



*In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights*

# COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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## NORTHWEST UPDATE

May 15, 1998

**1. NEO-NAZIS ACTIVE IN EUGENE, OREGON:** A banner featuring a red swastika and the twin lightning bolts of Hitler's elite SS was hung from the Ferry Street Bridge in Eugene, Oregon on Monday, April 20th. The German phrase "Ein Volk. Ein Reich. Ein Führer." (One people. One Rule. One Leader.) was also written on the banner. Adolf Hitler was born April 20, 1889. The banner was accompanied by hundreds of flyers featuring a crude drawing of anti-racists being lynched. The flyer was headlined, "SMASH S.H.A.R.P. with strong White Pride!" SHARP is an acronym for Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice, and is often used as a catch-all term for anti-racist activists, whether or not they are formally organized into a SHARP chapter. There are no known SHARP chapters active in Eugene, Oregon.

Michelle Lefkowitz of Communities Against Hate points to an increase in activity on the part of Volksfront skinheads in the area, including stepped-up recruitment and harassment. Volksfront founder Randall Krager made a recent visit to Eugene, and has vowed to establish a Volksfront chapter in the area. Two weeks prior to the banner incident, the First Christian Church was defaced with swastikas. Contact: Communities Against Hate, P.O. Box 10837, Eugene, Oregon 97440 (541) 485-4286

**2. O.C.A. ANTI-GAY, ANTI-ABORTION BALLOT MEASURES:** The Oregon Citizens Alliance is likely to qualify a measure for the November ballot that would ban abortions after the first trimester. According to the *Salem Statesman Journal*, (May 4) the religious right group claims to have collected just short of 70,000 signatures toward a total of 97,681 needed. The OCA has until July 2 to collect the requisite number of signatures. Oregon is among the strongest laws safeguarding abortions in the nation, with no waiting periods, or parental consent/notification for minors.

Another OCA initiative, this one to ban same-sex marriages, has further to go to qualify. The OCA's Lon Mabon told the *Statesman Journal* that his group had collected only 50,000 signatures for that effort. Mabon hopes that qualifying these two measures for the November election will dispel widespread reports that the OCA has disintegrated over the past three years. "A crumbling, nonexistent organization couldn't do that [qualify two ballot measures]. This will show where we have been, and this will show who we are," he told the *Statesman Journal*.

**3. IDAHO FAMILY FORUM CONFERENCE:** The Idaho Family Forum will host a "youth leadership conference" June 15-21. The IFF is affiliated with James Dobson's Focus on the Family and Gary Bauer's Family Research Council. Tickets are available until May 29<sup>th</sup> for \$285 each. Contact: idfamily@dmi.net.

**4. HELEN AND OLLIE:** Helen Chenoweth is slated to appear at a reception May 15 with Christian Right stalwart and Iran-Contra liar Oliver North. The event will be held at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, Idaho.

**5. FREEMEN CALL FOR 'DEPORTATION HEARING':** On May 7 four men claiming to be United States "special marshals" filed documents calling for defendants in the Montana "Freemen" case to be "self-deported back to the great state of Montana, Garfield County." Lyle Chamberlain, Gary L. Clark, Richard Earl Wilson and Wayne Wood were identified as "marshals" on the documents to Yellowstone County Sheriff Chuck Maxwell, though Randy Parsons joined the group in presenting the documents to Maxwell. Clark and Parsons have previously participated in common law courts while Chamberlain drew attention in 1996 when Freeman supporters gathered at his Winnett-area ranch (*Billings Gazette*, May 7).

**6. ROUND-UP ON FAR RIGHT VIOLENCE AND SENTENCING:** Three persons were arrested in early May in connection to an alleged plot to set off numerous bombs as a diversion for a bank robbery. Brian Pickett, 38,

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Christopher Norris, 25, and Deena Wanzie, 46, were charged May 8 with conspiracy, bank robbery and explosives and weapons charges in what BATF officer Mike Hegerfeld said was a plan to "set off 14 bombs in the Orlando area as a diversion for them to commit two bank robberies." The three are alleged to have worked with Todd Vanbiber, 29, a reported member of the National Alliance injured in an accidental explosion in April 1997. Pickett is also reported to be a member of the National Alliance.

