

## Spilyay Intern Speaks

Miller leaves history, foundation

A quarter-century's worth of foundation was laid to rest after *Spilyay Tymoo* Publisher Sidney Miller announced his retirement.

For more than two decades the *Spilyay* was a reporters newspaper -- filled with facts and excellence. It also won awards, namely in photography; a couple in newspaper layout and writing, according to Director of Public Relations, Rudy Clements.

Late nights and coffee stains were not uncommon as Miller and his team of three writers/photographers started the paper in 1976. One of the three staff members, Cynthia D. Stowell, went on to publish a book, "Faces of a Reservation." Her book contained 52 profiles and portraits of different tribal members.

The staff normally published an eight-page tabloid in hopes of building a bridge of better communication between tribal members and the tribal council.

A hope that has produced mixed results and mixed emotions.

Since its creation, the *Spilyay*, has been accused of being the tribal council's newspaper. And since its creation, the *Spilyay*, has done its best to produce impartial news stories. Its best has been good enough, so far.

Overall, it will be 'weird' to not have Sid around telling me about how things were different when he was "a cute little tyke."

Selena Boise, Management Successor, said she had a lot of memories with him.

"He'd call me on the phone and ask, 'Can you Winam?'" said Boise. "I'd go in his office and he'd shut the door and lock it and then he'd say, 'try not to scream so loud.' I got scared the first time he did this. After a few months I'd add on and joke about it."

"He's always had a great sense of humor and at the same time has always cared about the tribe and tried to do the best for the tribe," said Nat Shaw, Assistant Director of Public Relations.

Humor is definitely a trait that characterizes Miller. At the communications department Christmas party he gave a speech and mentioned he enjoyed working with everyone at the *Spilyay*. He added with a chuckle, "I liked all the men: loved all the women."



Sid Miller

-- Jerry Brunoe



Sid Miller and family at Miller's retirement party.

## Letters to the editor

### Calica resigns

To my people

This is an open letter of resignation from my status as a Tribal employee. I feel that I owe this notice to my people, friends and co-workers. This will always be my home. My heart, mind and spirit will carry our shared moments as a comfort and inspiration until I return home.

My heart, mind and spirit feel torn by feelings of energy and uncertainty as I write this letter. I have had the trust and honor to serve our people and this reservation for the past thirty years. In that time we have had many great leaders and teachers that gave us valuable gifts to lead our people before they passed on to the next life. The success we see today is a tribute to their vision, wisdom and courage.

Spiritually, I placed my destiny in the control of a higher power as our elders and ancestors did in their times of uncertainty. I will be leaving our homeland to accept a new adventure as the BIA Superintendent for the Northern Idaho Agency in Lapwai. This is not an easy decision to leave in these troubled times for all our Tribal nations.

The elected and community leaders of the past made wise investments for our welfare because that was our way of life. Our people and our lifestyle were guided to serve and support one another to preserve our agencies kinship ties and traditional teachings. Our unique spiritual and cultural heritage must be renewed through our songs and ceremonies as a source of strength for our unity as a people.

Our ways are carried on with the spiritual lessons and belief that our final judgment would be decided based upon our good deeds. We must keep these sacred visions, values and teachings as cherished keepsakes and pass them on in our time to our children and their children's children. Our young people have a passion for learning that should not be sacrificed on the altars of egos, politics and economics.

Preserving our natural resources to sustain our physical and spiritual lives has been a labor of love in many ways. We were placed on this land among the living and non-living creations to care for one another as a sacred duty.

In caring for our natural resources we better understand the spirituality, the vision, the history and the soul of our people. We have an excellent staff that was touched by the teachings of a timeless wisdom to guide their hearts and knowledge.

Our community has made great progress and achieved a

sense of success in these new times, but it has come at a cost. An elder shared an important message that, "The greatest threat to our sovereignty will come from within." One day, we will have leaders that don't know or respect the wisdom and beliefs that sustain our people. They will use our words and beliefs to best fit their own purposes at the expense of our people and our traditions.

Our Tribal organization has lost much of its vision and ability to make decisions with the membership for the benefit of all our community. We have built monuments to our success but the services fall short of the promises. The peoples' trust and faith in most of Tribal government and the direction of our enterprises is steadily eroding. Those of us who still live among our own people, can see and feel the pain, grief and worry facing our families every day.

Enterprises are being created; others are being merged or are going to get more subsidies. Our newest merged enterprise is doing a \$5,000,000 remodel. The Oregonian informs us that we are going to deed away lands that were purchased as part of the deals in the Gorge. What positions or services will be eliminated in the 2002 budget to keep all the consultants? Having quarterly district meetings would be a way to at least understand the logic for these activities.

Tribal government is more concerned with counting paper clips and protecting their rules and their turf or playgrounds.

This gets to be more important than hiring police officers or EMT's to protect our life and safety. Some of the tyrants are our own people. It does not matter to them that we are not safe from assaults, not even in our own homes. A family's experience of a funeral and a burglary at the same time represents a new low in our respect for our culture, traditions and one another. Our prayers are with them and all those suffering losses.

