



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

June 1, 1998

1. CHD AT WASHINGTON STATE GATHERING: CHD Research Director Jonathan Mozzochi gave the keynote address at the Washington State Gathering hosted by the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment May 16 at the Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center in Seattle. Mozzochi gave an opening address that touched on the importance of the Kennewick Man case in influencing popular notions of race and racism; and the relationship between white identity and contemporary manifestations of white nationalism. Mozzochi stressed the importance of a debate currently underway among anthropologists over the continuing significance of race and racism, and the relevance of that debate for human rights activism.

CHD Research Associate Robert Crawford presented on the anti-Indian movement, taking part in a panel with Shelly Means of Honor Our Neighbors Origins & Rights (HONOR) and Eric Ward of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment. Crawford's presentation covered the strategies and far right alliances of anti-Indian organizations and the context of broader institutional attacks on Indian sovereignty. Means described the work of her organization in supporting treaty rights, and Ward led a workshop on how community-based groups can respond to the anti-Indian activity.

2. CHD AT "CHANGING FACE OF HATE": CHD research director Jonathan Mozzochi was a featured panelist for "The Changing Face of Hate," a national symposium convened by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in conjunction with the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and the Gonzaga Institute for Action Against Hate May 20th in Seattle. NWC executive director Bill Wassmuth moderated a panel that included Mozzochi, Mark Potok of the Southern Poverty Law Center, Raphael Ezekial, of the Harvard School of Public Health and the author of *The Racist Mind*, Bill Morlin, a veteran reporter with the Spokane *Spokesman-Review* newspaper and T.J. Leyden, a former neo-Nazi skinhead. Wayne Inman, the former Police Chief of Billings, Montana provided opening remarks while Kathleen D. Mix, Chief Deputy Attorney General of Washington State delivered the keynote address.

3. JACK METCALF DEFENDS 'CULTURAL HERITAGE': In a recent fundraising mailing for his re-election bid, U.S. Rep. Jack Metcalf (R-WA) takes up a diatribe that harkens back to his state senate days when he stumped at Christian Identity and Populist Party gatherings. Under the banner of "Common Sense in Congress," Metcalf's piece begins, "We are in a life-and-death struggle for the spiritual and cultural heritage—and future of our country." The remainder of the article makes clear that the "heritage" in question is that of white Christians. Metcalf sets himself against "the liberal vision of America," which, he states,

"...is of a multi-cultural, political Tower of Babel populated by isolated racial, religious and ethnic groups speaking different languages, honoring different values and believing conflicting versions of history...all held together only by court decrees, affirmative-action quotas, diversity training and political self interests."

Among the "offenses" of these race-mixing liberals, Metcalf claims, are that they,

- "Side-tracked an amendment that would have required parental notification when a minor child seeks an abortion.
- Blocked attempts to designate English as the official language of the United States.
- Fought a rear-guard action against California's citizen-approved initiative banning race-based quotas in hiring and college admissions.
- Continued our current 'Open door' immigration policy."

4. ANTI-INDIAN GROUP AT WISE USE CONFERENCE: The Citizens Equal Rights Alliance (CERA), a New Mexico-based anti-Indian coalition, will take part in the Alliance for America's "Fly-In for Freedom conference June

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6-10 in Washington D.C. CERA leaders Lana Marcussen, Scott Kyla Morrision, and Darrel Smith will lead a panel discussion June 7 titled "Are We Losing our States Rights, Personal Rights and Subsistence." CERA, with board members in Montana, Wisconsin, and other states, focuses its energies on efforts to end tribal sovereignty and Indian treaty rights.

The Alliance for America is a national coalition of property rights groups and trade associations of the timber, mining and cattle industries. Other property rights leaders speaking at the conference include Andrew Langer of the D.C.-based Defenders of Property Rights; Chuck Cushman of the American Land Rights Alliance; Adena Cook of the Idaho-based Blue Ribbon Coalition; and Rita Carlson of the Public Lands Alliance for American, among others. Alliance for America: Box 450; Canoga Lake, NY 12032 (518) 835-6702; or Box 246; Sublimity, Oregon 97385; (503) 769-7923.

5. RACIST CANDIDATE ROUND-UP: New York racist Frank Borzellieri, who failed in a previous bid for the Queens School Board, is running for the Queens city council. Borzellieri has been vigorously supported by Jared Taylor's white supremacist American Renaissance and spoke previously at the group's annual conference. According to the *New York Post*, in 1994 Borzellieri sought to ban a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. from the school's library. Tom Ognibene, a conservative Republican who soundly defeated Borzellieri in the 1997 GOP city council primary, told reporters, "Frank is a racist, no question about it.... Frank, who I know very well and was once my friend, just hates Martin Luther King obsessively" (*New York Post*, May 21).

6. WHITE ARYAN LEGION MEMBERS ARRESTED: Two Kentucky white supremacists were arrested on weapons, intimidation and vandalism charges May 20. Charles E. Hall Jr., 28, and Daniel Koplitz are alleged to be members of an eastern Kentucky group called the White Aryan Legion. Hall is charged with discrimination, threatening communications and destruction of government property; while Koplitz faces charges for illegal possession of the components of a bomb.

The charges stem from a series of racist threats and assaults on buildings in the town of Langley, Kentucky. The group sent threatening letters to several white women who associated with black or Hispanic men, according to the FBI. One of the letters read, "We know who you are, slut!! Be warned! Clean up your act!... The Mexican you are with is not fit to raise your children." In another incident, members of the White Aryan Legion are alleged to have fired shots at buildings in the town of Langely, Kentucky. Police are investigating whether others were involved in the incidents. The two face up to 10 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines if convicted.

