



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

P. O. Box 21266 • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98111-3266 • (206) 233-9775

BELLINGHAM: (360) 756-0914; FAX: (360) 738-3034 • E-MAIL: chdpx@aol.com

NORTHWEST UPDATE

January 15, 1999

1. ML. KING CELEBRATION IN WHATCOM COUNTY INCLUDES C.H.D.: Nearly 200 people attended the first Whatcom Human Rights Conference in Bellingham, Washington on January 16. CHD executive director Terre Rybovich joined Eric Ward of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment in presenting "Politics of Fear: The Militia Movement in the Northwest." Organized by the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force and the Whatcom Community College Student Cultural Center, the conference featured Rev. Robert Jeffrey whose keynote address, "Economic Development: The Key to Diversity" challenged the audience to take on the economic aspects of oppression in their communities.

2. SLADE GORTON OFFERS THANKS TO ANTI-INDIAN ORGANIZATION: In a letter dated December 14, 1998, U.S. Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA) offered his thanks to the United Property Owners of Washington, a Redmond, Washington-based anti-Indian organization, for supporting his attack on tribal sovereign immunity. Gorton wrote,

"During this season of thanksgiving and good cheer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of UPOW for your support of my efforts to ensure the equal application of the laws of this country, both on and off Indian reservations. Your attendance at the hearings, and your many letters of encouragement, served to remind my colleagues in the Senate that there are parties who are denied the opportunity to a fair hearing due to tribal immunity from lawsuit. Slowly but surely, other senators are beginning to realize the need for a forum and a process to pursue grievances against the tribes."

Meanwhile, UPOW announced the plans of Jim Johnson, an assistant attorney general under former Washington state Attorney General Gorton, to petition the Supreme Court to hear its appeal of lower court rulings recognizing the treaty-protected rights of Northwest Washington Indian tribes to gather shellfish in their "usual and accustomed places" on the tidelands of the Puget Sound. Ignoring Constitutional prescriptions that treaties signed with sovereign nations are the "highest law of the land," UPOW wrote in its Winter 1998 *UPOW Update* that "For the first time in two hundred years of American constitutional history, the nation's highest court will be forced to decide whether or not Indian treaty rights supercede private property rights."

Describing the group's broader goal, UPOW executive director Barbara Lindsey told the *Peninsula Daily News* (December 8, 1998), "We want the Supreme Court to take another look at what it said in Boldt years ago." Boldt refers to the 1974 decision in *U.S. v. Washington* by Judge George Boldt upholding the right of tribes to one-half of the harvestable salmon in Puget Sound waters.

3. JACK MCLAMB IN UTAH: Jack McLamb is a scheduled speaker at the January 30 "Constitutional Forum VI" in Ogden, Utah. Speaking with McLamb are Cliff Kincaid, Andrew Gause, Fred Dashevsky and Tom DeWeese. The event will be held in the Shepherd Union Ballroom at Weber State University. Contact Glenn at (801) 782-2640.

4. BROTHERS CHARGED FOR CALIFORNIA HATE CRIME SPREE: Philip Alexander, 21, and Steven Eugene, 19, are being charged with intimidation and violating the civil rights of an interracial couple living in Glendale, California. The two men face felony and misdemeanor charges for threats made against the couple and their son. According to authorities the two brothers drove the streets of the southern California neighborhood harassing people of color and interracial couples. (AP, January 7, 1999)

The Northwest Update is a publication of the Coalition for Human Dignity

©1998. All Rights Reserved. Material herein may not be reproduced without permission of the Coalition for Human Dignity.

5. CHRISTIAN IDENTITY IN WASHINGTON: Richard Sutherland heads the Christian Identity "Cedar Chapel" in Puyallup, Washington. Formerly producing a publication under the guise of the "Fellowship of the Covenant People," the group now publishes *The Prophetic Message*. Contact Cedar Chapel, 12425 58th Ave. E., Puyallup, WA 98373.

6. HATE LITERATURE DROPPED AT IDAHO CHURCH: An "essay" by Knights of the Ku Klux Klan leader Thom Robb was left in a meeting hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Robb's piece accuses Rev. Billy Graham of being "in league with the devil" and working with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to "destroy white America." St. Luke's is sponsoring an interfaith forum addressing the racist pseudo-theology of Christian Identity on January 19 and St. Luke's rector Rev. Bob Hasserties is a member of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations. Hasserties told reporters that "I have a hunch they became aware of our program... We were concerned about how to approach the media about our program on the 19th. The Klan just gave us the perfect opportunity... It's nothing new to me. The Aryans papered my church with hate literature two years after I got here." (*Spokesman Review*, December 31, 1998)

