

# E Coosh EEWA: *The way it is*

## Spilyay speaks Crazy cowboys and racing horses

UNION, Oregon, June 1983 – Charles Sampson, one of the greatest rough stock riders in rodeo history, has just pulled off one of the greatest rides in Eastern Oregon Livestock Show history – an 81-point ride aboard a mean and spectacular bull named Grey Ghost.

The 5-foot-4 black man from the Watts section of Los Angeles glows as he talks with a reporter. The give-and-take of interviewer and interviewee fits like our boots and our jeans, comfortable but glove-like in the restriction. Questions and answers give way to storytelling as we walk across the dirt between the backstretch and the homestretch of the quarterhorse track. The young cowboy wears his shiny, jewel-colored shirt like a New York model and his attitude like the celebrity that he is, a black city boy in a world dominated by white country boys.

We pause at the rail as the next race is about to begin.

Soon, a dozen horses and jockeys are bearing down on us, the sound thundering not past us but through us like an out-of-control train pounding through our chest walls and out our backs, leaving our hearts dazed.

Silence settles again on the infield and we stand a bit, no words. Sampson, a growing smile on his face, speaks first. Slipping into a slightly exaggerated ghetto accent, he lets slide these words:

“Man ... them guys are crazy.”

Another pause. “Who’re you calling crazy?!” the reporter asks the man who’s just jumped off an animal the size of the Chicago Bears’ offensive line.

The cowboy laughs and explains: He’d rather risk being stomped by one bull than a dozen horses and besides, he’d done the jockey thing at Santa Anita and cowboying was a lot more fun. Doing what you love sometimes wins out over common sense.

Nearly 18 years later, it seems in hindsight that maybe we’re all a little crazy to be doing whatever it is that we’re doing. And, perhaps, when all’s said and done, that’s the least crazy thing of all.

TOE NESS: “They say more guacamole is consumed on Super Bowl Sunday than any other day of the year. As if we need an excuse to eat guacamole?”

### Editor's Note

Spilyay Tymoo welcomes articles and letters from its readers. All letters, preferably 300 words or less, must be signed by the author. Letters will not be printed unless signed. Thank you letters and poetry will be published at the editor's discretion. All letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect in any way the opinion of Spilyay Tymoo. Spilyay Tymoo reserves the right to edit all copy or refuse publication of any material that may contain libelous or malicious statements.

## Hello, from Pastor Rick

To the editor,

Hello from Pastor Rick. My family and I have now lived in Warm Springs now for 15 years. I am lead to now share a great issue of the community. Fifteen years as pastor and counselor there has been a common theme that has been shared with me by women and even some men. The theme is the slavery of life. The slavery given to people by way of sexual abuse. The number of folks in the community affected by this crime is unknown to me. But I have lost count of the people who have shared their story with me.

It usually begins with a call seeking help about a troubled relationship. They want to make it better, a marriage, boy/girl relationship, or a family relationship. Then in a short time the revelation of sexual abuse from the time of their youth.

The way of abuse seems to flow in two paths. One, the family member or constant houseguest who is sober, who hunts and trains a child for their needs of sex power and control. The second is the adult who is out of it in some way. Alcohol, weed, crank etc. The home becomes ¼ home and ¾ way station of people who come and go from the home, depending on their needs and wants. Including the children in their bedrooms.

Now before me is an adult who's view of life and people has been given a terrible twist that makes them see people and people structures (school systems, governments etc.) with suspicion and with an unfocused anger simmering under the surface. Their view of themselves is a mixture of self-anger, confusion and shame. It is a miracle to me to see many who with such stories maintain

a life of family and work with consistency. Their focus and concentration is tremendous.

But you know, the birds, insects and animals maintain life. We are called by our God to live life. The living of Life is in the words of Jesus who tells the young man to go and do the two great commandments; Love God, Love others, and yourself. To discover what that four-letter verb means is the great advantage of living life one day at a time. There for me is an answer for someone who was raised as a slave of abuse, living as a victim, and wanting to be a human being. A gift that has been given to you. To remove the shame and anger that was put upon you. Take an active spirituality look into a mirror and begin to love the person you see. To forgive yourself, too let go. To take

the gift of love from Jesus to help you love yourself. To begin this gift is to climb one small hill. You must believe that the Creator is there to love you. And not add to your pain. To put down one part of your anger, the anger against God is to begin the path of healing. Let Go, let God.

