



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

Through December 15, 1995

1. **LESBIAN COUPLE MURDERED IN SOUTHERN OREGON:** Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill, a lesbian couple from Ashland, Oregon, were found brutally murdered in Medford, Oregon on Thursday, December 7, 1995. The two had been missing since Monday, December 4; their last known contact with friends or family came Monday when Ms. Ellis phoned her daughter to inform her that she was going shopping. Earlier in the day Ms. Ellis, who is a partner in a Medford-based property management firm with Ms. Abdill, had shown a duplex apartment. After phoning her daughter Ms. Ellis phoned Ms. Abdill and asked her to come to the duplex to help jump-start her pickup as the battery had died. Monday evening, Ms. Ellis' daughter had driven to the duplex to look for the couple; she told police that she had seen the car driving away and that the driver had eluded her when she attempted to flag the car down.

The women's bodies were found Thursday in the back of their pickup at an apartment across town from the duplex. Medford police Sgt. Mike Moran told reporters that the couple had died violently. Police are presently looking for a gray-haired man with wire-rimmed glasses who was seen at the duplex in a blue car with California license plates. Police say that the man is not a suspect, but is being sought for questioning.

The murder of Ms. Ellis and Ms. Abdill has shaken the gay and lesbian community around the region. The two were outspoken in defense of gay and lesbian rights, working to oppose the Oregon Citizens Alliance's anti-gay ballot measures.

2. **OREGON CHRISTIAN COALITION BACKS SMITH:** According to a fundraising letter dated November 15, 1995, the Oregon Christian Coalition (OCC) distributed over 300,000 copies of a half-page "voter guide." These supposedly non-partisan guides in fact leave little doubt as to which candidate Christian Coalition members should back. One side of the voter guide compares Gordon Smith to Norma Paulus, his challenger in the Republican primary, and the other Ron Wyden with Peter Defazio. The candidates are compared via their positions in support of, or in opposition to, a series of policy questions, including "Raising Federal Income Taxes," "Federal Tax Relief for Families," "Taxpayer Funding for Abortions," and "Voluntary Prayer in Public Schools."

The Coalition does not officially endorse any candidate—as this would violate its tax-exempt status—but the accompanying letter from OCC state director Rob Erickson removes any doubt about the organization's preferences. "The entire nation watched in amazement as Oregon became the only government to legalize euthanasia last fall," Erickson writes.

"Well, they're watching again as we prepare to replace Bob Packwood as US Senator.... I was there the day Packwood resigned and I have to tell you it was a very sobering moment.... Immediately, I began to pray for a pro-family, pro-life conservative to become our newest Senator."

"Putting action to my prayers, I'm working with Oregon Christian Coalition to help elect the right candidate. The enclosed Voter Guide is our way of making a difference! We are distributing over 300,000 voter guides in churches and bookstores throughout the state" (emphasis in original).

The Oregon Christian Coalition can be reached by mail at P.O. Box 13897, Salem, Oregon 97309, or by phone at (503) 375-8233.

3. **GRITZ IN IDAHO, CALIFORNIA:** About 150 people attended a presentation by Christian Patriot leader James Gritz Friday, November 11 at the Quality Inn in Pocatello, Idaho. Gritz was in the area to conduct the latest phase of his paramilitary Spike Training which focuses on "spycraft" scheduled for November 12. Gritz told attendees that the spycraft session would teach "how to employ, and defeat every means of truth detection, including Direct Interrogation, Polygraph, Kinesic Interviewing, Neutor Linguistic Programming..."

Gritz praised North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms and Idaho GOP Representative Helen Chenoweth. Gritz was also featured at an event in Visalia, California November 26. According to Christopher Sullivan of the Associated Press, Gritz and his supporters staged the burning of a United Nations flag.

4. **LAROCHE POLITICAL NETWORK IN THE NORTHWEST:** The followers of neo-fascist Lyndon LaRouche are holding regular meetings throughout the region. According to the Schiller Institute's Calendar of Events for November-December, 1995 LaRouche supporters are meeting in the following Northwest locales:

Tukwila, Washington—Every Wednesday, 7:00 PM at the Holiday Inn (11244 Pacific Hwy South in the Duwamish Room III).

Tacoma, Washington—Every Wednesday, 7:00 PM at the Days Inn (6802 Tacoma Mall Blvd).

Lynnwood, Washington—Every Saturday, 7:30 PM at the Hotel International (5621 196th St. SW).

Yakima, Washington—Last Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM at the Holiday Inn (9 North 9th St).

Mount Vernon, Washington—First Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM at the Travelodge (1910 Freeway Drive).

