



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## *NORTHWEST UPDATE*

November 1, 1998

**1. CHD AT NORTHWEST COALITION CONFERENCE:** CHD Research Director Robert Crawford conducted workshops on the anti-immigrant and anti-Indian movements at the annual conference of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment held October 16-18 in Eugene, Oregon. The anti-immigrant workshop emphasized the often unspoken white nationalism underlying anti-immigrant activity. The workshop on the anti-Indian movement, conducted with Leah Slaney of the Kitsap Human Rights Network, focused on the broad attacks on Indian sovereignty mounted by anti-Indian activists and their far right and Wise Use alliances. Also covered was the recent movement of some animal rights activists into an attack on the treaty-protected rights of the Makah Indians to hunt whales.

Keynote speakers at the event included Lance Hill of the Southern Institute for Research and Education, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Dolores Huerta and Leonard Zeskind of the Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights. The event brought human and civil rights activists from around the region together for discussion and training on matters related to fighting organized bigotry.

**2. NEW YORK CLINIC DOCTOR ASSASSINATED:** On the evening of Friday, October 23, a sniper killed Dr. Barnett Slepian, 51, while he stood in his kitchen. Slepian's home and clinic have been targeted for protest since the 1980s by anti-abortion groups like Operation Rescue. Slepian's name was featured on an anti-gay/anti-abortion web site, which posts information on doctors who perform abortions. The database, named the Nuremberg Files, is meant to intimidate doctors as well as to inform those inclined to stalk and terrorize doctors who perform abortions. Slepian was one of only a few doctors in the Amherst, NY area who provided abortion services and was widely respected for his OB-GYN care. This is the fifth such attack, but first fatality, on an abortion doctor in Canada and the United States on or around the Veterans Day holiday in recent years. Surviving Slepian are his wife and four sons, ages 7 to 15. No suspects have been charged in this or any of the previous attacks. (AP, October 24, 1998)

**3. TWO WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RECEIVE HATE MAIL:** Two students who attended a debate on Washington state anti-affirmative legislation I-200 and who participated in a campus sleep-out in protest of the initiative were the target of a racist emailing. The email signed "The KKK," stated, "Get the rope, let's hang this pitiful minority lover. You Better watch your step there buddy, we are watching you and your so-called friends." Apparently, because both students (one female, one male) are white the Western University Police are not treating this as a hate crime. (*Bellingham Herald*, October 29, 1998)

**4. ARYAN NATIONS HATE MAIL CAMPAIGN:** The Aryan Nations has targeted the residents of Sandpoint and Hayden, Idaho in an apparent hate mail campaign for the second time since the neo-Nazi group marched through the streets of downtown Coeur d'Alene in July. In the most recent mailing, videotapes featuring the aging leader of the AN, Richard Butler, were sent to over 3,000 residents. The 11th Hour Messenger, a Christian Identity group run by two Sandpoint residents, Carl E. Story and R. Vincent Bertellini, reportedly financed the mass mailing. (UPI, October 22, 1998)

**5. CHARGES DROPPED AGAINST ANTI-RACIST ACTIVIST:** One of two anti-racist activists arrested at the July Aryan Nations march in Coeur d'Alene had her charges of resisting arrest and obstructing an officer dropped. The woman had gone to Coeur d'Alene to protest the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations and found herself thrown in jail instead after she refused to let police search her backpack. One man still stands to be charged. (*Spokesman Review*, October 9, 1998)

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**6. FRANKHOUSER SEEKS TAX EXEMPTION:** Berks County, Pennsylvania Klan leader Roy Frankhouser is asking the Pennsylvania Board of Assessment Appeals for tax exempt status for his home/church, the Mountain Church of Jesus Christ. Frankhouser claims that his white supremacist church is a "working-people's church." When asked for proof that he has ministerial credentials Frankhouser handed in a photo of himself, taken in 1970, wearing a priest's collar. (AP, October 22, 1998)

**7. ARYANS STIR AS KENNEWICK MAN IS MOVED:** The Asatru Folk Assembly held a ceremony outside of the Burke Museum, on the University of Washington campus, on October 29, as the 9,300 year old bones known as Kennewick Man were transported for study. The Asatru Folk Assembly, lead by Steve McNallen, purport that the bones, found near the Umatilla reservation, are "Caucasoid" and therefore belong in their possession. "All we are trying to do is establish our own sense of identity as a tribe. This is a Native European religion," said McNallen. In his quest for "identity," McNallen has worked with the Idaho-based neo-Nazi group 14 Word Press and trained with South African neo-Nazis. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, October 30, 1998)

**8. CROSSBURNINGS:** A cross was burned in the yard of a woman's home in Coos County, Oregon. Campaign signs supporting the election of an African-American man for sheriff were taken from the woman's yard. Authorities believe her support for the candidate was the reason for the attack, as the woman is white.

