# Editorial
# E COOSH EEWA:
*(The way it is)*

## Reconsider swim policy

Kah-Nee-Ta manager Bill Pauli's decision to discontinue swim discounts for Tribal, Bureau and other employees was an unfortunate and unnecessary one. We wonder how much thought Mr. Pauli gave to his policy decision, because as we see it, there are several reasonable alternatives to the complete termination of privileges.

First, in defense of the policy as it stood: it is doubtful that the Village was losing money as a result of the 50¢ swim cards. A relative few took advantage of the discount—868 cards were issued in 1979 but only a handful of employees used their cards regularly. The pool's early evening closure in the winter and the weekend restriction in the summer made it somewhat prohibitive for full-time employees.

But, assuming that, as Mr. Pauli feels, the very liberal policy was a drain on the Village, less severe modifications might have been made. For instance, the privilege, which was extended to Tribal, Bureau, I.H.S. and 509-J employees, might have been limited to those living in Warm Springs or Simnasho. Immediate families could have been asked to pay full price. Or the rather excessive guest policy (8 guests per cardholder per week at 50¢ a head) could have been eliminated.

Perhaps the best solution for all concerned would be the availability of a season pass—say $25 for year-round privileges and a lesser rate for weekend-restricted passes. This would encourage people to come and spend their money at the Village, mix with Kah-Nee-Ta employees, and introduce their friends to the resort.

We would hope that at least Mr. Pauli will follow through on his idea of a reduced evening rate. An hour's swim on a weeknight is simply not worth $2.00, but there may be some takers at $1.00.

All in all, cutting off employees and raising tribal members' rates from 50¢ to $1.00 is counter productive to promoting Kah-Nee-Ta and tying it more securely to the community. We hope that Mr. Pauli will reconsider.

# Letters to the Editor

## Thanks for nothing

**To the guilty one:**

I would like to direct this letter to the person or persons who are responsible for breaking our sliding glass door last week. What a small-minded person you are.

If you have a quarrel with us, please come directly to us about your problem, because destroying our property isn't going to help matters much. It will cost well over $200 to repair the door, money that could have been put to use elsewhere.

You haven't helped us one bit to cope with the oncoming cold and wet weather.

**Thanks for nothing.**
**Wayne and Lee Saunders**
**Foster Road, West Hills**

## Jernstedt criticism unjust

Senator Ken Jernstedt of your district was recently criticized by the Portland **Oregonian** for what the paper calls his refusal to become deeply involved in "controversial issues."

During my nearly 20 years as a member of the Legislature, I've identified two types of legislators: the work horses, and the show horses.

The show horses are the loudmouth prima donnas whose efforts are designed only to obtain free prime time publicity. They contribute little to the legislative process.

The work horses are those legislators without whom the business of the Senate and the Legislature could not be conducted.

Ken Jernstedt of Hood River has always been one of the work horses, demonstrated recently by the fact he has been assigned greater interim responsibilities than any other member of the Senate.

This follows on the heels of a session in which Jernstedt was highly successful in obtaining passage of legislation important to people of his district.

Even in unfairly criticizing Jernstedt, the **Oregonian** correctly noted that "he effectively represents his constituents and over the years has wielded influence with his colleagues."

The Portland newspaper should have told all the truth by reporting that Ken Jernstedt is one of the most respected members of the Sente, and his colleagues are looking forward to working with him again in 1981 and beyond.

**From: Senator Bob Smith**
**Senate Minority Leader**

## Legislature '79

# *Tax relief plan now in effect*

(Editor's note: This is the first in a five-part series in which our State Senator, Ken Jernstedt of Hood River, analyzes the major action of the 1979 Legislature. In the first installment Jernstedt explains the Legislature's tax program.)

**by Ken Jernstedt**
**State Senator**

There are two ways to look at the Legislature's tax plan. One is in terms of the relief it provides, and the other is in terms of the policy it uses to provide that relief.

The relief it provides is significant. At roughly $700 million, it is the largest tax relief program ever approved by a Legislature.

