



# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## NORTHWEST UPDATE

Through September 1, 1995

1. **SPOKANE CORONER COMES OUT AS A BIGOT:** Recent remarks by Dexter Amend, the 76 year old Coroner of Spokane County, have spurred human rights groups to call for his resignation. Speaking about the apparent long-term sexual abuse of a nine year old girl murdered by her heterosexual uncle, Amend stated that "She'd been sodomized over and over and sodomy is a homosexual act. It is. To have everybody thinking homosexuality is OK is a bunch of baloney." Amend continued, stating "I don't care what the political ramifications are on this. It's a horrible unbelievable thing that this child went through and they [homosexuals] destroyed her life." Amend's outlandish statements are based on his belief that only homosexuals engage in anal intercourse and that "all they [homosexuals] think about is sex and lust all the time. They had an innocent victim and they took advantage of her." Amend also referred to homosexuals as "abnormal" and "animalistic," declaring that they should be "condemned" for destroying lives (Spokane Spokesman Review 8/11/95 and 8/9/95).

Members of the Spokane Human Rights Commission have called for Amend to resign on the grounds that his statements promote violence against gay men and lesbians. A Spokane Spokesman Review editorial of August 12, 1995 stated that "The coroner needs to be a level-headed manager with a background in medicine, a good listener who's open to compromise. So far, Amend has shown he's more volatile than qualified."

A rally of 150 people calling for Amend's resignation was followed by a raucous gathering of more than 300 people who welcomed Amend as a hero on Sunday, August 17. A recall drive was begun by critics on August 29.

2. **GOP & MILITIAS:** A July 26 Washington Times Op-Ed by Peter King, a 2nd term Republican Congressman from New York's 3rd District, argues for conservative denunciation of the militia movement. In "Why Republicans must repudiate the militias" King writes, "The so-called 'citizens militia' movement threatens the very fabric of a democratic society. Shouldn't we be concerned by scores of heavily-armed private armies being fueled by a steady diet of screwball conspiracy theories, heavily-laced with xenophobic and racist elements? I think so.

"I also think that the failure of conservative Republicans to completely disassociate ourselves from these radical extremists threatens the very viability of our party. I say this as one who has been active in conservative politics since the Goldwater movement in the early 1960s. (Unlike some of my GOP contemporaries, I was never a Rockefeller Republican).

"The Democratic Party has yet to recover from its takeover by radical liberal elements in the late '60s. I believe the GOP faces similar long-term political damage unless we denounce the militias in no uncertain terms. Until we do that, the Republican Party runs the risk of marginalizing itself and being perceived as a party of lunatics.

"My stand against the militias is firmly rooted in conservative thought and tradition. A major test of a political movement is whether it can detect extremist fringes and then have the courage to shed them from its ranks. Barry Goldwater and National Review passed this test back in 1962 when they denounced the Minutemen (the militia movement of its day) and the John Birch Society. We can do no less in 1995. . . .

" . . . Any armed force with a political agenda in a democratic society is a threat to republican government. That is why I cannot understand those who say that "militias are no threat to legitimate government." Who is going to decide what is "legitimate"—the head of the Michigan Militias, or the commander of the Montana Militia, or "Mark from Michigan?" Under our Constitution legitimate power rests with the people through their elected officials, not through unelected, self-styled militia commanders. . . . "

3. **GAME SHOW HOST ON BOARD OF RIGHT-WING THINK TANK:** An August 3, 1995 press release by the Sacramento-based Project Tocsin, a group that monitors the right-wing in California, highlighted the role of "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat Sajak in religious right circles. From the press release:

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“Pat Sajak, host of Merv Griffin’s “Wheel of Fortune,” one of the country’s most popular game show has become a member of the Board of Directors of the Claremont Institute, a leading conservative think tank which has close ties to the most extreme leaders of the Religious Right.

“For several years the Sacramento office of the Claremont Institute shared office space with Capitol Resource Institute, a political front for Focus on the Family, and the Western Center for Law and Religious Freedom.

