

Letters

To The Editor:

I'd like to thank Chris Mercier for the wonderful story he did on the Restoration. It was fun for me to go back and remember the fun and sometimes heartache Restoration was for me. However, in reading the story I realized I had not given credit to the people who made it possible for me to assist in the effort. I want to do that now by saying thank you to the three people who supported me personally more than any other. Doug, Michael and Big Doug (sorry, it's how we tell son from Dad), thank you all for the sacrifices you made to allow me to work on the Restoration. I know I tried to explain many times what I hoped the Tribe's Restoration would mean for your Grandparents, Great-Grandparents and you but you were little boys and couldn't possibly understand all the things I told you. In spite of this, you were still there for me and always helped me so much. I love you boys. Big Doug — You **did** understand and I'll never forget that.

Doug & Mike Colton's Mom
Jackie Whisler
 Roll # 545

Dear *Smoke Signals*:

I always enjoy getting your paper, and although I don't know who did it, I thank whoever put me on the mailing list. I think it was Bud and Gerry Farlow. I enjoyed the article about Sarah Farlow, and although nervous when I read it, I found it a balanced and well-written piece. I was nervous because quite often articles about religion in the Middle East have anti-Jewish biases. I worry about that, and recall when almost all lawyers for Indian people were Jewish. I was proud to represent the Farlow family for many years, in their attempt to regain their ancestral land in Josephine County. I was at Wounded Knee, and was a lawyer for Peltier's acquitted co-defendants. I am also adopted son of Chief Howard Jim of Celilo, and I did the Salmonsam/Sohappy cases when I lived up in Portland. The bottom line is, you get good people and bad people in every religion.

Jack Schwartz/Shoshynsh
 Adjunct Professor of Indian Law
 Los Angeles

Dear *Smoke Signals*,

I would like to take a moment and respond to the article of "Through the Eyes of Islam."

I am the brother of Lynette Farlow (aka: Sarah Mohammed Farlow).

The views and beliefs that were stated by Sarah are not that of myself or various other family members. Islam is a religion that she has chosen to follow which my family or myself have no problem with the Islamic faith, but not to share her views and beliefs in regards to September 11 and Middle Eastern affairs.

But, I do have an issue how she speaks against the way America handles itself. Our American cultures and freedoms and it's affairs in the Middle East and will disclaim any actions there; but readily accepts the benefits extended to her as an American Indian and the monies she receives for the Tribe. I feel that she is playing both sides of the deck so to speak and is not being "true" to her Islamic faith by accepting the benefits by our Tribe. I feel she should not be able to live in one country as a citizen there and "put down" her native land while she continues to reap the awards of being an American Indian.

As a Veteran of a foreign war, I feel that what she said was a slap in the face to myself and my fellow Veterans and all those who continue to fight and sacrifice for this country so that we can continue to enjoy our freedom and liberties that are a part of an American.

I am an American!
 Sincerely,
Eldon B. Farlow, Sr.
 Roll # 1990

Dear *Smoke Signals*,

Thank you for writing the article entitled, "Through the Eyes of Islam." In light of what is occurring daily both in this country and around the world, it is extremely important that people begin to understand the basic concepts of Islam and what it means to be Arab. The rich history and diverse cultures of the Middle East are often either overlooked or misunderstood. While some differences are evident, similarities abound as well. In fact, the plight of Palestinians today and that of Native Americans of Oregon 150 years ago parallel each other to a great extent. Both saw the forceful taking of original homelands, that of which was reduced to a fraction of its original area. Today Palestinians face military occupation, curfews, checkpoints, home demolitions, and restricted access to essential necessities such as food, water and medical treatment, all for land and the protection of a minority through the repression of the majority. Compare this experience to Oregon Natives; forceful removal onto reservations, a constant military presence with no regard for the well-being of the people, causing the traditional means of survival to change by denying access to necessary resources, all for land and the protection of a minority through the repression of the majority.

We should all be able to embrace our distinctive cultures and beliefs, while living together in a community of humanity. Tolerance and compassion are fundamental tenants of cultures, societies, and religions throughout the world and should not be forgotten, whether one follows the path of the Creator, Allah, or Buddha.

As a Tribal employee for the past four and a half years, and a person of Palestinian heritage, I see the constant necessity of working to eradicate all of the different stereotypes and inaccuracies that still exist in today's world, whether it is regarding Native Americans, Palestinians, or any other group of people. Thank you for raising the level of awareness by writing this story.

Lindy Trolan
 Cultural Resources department

**SMOKE SIGNALS
 2002 DEADLINE SCHEDULE**

DEADLINE DATE	ISSUE DATE
Fri., January 4	JANUARY 15
Fri., January 18	FEBRUARY 1
Tue., February 5	FEBRUARY 15
Tue., February 12	MARCH 1
Tue., March 5	MARCH 15
Wed., March 20	APRIL 1
Fri., April 5	APRIL 15
Fri., April 19	MAY 1
Fri., May 3	MAY 15
Fri., May 17	JUNE 1
Wed., June 5	JUNE 15
Thurs., June 20	JULY 1
Fri., July 5	JULY 15
Fri., July 19	AUGUST 1
Mon., August 5	AUGUST 15
Tue., August 20	SEPTEMBER 1
Thurs., September 5	SEPTEMBER 15
Thurs., September 19	OCTOBER 1
Fri., October 4	OCTOBER 15
Fri., October 18	NOVEMBER 1
Tue., November 5	NOVEMBER 15
Fri., November 15	DECEMBER 1
Thurs., December 5	DECEMBER 15
Mon., December 16	JANUARY 1



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Our editorial policy is intended to encourage input from Tribal members and readers about stories printed in the Tribal newspaper. However, all letters received must be signed by the author, an address must be given and a phone number or email address must be included for verification purposes. Full addresses and phone numbers will not be published unless requested.

SMOKE SIGNALS reserves the right to edit letters and to refuse letters that are determined to contain libelous statements or personal attacks on individuals, staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council. Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Letters to the editor are the opinions and views of the writer. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of SMOKE SIGNALS, Tribal staff, Tribal administration or Tribal Council.



Members of: ■ Native American Journalist Association
 ■ Society of News Design
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**Ad-Hoc Committee
 Veteran's Services Office
 OPEN HOUSE**
 Wednesday, January 23
 10:00am to 3:00pm

Old Depot Building
 8615 Grand Ronde Rd
 Grand Ronde
 503-879-4584

Watch for more details in the next issue of *Smoke Signals*.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING
 Sunday, January 6 • Community Center
 The General Council meetings will start at 11:00 a.m.

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