

Education Department Continues to

■ Tribe adds new College Counselor and Advisor, Adult Education Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant to the mix.

Administrative Assistant DEB BACHMAN

Deb Bachman is probably the one new employee in education that most Tribal members will come to know first, since her duties as the Administrative Assistant have her playing the middleman in most communication efforts between Education staff and the student population. And really, she would say, the job encompasses a little of everything in the department.

Born in 1954 in Harlowton, Montana, Bachman is a real local, having spent nearly all her life in the Pacific Northwest. At a young age, the family made the move from the Rocky Mountain country to the badlands of central Washington, in Othello, where she would live until age 12. Norman Wetzel, her father, was in the grass seed business, and thus it's not too surprising that when electing to move to Oregon later on they selected Stayton as their next living location. Her mother, Mamie, drove school buses for a living. For them, at that time, Stayton with its calm country cool was perfect.

Bachman left, however, once out of high school and joined the increasing demographic of rural-to-urban emigrants that have defined Oregon for the past few decades. She moved to Southeast Portland.

It would be in Portland that she would meet her husband, Richard Bachman. For five years she would toil as a receptionist for Prudential before moving on to Pacific States Galvanizing, where she served in a similar position for 16 years.

Deb and Richard decided, after years of the daily hour-long commute to downtown Portland, that maybe the small town life might be due for a reprise. After her son Brandon and stepson Andy graduated from high school the couple uprooted themselves with daughter Stephanie and headed for a lovely five-acre piece of property just off Rock Creek.

Bachman would try stints with HR Jones and Cascade Steel before coming to work for the



Photo by Peta Tinda

Tribe. Richard, however, still makes the long drive daily to Portland, where he maintains his job installing air-conditioning.

The Tribe was ultimately the perfect fit for Bachman, as the pay was good and the locale hard to beat — only a few miles from home. Plus, the backwoods location allows for plenty of space and atmosphere for her favorite endeavor, gardening.

Through Oregon State University, she has been participating in a Master Gardener program, a course that like any other curriculum covers all aspects of the art. Bachman has found herself studying botany to a degree, insects and meteorological aspects (Just during our interview she was explaining why my own efforts to grow

garlic had gone awry).

"I've noticed the growing season here is really short," she said. "I've had a really hard time growing tomatoes."

Hence the plans to eventually construct a greenhouse, time and money permitting. Richard made her a potting bench for Christmas. Ironically, none of that has given her any ideas of extravagance for their garden. In that realm, she prefers to let nature do its duty.

"I want to keep my garden natural," she said. Three months so far has been enough to convince Bachman that Grand Ronde is a place that will be kind to her. She would like to stay for awhile.

"I enjoy working here," she said.

Tribal Youth Gather at Leadership Academy

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tempts to restrict access to records from the Reagan administration. I also told them that Native American journalism is rare and underrepresented. While the ambition for many might be to one day have their mate-



Photo by Justin Phillips

rial grace the *New York Times* or *National Geographic*, don't forget Indian Country has a horde of untold stories that even writers from the elite publications have little access to. Milk it, I told them, because it won't be around forever.

We also had to demonstrate many of the pitfalls of journalism. I brought in some stories where I had made some serious bumbles, to illustrate how easily a factual error can be overlooked and to show just how even a minute one can change everything. (No, I won't repeat them). Other stories showed point-of-view, and others the age-old and embarrassing practices of fibbing, exaggeration, and conflict of information.

Whether we made an impression or not I don't know. Many students asked for photocopies of pieces and one young lady even nudged me for some interview tips. She was writing for her school paper evidently. A handful of other students perused our newspaper samples, my old college textbooks, and one even fixed himself a sandwich.

◀ Motivational Speaker Chance Rush from Oklahoma

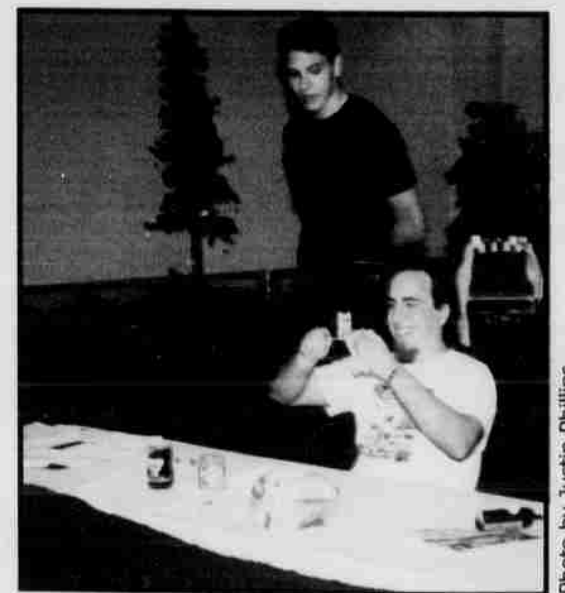


Photo by Justin Phillips

"First you spread the peanut butter..."

Tribal member Chris Mercier, freelance writer for the *Smoke Signals*, shows young people participating in the recent Youth Leadership Academy that journalism is like making a sandwich while freelance photographer Peta Tinda looks on.