Portland, Oregon—Alternating Saturdays, 7:00 PM at the Best Western Inn (17993 SW Lower Boone's Ferry Road).

Vancouver, British Columbia—Alternating Saturdays, 7:00 PM at the Croatian Cultural Centre (1350 Commercial Drive).

LaRouche's cable access television show is widely broadcast throughout the region:

Seattle—Ch. 29, Saturday November 18 at 4:30 PM.

Portland—Ch. 27, Tuesdays at 6:00 PM; Ch. 33, Thursdays at 3:00 PM.

Snohomish County, WA—Ch 29, First Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM.

Moscow, ID—Ch. 37, check readerboard.

Spokane, WA—Ch. 25, Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

Tri-cities, WA—Ch 13, Monday at 11:30 AM; Tuesday at 8:30 PM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

Anchorage, AK—CH. 40, Wednesdays at 9:00 PM

LaRouche organizations are also represented on the internet at the following addresses:

LaRouche Home Page:<http://www.clark.net/larouche/welcome.html>

LaRouche Home Page:<http://axsamer.org/larouche.htm>

LaRouche e-mail:larouche@clark.net

5. **FAR RIGHT GROUP TOURS:** A group of far right activists calling themselves The American Sovereignty Group is touring the Pacific Northwest presenting seminars on land rights and tax issues. The group includes a number of well known figures in the Christian Patriot movement as well as militia organizers. Speakers in the Sovereign Group include Committee of 50 States activist Eva Vail Lamb, counterculture Christian Patriot Johnny Liberty, Joe Stevens of the Idaho First Militia, Attorney Steve Bertsch, Militia of Montana activist Carolyn Trochmann, Chelan county activist Ron Kurpui and Attorney Bill Drexler. Seminars are currently scheduled from 8:00-5:00 pm for the following dates and locations:

December 9th, Missoula, MT. Village Red Lion

December 16th, Great Falls, MT. Best Western Inn

January 6th, Boise, ID. Holiday Inn Airport

January 13, Portland, OR. Days Inn Downtown

January 20, Seattle, WA. Holiday Inn Boeing Field

January 27, Spokane, WA. Ridpath Inn

6. **CALIFORNIA CHRISTIAN MILITIA:** Dean Compton of the National Alliance of Christian Militias was scheduled to speak at the Granada Forum, in Raseda, California, on November 16th on "Operation: Project America," and protecting "the sovereign national borders of the United States from illegal immigration and invasion by foreign forces." Contact: Dean Compton, (916) 474-3456; (818) 385-4003.

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7. POPULIST PARTY DISBANDS, ADOPTS NEW STRATEGY: The Pennsylvania-based Populist Party of America is undergoing changes. Populist Party Director Don Wassal explained that at its last convention the party voted to effectively suspend activities and rejuvenate the organization as a "political association" called the American Nationalist Union. The Populist Observer, the party paper, will change its name to the Nationalist Times.

Wassal also noted that at the same convention, delegates endorsed the Presidential candidacy of Pat Buchanan, although there was also support registered for the candidacy of Charles E. Collins.

8. PATRIOT SHERIFF LOSES RACE, FACES CHARGES: Just days before the November general election Snohomish County interim Sheriff Patrick Murphy was charged with four felony counts of fraudulently obtaining prescription drugs. Combined with Murphy's involvement with far right leaders, the drug charges ended any possibility of his re-election. Murphy received less than 25% of the votes in the two-way contest.

The charges were brought against Murphy by County Prosecutor James Krider and followed an investigation into the trail of physicians. According to the indictments, Murphy saw as many as 17 physicians from 1993 through November 1995 and possibly faked injuries to obtain prescriptions. Murphy also drew fire for his late September 1995 appearance at a Preparedness Expo in Seattle. Investigators with the Coalition for Human Dignity observed Murphy accepting the praise and endorsement of Rick Dalton, an associate of far right activist Jack McLamb.

At the Expo, Dalton told the audience that if re-elected Murphy planned to put his employees through McLamb's American Citizen and Lawman's Association constitutional training course. In a story in the Everett Herald which exposed Murphy's appearance at the Expo, Murphy told the Herald that while he had no such plans, he was awaiting a copy of the far right group's curriculum.

9. SKINHEAD VIOLENCE IN SEATTLE: On November 5, 1995 two skinheads assaulted an Ethiopian cab driver in downtown Seattle. Those arrested were James Paul Walters, 24 and Eric Lars Larson, 24 both of Seattle. A third man, Jason Wolvang, 25-30, was at the scene but remained at large as of November 5. Walters is described in police reports as having "Skins" tattooed on the back of his head, while Larson has a bomb tattooed on the back of his head and tattoos covering his arms.