Van Biber is currently cooperating with authorities while serving a 6½ year federal sentence for possession of explosives. He is reported to have initially planned the bomb attack for April 19, the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing. A court affidavit stated that Vanbiber and Pickett robbed banks in Tampa and Canbury, Connecticut in 1996. Pickett is also charged with stealing vehicles used in earlier bank robberies (AP, May 8).

Elsewhere, Klan member Donald Ray Anderson was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his 1997 attack on a Dallas synagogue. Anderson opened fire on the synagogue as he screamed "die, Jews, die" while 250 people were inside. No one was physically injured in the attack in which damage was estimated at \$300 (AP, May 5).

In Denver, militia member Wallace Stanley Kennett was sentenced to 18 months in prison for possession of an illegal machinegun and explosives. Kennett is a member of the Colorado 1<sup>st</sup> Light Infantry. Ronald David Cole, 28, and Kevin Terry, 25, also members of the group, had earlier made plea bargains. Cole was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for four counts of possessing an illegal machine gun; Terry received one year and one day in prison for possessing a machine gun (*Denver Post*, May 2).

**7. ANTI-IMMIGRANT.ORG.:** Anti-immigrant groups and leaders can be reached at the following addresses: Roy Beck: Numbers USA – [www.numbersusa.com](http://www.numbersusa.com); FAIR – [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org); Carrying Capacity Network – [www.carryingcapacity.org](http://www.carryingcapacity.org); Negative Population Growth – [www.npg.org](http://www.npg.org); Center for Immigration Studies – [www.cis.org/cis](http://www.cis.org/cis); Border Solution Task Force – [www.adnc.com/web/bstf](http://www.adnc.com/web/bstf); Immigration Control Advocates – [www.immigrationmoratorium.com](http://www.immigrationmoratorium.com); American Immigration Control Foundation – <http://personal.cfw.com/~aicf/>; Midwest Coalition for Immigration Reform – <http://www.enteract.com/~mcri97/>; U.S. Border Control – <http://www.usbc.org/>; Voice of Citizens Together – <http://www.instanet.com/~vct/>; Texans for Fair Immigration – <http://xld.com/public/tffi/tffi.htm>; Californians for Population Stabilization – <http://www.calweb.com/~caps/>; Oregonians for Immigration Reform – <http://www.teleport.com/~sharss/oir.html>; Social Contract Press – <http://www.tscpress.com/>; Georgians for Responsible Immigration Policy – <http://micromgt.home.mindspring.com/>

**8. POPULIST ACTION COMMITTEE ENDORSES DICK MOUNTJOY:** The Liberty Lobby's Populist Action Committee has given its "emphatic support" for the bid of anti-immigrant state senator Dick Mountjoy for lieutenant governor of California. The PAC praises Mountjoy for his work on Proposition 187 and for his belief in the "need for our borders to be protected from the influx of illegal aliens." Dick Mountjoy for Lieutenant Governor: P.O. Box 877; Monrovia, CA 91017.

The PAC is also supporting longtime favorite Jack Gargan's Reform Party bid for the U.S. House seat in Florida's 5<sup>th</sup> District. Gargan is the founder of Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out (THRO). He needs 12,000 signatures to be placed on the ballot. *Spotlight* (May 4) reports that he is donating \$45,000 of his own money to the cause and praises him as "the father of the national term limits movement."

**9. BONEHEADS CHARGED WITH MURDER OF SIKH HAVE RACIST BACKGROUNDS:** Five racist skinheads charged with second degree murder in the January 4 beating death of Nirmal Singh Gill, a caretaker at a Surrey, British Columbia Sikh temple, all have racist backgrounds. Accused murderer Nathan LeBlanc, 25 was ejected from the Canadian Armed Forces December 15, 1997—two weeks before the murder of Gill—for theft and the discovery of racist propaganda in his barracks at Canadian Armed Forces Base Petawawa. According to the *Vancouver Sun* (April 28), four other privates in the same company were identified as having possible racist connections and were the subject of administrative action.

Daniel Miloszewski, 20 and Radoslaw Synderek, 22, also charged with murder, attempted to recruit high school students into the racist movement in the early 1990s. Miloszewski apparently gave himself the nickname "Genocide." Robert Kluch, 24 was known to hold racist parties at his Surrey apartment and frequently displayed a Nazi flag in his window. The fifth accused murderer is a 17-year-old whose name has been withheld.