How many more review teams are needed to redefine the problems we already know need fixing? How long will we allow mistakes and corrupt practices to be covered up because of family or political influences?

We don't need more sweetheart deals for those on the top end of the food chain. And, we should stop persecuting those at the bottom, or outside of the system, they are our people too.

After the last elections, I was offered a "deal" to stay in the inner circle. The rest of the story is apparent. I got the Weakest Link or Survivor treatment. A fellow veteran

commented, "Even as a grunt, we had a code of honor to never leave one of our own on the battlefield" A number of other Tribal members simply said, "Welcome to the reality of our world!" To my people and trusted co-workers, thanks for the lessons in survival and humility.

Acceptable behavior is not judged based upon what is legally, morally, ethically or spiritually right. Behavior is judged on what people can get away with and what the community will tolerate. Our Tribal Council has a difficult set of problems to fix. They need our help, support and loyalty as a people. They are expected to redirect organizations that are seemingly more loyal to their own self-preservation and pandering to their own cliques opposed to serving the welfare of the membership.

We are supposed to be the healthiest Indian community by the year 2000. How many Tribal members can understand and comply with all the employee insurance, the Oregon Plan, Managed Care, IHS referrals, the Joint Venture, Medicaid and Tribal Health or welfare service rules and procedures before they get turned in to a collections agency!

The present leadership of our organization is drifting away from the values and priorities of the community to focus on money. An college President once told our managers, "Having economic success and all these natural resources is admirable but it loses its meaning if you don't have people to enjoy them." We shouldn't sell our souls, our integrity and our kinship ties for more false promises of prosperity.

We updated the Comprehensive Plan again, some day it will be used. We are told time after time that our input and advice is wanted. Every year these get labeled as the "Same people with the same worn out gripes and complaints." We need to put the Indian back in the Indian and listen each other's message instead of just hearing and reacting to the words.

I will close with my best lifetime lesson. The one greatest asset we have is our people, our culture and our spiritual heritage.

We were all given parts of the vision of our people from our elders we will find their strength when we can put the pieces together.

We were all given skills and talents and to serve a greater purpose, we will succeed if we never lose faith in ourselves, in one another or in our spiritual convictions.

Sincerely  
Charles "Jody" Calica

### A thank-you to Warm Springs

To the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and Community,

This fall, my parents were in an automobile accident while driving through Oregon. The accident occurred on the Warm Springs Reservation. The accident was their fault and only involved their vehicle. Luckily, no one was hurt - but they were pretty shaken up.

The local policeman was wonderful in understanding their needs and was able to calm them down and help make alternative arrangements. The tow truck driver (and family!) was also very helpful in contacting their car rental agency and transporting their luggage and them to the airport for a replacement vehicle.

As shaken up as my parents were, when they returned home, they couldn't say enough wonderful things about the people in Warm Springs and the help they received that day from Officer Oswald Tias and the towing service of Bob Werner (and family).

The Warm Springs Reservation was well represented that day!

Thank you.

Randy Faulkner  
58 Lynwood drive  
Chalfont, PA 18914

### Sorry about dog incident

I Joseph Howtopat would like to say sorry for the matter of my dog, for being unchained that day. His clip had worn out.

Roberta Jim, Eulalia Winishut, my wife and I are sorry for this incident.

Sincerely,

Joseph Howtopat.

The *Spilyay Tymoo* welcomes letters from its readers.

All letters, preferably 350 words or less, must be signed by the author and need to include a phone number for verification or questions.

Letters will not be printed unless signed. All letters are the opinion of the author and do not reflect in any way the opinion of the *Spilyay Tymoo*.

The *Spilyay* reserves the right to edit all copy of delete publication of material that exceeds length guidelines or contains libelous or malicious statements.

## Christmas holiday can be a crazy time

Hello from Pastor Rick Well, we are a few days past Christmas. Leftovers from dinners are gone. Some toys still may be working (Remember to buy more batteries).

What a crazy holiday Christmas has become to America. Without this holiday most stores in America would not survive. Yet the reason for Christmas is the religious belief that the Creator became one of us as a baby born. We fight in Afghanistan

because there are people who find that statement so offensive to them and to God that they would kill. September 11 is a response to Christmas. There are others in America who do not agree with the idea of a baby born.

They do not celebrate Christmas or they make the holiday stand for other beliefs. Yes, Christmas is crazy holiday. It brings joy and sorrow. Anger and laughter. Greed and compassion. This holiday re-

ally stirs us up inside. Yet, I believe as a Pastor that this crazy holiday is what gets us through life. When we are at a low time of life to believe that a God would go that far for us. To know that when I am in the deepest hole my God is still there to lift me up will give me hope. With hope and love you can go anywhere in life. Yep, what a crazy holiday, Thank you Jesus. 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 it's effect on your heart. Pray to God to the point of your hearing him. Honor someone each day. love yourself. Like yourself. See you in church.

Warm Springs Presbyterian - On the campus.

Pastor Rick R. Ribeiro 553-1237.