



# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## *NORTHWEST UPDATE*

March 15 through April 1, 1999

1. **FALLOUT FROM WASHINGTON'S INITIATIVE 200:** The number of African American applicants to the University of Washington's undergraduate programs is down 18 percent in the wake of anti-affirmative action Initiative 200 which Washington voters approved in November 1998. Applications from African Americans at UW Law School are down a dramatic 41 percent. Applications to undergraduate programs are down for all students of color: Native Americans 13 percent; Asian Americans 7 percent; and Latinos 6 percent. Economic fallout from Initiative 200 is beginning to be felt in Washington State. The National Medical Association (NMA), the country's largest African American medical society representing over 20,000 African American physicians, officially pulled their 2001 Convention from Seattle. Past NMA conventions have brought host cities up to \$5.7 million in revenues. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, March 17, *Seattle Medium*, February 10)

Anti-affirmative action leader, Ward Connerly recently announced that Florida would be the next battleground in the fight over the future of affirmative action. In an interview with the *St. Petersburg Times*, Connerly stated, "Florida is going to be a target for our national movement." Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Miami Mayor Joe Carollo called Connerly's efforts divisive. Connerly needs over 400,000 signatures to qualify for the November 2000 ballot.

2. **WHITE SUPREMACIST CHEVIE KEHOE ON TRIAL:** As the trial of white supremacists Chevie Kehoe and Danny Lee continues in Arkansas, prosecutors have presented evidence linking Kehoe to the death of gun dealer William Mueller and his family. Mueller, his wife Nancy and her 8 year old daughter Sarah Powell were found dead in June 1996. Among the evidence so far presented, hair samples taken from items in Kehoe's possession match Mr. Mueller's and writing samples taken from books and stickers found among Kehoe's belongings are similar to Mueller's handwriting. Witnesses also identified customized guns that belonged to Mueller that were taken by police from Kehoe's vehicles and residence. Kehoe, of Colville, Washington, is on trial with Danny Lee of Yukon, Oklahoma. Both men are also charged with racketeering and conspiracy for allegedly scheming to undermine the Federal Government and set up a whites-only Aryan homeland in the Pacific Northwest. Kehoe and Lee are also accused of bombing the City Hall building in Spokane.

Witnesses have testified that Chevie Kehoe, a Christian Identity adherent, threatened to kill his wife and child if he found out that their blood was not "pure," because he suspected that his wife was part-Cherokee Indian. Kehoe was an advocate of polygamy who, according to witnesses at the trial, did not want his children born in a hospital because he feared they "would have computer chips in their brains... or in their body somewhere."

Prosecutors in the murder trial allege that Kehoe and Lee handcuffed and duct taped their victims and then tightly taped plastic bags over their heads. The bodies were weighted down with stones and dumped in the bayou. Both men face death by lethal injection if convicted. (*Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* and AP sources)

3. **BUCHANAN ANNOUNCES BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY:** Paleo-conservative columnist, Pat Buchanan, has announced his bid for the year 2000 presidential race, setting the stage for an early primary battle between Buchanan, longtime Focus on the Family stalwart Gary Bauer, Malcolm "Steve" Forbes and Dan Quayle for the Christian Right and staunch conservative vote. The early stages of Buchanan's campaign indicates that he has lost support from some of his 1996 campaign heavies, including 1996 Buchanan deputy campaign manager Mike Biundo, who is presently remaining neutral with the comment that he is "not sure how his economic message is going to play out." Any lack of support from his 1996 machine could press Buchanan to rely more on his grassroots white nationalist cadres which in 1996 included, among others, militia advocate Larry Pratt, Christian Right anti-Semite Donald Wildmon and, in South Carolina, former David Duke-for-president campaign leader William Carter.

Early support for Buchanan among Christian Right leaders is also mixed. Traditional Values Coalition leader Lou Sheldon said of Buchanan, "It's, like, ho-hum... He's failed twice and will a third time." Paul Weyrich told reporters, "I love Pat and agree with much of what he stands for, but I can't construct a scenario where he has a chance to win." Former Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed, however (perhaps still stinging from the Coalition's disastrous support for GOP candidate Bob Dole), called Buchanan a "formidable candidate" and warned that "anybody who underestimates Pat's appeal is making a serious mistake." And *Human Events* editor Terry Jeffries stated that Buchanan has an outside chance. (Sources???)

