# Siletz News II

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Sneak Preview

## New Tribal Order

143 pages of new laws are pending before Tribal Council. According to tribal officials, the new ordinances will soon be sent to all Siletz tribal members for review before final Tribal Council approval.

Right now, the new laws are sort of hard to get. Neither the Springfield Area Office nor the Central Office in Siletz had the proposed laws posted for public review. Nelsen Witt, C.E.O. for the Tribe, had the only copy of the ordinances that I could locate. Nelsen was gracious enough to loan me his personal copy for the weekend.

What follows is a preview of two new ordinances coming down the chute.

**Lawyer Rules**

Lawyers like laws. Laws give lawyers a sense of order. If there were just enough laws, lawyers believe, justice would finally prevail.

If you share that mindset, you will likely find the changes to the Tribal Court Rules and Procedures a giant step toward a better future. The new ordinance spells out the ins-and-outs of such legal maneuvers as responsive pleading, interrogatories, penitent privilege, summary judgement, and joinder of parties in enough detail to make any attorney happy.

But if you're a tribal member who wants a simple and inexpensive way to bring a grievance to Tribal Court, you will find the new code full of new barriers. For instance, if you want a relative to help represent you under existing law, all you have to do is ask. Any tribal member who is over the age of 18 is currently entitled to plead before Tribal Court free of charge.

The new rules, however, call for the establishment of a "Tribal Bar." Tribal members will have to "pass a prescribed test" and pay an admission fee of $50 in order to be a spokesperson before the Court. The likely effect of this provision will, indeed, be to "bar tribal" members from Tribal Court.

And unless a shorter guide to Tribal Court is prepared specifically for people who represent themselves in Tribal Court, the sheer bulk of the new ordinance and its "lawyer-speak" style will likely prove a hindrance (if not a direct form of intimidation) to

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## Last Year Words

**"About $150,000."** C.E.O. Nelsen Witt, responding to this reporter's inquiry as to how much Craig J. Dorsay, Tribal Council Attorney, was paid by the Tribe last year. The amount appears to be a tribal record.

**"Archeologists have taken over the Sacred Lands Committee."** Michael Berry, Sacred Lands Committee member after being ousted as chair of the committee midway through his term. Berry's dismissal from committee office was unprecedented.

Two tribal members who work for the Tribe, Arliss Chatterson and Bev Youngman, reportedly supported Tribal Council member Bensell Breon in ousting Berry. Both Chatterson and Youngman have college degrees in archeology.

**"The [Siletz Health] Clinic has stopped taking new non-Indian patients."** Judy Muschamp, Tribal Health Director at the November 7, 1992 General Council Meeting.

According to Clinic officials, over 1,000 non-Indian patients have been treated at the Clinic in the last 18 months—nearly 50% of the clinic patient load.

**"In consideration of the terms of this Development Agreement, Tribe grants Developer first right of refusal for execution of a Gaming Management Agreement with Tribe for construction, operation, management and marketing of a gaming operation under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act when the development phase of this project has been completed."** Contract between First Astri [Developer] and the Siletz Tribe, dated September 23, 1991 and signed by Delores Pigsley and Jessie Davis, Tribal Council Vice-Chair.

In the months since the agreement was signed, First Astri is reported to have paid the Tribe over $400,000 for gaming related costs [see page 3, "Open Forum," for a breakdown as of July, 1992].

**"The Gaming Commission and the Tribal Council has been studying various options for the management of the Siletz gaming enterprise. First Astri, a firm which has been involved in the development**

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