



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

May 15, 1997

1. HOFFMAN ANNOUNCES "REVISIONIST" CONFERENCE FOR IDAHO: Couer d'Alene, Idaho-based Identity adherent Michael Hoffman has announced plans to host a 1998 National Revisionist Conference in Idaho. He has also announced an ambitious plan of eventually building a revisionist school, museum and conference center. Hoffman recently converted his quarterly newsletter Independent History & Research into a quarterly "magazine" titled Revisionist History: the Magazine of the New Vision. The inaugural spring 1997 issue of the new glossy-covered publication features a cover story on the Ku Klux Klan's founder entitled "Nathan Bedford Forrest: Southern Superman." Bedford, a confederate general known for massacring blacks captured during the civil war, is also a source of inspiration for the new magazine. Hoffman writes, "We founded this magazine in spite of it all [ie, the difficulties entailed in producing a magazine], taking a cue from ol' N.B. [Nathan Bedford], whose tactic was to attack, stay on the offensive and keep the skeer on 'em (p.2)." Hoffman's "revisionist" history of Forrest betrays his own political leanings when he refers to Forrest's leadership of the Ku Klux Klan as "intended to reestablish a balance in the South and restore civilization and order with the least violence possible... His intentions were essentially benign (p.16-17)."

2. AMERICANS FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS: "The primary mission of Americans for a Constitutional Government is the restoration of our heritage and the rebirth of the Constitutional Republic which made the United States of America the greatest country in the history of the world," notes an advertisement for Americans for a Constitutional Government – the patriot vehicle created by common law court activist Gordon Ormsher. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Royal Neighbors Hall, 220 Railroad, Post Falls, Idaho.

3. ICAN UPDATE: Bonner County Commissioner Bud Mueller will address the May 27 meeting of the Idaho Citizens Awareness Network. Mueller is slated to report on a meeting with US Representative Helen Chenoweth concerning "rights of way" across public lands. Mueller's appearance follows on the heels of a May 8 ICAN meeting addressed by Sandpoint Mayor Dave Sawyer. According to an article by Michael Hoffman in the May/June Traden' Save, Sawyer appeared at the meeting to establish a "dialog" with community members. At the event Sawyer reportedly fielded questions from such community members as ICAN leader Bill Smyth, neo-Nazi Richard Masker and Identity leader Dave Barley. Barley reportedly complained to Sawyer about the "continuing demonization" of his virulently racist and anti-Semitic "church."

4. MCMINNVILLE, OREGON ANTI-RACIST MARCH & RALLY: An April 12 racist attack on an African-American Linfield College student prompted more than 500 McMinnville residents to rally April 28. The rally included a march through downtown McMinnville and was sponsored by anti-racist students. Ryan Harris, a Linfield College student and art major was beaten by three white men after he left his dorm April 12. The assailants shouted racial slurs and left Harris with a concussion, blurred vision and several cuts and bruises. The police are investigating the incident as a hate crime (Salem Statesman Journal April 28; Portland Oregonian, April 28).

5. GRITZ TO TEACH "HANDLING OF DETAINEES": Just seven months after being arrested and charged with the attempted kidnapping of school children in Connecticut [see Northwest Update, October 15, 1997], far right leader James "Bo" Gritz has announced his intentions to instruct followers in the "handling of detainees" in the latest phase of his paramilitary SPIKE trainings. The detainee training comes as part of the third in a series of "Special Spikes" which have followed the the initial 12 phases of Gritz's SPIKE trainings. The first two phases of "Special Spikes" consisted of airborne and scuba training. In addition to handling detainees, participants in this training, titled "Operations and Intelligence," will receive instruction in intelligence reporting, situation estimates, operations

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orders, counter-intelligence methods and psychological operations. The training will take place in the Sacramento, California-area and will be followed by a "Special Spike" training in "field operations" in Las Vegas in the fall. Keeping the original paramilitary emphasis of the SPIKE training in mind, Gritz boasts in his May newsletter (p.5) that, "The promise kept was that Spikers could be as qualified as anyone who ever wore the Green Beret. The purpose was to train Specially Prepared Individuals for Key Events designed to sustain essential community support systems under the most severe adverse conditions."

