

Letters

Dear Editor:

My name is Camden Kelley. My great grandmother was Teanie Miller who just recently passed away at age 96. My grandmother, mother, and sister are all tribal members.

I am presently a student at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Oregon. I am a sophomore this year and will transfer to a four year school next year to complete my education.

I am writing this letter to the tribal Council to express my thanks because this year I was awarded an undergraduate scholarship when the Council generously decided to offer seven additional scholarships to tribal applicants. I consider myself very fortunate and proud to receive this scholarship. It will enable me to complete my college education without having to take out substantial loans which I would have to pay back after graduation.

I also want to publicly thank Marion Mercier and Dean Azule for their help in attaining scholarship money, and to let you, the Tribal Council, know that these are good people and very supportive of students in the Higher Education program.

Finally, I also wanted to let you know that it makes me proud to say I am a member of the Grand Ronde Tribe when I read in the *Smoke Signals* about the housing project, the new health center, the health insurance program, the Elders' Pension program, and the various public donations to things like OMSI. I believe that is an excellent way to spend tribal income.

Again, I want to thank you for your support and commend you for your work.

Camden Kelley
Roll #3454

To the Editor:

I wish to add my two cents worth to the discussion on sharing Casino profits. I'd like to thank Mr. Haller. I planned on sending in my thoughts on the subject, but Mr. Haller did much better than I could.

What he says is true, especially about the few who are benefiting. I am an Elder and I am happy I am getting the monthly check and insurance. I'm also happy my children and grandchildren will too, someday. However, I don't think I am greedy by wanting to benefit NOW. After all, there are some of us who will not be around to share this happy future which "they" are forecasting.

Sincerely,
Sally E. Weiss
Roll #2765

Dear Tribal Council:

After reading my January 20 *Smoke Signals*, I felt that as a member I would try to explain why members are not happy with your decisions as a Tribal Council. Ed Pearsall's letter was very good, but as a tribal member living outside of the area, I benefit very little from my tribal membership. You say that we need to work together to achieve our common goal; that goal being in the long-term future. Well, that is all fine and good, but for most of us, the long-term future is now. After losing two family members in the last two years (my father and my granddaughter) and having a heart attack myself, it makes me wonder how you can justify this statement. Are you not supposed to help all members equally? We on the outside are making our own way with no help. What about you over there with all your benefits and jobs supplied by the Tribe?

My father and granddaughter passed away while waiting for your past promises to come true. They will never see any profits or benefits like you do, but I don't worry because I know you are looking out for us.

I don't understand why we can't have two or three Council members who live outside of the area on conference calls when the Council meeting is in session. If we can afford a new retail center (what are our qualifications to manage it, and are we going to let someone, not a member, manage it for us) we can surely afford a conference call! And while I am making suggestions, what about a tribal member booklet printed annually, that lists names, addresses, and phone numbers so that other members could mail them campaign literature, information, or opinions on issues? As it stands now, the Tribal Council members have control of the votes — isn't that nice. This will keep all the greedy and ugly people (basically 80% of the members that live off of the reservation) from getting upset, because we know that you are looking after your best interests! It seems to me that Tribal Council's policy is "They don't live here, so let's ignore them."

You asked for comments, so I guess what I am trying to say is that we are all tribal members equally and we should benefit equally and have equal say. We should plan for the future, but we should also take care of the present. I would like to hear from other members.

Cliff Gregg, Roll # 202
65317 Saddle Drive
Bend, Oregon 97701

Recent Tribal Council actions

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Kathryn Harrison called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. All Council members were present except Mark Mercier, who was on travel status and he was excused.

The Council unanimously voted to submit a grant application for \$50,000 for the purpose of historic preservation. The grant was written by Bob McElderry with the assistance of June Olson, Cultural Resource Protection Specialist.

The Government, Management, and Budget Subcommittee recommended publishing changes to the Tribal Tort Claims Ordinance and the Employee Claims Ordinance (See page 11). They also recommended to approve changes to the Housing Authority's repair and down payment assistance programs (see page 9).

Employee Curtis Rentsch asked Council to approve a one hour administrative leave for all staff on February 20 so that staff can attend a Safety Awareness Day at the Community Center, hosted by the Tribe's Safety Committee. Tribal Council approved the request.

SMOKE SIGNALS

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SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR READERS:

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UPCOMING DEADLINES:

Monday, February 16, 1998

Thursday, March 5, 1998



Printed on recycled paper.

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