

Editorial

E Coosh EEWA:

(The way it is)



Letters to the editor

Law suit too costly an endeavor

To the Editor,

To those of you who have been following my case against the Tribal Council, I wish to report the following: "Do as I say, but don't do as I do," could possibly be appropriate. In my endeavor to right a wrong, the estimated cost to continue to continue going in circles is very costly and very financially difficult to continue with my case to prove the Tribal Council should have followed the Tribal Constitution and the Election Ordinance properly and not to ignore or do away with established election procedures in a very informal manner. Everyone makes mistakes, but it appears that it is difficult for our governing body to admit.

This has been very educational and a real "eye opener" in finding out in these times that I cannot, nor can any other Tribal member, obtain any remedy for violation of any civil rights within our "great" Tribal organization. This is a great change from the time, some years ago, that I defended a Tribal Council member in Tribal Court as the Tribal Council member's spokesman (para-professional lawyer), and I was successful in defending the Tribal Council member. That case was a matter of principle with me just as much as the present case that I now find too financially difficult to continue. If I were certain that I would eventually have my day in court, I would continue regardless of the difficult costs,

but even that objective is not certain. To date, it has just been a paper process by the attorney and the latest is that the Tribal Court could not handle the case. It appears to be a great run-around that is costly to me.

No one in the BIA or Tribes has, to date, come forth to tell me or hand me a document that tells me if I have any rights or what process I might follow. No one has proved that I am wrong.

I wish to thank the many Tribal members and non-Tribal members who expressed their agreement with my endeavor to right a wrong. I would like for all of you who have been genuinely concerned over the outcome of my case to know that I am not a quitter—I will continue to take a stand on

any issue that I feel is unjust, unfair or illegal; however, I am presently forced to make my opinions known in some other manner that is not so financially taxing. This country

was supposedly established by people fighting for their rights and so now I am being suppressed by the process or lack of process.

Lloyd G. Smith, Sr.

Fashion show scheduled

If you're interested in the latest styles and hairdos, plan to attend one of two of the upcoming fall hair and fashion shows to be held August 21 and 22 at Kah-Nee-Ta Lodge.

The first showing on August 21 will be during the Sunday brunch in the Juniper Dining Room. The second showing on August 22 will be held during a special luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Confederated/Warm Springs

room. Tickets are \$7.00 for the luncheon show.

The theme of the show is "The Changing Times." Fashions will be sponsored by Hopfenstiens and hair designs will be by Richard Herrera of "About Hair."

Models for the show are all Warm Springs residents and most are tribal or Kah-Nee-Ta employees. For further information contact the sales staff at Kah-Nee-Ta at 553-1112, ext. 436.

Yakima member concerned about chief appointment

To the Editor,

This is in response to an article in the April 30, 1983 issue of the YNR—"Ike appointed Chief" of the Rock Creek Longhouse by his people.

Well, I for one, along with other members, had no part in such an appointment. Some of the Rock Creek people didn't even agree with what was going on. But just like in other groups, no one would speak out. Some were afraid, some of us knew it wouldn't do any good because the groups responsible wouldn't listen to anyone considered dumb and not religious enough. The young people didn't speak out due to respect for their elders.

Well, I'm not afraid to write the truth the way it happened. I want the people to know the other side of the story, because I'm tired of one sided stories. I'm also tired of watching my brother Levi being put down by some of his own people. I can go on and on with all that's been happening this past year, but I won't. I just couldn't let it go on any longer and have people believe that "our chief" would "abandon" his people because he felt that his job as a Tribal Council member was more important, and that there was a conflict of interest as it was stated in the article. There was no conflict of interest in Levi being on the Tribal Council and chief of the Rock Creek Band. There couldn't be... because he wasn't getting paid for his position as chief.

Levi was never given much of a choice. They can call it that, but we know if he didn't step down voluntarily, they would have found

a way to remove him. Levi didn't want to step down but he was concerned for his family, not for himself. Levi felt that there had been enough bad words and feelings among the families of the Rock Creek Longhouse and maybe by stepping down, all the back stabbing would stop. But it is still going on even now. He stayed with it as long as he did with the same belief that a lot of other people have—that a chieftanship is a lifetime position. After being put through alot, he finally gave into what they had been pushing for since the time our father Gus W. George was chief.

I have talked to people from nearby reservations and they also believe a chief is for life. So in all reality his own people have declared him dead and appointed a replacement. When Levi was elected chief in 1963 (even after he tried to decline), he was elected unanimously by the people, the way this recent appointment was carried out, was not right. If anybody was going to do any appointing it should have been done by Levi himself. (No vote was allowed). It was clear that family wasn't exactly who they had in mind to be chief. And this may have happened if we had the choice to vote.

We knew that for a long time, but we always felt that we belonged because of our mother. Now that link is gone. In fact, the day Levi was replaced was also the day our beloved mother passed away and no respect was shown here by cancelling or postponing the meeting and resetting it for a later day because that is how eager the group was to replace him. So it doesn't

really matter anymore since our link to the longhouse is gone. It went as far as being told that the George family had no interest in the Black Wolf Cemetery issue at Rock Creek because we have our own cemetery at Pine Creek, Washington and that is where the George's would be buried. It makes me wonder if we should have buried our children, brothers, sisters and at last our beloved mother, at the Black Wolf Cemetery.

It has taken me this long to make up my mind to put this in the YN Review and Warm Springs Spilyay Tymoo papers, but I feel that it should be known that there were two sides to the article. I just couldn't have the people think that Levi "abandoned" his people when in reality, it was some of his people that "abandoned" him. I'm sure everyone knows he isn't the only one that has a home on the reservation and lives there which is also one of the reasons the group felt that he should step down.

Last, but not least, I don't appreciate some person going to different meetings as an "elected leader" of the Rock Creeks making statements concerning different issues, especially when I know that all of us don't have the same opinions. I do not want people thinking that we are all behind this so called "elected leader" I may not be as smart as some people, but I did learn some important values from my father and mother and one of them was respect for others. I would never go any place making long dramatic speeches about respect, loving one another and our religion and than turn

around and not even practice what I preach. I feel that my brother was treated without any respect, by people that preach about it so much.

I have written this just the way I feel because what happened was a direct insult to our family, but then again, it may have been a blessing that Levi was replaced as chief because now he does not have to go through the verbal abuse from ungrateful people and the stress of trying to please them.

To our family, the important factor is that his health will improve now, he doesn't have those added responsibilities of being chief and he will have more time to spend with his immediate family.

Thank you for letting me voice the other side of the story.

Isabelle George
Goldendale, Washington

**Editor's Note: This letter was submitted by Dalton Davis, Goldendale, Washington.

Tribal Council Agenda

August 15 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. Committee/Board Appointments: Water Board
Kah-Nee-Ta Board
Credit Committee
Education Committee
WSFPI Board

August 16 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. Low Power TV Station-Bill Marsh
2. 2:00 p.m. Budget Procedure

August Tribal Council/all committees, Agency Longhouse, 9:00 a.m.

1. 9:00 a.m. Orientation w/ staff

August 22 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. MOIHS Museum Storyline
2. 2:00 p.m. Enrollments-Dennis Karnopp

August 23 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. Health Code/Civil commitments-Howard Arnett
2. 2:00 p.m. Realty-P.O. Lease

Sidwalter District Meeting

Mike Clements Residence-7:00 p.m.

Agenda: Develop a list of concerns from people in that area

August 29 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. 1984 Budgets: WSPE, WSPFI, KNT

August 30 Tribal Council Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

1. 10:00 a.m. 1983 Financial Report