Hug someone you love. Hug someone you dislike. No alcohol or tobacco for children. One day at a time. Buckle up the kids and yourselves. Don't hit or beat on yourself. Pay your bills before gambling then stay home. Read the Bible for its effect on your heart. Pray to God to the point of hearing Him. Honor someone. Love yourself. Like yourself. See you in church. Worship at 11 a.m.

Pastor Rick R. Ribeiro  
WS Presbyterian Church  
On the Campus

## Thank you from proud parents

To the Editor:

We are very proud of our daughter's accomplishments and wanted to share this with the rest of the family and friends that have seen Charlee grow up. She has always been a very independent girl and has gone after anything she wanted. There was no challenge too great.

I want to thank all of the people that have been closely involved in her life - that supported, encouraged, and prayed for her. Thank you also to the Tribes for the financial assistance to send her to school. I never realized how much money was needed for school. There never seemed to be

enough to cover all the expenses. She had to borrow from both the Tribe and the school as well as search out scholarships. One book could cost up to \$100 and only be used one term.

So I am supporting and praying for each higher education student that is working hard to accomplish and reach her goals, for I know how much work and stress it is to go to school.

I am planning to have a special time set up to recognize my daughter's honors and I invite family and friends to celebrate with us.

Very proud parents,  
Sterling and Lucinda Green

## Member expresses thanks to all who supported him

To the Editor:

I wish to thank all the people who supported my efforts to attend this year's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Poets Convention which was held at the Reno Hilton. Although limited by being in a wheelchair, I made the effort to attend this enormous gathering of people from across the United States and Canada. There were close to 1,350 poets gathered. This was my first time attending such a wonderful convention and I was recognized with several prizes. I met other notable Native writers and many non-native writers who have inspired me to continue to write and who have themselves written many beautiful pieces of poetry.

I give my utmost congratulations to the staff which created this exciting, elaborate and festive occasion. Their time-consuming work provided incentives for all who had

the chance to attend.

I am thankful to the following who made my attendance possible with their heartfelt donations: The Warm Springs Education Committee; The Small Business Development Center; The Warm Springs Forest Products, Inc.; the many friends, students and staff of The Northwest Indian College of Bellingham, Washington; friends throughout the American Indian Business Student Chapters Organization nationwide; Dr. Jeffrey Holmboe of Bend, Oregon and staff; St. Charles Memorial Center of Bend, Oregon (Nurses); the Nurses of the Madras Mt. View Hospital-Nursing Home; my sister Jo Ann Moses; my brothers, Victor, Joe, George Oliver, and Todd; and all my nieces and nephews and other friends of Warm Springs for their support.

Although this letter may be late, these congratulations are better extended now than never. And, I do

encourage many of our youth and other natives to feel good about what you have to write. When we all continue to write our thoughts and interpretations of life, we will each gain better writing skills. Please always remember there are many personal friends, families, and newer friends whom you may someday meet that will believe in what you have to say. There are ways of expression that make a positive perspective in your future. I encourage one and all to write to your heart's content!

Who knows? Someday I may finish writing at least one or two books of what I have learned from experiences or other special intentions of life. I look forward to submitting more of my writings to other upcoming poetry writing contests and do hope that in the future, our paths may cross and we may find long-lost friends whom we may have forgotten. Thank you.

Moses WC Kalama  
Tribal Member

## Thanks for nothing

To the editor,

Hello rez! First of all, thank you to the people who helped us find Willie's car. Thank you to the one's who broke all the windows out, tore

the seats and busted all the headlights! To the fella who stole my sister's car, thanks for trying to sell the engine, if you didn't pull that move, we would have never known you had it, good job.

