



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## NORTHWEST UPDATE

March 1, 1998

**1. CHDAT UNITED AUTO WORKERS CONFERENCE:** CHD research director Jonathan Mozzochi served as a speaker for the 49th annual meeting of the United Auto Worker's National Advisory Council on Civil Rights held in Miami Beach, Florida Jan. 29-Feb. 1. Mozzochi's presentation, "The State of Hate in the 1990s: A New Insurgency" was well received by the 65 regional trade union delegates. Other highlights of the conference included a stirring call to action given by Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, effectively the legislative arm of the civil rights movement in America; a report by Laura J. Campbell, an attorney with the UAW's Legal Department on "Recent Cases and Developments in Civil Rights Employment Law;" and a report by Paul Maseran, chief of staff for UAW President Stephen P. Yokich. Strong union support was expressed for affirmative action as well as California strawberry pickers and the United Farmworkers Union for collective bargaining rights and dignity.

**2. CHD AT JUDICIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING:** CHD research director Jonathan Mozzochi served as a workshop leader for the 1998 California Judicial Administration Conference held Feb. 4-7 in Monterey, California. Mozzochi teamed with the Hon. Steven J. Howell, Presiding Judge of the Butte County Consolidated Courts, who has had extensive experience with common law court activists. Mozzochi delivered CHD's Guns & Gavels presentation on common law courts to more than 35 judges.

**3. CLINIC BOMBING SUSPECT TIED TO RACIST RIGHT:** Eric Robert Rudolph, the 31-year old North Carolina man now officially charged in the Jan. 29 bombing of the New Woman All Women Health Care Clinic in Alabama, has been reported to have ties to several white supremacist organizations. An arrest warrant was issued for Rudolph Feb. 14 and federal agents are presently looking for Rudolph in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina. Rudolph's pickup was found in this region of North Carolina shortly following the bombing that killed one person and seriously injured another.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Rudolph is a disciple of Nord Davis, the deceased North Carolina Christian Identity figure and founder of Northpoint Tactical Teams. In 1992, Davis was slated to be the "secretary of defense" if Populist Party candidate James "Bo" Gritz had been elected president. He is known for his support of New Nation U.S.A., a posse comitatus-like program through which members renounced their citizenship and joined a "nation in exile." Rudolph is also reported to have spent time at the compound of Hayden Lake, Idaho-based Aryan Nations and at Identity leader Dan Gayman's Missouri-based Church of Israel (*Washington Post*, Feb. 15; *Los Angeles Times*, Feb. 15; AP, Feb. 14).

**4. HIGHLIGHT ON THE RIGHT: JAMES DOBSON THREATENS BREAK WITH GOP:** In a Feb. 7 speech before the Council for National Policy in Arizona, Focus on the Family leader James Dobson threatened a break with the Republican Party if party leaders continue to "betray" Christian Right voters. Dobson told the right-wing policy group that the GOP "has laid the foundation for a revolution, and I don't think they even know it because they're so out of touch with the people I'm talking about." Arguing that social conservatives will either come to dominate the GOP, or will leave it, Dobson lashed out at party leaders such as Newt Gingrich and Senators John Ashcroft of Missouri and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, who, he stated, "when they moved into power, moved to immediately insult." Reflecting his political leanings should he bolt the GOP, Dobson told the 300 attendees that when he could not bring himself to vote for Bob Dole in 1996, he cast a "protest" vote for Howard Phillips, the candidate of the U.S. Taxpayers Party. For his anti-GOP outburst, Dobson reportedly received a standing ovation from about two-thirds of the attendees. Dobson also stated that he might take a leave of absence to turn his attention to political advocacy and preserve Focus on the Family's non-profit status.

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Gary Bauer, a onetime Dobson employee and now head of the D.C.-based Family Research Council echoed his former boss: "I think they're [GOP leaders] constantly reading polls saying the party has to be tolerant, it shouldn't look judgmental. But a great party ought to stop looking at polls and find its voice for the people that have given it the power it has got."

Arne Owens, a spokesman for the Christian Coalition, highlighted a difference between his organization and Dobson's, telling the press that "There is discontent out there among Christian conservatives, including some of our supporters. But I wouldn't go much further. The Christian Coalition has always thought it best for people to become active in the political process inside the two-party system, and we still believe that" (*New York Times*, Feb. 12).

