



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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

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

NORTHWEST UPDATE

November 15, 1996

1. SALEM SKINHEAD CHARGED WITH ASSAULT: Douglas Brian McKinney, a 19 year-old neo-Nazi skinhead based in Salem, Oregon, was charged with two counts of felony assault and one count of racial intimidation in connection to an October 5 fight that occurred outside a fast food restaurant in Salem. According to Lt. Jerry Moore of the Salem Police Department the fight involved two large groups of people, some armed with baseball bats and a stabbing weapon. Racial slurs along with calls of "white power" and "skinheads rule" were made during the altercation. McKinney, identified as one of those involved, was arrested at his home on 19th Street NE (Salem Statesman Journal, October 22).

2. OCA TARGETS REPUBLICAN PARTY—AGAIN: Recalling similar efforts in previous election years, the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) is once again working hard to elect a slate of "conservative" candidates to the state GOP Central Committee. In the November 1996 issue of The Oregon Alliance OCA chair Lon Mabon states:

"...[T]he hottest place on the political battlefield in Oregon will not be the General Election on November 5th, it will be two and three weeks later at the Republican county reorganization meetings. These meetings are where the Republican Precinct People (PCP's) select new county chairmen and vice chairmen, as well as extra delegates for the larger counties. Once elected these individuals constitute the State GOP Central Committee. The State Central Committee will then elect a state chairman and officers who will set the vision, goals and philosophy of the Oregon Republican Party."

With none of its own ballot measures on the November 5 ballot, the OCA is focused on the GOP elections which have been points of controversy in the past. In the 1994 elections Mabon and OCA worked hard to have their own candidate elected party chair leading to a break with longtime OCA supporters such as Bill Witt, Mike Wiley and Marilyn Shannon.

3. AFRICAN-AMERICANS MOST FREQUENT TARGET OF HATE CRIMES IN 1995: According the FBI African-Americans were targeted in 62% (2,988 incidents against 3,945 victims) of reported hate crimes in 1995. Overall the agency reported 4,831 incidents in 1995 resulting in 6,170 offenses targeting 6,438 victims. Asian/Pacific Islanders were the target of 355 hate crimes (496 victims), Hispanics 516 (698 victims), American Indian/Alaskan Natives 41 (59 victims), whites 1,226 (1,554 victims) and multi-racial groups 221 (384 victims). Jews were targeted in 1,058 incidents (1,236 victims) and Muslims in 29 (41 victims). Gay men were the target in 735 incidents (937 victims), lesbians 146 (191) and homosexuals (gay and lesbian) 103 (182 victims). White people were reported to be the offenders in 4,991 hate crimes and African Americans in 2,253. Offenders were unknown in 615 cases. Crimes against persons comprised 72% of hate crimes, including 20 murders, 1,268 aggravated assaults, 1,796 simple assaults and 4,048 cases of intimidation. The FBI statistics were based on incident reports voluntarily sent from 1,560 police and sheriffs departments in 45 states.

4. COUNTY CHARTER RAISES ANTI-GAY FUROR: A non-discrimination clause which includes sexual orientation in a proposed new charter for Island County, Washington has led to controversy. Island County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Hawkins incorporated the statement that the new charter would add "a prohibition against discrimination based on sexual orientation" into the ballot title. Hawkin's wording provoked strong reactions from the pro-charter Island County 2000 group. "It's dirty, dirty pool," said Bud Spengler, chairman of the group. Bill Applegate, a member of the 15 person committee that helped to draft the new charter said that the non-discrimination clause, including sexual orientation, was unanimously passed by the board of freeholders without comment. "We felt the count is there to serve the citizens and not to discriminate against any of them." According to Applegate, Hawkin's wording was "designed to inflame bigotry and fear of homosexuals" by focusing on a tiny part of a charter that would

The Northwest Update is a publication of the Coalition for Human Dignity

© 1996. All Rights Reserved. Material herein may not be reproduced without permission of the Coalition for Human Dignity.

change the structure of government in the county (Everett Herald, October 18).

