



COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

P. O. Box 21266 • SEATTLE, WA. 98111-3266 • (206) 233-9775 FAX 233-9850

PORTLAND (503) 281-5823 • FAX (503) 281-8673 • E-MAIL: chdpdx@aol.com

NORTHWEST UPDATE

October 1, 1996

1. CHD TRAINS OREGON JUDICIAL PERSONNEL: CHD Board Chair Pat McGuire and CHD staffer Devin Burghart conducted a training for the Oregon Judicial Department entitled "Guns & Gavels: Common Law Courts, Militias and White Supremacy" in Grants Pass, Oregon on Sept. 20. Nearly 60 judges, trial court administrators, court clerks and law enforcement personnel from southern Oregon gathered for the day long workshop. The well received session explored the rise of common law courts, militias and other Christian Patriot offshoots; provided historical and political background on Christian Patriots and looked in-depth at such issues in Oregon. The session also tackled personal and professional security issues for judges and court staff.

McGuire and Burghart also delivered the keynote presentation for the Oregon Association of Court Administrator's Fall 1996 conference in Eugene on Sept. 22. More than 100 people attended the four-hour session, during which McGuire and Burghart described the threat common law courts and other Patriot quasi-governmental formations pose to public employees. The lectures also focused on appropriate responses to the rise of Christian Patriot activity across Oregon, including legislative and legal remedies to the problems of violence, threats, and "paper terrorism."

2. CHD AT DOMESTIC TERRORISM CONFERENCE: CHD researcher Robert Crawford gave the opening lecture at a Conference on Domestic Terrorism sponsored by the Montana Department of Justice Sept. 24. Crawford provided the city, county, state and federal law officers in attendance with an overview of the white supremacist movement, with particular attention on far-right strategies for recruitment and harassment of law enforcement. Crawford spoke on the role of political terrorism in the white supremacist movement and the growth of militias and common law courts as a means of intimidating public officials and political opponents. He also described efforts by racist leaders such as Jack McLamb to recruit law officers into the racist movement and racist campaigns to undermine constitutional rights by mounting state sovereignty campaigns, running candidates for sheriff and exploiting gun rights issues through organizations such as Larry Pratt's Gun Owners of America.

3. CHD & NWCAMH TARGET HOLOCAUST DENIER: The Coalition for Human Dignity and the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment joined with other human rights advocates to condemn a September 28 meeting featuring neo-Nazi propagandist Michael Hoffman II in Puyallup, Washington. CHD executive director Jonathan Mozzochi and NWCAMH executive director Bill Wassmuth were joined by Wendell Brown of the Pierce County Council, Frank Galvaldon, the Chair of the Tacoma Human Rights Commission and Oscar Morris, Chair of the Pierce County Ethnic Minority Advocacy Commission.

Hoffman, who recently relocated to Idaho via New York state, is a Holocaust denier best known for his propaganda tract, They Were White & They Were Slaves, where the author argues for the widespread existence of "white slavery" prior to the Civil War. The Puyallup event was a fund-raiser for the candidacy of Mark Downey, who is running for the Washington state legislature, 25th district, 1st position. Downey is currently vice-chair of the Washington State Populist Party and a longtime Christian Identity propagandist. In a 1993 booklet titled, Will the Real Armageddon Please Stand Up? he wrote in part, "The White Supremacists [sic] are the standard-bearers of Christianity."

Hoffman was also scheduled to address a meeting of the Maltby Freedom Forum in Snohomish, Washington Sept. 27. Hoffman's topic was advertised as "White Slaves and Jubilee Rebels."

4. WASHINGTON CHRISTIAN COALITION DISTRIBUTES VOTER GUIDES: The Christian Coalition of Washington (CCW) will distribute more than 1 million copies of its 1996 Voter Guide between now and the November election according to executive director David Welch. The supposedly nonpartisan guides, mostly distributed through churches, rate candidates on a number of issues designed to separate candidates who more-or-less support the agenda of the Christian Right from those who oppose it. Welch denied that the plans for distribution would be in any way

affected by the recent Federal Elections Commission Lawsuit against the national Christian Coalition (see Northwest Update, Sept. 1). He stated, "We will not be intimidated by a group of elitist Beltway bureaucrats attempting to selectively snuff the First Amendment" (Bellevue Journal American, Sept. 9, Seattle Times Sept. 9).

