



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## NORTHWEST UPDATE

Through July 15, 1996

- 1. NEW CHD WWW HOME PAGE ADDRESS:** Web browsers who use CHD's Web Page will be referred to a new site. Our new Web Page address is: <http://www.chd-seattle.org/chd/>. Improved features currently under construction include the Northwest Update and selections from Guns & Gavels as well as links to other web pages of interest. Check the page often for improvements.
- 2. BLACK CHURCH FIRES RESOURCE GUIDE AVAILABLE ON-LINE:** The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church has made The Black Church Fires Resource Guide available to all on the world wide web. The URL (Web address) is <http://gbgm-umc.org/advance/Church-Burnings/index.html>. The Guide provides facts and suggestions how churches can positively respond to the tragedy of church burnings. Additionally, the whole guide can be downloaded for off-line viewing (Word Perfect 6.1). The Site also provides religious news about the burnings.
- 3. THIRD NORTHWEST BLACK CHURCH BURNS:** The Pleasant Hills Missionary Baptist Church, 6066 E. 160<sup>th</sup> St. Graham, Washington was set ablaze late July 6- early July 7 in what fire department officials are viewing as arson. Damage to the predominantly black church is estimated at \$80,000 (Seattle Times, July 8).
- 4. OCA FAILS IN ANTI-ABORTION EFFORT:** On June 6, in the wake of the United States Supreme Court 6-3 ruling against Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) formally withdrew its proposed anti-gay initiative aimed at the November ballot. OCA Chair Lon Mabon announced that his organization would turn its attention to collecting the required signatures to place an initiative on the ballot to ban second and third trimester abortions.  
In a June 15 letter to supporters Mabon wrote: "Well its all on the line, and we are down to just two weeks. Without a major effort in the closing days, the projection is we will not get enough signatures to qualify the pro-life initiative for the November ballot." Mabon also writes: "The little group of individuals who are so publicly trying to hurt OCA has said that OCA is dead, and failure to get the required signatures will prove it." The "little group" Mabon is referring to are prominent OCA defectors Mike Wiley, Al Mobley, Marilyn Shannon, John Leon and several others. The Oregon Elections Division has now indicated that the OCA failed to turn in the required signatures by the July 5 deadline, meaning that the proposed initiative will not be on the November ballot.
- 5. PATRIOT PICNIC TO DRAW COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Far right Stevens County Commissioner J.D. "Andy" Anderson is slated to speak at a Patriot's Picnic July 13 at Ramsey Park in Couer d'Alene, Idaho. Anderson confirmed his appearance at the event in a telephone interview and also told CHD that "the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is a sham." The meeting is being hosted by Gordon Ormesher's American's for Constitutional Government, North Idaho's leading force behind the formation of vigilante common law courts. Joining Anderson as speakers at the event are tax protesters Bill Benson, Fred Alnut, Wilson Meade and Randy Glessner. Christian Patriot musician Karl Clang will provide entertainment. Ormesher is promoting the event in the Spotlight and is optimistically predicting an attendance of 1000-1500 people. American's for Constitutional Government: 2900 Government Way #219, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83835; (208) 667-2305.
- 6. VIPER MILITIA MEMBERS ARRESTED IN BOMB PLOT:** Thirteen members of the Arizona-based Viper Militia have been arrested and charged in connection with a plot to blow up government buildings and assorted weapons violations. The thirteen were indicted in late June by a Federal Grand Jury and arrested July 1. Six were charged with offenses related to the bomb plot which apparently targeted buildings housing the Bureau of Alcohol

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Tobacco and Firearms, the FBI, the IRS, the INS, the Secret Service, the Phoenix Police Department and the Arizona National Guard. The remainder are being held on weapons charges. In a search of the homes of Viper members federal agents confiscated more than 70 unregistered automatic assault rifles, hundreds of blasting caps, eight grenades and at least 400 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer—the type of fertilizer used in the Oklahoma City bombing. According to the indictment, one member of the group also described designing a rocket which could “take out a police car from 550 yards” and two militia members claimed to have gathered 1,700 pounds of ammonium nitrate (SeattlePost-Intelligencer, July 2).

Key evidence in the case includes a May 1994 video in which members discuss the security measures, communications equipment, and other aspects of the targeted buildings. A voice-over during the video reportedly advises members to place “anti-personnel devices” in mailboxes at the target buildings, notes that destroying a water main near a building could hamper the efforts of security guards and describes where explosives should be placed to most effectively collapse a building.