5. GRTIZ PLEADS INNOCENT TO KIDNAPPING: Far right leader James “Bo” Gritz and his son plead innocent to charges of attempted kidnapping in connection to their September 30 arrest in Enfield, Connecticut. After being arraigned the Gritz’s held a press conference at which they announced plans to file a wrongful arrest suit. The two have asked for a jury trial and are due in court December 10.

6. HATE GRAFFITI AT PACIFIC UNIVERSITY: More than 300 students and faculty gathered in the common area of the University Center of Oregon’s Pacific University on Friday, October 18 to protest hate crimes and discrimination on campus. The rally was sparked by the discovery of anti-gay graffiti scrawled on the door of a dorm room housing four students. Dave Stout, Dean of Arts and Sciences, declared: “My goal in organizing this rally was to make it clear to those who perpetrated these acts of hatred that we as a community will not tolerate it when any or our members are attacked.” Not everyone who attended the rally was impressed with the University’s efforts to combat anti-gay bigotry however. “All I really saw was some figureheads get up at a podium and say some rather bland comments about what it means to be loving and caring individuals,” said student Collin Dickey. “No one is in any position to pat themselves on the back.” Responding to criticism of the rally, University President Faith Gabelnick issued a campus-wide memo that described the anti-gay incidents in detail and stated that they would be dealt with quickly and judiciously (Forest Grove News-Times, October 23, 1996).

7. RIGHT WAY LAW IN WASHINGTON: The far right group Right Way Law holds meetings the 2nd and 4th Monday night of each month at Charlie Mac’s at 170th & Aurora in Seattle. Joe Karl is the contact for these meetings. Meetings start at 7:30. Meetings are also held the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the same location. A Tacoma chapter meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Maxey’s Restaurant at 108 Pacific Highway.

8. HATE CRIMES IN HELENA, MONTANA: About one dozen white youth were involved Halloween night in an apparent hate crime against a black teenager and his white girlfriend. The incident began when the white youth paraded through Helena dressed in Ku Klux Klan outfits. When the black youth and his girlfriend responded verbally, the group launched a barrage of racial slurs and threats and an eyewitness claimed that the Klan-clad youth knocked the young woman to the ground. Police took the names of eleven youth involved in the incident and are reportedly investigating, though no charges have been filed.

The Montana Human Rights Network responded quickly by organizing a community meeting on Thursday, November 7. The meeting was slated to include Margie McDonald, director of the Montana Association of Churches and a Human Rights Network member. Chris Kaufmann of the Montana Human Rights Network told reporters that “People could dismiss this as kids being kids, but when it erupts into violent confrontations, this stuff needs to be taken seriously,” said Kaufmann. Ken Toole, also of the Montana Human Rights Network, told reporters that under Montana law the teens “clearly are guilty of a hate crime.”

Friday, November 1, in another apparent hate crime, a man reported to the police that after entering an argument with a group of about 25 youth he became the target of “hard-core anti-Semitic slurs.” The man told the Helena City Commission Monday night that the slurs included the youth saying that their “mission was to kill all Jews.” The incident is being investigated by the Helena Police Department, the local FBI and the state Civil Rights Commission.

9. LOCAL SCHOOLS FIGHT CHRISTIAN RIGHT LAWSUITS: Local school districts in Oregon will have to foot the bill to defend the state mandated education plan from challenges coming from the Christian Right (See Northwest Update Through November 1, 1996). According to Greg Chaimov of the Oregon Department of Justice the state is under no obligation to help defend the South Lane and Beaverton Schools Districts from suits filed in Federal Court challenging the implementation of Oregon’ Education Act for the 21st Century. Plaintiffs in the case are being supported by the American Family Association Law Center of Tupelo, Mississippi and the National Legal Foundation. South Lane Superintendent Bob Sisk has stated that “Our situation is particularly traumatic because financial shortfalls.... Unfortunately we now have to take taxpayer money to defend something we’ve been asked to do by the state” (Cottage Grove Sentinel, October 29).