**5. KEHOE PLEADS GUILTY TO OHIO CHARGE:** After his lawyer failed to obtain a change of venue, Washington white supremacist Chevie Kehoe pleaded guilty to the attempted murder of an Ohio law officer following the much publicized Feb. 1997 shoot-out. When asked for his plea, Kehoe told the judge, "Guilty, to avoid the possible consequences of a trial by jury." Prosecutor William Peelle told reporters that he plans to seek a sentence of 20 years in prison for Kehoe. The guilty plea, however, paves the way for Kehoe to face federal murder and racketeering charges in Arkansas in connection to his role in the 1996 murder of an Arkansas gun dealer and his family. If convicted, Kehoe could face the death penalty (*Cincinnati Enquirer*, Feb. 21; AP, Feb. 21).

**6. PROMISE KEEPERS DOWNSIZES:** Following its move last year to charge no admission to its trademark stadium events, Promise Keepers has announced that effective March 31, it is laying off all 345 paid employees. The large stadium events which have come to characterize the Colorado-based group reportedly accounted for 72% of its revenue. And while it plans 10 such events for 1998, the group is calling on churches to finance them through donations. Promise Keepers founder Bill McCartney announced that the group plans to move to an all-volunteer base for an indefinite period until revenues return (Promise Keepers Press Release, Feb. 18; *Chicago Tribune*, Feb. 19; AP, Feb. 19; Reuters, Feb. 19).

**7. ARREST OF ARYAN NATIONS FIGURE HIGHLIGHTS THREAT OF FAR RIGHT VIOLENCE:**

Though the biological material found in possession of a former Aryan Nations member turned out to be a safe form of the anthrax bacteria, the incident highlights the threat of terrorism from white supremacists. Larry Wayne Harris and William Leavitt Jr. were arrested Feb. 18 and charged for possession of what was originally thought to be military grade anthrax. Following FBI determination that it was a form of anthrax used in animal vaccines, Leavitt was released on his own recognizance while federal authorities determine whether or not to drop the charges. The two were charged with conspiracy to possess and possession of a biological agent for use as a weapon.

Harris, who is reported to be a former member of the Aryan Nations, may face charges for violating his parole. He pleaded guilty in 1995 to fraud after being arrested with three vials of freeze-dried bubonic plague which he received through the mail. William Pierce, head of the West Virginia-based National Alliance, told reporters that Harris had approached him in 1992 or 1993 with hopes that the neo-Nazi leader would publish Harris' book *Bacteriological Warfare: A Major Threat to North America* (AP, Feb. 20, Feb. 21).

**8. ARYAN NATIONS MARCH WILL "ROCK MARXIST MEDIA":** Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler claims his parade, planned for April 18 in downtown Coeur d'Alene, will "rock the Marxist media and the powers-that-be off their heels." The parade will coincide with the Aryan Nations annual Aryan Youth Assembly. Local City Council laws make it appear likely that the city will have to approve Butler's permit for the parade.

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations will respond in a non-confrontational manner, with a project called "Making Lemonade" whereby citizens are asked to pledge money to their favorite human rights groups. The amount donated is tied to the amount of time that the Aryan Nations members are actually marching on the streets of Coeur d'Alene; the longer neo-Nazis march, the more money human rights groups will raise. Contact: Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations (208) 664-4674.

**9. GAY YOUTH ORGANIZER ATTACKED; THREE CHARGED:** Corvallis, Oregon police arrested three teenagers on charges of intimidation and assault in connection with an attack February 2nd on Paul Miller, 17, a Corvallis high school senior who leads the Gay Straight Alliance. Miller was punched in the face, had teeth knocked out and was called "queer" and "faggot." Arrested and charged were Robert P. Huffaker, 16; Cyle A. Schroeder, 15; and Michael B. Nash, 16. Contact After 8, a gay, lesbian and bisexual advocacy group: (541) 752-8157. (*Albany Democrat-Herald*, Feb. 4, 5).