An investigation into the Viper Militia apparently began in November 1995 after a hunter was confronted by a group of camouflaged men and told to leave the Tonto National Forest. Following the confrontation an officer with the State Game and Fish Department posing as a member of the neo-Nazi National Alliance and claiming to be a private detective reportedly infiltrated the group. After being deputized by the ATF and undergoing the scrutiny of militia members the officer further gained the member’s trust by taking their oath “to kill anyone attempting to infiltrate the militia and seek retribution if any member was arrested” (New York Times, July 5-6).

In addition to appearing to allow self-described neo-Nazis into their ranks, four members of the group belonged to a radical faction of the Libertarian Party, an organization whose leaders frequently ally with white supremacists through organizations such as the Fully Informed Jury Association. Donald Pleasant, a onetime candidate for state office, was also listed as an Arizona militia contact on the Restoring America web page. Among other points of interest to right-wing activists this web page includes contact numbers for numerous militia heavies, including Michigan leader Norm Olsen and John Trochmann of the Militia of Montana.

It is still unclear as to whether the Viper Militia is connected to the June 1994 document titled Militia Operation Plan American Viper, a 68 page handbook on conducting guerrilla warfare. The document has been sold by the Del City, Oklahoma United Sovereigns of America, the leading group behind the formation of common law courts .

In addition to Nelson and Pleasant, those arrested include Finis Howard Walker, 41, David Wayne Belliveau, 27, Ellen Adella Belliveau, 27, Charles Franklin Knight, 47, and Scott Jeffery Shero, 30, of Glendale; Walter Earl Sanville, 37, of Scottsdale; Gary Curtis Bauer, 50, Henry Alfred Overturf, 37, Donnal Star Williams, 44, and Christopher Alan Floyd, 21, of Phoenix (SeattlePost-Intelligencer, July 2).

**7. LIBERTARIANS, CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS TO MEET IN CANADA:** Far-right leaders Larry Dodge of the Fully Informed Jury Association and Colorado State Senator Charles Duke are featured speakers for the 1996 World Conference of the International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL), to be held in Whistler, British Columbia August 19-24. The conference, entitled, “Reclaiming Our Liberties from Out-of-Control Governments” represents an unprecedented gathering of Canadian neo-conservatives with American radical rightists. Canadian right-wing figures scheduled to attend include: Walter Block, an economist & research fellow for the Fraser Institute; David Somerville, executive director of the National Citizens Coalition and Herb Grubel, Member of Parliament for the Reform Party of Canada. Contact: Brian Taylor, ISIL Conference Registrar, 604-224-4628.

**8. LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE RECEIVES HATE LETTER:** Gary Akizuki, Democratic candidate for Washington State 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District House Position 1, received hate mail in response to a fund raising letter he recently distributed. One solicitation was returned, covered in racial slurs and profanity. The return address was marked “SWP” followed by a swastika (The Columbian, June 25).

**9. EXHIBIT EVOKES HOMOPHOBIA, COMMUNITY RESPONSE:** Despite protests by anti-gay groups in Whatcom County, the “Family, Friends and Neighbors” exhibit of photos depicting the day-to-day life of lesbians and gays taken during the fight over Measure 9 in Oregon opened in Bellingham, Washington on June 20. The opening coincided with a rally attended by over 200 people. Human rights advocates including the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force and Hands Off Washington participated in the event. Prior to the opening, several organizations lashed out at the exhibit including the Whatcom County Republican Party, Whatcom County Eagle Forum, Christian Coalition of Washington, Gary and Anetta Small’s new political action committee, Washington Opposed to Pro-homosexual Policies and the Whatcom County Young Republicans lead by Eric Nathan. “Visitors to city Hall will be led to believe that our government endorses the homosexual life-style,” stated Yvonne Goldsmith, chair

of the Whatcom County Republican Party. State Rep. Gene Goldsmith, (R-Ferndale) had attacked the exhibit during its February visit to the state capitol.

Larry McAlpine, the chairman of the Christian Coalition of Whatcom County called the display “irresponsible.” He also declared, “This display flagrantly violates the feelings and beliefs of the majority of this community and shows little concern for homosexuals themselves. Their life-style is not only, from our standpoint, immoral. It is also a serious danger to themselves and those they care for,” he said.