The incident began when the cab driver, thinking he was being flagged down for a fare by four white men, pulled the car over at the intersection of 7th Ave. and Bell St. When he pulled close to them, the men began using racial epithets and yelling, "What are you looking at nigger?" and "Don't look at us nigger." According to the victim, Walters, Wolvang and Larson then approached the vehicle. Walters and Wolvang struck him with their fists. Seeing Larson approach the passenger side of the vehicle, the driver quickly drove to the next intersection. The four men pursued with Wolvang throwing a bottle at the taxi and Walters throwing an unidentified object. Walters and Larson were arrested at the Hurricane Cafe when the victim and another witness identified them. The case is still under investigation.

A second incident took place November 14 when two white assailants, described as having closely cropped hair, vandalized a car driven by two Palestinian men. The incident began when the Palestinian men were followed by a black pickup truck in Seattle's Queen Anne district. As the Palestinian men pulled into a dead-end parking lot two white occupants of the pickup approached their vehicle. One of the white men smashed the back window of the vehicle with a pool cue; he then began hitting the roof with the cue. In the meantime, the second suspect began smashing the rear drivers window, yelling "this is a country for white people" and "white power." The Palestinian men drove away and called police. Damage to the car was estimated at \$500. According to the Seattle P-I, a 27 year old North Seattle man admitted that he and a friend had caused the damage, though denied that the incident was racially motivated. Suspected perpetrators in the case are Dennis Ramsey and Clifford Lacombe. The case has been sent to the King County Prosecutor.

10. HARASSMENT OF IDAHO NAACP OFFICIAL: Danny DePriest of Moses Lake, Washington will face trial for malicious harassment beginning Tuesday, December 19 in the Bonneville County District Court in connection to threatening to kill the president of the Idaho Falls chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The victim, Americus John-Lewis, described that while he was riding a bicycle July 20 a van pulled up beside him. Someone in the van yelled "Let's kill us a nigger tonight;" the van then followed him for a short while and drove away. Brian Keith Hansen, a key witnesses of the incident and the driver of the van, claims to have been giving DePriest a ride to Jackson, Wyoming. Hansen states that while he was

driving DePriest began yelling at people from the van. "He asked me to stop the van, but I wouldn't do that," Hansen said. "If I had been Mr. Lewis, I would have been afraid for my life." DePriest plead not guilty to the charge (Idaho Falls Post Register October 18, 1995).

11. MILITIA FORMS IN DEMING, WASHINGTON: About 45 people attended an inaugural meeting of the Washington State Militia in Deming, Washington November 11, 1995. The first speaker at the event was Sharon Pietela, an activist with the Bellingham-based Wise Use group the Coalition for Land Use Education. Pietela has also been active in an effort to create a separate Independence County in Whatcom County. Pietela stressed themes central to the Christian Right's attack on public schooling, criticizing Outcome Based Education and stressing the need for Christian education. She also made clear her dislike for diversity in education programs, stating

"There's a difference between reading and knowing about them, these different cultures that have some really strange practices. There's a difference between finding out about them and reading about them, and the next step, accepting what happens in their culture.... It's fine to learn about other cultures, but its not fine to accept their cultures" (event video).

A second speaker was militia figure Fred Fischer who said that "President Clinton has given over to the UN high commission of refuge control of our borders as to who and how many may enter our country...Clinton and the UN are in the process of browning America and lowering our standard of living" (event video).

John Tyner was emcee of the event. Supporters of the Bellingham-based Christian Patriot group Citizens for Liberty distributed material at the event. Also circulated at the event was the Northwest Survival guide, the publication of the Minutemen Militia of Seattle resident Sean Toeschner. Toeschner can be reached at 10406 3rd SW in Seattle and at (206) 764-3878. The contact address for the Washington State Militia is P.O. Box 714, Deming, WA 98244

12. MICHIGAN MILITIA SEEKS CONTROL OF TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATION: Activists in the Michigan Militia are attempting to use Township Associations throughout the state to press their attack on county, state and federal government. About ten township associations in the state have reported the appearance of militia members at recent meetings. The militia members are attempting to use the townships in a fashion similar to the Posse Comitatus. Apparently based on notions that intermediate levels of government can overrule state and federal law, militia members have gathered at township meetings and attempted to pass desired laws by a show of hands. According to Michigan Militia leader William Ordiway Jr., established Township Associations have kept this power from people in an effort to advance global government.