5. ANTI-SEMITIC SLURS MADE TO OREGON POLICE CADET: Three instructors at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Monmouth, Oregon are under investigation for allegedly harassing a Jewish cadet. Sam Sachs, 28, now a corrections deputy with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, argues that Lt. Bill Bouchor, Lt. Keith Johannessen and Capt. Jerry Hawley made various anti-Semitic comments during instruction. The Salem Statesman-Journal (Sept. 12) reports that Sachs alleges the following episodes occurred:

"Johannessen was describing to a class of 49 students the effects of cocaine. The instructor said that a roomful of Jews doing cocaine would go so far as to say, 'Heil Hitler, nice mustache' if Hitler walked into the room... In another incident that occurred during a class, Johannessen used the term 'Jew them down' when referring to buying something for the lowest price, Sachs said."

Johannessen later apologized to the class and personally to Sachs for his remarks.

Yet another incident involved one of the instructors asking Sachs if he was going to roast a pig at his bar mitzvah, and if he was going to be circumcised.

Steve Bennett, the executive director of the academy, said that the three trainers have subsequently been disciplined, although he is prohibited by law from revealing the specific form of punishment they received. The deputy director of the state Board on Public Safety Standards and Trainings, which runs the academy, is also investigating the allegations.

6. THREE SUSPECTS ADDED TO CROSS-BURNING CASE: Gresham authorities named three other suspects in the June cross-burning that took place in the front yard of longtime Gresham resident Billy Ballard. Troy Allen Harlow, 25, and Michael Scott Shuman, 24 were previously arrested and charged in the case (See Northwest Update August 15, 1996). The Oregonian (August 23) reports that court documents also name Rodney Chandler Tufts, 27 of Portland, James Mathew Thede, 25, of Wood Village, and a man described only as "Zac," a white male in his mid-20s. According to an affidavit for a search warrant, just before midnight the five suspects assembled in a church parking lot, bringing with them a cross they had constructed earlier at Harlow's house. They then doused the cross with gasoline, loaded it into Thede's pickup truck, and drove it to Ballard's home. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Peifer would not say why Tufts and Thede have not been arrested.

7. PORTLAND MAN SUES COPS OVER BEATING: A 19-year-old African-American man from Portland is suing a number of Portland police officers claiming his civil rights were violated when the officers beat him. Archie McNeal said Portland police officers stopped him and four of his companions for questioning in early July. McNeal claims the officers threw him into bushes then proceeded to beat him in the mouth with a baton and step on his neck and back. McNeal sustained two broken teeth and bruises. He was not arrested. Ten officers were involved in the incident, 9 white and 1 Asian. McNeal also claims that at least one of the officers used racial slurs during the altercation.

According to The Oregonian, police reports indicate that officers Pat Bender, James Cordero and Mitchell Hergert were involved in handcuffing McNeal. Bender and Cordero have had one complaint previously filed against them; Hergert has had two.

McNeal is being represented by attorney Tom Steenson. According to the suit, the officers "without any lawful reason or justification, seized, beat and battered plaintiff, causing him physical pain and injury."

8. TRIO GUILTY OF FAKE HATE CRIMES: Three former Reedsport, Oregon residents were sentenced on September 11 to more than nine years in prison for conspiring to commit insurance fraud by setting fire to their residence after claiming to be victims of anti-Semitism. Sherry Armstrong was sentenced to 130 months in prison, her husband, Lee Armstrong and Clarence "Dan" Davenport each received 117 months. U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan told the three defendants that they had, "undeservedly besmirched the reputation of a community" by claiming to be victims of anti-Semitism (Eugene Register Guard, Sept. 16). The trio still proclaim their innocence.

Evidence to the contrary is substantial and includes a two-minute videotaped recording of the building in which the defendants lived just prior to the fire. Sherry Armstrong is recorded leaving the building just prior to the fire beginning to burn. Additional evidence showed that the three defendants faced eviction for failing to pay rent, that they were delinquent on other bills and that they sought insurance coverage on their personal property. The surveillance cameras also recorded the trio hauling away personal property just prior to the fire.

