



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## ***NORTHWEST UPDATE***

**Through May 15, 1996**

1. **CHD TRAINS JUDGES:** CHD board President Patricia McGuire and CHD research analyst Devin Burghart presented a 2 1/2 hour workshop on Common Law Courts and militias for more than 100 District and Municipal Court Judges on May 13 in Southwest Washington. The curriculum for the training was developed by McGuire, Burghart and CHD field director Cecilia Kalaw, and is an important component of CHD's ongoing efforts to counter militia recruitment and organizing. Curriculum sections include: Historical background of Christian Patriots, Militias & Common Law Courts, Paper Terrorism: Patriot's Quasi-judicial and Financial Strategies, Common Law Case Studies, and Responses to Common Law Court/Militia activity.

2. **"FREEMEN" UPDATE:** In a manner reminiscent of the 1992 stand-off between racist Randy Weaver and federal agents, far right leader James "Bo" Gritz briefly interjected himself as a negotiator into the Jordan stand-off between federal agents and so-called Freemen. Turning down an attempt by Weaver himself to enter the picture as a negotiator, the FBI nonetheless allowed Gritz to enter the ranch home where some 20 far right activists remain holed-up. As with the Weaver stand-off Gritz has attempted to use his entry into the Freemen situation to bolster the far right movement as a whole as well as his place within it. After one of several meetings with the Jordan Freemen Gritz remarked to a television crew that he was "encouraged" by the Freemen documents proclaiming the IRS to be unconstitutional. Gritz, who entered the Freemen ranch with his perennial sidekick Jack McLamb, announced Tuesday, April 31 that the Freemen might surrender if some of the state's charges were dropped against them and they were allowed to present their "legal" case to the Montana state legislature. Following this announcement, such a presentation looked like a disturbing possibility as Montana House Speaker John Mercer (R-Polson) announced that "If we're requested to do so by the FBI and Justice Department and the Freemen, then obviously, we'll consider holding a hearing" (Billings Gazette, May 1, 1996).

However, by Wednesday, May 1 the Freemen again showed their intransigence, rejecting the possibility of negotiations and again demanding that a common law grand jury hear their case. The degree to which the situation had deteriorated was evident when Gritz told the press that the Freemen believed that God had placed "an invisible barrier no one can penetrate" around their ranch. Gritz subsequently pulled out of efforts to negotiate, possibly a face-saving move on his part as a negotiated solution looked increasingly difficult.

The possibility of another far right intervention developed on May 3 when the Freemen apparently announced that they would accept Colorado's far right state senator Charles Duke as a negotiator. Duke responded favorably, telling the press that he would be willing to meet with the Freemen if given the go-ahead by the FBI (Colorado Statesman May 3, 1996).

Several support efforts are also underway on behalf of self-proclaimed Freemen LeRoy Schweitzer and Dan Peterson. Identity leader Nord Davis' North Carolina-based Northpoint Tactical is circulating a press release claiming that LeRoy Schweitzer is being tortured while in custody and that "the financial methods which were undertaken by Mr. Schweitzer... are absolutely legal under the Uniform Commercial Code." A group going under the moniker of Freedom Headquarters of Billings, Montana has issued a statement to Montana Governor Mark Racicot and US Attorney Sherry Mateucci calling for a "peaceful and lawful" resolution to the "unlawful kidnapping" of Schweitzer and Peterson. The statement declares that "the only acceptable peaceful resolution to these hostilities will be to convene a Constitutional Grand Jury of the People" and warns "if any further harm has been done to LeRoy Michael Schweitzer we expect swift punishment for all involved."

3. **CHD AT REED COLLEGE:** Coalition research director Steven Gardner gave a workshop titled "Anti-Semitism in the Pacific Northwest" on Thursday, May 2 at Portland's Reed College. The event, attended by thirty students and instructors, was part of a week-long series of lectures and workshops designed to raise awareness around issues of anti-Semitism. Gardner outlined the various anti-Semitic organizations in the region and the

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role of anti-Semitism in the ideology of the far right. Another event included in the week's activities was a lecture by CHD board member and Reed College professor of religious studies Steven Wasserstrom on the history of anti-Semitism and origins of anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

4. **CHD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON:** On Tuesday, April 30 Coalition research director Steven Gardner lectured on "The Changing Face of White Supremacy" to a group of thirty students at the University of Oregon in Eugene. The lecture was part of a week-long series of events designed to respond to neo-Nazi skinhead organizing on campus. The lecture was sponsored by a coalition of student and community organizations including Communities Against Hate, the Jewish Student Union, the Black Student Union and the Multi-Cultural Center.