10. BOOK EXAMINES RELIGIOUS RIGHT IN MICHIGAN: A new book by Russ Bellant chronicles the impact of the Christian Right on politics in Michigan. The Religious Right in Michigan Politics documents the authoritarian

ideology underlying the religious right, examines more than two dozen foundations assisting the right and looks at the penetration of Michigan state politics by these forces. The book can be ordered from Russ Bellant at P.O. Box 02363, Detroit Michigan 48202. The cost is \$10.55 per book with \$2.00 shipping charges for one book and \$1.25 for each additional copy. Bellant's previous books include Old Nazis, the New Right and the Reagan Administration and the Coors Connection.

11. NORTHERN IDAHO FAR RIGHT FIGURES STORM THE WEB: Netlink, "North Idaho's regional Internet provider," and the home of the web pages for Kootenai County government, has also become the Internet base for northern Idaho racist and anti-Semites. Aside from the Aryan Nations, now America's Promise Ministries and Michael Hoffman's Independent History And Research organization have established web pages on Netlink.

The Independent History and Research page www.hoffman-info.com was unveiled on Oct. 5. The site advertises Hoffman's books, including They were White and They Were Slaves, The Great Holocaust Trial, Hate Whitey: The Cinema of Defamation, Masonic Assassination and Secret Societies and Psychological Warfare, as well as order his newsletter and tapes of speaking events. Also contained are "research archives" and other "revisionist" resources. It also has a link section with links to numerous other Holocaust denial sites (Zündelsite, I.H.R., CODOH, The Adelaide Institute, and the Canadian Free Speech League) as well as links to the Euro-American Students Union, American Renaissance, Third Way: Voice of the Radical Centre, The Southern League, Louis Beam's homepage, and America's Promise Ministry.

America's Promise, also new to the Web thanks to Louis Beam, (who is listed as the web page author of the new America's Promise page rand.nidlink.com/~amprom/index.htm) also has a webpage on Netlink. The page contains a message from Dave Barley and a catalog of America's Promise Material.

As well as creating the America's Promise page, Aryan Nations "Computer Terrorist to the Chosen" Louis Beam has established his own page elsewhere on the web to spread his racist writings - www.yosemite.net/beam.

12. MINNESOTA COMMON LAW COURT ACTIVISTS TO FACE FEDERAL FRAUD CHARGES: On Oct. 24, Marilyn and Ronald Kerkvliet of Inver Grove Heights, a suburb of St. Paul, Minn. were charged by federal prosecutors with fraud charges related to the passing of phony money orders and bogus checks. Also charged, Roger Leffler formerly of Fridley, Minnesota. Ronald Kerkvliet, an autoworker was described by prosecutors as the leader of the Minnesota Constitutional Rangers and a leader in the formation of common law courts in area. The three plead innocent on November 1.

The Kerkvliets are accused of receiving more than \$75 million in "financial instruments" from LeRoy Schweitzer, passing fake money orders to obtain money to pay \$300,000 in past due taxes to the I.R.S. and distributing fake bank checks totaling as much as \$10 million. Court documents indicated the Kerkvliets have been connected with the Freemans since 1989 and noted that three days after the Freeman standoff began, Marilyn Kerkvliet, a cosmetics salesperson, called Schweitzer (Associated Press, November 1).

13. THREE VIPER MILITIA MEMBERS PLEAD NOT GUILTY: In a revised federal indictment issued October 3, three Viper Militia members were charged with conspiring to make ammonium nitrate bombs. Walter Earl Sanville, Christopher Alan Floyd and Donna Star Williams plead not guilty to the charges on October 16. Sanville also plead not guilty to possession of machine gun parts and buying blasting caps and fuse under false pretenses in August 1995.

Trial is scheduled November 19 for the 12 Viper militia members arrested on July 1. Six remain in custody, while Sanville, Floyd and Williams and three others have been released on house arrest. If convicted, the defendants face from five to 35 years in prison and fines of \$250,000 to \$1.25 million (Associated Press, October 16).

