurisdictions have a lot of information and data which is there for the asking.

If they are receiving federal funds to provide services then they are bound to do so. The problem facing all of us is: what information do we need to put together and who is going to do it? The Board at Celilo needs good management capabilities before they can tackle anything. The people will have to recognize their responsibilities because in the end it is they who will remain.

We Indians then are not unlike the non-Indian in this sense; we only come running to our officials when we need something. Yet when it's time to make a decision by consensus

there are only a few people who show up at the meetings. Rumors run our lives at times and it is because of this that conflicts arise.

We can't afford this, we need to lay out the facts, alternatives, impacts, management and plans not only for the River communities but for the reservations as well. This takes a lot of research and time.

All of our communities have needs and problems. There isn't a government in the entire world who has solved every problem it has. But, with our unique status in this country and the technology and science it can offer us, we can and most likely will survive.

Sincerely,  
Mike Farrow  
Pendleton, Oregon

# To The Editor

We want to thank everyone who was so nice while our daughter, Shauna Craig, was selling raffle tickets for the U of W pow-wow in Seattle. For all of our efforts, Shauna did not place in the Junior Princess Contest.

We especially want to thank Grandpa Ernie who saved the day; Uncle Ralph and family for the moral support; Antionette and Darl for selling tickets for Shauna; Ron and Auntie Kat for all of their help Friday night and for giving Shauna this chance;

Sheila Strom for her grand efforts in selling tickets and the bag of goodies which Shauna received; and everyone else who just wanted to help out.

I am sure Shauna would want to thank her agent Joel for all of his help, even though he wasn't able to attend the pow-wow. This is a good experience for Shauna, and I am sure that you all would be as proud of her as her family was.

Richard & Madeline Craig

# TOE NESS

There were these paratroopers that were making their first jump. The plane was approaching the jump area, the light comes on, and the sergeant commands his troops to hook up. The door opens and the first guy by the door turns and asks the Sarge, "Sir, what if my chutes doesn't open. What should I do?" The Sarge looks at him for a moment then says, "Go down anyway." Yikes!!

SS SS SS

Is there anyone who can solve this problem? "Did the early bird enjoy the worm as much as the late bird enjoyed the extra sleep?" Yikes!!

SS SS SS

There was this boy who came home one evening and tells his Dad, "I got a job for after school hours as an office boy, only I told the boss I was a year older to get the job." His Dad said, "You shouldn't lie to your boss. Do you know what he might do if he knew that you lied?" "Yeah! He'd probably send me out to be a salesman." Yikes!!

SS SS SS

There was this 21 year-old guy still living at home who had quit school and was unemployed. One day his dad walks into the room and says, "Son, you're going to have to shift for yourself." "Great, Dad. What make and model is it?" Yikes!!

SS SS SS

You know that there are still Indian boarding schools scattered throughout the country. One day there was this guy that got a letter from his son that read, "Dad, would you send some food packages to me? All they serve here is breakfast, lunch and dinner!" Yikes!!

SS SS SS

You know at one time they used to execute criminals with death by firing squad. There was this one guy standing in front of the firing squad, the priest standing next to him. Finally he was asked, "Do you have any last requests?" "Yes," said the condemned man. "Use blanks!" Yikes!!

SS SS SS

What did the five-hundred pound canary say?

(..iLLiX LLiX 'HERE,)

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