



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

Through July 1, 1996

1. **EMERALD CITY & CITY OF ROSES:** New main address for the Coalition for Human Dignity: P.O. Box 21266, Seattle, WA 98111-3266. Phone: (206) 233-9775; Fax: (206) 233-9850. The following CHD staff are based out of the Seattle office: CHD executive director Jonathan Mozzochi, CHD research associate Robert Crawford, CHD electronic publications editor Devin Burghart, CHD field director Cecilia Kalaw. All information requests, literature purchases, business matters, etc., should be routed through this address. CHD research director Steven Gardiner can be reached at the Portland office: P.O. Box 40344, Portland, OR 97240. (503) 281-5823; Fax: (503) 281-8673.

2. **BLACK CHURCH BURNINGS IN NORTHWEST:** A blaze erupted at the Immanuel Christian Fellowship (311 N. Ivy St.) in Portland on June 20. Investigators have determined the cause to be arson, and estimate damage at \$65,000. While no-one was injured during the blaze, the fire severely damaged the interior of the church. The forty year-old church was set afire at approximately 3:00 a.m.

A team of city, state and federal investigators is working on leads and following-up on tips. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the African-American Chamber of Commerce and The Skanner newspaper have helped put together an award fund of \$10,000 for information that leads to an arrest and conviction.

The Portland attack was preceded by an arson at the Eritrean Trinity Community Center in Seattle on June 16. The Center, which is connected to the Eritrean Trinity Orthodox Church, was targeted about 10:58 AM while more than 60 people were gathered for a baptism. According to a fire department spokeswoman the fire was deliberately set in debris near a gas main on the back steps of the community center. People inside the building noticed the smoke and quickly called the fire department. The fire caused approximately \$20,000 in damage, but did not spread as the gas main was turned off (The Seattle Medium, June 19).

The Northwest arsons come as attacks on African-American churches continue across the American south. On Monday, June 17 fires were set 17 minutes apart at the predominantly African-American Mount Pleasant and Central Grove Missionary Baptist Churches in Kossuth, Mississippi. On the same day, a rural black church in Rocky Point, North Carolina was hit by arson. A fourth arson the same day struck a mostly white congregation in Georgia. In the past 18 months more than 35 African-American churches across the south have been struck by arson (Associated Press, June 18).

3. **GRAFFITI, VANDALISM, LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION:**

*Spokane, Washington—A multiracial neighborhood in Spokane awoke Sunday morning, June 23 to racist graffiti on the side of a building that is slated to become a police substation. The graffiti included a Ku Klux Klan cross, swastikas and "White Power."

*Suquamish, Washington—The Suquamish Congregational United Church of Christ was the target of racist graffiti May 3. "KKK" and the words "White Power" were written on the garage door of the church. On May 18, three teenage boys confessed to vandalizing the church. Kitsap County Sheriff Pat Jones told reporters that two more boys were allegedly involved but had not been located. Jones also stated that the youths were not members of a white supremacist organization and would likely be charged with malicious mischief. Following the incident area churches and the Kitsap County Human Rights Council—formed following a 1988 cross burning in Suquamish—met to support church members and oppose bigotry (Bremerton Sun, May 19).

*Newport, Oregon—Jail transport vehicles were defaced with swastikas near the Lincoln County Courthouse in early May.

*Boise, Idaho—A 14-year-old young woman scrawled racial slurs on the home of a Mexican-American family in mid-May. She is also suspected of slashing car tires of other neighbors as well.

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*Lincoln City, Oregon—The local public library was struck by a vandal in early May who destroyed three books devoted to African-American themes

*Chinook, Washington—Stan Huitt, a fisherman and resident of Chinook has been suffering ongoing harassment over the past few months. A cross was burned on his lawn, and in early May swastikas were placed around his boat. According to the Long Beach Chinook Observer, no pictures were taken at the scene and Pacific County Chief Sheriff's Deputy Dale Staudenraus said there was nothing they could do with fingerprints collected (!?).