“The most prominent member of the Claremont Board is Howard Fieldstead Ahmanson, Jr., heir to the Home Savings and Loan empire. Ahmanson is a Christian Reconstructionist who also sits on the Board of Trustees of Chalcedon, Inc. the leading Christian Reconstructionist organization in America. Ahmanson has stated that his desire is to use his fortune to see that we have Biblical Law integrated into our everyday lives. (From: Project Tocsin, P.O. Box 163523, Sacramento, CA 95816).

**4. ARYAN NATIONS LEADERSHIP CHANGE:** On August 4 Tim Bishop stepped down from his position as chief of staff at the Aryan Nations compound in Hayden Lake, Idaho. Bishop’s departure from the neo-Nazi group is reportedly related to a difficult divorce with his wife Rhonda. According to Aryan Nations head Richard Butler, Bishop is on temporary leave and remains an Aryan Nations member. According to the Spokane Spokesman Review of August 5, one source reported that Tim and Rhonda Bishop had clashed with Gerald Gruidl, the director of Aryan Nations’ prison ministry. Gruidl replaced Bishop as chief of staff.

During his career as a racist Gerald Gruidl has metamorphosed from promoting old-style Ku Klux Klan segregationist racism to embracing the neo-Nazi ideology of the Aryan Nations. Gruidl was a one-time chaplain, or Kludd, for the California Realm of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization once known for its public denunciations of Nazism. Gruidl was quoted in 1984 as saying that “I represent the Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. We don’t want any affiliation with any Nazi ideology. We do not adopt Nazi ideology.” Gruidl named the Aryan Nations as an organization with which his Klan was not affiliated.

In 1984 Gruidl told the Idaho State Journal that he was a pastor with the Christian Heritage and Identity Church in Fontana, California. During this same period, while an Invisible Empire Kludd, Gruidl was involved in establishing Klan chapters in Pocatello, Idaho where a black family’s home and car were defaced with the letters “KKK.” Gruidl denied that his group was involved in the incident, at the same time accusing the family of wanting to “bust the white neighborhood.”

**5. CHD TRAININGS & EVENTS:** CHD Executive Director Jonathan Mozzochi travelled to Black Lake, Michigan during September 5-9 for a three-day meeting of the Civil Rights Division of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW). Mozzochi conducted six workshops on domestic terrorism, emphasizing the growth of citizen militias for 400 UAW civil rights delegates. UAW local civil rights committee chairpersons and Union officials from across the United States participated.

CHD Research Associate Robert Crawford travelled to Walla Walla, Washington in August and Boise, Idaho in September, with Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment executive director Bill Wassmuth for two training sessions on responding to radical right attacks on the environmental movement. Additional trainings are scheduled through October.

**6. IDAHO CITIZENS ALLIANCE FILES INITIATIVES:** Aside from the Idaho Citizens Alliance’s (ICA) new attack on gays and lesbians—the “Family and Child Protection Act”—(see Northwest Update July 15, 1995) the religious right in Idaho has launched three other 1996 ballot initiative campaigns. ICA chairman Kelly Walton told the Twin Falls Times-News that the ICA will collect signatures for all four initiatives.

An anti-abortion initiative is being proposed by “Idahoans for Compassion,” headed by former ICA communications chair John Slack. The “Protection from Late Term Abortion Act” would make it illegal to perform abortions after the 13th week of pregnancy, “expand the legal recognition and protection of the fundamental right to life of living children during their prenatal development,” and give parents (even grandparents, in some instances) the right to sue abortion providers who violate these restrictions.

There are also two “education reform” measures being promoted. Idahoans for Choice in Education will offer the “Non-Public-Education Enhancement Act,” to provide \$500 tax credits to those who don’t enroll their children in public school, and another measure aimed at removing requirements that school boards negotiate with teacher’s unions, an attempt to cripple the Idaho Education Association.

Kelly Johanasen, a Cassia County financial planner, has become the new executive director of the ICA, while Kelly Walton says that his organization may seek to unseat several unnamed Republicans in the May 1996 primary election for their lack of support for the ICA agenda.

