



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

March 1, 1997

1. CHD AT CANADIAN ANTI-RACISM CONFERENCE: CHD executive director Jonathan Mozzochi served as a workshop leader for an anti-racism youth conference held in White Rock, British Columbia, February 20-23. Mozzochi presented on community and youth responses to organized hate groups for more than 30 student leaders from ten different Abbotsford, British Columbia-area highschools. The conference was sponsored by Abbotsford Community Services.

2. WASHINGTON RACISTS CHARGED IN OHIO SHOOTOUT: Two Colville, Washington white supremacists have been charged with attempted murder, assault and weapons violations in connection to a Feb. 20 shoot-out with Ohio police officers that has drawn national attention to Eastern Washington and the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations. Chevie O'Brien Kehoe, 24, and his brother Cheyne C. Kehoe, 20, are the targets of a nationwide manhunt following an incident that began when the Chevrolet Suburban they were driving was pulled over near Wilmington, Ohio for having expired license plates. The confrontation began when Chevie exited the Suburban, but refused to be searched. Cheyne then opened fire on one of the Ohio state troopers from the passenger seat, exited the car and exchanged fire with the trooper. Meanwhile, after a brief struggle with the other trooper, Chevie jumped back in the car and sped away. Gunfire again broke out when an officer approached the Suburban in a parking lot. During this second incident a passer-by was injured.

Chevie Kehoe is known to have ties to the Hayden Lake, Idaho-based Aryan Nations. Kehoe was an associate of Aryan Nations figure Justin Dwyer during the latter's brief stay in Colville in 1993, as well as an associate of Mark Reynolds, the Colville-based head of the Identity music group Judah's Praise. According to the Spokesman Review (Feb. 19) Kehoe, a polygamist, was married to his second wife, Angie Murray, at a ceremony at the Aryan Nations' compound. Murray later left Kehoe and renounced the racist movement.

Following the shoot-out, evidence surfaced linking the Kehoe brothers to weapons taken from the home of a murdered far right Arkansas gun dealer. A gun stolen from the home of William Mueller, killed in a triple murder along with his wife and 8-year-old daughter in 1995, was found in the abandoned Suburban following the shoot-out. According to the Spokesman Review, Kehoe is wanted for questioning in connection to the Mueller murders (Feb. 19).

Shortly after the shoot-out, police also sought the whereabouts of Jacob Myron Settle, the Washington-based white supremacist in whose name the Chevy Suburban was registered. On Friday, Feb. 22, Settle met with Bonner County detectives and FBI agents, claiming to have traded the Suburban to the Kehoe brothers' parents for a pick-up in June or July 1996. Settle was released after meeting with the law enforcement officials. Settle has his own history of involvement in the racist movement. A former Winthrop, Washington police officer, Settle was also married in a ceremony at the Aryan Nations compound. In an interview with the Bonner County Daily Bee, Settle described his views on the Aryan Nations, Christian Identity and Chevie Kehoe. Kehoe, he said, "is very irresponsible. I have been approached by him multiple times about doing illegal acts." Settle told the Daily Bee that he has attended past meetings at the Aryan Nations and that "there's some awful sweet people (in the Aryan Nations and militias), but there are also some real freaks... I do not believe one iota like the Aryan Nations politically. Religiously, we're a lot alike in a lot of ways... I don't like that political Nazi stuff... but there are some real quality people that go there." Settle continued, stating that he has attended meetings of the Sandpoint-based America's Promise Ministries: "We like the church and Pastor (David) Barley and his family," he told the Daily Bee (Feb. 22).

3. BONNER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND ICAN MOVE TO SOFTEN IMAGE: About 100 people attended a meeting called by far right and property rights organizations from Bonner and Boundary counties on Feb. 25 in Sandpoint, Idaho. The purpose of the meeting was to soften the image earned by Bonner County Commissioners Larry Allen and Bud Mueller when the two abolished Bonner County's building department earlier this month. (See

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Northwest Update Feb. 15). The attendees – mostly supporters of Allen and Mueller – were addressed by a panel comprised of both supporters and critics of the commissioners' move. One panel member supporting Allen and Mueller was Boundary County Commissioner Kevin Lederhos. Allen and Mueller's supporters sought to allay community fears that the termination of the building department would lead to increased insurance rates in the county, a view expressed by Teri Ottens, a spokesperson for the Idaho Association of Counties. Panel member Jim Semick, president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Idaho, spoke in defense of the commissioners, stating that the lack of a building department would cost people "at worst... a couple of dollars" (Spokesman Review, Feb. 26).