*San Juan Island, Washington—White Aryan Resistance (WAR) literature was distributed April 29 along two tree-lined gravel roads west and south west of Friday Harbor (Journal of the San Juan Island, May 8).

4. ENGLISH ONLY INITIATIVE IN WASHINGTON: Two Yakima men are sponsoring an initiative which would make English the states' official language "of the ballot, the public schools and all government functions and actions." Initiative 193 is being sponsored by Jim Morrison and John D. Reynolds under the auspices of The CAUSE - The Call for Americans to Unite for the Speaking of English. The initiative would ban the use of any language but English by the state and all political subdivisions and would give anyone resident or business person in the state the right to sue to enforce the law. It would allow for the use of other languages in several tightly circumscribed situations, including using a second language to more effectively teach English; teaching a foreign language as part of a curriculum; "protecting public health and safety;" protecting the rights of defendants or crime victims; or for historical or ceremonial functions.

Morrison and Reynolds deny any racist or anti-Hispanic motive for their initiative. Reynolds told reporters that "We're not out to take second-use languages from their subculture...Its not Hispanic-bashing." However, as the two also told reporters, one source of inspiration behind the initiative was an incident in which the Union Gap proprietor of the Old Town Pump was sued after kicking out three patrons for speaking Spanish. The two have also bemoaned the appearance of Spanish language drivers' manuals in the office of the Department of Motor Vehicles (Yakima Herald-Republic, May 19).

The CAUSE must collect 181,667 valid signatures by January 3, 1997 to place the initiative before the legislature. If done, the legislature could pass the initiative as written; reject it or take no action, forcing the measure to go before the voters in November 1997; or pass an alternative measure which would go before the voters simultaneous to Initiative 193. A similar measure has been authored in the legislature by State Senator Harold Hochstatter, R-Moses Lake. The CAUSE: P.O. Box 183, Selah, WA 98942.

5. LIFE ADVOCATE VS. THE GOP: In the May 1996 issue of Life Advocate magazine, Matt Trewhella contends that the "moral shallowness" of secular conservatives and mainstream antiabortion groups was revealed by the Republican presidential primaries. Trewhella, director of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based Missionaries to the Preborn, writes:

"The thoughts of many hearts were revealed during the race for the Republican nomination for president. Why do I say this. Because the only 100% pro-life candidate running—Pat Buchanan—was abandoned by those who claim to be pro-life and pro-family" ("Buchanan Reveals the Bastardizers," pp. 32 - 33).

Trewhella singled out Bill Bennett, Rush Limbaugh and Jack Kemp for individual criticism and the Christian Coalition and the National Right to Life Committee for their willingness to support Bob Dole and testify to his "pro-life" credentials.

Life Advocate editor Paul deParrie harped on similar themes in a recent letter mailed to militant antiabortion activists in Oregon. In the letter postmarked March 26, deParrie warns Oregon voters against three of the state's most prominent conservatives running for office. deParrie attacks the pro-life and pro-family commitment of U.S. Senate candidate Gordon Smith, U.S. Representative Jim Bunn and candidate Bill Witt. All three have supported or been supported by the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) in the past, but have split with that organization in recent years. Witt in particular has been known in deParrie's words as a "pro-life stalwart." The objection to Witt is that he is to ready to compromise his principles, having become "quite the darling of the Dorchester Conferences."

6. FREEMAN STANDOFF ENDS: After an 81 day standoff with federal agents self-proclaimed "Freemen" surrendered on June 13. As with the surrender of racist Randy Weaver in August 1992, the FBI again resorted to using known leaders in the white supremacist movement to negotiate an end to the Freeman standoff. In the final stages of the standoff attorneys from the racist legal firm CAUSE joined Montana State Representative Karl Ohs in the negotiations. At the behest of CAUSE leaders the FBI previously allowed Freeman Edwin Clark to leave the ranch June 11 and fly to Billings, Montana for a meeting with the group's leaders Leroy Schweitzer and Daniel Petersen.

