

Creating a Commotion: Matt Hale and the “World Church of the Creator”

DRAFT REPORT

A Special Report by the
Center for New Community, the Montana Human Rights Network,
and the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity

January 7, 2003



Center for New Community
P.O. Box 346066
Chicago, IL 60634
708-848-0319
708-848-0327 (fax)
www.newcomm.org



Montana Human Rights Network
P.O. Box 1222
Helena, MT 59624
(406) 442-5506
E-mail: network@mhrn.org
Web: www.mhrn.org



Northwest Coalition
for Human Dignity
P.O. Box 21428
Seattle, WA 98111-3428
206-762-5627
nwchd@nwchd.org
www.nwchd.org

Creating a Commotion: Matt Hale And The “World Church of the Creator”

**A Special Report by the Center for New Community, the Montana Human Rights Network,
and the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity**

Table of Contents:

The Name Game	2
Violating The Injunction	3
A Mess Of His Own Making	4
Book Burning and Other Boondoggles	5
Fomenting Violence	6
The Rise and Fall of Hale’s Empire	8
Conclusion	9
APPENDIX A: Origins and Ideology of the Church of the Creator	10
APPENDIX B: A Profile of Rudy “Butch” Stanko	13
APPENDIX C: Recommendations	15

This special report is a publication of the Center for New Community and its Building Democracy Initiative. © 2003. All Rights Reserved. Material herein may not be reproduced without permission of the Center for New Community.

Matt Hale is at it again.

The controversial leader of the violent Illinois-based white nationalist outfit known as the World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) has backed himself and his group into a legal corner, and is now encouraging violence as a way out.

After losing yet another legal case, Hale has chosen to flagrantly defy a court order. In so doing, he faces a January 8, 2003 contempt hearing and possibly jail time.

This CNC special report examines the recent events surrounding the legal decision in WCOTC trademark violation case, pinpoints how the current controversy was created by Hale's faulty leadership, examines how the organization is crumbling around him, and exposes the latest threats of violence from Hale and other WCOTC leaders.

The report also profiles reemerging Church of the Creator figure Rudy "Butch" Stanko, and outlines the origins and ideology of one of the most violent white nationalist groups in the United States. Lastly, the report includes recommendations for communities grappling with the continuing threat posed by the WCOTC and other white nationalist organizations.

THE NAME GAME

The most recent legal contest facing Matt Hale and his group has been over the trademark ® symbol attached to "Church of the Creator" – more specifically, which organization is legally entitled to use that name. Two very different organizations claim the name: a peaceful Oregon-based church and a violent Illinois-based white nationalist group.

Ben Klassen founded and named his white nationalist group the "Church of the Creator" (hereafter referred to as COTC) in 1973, while the TE-TA-MA Foundation (hereafter, the Foundation) did not begin using "Church of the Creator" until 1982 (*See Appendix A for the history of Klassen's COTC*).

But the Foundation was first to take advantage of the federal trademark-registration system. In 1987 it sought protection for its name and symbol (a radiant dove centered on a six-pointed star with a multi-colored background).

In 1988, the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) granted the Foundation's application (though it required the Foundation to disclaim any right to the word "church"). After a 5 year period, during which the COTC did not protest this registration, the PTO then accepted and filed a declaration that the Foundation's trademark had become "incontestable."

In 1996, a young white nationalist from East Peoria, Illinois resurrected the COTC as the World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) and garnered considerable attention for the organization and its racist and anti-Semitic beliefs.

The Foundation began to receive protests about its supposedly white nationalist doctrine. Those complaints indicated that confusion existed about the two groups. As a result, the Foundation set out to enforce its trademark by seeking to stop the COTC from using the confusingly similar name.

The 7th District Court of Appeals agreed with the Foundation. On July 25, 2002 Judge Lefkow ruled in favor of the Foundation, and on November 19, 2002 issued an injunction against the WCOTC and its leader Matt Hale. The Court gave them one month to comply with the injunction.

The ruling barred Hale and group members from using the name "Church of the Creator" or any "facsimile thereof, including specifically the World Church of the Creator, WCOTC, COTC or the words "church" or "creator" together in the same name or mark."

