

March 2, 2010

Free Home? Or Home Free?

Who is Cindy Mala and why is she being paid over \$100K per year, and getting a free home? Not just ANY free home, mind you, but one that was built as a Heritage Center, for the Tribe, paid for by the tribe... and is now on its way to being put, at Tribal expense, onto her property?

At \$100K (or more) per year, is she unable to buy her own home? Must the Tribe now lose yet another piece of itself in order for her to have a free one? I don't get it. Do you?

From what I am told, this valuable home is being given to her without any debate and without notifying the Tribe. Aren't these topics that should be raised at the General Assembly Meetings?

Is it true that she is getting all of this and is not even an enrolled member?

From The Rez:

Here are some things to put in your blog and see if anyone e-mails you with answers or concerns about the following events that I was made aware of.

One of the things is that our Board of Regents at the college are made up of people who basically are uneducated, Evelyn Cavanaugh? sounds familiar, Jeanette Hearld, Alberta Redfox, and I don't know who is on there from Crowhill but Paul Yankton is the President.

There is a large Log Cabin that served as the heritage center and is now in the way of the new development plan instituted by Cynthia Linquist Mala, She apparently is going to move this Log Cabin to private property and make it her own home?

So on top of the enormous salary the college is paying her (100,000 +) she is going to get a free home on top of it.

She told the Board of Regents that she is in charge of the college and not them? They have no power to supervisor her and the decision she makes concerning who is hired and why they are fired?

I know also that the Council was going to put Vern Lambert as the Board of Regent member from Crowhill but Dr. Mala went to the Council and called him a crook and a thief and that he has no business on the Board?

I wonder if she calls taking that Log Cabin that belongs to the College stealing? Her reputation rivals that of NLO when it comes to no self respect, and no one trusts her, but she seems to get away with quite a bit.

Like it is a private college run by her and her family who all seem to be working there. Just something I was thinking about and wondering why no one did anything to control her, she seems to be big on control issues except when it comes to the Board of Regents controlling her.

Additional Questions:

These are some of the other things I have heard about visiting with different community members who are afraid to ask questions in the General assembly. They are comments I have heard from some of the elderly who are aware of what is going on in the community and with their families.

The past sitting tribal councils have nothing to point to as their contribution to our people. They have nothing to say when they are asked how have you advanced the tribe while you were on the council?

If they point to the Casino, the question should be what good has that Casino done for us? Work? Our people are in all the low level jobs there, and the people from Devils Lake hold all the Executive positions.

These things the tribe as a whole should be asking themselves. Our leaders from the past Councils built Four Winds, Sioux Manufacturing, Cankdeska Cikana Community College and since that time there hasn't been any progress, unless you call the two ball rooms built at the Casino as progress.

The Casino is the focus of the Tribal Council because that is where the money comes from to pay them, it is the money that they give out in loans to their relatives who squander in fake business plans.

Or is the possibility of our Headstart Program shutting down progress? How can people who have no credentials teach our little children? For a while now, the Headstart program has been the private pantry of a few workers who take advantage of the resources meant for the little children.

When the past Director took action and terminated the workers who were doing this, she was fired and the workers reinstated with back pay? How can things like that happen without any of the parents and community knowing about all this, and what was the Council thinking when they did that?

Our young people who are qualified in their fields move away and work for other communities where there is stability. They move away because of Tribal Council decisions just like the one made with the Headstart Program.

What kind of credentials does Peter Belgarde have? It seems like the people who go to the Tribal Council and rant and rave are the ones who have jobs? In the past we have had a Chief Tribal Judge that attempted suicide while sitting on the bench? Who hired that person and what if any were his credentials?

Now we have another former BIA police officer as a Chief Judge? No place else in the world would make a police officer a judge! Just because he was a former police officer. They don't know anything about the rights and laws that we have to protect. They are always violating the rights of our people while they were police officers and now they are in charge of the court system?

The whole thing is a bad joke to the people watching from the outside and the inside. It is no wonder why our young people feel like this is a hopeless place to live and take their own lives as a way out of this place. No one is safe here at Spirit Lake when decisions like that are made, who can they go to, and where can they turn?

In response to that last question: Unfortunately, until there is a Tribal Council willing to address these issues and to make corrections, not just play Big Shot, the only place you can take these questions and complaints is --here.

Until the Good People of Spirit Lake feel like they can safely raise important questions and question the processes and procedures that affect their lives, health and well-being out there, without the threat of facing reprisals and abuses, this Blog is all there is.

Now, There is more on Cindy Mala, but that will have to wait until next time. She, or anyone willing to defend her, is free to respond in this blog. But you must sign your name. If you are going to stand up for someone who is ripping off the people, you must sign your name.

If you are unwilling to sign your name, then I must assume that you know you are on the wrong side of this, and possibly many other, issue(s) out there.

Imperative

Your Elders are fading away, and heritage, history, culture is being taken with them. Your young are falling into addictions, futility, and suicide. What future are you looking at? It is both urgent and imperative that you all find a way to come together to make your community healthier and safer.

The schools, from Headstart on up, are damaged by greed, corruption and nepotism.

Your children are never taught anything about integrity, conflict resolution, compassion, empathy. No wonder their self-esteem is so low! No wonder your

young do not thrive.

The visible damage is the least of it. What lies just below the surface is much greater and widespread; much darker and more heartbreaking.

The young must be taught that they are valued as people. That they are important to their culture and that their heritage means something. They must be encouraged to go out into the world and be whatever they can be that will fulfill their destiny, not just as Indians, but as Human Beings with something to offer this world. They must learn that whatever they accomplish in this Walking World, is integral to every other person they have contact with or a connection to.

They must learn this from you and me. They must see that even before they can understand why, we are fighting for them, protecting them, guiding them and celebrating them. They must know that we care enough about them that we are doing all we can to clean up the messes made by government, corruption and genocide. They must see, so that they will someday know, we valued them enough to do this hard, overwhelming, oft times impossible and heartbreaking work, because they are imperative to our future.

They are imperative to our future, not just as Indians, but as Human Beings capable of great and wonderful things.

They are our future, and we are smothering them in blankets of corruption, then wailing at the loss.

The past is fading away and the future is too weak to thrive. Only we, together, can change this.

You know where to find me.

~Cat