At least twelve of those surrendering face federal charges in connection to circulating millions of dollars in bogus checks and threatening to kill a federal judge. According to an unnamed FBI agent those not charged will be free to go, though they cannot return to the ranch. Those surrendering include Ralph Clark, 65, Kay Clark, 65 (Ralph's wife no federal charges), Edwin Clark, 45 (their son), Casey Clark, 21 (Ralph and Kay's grandson), Emmett Clark, 67 (Ralph's brother), Rosie Clark, 70 (Emmett's wife with no federal charges), Rodney Skurdal, 43, Dale Jacobi, 54, Russell Landers, 45, Dana Dudley Landers, 44, Cherlyn Petersen, 51, Steven Charles Hance, 46, John Richard Hance, 19 (Steven's son), James Edward Hance, 24 (Steven's son), Jon Barry Nelson, 40, and Cornelius John "Casey" Veldhulzen, 49. (Associated Press, June 14)

The surrender came about one week after several other members of the group had left the ranch. On June 6 Gloria Ward of Utah left the ranch with her husband Elwin and her two daughters aged 8 and 10. To secure Ward's surrender Federal officials apparently agreed to drop federal kidnapping charges. Ward kidnapped the two children after losing custody when she pressed her 14 year old daughter into a marriage with John Chaney, the 38 year old leader of the House of Chaney cult to which Ward belonged. Sixteen year old Ashley Taylor left the ranch June 11.

According to Karl Ohs the intransigence of the fugitives nearly led to a last minute breakdown of the negotiations. Ohs told reporters that the group became angry when a farmer drove a tractor onto land that the Freemen considered their own. "[The surrender] was close to some shooting going on, and close to not happening at all," he said. Ohs stated that several leaders in the group refused to give themselves up the morning of the surrender and delayed the surrender for several hours when they insisted on typing up additional documents. The Freemen agreed to surrender only after Ohs gave his word that he would safeguard a truckload of their bogus documents (New York Times, June 17).

In their first court appearance after the standoff the Freemen leaders continued their vocal opposition to federal jurisdiction over their activities. In classic Christian Patriot pseudo-legal babble Identity figure Rodney Skurdal told the presiding federal magistrate, "I object to your calling me a person, your honor" while far rightist Dana Landers told the same judge that "The holy scriptures are my law. I'm not familiar with your tribunals." North Carolina Freeman Steven Charles Hance told the judge that "My venue is the common law and my only lawgiver is Yahweh." All 14 of the defendants continued in this fashion.

7. KLAN RECRUITS ALONG WEST COAST: Bill Albers, the Modesto, California-based head of the American Klan, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan appeared at a rally of about a dozen supporters at the American Legion hall in Auburn, Washington on June 15. Early announcements by Albers' group claimed that some 150 neo-Nazi skinheads would attend the meeting. The event was arranged by Mara Hulet who gave an Auburn address. Albers was also reported to appear Saturday June 22 at an undisclosed Portland, Oregon park. Similarly, law enforcement sources reported to the Seattle Post Intelligencer (June 15) that two racist skinhead bands, Intimidation One, from Portland, Oregon and Punishment Sect, were to hold a gathering in nearby Aberdeen.

Albers' Auburn appearance was met by about 30 protesters, some of whom briefly scuffled with the racists. George Kelley, a self-proclaimed skinhead, reportedly grabbed a camera from a demonstrator and smashed it to the ground. A young skinhead who described himself as a member of the band Punishment Sect told reporters that "I believe in tearing down the government and starting a new government under Yahweh." Bill Albers, in the hypocritical style of the Klan, bemoaned the demonstration and told reporters that "Everybody's got equal rights, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. But when we try to hold something we get this kind of garbage out there in the street. You don't see the Klan going out and causing problems."

Officials from the American Legion were quick to condemn klan groups and stated that they were unaware of the nature of the meeting until shortly before the event.