WCOTC leader Matt Hale's open defiance of the Court created the situation that may land him in jail. He has been ordered to appear before Judge Lefkow on January 8, 2003 to show why he should not be found in contempt.

VIOLATING THE INJUNCTION

Hale appears to be purposely and publicly violating the Court's November 19, 2002 Order and Injunction. After the ruling, Hale rebelliously declared, "We are never going to be known by another name. There is no changing our name." Hale also called the Order "fighting words" that "must be resisted by any means necessary."

On December 5, Hale stated during a live Internet chat session that “I have some additional news that all of you will hear about formally tomorrow.” In an email to supporters on December 6, Hale stated “materials that have not already been distributed throughout the rest of the world to our adherents are now in Wyoming safe and secure,” having been delivered to WCOTC “Reverend” Thomas Kroenke in Riverton, Wyoming. Riverton is small town located in Fremont County. These actions clearly defy the Court’s order by attempting to hide the materials from the Courts reach.

The move to Riverton puts the books of the WCOTC back into the orbit of Rudy “Butch” Stanko. One of Klassen’s original choices as successor, Stanko controlled the bulk of COTC literature immediately following Klassen’s death, and ran “Creator Publishing” in Montana for several years in Montana (even after Hale’s ascendancy). Stanko recently moved to Fremont County, Wyoming (*For more on Rudy Stanko, see Appendix B*).

It’s a long way from East Peoria, Illinois to Riverton, Wyoming – over 1100 miles. To the dismay of many East Peoria residents, Hale isn’t making the trip westward. Hale continues to reside in his new wife’s home in East Peoria, and run the organization.

Under Hale’s continued command, WCOTC has also failed to transfer the Internet domain names that the Court ordered be “immediately” transferred to the Foundation and has continued to operate the infringing websites. Hale’s communication to WCOTC members confirms that the WCOTC is actively and purposely violating the Court’s injunction.

A MESS OF HIS OWN MAKING

The WCOTC trademark case is filled with irony. Having weathered legal challenges that have devastated other groups, such as those stemming from murders committed by members, a case stemming from the group’s name may be the one that sends the leader of the violent white nationalist organization to jail. It is also a stellar example of how trying to outsmart the law backfired on a wannabe lawyer.

Under the reign of COTC founder Ben Klassen, the organization was registered as “Church of the Creator, Inc.” After Klassen’s suicide in 1993 and a subsequent organizational collapse, Matt Hale became “Pontifex Maximus” of the reconstituted organization in 1996. Though today he is adamant about not changing the name of the group, when he took over, he changed the name twice -- first to the New Church of the Creator, then to “World Church of the Creator,” an unincorporated association (WCOTC).

This was apparently part of Hale's strategy to "judgment-proof" the WCOTC from the burden of a major civil lawsuit loss. (In 1994, the Southern Poverty Law Center successfully sued the COTC. A Court ruled that the COTC must pay damages for involvement in the murder of Harold Mansfield Jr., an African-American Gulf War Veteran.)

Hale has loudly and continually complained to his followers that his organization has the right to use the name Church of the Creator, since they have been using the name since 1973. However, neither Hale nor his attorneys ever used "prior use" as a defense in this case. As Judge Lefkow noted in her decision on July 25, 2002.

Yet the World Church has not urged prior use as a defense, presumably because of the reorganization designed to avoid paying the judgment mentioned in this opinion's opening paragraph. The corporation that adopted the name "Church of the Creator" in 1973 no longer exists; the organization "World Church of the Creator" formed in 1996 is junior to the Foundation. It turns out that tactics adopted to avoid paying for one's wrongs have collateral costs.

As graduate of Southern Illinois University Law School, Hale has undoubtedly become aware of the legal bind he has created for himself. Rather than face the facts in a court of law, he has chosen to cry wolf in the court of public opinion.

BOOK BURNING AND OTHER BOONDOGGLES

Since the ruling in the Trademark case, Hale has attempted to publicly characterize the decision as "court ordered confiscation and destruction of our Bibles [sic] on pain of imprisonment or death," as "book burning" and an attack upon their "religion."