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**7. IDAHO CITIZENS ALLIANCE PHONE WARS:** The Idaho Citizens Alliance has launched an effort to turn customers away from using AT&T as a long distance provider and towards using AmeriVision Communications, a Christian Right-led long distance provider based in Oklahoma. ICA chair Kelly Walton told the Lewiston Morning Tribune that "The AmeriVision program presents a unique opportunity to save money and help us preserve family values in our state and our nation at the same time. Remember AT&T is supporting the homosexual agenda, even advertising in their publications. You can fight their agenda and help ICA at the same time." AmeriVision is offering a program through which ten percent of long distance payments gained through the ICA will help finance the group's anti-gay initiative crusade next year. ICA's anti-AT&T effort is apparently linked to advertisements the company posted at the Gay and Lesbian Olympics. AT&T spokesperson Nancy Crispino told the Tribune that "We treat everyone with respect and dignity and therefore don't make those judgements. Frankly, I don't know what they mean by the "homosexual agenda."

Jack Parsons, the vice-president of marketing for the five-year-old AmeriVision, traces the "homosexual agenda" back some 2,000 years, declaring that "as a Christian company, homosexuality, as far as 2,000 years of Christian history, is an aberration and wicked evil." The long distance bigot claims that his company does business with roughly 3000 "Christian" organizations.

**8. HATE CRIMES IN WASHINGTON STATE:** According to a report issued by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, reported hate crimes dropped 31% statewide in 1994 as compared to 1993, though such crimes increased over this same period in several rural counties. The report stated that 337 hate crimes were reported statewide in 1994, down from 488 in 1993. The largest reported decreases in hate crimes were in King and Pierce county, where hate crimes dropped by 48 and 24 percent, respectively. Reported hate crimes in Clark county, in southern Washington, doubled during 1994 while increases were also seen in Clallam and Whitman counties.

The bulk of the reported hate crimes were racially motivated (60%) while 14% were assaults based on sexual orientation. Larry Fehr, executive director of the Washington Council on Crime and Delinquency attributed the decline to the criminalization of hate crimes and to public education. Dave McKay of the Clark County Sheriff's Department, however, attributed the changes to "probable reporting issues."

**9. ANTI-GAY DEMOCRAT MAKES BID FOR OREGON STATE HOUSE SEAT:** Harry Hewitt, an anti-gay, anti-abortion Democrat, is attempting to gain the 1st District state house seat of Rep. Tim Josi, a Bay City Democrat who is stepping down from his third two year term to take a job in Hawaii. Hewitt is one of three people bidding for the position which, by Oregon law, will be decided by the commissioners of the counties in the district—Tillamook, Clatsop, Washington and Columbia. Hewitt has been a supporter of OCA efforts to block gay and lesbian civil rights bills and is opposed to abortion under any circumstances. The 49 year old Democrat, however, voted for Clinton and opposes Oregon's School Reform Bill and Republican identification with "big business."

**10. LAUCK OUT OF LUCK:** Gary Rex Lauck, the leader of the Nebraska-based NSDAP-AO, may soon be facing trial in Germany for distribution of hate propaganda, membership in the outlawed NSDAP-AO and inciting racial hatred, charges for which he could face up to five years in prison. Lauck moved closer to facing a German judge when Danish courts denied an appeal to block his extradition to Germany. Lauck, who appealed on the grounds that distributing hate material is legal in the United States, has twice previously appeared before a German magistrate. In 1974 he was expelled from Germany as an undesirable alien and in 1976 he was arrested in Mainz in possession of over 20,000 swastika stickers. For the 1976 offense Lauck was jailed for three and one-half months before being deported to the U.S.

Despite Lauck's problems, the organization has managed to recently get out copies of both the English language New Order and the German language NS Kampfruf (Searchlight, August 1995).

**11. COVINGTON MAKES BID TO BE TOP NAZI DOG:** With NSDAP-AO leader Gary Lauck possibly on his way to a German prison, National Socialist White People's Party head Harold Covington has made a bid to take over the organization's international networks. In his PLEXUS newsletter, subtitled the "Free Forum of the Pan-Aryan Movement," Covington announces: "It will be the duty of the International Union of National Socialists (IUNS) to try and fill the vacuum left by the departure of the NSDAP-AO. The IUNS must be the voice for National Socialists worldwide and carry on the struggle but under a new light." His bid for Lauck's seat as America's international Nazi liaison accompanied a critique of Lauck, stating that "somewhere along the way he fell victim

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to the peaceful song of Liberal Democracy and it devoured him in the wink of an eye.”

