

# Officials in dispute

issue. area where the work is always somebody and somebody else and I've always told I can't say this my second hand. But who have seen this here and bring it to the Code or the in it's first-hand in then something up there around at work with the

timber industry and the sawmill, states that we are being taken for a ride and it's costing us. I've brought this to a couple of councilmen. It's got to be regulated, it's got to be watched, it's got to be policed all the time and our leadership don't do it."

The annual Yakama General Council convenes every fall in the latter part of November and when 250 eligible voters are officially counted. It takes 175 voters to reconvene any recessed session.

# Canadian cleanup study

(PAGE 1) better understand years of heavy has affected the affecting human Dunbar, spokes- A's Seattle-based manager of en- public affairs at Teck Cominco ok exception to tion. He said ie health studies the people who e and recreate in id whether they out risking their

after the Colville tribe requested it. The tribe, too, would like to see a cleanup take place without the "stigma" of a Superfund designation, because the tribe has important economic interests tied to recreation in the area, said D.R. Michel, a member of the Colville Tribal Business Council and chairman of its natural resources committee.

But if Cominco won't proceed with the needed studies, the Superfund designation may be necessary, the council says.

"We're willing to do whatever it takes to clean up our river," Michel said. "We've been here for 10,000 years. We're not going anywhere. We're in it for the long-term."

# No BIA nominee puzzling leaders

(Continued from PAGE 1)

get kids back in school at the end of the month. Our acting assistant secretary has taken on the responsibility as the assistant secretary."

"We're full force ahead," she added. "We're still getting other things done."

# QUICKLY

## NW Tribal bar association growing

SEATTLE - The Northwest Indian Bar Association announced this month that it has increased the number of Native American attorneys in its membership by nearly 700 percent. During the past fifteen months, the 12-year-old organization has seen unprecedented growth and credits its leadership in legal education, advocacy, mentorship and pro-bono legal work with the increase.

The rise in the number of Native American attorneys in the Northwest signals a nationally recognized trend toward greater involvement in the legal profession and more informed decision-making by their people. NIBA is the only Northwest minority bar association that seeks to empower Native Americans through legal education and expose the political and economic realities facing tribes across the region.

"We provide our people with a voice on the legal issues and decisions that affect the very essence of life in Indian Country," said two-term NIBA President Gabriel Galanda. "I believe it is that voice, that has begun to attract so many Indian people to the legal profession in Washington State and beyond."

"When NIBA was created there were only a handful of Native attorneys practicing in the Northwest, and virtually no Indian attorneys working in corporate law firms," said past-NIBA President Rion Ramirez. However, during the past 15 months, NIBA has grown its membership to more than 150 attorneys, expanded membership to Oregon, Idaho and Alaska and incorporated as a nonprofit. NIBA members now practice for high-powered national and regional law firms, state and federal governments, and on all 42 Northwest reservations.

Additionally, NIBA raised nearly \$20,000 to fund scholarships for Native law students throughout the Pacific Northwest. NIBA has now turned its attention toward adding a requirement to the Washington bar exam regarding testing on Indian law. Currently, New Mexico is the only state in the union to require testing on Indian law in its bar exam (Washington Law and Politics).

NIBA's recent achievements are of particular importance when considered against statewide and national research findings. According to Galanda, Native Americans are the most under-represented ethnic demographic in the legal profession. For example, tribal attorneys comprise just 0.7 percent of the Washington Bar and only three of the nearly 600 law students at the University of Washington Law School are of Native American descent. Nationally, 4.1 million people identify themselves as Native American but there are only 3,000 Native practitioners (2000 Census).

"We recognize that the rise in Native American attorneys in the Northwest is only just beginning," said Galanda. "But we are proud to be leading the charge."

## Denver mayor apologizes to family

DENVER, Colo. - The mayor of Denver apologized to the parents of a Native American baby who was taken by a social worker hours after her birth.

Sunshine was born August 1 to Victoria Goodluck and Phil Gates. Without explanation, the family says, she was taken away from her parents. She was returned three days later.

Mayor John Hickam