An examination of the actual order and injunction shows that Hale's apocalyptic rhetoric is disingenuous. The order clearly states that Hale and the other members of the group can continue to "practice its religion" under any alternative name or marks not disallowed by the injunction.

According to the order, numerous options were available to the WCOTC to cure the infringing uses, such as those on and in its books and websites. They could simply cover the infringing mark with an opaque label that is either blank, or contains some other non-confusing name or mark. They could also simply change website domain names and remove the name "Church of the Creator" from the group's various websites. These things would have made him in compliance with the Order, and avoided the contempt hearing.

Hale has chosen to hide these facts from his followers. Instead, he continues to foment anti-Semitic violence while attempting to cast himself as a martyr.

FOMENTING VIOLENCE

Rather than employing any of the options at hand, Hale had the entire stock of WCOTC literature (virtually the only source of income for Hale and the organization) packed up from his Illinois storage unit and surreptitiously moved to remote Riverton, Wyoming. According to Hale, the move would not only move the books out of the Courts reach, the new location would be “more defensible.” Hale has abandoned his “we’re non-violent” mantra in recent months. Instead statements to members are encouraging violent confrontation.

In a December 8 Internet radio broadcast, Hale exclaimed, "There is no breaking the WCOTC, there is no subjugation of the WCOTC, there will be no successful persecution of the WCOTC. The Jews and their lackeys will be destroyed before we will be, this we vow openly before the world." His concluding remarks openly call for war on the federal judiciary:

I further, however, wish to quote from the scripture that the Jews and the lackeys of the Jews are so desirous of having burned. "Now we come to the crux of the position - should the Jewish occupational government use force to violate our constitutional rights to freely practice our religion, to freely assemble, to peacefully organize, to distribute our White Man's Bible, to use the mail or any other prerogative in promoting and expanding our legal, religious organization and the full practice of our religion, then we have every right to declare them open criminals violating the constitution and the highest law of the land. They then obviously are the criminals and we can then treat them like the criminal dogs that they are and take the law into our own hands. This is the obvious, logical thing to do. We must then meet force with force, and open warfare exists. It will then be open season on all Jews." *White Man's Bible*, first printing, page 402. Clearly, any court ordered confiscation and destruction of our bibles on pain of imprisonment or death violates these tenets of our religion as well as the constitution of the US. Clearly, we cannot distribute our white man's bible if they have been consigned to the flames of the Jewish altar. Clearly, any such court order violates our right to exist along with the other religions. Clearly, Ben Klassen foresaw such an attempt to destroy us when he wrote those words over 20 years ago ("In Klassen We Trust" Internet radio show #59, December 8, 2002).

In an email to members, Hale exhorted WCOTC members to “Make damn sure that the enemy regrets their persecutions upon us dearly. RAHOWA!” (RAHOWA! is the WCOTC shorthand for racial holy war).

The last time Hale made similar statements to his followers was in July of 1999 when the Illinois Character and Fitness Committee denied him his law license. Shortly after Hale’s fiery pronouncements, “Creator of the Year” Benjamin Smith went on a two state killing spree. (For a complete examination of the tragic events of 1999, see the special report, *Creating a Killer: Benjamin Smith and the World Church of the Creator*).

Other WCOTC members have also issued threatening statements towards those involved in the trademark case. WCOTC “Reverend” John King stated in a preface to the December WCOTC electronic newsletter that “At any rate we are and remain THE WORLD CHURCH OF THE CREATOR no matter what any jewish [sic] judge may say. Within a short time, we will publish in

the Creativity Newsletter the names and addresses of all the jews [sic] and jew-lackeys [sic] who are doing their best to undermine the free exercise of religion.”