5. **CHD GRANTS:** The Coalition for Human Dignity is pleased to report the reception of the following generous gifts: Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock: \$20,000; Public Welfare Foundation: \$25,000; Rubin Foundation: \$5,000. Shefa Fund: \$500.

6. **A CLEAR VIEW ON PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST:** The April 30 issue of A CLEAR View, the Internet bulletin produced by the Washington, D.C.-based Clearinghouse on Environmental Advocacy and Research (CLEAR), features an article on Putting People First, a Montana-based lobbying organization, and anti-environmentalist Barry Clausen. A CLEAR View reports:

[Putting People First] announced April 11 that they would host a news conference to discuss "the growing evidence of a link between the so-called 'Unabomber' and the radical environmental movement," according to the Helena Independent Record. Hours after making the announcement, the group canceled the conference. Mark LaRochelle of Putting People First said both organizers and participants began receiving threats shortly after word of the conference was released. The announcement quickly generated a cry of "foul" from local conservation groups Wednesday afternoon. John Gatchell of the Montana Wilderness Association described the announcement of the conference as "the ultimate cheap shot."

In a press release, Putting People First points to "a disturbing pattern of linkage between the Unabomber and Green ideology" including the already reported possibility that Kaczynski may have attended a conference of environmental groups held in Missoula during November 1994. Jensen said that if Kaczynski was at the meeting, "So what? That would just show that he agrees with most of the population that less pollution is better than more pollution."

Barry Clausen, author of Walking on the Edge: How I Infiltrated Earth First!, was the source of the original rumor, repeated on national TV by ABC, that Kaczynski attended the 1994 Native Forest Network conference in Missoula and is aligned with enviros. Clausen told the media that he had a list of people who attended the conference and the name "T. Casinski" appears on it. The list was turned over to the FBI.

Clausen is linked to the timber industry (Walking on the Edge was published by the Washington Contract Loggers Association, distributed by Alan Gottlieb's Merrill Press, and the cover was designed by Ron Arnold) and has provided information to Lyndon LaRouche's publication Executive Intelligence Review. Clausen co-edits a newsletter called Eco-Terrorism Watch with Rogelio Maduro, an associate editor of the LaRouche magazine 21st Century Science and Technology.

Clausen has appeared recently at various local meetings in the West pushing his theory that environmentalists are eco-terrorists. Clausen's guilt by association technique for identifying ecoterrorists is to describe Earth First! as a terrorist organization, and then make whatever link possible between local environmentalists and Earth First!

For more information on Barry Clausen or Putting People First, contact Clearinghouse on Environmental Advocacy and Research (CLEAR) 1718 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20009 tel. 202-667-6982 fax 202-232-2592 e-mail: clear@ewg.org; Web Page: www: http://www.ewg.org

7. **AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHURCHES BOMBED:** A new report by the Center for Democratic Renewal documents a rising tide of violence aimed at African-American and interracial churches across the American South. According to the report, titled Stop the Terror! We Won't Go Back!, as many as 45 black and interracial churches have been bombed, burned or defaced between January 1990 and March 1996 in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana and other states. "Since January 1995," the report states, "these attacks seemed to be occurring at a rate of one to four every three months."

CDR reports that those arrested in connection with the attacks have been white males between 15 and 45

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years of age and often connected to white supremacist organizations. For instance, Gary Christopher Cox, 22, and Timothy Adron Welch, 23, face federal civil rights charges for setting fire to the Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greelyville, South Carolina. When arrested Welch possessed a card identifying him as a member of the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a group led by North Carolina racist Virgil Griffith. Three white men have been convicted on federal civil rights charges for firebombings in Columbia, Tennessee in June 1995 while three white males were convicted in federal court of burning a black church in McComb, Mississippi in April 1993. Despite these and other arrests, the Center reports that 33 of the 45 church arsons remain unsolved.

The report cites the FBI as saying that while the rash of church bombings do not appear linked to one conspiracy, "fires in Louisiana and Alabama appear to be related." CDR recommends that the violence against black churches be investigated as hate crimes and that local, state and federal investigators be held accountable. CDR urges church groups, community groups and individuals to take a more active role in working to stop the violence.

The Center for Democratic Renewal report can be obtained from CDR at P.O. Box 50469, Atlanta, GA 30302 or at (404) 221-0025.

**8. PREPAREDNESS EXPOS IN 1996:** Preparedness Expos, trade shows for Christian Patriots and survivalists and a showcase for Patriot lecturers, will be held this year in Orlando, Florida (June 14-16), Indianapolis, Indiana (September 6-8), and Denver, Colorado (November 8-10).