**10. POLICE SEIZE GUNS FROM "SURVIVALIST" IN ESTACADA, OREGON:** Officers from the Portland Police Bureau, Clackamas County Sheriff's Department and the Oregon State Police uncovered a large cache of weapons, chemicals and ammunition near Estacada, Oregon Jan. 15. The cache, which reportedly included "Six guns of Russian, Chinese and American origin, 70,000 rounds of ammunition and assorted machine-gun magazines and bullet clips...explosive chemicals—ammonium nitrate, sulfuric acid, nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide—that could be made into a bomb, although most are widely used for farming and pool cleaning" was found on land belonging to Stuart E. Schirmann, 63, 45050 SE Squaw Mountain Road, Estacada (*Oregonian*, Jan. 17). Authorities are currently examining the weapons to see if any have been illegally altered (*Clackamas County News*, Jan. 21).

**11. DAVID DUKE TO RUN FOR CONGRESS?:** Louisiana neo-Nazi David Duke has announced plans to run for the U.S. House if House Appropriations Committee Chair Bob Livingston decides to forgo a bid to retain his house seat. Duke told Reuters that his bid for Livingston's seat is "very possible, but we have to wait to see what he does." An aide for Livingston told reporters that the 20-year Congressman has said in the past that he would spend his \$650,000 campaign war chest to defeat Duke if he ran for the seat (Reuters, Feb. 17).

**12. CONSTITUTIONALIST SENTENCED FOR REFUSING LICENSE, REGISTRATION:** Grant Walton, 41, of Grangeville, Idaho was sentenced to six months in the Idaho County Jail Jan. 14 for refusing to buy a driver's license and register his car. Walton told the Lewiston Tribune that "The Supreme Court has ruled that the right to travel is a right and if something's a right you don't have to be encumbered by it" (Jan. 15).

**13. NUMBER OF TROCHMAN FANS IN IDAHO DWINDLES:** Militia of Montana founder John Trochman gave a presentation for a paltry 40 people at the Kooskia Community Center Jan. 17. Trochman spoke at the center in February 1997 to an audience of almost 400 people. Trochman's talk, "America Under Siege" was largely a rehash of themes he addressed a year ago. Contact: Jerry and Sue Williams, owners of Road Ranger Surplus in Kooskia (208)926-4841.

**14. DAVID BARTON CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** Christian Right leader David Barton, a man who has spoken at Identity events hosted by Pete Peters, titled his Winter 1998 "Black History Month: Honoring Godly Heroes" and devoted it to praising Benjamin Banneker, Phillis Wheatley and Richard Allen, all 18<sup>th</sup> century black religious leaders. In it Barton criticizes the celebration of February's Black History Month for a "secularization of America's history...directed against all Godly heroes."

Barton continues the religious right effort to claim the mantle of true racial equality. His aims are revealed however, when he warns of an attempt at "destroying the knowledge of America's religious heritage" by "secularist spokesmen" who "claim that America was created as a secular nation by secular individuals who intended that it always remain secular." Barton refers to this "destruction" as "religious cleansing."

**15. IDAHO RACIST ESCAPES FROM JAIL:** Matthew Brakken, a 25-year old white supremacist who sports a shaved head and swastika tattoos, escaped from the Bonner County, Idaho jail on Feb. 16. Brakken was in jail following his arrest for grand theft. He reportedly escaped by climbing the 14-foot fence that surrounds the jail's exercise yard. According to Bonner County Sheriff Chip Roos, Brakken had previously plotted breakouts with his girlfriend. Authorities believe, however, that his girlfriend was not involved as she is currently in jail in Spokane, Washington (*Spokesman Review*, Feb. 17).

**16. MAN ACCUSED OF RACIST BEATING IN OREGON:** Michael Gedenberg, 29, of Astoria was arraigned Feb. 5 in Clatsop County Circuit Court on felony charges of first-degree intimidation and third-degree assault for his part in the beating of a 34-year old African American man, Dwight Norfleet on Halloween night, 1997. Although witnesses gave conflicting accounts of the attack, at least one person claimed to have seen upwards of 10 white males attacking Norfleet. Gedenberg has pleaded innocent and the trial is scheduled to start May 5 (*Daily Astorian*, Feb. 6).

••• 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. •••