There is ample reason for concern that WCOTC members will act upon this violent rhetoric. The history of the WCOTC (and the COTC) shows them to be one of the most violent white nationalist organizations in the United States. Among the acts of violence associated with the group:

- In 1991, Florida COTC "Reverend" George Loeb murdered Harold Mansfield Jr., an African-American Gulf War veteran.
- In 1992, Klassen's appointed successor Charles Altvater of Baltimore was arrested and convicted of reckless endangerment after placing a bomb on the porch of a Baltimore County police officer.
- In 1993, police in Salinas, California, arrested self-proclaimed Washington State COTC director Jeremiah Knesal, and COTC member Wayne Paul Wooten. While searching their car officers uncovered a plot targeting Portland, Oregon, Jewish agencies and synagogues. Knesal later confessed to involvement in the firebombing of an NAACP office in Tacoma, Washington.
- On July 2, 1999, WCOTC member Benjamin "August" Smith began a deadly three-day rampage of racially motivated violence. He killed two and injured many others.
- On November 19, 1999, Florida WCOTC leader James Fettu and three supporters were convicted of attacking two men who would not accept WCOTC fliers they were distributing outside of a Megadeth concert.
- In April 2000, WCOTC organizer Sean Patrick O'Connell, was arrested on a sexual assault charge in Mattoon, Illinois.
- In June 2000, Rudy "Butch" Stanko was arrested on charges stemming from an altercation in which he allegedly handcuffed a woman to a staircase and refused to release her.
- On April 19, 2001 WCOTC associate Erica Chase and colleague Leo Felton were arrested in Boston after passing phony currency. According to Court documents, the two were plotting a "racial holy war" which included the bombing the New England Holocaust Memorial and several other targets.

Other WCOTC members serving prison sentences for violent crimes: "Reverend" Larry Harper is serving a life sentence for 2nd degree murder in Florida; Sabin Lewis is serving a 40-year sentence for murder in Illinois; Keith Rozhon is serving a 25-year sentence for attempted murder, home invasion, and armed robbery, also in Illinois.

THE RISE AND FALL OF HALE'S EMPIRE

As the 2000 CNC special report, *WCOTC: One Year Later* indicated, the enormous media exposure in the wake of the Smith shootings increased the visibility of the WCOTC, and attracted some new members. The ranks of the organization swelled between 1999 and 2000, though nowhere near the 10,000 that Hale likes to claim.

The report also predicted problems for the organization that have come to fruition in the past year and a half. The media spotlight kept many other potential recruits away, particularly those who did not want to belong to an organization known for trouble. Law enforcement investigations and community efforts to shun the group have also kept membership growth in check.

At the same time, other white nationalist organizations, such as the National Alliance, have stepped up youth recruitment efforts and are now successfully competing for the main WCOTC constituency.

Most significantly, Many WCOTC members worry that Hale, the concert violinist, has been fiddling while his new Rome burns. Media appearances and lawsuits have been a wasteful distraction, according to some former and current WCOTC members.

As a result, there have been a number of recent notable splits within the organization. In December 2001, influential WCOTC activists Lisa Turner and Jason and Melody LaRue publicly left the WCOTC citing problems with its leadership. Turner and Melody LaRue ran the Sisterhood of the World Church of the Creator – the arm of the organization dedicated to recruiting women. The departure of the LaRue's also crippled WCOTC organizing in the Pacific Northwest.

Three months later, rifts in the organization over Hale's lack of leadership exploded. After an internal challenge to his leadership, Hale announced that long-time Montana Creators Slim Deardorf and Dan Hassett had been expelled from the WCOTC for embezzlement and "treason", apparently connected to over \$8,000 of WCOTC money (in the form of gold bars) that Deardorf claimed was destroyed when his house burned down. Hale also alleged that Hassett had threatened to go to the FBI with information on fellow Creators.

In May 2002, the "Guardians of the Faith Committee" (the group designated to appoint COTC leaders), which consisted of Deardorf and Hassett, as well as Dane Hall, Dick Liggett, and Claude Umphenour, voted to oust Hale as Pontifex Maximus and circulated an e-mail demanding that he resign and hand over control of all WCOTC websites. The committee also stated that the

organization would change its name back to simply COTC and that the Committee was considering asking National Alliance leader William Pierce to take over the COTC.

While Hale survived the coup attempt, the WCOTC felt the episode. The organization is now down to fewer than 200 members. With his group crumbling from internal and external pressure, Hale has created this incident over the Trademark issue to make himself into a victim and gain even more attention.