The Idaho Citizens Awareness Network (ICAN) – whose leaders openly support militia groups, hardcore racists and anti-Semites, and well known Holocaust deniers – played the lead role in organizing and conducting the meeting. ICAN figure Gary Tucker was the forum coordinator, while ICAN co-founder Bill Smythe served as emcee. An information table at the event featured an ICAN membership application alongside copies of the anti-Semitic Spotlight, the Trade n' Save and the Idaho Observer. Other organizations listed as sponsors of the event included the Boundary County Property Owners Association, Taxpayers United for Freedom (TUFF), Return our Abridged Rights (ROAR), and the Bonner County Tax Coalition.

4. POPULIST PARTY EXECUTIVE MEETING IN WASHINGTON: The Populist Party of Washington State will hold an executive committee meeting March 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Maple Valley Library in Maple Valley, Washington. The address of the library is 23730 Maple Valley Hwy. Nominations for the position of state chair and vice-chair – presently held by Harry Schmidt and Mark Downey, respectively – are currently open. They will be voted on at an annual state meeting to be held in June.

The Populist Party presently consists of just three chapters: King County, Pierce/Kitsap County and Island County. Pierce/Kitsap activists include Vice-Chair Mark Downey (206-845-8245), Treasurer Barbara Bence, Secretary Debbi Badynski and Sgt. at Arms Kim Badynski; King County is represented by Chair Harry Schmidt and "Parliamentarian" Homer Brand (206-432-9735); Island County's contact is veteran racist Bob LeRoy (206-221-3916). The group maintains a close relationship with Don Wassal, the Pennsylvania-based leader of the American Nationalist Union – the former Populist Party of America.

The group also maintains its unabashed commitment to white supremacy. Vice-Chair Mark Downey declares in the opening paragraph of the 1st Quarter 1997 Washington Populist: "This North American continent was given to the Caucasian Christian by divine sovereignty as a matter of territorial imperative through manifest destiny."

5. CHRISTIAN RIGHT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR WASHINGTON: Christian Right leader Ellen Craswell is supporting the following legislation presently making its way through the legislature in Washington: SB 5398/HB 1130 – the so-called Defense of Marriage Act which would bar the state from recognizing same sex marriages and which has passed the state house and senate; HB 1036/SB 5255 – requires advance notice to parents prior to a minor girl's abortion; HB 1031/SB 5441 – ban on "partial-birth" abortions; HB 1079 – welfare reform bill which limits welfare to two years with a five year lifetime limit; HB 1481 – a backdoor effort to allow religious instruction in the public schools by prohibiting "schools from censoring any documents related to the founding of the United States or the state of Washington;" HB 1598 – prohibits the teaching of "hypnotism, guided imagery, meditation and yoga" in the classroom; HB 1084/85/86 – parental rights bills requiring parental consent for student surveys which address personal beliefs and prohibiting schools from allowing the removal of a student from school grounds without parental permission (including for off-campus abortions); SB 5167 – prohibits schools from "promoting homosexuality as positive normal, behavior;" SB 5536 – bars the Office of the Superintendent from allocating funds for Goals 2000 (Family in Touch, Feb. 16).

Family in Touch recently ran advertisements for a Facts for Freedom Rally at the Shoreline Convention Center. Facts for Freedom backed James "Bo" Gritz's Klan-led Washington state bid for president in 1992.

6. GOLDENDALE, WASHINGTON ANTI-HISPANIC HATE CRIME: Three Goldendale men were arrested in late January and charged with a hate crime after an apparent attack on an Hispanic family. Zachariah J. Helvie, 20, Scott E. Wendt, 24, and Robert W. Koffler, Jr., 25, were charged with Assault IV and Malicious Harassment, a Class C felony offense. Witnesses said that the three were in the lounge of the Simcoe Cafe & Desert Room when they heard a Hispanic family was in the nearby Town Tavern playing pool. The three suspects then began discussing an attack on the family, repeatedly using racial epithets. They then acted on their ideas, crossing the street to the Town Tavern and attacking the family. Although no family members were hospitalized in the attack, a 75-year-old male had his glasses knocked from his face (Goldendale Sentinel Jan. 30).

