



*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

February 1 through February 15, 1999

**1. CHD AT UAW NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY COUNCIL:** CHD research director Robert Crawford gave a presentation on the Council of Conservative Citizens at the January 28-31 meeting of the United Auto Workers National Advisory Council on Civil Rights in Jacksonville, Florida. Crawford's presentation covered the white supremacist beliefs and goals of the CofCC as well as a discussion of the relationships they have built with elected officials.

The Advisory Council meeting displayed the continuing commitment of the UAW Civil Rights Committee to combat discrimination in employment and the workplace and to oppose efforts of the white supremacist movement to turn back the clock on civil rights. UAW Civil Rights Department director Joe Davis led discussion on topics ranging from insuring diversity among union officials to combating sexual harassment in the workplace. The Civil Rights Department Report for 1999 placed special emphasis on latter issue, stressing that it is the policy of the "International Union that sexual harassment is a serious obstacle to the achievement of full employment opportunity for workers of both sexes" and stating that "just as the UAW abhors the use of racial or ethnic slurs, the International Union views sexual harassment of any form as an attack on the dignity of the worker who is its victim."

In addition to presentation by representatives of the various UAW regions, appearances were made by UAW President Stephen P. Yokich, representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau and Commissioner of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services Julia Greer-Hardeman.

**2. SPLC SUES ARYAN NATIONS, ARYAN NATIONS STEPS UP FUNDRAISING:** The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has filed a civil suit against the Church of Jesus Christ-Christian/Aryan Nations (CCJC/AN) in connection to the group's involvement in a July 1998 assault on two people whose car backfired as it passed the Aryan Nations' Hayden Lake, Idaho compound. The incident began when Victoria Keenan and her son stopped their car to search for the sons' wallet on July 1 near the entrance to the Aryan Nations' compound. When the car backfired as they drove away, three unidentified skinheads reportedly left the compound and began chasing the car. According to the suit, the skinheads, who were serving as security guards for the neo-Nazi group, "shot at them [the Keenans] with assault rifles, detained them, battered them and threatened to kill them." The Keenans' car went into a ditch during the chase and was hit by at least five bullets, according to a sheriff's report. In addition to the CCJC/AN, those named in the law suit include Sapphire Inc., the corporation that owns the AN compound, Richard Butler, former Aryan Nations security chief Jesse Edward Warfield, John S. Yeager, Shane Wright, and three unidentified persons (*Spokane Spokesman Review*).

In the wake of the suit, the Aryan Nations appear to have redoubled both their fundraising and recruitment efforts. In a letter dated February 1, 1999, Aryan Nations staff leader Mike Teague writes that "We are now in a situation where we a [sic] making a call to all members of Aryan Nations to step up their measures of activity in literature distribution, recruitment, and tithes to CJCC/ANHQ." In a "Prime Directive from CJCC/ANHQ" Teague describes the terms of the group's fundraising drive. "As of March 1, 1999," he writes, "each member of the Aryan Nations will pass-out 200 pieces of literature per month. I am sending you a packet of flyers which you will distribute." Also effective March 1, Teague orders that "all active members will now donate 10% of their wages to Aryan Nations National Headquarters." Those unable to fulfill these requirements, Teague warns, will be placed on a "supporter list" - as opposed to being full-fledged members.

**3. M.O.M. GUN SHOW SCHEDULE:** The Militia of Montana will be at the following gun show locations: Western Washington Fairgrounds in Puyallup, February 6,7,27 and 28; Portland Expo Center in Portland, Oregon, February 6 and 7; Yakima Convention Center in Yakima Washington, February 13 and 14; Double Tree

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

© 1999. All Rights Reserved. Material herein may not be reproduced without permission of the Coalition for Human Dignity.

Inn in Pasco, Washington, February 20 and 21. (MOM mailing)

**4. ANTI-IMMIGRANT MEETING:** The Washington State Citizens for Immigration Control will meet February 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to noon at 1206 Browne Ave. in Yakima, Washington. W.S.C.I.C.:P.O. Box 2673; Wenatchee, WA 98807-2673.

**5. PREPAREDNESS EXPOS FOR 1999:** Preparedness Expos are scheduled for the following dates and locations: February 19-21 in Sacramento, California; April 9-11 in Dallas, Texas; June 11-13 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; June 18-20 in Tampa, Florida; July 30-August 1 in Puyallup, Washington; September 17-19 in Detroit, Michigan; September 24-26 in Nashville, Tennessee; and November 19-21 in Denver, Colorado. Scheduled speakers for the Expos currently include Militia of Montana leader John Trochmann; Jack McLamb; former Arizona sheriff Richard Mack; conspiracy theorist Terry Reid; David John Oates; Leonard Horowitz and Craig Smith. James "Bo" Gritz, formerly a regular at these Expos, has apparently dropped out of the Expo circuit because of the "objectionable" people who frequent the events – excluding, apparently, himself (*Free American*, January 1999, *Taking Aim*, February 1999)

**6. BANISTER BACK IN THE MOVEMENT:** Bruce Alden Banister, convicted in 1996 of assaulting a Wenatchee, Washington police officer, is back in the Christian Patriot movement as the point person for the East Wenatchee-based Jural Society of the State of Washington. The group claims to have held a meeting on the "formation of lawful government" and the "state of government in America" January 30 in Spokane. Jural Society: 645 N. Gale; East Wenatchee, Washington.