CONCLUSION

Like his white nationalist role model, David Duke, who recently plead guilty to fraud charges in Louisiana, Matt Hale may soon find himself behind bars. The concern for local communities is that his violent rhetoric may encourage some of his followers to join him in his call for RaHoWa! – a Racial Holy War. Despite the recent collapse, and even if Hale were to remain behind bars, there are no signs that the organization will completely disappear. The violent history of the organization and its racist and anti-Semitic message makes it a continued cause for concern, irrespective of the particular leader or the overall size of the group.

APPENDIX A: ORIGINS AND IDEOLOGY OF THE CHURCH OF THE CREATOR

The World Church of the Creator claims to be a religious order. The “theology” of the WCOTC, known as “Creativity” teaches that Adolf Hitler “was one of the greatest White men who ever lived,” and that the Holocaust never happened. Its admiration of Hitler is grounded in rabid anti-Semitism, but it is not a collection of stereotypical Brown-Shirted neo-Nazis. Creativity is *different*.

Melding a romanticized history of ancient Rome with old-fashioned American bigotry and violence, the rambling volumes of Church of the Creator founder Ben Klassen take thousands of pages to explain that the only thing followers should worship is “the White Race [sic].”

The (W)COTC is set apart from most of the rest of the contemporary white nationalist movement in the U.S. by its explicitly anti-Christian stance, contending that Christianity is a Jewish plot. Creativity teaches members that minorities are “mud races,” inferior to white people, and that blacks are “not far above monkeys and chimpanzees.”

While claiming to be non-violent, Creativity teaches to “hate and destroy your enemies.” These acts of demonization and dehumanization are to prepare Creators for RAHOWA! – Racial Holy War – the genocidal outpouring of violence to cleanse people of color and Jews from the planet. Not surprisingly, Creators have a long history of violence – assaults, firebombing an NAACP office, murder, not limited to the bloody 1999 shooting spree of Benjamin Smith.

Ben Klassen formed the Church of the Creator (COTC) in 1973. Although born in the Ukraine and raised in Canada, Klassen found a home in the American far-right. The former Florida state legislator moved quickly through far-right politics, first with the John Birch Society, then with the 1968 George Wallace presidential campaign. He finally found his place in white nationalist politics in 1973 when he formed the Church of the Creator, publishing *Nature's Eternal Religion*, and anointing himself “Pontifex Maximus.”

Over the next decade Klassen slowly built his brutally violent, racist empire. By the early 1990's, the organization included chapters in 20 states and eight foreign countries. Klassen's “church” preached that Adolf Hitler was a religious prophet, that Christianity is a Jewish plot, and that it's members should prepare for “RAHOWA!” (Racial Holy War), which it proclaimed as “INEVITABLE. It is the Ultimate and Only solution . . . It is now either them or us. We want to make damn sure it is we who survive.” (*Rahowa! The Planet is All Ours*, 1987).

The violent rhetoric became reality on May 17, 1991, when Florida COTC "Reverend" George Loeb murdered Harold Mansfield Jr., an African-American Gulf War veteran.

Two years later, police in Salinas, California, arrested self-proclaimed Washington State COTC director Jeremiah Knesal, and COTC member Wayne Paul Wooten. While searching their car officers uncovered a cache of weapons, racist literature, and a page from the Portland, Oregon, telephone book listing Jewish agencies and synagogues. Knesal later confessed to involvement in the July 20, 1993, firebombing of an NAACP office in Tacoma, Washington.

By 1990 Klassen was ready to anoint a successor. He first selected Rudy "Butch" Stanko, but the heir apparent declined the job when he was released from prison in December 1991, after finishing his sentence for selling tainted meat to school lunch programs. In May 1992, Klassen announced Charles Altwater of Baltimore, Maryland as his successor. But Altwater was arrested and convicted later that year of reckless endangerment after placing a bomb on the porch of a Baltimore County police officer.

Klassen took the organization back, and then handed it over to Mark Wilson, a Wisconsin skinhead. Wilson officially ran COTC until January 1993. While in charge, Wilson developed a close relationship with the COTC chapter in Toronto, Canada, particularly with George Burdi (aka George Eric Hawthorne) the singer of the band RAHOWA. Wilson and Burdi would go on to form Resistance Records, the largest distributor of white-power music in the United States.

