



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## NORTHWEST UPDATE

February 1, 1997

**1. SPOKANE BOMBING DEFENDANTS INVESTIGATED IN OLYMPIC BOMBING:** The defendants in the Spokane bombing case are being investigated in connection with the bomb set off at the Olympic Park in Atlanta during the 1996 Summer Olympics. Unidentified federal agents told the Spokane Spokesman Review that "At this point, they are our strongest lead in the Olympics bombing" but that "there's a lot more work to do, and it's really early on in the investigation." The evidence tying the Spokane bombing suspects to Atlanta is at present circumstantial. For instance, the Coeur d'Alene military surplus dealer who initially identified the men from video footage of a Spokane bank robbery also claims to have sold two of the suspects a military backpack of the type used in the Atlanta bombing; in addition, the dealer reported having spoken with the men about the use of time-delay detonators (which were used in Atlanta) and discussed with them how to wash fingerprints off of the backpack. Some similarities (the use of galvanized steel pipe and, possibly, black gun powder) also exist between the bombs used in Spokane and that used in Atlanta. However, the Atlanta bomb used a timer while the Spokane bombs used fuses lit with matches. Telephone records also indicate that calls were made from the Atlanta area to Charles Barbee's Idaho home about the time of the Olympic bombing, according to the Spokesman Review.

Other circumstantial evidence linking the three to the bombing includes Charles Barbee's former employment at AT&T. In a 1995 interview with the Spokesman Review, Barbee, who worked for AT&T in Georgia, Florida and Idaho, stated that AT&T was an immoral corporation that discriminated against white Christian men. Barbee lamented working with women who should have been "helpmates to their husbands" and refused to take part in company diversity trainings. Barbee left the company in 1993. The Olympic bombing took place in the AT&T-sponsored section of Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. Additionally, the FBI is interviewing an Atlanta architect and his daughter who claim to have seen Spokane bombing suspect Robert Berry near the Olympic Park about one hour before the bomb exploded (Associate Press, Jan. 26; Spokesman Review, Jan. 28).

As their Feb. 10 trial date approaches, the three defendants are claiming immunity from prosecution on the grounds that they are "ambassadors from the Kingdom of Yahweh." A 14 page motion by Barbee, Berry and Verne Jay Merrill contains numerous Biblical references and states that the three should have the same type of immunity as foreign diplomats (Spokesman Review, Jan. 18).

**2. MORE ANTI-SEMITISM AT OREGON POLICE ACADEMY:** A Jewish probation officer from Multnomah County quit her teaching job at an Oregon state police academy citing "a continuing climate of anti-Semitism" (Oregonian, January 21). Maura Goodman, 46, also claims that her academy supervisor violated state personnel privacy laws by providing her letter of resignation to a former instructor who had resigned from the academy in October following disciplinary proceedings resulting from anti-Semitic incidents. Capt. Jerry Hawley, Lt. Bill Bouchor, and Lt. Keith Johannessen were found to have harassed cadet Sam Sachs in August 1996 (See Northwest Update October 15, 1996). The three received pay cuts and were ordered to attend cultural sensitivity training. Hawley later resigned. The three had made anti-Semitic remarks concerning "circumcision, eating pork and cocaine-snorting Jews saluting Hitler," according to the Oregonian.

The academy agreed to pay Sachs and his attorney \$50,000 to settle a lawsuit. Goodman later wrote to her supervisor, Lt. Bouchor, and said the academy's response to Sach's case was disappointing. Bouchor apparently took offense at the letter and wrote back to Goodman, denying that he had insulted Sachs. He also apparently gave a copy of the letter to Hawley, who also wrote Goodman in defense of Bouchor's character. Hawley's letter to Goodman reads in part, "I have never dealt with the Jewish community before, but am now very suspicious of their motives and agendas...The sensitivity of Jewish people to their own persecution loses its importance when they hurry to attack and punish others without clear justification. Shame on the Jewish community and shame on you. I now spell *Jewish* without a capital 'j' and that saddens me."

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**3. OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING CASE UPDATE:** In a flurry of pre-trial motions, lawyers for the defendants in the Oklahoma City bombing case are attempting to suppress the testimony of nine prosecution witnesses, including several witnesses who appear crucial to the government's case. One such witness, Fred Skrdla, reported to federal agents that while working at a gas station in Billings, Oklahoma, a man driving a Ryder truck bought gasoline between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. on April 19 - the day of the bombing, which occurred at 9:02 a.m. After seeing a composite drawing of the two bombing suspects, Skrdla identified one as the man who had purchased gasoline.

