

Letters to the Editor

At tourney

Dear Warm Springs community,
We recently attended the Future All-Stars Co-Ed Youth Basketball Tournament at the Warm Springs Community Wellness Center.

We were shocked at the amount of negativity coming out of the mouths of a lot of the parents/audience being directed toward the referees and participants (kids). Being an involved spectator is understandable, but when a parent/spectator begins cussing and yelling obscenities at the players (kids) and the referees it crosses a line.

How is our future supposed to stand up and be leaders when they are getting this sort of treatment from members/adults of their own community (mind you, in a public setting)?

There is no need to mention any names because you know who you all are, and you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Does it make you supposed "grown-ups" feel good to make children cry by your comments? From what we saw, the children were more respectful and "grown up" than a lot of the adults.

This was a basketball tournament and it was supposed to be meant for community children to participate in and have fun. If you can't be positive toward something that is meant to be good, then you should go elsewhere or just stay home or better yet just be quiet.

From what we've seen and heard from others this type of behavior is prevalent at nearly all the basketball tournaments held here in Warm Springs. Just think, we have people from all over Indian country that travel here for basketball tournaments. Is all this negativity what we want them to remember Warm Springs by? This is the type of thing that is wrong with our community. Once someone is doing well for themselves, for their family or for the community, people around here start calling them down. Negativity is like a cancer that plagues our community.

All we can say to those of you athletes and others trying to do good for yourselves, family and/or the community is to keep your head up and keep up the good work. What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger.

Pray for those who speak only negative, because those are the people who need the most help.

To our community we need to start thinking/being more positive. Although there are plenty of good people here, it's too bad that they are not praised and heard more often.

To those who chose to curse at the children and referees at the tournament, is it too much to ask for you to apologize to

them?

If we had a say, we would like to request security or a police patrol officer (like at Madras High School basketball games) inside the gymnasium when there are activities going on, to ensure that we all treat each other with dignity, respect and sportsmanship.

Anyone who chooses to yell obscenities should be instantly removed. This should be a priority because kids, teenagers and adults are all members of the community and have a right to feel safe in this public place.

We all have room to improve as a person, parent and roll model. Sincerely,

Michael and Yvette (Twink) Leecy.

Album party

Dear Warm Springs Police Department:

I want to let you know that I appreciate you guys going out of your way to secure the recent Bigg B album release party at the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort with your presence.

I understand some of you were expecting a major gun shoot out to begin, which didn't happen, and I am glad everyone made it home safe and sound. Again, thank you for your presence at the show, and we hope that we can come to an agreement soon as to how much security is actually needed at performances such as these.

Sacred Ground Entertainment is a new company here in town that is looking to cater to the public's entertainment needs. Our mission states:

"Sacred Ground Entertainment is the platform for the indigenous peoples of North America to express themselves via music, art, photography, writing, and vocalism to emphasize their traditional and urban cultures in an attempt to empower and inspire the next generation of Indigenous youth." Our slogan states:

"We are the Indigenous Art of Pop-Culture." Our vision states:

"Through the purchase of art, our customers will gather a new testament for positive, creative, artistic, quality defining, and unique urban expressions." Our value statement is:

"We'd like to make a difference in indigenous communities across America by promoting community education, health, hip-hop, urban and cultural style, creative and personal expression, and drive an inspiration to care for one's self."

We couldn't help but notice the amount of stereotyping some have placed upon the demographic we serve. After receiving feedback from our attendees and expected attend-

ees, many were made to feel unwelcome at a show that was supposed to have been theirs, an avenue for their entertainment, expression and involvement.

We did not appreciate the amount of interrogation that occurred throughout our audience by some of the Warm Springs Police Department. I can understand to a point, but still object that extensive searches conducted at such events are sometimes routine.

Also, the conveyance by some to the Kah-Nee-Ta Resort that our entertainment company had full intentions to bring trouble and militant young Native adults is very prejudicial, stereotypical and threatening to our already struggling community. Aside from the statements used and emphasized by our organization, some in your department have made it a point to single out this community's youth by labeling the entire demographic as troublesome.

It sends a message to the community that anyone who listens to our type of entertainment is participating in gang activity, drug abuse, thievery, alcoholism, and challenging law enforcement.

In our eyes, in the eyes of those who had intentions of attending, and in those who did attend, actions by some in the department were very wrong. It is wrong to label such young adults, according to uneducated criteria, as "thugs."