14. NEVADA IRS BOMBER SENTENCED TO 36 YEARS: Joseph Bailie was sentenced on October 17 to 36 years in prison for attempting to blow up the Internal Revenue Service building in Reno. Bailie was found guilty in June of attempted destruction of a government building, the use of an explosive device in the commission of a crime and conspiracy in connection with the failed attack last December in which he and Ellis Hurst placed a 100-pound fertilizer and fuel oil bomb in the car park of the IRS building.

Bailie, a tax-protester who had not paid his taxes since 1985 was also ordered to make restitution to the IRS of \$141,000. Throughout his trial, Bailie, acting as his own counsel, regurgitated Christian Patriot notions that the federal court lacked jurisdiction over him. He stated, "You have never proven you have jurisdiction over me. Show me in black and white." He also, persistently asked the judge: "What is your job description?"

Hurst, who pleaded guilty in March and testified for the prosecution against Bailie is expected to be sentenced

later this month (Reuters, October 17).

15. NEW HAMPSHIRE MILITIA BUST: Fitzhugh MacCrae, a member of a New Hampshire militia group was indicted by a federal grand jury on October 30 for stealing \$100,000 worth of aviation night-vision devices and other military equipment from Fort Devens between July 1995 and March 1996. 51 year old MacCrae, (aka Kenneth Nepil) of Nashua, New Hampshire, is additionally charged with lying to the FBI when he said an organized crime group had stolen the equipment. Two other men have also been charged in the case (Boston Globe, October 31).

16. GRITZ ON THE WEB: In an attempt to sell more S.P.I.K.E. paraphernalia, Bo Gritz has created his own cyber-ad. At www.bogritz.com you will find descriptions and order forms for videos and other products. Also on the page, press releases relating to the recent arrests of Bo and Jim Gritz.

17. TRIAL DATE SET FOR MCVEIGH: Despite protests by defense attorneys that they would not be able to begin until May, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch set March 31 as the trial date for Timothy McVeigh (Associated Press, November 11).

18. NORTHWEST INDIAN PAMPHLET ON SHELLFISHING RIGHTS: A pamphlet answering questions about Native American shellfishing rights in Washington in light of the December 1994 federal court ruling by Judge Edward Rafeedie is available from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWFIC). The pamphlet, titled Questions and Answers on Tribal Treaty Shellfish Rights, is an excellent source of information on Indian shellfishing rights in Northwest Washington. It discusses the nature of the 1850s treaties between Northwest Washington Indian nations and the federal government and answers a number of questions specific to the present day shellfishing rights of Indian people in the northwest. The pamphlet explains aspects of Indian treaty rights which are often confused and clarifies the rights of Indians and property owners vis-a-vis the 1994 ruling. Among the questions the pamphlet answers are "Why do tribal members get to come onto private property and harvest shellfish?," "In what kind of harvesting do the tribes participate?," and "Can non-Indian property owners harvest commercially from their property?" The Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission also publishes a quarterly newsletter covering issues of Indian fishing rights, tribal fisheries, and related issues. The NWIFC can be contacted at 6730 Martin Way E.; Olympia, Washington 98516, or at (360) 438-1180.

19. CHRISTIAN IDENTITY TV: The Tacoma, Washington-based Northwest Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is advertising the appearance of Christian Identity television programming on Fridays at 2:00 PM on TCI Ch. 29 in the Seattle-area.

20. ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION MEASURE WINS IN CALIFORNIA: Bigotry won the day in California where the anti-affirmative action Proposition 209 passed November 5 by a vote of 54% to 46%. In an Orwellian mimicry of the language of the 1964 civil rights act, Proposition 209 states that the state of California "shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education or public contracting." Proposition 209 bans, for instance, the use of race as a factor in University admissions and would bar city, county and state governments from setting aside a percentage of government contracts for black or Hispanic business people - measures used to redress existing biases in access to public institutions.

••• 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. •••