6. GARY BAUER HEADS UP PAC: Gary Bauer, a former leader of James Dobson's Focus on the Family and the head of its offshoot, the Family Research Council, has helped form the Campaign for Working Families Political Action Committee (PAC). Bauer announced that the PAC has been formed to "find, encourage, and support candidates" for the US House, the US Senate and the White House. The organization received the resounding approval of Focus on the Family head James Dobson, who wrote that "The pro-family movement desperately needs an organization that can elect good men and women to office. That is why Gary has set up the Campaign for Working Families." Bauer, the chair of the organization, is joined by president Jeffrey Bell and Secretary-Treasurer Francis P. Cannon (Fundraising mailing, April).

7. CHALCEDON INSTITUTE ON MILITIAS: In the May issue of the Chalcedon Report, Chalcedon Institute board member Brian Abshire spells out a Reconstructionist position on militias. "The contemporary militia movement," Absire writes, "is headed for serious trouble. If they do not root themselves in a consistent, Biblical world view, grounded in a proper understanding of the lawful authority of the lesser magistrate, they are ripe for either extinction, or subversion. And that would be a great loss." The doctrine of the lesser magistrate holds that individuals must appeal their complaints about the government to a "lesser magistrate...since only the magistrate has the right to 'bear the sword' against evil." Individuals, the doctrine holds, do not have the authority to take up arms against the state.

Abshire, however, describes the instances in which modern militias can be viewed as "Biblically" legitimate, stating that "the concept of a citizens militia could be the answer to crime-ridden areas. Citizens could be recruited from the community, trained by local police and then used to patrol the streets...Another contemporary application of the militia is in reserve deputies for the county sheriff. Reserve deputies, working under the lawful authority of the local magistrate, are trained, equipped and bear arms for the benefit of the entire community" (p.6).

8. COVINGTON ON HOLOCAUST REVISIONISM: National Socialist White Peoples Party leader Harold Covington described the importance of Holocaust denial for neo-Nazis in an April addition of his publication Resistance: "Holocaust revisionism is probably the most important single task at hand for our Movement on the intellectual plane. The so-called Holocaust is the very foundation of the whole edifice of late twentieth-century liberal power, not to mention the bandit state of Israel. Undermine the Holocaust and you undermine the Jews and the liberals and everything they have done since 1945, and that is something we need to be putting our effort into."

9. RALPH REED LEAVES CHRISTIAN COALITION: Ralph Reed, eight years the executive director of the Christian Coalition, has stepped down from his position in the organization to start a campaign consulting business aimed at electing Christian Right candidates around the country. Reed cited the non-profit status of the Christian Coalition as his main reason for leaving. Referring to the Christian Coalition's non-profit status as "very restrictive," he told the New York Times (April 27) that, "(i)fan individual like me is going to be more directly involved in electoral politics, its better for me to leave and go do it on my own." While Reed did not rule out an eventual run for public office, he claimed that his immediate goals were to create a "farm team" of hundreds of "pro-family, pro-life, pro-free enterprise" candidates from the school board to the Presidency.

10. MODERATES PREVAIL IN N.R.A. VOTE: Moderates in the NRA fought off a far right challenge and prevailed in elections held at the group's annual board meeting held in Seattle, Washington May 5. The moderates, led by NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre, pulled off the victory in part by bringing in a celebrity hired-gun in the person of actor Charleton Heston. Heston defeated right-wing challenger Neal Knox, one of a number of far right gun advocates who pushed the NRA into a tacit alliance with organized militias over the past couple years (New York Times, May 6).

