



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

March 1, 1999

1. CHD AT AFFILIATED TRIBES' CONFERENCE: CHD research director Robert Crawford presented on the importance of research in countering anti-Indian organizations at the Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) February 8-10 in Portland, Oregon. Crawford presented along with Eric Ward of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment and Leah Slaney, the ATNI representative to the Northwest Coalition. Ward and Slaney stressed the desire for a closer working relationship between Indian tribes and human rights groups.

The conference brought together representatives of Indian nations from around the region and featured presentations on numerous issues confronting Indian Country. These included presentations by Billy Frank, Jr. on the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Ted Strong on the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; Stanley Speaks on the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Joe Jay Pinkham on the Northwest Indian Veterans Association; Lorraine Edmo on the National Indian Education Association; and Bob Santos on the Mission of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Other topics included government to government relations; an update on the Native American National Bank; presentations by representatives of the Intertribal Agriculture and Timber Councils; an update on the National Indian Gaming Association and a presentation on the status of Northwest Indian languages. The conference also included workshops on issues such as economic development, Indian education, Indian child welfare, and Indian sovereignty.

2. KING GETS DEATH PENALTY FOR TEXAS DRAGGING MURDER: On February 25 a Jasper, Texas jury sentenced John William King to die by lethal injection for the June 1998 dragging murder of James Byrd, Jr., an African-American. After his sentencing, King confirmed the evidence that surfaced throughout his trial of his deep involvement in the white supremacist movement by quoting post-WWII era neo-Nazi figure Francis Parker Yockey. In a statement released through his lawyer King stated, "Though I remain adamant about my innocence, it's been obvious from the beginning that this community would get what they desire: so I'll close with the words of Francis Yockey. "The promise of success is with the man who is determined to die proudly when it is no longer possible to live proudly." Yockey's 1948 book *Imperium*, which is dedicated to "The hero of World War II" [Adolph Hitler], has long been a standard text for neo-Nazi "intellectuals." The forward to a 1962 edition of the book was written by Liberty Lobby founder Willis Carto whose organizing efforts have been inspired by Yockey.

According to prosecutors in the case, King committed the murder of Byrd, who was dragged behind a pickup truck for nearly three miles, in order to "do something dramatic...to gain attention" for his white supremacist organization. Evidence found in King's apartment included a constitution, by-laws and membership applications for the Texas Rebel Soldiers of the Confederate Knights of America. King's writings included a statement that "We of the Confederate Knights of America are unapologetically committed to the interest, ideas and cultural values of the White Aryan Race. So welcome, Aryan warriors, both old and new. Welcome to the Confederate Knights of America. Welcome to the dream." King's body was covered in racist tattoos, including Nazi and Klan symbols as well as a tattoo of a "black man hanging from a tree," according to Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray.

The application of the death penalty sentence, under Texas law, hinged on whether the murder took place during the commission of a felony – termed capital murder. The jury of eleven whites and one African-American took just two hours to return a capital murder case against King after prosecutors presented evidence that Byrd was alive at the time he was chained to the pickup – thus making the case that Byrd had been murdered after having been kidnapped. Wounds on Byrd's elbows indicated that he attempted to hold his body up while being dragged. Among the evidence placing King at the scene of the murder were DNA evidence found on cigarettes, the presence of King's lighter—which bore the letters "KKK" – and the testimony of a former girlfriend of King's that

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she saw him and two companions driving the pickup the night of the murder. Shawn Berry, 23, and Lawrence Brewster, 31, also charged in the case, will be tried later. (Associated Press, February 16, 17, 23, 25; CNN, February 16; Reuters, February 16)

3. IMMIGRATION AWARENESS WEEK 1999: Immigration Awareness Week 1999 (IRAW 1999) will be held June 10-12 in Washington D.C. This annual event brings anti-immigrant activists from around the country for several intensive days of training and lobbying. Last year's event was attended by some 200 activists from more than 60 state, local and national organizations. The primary sponsors of IRAW 1998 were the Federation for American Immigration Reform, the National Grassroots Alliance and Population-Environment Balance. The event also featured appearances by U.S. Representatives Lamar Smith (R-TX) and Bob Stump (R-AZ).

According to the California-based Voice of Citizens Together, a participant in IRAW 1998, the goals of this year's event include: lobbying for H.R. 41, the Mass Immigration Reduction Act of 1999; H.R. 73, the so-called Citizenship Reform Act of 1999; and "effective measures to end illegal immigration." H.R. 41, introduced by Representative Bob Stump (R-AZ), would cut immigration by one-third by, among other steps, ending the preference given to parents of legal immigrants; H.R. 73, reintroduced by Representative Brian Bilbray (R-CA), would overturn parts of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution to deny citizenship to children born to undocumented immigrants. Goals for the movement include further facilitation of networking between anti-immigrant activists and working to make immigration an issue in the 2000 elections. Longtime FAIR activist Dave Ray (202-328-7004) is the contact for IRAW 1999.