**7. AMERICAN NATIONALIST UNION ON JESSE "THE BODY" VENTURA:** The November election of former professional wrestler Jesse Ventura to the Minnesota governor's house has caught the attention of hardcore white supremacists seeking third party alternatives to advance the cause. Paul Richert, writing in the American Nationalist Union's (ANU) *Nationalist Times* (January 1999), suggests that those "encouraged by Jesse Ventura's huge upset win...should be even happier to know that Ventura won by carrying a populist coalition that has the potential of sweeping the country under the right circumstances." Given the abject failure of the Populist Party – the precursor to the ANU – to serve as a conduit for white nationalist political aspirations, and noting Ventura's ability to garner blue collar and middle class support under the Reform Party banner, the ANU gives a nod to the possibility of working through the Reform Party. Richert writes that "While the Reform Party is far from ideal for nationalists, it is still far better than the old, bankrupt, two-party monopoly. The presidential nominee of the Reform Party in 2000...will probably receive in the area of \$20 million for his campaign. That is some big bucks, even by Republican/Democrat standards." This marks a departure from the Populist Party's previous efforts to draw supporters away from the Reform Party and under its tattered umbrella.

**8. AMERICANS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT:** Americans for Constitutional Government will hold its monthly meeting February – at the Royal Neighbors Hall at 221 Railroad in Post Falls, Idaho. The meeting is set for 7:00 PM. ACG: PO Box 1576; Post Falls, Idaho 83877.

**9. SCRIPTURES FOR AMERICA CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:** Identity leader Pete Peter's Scriptures for America (SFA) will sponsor a "California Christian Conference April 2-4 in Sonora, California. Scheduled speakers include Ken Anderson of Oregon, Ray Capt of California, Earl Jones of New Mexico and George Southwick of California.

SFA will also host its annual "Conference in the East" April 23-25 in Charleston, West Virginia. The scheduled speakers are Brian Adair of Kentucky, Richard Hoskins of Virginia, Earl Jones, Tom Strassell of Ohio and Charles Weisman of Minnesota.

The 1999 Annual Rocky Mountain Bible Camp is scheduled for June 27-July 4 near Golden Colorado. Other upcoming appearances by Pete Peters include a March 6-7 appearance at the Days Inn (200 Maine St) in Quincy, Illinois; and a May 29-30 appearance at the Holiday Inn (1116 Southwest Freeway, Hwy 59 South) in Houston, Texas.

**10. DOESN'T KNOW HIS FISH:** Christian Identity leader Dave Barley, faces illegal fishing charges for fishing during the off season, possession of unlawfully taken fish and a federal charge for killing an endangered species. Barley and his son were arrested after being spotted by a Fish and Game officer practicing an illegal method of

fishing called snagging. The Barley's plan to plead not guilty because they didn't know how to identify the fish they were catching. (*Spokesman Review*, January 7, 1999)

**11. DOWNEY LEAVING POPULIST PARTY:** The Populist Party's long standing editor and Vice Chair, Mark Downey, is stepping aside as editor of their monthly newsletter, *The Washington Populist*. He had served as the newsletters editor for the past five years. Downey claims personal problems and lack of support for his candidacy in his run for state house in the last elections prompted his decision. (*Washington Populist*, Volume 5, Issue 3 1999)

**12. INDIANS MOST FREQUENT VICTIMS OF CRIME:** Native Americans are victimized by violent crimes at a rate twice that of the national average, according to a report released February 14 by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics. The report, based on data gathered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation from local police reports, found that Indian people were crime victims at a rate of 124 crimes per 1,000 people, as opposed to 49 per 1,000 for whites; 61 per 1,000 for African-Americans and 29 per 1,000 for Asian-Americans.

In another finding, Indians were more likely than whites or African-Americans to be victimized by members of another racial group. Whereas the Justice Department reports that 69 percent of those committing crimes against whites are white, and 81 percent of those committing crimes against blacks are blacks, fully 60% of those committing crimes against Indians were reported to be white. Twenty-nine percent of those committing crimes against Indians were found to be Indian and 10% African-American.