Covington's attempted takeover of Lauck's networks is an uphill task. Lauck has built strong ties in Germany which Covington will find difficult to displace. Covington has also failed to build even the distribution networks that Lauck had built around the U.S. Both are short on substantial U.S. organization building, and Covington has done little to make friends with neo-Nazi leaders at home, continuously picking fights with leaders such as William Pierce, Tom Metzger and the now deceased Ben Klassen. Following a recent attack by Covington on a small group called the Aryan Revolutionary Army, his target struck back with information that can only make Covington's job more difficult, claiming that Covington had passed information to a government agent resulting in the arrest of an NSWPP member (Searchlight August 1995).

**12. ANTI-GAY HARASSMENT IN SCHOOLS:** A report released by the Safe Schools Coalition of Washington State shows that for the year ending July 1 there were 27 incidents of anti-gay and lesbian harassment and violence at 18 schools within the 12 districts in Washington state. The incidents included five assaults and eight child and teen rapes. The report also documents four attempted suicides, with one succeeding. About one-third of the cases cited were not brought to the attention of school officials. The cases described in the report were based on interviews with callers to the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. Those wishing to report incidents of anti-gay and lesbian violence can contact the Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities in Seattle at 323-0220 or, outside Seattle at 1-800-527-7683.

**13. RACIALLY MOTIVATED ATTACK IN GRESHAM:** Eight white males, ages 14 to 20, apparently attacked an African-American man in Gresham, Oregon in late July after he verbally responded to a slew of racial slurs. The incident started when four white males began yelling racial epithets at Billie Jones, a former track athlete at Gresham High School, as he passed by in an automobile with friends. Jones apparently jumped from the vehicle, responding verbally to the slurs, at which point he was pushed to the ground. Jones struck back and the group began hitting him with metal rods and sticks with four more white males joining the attack. Jones was able to run away. The police report classifies the incident as third-degree assault and notes that the attack was probably racially motivated. Jones was unable to identify the attackers, though the driver of the vehicle can apparently identify four of them.

**14. TWO MEN FACE MALICIOUS HARASSMENT CHARGES:** Johannes Robert Lappin, 23, and James Robert Justin, 20, face charges of malicious harassment after they threatened a white woman married to an African American man in Renton, Washington in late July. The two, who had reportedly been drinking, began yelling racial slurs and threats at the woman as they walked past her and a friend conversing near a condominium complex in Renton. Witnesses told police that Lappin began yelling that someone should "kill" black people and homosexuals in the neighborhood. Lappin then escalated, directing a barrage of racial slurs and obscene statements at the woman, screaming that he would kill "everybody." Justin reportedly then yelled, "I'm the KKK, I'm a skinhead."

When the women ran inside the complex, Lappin followed and began kicking the door, continuing to yell threats and saying, "if it ain't white, it ain't right." When police arrived, Lappin resisted arrest, attempting to kick out a window in the car and yelling racial slurs. The two face felony charges of malicious harassment.

**15. AMERICA FIRST PARTY ISSUES PLATFORM:** The Smyrna, Georgia-based America First Party, Inc. has issued a party platform denouncing interracial marriage, attacking affirmative action and calling for an anti-crime campaign against people of color. The party is also recruiting candidates. The platform plank on interracial marriage declares, "Race mixing conflicts with the laws of God and nature. Interracial marriage was banned in most states until 1955. We demand restoring laws against such activity as it leads to the mongrelization of the races and the resulting collapse of civilization."

Other excerpts from the racist party's platform play on many themes currently central to some Republican leaders and presidential hopefuls:

"Stop Immigration. We call for a moratorium to all immigration.... If immigration is not stopped, White [sic] people will be a minority in their own land within 30 years!