**10. HITLER YOUTH FUND RAISING DRIVE IN UTAH:** The Hitler Youth of America, the "youth legion" of Harold Covington's National Socialist White People's Party has announced a six-week fund drive from April 28-June 9. The group hopes to raise \$5000 in the drive, with Great Basin Region director Fred Huguenot announcing an \$800 local target. Huguenot described that the funds are needed for a "mass propaganda distribution" in the Great

Basin in July. NSWPP: PO Box 901045; Sandy, UT 84090-1045.

**11. KIRBY KEHOE PLEADS GUILTY:** White supremacist Kirby Kehoe pleaded guilty May 11 to possessing a short-barrel rifle, two hand grenades and a machine gun. Other charges brought by the state of Montana were dropped in the plea bargain. These included illegally possessing a handgun that belonged to a slain Arkansas gun dealer and illegally transporting the weapons while under indictment in Montana. Mark Casey, Kehoe's lawyer, stated that while Kehoe "has technically violated the law," the racist believes gun laws to be unconstitutional (AP, May 12).

**12. FOB JAMES: 'EMBARRASSMENT TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA':** In a petition to the Supreme Court written by his son Forrest, Alabama Governor Fob James has again declared his belief that he need not obey the Bill of Rights. In the 30 page document, James argues that state officials do not have to follow rulings they deem "unconstitutional." Fob's filing comes in response to a recent federal court ruling barring vocal prayers, teacher-led devotionals and Bible giveaways during school hours. The document declares that "in the absence of this court's acceptance of constitutional limitations, other constitutional officials owe no 'deference to the decision of this court... No constitutional official of integrity should exercise the authority of his or her office so as to legitimize this court's claim of power." The letter also claims that Justice Sandra O'Connor's "agnostic" beliefs made her "close her own mind to the risk that abortion on the whole may be equivalent to murder."

In response, the Republican Attorney General of the state has stated the James is not speaking for the state. The ACLU is opposing Alabama in the school prayer case, while attorney Pamela Summers said that "The governor's actions are a profound embarrassment to the state of Alabama. The governor has succeeded only in underscoring how revolutionary his thinking is." James is currently seeking a third term as governor (AP, May 6).

**13. ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ACTIVISTS FORM RACE PANEL:** Attacking the Clinton Administration's initiative on race as a liberal "monologue" leading anti-affirmative action activists have formed the Citizens' Initiative on Race and Ethnicity, a panel which plans to hold a series of public meetings and produce reports on race relations. California activist Ward Connerly is the chair of the organization while the vice-chair is Abigail Thernstrom. Others involved in the project include the misnamed Institute for Justice's Clinton Bolick, former United Way president Elaine L. Chao, and Center for Equal Opportunity leader Linda Chavez (*Washington Post*, April 30).

**14. IMMIGRATION CUTS LINKED TO INCREASE IN HUNGER:** The Physicians for Human Rights has called on Congress to restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants "on medical and human rights grounds" after a recent study by the group found "alarmingly high" levels of hunger among immigrants in three states. The group reported that immigrants from 79% of 682 households surveyed in California, Texas and Illinois were "food insecure, with varying degrees of hunger severity." Over one-third of households surveyed suffered from "moderate" hunger while 8.5% reported "severe hunger" - more than 10 times the rate in the general population. The study concluded that "the discriminatory aspect of the food stamp cuts against individuals who are in the U.S. legally and who pay taxes constitutes a serious human rights violation."

Over 70 Senators signed a letter urging passage of an agricultural bill that would restore food stamps. The food stamp provision has been fought by Senators Phil Gramm (R-Tex) and Trent Lott (R-Miss). Nevertheless it was approved 92 to 8 on May 12 (*Washington Post*, May 10; *New York Times*, May 13).

**15. HOUSE DEFEATS ANTI-AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AMMENDMENT:** Fifty-five Republicans voted with 193 Democrats to defeat an amendment that would have barred the use of affirmative action in public colleges and university admissions. The House voted 249 to 171 against the amendment proposed by Rep. Frank Briggs (R-CA). Last month the House voted 225 to 194 against Marge Roukema's (R-NJ) bill to overturn affirmative action in awarding federal transportation projects (*Washington Post*, May 7).