Leaflets distributed by the two declared their mission to be "a Second Revolution which will restore complete authority into the hands of those people of European ancestry... The liberals and the Jews and the wealthy White traitors who run this society will not last forever. Our time will come." In his court appearance, Hall wore a T-shirt bearing a Nazi swastika and the words "Supreme White Power!" He is reported to have a shaved head and a tattoo saing "Aryan" on the back of his neck (*Lexington Herald-Leader*, May 20).

7. NO PROFIT FOR NICHOLS: Judge Richard Matsch announced plans to order convicted Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols to pay up to \$14.5 million for the reconstruction of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, a move apparently calculated to head off any profits Nichols might make from selling the rights to his story. Prosecutors had argued that Nichols might sell his story after Timothy McVeigh was executed (CNN, May 13).

8. NATIONAL SOCIALIST VANGUARD TARGETS HIGH SCHOOLERS: Rick Cooper's Goldendale, Washington-based National Socialist Vanguard mailed copies of the group's publication, *NSV Report*, to homes of highschool students in Corvallis and Crescent Valley, Oregon and Billings, Montana during the week of May 12. Over the past ten years Cooper and his associates have carried out similar large mailings in Oregon, Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and even as far away as Illinois. Cooper claims to coordinate a small network of neo-Nazi associates who gather the names of honor roll students from yearbooks and local newspapers. Cooper's associates match the names to addresses and a bulk mailing of propaganda is sent out to those students with "white" sounding names. The *The NSV Report* has a swastika on the masthead and is deliberately bombastic and offensive. CHD encourages highschoolers, teachers, parents and administrators to use the mailings as an opportunity to redouble our collective commitment to human and civil rights. The *NSV Report* is not written for high school students in mind, and while Cooper's mailings undoubtedly generate a few news stories, they have proven to be a singularly ineffective means of recruitment. Of some 15 mass mailings the NSV has carried out over the past 10 years, none have been followed up by intensive recruitment efforts. Cooper, in fact, told a reporter for the *Billings Gazette*, that he has never gotten a favorable response from any student, but hopes to plant "the seeds of racism" (*Billings Gazette*, May 19).

9. DENNIS PEACOCKE AT MARBLE: Christian Right leader Dennis Peacocke will deliver the "Patriot Pastor's Sermon" at the July 2-5 "Fourth of July God & Country Celebration" hosted by the Northport, Washington-based Marble Community Fellowship. Musical entertainment will include Rick Stone. Marble Community Fellowship: 3383 Hwy 25N, Lot 358; Northport, WA 99157; (509) 732-4358.

10. SIZEMORE WINS OREGON GOP PRIMARY: Bill Sizemore, executive director of Oregon Taxpayer's United and the Oregon GOP's candidate of choice, garnered 53% (24,252 votes) in the primary race for Governor of Oregon May 19. Sizemore failed to unite the party behind his candidacy and was fortunate that the 47% of voters who didn't vote for him were splintered among three right wing, Portland-area candidates: Jeffrey Brady, a gun rights advocate (19% or 8,679 votes); Walter Huss, a John Birch Society stalwart (17% or 7,987 votes) and Bill Spidal, a "constitutionalist" active in circles associated with the *Oregon Observer*. Sizemore's candidacy has suffered from revelations that he has nearly \$800,000 of debt from failed business ventures. There were numerous calls, including from the *Oregonian*, for Sizemore to drop out of the race. Sizemore will face incumbent Governor John Kitzhaber (*Salem Statesman-Journal*, May 20).

11. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS TRIBAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY: In a 6-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of Indian tribes to sovereign immunity, ruling that "Tribes enjoy immunity from suits on contracts, whether those contracts involve governmental or commercial activities and whether they were made on or off the reservation," in an opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy. The ruling comes about one week after Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA) withdrew his proposed bill to end tribal immunity.

The ruling, however, does not preclude Gorton from re-introducing his bill at a later date. Kennedy's ruling also stated that sovereign immunity is "a matter of federal law" subject to change by Congress (*Seattle P-I*, May 27).

12. SUPPORT TREATY RIGHTS: JOIN HONOR: Honor Our Neighbors Origins & Rights (HONOR) is a project of American Friend's Service Committee's Pacific Northwest Indian Program dedicated to supporting the treaty and sovereignty rights of Indian Nations. HONOR's is dedicated to "Honoring government-to-government relationships and tribal sovereignty; affirming Indian treaties; and promoting intercultural understanding and awareness."

By joining HONOR, human and civil rights activists can learn about and support treaty rights. HONOR members can receive the Pacific NW Indian Program's publication, *Great Nations*, and the National *HONOR Digest*. The Spring 1998 *Great Nations* reports on U.S. Senator (R-WA) Slade Gorton's effort to end Tribal sovereign immunity through SB 1691 and on the winter meeting of the Affiliate Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI). At the Feb. 1998 ATNI meeting, tribal leaders passed resolutions addressing tribal sovereignty, welfare, health and youth issues affecting tribes, tribal economic and employment opportunities, education, and the preservation of cultural and natural resources. Contact HONOR-NW c/o American Friends Service Committee; 814 NE 40th St; Seattle, WA 98105. HONOR National: www2.dgsys.com/~honor.

••• 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. •••