In sobering comments on the Justice Department report, Professor Sidney Haring of the City University of New York School of Law stated that, "This highlights what has been going on out there for 130 years since the beginning of the reservation system;" Suzan Shown Harjo of the Morning Star Institute likewise stated that, "This may actually represent a downturn in violence over the centuries since we first encountered Europeans... At least it's not genocidal. Now they are taking Indians out one by one." (*New York Times*, Feb. 15).

**13. RACE BEHIND MAJORITY OF HATE CRIMES:** In the Department of Justice's recently released hate crimes statistics race remained the driving force behind hate crimes in 1997. Out of 8,049 cases of crimes motivated by bigotry in 1997, 4,710 were motivated by race with 39 percent of those directed at African Americans. 80 percent of the attacks were directed at people; eight people were killed. 65 percent of attacks fueled by religious prejudice were targeted at property. (AP, January 21, 1999)

**14. FOUR CHARGED IN ATTACK ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN:** Four young men from Salem, Oregon, one alleged to be involved in a white supremacist group, have been charged with assault and racial intimidation in connection to a February 2 attack on an African-American man. The assault reportedly began when Warner Dash, an African-American security guard, was driving along Pringle Road in Salem. A blue Chevy Cavalier pulled alongside him and four young men yelled racial slurs at Dash and flashed vulgar gestures. When Dash saw the Cavalier in a gas station parking lot, he pulled in to determine the damage to his car and ascertain why they had targeted him. The four men surrounded him and continued to yell racial slurs. One of the men, Justin Michael Hunt, then lunged at Dash who struck back in self-defense, striking the racist with his flashlight. The other three proceeded to kick in the taillight on Dash's car and to use an object to smash his windshield.

Three of the men, Joshua L. Bandfield, 21, James Berry Cale, 21, and Ivan Randall Pawl, 19, are charged with three counts of intimidation – one count for harming Dash physically, one count for damaging his car and one count for harassment, according to Marion County District Attorney Dale Penn. Hunt is charged with the same as well as one count of misdemeanor assault and a charge of violating his probation in connection to a previous assault conviction. According to police, Cale has been involved in a racist skinhead group. (*Statesman Journal*, February 4, February 5).

**14. RACIST LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION:** Racist material from the Eastpointe, Michigan-based European American Educational Association was distributed in Bellevue, Washington in early February. Among those who received such literature were a white Bellevue woman and an interracial couple. (*Eastside Journal*, February 5) Hate literature was found around the Martin Luther King Jr. Outreach Center in Spokane, Washington, the night before the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The literature featured the image of Dr. King with the cross-hair sights of a gun superimposed over it. Center director Stacy Hersrud told reporters that "I think it's just a real reminder of why it's so important that we continue to do the work we're doing. We will not let this kind of thing stop us from making (King's) dream real." (*Eastside Journal*, January 18)

**15. SPOKANE BANS ANTI-GAY DISCRIMINATION:** In a 4-3 vote the Spokane, Washington City Council banned workplace and housing discrimination against homosexuals in late January. The ordinance will apply to businesses with 25 or more employees this year, dropping to those with 15 employees in 2000 and 8 in 2001. Exemptions in the housing portion of the ordinance include landlords with fewer than three rental houses and those seeking roommates. Another exemption excludes cases in which "compliance would substantially burden a person's (or organization's) exercise of religion" – allowing, for instance, churches with anti-gay/lesbian doctrine to discriminate. Spokane Mayor John Talbot and council members Rob Higgins and Orville Barnes voted against the ordinance. Barnes told reporters that "I don't think this particular kind of discrimination can be eliminated through legislation...I really abhor the idea of government telling any person how to react to another." Barnes predicted that opponents of the ordinance may start a petition drive to place the measure on the ballot. (*Spokesman Review*, January 26)

**16. GAY GONZAGA STUDENT RECEIVES DEATH THREAT:** Just hours before the Spokane City Council was to vote on an ordinance banning workplace and housing discrimination against gay men, lesbians and transsexuals [see item # 15], a gay student at Gonzaga University received the second of two death threats in recent months. The threat, placed in the mailbox at the home of Grant Smith, who heads the campus Gay and Lesbian Support Group, read in part, "We see you walking around campus like you own the place. God doesn't take too kindly to your kind and we'll make sure you understand that. What happened to...(Matthew) Shepard is nothing compared to what we'll do to you...Just remember, we know where you live. It's only a matter of time that you'll get to know what you got coming to you."

Smith received the first threat just two weeks after the October 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming. While officials announced that it is too early to pursue the case as a hate crime, police have indicated that they will step up patrols near Smith's home. (*Spokesman Review*, January 26).