11. WESTERN SHOSHONE TAKE CASE TO UNITED NATIONS: Seeking redress for the US government's ongoing violation of the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley, the Western Shoshone Nation has filed a grievance with the

United Nations Human Rights Commission. The 1863 treaty between the US and the Western Shoshone, or Newe, ceded no land to the US government, but rather allowed passage through Shoshone lands. Though the Indian Claims Commission arbitrarily fixed the date of the transfer of Shoshone land at July 1, 1872, Jack Orr, chairman of the Western Shoshone nonprofit corporations which were organized in 1993 to allow this federally unrecognized government to operate in the US, told Indian Country Today, "They're trying to claim we're a conquered people. We want to know the battle—name the battle. Nowhere have we legally lost our land." The lands of the Western Shoshone includes land in Idaho, Nevada, Utah and California. In addition to the Western Shoshone, other Indian Nations presenting claims against the U.S. to the UN Human Rights Commission include the Taniana Village in Alaska, the Yaqui of Arizona, the Dine of Arizona and the Lakota Sioux of South Dakota (Indian Country Today, April 21-28; PO Box 2180, Rapid City, SD 57709; (605) 341-0011).

12. OHIO COMMON LAW COURT ACTIVISTS SCRUTINIZED BY GRAND JURY: A federal grand jury in Columbus, Ohio has launched an investigation of several common law court activists. The revelation about the investigation appeared when Bill Ellwood, the self-proclaimed chief justice of Our One Supreme of Ohio was subpoenaed by the grand jury on April 10 but did not appear. On April 25 an arrest warrant was issued for Ellwood who turned himself in to U.S. deputy marshals on May 5. Ellwood has since been released.

Ellwood is one of many common law court activists currently under scrutiny in Ohio. Another Our One Supreme Court activist, Larry L. Russell Sr., was convicted in March of escape. Russell was sentenced to 18 months in jail. Patrick E. Rudd, a 58-year-old minister from Warwick, R.I., was convicted of mail and bank fraud in 1996 for urging central Ohio followers to pay off debts with bogus money orders and checks. The U.S. Secret Service began investigating Joseph Yacapraro Jr. of Coshocton, Ohio in December after he attempted to pay an auto loan with a \$75,000 certified bank check signed by LeRoy Schweitzer. Yacapraro also was a witness to the June 1995 shootout between Michael Hill, the first "chief justice" of the Our One Supreme Court of Ohio, and an Ohio police officer. Jackie L. and Linda Jones of Lancaster, Ohio, have also attempted to pass a phony certified bank check for \$1 million in an effort to halt a foreclosure on their home (Columbus Dispatch, May 8).

13. L.A. MILITIA MEMBERS BUSTED: Five members of a Los Angeles-based militia cell who authorities claim were planning terrorist acts in Southern California were arrested on May 8. Arrested were Glenn Yee, 43, a reserve police officer for the city of Irwindale; Alvin Ung, 31; Mark Grand, 31; Timothy Swanson, 43; and Raymond Durand, 33. According to police Cmdr. Tim McBride "A militia cell was brought to its knees today by these arrests." Seized were several .223-caliber rifles; grenade launchers; thousands of rounds of ammunition; body armor; night vision goggles; targets painted to resemble blacks, Asians and Latinos; camouflage suits; ballistic helmets; a laser sight and rappelling gear (Associated Press, May 9).

14. SECOND RACIST CONVICTED IN NORTH CAROLINA MURDERS: Malcolm Wright, 22, of Lexington, KY was convicted May 2 on two counts of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit first-degree murder in connection to the Dec. 1995 slaying of an African-American couple in Fayetteville, NC. Wright's conviction follows the Feb. 27 conviction of James N. Burmeister on the same charges in connection to the killing. The two were formerly soldiers stationed at Ft. Bragg and were reported to be neo-Nazi skinheads. Burmeister is serving two consecutive life sentences for the murders.