Next time you decide to steal a car from someone, make sure it's not a person with 3 kids! By the way, we did everything on our own with the help of friends. Way to protect and serve Warm Springs PD. I feel safe knowing you're out there.

I wrote this so if there's a problem, speak to me. We called every day on that car and it wasn't even in the system!

Pamela Saunders  
P.S. Thank you Mr. Whittenburg

Oh Yeah, almost forgot  
you Lil niece Becky  
Happy Birthday & New Year  
Lil Niece  
Unk Franny

To Grama Ella Rose  
January 21<sup>st</sup> is your special day!  
We want to wish you a Happy  
Birthday and May the Lord bless  
you each and every day.  
We love you so very very much!  
Becky & family

Happy Birthday Jonathon  
January 21<sup>st</sup>

From  
Jasmine, Aaron, Anthony, Kendall,  
Leslie, Becky and Nathan

Happy Birthday  
Justine Greene  
January 21<sup>st</sup>

Jasmine, Aaron, Anthony, Kendall,  
Leslie, Becky and Nathan

Happy B-day to my bro, George  
Who really turned "38" but says  
he is going to turn "25" again.  
Have a goat' one.  
Becky & family

Happy Birthday Tracey  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
From  
Kendall & Leslie

Don Augustine Howtopat Jr and Emmaline Helen Crooked Arm of Warm Springs are proud parents of a baby girl Helen Augustine Howtopat born January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at 7:46 a.m. at the Mountain View Hospital in Madras, Oregon. She was 8 lbs. 5.1 oz and was 20 ½ inches long. Helen joins 2 sisters Kris E. Howtopat 2 years and Blanche Howtopat 17 months at home.

Family & Friends,  
Oops! Did Franny Claus forget you this season. I'm getting all dried out of Happy water, you know forgetful. I probably didn't mean any harm. But before I forget "Happy New Year" everybody back on the Rez of Big Daddy.  
Franny

Well Gosh Dam NaNa Jonsey  
Another Year older  
Happy Birthday  
January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Bro Franny

Happy Belated New Years to my family, Jarod, Brent and Torey. I love you all, with all my heart and hope to bring out the best for the year 2001. With lots of hugs & kisses,  
Love Angie Thomas

Happy Belated New Years to all the following families and people: (best wishes for the New Year)  
Sandra Noroyoqui (mom)  
Gina Brito  
Johnson & LaDonna Heath  
Martha Heath & family  
Roberta Heath  
Maria & Duncan Brunoe & son  
Andrea Roy & Jordan Noroyoqui  
Love, Angie, Jarod, Brent & Torey  
Thomas

Matthew and Billie Smith of Warm Springs are the proud parents of a baby girl Darrien Elexis Smith, born January 11, 2001 at 7:21 at the Mountain View Hospital in Madras, Oregon. Darrien weighed 8 lbs 4 oz and was 21 ½ inches long. She joins one brother Brennon Smith, age 2 years old and one sister Rhyann Smith age 9 years old.

Grandparents on the mothers side are Sharon Smith of Warm Springs and Lex McPherson of South Dakota; and grandparents on the father's side are Warren and Mary Smith of Warm Springs, Oregon. Great-grandparents are Iris Smith and the late Woodrow Smith and Earl Miller all of Warm Springs.

Dempsona Polk and Angel Ruiz welcomed their new born daughter Audrey Rose Polk-Ruiz January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at 12:52 p.m. at the Mountain View Hospital in Madras, Oregon. Audrey weighed 8 lbs and was 21 inches long. She joins 1 brother Ozzie Polk age 11, and 3 sisters Sallie Polk-Adams age 13, Angela Polk-Ruiz age 7 and Victoria Polk-Ruiz age 4. Grandparents are Audelia and Angel Ruiz of Mexico and Audelia Reyes and Angel Auania-Soto; and Victoria Muldrow of Warm Springs, Oregon.

Bub,  
Happy 19th  
Love, Mom

Happy Birthday  
to  
Reese  
&  
R.T.  
Hope you had a good one  
From, Tony, Selena, &  
kids

Trey and Monica Leonard of Warm Springs are the proud parents