**10. MORE RACIST GRAFFITI IN SPOKANE:** Two parks were the targets of racist vandals on June 22-23 in Spokane. Emerson Park received swastikas and “88” spray-painted on the entrance sign, a swastika on the playground slide and “White Power, KKK, Kill and MD” on the playground walls. The lettering and the blue spray-paint appear to resemble the graffiti left the same night on the walls of a future north Spokane Police substation. Swastikas and other emblems were also spray-painted around Minehaha park.

**11. CHRISTIAN COALITION TAKES SHOT AT LABOR:** In the July/August issue of the Christian Coalition’s Christian American magazine an article entitled “Unions Spending Big Money to Sway Elections” goes after the AFL-CIO. The article states in part: “Big labor’s agenda includes far more than the minimum wage and other work-related issues—and it often goes against pro-family goals.” Brian Lopina, director of the Christian Coalition’s Governmental Affairs office is quoted as saying: “Every dime we use to distribute voter guides comes from voluntary contributions. The unions collect forced dues.” Lopina further advises that “pro-family” union members should challenge the “liberal agenda” of the AFL-CIO and have their dues exempted from political spending.

**12. WSU STUDY FINDS ANTI-GAY INTOLERANCE:** A new survey funded by Washington State University has found evidence of “considerable intolerance and homophobia” at the Pullman campus. Researchers conducted 10 focus groups with heterosexual students from the College of Liberal Arts and found widespread use of derogatory language directed at gays and lesbians. The university, which has also received numerous sexual harassment complaints by employees and complaints of racial discrimination, has suffered from public anti-gay incidents. Last year several dozen WSU students held a rally to protest the Gay and Lesbian program. Bobbi Bonace, former director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Allies Program told reporters that part of the reason she left was the refusal of the school to offer employment to her partner in spite of a program designed to retain women and minority employees. “It is politically impossible for this university to do anything that might give the impression that they have accommodated a lesbian couple” Bonace told the Associated Press (Bellevue Journal American, June 17).

**13. AFLM ATTACKS RALPH REED:** An article by Cathy Ramey in the June 1996 issue of Life Advocate magazine attacks Ralph Reed and the Christian Coalition for betraying the cause of true Christianity. In “Marginalizing Christianity from Within, or, Ralph Reed’s Not Nearly as Extreme as Those Other Christians,” Ramey writes: “Ralph Reed is the poster-boy for Pat Robertson’s powerful Christian Coalition (CC). Some of us can remember back to the days when the CC emerged as a feisty contender, ready to take the Republicans to task for being ‘moderates’ (mostly in favor of abortion and other liberalities, but opposed to a few abortions, etc.) And we’ve watched while Ralph was crowned king of the bullpitt. We’ve moved from disappointment in the failed promise of this organization, on to outrage as they’ve embraced the Republican moderation they pretend to deplore” (pp.30-31). Ramey’s attack is another in a growing list of Christian Right figures breaking with Reed and the Christian Coalition over issues of militancy.

**14. U.S. TAXPAYERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** The far right U.S. Taxpayers Party will host its ballot nominating conference at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, California on August 15-18. The group is scheduled to nominate both its presidential and vice-presidential candidates at the event as well as adopt the USTP National Platform. The event will feature a number of Christian Right leaders, Reconstructionists and far right celebrities, including U.S. Taxpayers leader Howard Phillips, Daniel New, Herb Titus, Peg Luksik, Otto Scott, Larry Pratt, Dan Pilla, Edwin Vieira, Rus Walton, Judy Brown, George Grant, Randall Terry, Franklin Sanders, Don McAlvany, Dennis Peacocke, R. J. Rushdoony, Sam Blumenfeld, John Stormer and former Arizona governor Evan Mecham.

The U.S. Taxpayers Party is represented in the northwest by: Mary Rutkowski (208-773-6698) and Ken Gordon (internet coordinator at keng@erb.uidaho.edu) in Idaho; Emanuel McLittle (503-597-4000) in Oregon; Jack Murphy (406-849-5413) in Montana; Todd Richert (206-232-2201) in Washington; Doug Campbell (303-420-6238) in Colorado and USTP National Ballot Access Coordinator Janine Hansen (702-356-9009) in Wyoming. The group’s national headquarters: 450 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, Virginia 22180. USTP can also be reached at phone number 1-800-

2-VETO-IRS, on the World Wide Web at [www.ustaxpayers.org](http://www.ustaxpayers.org) and by E-mail: [lmuller@iquest.com](mailto:lmuller@iquest.com).