Key testimony in the case came from Randy Lee Meadows, a former paratrooper at Fort Bragg who accompanied Wright and Burmeister the night of the killing. Meadows testified that he had driven Wright and Burmeister to the location where the victims had been seen. He testified hearing six gun shots just moments after the two exited his vehicle; he also testified that after the three had been arrested, Burmeister told him that he (Burmeister) had shot the two, joking that he had done a community service and "they put me in jail for it" (New York Times, May 2).

15. ISTOOK BILL ASSAULTS TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY: A bill (HR 1168) in the US House authored by Rep. Ernest Istook (R-Okla.) threatens to give states more power over Indian tribes by ordering that the Secretary of the Interior cannot place land into trust status for a tribe until the tribe has negotiated tax collection agreements with state and local government. In particular, the bill targets the sale of products such as fuel and tobacco by Indian tribes, with Istook arguing that revenue losses are "rising each year as tribes acquire new lands for retail outlets along highways and busy intersections" where they sell the products. The bill is being supported by the National Governor's Association. It is being opposed, however, by the Clinton Administration and the Dept. of Interior who argue that the bill undermines tribal sovereignty and Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, which allows tribes to reacquire land and have it placed in trust status. Deborah Doxtator, chairwoman of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, told Indian

Country Today that, the bill could be used, among other things, by local townships to prevent future development in Indian Country. "The impact that the Istook bill will have on these tribes could be devastating," she said (Indian Country Today, April 21-28).

16. IDAHO OBSERVER ATTACKS HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE: In a continuing trend in northern Idaho, those who champion the cause of civil rights and democracy are being attacked in the pages of another far-right publication. Calling them "a radical extremist group," the Idaho Observer ran a front-page story attacking what it called "the Human Rights Task Force." The article does not specify which of the several human Rights Task Forces active in northern Idaho it refers to. It does, however, accuse the Task Force of a felony crime, "removing multiple copies of The Idaho Observer and The Trade 'n' Save from racks in supermarkets and elsewhere." The article also accuses members of the task force of "harassing" business people who advertise in "these Constitutional publications" (Idaho Observer, April).

17. NEWPORT MAN ARRESTED ON RACIAL INTIMIDATION CHARGE: Dean L. West, Jr., 41, of Newport was arrested on charges of Intimidation, Resisting Arrest, Harassment, Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Mischief II and Attempted Escape III in connection with a fight on April 17 in Newport. Witnesses said that West called a young person a racial slur and slapped him on the arm, then fought with police when they responded (Newport News-Times, April 23).

18. LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON STUDENTS TARGETS OF RACIAL HARASSMENT: Young people attending Monticello Middle School and Castle Rock High School in Longview have been physically assaulted and racially harassed by fellow students. Ted Edwards, a sixth grader at the middle school and Jeremy Hockett, a senior at Castle Rock, both African-American, have been targeted for harassment. The Kelso school district, however, reports only three incidents of racial harassment this school year (up from zero last year). Edwards has even received a summons charging him with fourth-degree assault. Edward's parents are adamant that their son is innocent (Longview Daily News, April 7).

19. WCOTC CONTINUES COLLEGE BLITZ: Matt Hale's World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) continues to distribute racist, anti-Semitic leaflets on college campuses. On March 3, material was distributed to numerous campuses including: Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, CA; Sierra College in Rocklin, CA; and colleges in Illinois and Nevada. WCOTC continues to claim expansion, adding new contact points in Pittsburgh, PA and Woodstock, Ontario. They have also added an additional California hotline (510)287-9012 bringing the total to four. Regional WCOTC branches have also created new webpages: <http://www.ariskkamp.com/imperium>, <http://www.rahowa.com> and <http://www.ariskkamp.com/wcotcwe> to compliment the main WCOTC site at <http://www.creator.org>.