**17. NORTHWEST CHURCHES CHARGED WITH VIOLATING TAX STATUS:** Churches in Oregon and Idaho were among the eight nationwide charged with violating their tax status in an IRS complaint filed by Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The complaint claims that the churches violated their tax exempt status when they distributed the infamous voter guides produced by the Christian Coalition. The churches named in the complaint include the Sunrise Church in Hillsboro, Oregon, the Lighthouse Baptist Church in St. Maries, Idaho and churches in Wisconsin, California, Oklahoma and Illinois. Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice has offered to defend the churches should the IRS respond to the complaint. (*Christian News Northwest*, January)

**18. IDAHO HOUSE COMMITTEE CASTS VOTE FOR BIGOTRY:** The Idaho House State Affairs Committee cast a 14-7 vote against a proposed bill to extend the state's hate crimes law to include gay men and lesbians. Some committee members opposed to the bill (House Bill 36) articulated concern with all hate crimes laws. Committee Chair John Tippetts (R-Bennington) told reporters, "I'm uncomfortable with the whole concept of who the crime addresses...Once you start choosing groups, where do you stop?" House Assistant Majority Leader Lawrence Denney (R-Midvale), who also voted against the bill, was described as saying he would like a law that doesn't define "specific groups," though he added that "I certainly don't want to offend the people of color by striking out those groups." Tom Loertscher (R-Iona) was reported as saying he would like to eliminate malicious harassment laws against racial and religious minorities as well. "All of these crimes are covered under existing laws against aggravated assault...The media have blown this all out of proportion."

From the Christian Right, Zane Johnson opposed the bill on behalf of the Idaho Family Forum and the Idaho Christian Coalition. Other legislators who voted against the bill include Cameron Wheeler (R-Ririe), and Stanley Williams (R-Blackfoot). (*Idaho Statesman, Post Register* January 21).

**19. FALSE ARREST SUIT FILED AGAINST OREGON POLICE:** An African-American man who was falsely accused and arrested on rape charges is suing the Marion County, Oregon police department for racial discrimination. The accused, Christopher Thompson, 23, was arrested at his workplace by police acting on a report by a girl (a minor at the time) who claimed Thompson raped her. With no more than the girl's allegations police arrested Thompson, denied him contact with his parents or an attorney and left him in jail for three days. Thompson was eventually let out under house arrest. It was only after Thompson passed two polygraph tests that charges against him were dropped. The accusations in Thompson's lawsuit include false arrest and an atmosphere

of racial intolerance and bigotry in the Marion County justice system promoted by the District Attorney Dale Penn and Sheriff Raul Ramirez. (*Statesman Review*, January 14)

**20. DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL:** According to statistics released by the Pentagon recently, the United States armed forces discharged a record number of people in 1998 because they were gay. The Air Force led with the discharge of 414. The Army followed with 310, the Navy released 345 and the Marine Corps released 76 people. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, January 23, 1999)

**21. SHOTS FIRED AT FATHER AND SON:** A father and his son, who are black, were driving down a street in Tacoma, Washington when two white men yelled a racial slur at them as they drove by. The father drove back and confronted the two men about the comment. They responded with further racial epithets. The son allegedly got out of the car and approached the men. A scuffle ensued when one of the white men pulled a gun, fired three or four rounds and then ran off. There were no injuries; the suspects have not been found. The police are investigating this as a possible hate crime. (*The News Tribune*, January 14, 1999)

**22. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL MEMBER FIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS:** Jim Craswell, religious right apologist and council member of the Kitsap Human Rights Task Force, is on a crusade to discredit the Washington based Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment and the Coalition for Human Dignity. Despite the NWC's longstanding history of working with faith based groups, Craswell claims that it is an anti-Christian organization. Craswell puts his foot further in his mouth by claiming that former CHD research director Jonathan Mozzochi, is a board member of the NWC and is "gaining increasing influence over the organization." (*The Sun*, January 13, 1999; *Kitsap Religious Freedom Alert*, December 28, 1998)

**23. KITSAP HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK HOSTS FORUM:** The Kitsap Human Rights Network will host a public forum titled "Christian Persecution in America? The Role of Religion and Civics in Society" March 11 at 7:00 PM at the Kitsap (Washington) Fair & Parks conference room. A panel will discuss the role of religious organization in the human rights movement. Panel members include Washington Association of Churches executive minister John Boonstra; Interfaith Alliance for Washington State president Walter John Boris; American Jewish Committee NW Regional Office executive director Nancy Vineberg; and Suzelle Lynch, pastor of the Kitsap Unitarian Universal Fellowship and a board member of the Kitsap Interfaith Alliance. For more information contact Leah Slaney at (360) 377-0076.

**24. TRAINING INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO COUNTER RIGHT-WING ELECTORAL ATTACKS ON GAY COMMUNITY:** The Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is designing a series of innovative training sessions to address electoral weaknesses in gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities across the country. The goal of the initiative is to prepare state and local organizations to defeat legislative and ballot-based attacks from anti-gay extremists. The project is being led by Dave Fleischer. Contact Tracey Conaty for more information. (202) 332-6483 extension 3303.

•••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 use 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. •••