For me to use hip-hop entertainment as an avenue away from the life I once lived, then only to still be stereotyped by some in the department, means that youth in this community involved in even a positive and expressive art still cannot live up to the uneducated standard of what some think young Native people are.

This popular culture we have accepted as an expressive art form has been known to save lives within underprivileged neighborhoods across the nation. There are eight elements within the culture: DJ-ism, break-dancing, MC-ing, fashion, vocabulary, beat-making, poetry and interaction.

This culture has allowed for personal expression through each of its elements and for a department like yours to label the culture as negative, while it is still in its introduction stage in this community, is prejudice.

Please consider opening your mind to a culture our youth and young adults alike can utilize to express themselves. Thank you for your time. The community's best regards,

J. Greene, CEO/president Sacred Ground Entertainment.

Congrats, son

Congratulations to our son Leighton Pennington.

Leighton has performed outstanding in high school basketball while attending Riverside Indian School at Anadarka, Okla.

In this year's 2009 "Oklahoma Tip Off Magazine," Leighton was rated no. 10 for top scorers last year, averaging 17.3 points a game. Also, he made Honorable Mention.

Leighton received recognition for his awesome performance at the Little Axe Tournament, setting a 3-A state record of 43 points in a single game. He had a triple-double and

Trip planned to tourney Down Under

My name is Amanda Jo Squiemphen-Yazzie (also known as Panda).

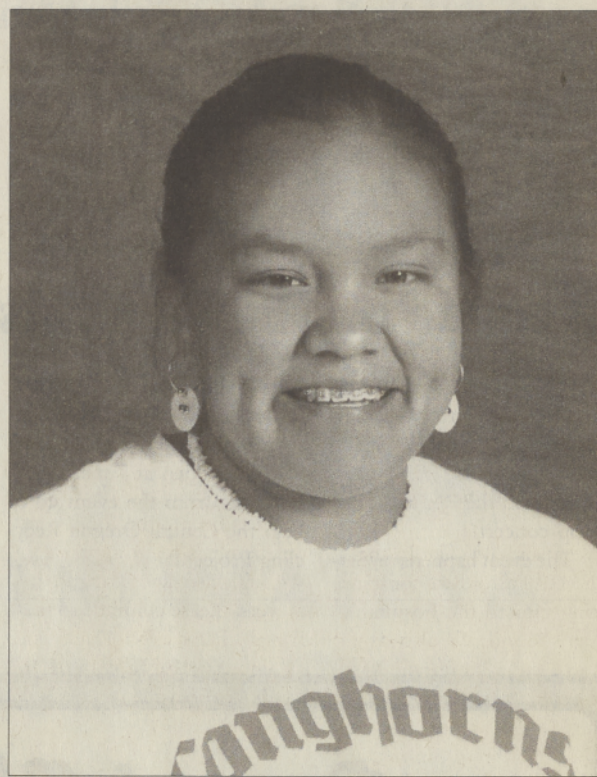
I'm from Warm Springs, and I am the daughter of Edison Yazzie and Priscilla Squiemphen-Yazzie.

I am 15 years old, almost 16, and I am currently a sophomore at Madras High School. I am a pretty good student and my current goal is to become an athletic director... one day. I enjoy playing basketball and volleyball.

Well... you are probably wondering why I'm sending you a letter. You see, this summer from July 19-31, I am hoping to be in Australia, where I have been invited to play in the Annual Down Under Hoops Classic Tournament.

This once-in-a-lifetime trip is said to be one of the best. Moreover, I promise to you that I will represent myself, my family, my community, my culture and most importantly my country with integrity, confidence and good sportsmanship.

On this unforgettable trip,



I plan to expand my horizon by meeting new people, making new friends, learning new cultures, and improving my self-esteem and confidence.

I've been playing basketball ever since I can remember and

would love to go Down Under and share this lifelong memory with other people.

Your support and blessings will be with me forever.

Thank you, mates. Yours truly, **Panda Joe.**

made the All-Tournament team.

Last but not least, the Riverside Braves won their district tournament for the third year in a row... Way to go, guys! We are so proud of you, son. Two thumbs up to you. We love you.

Mom, Dad, bro Leo, Gramma Delcie, Grampa Wolf, Uncle Lurch, Auntie Ollie and kids, and the rest of the family.

