



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## NORTHWEST UPDATE

April 1, 1997

**1. ANTI-IMMIGRANT RALLY IN SAN DIEGO:** Several hundred people attended a March 22 "Good fences make good neighbors" border rally co-sponsored by the California Coalition for Immigration Reform and Voice of Citizens Together. The rally was held to mark the completion of the first phase of a 14 mile border fence being constructed under the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. Speakers at the event included California State Senator Richard Mountjoy, John Clark of the National Coalition for Immigration Reform, former U.S. Representative Bill Dannemeyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> District supervisor Dianne Jacob, former Border Patrol agent Bill King, U.S. Taxpayers Party chair Howard Phillips and representatives from the sponsoring organizations.

Numerous speakers called for the U.S. military to be used at the border and the rhetoric of warfare ran throughout the event. Richard Mountjoy stated that "We're going to stay in the fight until we see the fight through and return America to those who own America...I think it's sad that we have gone through a time from when immigrants came here and built this country to a time when illegal immigrants are coming here to take it back." San Diego County cattle rancher Donna Tisdale declared that "Our once quiet neighborhood has become a war zone...we want the military or the national guard sent to the border..." Howard Phillips used the event to blend anti-immigrant politics with the broader attack on social spending advocated by his organization: "Eliminate the welfare state, eliminate the unconstitutional activities of the federal government, and much of the problem of illegal immigration will come to an end" (Voice of Citizens Together Web Page).

**2. VIRGINIA GOVERNOR HONORS THE CONFEDERACY:** Virginia Gov. George Allen has declared the month of April to be "Confederate History and Heritage Month," a time dedicated to remembering "the honorable sacrifices of (Virginia's) Confederate leaders, soldiers and citizens to the cause of liberty." Allen's declaration met with immediate criticism from civil rights organizations. Virginia NAACP executive director Linda Byrd-Harden told reporters that "We're not asking for an apology because only a person who had sensitivity would know that that was an improper thing to do in the first place." Southern Christian Leadership Conference leader Curtis Harris stated, "The African-American community will rise up and speak to the governor and anybody else who continuously put us down and try to send us back to slavery. We will speak our words in the ballot box (Associated Press).

**3. ANTI-IMMIGRANT EFFORT TARGETS MALDEF:** Gary Jordan of the Immigration Advocates of Northern California is mounting a campaign to stop stockholder funding to the Mexican American Legal & Educational Fund (MALDEF), a Mexican-American legal rights organization. Material from the California Coalition for Immigration Reform promoting Jordan's effort declares that MALDEF "is primarily responsible for the 'immigration invasion' we're experiencing, bilingual education, voting & ballot material in multiple languages and MOTOR VOTER. Funding for their subversive efforts MUST & CAN be appreciably reduced with Gary's plan." Gary Jordan: 369-B Third Street #278; San Rafael, CA 94901; (415) 457-6687 (9\*1\*1, March 1997).

**4. RIGHT MOBILIZES IN CATHOLIC CHURCH:** Call to Holiness, a right-wing Catholic organization, will hold a conference in May to oppose the May 16-17 Lincoln, Nebraska conference of the progressive Catholic group Call to Action (CTA), an organization working for such issues as the ordination of women, gay rights and peace and justice issues within the Catholic Church. Call to Holiness formed to oppose a November 1996 CTA conference in Detroit, Michigan ([HLI Reports](#), March 1997).

**5. STOP IMMIGRATION NOW PETITION CIRCULATING:** Stop Immigration Now (SIN), the Long Beach, California anti-immigrant group headed by long-time Populist Party ally Ruth Coffey is circulating a petition to be sent to Congress calling for, among other things, a total moratorium on immigration, military patrol of the border,

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and the construction of electric fences at all borders. In her usual style, Coffey's petition employs an only slightly coded racism, bemoaning the plight of U.S. citizens who have "been forced to witness the invasion (and ensuing fiscal and cultural rape) of this country since 1965 by millions of Third World citizens, refugees and illegal aliens." In addition to its immigration-related demands, Coffey's petition calls for the abolishment of bilingual education, affirmative action, minority scholarships and mandatory participation in "cultural studies classes" as part of "a sentence or punishment for any American citizen."