In the early stages, Buchanan takes up where he left off in 1996, pressing an anti-immigrant platform calling for a moratorium on immigration and "a national campaign of assimilation," stressing his opposition to international economic treaties (such as NAFTA and GATT) by declaring that American workers are "not here to serve the financiers of some new world order" and voicing opposition to affirmative action and abortion.

Despite Buchanan's white nationalist credentials, just days before his announcement, the Spotlight voiced only tepid support for a possible Buchanan presidency. Citing that he "capitulated to the GOP and supported the candidacy of wimpy Bob Dole" in 1996 rather than mount a third party bid, the Spotlight states: "Buchanan had a following of several million voters and the support of Liberty Lobby members and Spotlight readers... If he decides to run again, many if not most of his previous supporters will be very reluctant to support him because of his previous history of callously leading them astray." (*Spotlight*, March 8)

**4. THREE CROSS-BURNINGS IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON:** Three separate incidents of cross-burnings were reported in Spokane. On February 11 a cross was burned at the home of a white Spokane resident. On February 14 an interracial couple awoke to find a cross burned on their front lawn. These incidents occurred prior to the February 21 cross-burning at the ethnically diverse Zion Temple Church located in East Central near Spokane. No arrests have been made. People with information can call 509-456-2233. (*Spokesman Reviw*, March 14)

**5. KILLING OF GAY MAY STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION IN SOUTHERN OREGON:** The 1998 murder of an Oregon gay man remains under investigation. Ted Walton, a suspect in the killing of Russell Slack of Central Point, was not charged with murder in the case. Walton was charged in 1998 with a hate crime for spray-painting homophobic graffiti on Slack's rental property, breaking doors, smashing walls and urinating on carpets. Walton committed the acts after he and his girlfriend were evicted by Slack. On January 3, 1999 Slack was shot in his home and died of his injuries two weeks later. Police investigated Walton but found no gun. They did find a controlled substance and arrested Walton for possession. (*Mail Tribune*, March 9)

**6. RACIST GRAFFITI FOUND IN BREMERTON, WASHINGTON:** On March 10, The Golden Gondola, a Bremerton, Washington restaurant, was vandalized with anti-Asian slogans, a swastika, and the initials "KKK". (*The Sun*, Bremerton, Wash., March 11)

**7. OREGON TRIO CHARGED IN ASSAULT ON MAN THEY THOUGHT WAS GAY:** Helen M. Radey, Kevin Joseph Hawthorn and James Loyal Ash have been charged with assault and intimidation for the February 11 beating of Nathan Brewer. Brewer, of Wheeler, Oregon, sustained injuries to the head, groin and face in an attack that police allege was committed because of the victim's perceived sexual orientation. Brewer was taken to Portland's Legacy Emanuel Hospital and released on February 14. (*Mail Tribune*, Medford, Ore., March 11)

**8. COMMUNITY RALLIES TO HOLD SALEM POLICE ACCOUNTABLE:** Community organizers in Salem, Oregon rallied to protest discrimination against people of color. Members of Latinos Unidos Siempre, Mano a Mano, the NAACP and students from Willamette University demanded an end to unfair police targeting of people of color and unjustified traffic stops, sometimes known as "driving while Black" or "driving while Hispanic." Rep. Joanne Bowman (D-Portland) moderated a discussion on March 15, where community members outlined their grievances and suggested improvements to the City of Salem. Organizers suggested hiring more officers from communities of color, hiring more Spanish language officers, establishing a citizen's advisory panel and a better complaint process. Salem Police Chief Walt Myers publicly acknowledged problems with his department and Mayor Mike Swaim issued a public apology for those who have been harassed. (*Statesman Journal*, March 16, *The Oregonian*, March 16th)

**9. INCREASE IN BIAS CRIMES ACCORDING TO NEW OREGON REPORT:** Statistics released in March show an overall increase of 2.2 percent in bias crimes reported in Oregon. The numbers, compiled by Oregon law enforcement agencies for the first nine months of 1998, show that incidents involving race accounted for 43 cases,

national origin accounted for 17 cases, and sexual orientation accounted for 24 cases.