"End Discrimination Against White Americans. Anti-White discrimination is official government policy through 'affirmative action' schemes such as minority scholarships, contract 'set asides' and the hiring and promoting of less-qualified non-Whites. We demand an end to all government-enforced race-mixing such as busing and moving welfare non-Whites to White neighborhoods.

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"Homosexuals. Christian family values built this country. We demand that this be taught in schools and not homosexual perversion as a normal 'alternative life-style.' We oppose any special privileges for perverts such as 'Gay Civil Rights Laws' which would allow them access to children.

"Law and Order. We recognized that non-Whites are at the root of the plague of crime sweeping America. We demand the death penalty for atrocious murder as well as violent rape.

"Defend Gun Rights. The plot to outlaw private possession of firearms is the gravest threat to freedom of all in the U.S. Alien, communist and New World Order-type groups are at the forefront of this sinister campaign. ...We have a non-White crime problem in this country, not a gun problem."

The platform also includes a plank against GATT and NAFTA, a call to "support small business over the alien-owned monopoly chain stores" and a call to raise the minimum wage to \$6.00 per hour.

The America First Party is being promoted by Ed Fields, the publisher of the Truth at Last tabloid and a longtime ally of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan which has affiliates in Tacoma, Washington and Billings, Montana. The AFP National chair is Jeff Wilkerson, the national ballot access coordinator for Bo Gritz's 1992 presidential bid under the banner of the Populist Party. The group has also attracted several supporters of David Duke's neo-Nazi National Association for the Advancement of White People, including NAAWP head Paul Allen, Duke's lawyer Jim McPherson and Dan Daniels. AFP address: 821-H Concord Rd. #204, Smyrna, GA 30080.

**16. RACIST SKINHEADS IN EUGENE:** Aryan Pride, a racist skinhead organization, has recently formed in Eugene, Oregon. The group is sending out an unsigned three page letter generated on computer that claims whites are becoming a minority. Members of the group want to be the "supermen" of the race and protect whites from Black and Latino violence. In other material the group has openly praised Adolf Hitler.

**17. JOHNNY LIBERTY IN STEVENS COUNTY:** Counterculture Christian Patriot John Van Hove, (aka Johnny Liberty), drew only 13 people to his August 23 appearance in Chewelah, Washington. Van Hove's presentation focused on regaining "sovereign" rights. He is scheduled to address the September 22-24 Preparedness Expo in Seattle, Washington.

**18. MILITIA ORGANIZATION ACT IN WASHINGTON STATE:** Robert S. Tharp of Spanaway, Washington has drafted a proposal for a Militia Organization Act, a ballot measure aimed at "regulating the growth of militia groups in this country." The measure aims to create a regulated structure in order to avoid the problems of "unregulated and lawless" militias in Montana and those connected to the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations. The proposal calls for the creation of elected militia offices at the state (State Commander), county (Major) and voting precinct (Captain) levels. Under the proposed measure, all persons who own firearms would be "obligated" members of the militia; those with no firearms would be voluntary members and those with needed skills would be ad hoc members called into service during specified militia operations.

Tharp's proposed legislation provides that the militia can be mobilized under the power of the Posse Comitatus or the "authority of government agencies, in times of emergency, to assemble and call to public service such persons as are able to perform those duties which shall be required of them in the common interest of the citizens of the State of Washington." Those authorized to mobilize the militia include the President and Congress of the United States, the Governor and legislature of Washington state, the mayor or city council of any city, and the county executive or county council of any county. The measure also allows the "elected commanding officers of the Militia" to "invoke the Posse Comitatus" and mobilize the militia. Thus, while the measure would make it a felony "for any private person or group to assemble any armed band under the name of Posse Comitatus within the jurisdiction of the State of Washington," it nonetheless places the ability to mobilize an armed militia in the hands of an array of city and state officials and newly created militia leaders in any of Washington's 39 counties or hundreds of voting precincts. Tharp touts the militia as a means of conducting surveillance on drug dealer's homes and enforcing restraining orders.