**16. THREE TEENS SENTENCED FOR HOMOPHOBIC ATTACK:** Three teenage boys were sentenced to eight days each on a work crew and a year or more of probation following the February assault and intimidation of a gay Corvallis, Oregon high school student. (See *Northwest Update* March 1, 1998). Paul Miller, a senior at Corvallis High School and an organizer of the Gay/Straight Alliance was taunted, then punched in the face by three youth, Cyle Schroeder, 15, Robert Huffaker and Michael Nash, both 16. Miller lost two teeth in the attack. The lenient sentences were dispensed by Judge Robert Gardner, who told the Albany *Democrat-Herald* (April 23) that the case can send a message to people in the community to think twice before taunting others (?).

**17. RUDOLPH MAKES FBI'S MOST WANTED:** Eric Robert Rudolph, charged in the January bombing of the New Woman All Women Clinic in Birmingham, Alabama, has been placed on the FBI's ten most wanted list and a one million dollar reward offered for information leading to his capture. A new Southeast Bombing Task Force has been created to carry out the investigation, coordinating the activity of the BATF, FBI, Birmingham Police and the state bureaus of investigation from Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. CHD's latest *Dignity Report* describes Rudolph's ties to white supremacists (AP, April 30).

**18. CCIR HOSTS CALIFORNIA CANDIDATES:** Announced speakers for the May 27 meeting of the California Coalition for Immigration Reform include candidates for the 69<sup>th</sup> assembly district and Marcus Fishman, a representative of state treasurer candidate Jan Goldsmith. The meeting will be held at 7:30 at the Garden Grove Community Center at 9501 Chapman. CCIR: (714) 921-7142.

**19. NEO-NAZI RALLY HIGHLIGHTS DEPTH OF GERMAN TROUBLES:** According to press reports, over 3000 neo-Nazis rallied against immigrants and Chancellor Helmut Kohl on May 1 in Leipzig. After police turned the water hose on anti-fascist demonstrators, a melee broke out in which neo-Nazis attacked anti-fascists. Twenty-seven demonstrators, both fascists and anti-fascists, were arrested.

The rally was sponsored by the National Democratic Party (NPD), a far right party formed in 1964. As reported in *Searchlight* (March 1998), in the wake of the banning of the Nationalistische Front (NF) and the Freiheitliche Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (FAP) in 1992 and 1995, neo-Nazis leaders have flocked into the NDP, including former NF officers Stefen Hupka and Jens Puhse. Though it has yet to parlay its growth in cadres into electoral victory, the NPD has announced plans to run in state and federal elections this year. It has recently been involved in its own crusade for "historical revisionism," seeking to cleanse the German army of its well documented participation in the Holocaust. It previously sponsored rallies of 5,000 in Munich and 1,200 in Dresden while roughly 3,000 supporters attended it's February party congress. (*Searchlight*: 37B New Cavendish St.; London, England, W1M 8JR.)

Millionaire publisher Gerhard Fry's neo-fascist Deutsche Volks Union (DVU) has recently had greater electoral success, winning 13% of the vote in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt. As in the Leipzig rally, DVU candidates have made gains by bashing immigrants and attacking Kohl for high unemployment. Polls indicated that some 30% of voters under thirty years old voted DVU. Frey was quoted as saying, "Voting right-wing is part of youth culture, like techno (music) or skateboarding."

The party recently received a boost when Franz Schonhuber, the former Waffen SS officer and leader of the Republikaner Party, announced his intentions to stand as a DVU candidate in European parliamentary elections. One the other hand, the NPD is reported to have rejected a DVU offer to join forces, dismissing the DVU as a "phantom party" (*Germany Alert*, May 12; AP, May 1; AP, April 28).

As far right parties jockey for position, racist violence in Germany continues to rise. According to the German Office for the Protection of the Constitution, 790 right-wing attacks occurred in 1997, up 27% from 1996. The violence consisted mainly of young German men attacking immigrants. The 790 attacks were accompanied by 11,700 right-wing offenses, 90% of which involved banned neo-Nazi propaganda. The report also stated that the pool of violence-prone far rightists has increased 7,600, the third year it has been reported to increase (AP, May 6).

••• 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. •••