



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

June 1, 1997

1. CHD ADDRESSES PNLTFA CONFERENCE: CHD staffer Devin Burghart and Eric Ward of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment delivered presentations on the state of militia and common law court organizing in the Northwest at the annual conference of the Pacific Northwest License, Tax and Fraud Association in Vancouver, Washington on May 14. Attendees included representatives from the IRS, local law and federal enforcement and public employees from around the region.

2. MULTOMAH COUNTY COMMON LAW COURT IN DISARRAY: The Multnomah County Common Law Court and Jural Society met at the Miracle Temple Church in Southeast Portland May 12. Approximately 25 people were in attendance. "Chief Justice" Charles Stewart issued an opening statement which read in part, "We are in serious need of guidance and direction from God in Heaven, however any may conceive him. For those of us founding this Court, we believe him to be referred to in both Biblical and non-Biblical documents as YHVH... He is a specific singular God, who demands exclusive and sincere study, devotion and obedience to his Laws. The theory is here-in advanced that at least some and possibly all members of this Court are falling so short in following the pathway of YHVH, that his spirit has departed from us."

Stewart was referring to splits within the organization, some involving Bill Spidal, whom Stewart has accused of being a government agent. MCCLC activists have been the subject of recent law enforcement actions (item # 8 in this issue; *Northwest Update* May 1, 1997) and the group is in disarray. Stewart also stated, "We are in serious fear not only of destructive forces from within, but also from similar forces from without. Both myself and Justice James Bleakley have been stopped, ticketed and harassed by the same Portland Police officer Gunderson on the last two meetings. Justice Bleakley can explain further later, but this taken with the Lawless Confiscation of Clerk/Justice Lancial's Computers, causes us to live in fear of computer seizures from the Police. There are apparently fresh Lawless warrants being issued at the whim of the D.A..."

Roger Weidner, a prominent Portland-area patriot distributed issues of the *Oregon Observer*, and announced plans for a rally at the Salem Capitol building June 13 to support Dianna Roberts' attack on the Aging Services Division. Roberts was also on hand for the meeting. The *Observer* continues to serve as Oregon's premier patriot organ.

"Justice" James Bleakley announced support for an Embassy of Heaven effort to prevent the Marion County (Oregon) tax Assessors department from auctioning off the group's land for failure to pay back taxes. Bleakley announced a series of rallies to take place near the group's land outside of Salem.

Other attendees included Dick and Thor Lancial, who have served as jurors for previous "trials" conducted by the group. The Lancial's home was the subject of an April raid by police that netted computers, records of previous MCCLC meetings, and weapons.

3. CHRISTIAN LIBERTY SEMINAR IN SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON: About 80 people attended a Christian Liberty Seminar hosted sponsored by the Snohomish County Jural Society May 16-17 in Snohomish, Washington. Many on hand paid \$65 each for a Jural Society information packet and the opportunity to hear presentations by Christian Reconstructionist John Quade (aka John Saunders), California Jural Society leader Randy Lee and John Joseph. The three lead the Christian Jural Society and have toured the country "teaching" followers how to form so-called Jural Societies. They are slated to appear June 6th & 7th in Palmdale, California. Among the topics of the weekend seminar were: "Christian Self-Government in Ecclesiastical and Jural Societies," "Elements of the Non-Statutory Abatement process," "Background Studies in American Martial Rule: 1862-1997," and "The Future of Christian America."

As outlined in material from the meeting, the Jural Society is "formed to establish Lawfully elected political bodies

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and provide the Christian Members of the Jural Society with a Lawful forum in which they can govern themselves at the local level (Book of the Hundreds, p.105).” Jural Societies elect a Chief Political Magistrate, Herald (who communicates with other Jural Societies), Scribe/Recorder, Treasurer, Postmaster, Librarian and Parliamentarian. They also elect a legislative branch, though “the vast majority of law the Society is already available in Scripture and the common law (p.124).” In keeping with this, John Quade told attendees that the Bible, not the Constitution, is the supreme law of the land.

Of particular interest is the Jural Society Constable, charged with “call[ing] out the militia on a vote of the Society (p. 126).” Once a Jural Society is formed, it must “establish a committee to developments (sic) the relationship between a jural society and the Posse. When they can be called out, and other duties and responsibilities...Note: ‘Militia’ and ‘posse comitatus’ are interchangeable terms. A militia is a state body, and the Posse is a county body.”

The local contact for the meeting was Thomas Naumann, a Snohomish County far right activist who played host to Eugene Schroder in 1995. Thomas Naumann: 16815 116th St. SE; Snohomish, WA 98290; (360) 568-4888.

5. SOUTHERN OREGON MILITIA IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CHD Research Director Robert Crawford and Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment Associate Director Eric Ward were resource persons for a lengthy profile of the Southern Oregon Militia published in the Medford Mail Tribune April 27. The group apparently formed in 1993 and claims to have 206 members in Jackson County and 599 in Josephine County. The group is led by Ralph Bowman, 56, a frequent attendee of Jackson County Commissioners meetings.