7. TWO FORMER OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE POLICE ACADEMY ANTI-SEMITISM: Marla Rae, a longtime spokeswoman for the Oregon state attorney general and Lee Teitsworth, a retired FBI special agent, were named by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services to serve as independent consultants in an investigation of anti-Semitism at the state's police training academy (See Northwest Update Feb. 15, Feb. 1). Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber called for the independent investigation Jan. 22 after a corrections officer and instructor complained of harassment. An editorial in the Salem Statesman-Journal read in part, "It's clear that last year's investigation did not resolve concerns about bias [at the academy], and that the discipline was inadequate. It's time for a thorough outside investigation. And it's time to remove academy instructors and administrators unwilling to uphold the highest ethical and moral standards" (Salem Statesman-Journal Jan. 22, 29).

8. GRESHAM, OREGON CROSS-BURNERS SENTENCED: Five men who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to deny civil rights in connection with a June 16, 1996 cross-burning on the lawn of longtime Gresham resident Billy Ballard have been sentenced to federal prison. Troy Allen Harlow, 26, of Fairview, was sentenced to a paltry 12 months in prison. Harlow has a seven-year history of involvement with white supremacy, including active participation in two racist skinhead organizations, and a past conviction for a hate crime (See Northwest Update Aug. 15, Oct. 1). Chandler Tufts, 27, of Portland, pleaded guilty in November to the same charge and was sentenced to 30 months in prison. They were also ordered to pay a fine of \$3,000. Also pleading guilty were James Mathew Thede, 25, of Wood Village, and Michael Scott Shuman, 25, and Joshua Dale Bane, 22, both of Gresham. They were sentenced to 12 months and a day in prison, plus a fine of \$3,000. Prosecutors showed that Ballard was chosen after neighbors scared the five men away from another intended black victim who lived in the area. During sentencing Thede accused Ballard of attempting to have sex with him when he was a minor. There is no record of any such incident (Portland Oregonian, Jan. 30).

9. DOUG CHRISTIE ON MULTICULTURALISM: In his January/February newsletter, Canadian far right lawyer Doug Christie spells out his position on government multicultural policy: "I feel like my country is stolen and I am an alien in my own land. I feel betrayed by my country and unable to even express my anger because I will be branded a 'racist.'"

Do I hate all Sikhs? No I do not. Do I hate these Sikhs? [a group of Sikh janitors he claims were rude to him] No, not now, although I felt like I did at the time. Do I feel hatred at all? No, but I do feel angry at the government who have inflicted upon me a society where large groups of people don't speak the same language, don't share the same concept of honesty and don't have the same religious values. In the name of liberalism, they have created a tower of Babel. In the name of equality, they have created a cultural and moral wasteland and called it peace... They, in the name of 'human rights,' legislate ignorance, stupidity, and in the end sullen and repressed hatred of the moral wasteland of what was a Christian European country" (p.6-7).

10. PROMISE KEEPERS COMING TO SEATTLE: The Christian Right men's organization Promise Keepers (PK) will hold one of its trademark "stadium events" at Seattle's Kingdome the weekend of May 23-24. The Kingdome event is one in a series of 18 PK conferences scheduled for 1997, each expected to attract 20 to 50 thousand participants. The 1997 conference theme is "The Making of a Godly Man." Participants will attend 6 sessions led by a PK faculty which varies from event to event. The Seattle faculty has yet to be announced. Sessions will include "The Heart of a Godly Man: Captured by Christ," "Purity of Heart: Living Clean before God," "The Disciplines of a Godly Man: Motivated by Grace," "Out of Isolation: Why a Men's Small Group?," "The Influence of a Godly Man: A Servant Who Leads," and "Embracing Reconciliation: Living out the Great Commandment." It will also include three "practicum" sessions: "Personal Financial Integrity: How to Get Out of Debt," "A Man in the Workplace: Balancing Character and Competency," and "Going Public: How to Share Your Faith." The Friday morning before each PK conference (May 23 at 8:30 AM in Seattle) there will be a Promise Keepers' Clergy Conference for Men titled "Becoming an Agent of Revival." Registration for the conference is \$60 before May 2 and \$70 thereafter. Promise Keepers registration can be reached at 800-888-7595.

11. PROMISE KEEPERS PLANS TELEVISION DEBUT: A letter from Promise Keepers (PK) founder Bill McCartney to supporters dated January 20 announces plans for a PK television special called "The Power of a Promise Kept." The show is slated to be broadcast during the Easter season. The letter states that the special "will be shown during prime time and in as many major markets as we can afford to secure." This PK production is designed to "reach millions of men never before touched by Promise Keepers." Promise Keepers is also planning a massive gathering in Washington, D.C., referred to as "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men." The event is to be held October

4. The 1997 PK calendar states: "Promise Keepers believes that this gathering... may hold part of the key for large-scale revival in the Church."