A thank you

Back on October 31 around 5:45 a.m. there was a tragic loss for our family. We lost our home to a fire, and lost almost everything including all of our memories. Yet, we are thankful that no one was hurt.

Since then, we have gotten a lot of help from family, friends and many others. And to these people we would like to thank you for all your help and support:

Warm Springs Tribes, Warm Springs Police, Warm Springs Fire and Safety, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort & Casino, American Red Cross, Cross Keys Station, Warm Springs Utilities. Thank you also to:

Carlos Quindon and Trenton Calica; Harvey and Eliza Jim and family, Wolfman Suppah; Jimmy and Neda Wesley and family; Amelia and Allee Tewee; Robert Sr. and Marella Sam and family; Gerald and Neda Tias and family; Elsie Sam and family; Rosie Johnson; Nancy Scabby Robe and family; Chuck and Carol Dick and family; Chester Van Pelt Jr. and family; Aurolyn P. and family; Pinky and Kelly of Chilkat Construction.

I would like to thank the pool players of Bend, Redmond, Prineville and the players of Warm Springs that play for Rialto Tavern. Thanks for the Yakamas who came for the tournament and for grandpa Buford Johnson, who is there for us. A special thank you to Carla Bagley, Lynn Davis, Pat Allen, Jan Six, and Leah for work they did on the jackpot fundraising tournament.

Thank you Earl and Shirley Tufti and family, Bernice Courtney, Aurelia Stacona, Jerry and Jan Bagley and family; Bonnie Baxter and Darin Foster; Mavis Shaw; Gloria Brown and family; Cecilia Brunoe, Emmanuel Greene and family; Celestine Brunoe and family; Andrea Sohapp, Buddy and Marla Hicks and family; Jacky Simtustus, Melissa, Frank and Shayla Smith, Rose Kirk, Brent Sr. and Rosa Graybael and family; Jimmy Tohet Jr., Sharon and Rayann Katchia; Carol Tewee, Flood Johnson, Lorien Stacona and family; Jayleen Main, Wesley Teeman, Linda David and family; Mitchell Whitefoot, Jamey and Jason Sr. Tohet, Gina; Truman and Adrienne Merrieffield and Kurtis S.

To those who we forgot to list, we are sorry. Thanks for all the love, help and support that each individual has given to our family to get through all of this.

The Van Pelt family, Levi Larry Van Pelt, Pearl Renee Van Pelt, Charmaine Nina Watts, Prenincia Jewell Van Pelt, Jenni Lee Van Pelt, Patrina I. Ha V., Latrell Brent Van Pelt, G. and Eugene Melvin Bill.

Sorry

Fellow friends and family, especially the kids that love me, friends and family of atwai Tawny Tohet-Smith, Harvey Tohet-Smith, atwai grandma Iris Kalama Smith, atwai grandma Ina Culpus Tohet, married ins and outs Miller, Gramps, Ike, Picard, Crane, Gadsberry, Rodriguez, Mitchell, Brunoe, Johnson, Martinez, Sanders, Surface, Trimble, Thompson, Boileau, Polk, Clements, and adopted family. Sorry I possessed and was possessed by drugs. N.D.D.H.D. **Lisa Smith.**

The rooster

Have you ever seen a rooster strut? Quite cocky you might say—for he's the ruler of the

roost—he tells the world each day.

You hear his crowing far and wide, before the break of dawn. He guards the hens within his flock, he knows what's going on.

And if you take him from the flock, no hen will take his place. For hens can't crow, it's not their job, and silence will they face.

In time the flock will all be gone, no baby chicks to peep. No eggs are hatching in the nests, much sadness does this reap.

Return the rooster to the flock, then hens will dance with joy. They did not know how much they'd miss their little rooster boy.

By Eino.

Thanks

Chief of Police, Carmen Smith:

I want to thank the following Warm Springs Police Department officers for their help with the eviction process on the Nathan rental property at 4606 Upper Dry Creek Road on Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 25-26.

Officers: Gilbert, McEwen, O'Reilly, Smith III, Tias and White as well as others who were at the site.

We are truly blessed to have officers of this caliber on our local police force. The assigned officers were courteous, professional and respectful to both parties in the court actions for this eviction process.

Those officers showed a knowledge and respect for our Indian heritage and sense of pride.

Thank you again for a job "Well Done."

A truly grateful tribal member, **Norman A. Nathan.**

Thank you for writing to the Spilyay. The next deadline to submit letters to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, March 20.

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