**15. CHURCH OF THE CREATOR—MONTANA:** The neo-Nazi World Church of the Creator has announced that it will hold a general convention July 27 in Montana. The event will “commemorate” the reunification of the church and formally validate the appointment of Illinois neo-Nazi Matt Hale to the church’s highest position—Pontifex Maximus. Hale took over the organization earlier this year after building credentials as the head of the Peoria, Illinois-based National Socialist White American’s Party. The event contact is Slim Deardorf at P.O. Box 491, Superior, MT 59872 or Dan Hassett at P.O. Box 2231, Missoula, MT 59806.

Meanwhile, it appears as though longtime Laurel, Montana COTC leader Rudy Stanko may have left the group’s fold. Stanko’s name has been noticeably absent from recent issues of the group’s publication The Struggle—after having been featured as a Montana contact in several early editions. Stanko has also recently begun publishing material under the auspices of the Billings Freedom Center. Under this banner he appears to be stressing broader issues, such as states rights, than he did in the early 1990s when he was slated to become the next Pontifex. In a recent article in The American’s Bulletin Stanko praises the Montana legislature for passing a Tenth Amendment sovereignty declaration. Stanko also criticizes the Montana press for not reporting the passage of the declaration. The reason for the non-reporting, he concludes, is that the press is controlled by Lee Enterprises, “a supporter of the ADL and United Jewish Appeal” (American’s Bulletin, June 1996, p.6).

**16. IMPAC BACKS WASHINGTON HOUSE CANDIDATE:** IMPAC, the grassroots Christian Right PAC, is backing Mike Floyd in his bid for the 38<sup>th</sup> District House seat in Washington state. In a letter mailed out to IMPAC supporters Floyd wrote, “I am so grateful to receive help from you as an IMPAC member. Your contribution as a body is going to make the biggest impact on my campaign.” Like many candidates backed by the Christian Right, Floyd is taking up issues that dominated the 1994 congressional elections—decentralizing education, lowering taxes and slashing regulation of business. Citizens for Mike Floyd: 1932 Summit Ave., Everett, WA 98201.

**17. CRASWELL ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL:** As the date for the GOP primary election approaches, Christian Right leader Ellen Craswell continues to aggressively work Christian churches for support. In July Craswell is slated to appear at the following churches: Moses Lake Assembly, Wenatchee First Assembly, Bible Baptist Fellowship of Pastors in Puyallup, Chestnut Street Baptist in Ellensburg, Church of Living Water in Olympia, Sequim Assembly of God, Yakima Foursquare church, Faith Assembly in Pasco and the New Life Center in Everett.

**18. POPULIST PARTY LEADER LASH OUT:** Christian Identity adherent and Populist Party of Washington State vice-chair Mark Downey lashed out at far right leader Larry Pratt and Christian Right “historian” David Barton in a letter to the editor in the May/June 1996 Nationalist Times, the publication of the American Nationalist Union. Downey attacked the two for failing to stand by the Christian Identity bigots with whom they have allied in recent years. He attacked Pratt for being “pathetically repentant” for his far right connections on ABC’s Nightline following the exposure of Pratt’s position with Pat Buchanan’s presidential campaign. Downey goes on to allege that, “He [Pratt] bragged about his friendship with the JPFO (Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership) who are more concerned about Holocaust hysteria and German-bashing than about the Second Amendment. Pratt is also proud that he is a member of CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), which makes sense being that he attends a multicultural, black-pastored church with his non-white wife.” Downey castigates Barton for being of the “same jello mould of dittoheads” and for saying they “he didn’t really know what these people (Identity believers) believed in” when confronted about speaking to white supremacists.

**19. RON TABER ON ENGLISH ONLY:** In a statement that sheds light on the motivation for English Only laws and other attacks on Latinos, Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) candidate Ron Taber told a television film crew that “We should immerse our children in the English language, in this state Spanish is the language of dishwashers, fruit pickers and doormen.” Taber, a favorite son of the Washington State Christian Coalition who has been praised by its leaders, later apologized for his comments but stuck by his opposition to bilingual education. Taber’s comments were accurately summed up by SPI candidate Raul De la Rosa who said, “Ron Taber’s remarks regarding the Spanish language and those who speak it show that he is fluent in the language of divisiveness, intolerance and ignorance... His beliefs are damaging to children and their parents, and demean American society and beliefs. As such he is unfit to lead the schools of this state” (The Hispanic News, June 27).