4. DAVID IRVING ON TOUR AGAIN: British Holocaust denier and Nazi apologist David Irving is presently scheduled to appear in four U.S. locations in 1999. These include: Seattle, Washington on April 20; Southern California on April 29; Redwood City, California on May 2; and at the "Conference on Real History" in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 24-16. The Ohio event is said to feature ten "major speakers." The contact for the Seattle event is apparently David Stennett, a leader in the Gig Harbor, Washington based Euro-American Students Union who is now based in Ellensburg, Washington.

5. FOCUS ON THE FAMILY HOSTS ANTI-GAY CONFERENCE: The Colorado-based Christian Right group Focus on the Family will host the Love Won Out conference May 1 at the Calvary Fellowship in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. The conference is billed as a chance for followers to hear from "experts on homosexuality, learn how to respond to the gay agenda in the public school system, change public opinion and much more." Conference attendees can "expect to get answers to tough questions," such as "Is it genetic?," "Can it be prevented?," "What about gay rights and minority status?," and "How do I help my friend who's gay?"

Several scheduled conference speakers have been or are affiliated with Exodus International, a Seattle-based leader in the so-called "ex-gay" movement. These include Jane Boyer, a former Exodus board member and the founder of the Exodus "referral agency," Amazing Grace Ministries, former Exodus president (1990-1993) Joe Dallas and Exodus board chairman and Focus on the Family "Homosexuality and Gender Specialist" John Paulk. Other speakers include Focus on the Family "Youth and Gender Specialist" Mike Haley, Joseph Nicolosi, executive director of the National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality and Seattle-based activist Eleanor Durham, the volunteer director of Parents and Teachers for Responsible Schools. Love Won Out, Colorado Springs, CO 80995-2475; (800)-A-FAMILY

6. FOCUS ON THE FAMILY LEGAL DEFENSE ARM INTERVENES IN WASHINGTON: The Alliance Defense Fund, a Christian Right legal foundation led by Focus on the Family head James Dobson and American Family Association leader Don Wildmon, among others, is financing a Vancouver, Washington woman's effort to overturn the city's policy of providing health benefits to domestic partners. The suit has been filed on behalf of Roni Heinsma by Vancouver attorney Donald Esau. The Defense Fund is currently involved in seven other such suits nationwide. (*The Columbian*, February 26)

7. CHRISTIAN IDENTITY SEMINARS IN WASHINGTON: Christian Identity leader Larry Blanchard's New Covenant Ministries is hosting six one-hour long seminars at the Eatonville Public Library in Eatonville, Washington. The seminars began January 28 and will continue through mid-March. Ads for the seminars invite attendees to hear a presentation on the "historical evidences proving the true identity of Israel" as the "Anglo-Celto-Saxon race to whom the Biblical covenants belong." Early sessions have focused on the "Evidences of Israel's Identity," the "Migration Connection" and a "Comparison of Language and Law of Biblical Israel with Europe and

the United States of America." New Covenant Ministries: (360) 832-3422.

In an incident related to the seminars, Dixie Walter, a reporter for the Eatonville *Dispatch*, had both tires on the driver's side of her car deflated while attending a February 4 session of the seminar. Police were investigating the crime as malicious mischief. The *Dispatch* has offered a \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. The incident came after a February 3 article in which Walter had described the white supremacist nature of Christian Identity. (*The Dispatch*, February 3, February 10)

8. YAKIMA COUNTY MILITIA MEETING: The Yakima County militia meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 1700 South 24th Avenue in Yakima. Contact: (509) 653-2970.

9. ANTI-IMMIGRANT MEETINGS: The Sherman Oaks, California-based anti-immigrant group Voice of Citizens Together (VCT) will host Terry Anderson and Ezola Foster at the Riverside School Auditorium March 10. The group is also gearing up for a June "March on Washington," its annual Operation Paul Revere caravan and July 4th Rally. VCT: 13601 Ventura Blvd, Suite 163; Sherman Oaks, California 91423.

The Immigration Reform Network of Silicon Valley will meet March 20 at the Cupertino Library Community Room, 10400 Torre Avenue, in Cupertino, California. The meeting is from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. The group will meet to discuss HR 41 and HR 73.

10. IDAHO ANTI-INDIAN GROUP STARTS FUNDRAISING DRIVE: In the wake of a federal court ruling that the Nez Perce Reservation of 1863 was not diminished by the 1894 implementation of the Allotment Act, the North Central Idaho Jurisdictional Alliance has embarked on an effort to fund its ability to file a brief in an upcoming appeal of the ruling. An Alliance fundraising letter signed by executive director Daniel M. Johnson declares that "This decision is very bad for our cause. It means we live within an Indian reservation and therefore are much more likely to come within the jurisdiction and control of the Tribal government. At the very least, if the ruling is upheld it will lead to much more litigation in the future as the tribal government expands its claims of jurisdiction over nonmembers. The appeal of the decision comes at a bad time for the Alliance because we do not currently have the funds with which to file the necessary brief before the court. Our attorney estimates an adequate brief would cost at minimum fifteen to twenty thousand dollars."