9. ANTI-JAPANESE HATE CRIMES NET DETENTION: Two young people involved in a series of racist attacks earlier this year in Lewiston and Clarkston have been confined to detention centers. A third suspect is being tried in Asotin County (Idaho) juvenile court. The two young whites, a 16-year-old and a 17-year-old, pleaded guilty to felony malicious harassment for attacking Japanese students near Lewis-Clark State College (Lewiston Tribune, Aug. 31).

10. ALASKAN ANTI-CHOICE GROUP RAISES FUNDS: The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Anchorage and Eagle River Alaska held a Labor Day fund-raising march that attracted a crowd of 200 participants and raised over \$27,000. Crisis Pregnancy Centers provide free pregnancy tests and "counseling" to pregnant women which often includes subjecting them to graphic anti-abortion propaganda films. Part of the "mainstream" of the anti-abortion movement, Crisis Pregnancy Centers have been described by activists with Human Life International, the largest anti-abortion umbrella group, as the most effective means of "saving babies" (Anchorage Daily News, Sept. 3).

11. OCA FIGHTS BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR 1998 INITIATIVES: As reported previously in the Northwest Update (Aug. 15), the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) has filed new anti-gay marriage and anti-abortion initiatives as well as a third initiative aimed at limited judicial power. In what has become a familiar pattern over the past several years, the OCA is now engaged in a battle with Oregon's Secretary of State and its Attorney General over wording of ballot titles for the proposed initiatives.

Attorney General Ted Kulongoski threw out the third initiative, ruling that as presented it did not fall within the criteria of an acceptable ballot measure and his office produced ballot titles for the OCA's proposed anti-abortion and anti-gay marriage initiatives which angered the Alliance. "It's just another attempt by Attorney General Ted Kulongoski and his deputies to determine the election," commented OCA Chair Lon Mabon. "It almost has happened to us every time. They want it to be more negative and we want it to be more fair."

As written by the AG's office the ballot titles state: "Bans second, third trimester abortions with one exception; permits lawsuits" and "Man/Woman marriages, any children, only families government may approve." Mabon wants the anti-abortion ballot title to state "life of the mother" as the one exception and to exclude the language about lawsuits and the anti-gay marriage title to state that marriage is defined by the union of a man and a woman and a family by the inclusion of children in a household.

The OCA is appealing the AG's ballot titles. Once the OCA's appeal has been heard and the language either altered or accepted by the OCA it will have until July 1998 to collect the 97,681 signatures required to place the new initiatives on the ballot (Oregonian, Aug. 21).

12. PROSECUTORS SEEK DEATH PENALTY FOR ACREMANT: Robert J. Acremant (28), the man who has pled guilty to the execution style slaying of a Medford lesbian couple in December 1995, may now face the death penalty. Acremant, who has admitted killing Michelle Abdill (42) and Roxanne Ellis (53), will face an aggravated murder penalty hearing, where jurors will decide if he should die by lethal injection or be given life imprisonment, beginning February 8. He also pled guilty to two related counts of first-degree kidnapping and robbery and was given the maximum penalty of 22 years, 5 months imprisonment.

According to press reports, Acremant stood quietly while prosecutors described the brutal kidnapping and execution style slaying of the bound women, but disputed the prosecution's interpretation of his motive, telling the judge "the reason is totally incorrect." The prosecution presented a robbery motive, but Acremant wrote a recent letter to his hometown newspaper in which he wrote that the real reason he killed the two women was a deep hatred of "gays, lesbians and bisexuals." He has also stated that he wants to be put to death, although plea bargain attempts and a motion challenging the constitutionality of Oregon's death penalty law would seem to contradict that wish (Oregonian, Sept. 12).

13. HOLOCAUST DENIER JOINS WITH PATRIOTS AT CONFAB: Herb Grubel, a Reform Party member of the Canadian Parliament, and Doug Collins, a right wing columnist and Holocaust denier with the Vancouver-based North Shore News, defended their participation at the 1996 International Society for Individual Liberty World Conference convened this past Aug. 19-24, in Whistler, British Columbia. The conference featured Colorado state senator Charles Duke and FIJA founder Larry Dodge.