The group offered to help the Militia of Montana support the “Freeman” during their stand-off with federal agents in Jordan, Montana. Carl Worden, the group’s intelligence officer, said, “It was the presence of militias in Montana that kept the government from going ballistic [in Jordan] like they did in Waco” (Mail Tribune, April 27).

6. AMERICA’S PROMISE ATTACKS CHD: In the May 1997 issue of America’s Promise Newsletter Pastor Dave Barley of the Sandpoint, Idaho-based Lord’s Covenant Church attacks the Coalition for Human Dignity for attempting to disrupt its Florida conference. The conference in question was scheduled for Easter weekend at the Holiday Inn Select in Clearwater, Florida. The Holiday Inn canceled America’s Promise reservations after coverage in the St. Petersburg Times exposed Barley’s Christian Identity beliefs and because of pressure from the local Jewish Federation. Barley reprints the entire St. Petersburg Times article by Mike Wilson and then editorializes: “Now, this reporter from the St. Petersburg Times was certainly not on America’s Promise Ministries’ mailing list, so how do you suppose he became aware of our conference? It was because the ‘Coalition for Human Dignity,’ (which has nothing whatsoever to do with HUMAN DIGNITY) out of Seattle, Washington, notified the St. Peterburg Times [sic] and fed them a pile of unsubstantiated lies about America’s Promise Ministries.” Barley also describes the Coalition as a “hate group” and “a private corporation which passes itself off as an organization which cares about the dignity of all races, and religions.” As a result of the cancellation, the conference was moved to the Days Inn on Rocky Point where only half of the anticipated 100 participants attended.

7. GONZAGA STUDENTS “DEMAND DIVERSITY”: On April 30, dozens of Gonzaga University students plastered campus walls with drawings of a clenched fist and the words, “Demand Diversity” April 30. For the past three years African-American students at the private university have been the targets of racist harassment during semester finals. Students held a forum on April 30 to discuss responses to the latest acts of racist harassment (See Northwest Update May 1; Spokane Spokesman-Review, May 1).

8. JAMES BELL HELD WITHOUT BAIL, FRIEND’S HOME RAIDED: James D. Bell, the Vancouver, Washington man who authored “Assassination Politics,” an essay published on the internet that speculated about government officials being assassinated, was held without bail in federal court on May 19. Bell was charged with attempting to obstruct and impede the IRS and using a false Social Security number. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. A search warrant issued in April (See Northwest Update, May 1, 1997) accused Bell of “directly soliciting others to set up a system to murder government officials” through his 10-part essay, “Assassination Politics.” A subsequent search of Bell’s home by the Environmental Protection Agency turned up deadly chemicals.

On May 15, IRS agents raided the Vancouver home of Robert W. East, a friend of Bell’s, and seized a computer, chemical catalogs and nine rifles and pistols. East is a merchant marine radio-electronics officer. East has not, as yet, been charged with criminal wrongdoing.

Bell, an engineer with a degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is reported to have a proceeding underway in bankruptcy court (Seattle Post-Intelligencer, May 20; Vancouver Columbian, May 16).

9. MILITIA TELEVISION RETURNS TO TCI CABLE: Mathew "Jim" Ramsey of Snohomish County, Washington has resumed sponsoring a Militia TV community access television program airing Monday evenings at 4:30 p.m. on Ch. 29 in Everett. Ramsey reports that the remaining leadership of the Washington State Militia has renamed the group and now "flies a new banner of freedom: The Washington Citizen's Army" (EverettHerald, May 10).

10. BRESCIA PLEADS GUILTY TO ROBBERY AND CONSPIRACY: After previously stating that he would "have it out with the feds" if they tried to arrest him, Michael Brescia has now agreed to work with federal authorities. On May 21, 25-year-old Brescia entered a plea of guilty to charges of conspiracy and robbing a Madison, Wisconsin bank on August 30, 1995. Brescia is the third Aryan Republican Army member to accept a plea bargain, along with Mark Thomas and Kevin McCarthy. In return for his cooperation, federal prosecutors agreed not to pursue other charges against him. Due to federal sentencing guidelines the deal could free Brescia in less than five years.

11. HUMAN LIFE OF WASHINGTON LIFE PRINCIPLES SEMINAR: Human Life of Washington will hold another in a series of statewide "Life Principles" seminars, this time in Moses Lake. The seminar is scheduled for June 14 (9am-5pm) while an additional speakers workshop is set for June 28 (9am-5pm). Contact: (425) 882-4397.

12. TACOMA WOMAN FINDS KNIFE, RACIST THREAT IN MAILBOX: A Tacoma woman found a butcher knife with a racist taunt printed on the handle in her mailbox on May 2nd (Tacoma News-Tribune, May 4).

13. REMANT OF ISRAEL IN WASHINGTON: W.J. (Bill) Walker is the "pastor" of the Opportunity, Washington-based Christian Identity group the Remnant of Israel. The group peddles an array of pamphlets with titles such as "Our Lost Israelite Identity," "Mongrelization," and "Jewish Control." The group claims to be the descenant of the church of same name that originated in 1915 in Britton, Oklahoma under G.G. Rupert. Material from the Remnant proclaims, "THE NEGRO IS NOT EQUAL IN THE SIGHT OF ALMIGHTY GOD, NOR DOES THE BIBLE TEACH THAT HE IS! The Negro is not an American! Rather, he is an African and a foreigner who does not belong in this country!...The White Race (sic) is fast becoming second-class citizens in their own land. There is only one solution to our Nation's "black invasion" and that is to send the Negroes back to Africa where they belong!" (emphasis in original). Remnant of Israel: 11303 East 7th; Opportunity, WA 99206; (509) 926-6767.