7. MONTANA POSTCARD CAMPAIGN: The Montana Human Rights Network is leading a letter writing campaign to urge legislators in their state to add sexual orientation to its hate crimes law. MHRN is passing out postcards with this important message and asking people to send them into their legislators. For more information on the campaign please contact MHRN at (406) 442-5506. (*MHRN Network News*)

8. LESBIAN RIGHTS SUMMIT: The National Organization for Women will be holding the Lesbian Rights Summit: A Feminist Strategy Session, April 23-25, in Washington, D.C. The summit will offer participants a chance to experience a diversity of thought from the feminist movement and to focus on political strategy, coalition building, skills sharing and breaking down barriers. More information on the conference and a registration form can be found online at: www.now.org or you may call (202) 331-0066. (NOW mailing)

9. CALIFORNIA MILITIA MAN ARRESTED: Donald Rudolph of Citrus Heights, California, was arrested for possession of a fully automatic AR-15 rifle. Authorities also allegedly found several rifles, hand guns, military gear and armor-piercing bullets at his home. Rudolph had recently met with a militia group in Idaho and was planning on moving his family into a trailer home in the heavily militia populated area of Kamiah, Idaho. (*Scripps-McClatchy*, December 13, 1998)

10. ANTI-ABORTION BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN: Joseph Scheidler, leader of the anti-abortion Pro-Life Action League, is leading his organization on a multi-state billboard campaign in an effort to convince the nation's drivers that abortion is wrong. Over 120 billboards with the messages "See the world through the eyes of a child," "Choose life" and an 800 number will be placed along major freeways outside of Washington, D.C. and Chicago, Illinois. (Pro-Life Action League)

11. DUKE AIMING FOR HOUSE SEAT: Ex-Klansman, neo-Nazi and template for the mainstreaming of hardcore white supremacists into politics, David Duke aims to take over the House Seat of Rep. Robert Livingston who recently resigned as Speaker of the House. Declaring, "If we lose European-Americans, we lose America," Duke recently spoke to a group of approximately 100 people in Arlington, Virginia. The event was organized by ex-Council of Conservative Citizens activist Mark Cotterill and was attended by many from the CofCC. Along with Duke's new autobiography, *My Awakening*, several other books were available at the meeting including several published by the neo-Nazi National Alliance headquartered in West Virginia. "If we can get just one person in Congress, it will be like opening the floodgates," Duke said in his hour long speech. "It could change this country overnight." (*New York Times*, January 3, 1999)

12. NEO-NAZISM ON THE RISE IN GERMAN ARMY: The German government announced that incidents involving neo-Nazi sentiments and possession of Nazi paraphernalia in the German army increased in 1998. The statistics rose from 250 incidents in 1997 to over 300 one year later. Reportedly, most of these cases were among younger recruits. (Reuters, January 8, 1999)

13. SPOTLIGHT TO THE RESCUE: The January 4 issue of the *Spotlight* offers a spirited defense of U.S. Representative Bob Barr (R-GA), exposed in articles in the *Washington Post* for having spoken at a meeting of the white nationalist Council of Conservative Citizens June 6 in Charleston, South Carolina. Defending a view expressed by some CofCC members that interracial marriage violates God's law, *Spotlight* writer James P. Tucker bemoans, "That such commonly held views among racial and ethnic groups can now be seriously described as 'racist' when voiced by whites demonstrates how victimized Americans are by left-wing propaganda... Left-wing extremists have always had an instinct to create a world in which people all look and sound alike, which could make the planet easier to control."

14. NO KING HOLIDAY IN WALLINGFORD CONNETICUT: Although they are the only city in the state to do so, the city of Wallingford, Connecticut continues to refuse to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national holiday. Wallingford's mayor defended his decision, stating that another holiday would be a "government giveaway" and would cost taxpayers \$30,000. The city has a history of Ku Klux Klan activity, including a 1994 case where Klan members were convicted on federal bomb and weapons charges with connections in Wallingford. (AP, January 4, 1999)

15. FOUR WHITE MEN RECEIVE SLAP ON WRIST FOR PARALYZING ATTACK: Trenton Solis, 18, Robert Rio, 23, Jed Jones, 21, and Steven Newark III, 18, face one year in jail and five years probation for their role in an attack on an African-American man who was left paralyzed from the neck down. Only one of his attackers, Jessie Lawson, 20, plead guilty to committing a hate crime and faces two to 11 years in prison. The victim, a black Marine Lance Corporal stationed at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California, was leaving a party when 15-30 men yelling "white power" attacked him. (AP, January 15, 1999)

••• The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to chdpx@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. •••