12. OREGON CHRISTIAN COALITION PROMOTES OCA INITIATIVES: The February 1997 issue of Inside Oregon: Religious Rights Watch, a publication of the Oregon Christian Coalition, includes a short article by Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) chair Lon Mabon. Mabon writes: "It is important to keep the discussion concerning moral values active in the public arena. We must remember that the confrontation is between good and evil, and that the Kingdom of Heaven requires that we give full representation to God's perspective." Mabon calls for volunteers to help circulate the OCA's two new initiative petitions—one prohibiting late-term abortions and another prohibiting same-sex marriages.

In 1993 and 1994 the Oregon Christian Coalition (OCC) and the OCA officially split, establishing separate identities, and OCA chair Mabon has had harsh words for the "moderate" stance of the Christian Coalition and its national executive director Ralph Reed. None-the-less the OCC and the OCA have increasingly found themselves in the same religious right camp—e.g., in the last round of elections for Republican Party leadership in the state—allied against Republican moderates and unaffiliated conservatives.

13. THOMAS & MCCARTHY PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY: On Feb. 18, Aryan Nations leader Mark Thomas pleaded guilty to plotting seven Midwest bank robberies and using the cash to further white supremacist activities. After being indicted with four other members of the Aryan Republican Army, Thomas originally pleaded innocent on Feb. 4. However, his lawyer, David Maynard, told the Associated Press that Thomas decided to change his plea almost immediately. "He's guilty," Maynard said. Maynard also noted that he expects Thomas to be sentenced to 8 to 12 years, although the maximum possible sentence for conspiracy and two counts of receiving stolen money is 25 years.

On Feb. 21, 19 year-old Kevin McCarthy, of Philadelphia, pleaded guilty to robbing a Missouri bank and helping plan five other robberies. He is cooperating with prosecutors to help reduce his sentence (AP, Feb. 18, 21).

14. SCHWEITZER'S ANTICS CAN'T STOP LANDERS FROM GOING TO JAIL: On Feb. 21, a federal jury convicted Russell Dean Landers of seven counts and James Vincent Wells of 12 counts of fraud and conspiracy. Wells was also held liable for \$58,500 in cash and Landers for \$3,114.23, although the prosecution had sought \$427,000 in cash to repay a Durham bank that accepted Freeman-inspired "comptroller warrants." Wells faces a possible maximum sentence of 129 years in prison and \$5 million in fines. Landers faces a maximum 31 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines. Sentencing is scheduled for May 19 in Wilmington, North Carolina.

The verdict concluded a trial which saw more than its share of patriot mischief. After being ejected from the courtroom the week prior, "freeman" Russell Dean Landers was forced to watch the theatrics of LeRoy Schweitzer via the closed circuit TV in his cell. Schweitzer, the only witness called by the defense, entered the courtroom on Feb. 14 and instantly began arguing with U.S. District Court Judge Earl Britt over who was the real presiding judge in this case. "I am chief justice LeRoy Michael of Justus Township," he declared; he insisted on raising his left hand, instead of his right, when he was sworn in and announced, "I am here involuntarily. ...I am here as a private interventionist and I do not volunteer into the corporation side of the court."

Schweitzer's testimony focused on the use of Freeman-manufactured bogus checks referred to as "comptroller warrants." "I explicitly told the people the warrants were good and why they were good," he said. "We had the proof. How could they not believe?"

Schweitzer also disputed FBI Special Agent Timothy Healy's testimony describing the Freeman's plans to kidnap and execute several Montana officials. Schweitzer stated that he couldn't recall threatening to hang the local prosecutor from a poplar tree, even though the FBI agent had recorded him making such a statement. Schweitzer conceded, however, that the Freeman had considered making "lawful arrests" of certain people whom he refused to identify. He argued that the Freeman's common law grand jury has the authority to execute people for treason under the proper circumstances. "Lawful arrests are part of the supreme court duties," he said. "But only under lawful process. We do everything lawful."

Two days prior to Schweitzer's appearance a bomb threat was phoned-in to Raleigh, NC 911 operators declaring, "There's a bomb in front of the federal building for Freeman." Police and federal agents found a suspicious package in front of the building, but it was not a bomb (AP, Feb. 13, 15, 21).