8. BOMB THREAT TARGETS AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS: Bomb threats aimed at an African-American educational association in Kennewick, Washington have forced the group to relocate an annual event held to honor black students who maintain good grades. The Afro-Americans for an Academic Society, an organization formed 20 years ago to reward African-American academic achievement, chose to cancel a reception and parent-student workshop and to move the awards banquet to an undisclosed Pasco-area school after the Shilo Inn—the original location of the event—received a letter stating that it would be bombed if the event were held. The letter ended, "and if any of you think I'm playing, try me." Despite the threat, over 200 people attended the event at which African-American students received \$1900 in scholarships.

Because the threat was issued through the mail it is being investigated as a federal crime by the U.S. Postal Inspector in cooperation with the Richland police. The police department is asking people to call 943-7340 or 586-TIPS if they have any information about the threat. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs told

reporters that there were six racially motivated threats in Richland and Kennewick in 1994, the last year for which statistics are available (Tri-City Herald, May 30-31).

9. CHRISTIAN PATRIOT ASSOCIATION RAIDED BY IRS: The Gresham, Oregon Outlook had the best lead on the recent IRS raid of the Christian Patriot Association: "Dorothy Flowers (wife of CPA head Richard Flowers) was shopping at Kmart when her cellular phone rang Sunday afternoon. 'I thought it was a call telling me that we had been robbed,' Dorothy Flowers said Tuesday morning. 'We were, but not by honest robbers.'" Early Sunday morning, May 19, IRS agents executed a search warrant at the CPA bookstore (33838 SE Kelso road) looking for evidence the CPA was in violation of IRS tax codes. No arrests were made. The IRS drilled open safes, took computers, records, lists of people who buy books from the CPA and other material.

10. WHITE SALMON, WASHINGTON & "WE THE PEOPLE": A Christian patriot group calling itself "We The People" formed in White Salmon, Washington in February and now maintains a storefront office at 210 E. Jewett. The group is apparently led by Joseph Howard: Casey and Timothy James: Henderson. According to the White Salmon Enterprise (May 23), Henderson insisted his name be written as above, "The Christian name and surname, with a colon separating the two. The last name belongs to the family."

The two patriots apparently ran an electronics repair shop, Systems Solutions, but gave up working on gadgets for the more lucrative returns associated with Christian patriotism. The group distributes the American's Bulletin, although Henderson claims: "We are not white supremacists. All races were preserved by God on the face of the Earth, and we all have God-given rights."

According to the Enterprise, "members of We The People want to set up their own legal system. They want to be free of many of the laws that the government sets up. They believe the Masonic Lodge is a satanic organization, and that the federal government is not following the Constitution. And they believe the United Nations is going to start World War III on June 6, 1996."

11. WALDHEIM: "THE JEWS DID IT": Just one week after the release of his autobiography The Answer, former United Nations secretary-general and onetime Austrian president Kurt Waldheim blamed a "worldwide network" of Jewish organizations for getting him banned from entering the United States. In an interview with the Vienna weekly Profil Waldheim accused the World Jewish Congress of conducting a smear campaign against him in concert with his Social Democrat opponents during his 1987 bid for the presidency. Waldheim told Profil, "There is a worldwide network in operation. It has great power...it is enormously effective." He continued that the "all-powerful" lobby put journalists under pressure and that "Some—acquaintances from my time in New York—told me they lost their jobs because they tried to step in on my behalf."

Waldheim's complaints stem in part from his 1987 placement on the U.S. Justice Department "watch list" of people refused entry to the United States because of their association with the German Nazis. The World Jewish Congress played an instrumental and admirable role in exposing Waldheim's Nazi past, during which he volunteered to join Hitler's SA, or brownshirts, and assisted in carrying out war crimes in the Balkans, according to a commission charged with looking into Waldheim's past. In Waldheim's present, he was recently filmed presenting a copy of his new book to Austrian neo-fascist leader Jorg Haider.

12. CROSS BURNING IN OREGON: A six-foot-tall wooden cross was burned in the front yard of Billy Ballard, a longtime African-American resident of Gresham, Oregon on the evening of June 16. The Oregonian (June 18) reported that Gresham's first black city councilor, Claudiette LaVert, happened to be on a police ride-along early Sunday evening and was on the scene only minutes after the fire had been put out. LaVert, who served in the Air Force Reserve in Vietnam, said she recognized the smell. "Napalm: That's exactly what it reminded me of...it was the embodiment of hatred and ignorance."