Attended by approximately 140 delegates (mostly American) the conference opened under heavy national media scrutiny largely due to background reports released by the Vancouver-based Westcoast Coalition for Human Dignity. WCHD's research exposed Canadian media and community organizations to Duke and FIJA's involvement in the American racist movement. The reports also documented Charles Duke's role in the Tenth Amendment movement

and common law courts as well as the tendency of FIJA members to make anti-Semitic comments. As a result of WCHD's research efforts, the Canadian Jewish Congress Pacific Region issued a strongly worded statement of concern regarding Grubel's participation at the ISIL event.

In his 45 minute speech, Duke railed about the American government's march towards totalitarianism; attacking such federal mandates as the Clean Water Act, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Occupational Safety and Health Act. He also spoke of federal government efforts to implant microchips in Americans. Duke states, "We don't want to be just a sub-department of the United Nations, but Bill Clinton and his henchmen are under the controls of powerful forces that are bound and determined to create a world government and we will not allow that." During Q&A at the conference, Duke said, "the militia by and large is a very constitutionally focused effort...I believe it is essential that the government fear the people."

Larry Dodge, in his standard presentation on jury nullification, emphasized the Lone Ranger approach to justice: "...in the jury, we don't need a majority vote, you need a Lone Ranger. You need one person with his head screwed on straight who can sit there and say "There's something wrong with this law and I'm not going to apply it to my fellow man or woman. I'm going to vote not guilty and that one person can stop a prosecution." "Jury nullification appeals to anyone at odds with even one bad law." In talking about the appeal of jury nullification, Dodge states, "This thing has become such a monster that millions of people now know about it anyway and as long as it only takes one person to hang a jury you only need 8% of the population to understand it, get onto juries, and you can have the effect without making a law, without getting a majority to vote for it or anything like that."

Observers at the event note that the conference was an opportunity for Dodge to initiate FIJA contacts in Canada. Dodge is also scheduled to speak at a law school conference at Cornell University in January 1997 (Thanks to the Westcoast Coalition for Human Dignity for this report).

14. NORTHWEST KNIGHTS ON PEROT: Reversing the rabid attacks they made on Ross Perot during his 1992 presidential bid, the Northwest Knights of the Ku Klux Klan has grudgingly given the Perot-Choate ticket an endorsement in 1996. On his weekly hate-line, Klan leader Kim Badynski stated: "The apparent exclusion of Ross Perot and the Reform Party from the presidential debate indicates the threat which is perceived by two old major parties...The selection of economist Pat Choate to be Perot's running mate is an obvious attempt to attract those voters who support economic nationalism and who campaigned for Pat Buchanan...Is it time for all populist-hearted Americans to get serious about presidential politics and support the Reform Party for the 1996 election? This could be a serious blow to the two party monopoly which has controlled national elections for so long...Ross Perot is far from perfect. Some will cite his stand on abortion is not extreme enough; others will point to his anti-democratic tactics in order to secure the nomination of his Reform Party; some will remind us that many of us 'just said no' to Ross Perot in 1992. All this is true. We hate to admit it, but it appears that the Perot-Choate ticket represents the only serious challenge to the Clinton-Gore or the Dole-Kemp alternative during 1996."

15. CHRISTIAN COALITION 1996 SURVEY: The national Christian Coalition recently mailed an opinion poll to its 1.8 million members and supporters. The survey, designed both to gauge the mood of its own constituency and as a tool to influence legislators and policy, includes sections titled "Rating the Clinton Administration," "How Will You Vote in the Congressional Elections?" and "How Politically Active Are You." The questions represent a paper-thin veneer of non-partisan posturing, including "Would you be more likely or less likely to vote to re-elect your representatives if they voted with President Clinton against the Balanced Budget Amendment?" and "Would you be more likely or less likely to vote to re-elect your representative if they supported President Clinton's proposal to use your tax money to pay for abortions?" Issued with the survey is a copy of the new 1996 Christian Coalition Congressional Scorecard which rates U.S. Representatives and Senators as either in agreement with the Christian Coalition (+) or against the Coalition's position (-) and then gives an overall percentage based on how often the member agrees with the Coalition. The Scorecard's use the Senator's and Congress Member's actual votes as a basis for the rating. The survey includes a statement asking members to help with a donation that will be used to distribute over 40 million of these Scorecards to "eligible Christian voters."