15. KKK MEMBERS SENTENCED IN SOUTH CAROLINA CHURCH BURNINGS: After apologizing for what they had done, two Ku Klux Klan members were sentenced to relatively light federal prison terms for civil-rights

violations. Although 23 year-old Gary Christopher Cox could have received up to 54 ½ years under federal sentencing guidelines, Judge David Norton sentenced him to only 19 ½ years in prison. Timothy Adron Welch – who could have received 49 ½ years – received just 18 ½ years in prison. Both men will also be on probation for five years after release, including six months under house arrest with electronic monitoring.

In Sept. 1996, the two pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to violate civil rights and two counts of using fire to commit a felony in violation of civil rights for the destruction of the Mount Zion AME Church in Greeleyville and the Macedonia Baptist Church in Bloomville. Two additional Klansmen, Arthur A. Haley, 51, and Hubert Rowell, 50, await sentencing after confessing that they conspired with Cox and Welch to set the Macedonia Baptist fire (AP Feb. 20).

16. SPOKANE BANK ROBBER TRIAL DELAYED UNTIL MARCH: U.S. District Court Judge Frem Nielsen decided on Feb. 12 to grant a two-week trial delay to Charles Barbee, Robert Berry, and Verne Jay Merrell to give their attorneys more time to prepare a defense. The delay was granted over the objections of Barbee, who stated “We’ve been incarcerated for 127 days, and I’m opposed to any delay.” The trial is now scheduled to begin March 3 in Spokane.

The third defendant, Merrell, has been quiet in court but very vocal elsewhere. He has written articles for the Trade N’ Save, a far right publication based in Laclede, Idaho. In one article, Merrell called Judge Nielsen a “high priest” who conducts Satan worshipping courtroom ceremonies. “If you worship our creator, Yahweh, you will not be allowed to defend yourself in Satan’s court.” Merrell continued, “It is bad for Satan’s court to have the people figure out what is going on, for they might revolt... Spread the word and come to this trial, for we three are rams of the flock of Messiah and are prepared to battle Satan” (Spokesman Review Feb. 12, Trade N’ Save).

17. DAVID DUKE WEEKLY “BROADCASTS” ON THE WEB: The David Duke International Broadcast has been launched on the newly renamed David Duke Online Report web page (<http://www.duke.org>). The page uses True Speech audio to deliver a weekly speech from David Duke. A new message will be available each Monday. Duke joins the ranks of groups like the National Alliance and the NSWPP in delivering speeches over the Internet.

18. ARYAN NATIONS CANCELS ANNUAL YOUTH CONGRESS: The Aryan Nations has cancelled the Aryan Youth Congress held annually the weekend closest to April 20th – Adolph Hitler’s birthday. The Aryan Nations has announced, however, that they will hold the World Congress in July. While speculation is rampant that the cancellation is due to the legal problems of Aryan Nations associates, or to AN leader Richard Butler’s failing health, the official Aryan Nations line is that the event has been called off due to inclement weather in north Idaho.

19. THREE SENTENCED IN GEORGIA MILITIA CASE: Convicted in November of conspiring to stockpile pipe bombs for use against federal officials, three members of the “112th Georgia Militia” were sentenced to federal prison on Feb. 20. U.S. District Judge Duross Fitzpatrick sentenced Robert Starr III, 35, to an 8 year sentence because “he was the driving force” behind the bomb plot. Co-defendants Jimmy McCranie, 30, and Troy Spain, 28, each received 6 ½ year prison terms (AP, Feb. 20).

20. WASHINGTON HOUSE PASSES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN: On February 14 the Washington state House voted 65-35 to pass a bill banning same-sex marriages in the state. A similar measure previously passed in the state Senate by a vote of 33-15. Washington Gov. Gary Locke has threatened to veto the bill, arguing that it is divisive. “I have this little red pen here, and we’ll review the legislation when it reaches our desk,” he said.

21. CORRECTION FROM JANUARY 1 UPDATE: The January 1 Northwest Update reported that Quinten Hildebrand, father of far right leader Scott Hildebrand, had been convicted with six other defendants in the “We the People” trial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In fact, Quinten will be tried later, along with his son Scott. The two were severed from the trial early on due to health problems of their lawyer. Six of eleven We the People defendants were convicted on 44 counts of conspiracy, mail fraud, money laundering and criminal forfeiture for a scam which took more than \$2 million from 6,832 people in 49 states.

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