A second witness, William Dunlap, reported seeing a white man who looked like defendant Timothy McVeigh exit a Ryder truck parked in front of the federal building about 8:42 a.m. on April 19. Two other witness whose testimonies defense attorneys are seeking to suppress are crucial in identifying McVeigh as the man who rented the Ryder truck that prosecutors allege was used in the bombing. These include Eldon Elliot, the owner of Elliot's Body Shop, the site from which a man using the name Robert Kling rented a Ryder truck two days before the bombing. On June 8, 1995 Elliot identified Kling as Timothy McVeigh. Tom Kessenger, another witness, also identified McVeigh as the man who rented the Ryder truck. Stephen Jones, McVeigh's attorney, seeks to suppress these and other witness' testimony on the grounds that their identification of McVeigh was tainted by media coverage in the weeks following the bombing. In connection to another witness, U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch has ordered a hearing on a defense motion to throw out the testimony of the auto dealer who sold McVeigh the car he was driving when arrested for the bombing (*Associated Press, New York Times*).

In his ongoing effort to paint the Oklahoma bombing as a case of international terrorism, Stephen Jones is also asking for permission to examine U.S. intelligence files on Islamic terrorists operating in the Far East. Jones seeks to link the Oklahoma City bombing and the 1994 bombing of the World Trade Center. McVeigh's defense team is also investigating telephone calls made to the Philippines by Terry Nichols. Jones apparently seeks to build a connection between Nichols and Rami Yousef, the man convicted last September in the bombing of a Philippines Airline 747 in Dec. 1994. Lawyers for Nichols have called Jones' tactic a smoke screen, claiming that Nichols made phone calls and visited the Philippines to maintain contact with his wife (*Associated Press, Jan. 20*).

**4. JUDGE UPHOLDS RIGHT TO REMOVE SPANISH SPEAKERS FROM TAVERN:** In a ruling that has shocked many Hispanic leaders and human rights advocates, Yakima County Superior Court Judge James Gavin ruled in favor of a Yakima tavern owner who in November 1995 expelled three Hispanic men from her establishment for speaking Spanish. In ruling on behalf of Joyce Ostrander, the owner of the Town Pump tavern in Union Gap, Judge Gavin stated that "While Ms. Ostrander's sign and comments demonstrated what I consider an incredible lack of sensitivity to the plaintiffs, I find for the defendant." Ostrander had posted a sign in the tavern which read, "In the U.S.A. it's - English or adios, amigo."

Judge Gavin based the ruling on his belief that it was inconclusive that Ostrander had discriminated on the basis of language. Rather, he concluded that bar owners have a right to ask boisterous patrons to speak a language they understand to insure the safety of other patrons; Gavin also appeared to take into account Ostrander's testimony that the men were expelled because they were drunk. Despite this ruling, an abundance of evidence indicates that Ostrander sought to discriminate on the basis of language. In addition to the sign, a state Liquor Control Board employee testified that Ostrander admitted that language - and not drunken behavior - was the reason she expelled the men; in a January 1996 interview with KAPP-TV Ostrander stated, "I thought this was America. What do you speak in America? (Pause) English;" Ostrander was also quoted by the *Yakima Herald Republic* as saying, "We don't want Spanish gibberish here, and we mean it," and that she would only serve Hispanics if they were "able to say more than Budweiser and Marlboro."

One of Ostrander's supporters summed up one lesson learned by Gavin's decision: "...if I went down to Mexico and started talking in English and they couldn't understand me, they'd tell me to speak Spanish; well after they finished beating the crap out of me, they'd tell me to speak Spanish."

The plaintiffs in the case are considering an appeal of the decision (*Yakima Herald Republic, Jan 16*).

**5. HUMAN LIFE OF WASHINGTON TO HOLD "LIFE PRINCIPLES" SEMINARS:** Human Life of Washington will be conducting day-long seminars throughout the state in 1997. They have announced the following dates: Vancouver - Feb. 8, Mount Vernon - Mar. 1, Seattle - Apr. 5, Port Angeles - Apr. 12, Moses Lake - June 14.