**9. ELLEN CRASWELL ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL:** In her bid for governor of Washington state, Christian Right leader Ellen Craswell is aggressively reaching out to Christians around the state. In the month of May she is scheduled to appear at the following locales: Church of the Living God, Mountain View Baptist Church, Faith Baptist Church, Alliance Church and the Christian Fellowship Guild in Tacoma; Olympic Bible Fellowship in Sequim; the Seattle and Silverdale March for Jesus Events; the Word of Faith Christian Center in Kennewick; Homeschool Curriculum Fair in Kennewick.

On May 17 Craswell is scheduled to appear at the Whatcom (County) Banquet, hosted by the Youth Action Coalition in Lynden. Speaking with Craswell will be Michael Johnston of the National Campaign to Protect Marriage and the Alaskans Opposed to Pro-homosexual Policies. The event will be held at Lynden Christian High School at 6:30 P.M. Gary and Annetta Small are contact persons for the event. Phone: (360) 398-1227 or P.O. Box 731, Lynden, WA 98264.

In April, Craswell completed a multi-city tour with David Barton, head of the Texas-based organization Wallbuilders. Barton's role on the right is promoting a spurious version of United States history which supports the view that the separation of church and state should be dissolved. His extreme position on the topic has led to his appearance in the past at meetings hosted by Christian Identity figures such as Pete Peters of Colorado and Mike Watson of Oregon.

An internal straw poll conducted by the Washington State Republican Party showed Craswell with a lead in the GOP gubernatorial race, beating her closest challenger, Norm Maleng, 41% to 26%. Nona Brazier and Pam Roach, who have both received favorable reviews from Christian Right activists, received 6% and 9%, respectively. Dale Foreman received 18%, Jim Waldo 5% and far right figure Bob Tharp 1%.

**10. PHINEAS PRIEST FLYERS DISTRIBUTED IN NORTH IDAHO:** Flyers bearing the name of the terrorist Phineas Priesthood were distributed in Idaho Falls Sunday, April 14th. The flyers were placed on cars in a parking lot at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship as well as inside the building. The flyers recounted a 1984 incident in Shelby, North Carolina in which six men set fire to an adult bookstore and killed four people whom the killers claimed were homosexual. The flyer stated that "every time an employee (of the bookstore) was arrested, a flock of Jewish lawyers was brought in... and within a few hours the employee was back at work...." It goes on to state that "Under God's laws, sodomites have no right to life. Therefore man-made laws were created to protect these walking death sentences from the ministers of Yahwe. Thus, 'civil rights' laws." The flyers bore the address of The Ekklesia of the King Christian Assembly in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Phineas Priesthood, first described at length in Richard Kelly Hoskins 1990 book Vigilantes of Christendom, is a Christian Identity "honor" granted to those who commit racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic murder. Members of the Unitarian Fellowship and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) have spoken out strongly against the fliers.

**11. GEORGIA MEN ARRESTED FOR BOMB MAKING:** Two Georgia men were arrested April 25 on charges of conspiracy to possess unregistered explosives. Robert Edward Starr, 34, of Macon and William James McCranie Jr., 30, of Roberta, are reported to be members of a group variously called the Georgia Militia or Militia at Large for the Republic of Georgia. According to an informant cited in a federal affidavit the two possessed enough potassium compound, aluminum powder, nails, fuses, igniters and pvc pipe to make 40 bombs. The informant claimed that they were planning to bury the bombs in their backyard "to defend their rights against the invasion of the government." Though initial news reports stated that the men planned to detonate the bombs at the Olympic Games set for July 19 to August 4 in Atlanta, the Justice Department and BATF denied these reports.

**12. RACIST TRANSLATION OF NEW TESTAMENT:** Christian Identity activists are circulating a new racist translation of the New Testament. The Anointed Standard Translation (AST) was printed in 1995 by Herrel Brothers Publishing House at PO Box 130, Kodiak, TN 37764-0130. V. S. Herrel, in an introduction to the book, claims that the new translation was needed because the King James Bible relied on "a thoroughly corrupted and Talmudic Jewish produced and inspired text of the Hebrew Old Testament." Herrel's introduction also states that the King James version translators "refused to translate the two occurrences of homosexual as homosexual, but rather veiled the work in euphemistic language." Herrel criticizes other translations for being done by teams including "Jews, blacks, Catholics, Masons and every other brand of Judeo" and that other Bibles have "been stamped with the stamp of Jewish Approval." The translation is geared to bolster the notion of racial purity and promote vicious attacks on people of color and Jews.

**13. PROMISE KEEPERS MUTATION:** The Christian Right-led men's movement known as Promise Keepers has apparently produced two offshoots—one aimed at young people and another at women. In March 1996 Evangel College (Missouri) student Jon Ogelsby started the first Promise Keepers organization aimed at high school, college and career-aged men. The group plans to hold small conferences and encourage youth to attend the larger Promise Keepers events (Intercessors for America, May 1996).