**20. CHARLES COLLINS IN WASHINGTON STATE:** Far right candidate Charles Collins has gained a place

on the ballot as an Independent in the November 1996 presidential election in Washington state. Collins achieved ballot access at a convention held June 29 at the Federal Way Library in Federal Way, Washington. Collins backers turned in 260 signatures to place him on the ballot. Washington state law requires 200 signatures for third party candidates. This number is down from 1992 when more than 300 signatures were turned in to nominate James "Bo" Gritz. As in previous years, the far right presidential campaign for the state is being headed up by leaders in the Washington State Populist Party. Harry Schmidt, the veteran neo-Nazi and chair of the party, served as the chair of the convention while Homer Brand, a former member of the Duck Club and longtime King County Populist Party leader was a contact on flyers for the convention. Dean Randles at (360) 452-2642 was also a contact on the flyers. Joining Collins on the ticket is vice-presidential candidate Rosemary Guimarra.

**21. PROTESTING PROMISE KEEPERS:** On August 4 the Christian Right men's group Promise Keepers will hold one of its gatherings at the University of Oregon's Autzen Stadium in Eugene. A group of concerned students and community members is planning educational activities and an informational protest to counter the anti-women and anti-gay message of Promise Keepers.

**22. MONTANA COMMON LAW GROUPS FORM:** Two organizations are promoting the formation of common law courts in the Bitterroot Valley in western Montana. The Darby-based Rule of Law Committee is staffed by a number of longtime far right activists, including Calvin Greenup and Al Hamilton. Others involved in the group include Jim "JT" Thompson, Karen E. Hamilton, Larry Blackburn, Lance Arron Hamilton, Gene Honey and John Henry Brandt. The group is drawing on the Committee of Safety model promoted by Florida far right leader Gary Hunt. The Committee of Safety is a broad-based political strategy which combines lobbying with common law court harassment. Under the banner of "Freedom Points" the group declares that, "If the body-sovereign cannot of its own accord seat a judicial Grand Jury then the courts of the incorporated United States will be justified in ignoring our claim. But should the body-sovereign devise a republican & just formula for sitting Grand Juries they shall have no excuse... The militia movement has provided us with a grand opportunity. With their protection we can advance the authority of the Grand Jury with a measure of security and enforcement authority. The militia's will have to come in line with this effort, but I think we can count on their support." Rule of Law Committee: P. O. Box 117 Darby, Montana; (406) 821 - 3010 or (406) 821-4669; Web page: <http://ultimate.org/law/rolc/index.html>.

A second group operating in the Bitterroot Valley is calling itself the American Jural Society in Montana. A Web Page for the group draws heavily on the work of the American Jural Society led by California activist Randy Lee. Lee can be reached at 818-347-7080 or at General Delivery, Canoga Park Post Office, Canoga Park, California.

**23. GAYS & LESBIANS PROTECTED IN CANADA:** Despite concerted efforts of Focus on the Family Canada, REAL Women of Canada, and Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, the Canadian government has passed Bill C-33 into law. C-33 is an amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) that includes sexual orientation among prohibited grounds for discrimination. It passed the House of Commons on May 9 and the Senate on June 5.

Amendments to the CHRA impact cases involving anti-gay discrimination in federally regulated areas of the public service and private sector. Private sector industries affected by this legislation include the banking, airlines and shipping industries. Christian Right groups argued that passage of the bill would lead to anti-Christian policy definitions of spouse and family. All of the above organizations made presentations to the House Standing Committee on Human Rights and Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs opposing the amendments to the Act.

**24. DAVID DUKE ENTERS U.S. SENATE RACE:** Neo-Nazi David Duke has entered the race for U.S. Senate in Louisiana, joining two Democrats and four other Republicans as candidates. All Senate candidates run on the same ballot in an open election to be held September 21. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote, the top two vote-getters meet in a runoff November 6. The Associated Press (July 10) reported Duke as saying, "I am not a racist and not a Nazi sympathizer." Duke also stated that, "Our heritage is under attack. We have massive legal and illegal immigration from all over the world and basically the traditional elements of this country will be a minority if this continues... And we've got to change our welfare policy that is financing a heavy birth rate." There is no clear leader among the current Republican candidates.

••• 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. •••