Here's how it adds-up:

Some $300 million in relief comes through the state paying 30 per cent of a homeowner's property taxes up to a maximum of $800 per homeowner.

Another $200 million comes through the existing homeowner and renter property tax refund program, which has been expanded to make more people eligible.

These both will be felt this year, as will a refund amounting to 9 per cent of the state income taxes you paid last year. The rebate checks are already in the mail, and are sent automatically without the need of filling-out a form.

Next year, you'll notice on your tax forms that the personal exemption has been increases from $750 to $1,000 to compensate for the effects of inflation.

In future years, the exemption will be increased automatically at the same pace as cost-of-living increases.

With the program all in place, the people will be asked at the May election whether or not they want to continue the program.

**Plans' problems noted**

The future of the plan, as many benefits as it provides, is clouded. Even should it be approved in May, there is a real possibility—if not probability that the voters will also approve a tax measure in November, either a 1 per cent limitation, or the limitation program which Gov. Vic Atiyeh will seek to place on the ballot through an initiative petition.

If the people fail to approve the Legislature's plan, it will likely be because of some of the flaws in the plan—and some questions about the philosophy and tax policy contained therein.

The Legislature, by a strong two-party endorsement, said that the $700 million in relief far outweighed the shortcomings in the mechanics of the plan.

Here are some of the areas in the plan pointed to by some as problems, or potential problems:

—The automatic minimum local budget growth of 9 percent per year will double property taxes in only seven years.

—There are no limitations on property tax rates, which is why the governor opposed the program. A 5 per cent limit on annual assessment increases will stabilize assessment rates-but this will cause tax rates to soar. To effectively limit future property tax increases, both rates and assessment must be limited or frozen.

—An estimated 30 per cent of Oregonians will no longer be paying any property taxes. This gives a large share of the electorate no stake—but plenty of say—in the outcome of local budgets and local elections.

—Taxpayers who live in the low levy districts of the state—primarily the rural areas—will be subsidizing the taxpayers who live in the high levy districts of the state—mainly the metropolitan areas.

As an example, a taxpayer in a district with a rate of $15 per thousand will receive $225 in relief on a $50,000 home. A taxpayer in a high-levy district with a rate of $30 per thousand will receive $450 in relief, with the same home value and same annual income.

**Senator Ken Jernstedt**

**It's a start**

Despite the shortcomings in the program—and it's been said there's no such thing as a perfect tax plan—it was a pleasure, for a change, to have the Legislature arguing about how to give money back to the people, rather than how to take more money away from them.

And it was good to see the $700 million given to the people—and, conversely, taken out of the hands of the free-spenders in Salem who would have us all in the poorhouse if left to their devices.

The fact that a relief program of this size was approved reveals a philosophical shift in the Legislature, and an improvement in its performance compared to the previous three sessions, where state spending more than doubled and where tax relief was not a major priority.

While the Legislature deserves applause for making relief a reality, we should also thank the quarter-million Oregonians who signed the Measure 6 petition—because it was that action, more than any other, which cause a change of thinking on the part of the Legislature and which placed tax relief as the first priority.

**(NEXT: Action to Meet Highway Needs)**

# Tribal Council Agenda

**September 10 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 a.m. Budgets

**September 11 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 a.m. Budgets

**September 12 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 a.m. Budgets

**September 14 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 am School Attendance Policy/ Darrell Wright
2. 1:30 pm Court Task Force Recommendations

**September 17 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 am Flouridation/ Deschutes Water Sys.—Dr. Nixon, IHS
2. 2:00 am Budgets

**September 18 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 am Budgets

**September 19 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
1. 10:00 am Budgets

**September 24 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
**September 25 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**
**September 26 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.**

## T/C Agenda Add-on

**Note: Following items to be brought before Council as time allows, so we ask that those making the presentations be prepared upon call:**

Range/ Livestock Proposed Resolution—Law & Order/ Range Committees
Monument to Veterans
Water System/ Indian Head and Charley Canyons—Ed Manion/ Planning
Enrollments—Madeline Craig
Realty—Harlow Nasewytewa