Human Life of Washington is also attempting to establish affiliates in 25 neighborhoods in the Seattle area. The purpose of the affiliates is described as "responding to pro-abortion letters to the editor, making sure your school libraries are replete with pro-life literature and working with local churches on special events such as Life Chain,

Respect for Life Sunday and March For Life" (Human Life News, Jan.).

**6. FREEDOM FORUM ANNOUNCES NEW MEETING PLACE:** Due to the closure of the King's Table, the Everett Freedom Forum has been forced to move its meeting location to the Snohomish Grange Hall at 800 2<sup>nd</sup> St. in Snohomish, WA.

**7. NORTHWEST KNIGHTS, POPULIST PARTY ENTER CYBERSPACE:** The "Northwest Kinsmen Homepage" has been created as an Internet location for the Northwest Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and the Washington State Populist Party. The URL is <http://www.cris.com/~nwk/>. The page features articles from the Washington Populist, as well as transcripts of the Knights Information Hotline. The page also contains an article entitled "Dedication and Definition of the Northwest Territorial Imperative" and "What is Christian Identity?"

**8. JUDGE THROWS OUT SOUTHWELL SLANDER CASE:** U.S. District Judge David W. McKeague ruled that Ray Southwell, a co-founder of the Michigan Militia, was not defamed when the Klanwatch project of the Southern Poverty Law Center reported that he allegedly met with a leader of the Aryan Nations. In the suit, Southwell claimed he was libeled because the Klanwatch Intelligence Report incorrectly reported that he had traveled to Tennessee to meet with an Aryan Nations leader. The judge ruled that Southwell had "not provided a single piece of evidence that would help him satisfy the high legal burden he faces" (Grand Rapids Press, Jan. 1).

**9. BEN WILLIAMS TAKES SHOT AT GRITZ, MCLAMB AND PETERS:** In the November-December issue of The American Christian, Grangeville, Idaho Identity leader Ben Williams takes a not-so-veiled rhetorical shot at nearby neighbor James "Bo" Gritz and his faithful sidekick, Jack McLamb. After admonishing followers that "we must quit allowing ourselves to be bamboozled by the patriots for profit," Williams writes, "There are retired cops and so-called war "heroes," proud of their government medals and commendations, exploiting people for profit through bogus survival seminars and real estate developments" -- a reference to Gritz and McLamb's participation in SPIKE trainings and so-called Christian Covenant Communities.

Williams finishes with a blistering attack on Colorado Identity leader Pete Peters: "And, speaking of hypocrites, several people have contacted me to let me know that Pete Peters is still ranting and raving about me. In his latest attempt he is insinuating that I am a Jew... because he saw a Jewish lawyer that supposedly looks like me... Given his mental inconsistencies he probably can't even remember what I look like...."

His hysterical ravings would be amusing except that public assassination is serious - and libelous. His false accusations have probably hurt ACM's (American Christian Ministries) finances. But he cannot fool all the people all the time. He certainly is NOT one I'd recommend as a leader. A politician or actor perhaps, but not a leader. A leader should have integrity, honesty, intellect...and much better syntax and pronunciation."

Williams is presently asking for input from followers as to whether American Christian Ministries should host a 3-5 day "family retreat" in Idaho.

**10. LAROUCHE CONTINUES TO COURT LABOR:** Neo-fascist leader Lyndon LaRouche continues to court organized labor through pro-labor articles and interviews in The New Federalist. Recent issues include favorable reports on AFL-CIO organizing campaigns; criticism of right-to-work laws; interviews with union activists; and support for work stoppages, strikes, and lobbying efforts by state labor organizations.

**11. CREATIONISM SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON:** The Institute for Creation Research will host a "Good Science" workshop in Vancouver, WA on February 8 at the First Evangelical Church. Contact: Steve Briner at (360) 694-2525.

**12. FREE AMERICAN PUBLISHER PRAISES RICHARD HOSKINS:** Clayton Douglas, the publisher of the Christian Patriot publication The Free American, heaped praise on Vigilantes of Christendom author Richard Kelly Hoskins in the January 1997 Free American. Douglas, whose publication has circulated widely in the Northwest, wrote: "Richard Kelly Hoskins is one of those who see the danger and the hidden force that profits from human misery. He said, in reference to those few awakened from the illusion of prosperity, 'We are the white blood cells fighting the infection of our nation.'" In 1990 Hoskins provided the "theoretical" basis for the Phineas Priesthood, the terrorist order which apparently inspired the notorious Spokane bank robberies and bombings.