The attack on Ballard, 59 years of age, is made all the more abhorrent due to a previous assault he suffered in his home last November 25. Ballard was viciously beaten, his home trashed and his black 1989 Pontiac Firebird stolen. He spent the next three weeks in a coma and no arrests have been made in that incident.

Ballard was also the first black to move into the Rockwood area of Gresham some twenty years ago. A supervisor at Tri-Met, the Multnomah County transit authority, Ballard said the cross-burners were, "cowards."

13. ICA INITIATIVE EFFORTS: The Idaho Citizens Alliance (ICA) is reportedly having difficulty collecting the 41,335 valid signatures needed to place its anti-gay rights, anti-abortion and anti-public education initiatives on the

ballot. According to the Idaho Falls Post-Register, ICA executive director Kelly Johannsen told a group of supporters attending a May 16 meeting: "What we've got right now is a message of urgency" (May 17, 1996). Gay Ruzika, director of the Utah chapter of Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum spoke at the meeting in an effort to rally support for the ICA initiatives. Ruzika and Eagle Forum played a major role in last winter's vote by Salt Lake City's school board to eliminate all nonacademic student clubs in order to prevent the formation of a gay and lesbian group.

14. RACIST ARSON IN LOWELL, OREGON: Lowell, Oregon, a small town some 20 miles southeast of Eugene (pop.805) was the site of an ugly arson targeting a country store owned by Toshiko Wilson. Ms. Wilson, who is Japanese-American and has worked for the past 20 years restoring the building, told the Oregonian that, "Everything about this is racist." Wilson's 20-year-old son, Daniel Stephens, fled the blaze by leaping from a second-story window. The unknown arsonist struck June 14.

15. OKANOGAN MURDERS MOTIVATED BY RACISM?: Alejandro Sanchez Torres and Guillermo Roman Herrera were "just spics" to one of the men who previously admitted to beating and then drowning them in the Okanogan River September 27, 1995. According to the Spokane Spokesman Review (June 14), Scott Pierce (21) of Omak, Washington made the remark the night following the murders. A recording of Pierce's confession was edited for the jury, and an audible "pop" could be heard when the tape was played. The judge during the trial, Jack Thomas, ruled earlier that evidence linking Pierce to racist rallies through his roommate, apparently a skinhead, was to be excluded. A tattoo on Pierce's chest that reads, "100 percent honkey" was ruled inadmissible as well. When the tape cassette resumed after the gap, Pierce went on to explain his dislike of Hispanics, although he denied being racist, and described the double-murder as the result of heavy drinking and a fight.

Pierce's codefendant, Anthony Sammons, 25, was convicted this March of two counts of first-degree aggravated murder and will serve a mandatory life sentence without parole.

The jury hearing Pierce's case is deliberating as to whether Pierce's actions were premeditated. If not, then Pierce could be convicted of second-degree murder and be out of prison in less than 33 years.

16. BIGOTED ASSAULTS IN NORTHWEST:

*Longview, Washington—On May 4 two African-American teens were assaulted by three white teens described as skinheads. One of the skinheads pointed a gun at the black teens and shouted racial epithets; another skinhead threatened them with a knife (Longview Daily News). All three racist skinheads were later arrested. Benjamin Jackson Haga of 308 NW 4th Avenue, Kelso, and Elijah Jamesen Reid of 1302 21st Avenue, Longview—both 19-year-old men—were charged with felony malicious harassment while a 17-year-old young woman was charged with the equivalent for a minor. Haga sports a Klan tattoo and claimed to be an Aryan Nations member. The Ethnic Support Council and the Lower Columbia Human Rights Association scheduled meetings during June to respond to skinhead recruitment in the area.

*Kelso, Washington—Three Latino men were attacked in their home on June 2 in the Southwest community of Kelso. Police are describing the multiple assaults as hate crimes. Three young white men who appeared to be skinheads came into the home through an unlocked back door. One wielded a two-foot board and another a knife. A struggle ensued, after which the skinheads left. Another Latino resident was attacked outside the home May 30.