The militia activists have recently focused their efforts on the Norman Township based in Wellston, Michigan. According to Michigan Township Association executive director Larry Merrill, "People who talk to militia members say Norman is their test case. It's where they intend to show they can take over a town" (New York Times, November 11, 1995).

13. "EX-GAY" ACTIVIST BACKS I-166: Michael Johnston, head of the Alaska-based organization Kerusso Ministries, is on a Washington state speaking tour promoting Initiative 166, the anti-gay effort backed by the Equal Rights, Not Special Rights Committee. Johnston spoke in Yakima in mid-November and plans to make several more stops to help push I-166, supporters of which must submit over 181,000 by the end of the year to compel the legislature to pass the initiative, or, if it fails to do so, place it on the November ballot. Johnston, who is part of the "ex-gay" movement, told the Yakima crowd that he had been tricked into the becoming gay and "returned to his Christian roots" when he discovered that he was HIV positive.

14. AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHURCH VANDALIZED IN EUGENE, OREGON: The Bethel Temple church in Eugene, Oregon was vandalized and daubed with a swastika and racist slurs, resulting in approximately \$10,000 damage. In addition to the swastika, "KKK" was painted on the outside of the church and the words "die nigger" were written on a wall inside. The most severe damage was done to the inside of the church where the wood floor of the church was covered with motorcycle skids, light fixtures were broken and large holes were hammered into the walls of the Sunday school room. In addition buckets of red and green paint were through against windows, mirrors from the bathroom were stolen, shower tiles were smashed and a bathroom cabinet was

burned. In the church's sanctuary, every light was smashed, graffiti was sprayed on the wall and the altar was splintered. Deacon Henry Vert, who also serves as the president of the local NAACP branch, told reporters that the church had been vandalized in the past, but never this severe. Luvert said that police had been unable to catch or stop vandals in the past and that "We won't even call them (police) this time... I doubt anything would happen." (Eugene Register Guard, Nov 2, 1995)

15. NATIONAL DECREASE IN HATE CRIMES?: The Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a decrease in hate crimes from 7,684 to 5,852 between 1993 and 1994. The Bureau also reported that murders motivated by hate had dropped from 20 to 13. However, the F.B.I. figures are significantly unrepresentative. Though a 1990 federal law requires the agency to compile an annual report of hate crimes, local police departments are not required to report their hate crime data. Bureau officials pointed out that not all police departments that reported in 1993 did so in 1994, and though more reported in 1994 than 1993, the departments reporting covered only 58% of the country's population (New York Times, November 16, 1995).

16. POPULIST PARTY HEADS MATTHEWS MEMORIAL: Harry Schmidt, a well known neo-Nazi and state chair of the Washington State Populist Party, was a lead contact for a memorial gathering held on southern Whidbey Island, Washington December 9, 1995 for Order leader Robert Matthews. Unlike past years when the event was held at South Whidbey State Park, this year the event was held at an undisclosed residence. The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan announced the event over their Tacoma-based hateline.

17. HLI ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS: Human Life International, a radical Maryland-based anti-abortion umbrella group, has announced plans to build a new multi-million dollar international headquarters in Northern Virginia. Founded by Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, the predominantly Catholic HLI network has been linked to anti-Semitic, racist, anti-Moslem and neo-fascist statements and causes. In a November 1995 fundraising letter, Father Marx made an appeal for "selfless pro-life activists" to contribute \$365 each toward the construction of the \$2.9 million, 50,000-square-foot structure. According to Marx, 81.9 acres have already been purchased near Christendom College in Front Royal, and construction on the new facility has begun. Marx writes: "By the generosity of many gracious souls, we've managed to raise \$1.6 million up to this point.... But now we face the daunting task of raising the \$1.3 million it will take to complete" the project.

18. DAVID BARTON TO SPEAK IN PORTLAND: Christian Right historian David Barton, head of the Texas-based Wallbuilders organization, is scheduled to speak in Portland January 12-13, 1996. The event will be sponsored by the "Columbia School of Public Leadership" (503-697-3770) and held at the Western Seminary (5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd). Barton is a strong opponent of separation of church and state who uses anecdotal evidence from the writings of the Founding Fathers and obviously bigoted portions of pre-revolutionary colonial constitutions to make the case for a "Christian America."

The front cover of the Fall 1995 issue of The Wallbuilder Report features a color drawing of Africans, chained by the neck, being led off into slavery by other Africans. The accompanying article, titled "The Race Card," is a defense of the Founding Fathers against charges of racism. True to form, Barton does not refer to the work of any specific historian nor attempt to debunk the charges against any specific historical figure, but rather selectively lists the supposed anti-slavery credentials of some of the signers of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence. Morally and intellectually bankrupt is the most apt description of such a technique—particularly coming from a man who did not hesitate to speak at meetings hosted by Christian Identity racists Pete Peters and Mike Watson.