**13. TULALIPS CANCEL SHELLFISH HARVEST AFTER THREATS OF VIOLENCE:** Shellfish harvesters

from the Tulalip Indian nation were forced to cancel a shellfish harvest in November after receiving threats of violence, the second time in 1996 that they were forced to do so. The November threats occurred when harvesters attempted to confirm beach markers at a harvest site on Hat Island. Francy Sheldon, Director of the Tribal Fisheries Department, said of the cancellation, "We found it necessary to cancel the harvest out of concern for the safety of four people. We are in the process of consulting with federal officials now to seek federal enforcement of tribal treaty fishing rights. We will not abandon our right to harvest on Hat Island, which is a traditional harvesting place of deep cultural significance to us" (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission News, Vol. XVI, Number 4; (360) 438-1180).

**14. RESISTANCE RECORDS CONTINUES FIGHT WITH BLOOD & HONOR:** The Detroit-based neo-Nazi skinhead music producer Resistance Records continues its spitting match with the U.K.-based Blood & Honor and its ally, Combat 18. The most recent issue of Resistance reprints a letter from Brutal Attack band member Ken McLellan stating that "Blood & Honor U.K. has fallen into the hands of profiteers and scaremongers...Blood & Honor has slowly degenerated into another ultra-political rag...hijacked by C18 - a purely self-profitting organization." The same issue also runs a September 1996 statement by Order member David Lane which reads, "Regarding vile accusations apparently emanating from some members of C-18, this is a brief rebuttal to crush the filth and slander. I usually ignore all the gossip which plagues the resistance, but some have gone far past the boundaries of either decency or what can be accepted. For alleged White (sic) resisters to use the enemy's tactics is ludicrous and deplorable" (Resistance, Issue 7).

**15. MAYNARD CAMPBELL STABBED TO DEATH IN PRISON:** Christian Identity figure Maynard C. Campbell, 55, was stabbed numerous times in his chest and abdomen by unknown inmates at the U.S. Penitentiary in Florence, Colorado on Jan. 16. He died about 1 1/2 hours later. Campbell was serving an 11-year-sentence for illegal logging in the Siskyou Forest and other crimes. Campbell gained widespread notoriety when just one month after the 1992 Randy Weaver stand-off in North Idaho, he barricaded himself in his Ashland home to avoid an arrest warrant. He gave live radio interviews during the standoff to Radio Free America, the station operated by Liberty Lobby, and was the author of several racist tracts (Scripps-McClatchy Western Service Jan. 18; Oregonian, January 18).

**16. ENGLISH ONLY INITIATIVE FAILS TO GAIN SIGNATURES:** An effort by two Yakima men to place an English Only initiative on the November ballot has failed, gaining just 112,000 of the 181,667 signatures necessary. Jim Morrison, one of Initiative 193's sponsors, cited a lack of support from national organizations such as US English and English First and a lack of local support from the American Legion for the failure of the initiative. Backers of 193 managed to raise just \$5000 for the initiative and most of the signatures came from rural Eastern Washington. According to Morrison, the greatest boost for the initiative came from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, with members of the organization circulating signature sheets at its annual convention and encouraging members to pass the sheets around in their own communities. Support from the American Legion, however, failed to materialize. While the Legion does have a "resolution for English to be the official language of America," Legion Adjutant for Washington State William Forston told reporters that "we have a prohibition against forming alliances with other groups" (Yakima Herald Tribune; June 16).

**17. OREGON HATE CRIMES:** According to an official report released the week of January 19 the total number of reported bias crimes for the first nine months of 1996 declined 12.4% in Oregon, compared to the same period in 1995. Published by Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS), the Report of Criminal Offenses Motivated by Prejudice indicates that 127 hate crimes were reported in the state from January through September 1996, compared to 145 during the same period in 1995. Of the 127 reported hate crimes during the period, 67 were motivated by race, 13 by national origin, 14 by religious prejudice, 33 by sexual orientation and 8 by political beliefs. The crimes committed include 15 cases of aggravated assault, 4 of burglary, 60 of intimidation, 17 simple assaults, and 26 cases of vandalism. The decline follows a pattern of a general decline in reported hate crimes in Oregon since 1992.

••• 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. •••