A crossed was burned in the front yard of three female students in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Police believe that the crossburning was a bad Halloween prank because all three women are white and it is one of two attacks they suffered in the same week. In a separate incident, two people wearing masks rang their doorbell and then ran around the women's duplex pounding on doors and the sides of their home. Authorities have no suspects in either case. (*Oregonian*, October 16, 1998; *Spokesman Review*, October 9, 1998)

**9. GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE:** In a recent study by Rutgers University Law School on gender discrimination in the workplace, Clark County, Washington leads the state for employment discrimination against women. The study concluded that 18.5 percent of women in Clark County have experienced discrimination in the workplace. The statewide average for Washington is 17.5 percent. Also found in the study was that the discrimination exists at all levels and in all types of work. The study was part of a three year, nationwide study funded by the Ford Foundation. (*The Columbian*, October 15, 1998)

**10. RACIST ATTACKERS AVOID JAIL TIME:** Two young men convicted of the beating of Chicago teen Lenard Clark – who was left brain damaged from the attack – were sentenced to probation and community service. Victor Jasa, 18, and Michael Kwidzinski, 21, were both given 300 hours of community service as well as 2 ½ and 2 years probation respectively. Jasa pleaded guilty to two felony charges of aggravated battery and Kwidzinski pleaded to two misdemeanor counts of battery. Both admitted to being responsible for the attack but say that they didn't touch Clark. The third perpetrator, Frank Caruso Jr., 19, was convicted of aggravated battery and a hate crime and is serving an eight year sentence. He is said to be responsible for most of the beating, according to police. (AP, October 21, 1998)

**11. ALL-AMERICAN BOYS:** On Tuesday, October 20, close to two dozen students from Anoka High School, in Minnesota, repeatedly drove past the home of a white student who is in an inter-racial relationship and yelled racial epithets. At least one person carried a Confederate flag during the incident. Eight students were suspended for their involvement. Police said that a white supremacist gang known as the All-American Boys, who reportedly have over 50 members in the Anoka, Ramsey and Andover areas had something to do with the attack. However, police said that it is unlikely criminal charges will be made because they could not link any of the students to the racial slurs. The victim and his family, on the other hand, claim that they can put at least four students at the scene. (AP, October 24, 1998)

**12. PROMISE KEEPERS REPORT DROP IN ATTENDANCE:** The predominantly white Christian male men's group Promise Keepers has been attracting record numbers to their events since their first affair in 1991. However, the group reports that there has been a drop of 200,000 people attending their revival ceremonies. This is also the first year in which they have not charged an entrance fee. (AP, October 24, 1998)

**13. PETE WILSON ON INDIAN GAMING:** California Governor Pete Wilson commented recently on California Proposition 5—an initiative that would expand Indian gaming into the state. Wilson said that whoever advised the tribes to put the measure on the ballot "ought to lose his scalp." (*Los Angeles Times*, October 24, 1998)

**14. NEO-NAZI WEBSITE UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR ELECTRONIC THREATS:** Philadelphia based Alpha, a neo-Nazi organization and World Wide Web site led by Ryan Wilson, is being investigated by the U.S. Attorney's Office for making terrorist threats and ethnic intimidation against persons at the Reading-Berks Human Relations Council and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. The U.S. Attorney's office admitted that the web site could not be pulled down over the charges but that they could prosecute specific threats. Alpha had posted images of individuals from the R-BHRC and PHRC with by-lines like, "Traitors like this should beware, for in our day, they will be hung from the neck from the nearest tree or lamppost." Since the suit was filed Wilson, in a clear attempt to avoid prosecution, has taken down the messages and posted a disclaimer stating that Alpha "does not wish to imply that the individuals mentioned on the Web page should be harassed or injured." (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 23, 1998)

**15. THE PEOPLE VERSUS JOSEPH FRANKLIN:** A jury took less than an hour to convict white supremacist Joseph Paul Franklin of the 1980 murder of two black Ohio teens. Franklin could receive two consecutive life sentences although he is also convicted of seven other murders and awaits execution in a case where he killed a Jewish man in Missouri. Franklin alleges that he also shot and paralyzed *Hustler* magazine publisher Larry Flynt and as well as shooting civil rights leader Vernon Jordan. Franklin hoped to start a race war with the murders. (AP, October, 1998)

**16. NO GAY PEOPLE ALLOWED:** The Christian fundamentalist Bob Jones University has a strict no gay policy and recently sent out apologetic letters to its alumni who were found out to be gay. The letter stated, "With grief we must tell you that as long as you are living as a homosexual, you, of course, would not be welcome on the campus and would be arrested for trespassing if you did visit. We take no delight in that action. Our greatest delight would be in your return to the Lord." Although, in order to save the tax exempt status of the University's museum of religious art, they said that all people can visit there—even if they are gay. The University itself lost its tax-exempt status in 1970 for racial discrimination. (AP, October, 1998)

**17. THE PSYCHO-ANALYSIS OF RICK COOPER:** Rick Cooper, Oregon based neo-Nazi leader and publisher of the National Socialist Vanguard Report, was a featured speaker at a recent gathering in Eugene, Oregon, of New Age, pop psychologists known as Process Oriented psychologists. The event was billed as an opportunity for individuals to face deeper, underlying issues that kept people from looking at racism. When anti-racist activists, who had been invited to the meeting, saw that Cooper was the featured speaker they raised questions about the selection. The mayor of Eugene, who shared the stage with Cooper, asked that the activists not disrupt the meeting as he had attended "your" meeting without incident—a reference to the 1998 Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment Conference. (Communities Against Hate)

**18. NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON:** Friday November 9, is officially National Coming Out Day but festivities in Seattle will last for over a week. Two youth organizations, Youth Care and the Young Men's Survey, will be sponsoring a "Super Heroes and Super Villains" dance and costume contest on November 19, at the Pilgrim Congregational Church. (*Seattle Gay News*, October 9, 1998)

••• 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. •••