Elsewhere a group of evangelical women have been inspired by Promise Keepers to form the Renaissance Ministries as an ecumenical women's movement. Deborah Tyler, a leader in the group, claims that it is a direct response to Promise Keepers with parallel objectives. The group is planning four events for spring 1996 with speakers such as Ann Graham Lotz, daughter of Billy Graham. This group does not appear to be officially linked to Promise Keepers, just inspired by it (Christian News, April 1, 1996).

**14. DAVID IRVING'S BOOK CANCELLED:** St. Martin's Press has decided to halt its publication of Holocaust denier David Irving's latest book, a 700-page biography of German Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels titled Goebbels: Mastermind of the Third Reich. St. Martin's chairman Thomas J. McCormack stated that the decision to cancel came after he closely read the book and searched the David Irving Page on the Internet. About the book McCormack said, "I hated it. I tried to summon up why I hated it. It seemed to me that the subtext was the ugly one: that the Jews brought it [the Holocaust] on themselves."

Irving was paid \$15,000 of a promised \$25,000 advance for the book and claims to be considering legal action against St. Martins. Irving is reportedly outraged at the cancellation, having dedicated significant advertising space to the publication in recent issues of his Action Report.

**15. ADL REPORTS ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS DECLINE:** According to its Annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reports that anti-Semitic incidents fell 11% between 1994 and 1995, the largest decrease in 10 years. The ADL reports that anti-Semitic incidents fell from 2,066 in 1994 to 1,842 in 1995. 1,116 of the incidents reported to the ADL were acts of personal assault and harassment while 727 were acts of vandalism. Of the acts of vandalism cemetery desecration (22) was the only category to rise; other vandalism included incidents on public property (362), acts against synagogues and other Jewish targets (145) and acts aimed at private property (220). Despite the drop, ADL National Director Abraham Foxman urged vigilance against continuing "acts of unbridled hatred." The report is available from the ADL at 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

**16. ALABAMA STATE SENATOR CRUSADES FOR SLAVERY:** An Alabama state senator currently running for the U.S. House announced his view that slavery is justified by the Bible and was good for black people. State Sen. Charles Davidson's statements came from a speech he had written to defend a proposal to resume

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flying the Confederate flag at the state capitol. Davidson wrote that people upset about slavery, "are obviously bitter and hateful against God and his word, because they reject what God says and embrace what mere humans say concerning slavery." Davidson's statements cut to the heart of the argument of civil rights activists against giving official state sanction to the Confederate flag, a fact born out in Davidson's statement that, "I'm on a one-man crusade to try to get the truth out about what our Southern heritage is all about" (Seattle Times, May 10, 1996).

**17. ARYAN NATIONS FIGURES CHARGED IN CHENEY SHOOTING:** Four self-proclaimed members of the Aryan Nations have been charged in connection with a shooting outside a Cheney, Washington pizza parlor. John Christopher Perry, 20, Cary Sam Whitehead, 18, and two unidentified 15 year old boys have been charged with second-degree assault and first-degree reckless endangerment. Two 15 year-old girls who were with them were charged with reckless endangerment and rendering assistance to their companions. The shooting took place after the racists reportedly exchanged words with three men outside of Gatto's Pizza Restaurant. According to police, after the argument the group got in their car and drove off. Court documents state that someone in the car stuck a handgun out of the car window and fired a shot over the parking lot as the car drove by the restaurant. One witness said that he saw someone in the car give a Nazi salute out of the window as the shot was fired. After a Medical Lake police officer pulled the car over police found a loaded 9 mm pistol, racist pamphlets and two knives in the car. Court documents also state that police officers saw swastikas on the car. Perry and Whitehead were being held on \$100,000 bond while the juveniles were released on home monitoring. Perry reportedly has an extensive criminal record and ties to the Aryan Nations (Spokane Spokesman Review, March 23, 1996).

**18. RACIAL INEQUALITY IN WASHINGTON JUDICIAL SYSTEM:** A recent study by a University of Washington sociologist demonstrates that racism continues to plague our judicial system. According to the report, titled Racial Disproportionality in County Juvenile Facilities, by U.W. associate professor of sociology George Bridges, minority youth, particularly African-Americans, are more likely to be detained, charged with a criminal offense, tried and sentenced to jail than white youth. Despite measures passed in 1993 to address racial inequality in the court system, the report found that little actual progress has been made. Bridges cites as one problem the lack of guidelines for judges in deciding whether to detain or release juveniles before trial. According to Bridges "Judges have no criteria, as they do in sentencing, on which to base a detention decision. Often decisions are made somewhat subjectively. We recommend a system of standards that is race-neutral."

••• 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. •••

