

Tribal Library

By Chris Mercier

Libraries, and books, have always occupied a place in my life, if not my soul. Like a lot of people, I never knew the Tribe had a Library until recently, literally walking into it by accident one day. Two months later, I was hired as the Tribe's first full-time Librarian. Clearly, being a librarian and running a library, no matter how small, is one of those jobs that looks simple from the outside. From the outside...

Needless to say, working in the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Education Library has taken me back to university days, and not just because so many college students drift in and out of the main Education building. Mainly, it's the fact that not since college have I been routinely in the presence of books, of literature, of knowledge. I had forgotten how invigorating that feels. Thinking back to my time at the University of Oregon, which incidentally hosts the largest library in the state, it seems almost impossible to imagine reliving that whole educational experience without the Knight Library. It was and still is the Library of the Eugene's people, more than even the Eugene Public Library. With that in mind I can vouch, as can the dozens of Tribal members who have gone on to engage in post-secondary education and other educational pursuits, that there can be few more valuable resources in and to a community than a quiet, well-stocked library.

What a lot of people don't know is that the Tribe has always officially had a "library." Ten years ago that "library" consisted of a closet stuffed with used paperbacks and textbooks. Two years ago, when the new Education Complex finally opened, we were given 1,500 square feet to house our collection. Not surprisingly, the space allotted exceeded and still exceeds our present collection. But we're working on that, very quickly I might add.

Although the present Library came into being in 2002, not until 2003 was it given life. The Education Division scored a handful of IMLS (Insti-



Photo by Peta Tinda

Tribal students Maria Ramirez and Tana Ainsworth, both of Grand Ronde, check out books from the Tribal library.

tute of Museum and Library Services) grants that have gotten it up and going. First there was the Basic Services Grant, which helped fund a part-time and Saturday Librarian. That was followed by the Professional Assistance Grant, which provided means to conduct a Needs Assessment Survey, an invaluable resource in guiding the Library in the direction of what services to provide, what literature to carry, and what basic policies are needed.

To date though, the Library's biggest success has been securing the two-year Library Enhancement Grant in October 2003. It is through this grant that Education Division has been able to hire a 2/3 time librarian. Also, we were able train three employees on our newly purchased Follett Applications Software, a tool that has helped immensely in not only cataloging our collection, but in allowing us to move past the age of book sleeves and slow check-out procedures—we now have a scanner and barcode system that automatically tracks check-out periods, overdue items and makes reservations.

On May 22 the Library boasted its first Open House and more than four dozen people attended. We brought in a guest speaker who specialized in Coyote Tales, and a Native artist who traveled down all the way from Seattle blessed our Library in Kwakiutl.

As Year One of our Library Enhancement Grant nears an end, we are well on the way to 300 cardholders. We've begun a "bookmobile" system that allows for residents of Tribal Elders' Housing to request books and have them delivered to their doorstep, in addition to providing service at the Elders' Mealsite.

With the recent donation over 300 Indian books from Cultural Resources, our collection to date features 1,500 items ranging from books, periodicals, videos and DVD's on the way. Of that number, over half are Indian books, although we also sport plenty of fiction, non-fiction, books-on-tape, children's literature and reading for young adults. With less than half our shelf space full, you can count on us adding a lot more to our collection. We hope, as Education Division Manager Marion Mercier has put it, to become "the Library of the Grand Ronde Community."

You could call the Grand Ronde Education Library a work in progress. That it is. But it, as well as any other library, can best be summed up in a proverb I've lifted: "The library is an arsenal of liberty."

Education Scholarship

By Luhui Whitebear

The Education Scholarship is one of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's available funding sources for Tribal members pursuing a higher education. The scholarships are open to **any** enrolled Tribal member attending a two or four-year college, university, trade school, or vocational school. The scholarships vary by type and are automatically renewable as long as the student continues to meet minimum academic requirements. Deadline for all Education Scholarship categories is April 30 of each year.



Photo by Peta Tinda

Luhui Whitebear

2004 Highlights

The Education Scholarship name changed from Education Trust Fund Scholarship March 2004.

Scholarship List Serve offers monthly scholarship due dates via email. To be added to the list serve, please email: luhui.whitebear@grandronde.org.

Scholarship Manuals available! Scholarships for Oregonians, Scholarships for Natives, Monthly Scholarships and the Native American Scholarship Reference Guide offer thousands of scholarship opportunities outside Tribal funding.

Workshops included: Indian Health Services Scholarship Workshop, FAFSA Workshop, Scholarship Workshop and College Funding Prep Workshop.

Upcoming

- Advertisements in *Smoke Signals* for upcoming scholarships.
- Various workshops designed to assist you in your search for educational funding.
- Scholarship listings on the Tribal website.

In addition to maintaining the Education Trust Fund Scholarship student files, the Tribal Scholarship Office is a place for students to learn more about funding opportunities available to continue their education. There are countless scholarships and grants available to students that can be researched.

2004 Education Scholarship Graduates: 7

2004 Education Scholarship Recipients: 21

Total Education Scholarship students — 2004-2005 academic year: 73

If you have any questions about the Tribal Scholarship Office, or its available services, please contact: Luhui Whitebear at 503-879-1345, or 1-800-422-0232, ext. 1345.

Email: luhui.whitebear@grandronde.org.

Education Committee

The Education Division would like to send a special thank you to all of the Education Committee members for all of your hard work and support throughout the year!

The Tribal Education Committee was established by the Tribal Council to act as advisory to the Education Division.

Message from Education Committee Chairperson Patsy Pullin:

"The Education Committee has completed a successful year in 2003-2004. Our year includes working closely with the Education Division to provide educational related services. This includes assisting students with needs that may outside the realm of the Education Division. The pinnacle of the year is the review of the student Education Scholarship applications. As we review and read through the student packets, each student comes alive through their positive letters of recommendation, excellent academic achievements, outstanding sports accomplishments and various volunteer positions. On top of this, many students are also employed. It is not an easy process and each year the students are more competitive. Every student makes us proud. The Committee helps with the planning and presentations of the annual Honor and Recognition dinner which is another key part of our year. It is a time for us to meet and connect with students and let them know we appreciate their hard work. I felt especially honored this year to assist as spokesperson for this wonderful event. Each year we travel to conferences and trainings related to Education. Next year we anticipate more travel. A few of the local universities have invited the Committee to a day scheduled with a tour of the campus, program information and to meet faculty. During this past year we had one vacant Committee seat and one Committee member on leave of absence due to long term illness. Interested parties can contact me at 503-879-4543, or the Education Division at 503-879-2275 for an application."

Message from Education Committee member Marie Schmidt:

"I've been on the Education Committee since it first started. The whole Education Division was only three or four people. I've really enjoyed watch-