20. ARMED DRIVER ARRESTED CARRYING MILITIA IDENTIFICATION: Jed Carson, 24, of Wahkiacus, WA, was arrested in Clark County with a false license plate on his truck, two loaded handguns and a concealed weapons permit issued by a militia. Carson was cited for operating a vehicle with illegal plates, carrying a loaded weapon in a vehicle, driving without a license and failure to provide proof of insurance. The license plate read, "SOV 064-MNE, States of America united, America the Republic." Deputies found a loaded 9mm pistol in a holster attached to the visor, a loaded .44 Magnum revolver, an unloaded shotgun, two unloaded rifles and ammunition. A sales contract noted that Carson had purchased the pickup from a Bush Prairie man for "50 United States of America gold dollars" under the "common law." Carson was identified as an agent for "Gretton House, 65 Duke Street, Turks and Caicos Islands, Grant Turk, BWI" (Vancouver Columbian, April 9).

21. SILVERTON, OREGON COP FILES RACIAL DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT: A 20-year veteran law enforcement officer of the Silverton, Oregon Police Department filed a racial discrimination complaint against his department in late March. The Silverton Appeal-Tribune (March 26) reports that the complaint of officer Mark Yoshihara states in part:

- "I have been referred to as 'the little Jap.'"
- "On Nov. 19, 1996 at a department meeting, Chief (Randy) Lunsford told me I didn't have to stand up to talk to him (I was sitting down at the time).
- In September and October 1996, Chief Lunsford slapped me on top of my head, calling it 'Jap Stimulation.'"
- "Poster/drawings have been displayed throughout the department which have been insensitive."

- In September and October 1996, Chief Lunsford slapped me on top of my head, calling it 'Jap Stimulation.'
 - "Poster/drawings have been displayed throughout the department which have been insensitive."
- Yoshihara is the only officer of color on the 12-person force.

22. 17-YEAR-OLD MURDERER SENTENCED TO 40 YEARS: James Cody Goodwin, 17, of Aberdeen, Washington was sentenced to 40 years in prison for the beating death of 74-year-old Richard Barnacascel, Sr. The judge in the case, Mark McCauley, described Goodwin, who sports a shaved head, as involved with the Aryan Nations. Kenneth Ewing, 32, was previously sentenced to 44 years in prison for his role in the murder (See Northwest Update, April 1). Ewing's sister claimed her brother had also been a member of a neo-Nazi group (Aberdeen Daily World, April 22).

23. COMMON LAW DOCUMENTS USED FOR 10TH AMENDMENT CASE: William T. Villars, of Fruitland, Idaho, who was sentenced two years ago to five years probation and payment of \$20,000 restitution for malicious destruction of federal property, has been ordered to prison for five months following his failure to adhere to a repayment schedule. Villars bulldozed and dug trenches on about eight acres of public lands in June 1994 near Salmon, Idaho apparently seeking to test the states' rights argument that the federal government does not own, nor has the authority to regulate, public lands. In January Villars filed a \$17.5 billion common law court lawsuit against 33 officials. Idaho Attorney General Alan Lance sponsored legislation to discourage Villars and other fellow travellers from trying to arrest public officials, and the law now directs county clerks not to place liens filed by such activists. Villars' lawsuit alleges the familiar litany of common law court charges, including criminal conspiracy, fraud, "barratry racketeering," and treason (Idaho Falls Post-Register, April 24).

24. FOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKERS SUE FOR BIAS: Karrin L. Williams, Kathy M. Beebe, Cheryl D. Nederhiser and James E. Gray, all workers at Mt. Hood Community College, have filed a federal lawsuit against the school for alleged racial and sexual discrimination in the campus police department. The suit, filed April 23, seeks millions in damages and includes more than 70 allegations over the period 1991-1996. The incidents include sexually suggestive comments and jokes, racial epithets, pornographic videos and magazines, and unwanted groping. The college says it investigated the allegations and responded appropriately. The defendants named in the suite include the business manager, Bill Becker, a former public safety supervisor, James L. Pine, Norman R. LaPlante, and a number of other officers (Portland Oregonian, April 25).

••• 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. •••

