

SMOKE SIGNALS



JANUARY 15, 2005



"It Took Us 11 Years"— Shadows and sunlight alternated in the room as sun flowed between the timbers of the Many Nations Longhouse, dedicated on a beautiful day last week at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The light patterns were intended to mimic the look of light coming through old time longhouses. Coquille Tribal member Jason Younker (above), a teacher of Anthropology and Native American studies at Rochester Institute of Technology, helped welcome the crowd to the dedication.



Lone Ranger And Tonto In Eugene

■ A sometimes solemn and always appreciative dedication for the new UO longhouse enjoyed some comic relief when a phone call reminded us of our kitchy past.

By Ron Karten

Designed by University of Oregon graduate Johnpaul Jones (Choctaw Cherokee), now a Seattle architect, the Many Nations Longhouse dedicated last week on the University of Oregon (UO) campus is not a traditional style longhouse, but one filled with important symbols from the buildings as they existed back in the day.

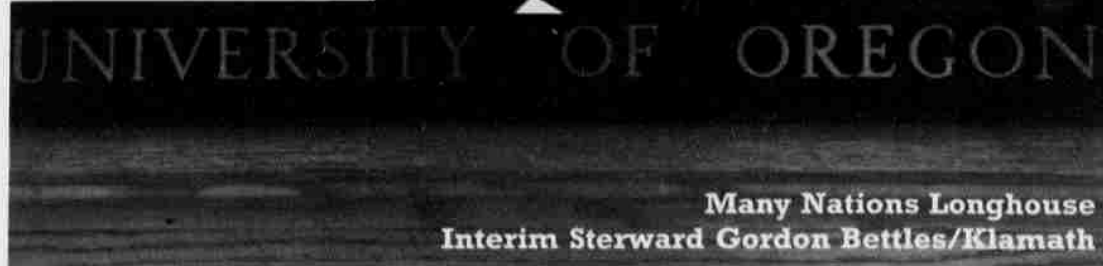
It is lined up on the cardinal directions, said Jones, so that visitors can enter and leave according to tradition. Native plants like camas will adorn the "living roof" in the mild seasons. A stone set in the wood floor "helps connect you to the



Tribal Council member Valorie Sheker-Robertson

earth," said Jones. The longhouse has a communal kitchen that is intentionally open to the rest of the building because hospitality is so big a part of Indian culture. It has a dance floor. It has fire and smoke both inside and out. And the big beams, though not of indigenous, old growth cedar, which is rare to-

All photos by Toby McClary



Many Nations Longhouse Interim Steward Gordon Bettles/Klamath