16. MONTANA IDENTITY FIGURE PEDDLING INVESTMENT ADVICE: Kila, Montana Christian Identity figure Chris Temple, an attendee of the most recent Aryan World Congress, is offering investment advice to movement activists through his monthly National Investor publication. The publication and bi-weekly updates along with a hot-line number are available for \$275 for two years or \$149 for one year. The National Investor: 130 Third St.; Washington, D.C. 20003.

17. GAY/LESBIAN CHURCH VANDALIZED IN MONTANA: The Metropolitan Community Church, a Great Falls, Montana-based church with a largely gay and lesbian congregation, was vandalized between Monday September 23 and Tuesday September 24. The vandalism included a swastika, the numbers "666" and a five-pointed star surrounded by a circle. The case is being investigated as a possible hate crime according to Cascade County sheriff's sergeant Ray St. Onge. The graffiti on the Metropolitan church was similar to that spray-painted on the predominantly Africa-American Mount Olive Christian Fellowship in Great Falls last November. Metropolitan Community Church Reverend Gina Hartung has recently been outspoken in opposition to the Defense of Marriage Act (Associate Press, Sept. 25).

18. BOMBS PLACED IN REPUBLIC, WASHINGTON POST OFFICE: Three crude package bombs were left in a Republic, Washington Post Office by an as yet unidentified person Tuesday, September 24. The package bombs, which lacked fuses but could have exploded if ignited, were addressed to Ferry County Sheriff Pete Warner, Washington Governor Mike Lowry and a counselor who formerly worked for Ferry County Community Services. The packages were found by a customer Tuesday morning. Police Chief Chuck Kells, who is investigating the case along with Warner and the U.S. Postal Inspector told reporters that "The devices themselves were not that large, but they are large enough that they could have caused considerable damage" (Spokesman Review, Sept. 25).

19. MONTANA LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE LINKED TO FAR RIGHT: Rick Hill, a Republican congressional candidate in Montana, has drawn heat over his attendance at a far right gathering in Missoula in April. The gathering, dubbed the Freedom Rendezvous '96, included speaking appearances by racist leader Jack McLamb, former Arizona sheriff Richard Mack and Gun Owners of America head Larry Pratt. Hill attended the meeting seeking support for his campaign, stressing that he supports gun rights and states rights. The controversy developed when Hill responded to an article describing the event in the June 1996 newsletter of the Montana Human Rights Network. MHRN director Ken Toole responded to a letter from Hill by stating that "It is quite clear that you were there to garner support from individuals who share your positions...you are a political leader and should exercise judgment in where you seek support." Hill is running for the U.S. House seat being vacated by Democrat Pat Williams (Billings Gazette, Sept. 23)

20. COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE WILL REPRESENT MILITIAS: Colorado congressional candidate Pat Miller is drawing fire for proclaiming at a 1994 militia gathering that she would gladly represent militia members if elected. In a tape released by Miller's opponent, Miller told the gathering "And it's folks like you who are going to put me in office. And I truly do want to go to Washington, D.C., to represent you. And I'm also very glad that there are groups like this meeting." When asked at the meeting "When you get elected, can we count on you to support the Colorado militia?," she responded "Yes. Yes, you can." Like most political figures caught with their hand in the cookie jar of hate, Miller is downplaying the appearance by saying that she simply believes in smaller government as do the militia members. Miller campaign manager Mike Mears told reporters that "In their belief in lower taxes, in less intrusive government, in believing in the second amendment and pro-life issues, in believing that morality in this country is slipping—yes, Pat supports groups like the one she spoke to two years ago."

21. NATIONAL ALLIANCE LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED AT WSU: Stickers from the neo-Nazi National Alliance were distributed at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington in early September. The stickers read "Earth's Most Endangered Species: The White Race." They were found on poles and overpasses nearby the Compton Union Building, a popular student hangout. Racist literature was also distributed on the WSU campus last spring. (Spokesman Review)

22. BONNER COUNTY SEEKS DEATH PENALTY FOR LOVELACE: Bonner County, Idaho prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Feron Lovelace, a 1995 murder of fellow racist Jeremy Scott and led law officers to the body. Lovelace reportedly agreed to take law officers to the location where he had hidden the body after receiving a letter from Bonner County prosecutor Tevis Tull declaring that the county would seek the death penalty. (Spokesman Review)

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to chdpx@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. •••