With the Alliance at present reporting just \$2,501 on hand, Johnson is asking "the members and supporters to help us find the funds necessary for this brief...I certainly fear being taxed, regulated or controlled by a government in which I have no voice, no vote and no representation. I fear being subjected to a tribal court system where judges are appointed by the tribal government and juries are composed of only tribal members...I will gladly waive any compensation as Executive Director and am today contributing \$500.00 of my funds to the Alliance to fund this necessary project." (NCIJA fundraising appeal)

The group's next meeting is March 23. An executive board meeting will be held at 5:30 at the Nezperce Hotel and a General Membership meeting will be held at 7:00 at the Lewis County Courthouse. NCIJA, PO Box 21, Nezperce, ID 83543.

11. SPOKANE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT: Johnny Lee Jennings, 32, of Spokane, Washington pleaded guilty to fourth-degree assault after initially having been charged with malicious harassment. The charges stemmed from an incident that took place during a community touch football game last March. When Jennings was tackled by Tim Buchanan, 19, an African American man, Jennings threw the ball at Buchanan, reportedly called him "monkey boy" and said that he was going to "take him out." Jennings was arrested and spent five days in jail. While in police custody Jennings reportedly continued to make racist statements, accusing two officers of dating black women and therefore having a bias against him. Jennings was sentenced to one year in prison, with all but five days suspended. He is also required to do 40 hours of community service at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center. (*Spokesman Review*, February 4)

12. SPOKANE CROSS-BURNING: A two-foot cross was burned on the yard of the ethnically diverse Zion Temple Church in East Central near Spokane, Washington at 2:00 a.m. on February 21. Just minutes before the cross-burning was reported, police received reports that a swastika had been drawn on the windshield of a car in a nearby neighborhood. Both incidents are being investigated as possible hate crimes. (*Spokesman Review*, February 22)

13. ARYAN BROTHERHOOD MEMBER CONVICTED OF DRUG AND FIREARMS VIOLATIONS: A Pocatello, Idaho jury found Dennis Guy Clark, 53, guilty on charges of trafficking in narcotics, possessing stolen property and being a felon in possession of firearms. The charges stemmed from a theft of jewelry and firearms from Ack's Trading Post in Salmon, Idaho last October. Mark Foster, Bonnie Stobic, Curt Withington and Scott Davis (Clark's son) all pleaded guilty to theft of firearms in connection to the same incident. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office Clark had been convicted of twelve felonies in four states for offenses including burglary, assault and kidnapping. The U.S. Attorney's Office also noted that Clark, who is presently serving a federal sentence in Oregon, was a member of the Aryan Brotherhood while in prison. (*Idaho State Journal*, February 23)

14. NEO-NAZI SKINHEAD ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT: Angelo Adam Perry, 18, a neo-Nazi skinhead, was arrested February 4 in connection with a January assault on a man in Spokane, Washington. Both Angelo Perry and his brother John Christopher Perry, 23, were charged with the fist and boot stomping assault of a white male January 3 in Terrace View Park. John Perry, who reportedly has ties to the Aryan Nations, is still being sought by sheriffs deputies. He was released from prison in December after serving time for a 1996 shooting in Cheney, Washington. Anyone with information on Perry can contact Crime Check at (509) 456-2233.

15. TEACHER TARGETED WITH ANTI-SEMITIC THREATS: A Jewish teacher at Portland, Oregon's Franklin High School was targeted with an anti-Semitic death threat in early February. The threat came in the form of a note placed in the teacher's school mailbox and contained anti-Semitic slurs and warnings that "You better watch your car." Portland Police Detective David Yamasaki told reporters that the note is being investigated as a hate crime. "I can't believe this is a random act or a teen-ager's joke," stated Yamasaki. "It was too serious for something like that. It's someone who knows the teacher." Franklin High principal Opal Chancler-Moore told reporters, "It [the threat] would violate the district's code of student conduct protecting physical safety and well-being... We're taking threats to people very seriously which means we're not going to have it here. We want to have a civilized school and a safe school." Chancler-Moore stated that she suspects the writer of the note is a student, though this is not known for sure. Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers at 503-916-3222. (*Oregonian*, February 9)

16. DISCRIMINATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: A recent report commissioned by the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration of Washington State found considerable racial bias in the reports filed by probation officers. The study conducted by University of Washington sociologist George Bridges and Vanderbilt University Professor Sara Steen examined 233 cases from 1990 and 1991 in King, Pierce and Spokane counties. Among the findings were that African-American offenders were more often characterized as having committed crimes due to character defects, while white offenders were more frequently depicted as being motivated by bad circumstances. These reports often play a pivotal role in sentencing decisions by judges.

In the wake of the report, King County officials have announced the reconvening of a Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers. The committee has not met for nearly a year. Commenting on the report, state Supreme Court Justice Charles Smith, chair of the state Supreme Court's Minority and Justice Committee, stated that "All judges want to be fair. We want to do the right thing... When we do not do the right thing, it is because we do not have our minds sufficiently open to recognize the factors, such as race, that may have a negative impact on our decisions." Seattle criminal defense attorney John Henry Browne commented that "Those who deal with the courts on a daily basis have seen the inequities in the system... But it is nice to have some empirical research to back what we knew was always there." (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, February 19)

••• 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. •••