19. JOIN THE 500 CLUB: The Christian Coalition may be the most aggressively marketed political organization in America. Coalition supporters were recently mailed invitations to become "Charter Members" of the organization's 500 Club—meaning people who donate at least \$500 to the group—complete with a printed membership card. 500 Club charter members receive a Certificate of Recognition, a permanent name badge to be worn at all Christian Coalition events, a lapel pin, 500 Club stationary to be used in writing letters-to-the-editor and to Congress, and access to a Hotline to call with questions about Coalition activities. This is in addition to the Christian American, God and Country Calendar, and various Voter Guides distributed to all Christian Coalition members. The 500 Club brochure indicates that membership in the Club will help to support the distribution of 17,000,000 Congressional Scorecards and 33,000,000 Voter Guides between now and the November 1996 elections.

20. OCA MAILS PETITIONS: The Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) has been mailing petitions for its new anti-gay rights ballot measure initiative to its financial supporters. The petition heading states: "Amends Constitution: Restricts Local, State Government Powers Concerning Homosexuality." The ballot question, printed on the reverse side, asks: "Shall constitution forbid basing civil rights on homosexuality, other sexual behaviors, desires; bar spending funds in way approving homosexuality?" A summary of the proposed constitutional initiative is also included. The chief petitioners of record are OCA chair Lon T. Mabon, OCA political director Phillip Z. Ramsdell and Kristia M. Mabon, Lon's daughter. The OCA will have to collect 97,681 valid signatures by July 5, 1996 in order to place this new attack on gay rights on the November ballot.

21. OCA BACKS HAYDEN AGAINST SHANNON: In a move to punish anti-abortion activist Marylin Shannon (R-Salem), the incumbent state senator in Oregon's District 15, for voting against their candidate in the election for Republican Party Chair, the Oregon Citizens Alliance has endorsed state Rep. Cedric Hayden of Linn County for the seat. Shannon, who was appointed to her state senate seat when Jim Bunn was elected to Congress in 1994, is one of the best known Christian Right activists in the state. Lon Mabon wrote a vituperative editorial in the OCA's newsletter last spring attacking Shannon and several other prominent Christian conservatives and erstwhile OCA allies for "bailing ship" and voting for Randy Miller as state GOP chair.

22. DEXTER AMEND—AGAIN: Homophobic Spokane County coroner Dexter Amend continues to outrage public feeling with his outrageously bigoted efforts to target gays. Most recently Amend requested an autopsy be performed—without the permission of the family—on a gay man who died of AIDS "to establish that homosexual sodomy caused his death." George Lindholm, the Spokane forensic pathologist whom Amend asked to perform the autopsy declined with exasperation. "I'll be doggoned if I'm going to be involved in somebody's public witch hunt to pry into the lifestyle of individuals under the guise of some sort of quasi-scientific endeavor" (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Dec. 2, 1995). The coroner is the subject of a recall movement that is currently stalled under Amend's appeal to the Washington Supreme Court. He first became the object of public ire when he made bigoted comments about gay men last summer. Amend is currently being investigated by the state's Medical Quality Assurance Commission.

23. ANTI-CHOICE PATROLMAN FIRED FOR COERCING COUPLE: Washington State Patrolman Lane Jackstadt has been fired for misconduct in connection to his detention of a couple in route to an abortion clinic. According to internal investigations commander Capt. Robert Lopez, Jackstadt was found to have violated the State Patrol's code of ethics which prohibit officers from disfavoring someone because of race, sex or religious and political belief. Jackstadt's firing was the result of a July 27, 1994 incident in which the officer pulled a young couple over for speeding. The couple, on their way to an abortion appointment, said Jackstadt threatened to keep them by the road all night if they did not go with him to an anti-abortion counseling center. The couple followed him.

Jackstadt was tried in King County Superior Court on charges of unlawful imprisonment in May 1995, but the case ended in a mistrial. He was fired in January 1995 for having cheated on a 1993 promotional exam. An arbitrator reinstated Jackstadt five months ago after the Washington State Patrol Troopers Association intervened on his behalf. Mark Soper, vice-president of the union told reporters that the union will review the reasons for Jackstadt's latest dismissal to determine whether to support an appeal (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 21, 1995).

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to chdpdx@aol.com. Alternatively you can mail such items to the address below or call us either in Portland or Seattle at the numbers listed below. CHD Research staff rely upon such information to fill out much of the Northwest Update and we appreciate your contributions. •••