*Rexburg, Idaho—According to the Idaho Falls Post-Register, armed robbers in ski masks broke into a house about 2:00 a.m. Sunday, June 9, tortured the Latino residents and stole about \$2,200 in cash and immigration documents. "We've never had anything like this happen. It really scares me, said Fremont County Sheriff Terry Thompson. Detectives think at least six people were involved in the robbery.

*Seattle, Washington—Two young white men, James Walters, 22 and Eric Larson, 24, both of Seattle were convicted on June 6 of malicious harassment. Walters and Larson attacked a black cab driver outside the Hurricane Café, in downtown Seattle, November 5, 1995. Both Walters and Larson are skinheads, although they denied being racists. Their sentencing is scheduled for July.

17. OREGON'S INITIATIVE PROCESS: Oregon's Ballot Measure 24, if approved by voters in November, would require citizens seeking to place an initiative on the ballot to collect an equal number of signatures—19,537—from each of the state's five congressional district. The current law requires 97,681 signatures gathered anywhere within the state. Proponents of the initiative, including Associated Oregon Industries, the Oregon Business Council, the Oregon Association of Realtors and other business interests, argue that the current system excludes rural Oregonians from the initiative process and has led to excessive use of initiatives to micro-manage the budget and tax base.

Opponents include a broad coalition of grassroots organizations, including the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), Oregon Taxpayers United and various environmental and consumer groups, who argue that the initiative is an attempt to limit direct democracy. If passed the initiative could have drastic consequences for grassroots organizations which have traditionally gathered signatures largely in the Portland area at shopping malls and other high traffic locations.

18. CRASWELL CALLS FOR KINGDOM CELEBRATION: With echoes of the Promise Keepers, Washington gubernatorial candidate Ellen Craswell has declared that if elected she will hold an inaugural event for Christian pastors and believers at the Kingdom. Craswell, a sixty-three year old former state legislator, recently told a group of supporters "When we as lawmakers would force government to do something outside of God's plan, government falls flat on its face" (Bellingham Herald, May 18). Craswell has been a popular speaker at events held by the Washington chapter of the Christian Coalition and she recently completed a series of speaking engagements with David Barton, a Christian Right historian who argues against the separation of church and state.

19. OCA GIVES UP ANTI-GAY DRIVE: In the wake of the recent Supreme Court decision declaring Colorado's Amendment 2 unconstitutional, the Oregon Citizen's Alliance (OCA) has decided not to go forward with current efforts to place an anti-gay initiative on the November ballot. "If taken to the Supreme Court," OCA chair Lon Mabon told the Bend Bulletin, "I think the same six justices would rule it [the OCA proposed initiative] unconstitutional" (June 6). There was previous speculation that the OCA was having difficulty collecting the required signatures. An OCA-sponsored initiative effort to ban late-term abortions will continue in an attempt to collect the required 97,681 valid signatures by the July deadline.

20. OPERATION RESCUE "SHOW THE TRUTH" TOUR: Operation Rescue conducted a "Show the Truth" tour around the northwest in mid to late June. The tour consisted of demonstrations outside clinics which provide abortion services and at other locations with activists displaying 4 to 6 ft tall photos of aborted fetuses. The group boasts that the photo shows "the decapitated head of a baby killed before birth with the word "ABORTION" written across the top." Operation Rescue California director Jeff White announced that he organized the present picket as a "test run for the upcoming Republican Convention" which will be held in San Diego in August. The group plans to provide 50 picture-signs for each two-hour picket. Operation Rescue: (909) 336-3632.

In addition to stops in Arizona, New Mexico, California and Utah, other stops included: June 19, Colorado Springs, CO; June 20, Denver and Boulder, CO; June 22, Boise, ID; June 24, Spokane and Yakima, WA; June 26, Olympia, WA; June 26, Portland, OR; June 27, Salem, OR.

••• 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. •••