**10. SPOKANE GROUP RALLIES TO DEFEND ANTI-GAY DISCRIMINATION:** A group calling itself "Equal Rights, Not Special Rights" is attempting to gather 3,000 signatures to remove "sexual orientation" from Spokane, Washington's new human rights ordinance. The Spokane City ordinance passed in January defines sexual orientation as actual or perceived bi-sexuality, heterosexuality or homosexuality. Penny Lancaster who does research for "Equal Rights, Not Special Rights" said that preventing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is "egregious, intrusive legislation" that brings "ridiculous regulations" for business and Spokane residents. A human rights group called "No! on Discrimination" is gearing up to defend the ordinance. (*Spokesman Review*, March 15, 16)

**11. BOISE PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC A VICTIM OF ANTHRAX HOAX:** A Boise Planned Parenthood clinic received a letter threatening that its contents contained the deadly anthrax bacteria. Three people were exposed to a powdery substance from a suspicious envelope. FBI tests proved that the letter was a hoax. Several Planned Parenthood clinics and abortion facilities in the US received similar letters in February. On March 13, the Femacare Clinic in Asheville, North Carolina was bombed. No one was injured and only minor damage was reported. The Femacare Clinic also received the anthrax hoax a month earlier. (UPI-Reuters State News Service, March 1, Associated Press, March 13)

**12. PAUL WEYRICH CALLS FOR SEPARATION:** It is a move that could herald increasing efforts among the Christian Right grassroots to build parallel institutions and heighten their commitment to cultural "separation" such as home schooling. Long-time New Right leader Paul Weyrich has called for Christian Right supporters to separate from the dominant culture. Just as this nation's founders separated themselves from England, so should "cultural conservatives" separate themselves from "Jerry Springer, public schools, and the dictates of political correctness," advocates Weyrich. The head of the conservative Free Congress Foundation, Weyrich urged his followers, in a letter sent out March 7, to create "parallel institutions" such as home schools to create the right standards and values and to protect against the "attitudes required by political correctness."

**13. DAVID DUKE SPEWS RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM IN NEW BOOK:** David Duke's new book, *My Awakening*, leaves little doubt as to his views on race, homosexuality and ethnic homelands. Duke, who is currently running for Congress, states in his new book that America should be divided into ethnic homelands, that African Americans are genetically inferior to whites and that homosexuality is "damaging, devolutionary, unhealthy and unaesthetic." He does all this while debunking the Holocaust and touting "Aryan ideals."

In a 1990 candidates' forum Duke apologized for his KKK activities and stated that he had become "a good Christian." Duke's strategy for the past ten years has been to tone down his overt hatred, instead trying to mainstream his ideas with popular diatribes against affirmative action, immigration and welfare. *My Awakening* shows a change in his public strategy. He lays out the future of America as "a White community... when the media and the schools are a reflection of the highest of Our Aryan ideals..." Duke's rhetorical shift has been matched by appearances in 1998 at meetings hosted by the neo-Nazi National Alliance. (*New Orleans Times-Picayune*, March 7, 11)

**14. IDAHO FAMILY FORUM OPPOSES LESBIAN AND GAYS AT DIVERSITY EVENT:** Angered that Hewlett-Packard would be discussing gays and lesbians at a March 18 diversity event featuring General Colin Powell, the Idaho Family Forum decided to hold a counter event. Idaho Family Forum Director Dennis Mansfield brought Alveda King, niece of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., to speak against gay rights. Ms. King serves in the Georgia Legislature and is the founder of King for America, Inc. The Family Forum's Mansfield said of Ms. King, "She comes from a non-violent social justice perspective, and that's what she'll be speaking about – the need to have non-violence and to stand up to say homosexuality is not what her uncle fought and died for."

The Martin Luther King Jr., Center for Non-Violent Social Change issued a statement on March 26 supporting equality for lesbians and gay men. "The King Center believes prejudice and discrimination against people because of their race, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, ethnicity, language, or sexual orientation is morally wrong and unacceptable in a democratic society. Like racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of bigotry, homophobia denies people their dignity and personhood..." (*Idaho Statesman*, March 9)

•• 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. •••

