



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

July 15, 1999

1. GROUPS RESPOND TO ANTI-INDIAN BACKLASH: The Coalition for Human Dignity, A Territory Resource, the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment and the American Friends Service Committee hosted a July 7 meeting of organizations concerned about the anti-Indian backlash that followed the successful May 17 Gray Whale hunt by members of the Makah Indian Nation. CHD research director Robert Crawford gave a presentation on the anti-Indian movement. Those in attendance discussed the bigotry broadly directed at Indian people in the wake of the hunt and began discussions about formulating a response. In addition to the sponsoring organizations, representatives were on hand from the Swinomish Tribe, Honor our Neighbors Origins and Rights (HONOR), the Lower Elwha S'Kallalam Tribe, the Makah Tribe, the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Japanese-American Citizen League, the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the AFL-CIO. About 20 American Indian students from Seattle also attended.

2. CHD IN IDAHO: CHD research director Robert Crawford presented on the anti-Indian movement and the importance of research in coalition building at a meeting of the Idaho Alliance of Tribes in Worley, Idaho on June 21. Presenting with Crawford was Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment board member and Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians representative Leah Slaney.

On June 25-27 Crawford presented on the white supremacist movement and anti-Indian organizing in Idaho to a group of civil rights activists from north Idaho and eastern Washington. Also on hand were a number of international journalists, including journalists from Jordan and Georgia.

3. CENTER FOR NEW COMMUNITY ISSUES REPORT ON MURDERS IN MIDWEST: In the aftermath of the racist killing spree by Benjamin Smith, The Center for New Community has issued a report providing information on Smith and his racist beliefs. A member of the white supremacist organization, World Church of the Creator, Smith took the lives of two men, Ricky Birdsong and Won Joon Yoon, and injured nine others in a two day killing spree. He specifically targeted African Americans, Asians, and Orthodox Jews.

The World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) is based out of East Peoria, Illinois and is led by 28 year-old Matthew Hale. WCOTC claims to be "non-violent" but its supporters call for a RAHOWA or "racial holy war" against people of color and Jews whom they want deported out of the United States.

The report: "Creating" A Killer: A Background Report on Benjamin 'August' Smith and the World Church of the Creator, is available at www.newcomm.org. (*Chicago Tribune*, July 4, 5, and 6)

4. WHITE SUPREMACISTS MET BY PROTESTERS IN ENUMCLAW, WASHINGTON: An estimated 300 people came to Enumclaw on July 4th to protest a rally organized by a white supremacist organization calling itself Zoffa Protocols. Zoffa Protocols supporters included Dan Brumble, 17; Andy Papson, 18; Jecoa Bell, 17; Phil Judt, 18; and Jen Zander, 19, all of Enumclaw. CHD estimates that 30 white supremacists from the Seattle-Tacoma area attended the afternoon rally at Enumclaw's City Hall. Most of the racists gathered in a kiosk in the center of the park near the City Hall while others stuck close to the edges not wanting to confront the overwhelming number of protesters. Zoffa Protocols which had sent out fliers before the rally attacking the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. as "Martin Luther Coon" did not address the crowd. The World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) was represented by a flag-waving member from Seattle who identified himself as Jason. Other white supremacists, mostly dressed in racist skinhead attire, said they attended because they heard about the rally on the news. A group of four teens from Kent who described their beliefs as "white power" were dressed in heavy metal t-shirts and Celtic cross emblems often associated with white supremacists. (*Tacoma News Tribune*, July 5)

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5. ARYAN NATIONS HOLDS RALLY AND MARCH: About 80 neo-Nazi supporters of the Church of Jesus Christ-Christian - Aryan Nations rallied on July 4 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Shouting "White Power" and "Six Million More," the neo-Nazis were countered by about an equal number of anti-fascist demonstrators. Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler was drowned in a sea of anti-racist chants when he attempted to address the group.

Among the white supremacists on hand for the rally were Aryan Nations leaders Michael Teague, Newman Britton and Gerald Gruidl. Others on hand for the event included NSDAP-AO leader Gary Lauck, National Socialist Vanguard leader Rick Cooper, Coeur d'Alene Holocaust denier Michael Hoffman. The Aryan Nations Congress, held the weekend of the 4th, was slated to feature appearances by Lauck, Teague, Cooper, Charles Lee of the Knights of the White Camilla, NSDAP-AO figure Michael Storm, Aryan Nations Ohio leader Ray Redfair, and 11th Hour Remnant Messenger head Vincent Bertolini.

On July 10 about twenty Aryan Nations supporters marched down Sherman Avenue in Coeur d'Alene, where they were met by protesters who blocked the road and forced a detour of the Aryan March. The paltry showing followed a legal battle in which the American Civil Liberties Union successfully gained the right for the Aryan Nations to march down Sherman Avenue. City leaders had previously granted the neo-Nazis a permit to march in the vicinity of the county dump.

6. SACRAMENTO SYNAGOGUE ARSON SUSPECT HAD WASHINGTON AND IDAHO CONNECTIONS:

One of the two brothers who are accused of burning three synagogues in Sacramento and of killing a gay couple attended the University of Idaho from 1993 to 1996. Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, also was a member of Living Faith Fellowship Church in Pullman, Washington, but left after calling the church a cult. In late 1998, Williams' friends in Idaho received a racist mailing from him that included Christian Identity literature from America's Promise Ministries in Sandpoint, Idaho.

After the arrest of Williams and his brother, James Tyler Williams, 29, police found pamphlets from the World Church of the Creator and a notebook containing names of people associated with the Sacramento Jewish community. (*Spokesman Review*, July 14)

7. GARY LAUCK DENIED GUN PERMIT: Neo-Nazi leader Gary Lauck is appealing a recent decision by police in Lincoln, Nebraska to deny him a handgun permit. Lauck, who spent time in prison in Europe for distributing pro-Hitler and anti-Jewish propaganda, claims that he has set a trap for the government by applying for the gun permit. Lauck was denied because he was "convicted of a felony offense," according to police. Lauck says he wants the government to admit that they see him as a criminal even though he has not committed a crime in this country. Lauck's appeal is scheduled for July 30th. (*Lincoln Journal Star*, July 13)

8. US SENATOR ROBERT C. SMITH TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT ON US TAXPAYERS PARTY TICKET:

Republican Senator Robert Smith of New Hampshire is planning to leave the GOP because he is increasingly frustrated with what he sees as softening on the issues of abortion and gun control. Smith has chosen to cast his lot with the US Taxpayers Party which known for walking the line between Christian conservatives and white supremacists. Republican leaders claim that Smith, a two-term US Senator, is just frustrated that his presidential aspirations are not gaining any steam. Smith has only 2 percent support in the latest poll.

CHD reported in its June 15th *Northwest Update* that Smith was discussing this move with conservative guru Paul Weyrich of the Free Congress Foundation. Weyrich, who helped found the Moral Majority, is himself very interested in the formation of the third political party at the national level.

9. POLICE INVESTIGATING ARSON ATTEMPT AT PULLMAN, WASH. MOSQUE: The Council on American-Islamic Relations is urging the Pullman Police Department to investigate an attempted arson as a hate crime. On Sunday, June 13th police found a burning tire near the Pullman Islamic Center. The tire ignited a bush but the building, which has been vandalized in the past, was not damaged. (*Spokesman Review*, June 18)

••• 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. •••