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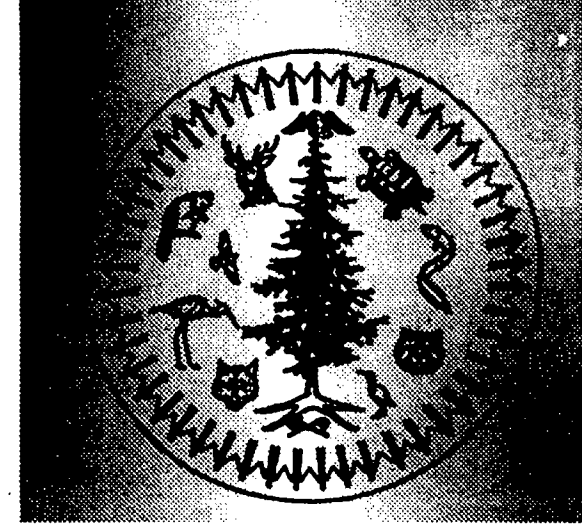
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Hillary Endorses St. Regis Mohawk Casino

by Neil Drew

Everybody's getting into the act. And you've gotta' love it; all the attention Akwesasne is getting these days from the politicians. Now it's Hillary Rodham Clinton who says she supports a proposed St. Regis Mohawk tribal casino at the Monticello Raceway in Sullivan County.

That endorsement Monday came only one day after New York City Mayor Rudy Guiliani said he backs the proposed gambling complex slated for the Catskills. Supporters say the emporium could gross as much as \$500 million on an annual basis.

The two pols, competing against each other for this fall's U.S. Senate seat from New York State, couldn't get into line behind the project fast enough. Howard Wolfson, Clinton's spokesman, said, "Hillary believes that the development of a casino at Monticello Raceway can be the spark for economic growth in the Catskills, and she supports it."

"At the same time," said Wolfson, "we must ensure that any development meets community needs so that the community benefits."

That marks a turnaround for the first lady. In 1984, she helped spearhead a campaign to defeat a proposed state constitutional amendment to legalize casinos in Arkansas.

Back then, Mrs. Clinton said that legalized gambling "is not as rosy and promising as it is being presented," and warned casinos tend to attract criminal activity and are a bad way to help fund public education.

Hillary had been silent until yesterday on the St. Regis tribe's effort to expand its gambling interests from Akwesasne to the Catskills, only 50 miles north of New York City. It took the Giuliani announcement of the day before to get her into the political fray surrounding the casino.

And, of course, Mayor Giuliani couldn't help throwing in a dig at Hillary over her sudden endorsement. Said his spokeswoman Kim Serafin, "The first lady is flip-flopping" on the issue. And she mocked Clinton by saying, "once again Hillary is following Mayor Giuliani's lead."

Last week, the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs gave the St. Regis Mohawk tribe permission to build the huge gambling facility near Monticello Raceway. Now it's up to Gov. George Pataki to decide whether to transfer 30 acres of

land at the raceway to the tribe. He's expected to do it.

Rowena General, a spokeswoman for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe told the Associated Press this week that, "The tribal council is quite confident of the Governor's approval." She added, "All indications have been that he's supportive."

Among the notables who vehemently oppose the new Mohawk casino is, predictably, billionaire New York City developer Donald Trump. The reason for that opposition is very apparent. Trump has a vast investment in Atlantic City, New Jersey casinos and wants to prevent the type of competition a new Mohawk casino so close to the metropolitan New York City area would create. Meanwhile, enthusiasm for the casino is super-intense in the Catskills where the economy used to be based on big-time comics and crooners. The Borscht Belt, primarily a Jewish resort region, has been in decline for years, short two very important economic factors; crowds and cash.

But residents of the depressed region are finding plenty to cheer about these days with what could be a financial rescue from a depressed economy in the form of the new St. Regis casino.

If the project doesn't stumble and fall somewhere during the final approval stage with the state, the Mohawks plan to build a 159,000-square foot complex complete with table games, video lottery terminals, poker and bingo. Estimates are that 9 million people would visit the casino annually, generating perhaps as much as \$500 million in annual revenues.

On top of that, the casino is expected to bring 3,000 new jobs and \$80 million in annual sales and benefits to the local economy. One of the area's most famous hotels, the Concord, which closed in November 1998, could reopen should the casino project go on-line. Louis Cappelli, a Westchester developer who bought the Concord and another equally famous but now defunct hotel, Grossingers, says if the casino becomes reality, he'll build a \$500 million year-round resort to complement the gambling establishment.

Five years ago, a plan put forth by the Oneida Indian Nation to establish a casino at the racetrack fell through during the development process.

Operation Salt Water Sampling Schedule

Hogansburg, NY, April 5, 2000 - The following is a revised schedule for the final round of water sampling being conducted in the Area of Concern.

- Operation Salt Water Tests April 3rd - 21st**
- Schedule of Sampling
- April 3rd-7th**
Drum St./Phillips Rd.
- April 10th-14th**
Cook Rd. and McDonald Rd.
- April 17th-21st**
Tarbell Rd./River Rd.
- April 24th-28th**
Missing Water Samples

Note: Times are not always going to be correct and if we cannot get a water sample from the home, we will need to make special arrangements. If you feel that we cannot get a sample from someone at home at this time or from an outside hose bib please call. Phone 518-358-5937 and ask for Shawn or Jim.

Farewell to our dear Friend!



The Akwesasne Seniors Day Program members are saddened at the loss of one of their members, Mrs. Harriet Adams. She was one of the first to join our Day Program in May 1998. Even though she had been in ill health for some time, she still managed to show up once in a while. Harriet always managed to cheer us up in her own quiet way. She will always be remembered by her friends at the Day Program.
 Harriet was one in a million.
Onen ki wa:he Agat.

Akwesasne Mohawk Police

IMPAIRED DRIVING - On April 8, 2000 around 5:00 a.m., Akwesasne Mohawk Police were called to a motor vehicle roll over on the Wade LaFrance Memorial Road in Snye. The driver had minor injuries and refused medical treatment. MICHAEL PAUL KING, 20, of St. Regis was arrested for alleged impaired driving. He was brought to the station for a breath test and was released on a promise to appear in Valleyfield at a later date.



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