**6. CAUSA 98 DOCUMENTS RAMPANT RACISM IN OREGON:** In a recently issued report, Causa 98, a statewide civil rights group, documented 140 incidents of bigotry including "racial slurs by high school students, contractors refusing to pay a worker and claiming the worker was an illegal immigrant" and police abuse (Salem Statesman-Journal, February 28). 38 incidents were described in the report which also "takes government agencies, businesses and schools to task for violating the civil rights of Hispanics." Causa 98 is composed of representatives of the American Friends Service Committee, PCUN (Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste), Communities Against Hate, Mano a Mano Family Center and the National Lawyers Guild.

Ramon Ramirez, president of PCUN, said Causa 98 is trying to stem anti-immigrant sentiment. He added that discrimination and harassment has increased since passage of California Proposition 187. Proponents of a similar law for Oregon are considering mounting a campaign. Ramirez also cited racism at work in two bills currently being considered by the legislature: HB 2907, which would require proof of citizenship in order to acquire a driver's license; and HB 2691, which would alter the minimum wage for field workers.

Sharon S. Shepperd of Oregonians for Immigration Reform said, "Illegal means illegal, and basically we are paying for people who don't have the right to even be in our country." Shepperd is from Independence, Oregon (Salem Statesman-Journal, March 1).

**7. NEO-NAZI SENTENCED TO 44 YEARS FOR MURDER:** Kenneth Ewing, 32, had been out of a California prison less than 4 months when he killed 74-year-old Richard Barnacascel Sr., on Dec. 23 in Aberdeen, Washington. Barnacascel Sr. came home the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to find Ewing and an accomplice ransacking his home. Barnacascel was hit 18 times in the head with a hammer and suffered six broken ribs before dying. Ewing was on parole, having served almost 8 years of a 13 year sentence for attempted kidnapping. In a plea bargain, Ewing pleaded guilty to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, while his co-defendant, James Cody Goodwin, 17, was convicted of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and car theft. Judge Gordon Godfrey sentenced Ewing to 44 years in prison, more than twice as long as sentencing guidelines. Ewing burst out, "You can stick this fucking kangaroo court up your fucking ass!" Judge Godfrey responded, "That'll be 30 days more," then left the courtroom. The Aberdeen Daily World (March 18) reported that Ewing's sister claimed her brother had been a member of an unidentified neo-Nazi group.

**8. WASHINGTON STATE ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION MEASURE:** Representative Scott Smith (R-Graham) launched an initiative March 26 that would prohibit preferential treatment based on race or gender in state hiring, awarding state contracts, and in admission to public colleges and universities. Three previous attempts by Smith at an initiative to the legislature have failed. If Smith and his cohorts collect 179,248 signatures by January 2, law makers must approve the bill next year or send it to voters in 1998. Hands Off Washington has vowed to fight the measure (Seattle Times, March 27).

**9. HATE CRIME IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, WASHINGTON:** A Chimacum man will serve 40 days in jail for what is believed to be Jefferson County's first hate crime conviction. Dale P. White, 42, pleaded guilty February 21 to malicious harassment and reckless endangerment for an August 27, 1996 incident at his Nayler Creek Road home. White threatened two neighbors, brothers he believed to be gay, yelling, "You faggots...I will kill you," while firing a gun. White also threatened to burn down their house (Port Angeles Daily News, February 25).

**10. "CLOCK IS TICKING" AT NAVAL BASE:** Naval Submarine Base Bangor in Bremerton received a letter on Jan. 28 in which the author(s) threatened to destroy government installations. The letter, from a self-described patriot group called "Revolution 2000," stated that the "clock is ticking." The FBI is handling the investigation (Central Kitsap Reporter, February 22).