The measure makes clear that the militia can be used against the government. It states that it is a felony for "any member of the Militia to raise any insurrection against the duly-constituted government authority, or to participate in any insurrection so long as the constitutional process shall function." It also makes it a crime of "aggravated murder in the first degree" should someone be killed during this process. However, it states that "the legal defense against a charge of murder under this provision shall be that the governmental body against which the insurrection shall be raised was, at the outset, of the insurrection, acting in a manner contrary to constitutional or statute law, and that all actions of the insurrection were part of efforts intended to and directly relevant to efforts to restrain that governmental body from an action which would wrongfully endanger human

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lives and rights to due process of the law." The implications are disconcerting. Given the number of militia and public officials who would be granted the right to mobilize the militia under Tharp's act, an array of individuals would be granted the power to make "constitutional" determinations backed by armed force. The measure would provide a field day for organized racists, many of whom base their white supremacy on spurious constitutional arguments.

At present, Tharp has no organization to press his cause. He has approached Tacoma-area community organizations in search for support and claims to have some legislative backing from U.S. Representative Randy Tate, though Tate's staff denies any knowledge of the proposed act or Tharp. Tharp can be reached at 17002 5th Ave E; Spanaway, Washington 98387 or at (206) 535-0923.

**19. CLINIC ARSON IN GRANTS PASS, OREGON:** The Grants Pass clinic of Planned Parenthood remained open Monday despite two stacks of computer paper that were set on fire at the front door on the evening of Sunday, August 28. The clinic has been picketed by anti-abortion activists since it opened in 1983, but this is the first time it has been damaged, according to its director, Renee Kraft. The fire damaged a doormat and scorched the door.

**20. FAR RIGHT TAKES OVER ODD FELLOWS LODGE:** A group of far right activists, including apparent Christian Patriots and neo-Nazis, have taken control of the Odd Fellows Anchor Lodge #221 on Capitol Hill in Seattle, Washington. Among those who have infiltrated the fraternal organization are Washington State Populist Party chair and neo-Nazi Harry Schmidt, Jim Paulsen, an activist in the 1992 Bo Gritz for president campaign and Steve DeMars, who describes himself as a "sovereign" citizen immune from federal laws. Another Odd Fellow, Bruce Klobecke, produces the Lodge's newsletter which has included advertisements for far right Preparedness Expos and the Survival Center, a McKenna, Washington-based outlet for survival products and racist and anti-Semitic literature. Lodge member Mark Fener reportedly describes himself as a "free sovereign" as well.

The presence of far right activists in the Odd Fellows first surfaced when a reporter with the Seattle weekly The Stranger secretly joined the group as part of an investigative story. Following publication of the article on August 16, tenants of the Capitol Hill building that houses the Odd Fellows Hall called a meeting with the group's leadership. State Odd Fellows officials who attended the meeting subsequently agreed to conduct an audit of the group to determine if Lodge funds had been spent on far right political activity. Neo-Nazi Harry Schmidt has since resigned his presidency of the Hall.

**21. CCRKBA GUN CONFERENCE:** The 10th Annual 1995 Gun Rights Policy Conference of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation will be held at the Harvey Hotel Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, September 29-October 1. The title of the conference is "Freedom isn't Free." Past speakers have included Alan Gottlieb, Tanya Metaksa (Executive Director, NRA), and Rick Dalton, a close associate of Christian Patriot Gerald "Jack" McLamb. For info.: (206) 454-4911.

**22. GRITZ IDAHO SPIKE:** James "Bo" Gritz gave a lesson in so-called "spycraft" at his most recent SPIKE training held in Pocatello, Idaho. According to the Idaho State Journal (8/27/95) Gritz's lecture and SPIKE training were attended by more than 150 people. "Idaho is where liberty and freedom will fly across the nation and lift the Constitution," Gritz said. Gritz also claimed that there is a national conspiracy to hide what really happened at Ruby Ridge. He blasted Bill Clinton, George Bush, the U.S. military and the United Nations. He said reporters are "intellectual prostitutes" who spread disinformation and lie for the owners of their newspapers and television stations. He did have kind words for two elected members of Congress—Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Idaho Republican Rep. Helen Chenoweth.

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to [chdpdx@aol.com](mailto: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. •••