14. NATIONAL SOCIALIST VANGUARD TARGETS YOUNG PEOPLE: Rick Cooper, the head of the Goldendale, Washington-based National Socialist Vanguard, mailed issues of his NSV Report to 209 Columbia River and 30 Ridgefield Highschool students in Vancouver, Washington. Cooper also claims to be mailing copies to students in Alaska. Cooper has long conducted mailings targeting honor students in Oregon, Washington and Alaska (VancouverColumbian, May 14).

15. RACIST GRAFFITI AT VANCOUVER HIGH SCHOOL: Graffiti was spraypainted on the exterior of a gymnasium at Mountain View High School in Vancouver's Cascade Park Sunday, May 11, the day before the start of the school's multicultural week. The graffiti included derogatory terms for African-Americans, a swastika and an anarchist symbol (VancouverColumbian, May 14).

16. CHENOWITH ISSUES RACIST REMARKS: U.S. Representative Helen Chenowith recently made racist remarks concerning a U.S. Forest Service minority hiring program. Chenowith said North Idaho has plenty of ethnic diversity, "We have Poles, people from Scandinavia, people from England, people from Italy." She also stated that the Forest service need not recruit minorities because "The warm-climate community just hasn't found the colder climate that attractive." Chenowith later issued an apology for the remarks, but did not back away from her opposition to the Forest Service's program (Spokane Spokesman Review, May 14).

17. HATE MAIL RECEIVED BY FOREST SERVICE: A special agent for the U.S. Forest Service is investigating racist literature left at a work site in Portland. The agent is also outraged at the federal agency's failure to quickly launch an investigation. Agency officials say the delay was unintended. Sid Clark, the special agent, said he arrived at work April 28 and found a mock questionnaire evaluating "red-neck" qualifications and a handscrawled note that read, "You Trouble Makin' Nigger Get The Fuck Out Of Our Country!" Clark is president of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Minority Coalition for Forest Service employees. Earl Ford, another Forest Service officer, told the

Vancouver Columbian (May 5) that, "We are hearing reports of this kind of intimidation across the nation happening in the Forest Service and leadership is not stepping up to the plate."

18. CHRISTIAN COALITION OF OREGON CIRCULATES OCA PETITION: The Christian Coalition of Oregon (CCO) recently mailed copies of the OCA's new anti-abortion petition to members and supporters. In fact, CCO executive director Lou Beres is listed as one of the chief petitioners for the new initiative, along with OCA officials Lon Mabon and Phil Ramsdell. The groups aim to place an initiative on the 1998 general ballot which would amend the state constitution to ban second and third trimester abortions except to save the mother's life.

19. LIFE ADVOCATE PUSHES MILITIAS, RECONSTRUCTIONISM: "Militias are a gift from God which can be used to preserve freedom from tyranny," writes Michael Bray in the May/June issue of Life Advocate magazine. Bray states that militias should be taken over by "Christians." "But if it is good to be salt and light in the institutions of our land, how about a call for Christian involvement in the militias? Shall they not also be redeemed? Or shall they be left for the racists and Nazis to dominate?" This call for Christian involvement in militias—another kind of "institution"—follows Bray's short, approving description of the Christian Reconstructionist movement, including discussion of "capital punishment for practitioners of adultery, sodomy, murder, witchcraft, heresy, and persistent juvenile rebellion." He goes on to write, "the subject of reconstruction must take place among those who are serious about restoring 'family values' (that covert term employed by the 'Religious Right' for 'Christian values,' which in turn serves as a euphemism for Christian law and ethics)." Bray argues that the Reconstructionist call to take over all of secular society and create a theocratic government ought to be extended to quasi-institutions like militias.

20. DAVID IRVING BOOK ATTACKS NUREMBERG TRIALS: A new book by British Holocaust denier David Irving, Nuremberg: The Last Battle, is now available from the Institute for Historical Review (IHR). Irving's book sets out to establish that the Allies were as culpable of war crimes as the Nazis, that the Allies mistreated Germans in the postwar period, and that the "six million" figure for Jewish murders was invented.

21. GAY FRIENDLY NIGHTCLUB FORCED TO CLOSE: The Rendezvous restaurant and lounge, a popular nightspot in Tumwater, Washington that advertised that it welcomed gay and lesbian customers was forced to close in late May when it received an eviction notice from the property manager. The Rendezvous was leased and managed by Jim Manning from the Grizzly Rich Corp. of Vail, Colorado. Clark Wooley, president of Grizzly Rich, told the Olympian that the eviction was "a business decision" but added that he was not happy with the Rendezvous's gay-friendly reputation. Manning said that he will not fight the eviction (Olympian, May 22).

••• 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. •••