**11. FREEDOM FORUM MEETING:** The Everett-based Freedom Forum's April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature presentations by Rita Johnson and Darryl Lord on the Rapid Transit Authority. The meeting will also include the following videos: "Quid Pro Coal" and "The Truth About Flouride."

**12. FORMER SS OFFICERS FACE WAR CRIMES CHARGES IN ITALY:** Former SS officers Erich Priebke and Karl Hass will go to trial before a military court starting April 14 for their part in a massacre of 335 Italian hostages at the Ardeatine Caves in Rome in 1944. The massacre took place after the killing of 33 Nazi soldiers by resistance fighters. Herbert Kappler, SS commander for Rome, ordered that 10 Italian hostages be killed for every German death. The task of carrying out the massacre was delegated to Priebke, who is expected to argue that he was "obliged to carry out orders." Hass was arrested and placed under house arrest on August 5 after admitting to shooting two of hostages "to set an example" for his men (Agence France-Presse, April 13).

**13. B.C. TEACHERS' FEDERATION FIGHTS HOMOPHOBIA:** On March 17 the British Columbia Teacher's Federation (BCTF) passed a resolution "to create a program to eliminate homophobia and heterosexism within the B.C. public school system" by an overwhelming majority. According to reports no more than 25 of the 700 plus delegates to the annual BCTF general meeting voted against the resolution. B.C. Education Minister Paul Ramsey referred to the BCTF delegates as "courageous" and told reporters, "We are going to try to make sure students are free of discrimination and harassment." The resolution defines "heterosexism" as "the assumption that everyone is heterosexual and that being heterosexual is inherently better or more moral than being lesbian, gay or bisexual." While the resolution was being presented, about 150 gay youth and their supporters rallied outside of the meeting, in support of it. An earlier demonstration by those opposed to the resolution attracted about 80 people carrying signs that said "No Homo Promo" and "Stop homosexual recruitment in schools" (Vancouver Sun, March 17 & 18).

**14. ASTORIAN EDITOR LOSES "SODOMITE" SLANDER SUIT:** Steve Forrester, editor of the Daily Astorian lost his slander suit against a man who referred to him as a "Sodomite" on radio station KAST's "Back Talk" call-in show. The Clatsop County Circuit Court returned a unanimous verdict March 13 in favor of defendant Stan Tussing, brother of Phil Tussing, a long time Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) activist. Forrester had published articles opposing Ballot Measure 13, the 1994 OCA-sponsored anti-gay initiative, prompting the comment. Forrester's lawyer, former Oregon Supreme Court justice Jacob Tanzer, said in closing arguments: "One has the right to free speech, but each person must be responsible for what he says. This is the kind of talk that hurts." Testifying, Tussing regretted making the remark, but would not retract it (Daily Astorian, March 14).

**15. IDAHO FAMILY FORUM NAMES CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:** The Idaho Family Forum (IFF), Idaho affiliate of James Dobson's Focus on the Family, recently named Idaho House Speaker Mike Simpson as its Citizen of the Year. According to Idaho Statesman columnist Dan Popkey, Simpson's opposition to several IFF pet projects, including a 1990 anti-abortion bill, his opposition to the 1994 anti-gay initiative of the Idaho Citizens Alliance and his rejection of tax credits for home schoolers and private religious schools makes him an unlikely recipient - unless IFF is trying to reach out to a larger audience. Forum executive director Dennis Mansfield responded that: "Truly Simpson... has been at times on the opposite sides of certain issues relative to the positions taken by the Idaho Family Forum," but on the same-sex marriage issue, Simpson "boldly stepped out as a leader in this state. He carried the 'Foreign Marriage' bill that outlawed same-sex marriage from another state being forced to be accepted as legal in Idaho" (Idaho Statesman, February 20, March 11).

••• 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. •••