Wilson was replaced by movement newcomer Richard McCarty, who moved the organization's headquarters to Niceville, Florida. Continuing legal problems forced McCarty to dismantle much of the COTC empire. Appointing McCarty would be Klassen's final act. With his organization collapsing around him, Klassen committed suicide on August 6, 1993, at age 75.

In May 1995 after several years of silence in the wake of McCarty's abdication, the COTC "Guardians of the Faith Committee" anointed Matt Hale to lead the Church of the Creator. He changed the name to the "New Church of the Creator," which held its first "church" services on July 2, 1995, in Washington, Illinois. He would later change the name to World Church of the Creator and revive the COTC empire. The World Church of the Creator would share the ethnic-cleansing agenda of COTC. Hale wrote to the *Peoria Journal Star* in April 1996, "White people need to utilize every legal means possible to fight against the racial treason which has become rampant . . . across the country. The very biological survival of our race depends on us ending this outrage."

Creating a Commotion

Despite his vehement rhetoric, Matt Hale doesn't fit the stereotypical image of a white nationalist. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University Law School. Hale is a veteran hater. For over a decade, he has run neo-Nazi organizations, beginning with his American White Supremacist Party, through the National Socialist White Americans Party and the World Church of the Creator.

APPENDIX B: A PROFILE OF RUDY "BUTCH" STANKO

Rudy "Butch" Stanko is one of the few remaining individuals with ties to both Klassen's Church of the Creator and Hale's World Church of the Creator.

Stanko was at one time owner of the Nebraska Beef Packer and Cattle King companies. He held contracts worth \$20 million to supply over 18 million pounds of ground beef to public school cafeterias until an NBC news program reported in 1983 that the meat was produced under unsanitary conditions. The U.S. Departments of Justice and Agriculture then investigated. Stanko was convicted in 1984 of six violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, sentenced to six years in prison and ordered to pay a \$70,000 fine.

Stanko authored of *The Score*, an intensely anti-Semitic book which details how Stanko's meatpacking corporation was destroyed by a Zionist conspiracy. The 389-page screed includes such topics as "Zionism"; "The Sanhedrin" and "Who Rules America." It concludes with a reprise of notorious anti-Semitic tract, "the Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion."

While in prison, Stanko apparently came to the attention of Church of the Creator founder Ben Klassen. In February 1990, Klassen announced that his successor as Pontifex Maximus would be Stanko. That month, Stanko wrote in the COTC publication, *Racial Loyalty*:

It is a great honor and a supreme challenge to be selected as the next Pontifex Maximus of the Church of the Creator.... It is my avowed purpose to provide the necessary leadership, organizational and promotional talents to...smash the tyrannical Jewish network once and for all time. It is my hope and dedicated goal to bring this about in the next decade, the last decade history has allowed us for the final showdown.

Stanko was released from a federal penitentiary in December 1991, but was arrested shortly thereafter for speeding in Nebraska. He was also charged with obstructing a police operation, criminal mischief, and driving with an expired license. After being taken to the local jail, Stanko reportedly wrestled with officers while they attempted to inventory his property during the booking procedure. He was then taken to a hospital, where he broke a light fixture with a crutch; when police entered his room, Stanko allegedly tried to assault an officer with the crutch.

Shortly after these incidents, it became clear that Stanko would not be taking over the leadership of COTC. As Klassen scrambled to find a new successor, he referred to his first attempt as the "Rudy Stanko fiasco."

Stanko nonetheless addressed another temporary Pontifex Maximus, Mark Wilson, in the November 1992 *Racial Loyalty*: "I want to congratulate you on being appointed the Pontifex

Maximus and the new leader of the CHURCH OF THE CREATOR.... I realize the tremendous responsibility placed on your shoulders, and you have my wholehearted support. If I can be of any assistance in the Rocky Mountain West, please do not hesitate to drop me a line."

Stanko entered a plea bargain agreement in October 1993, in which he was sentenced for misdemeanor destruction of property and speeding infraction violations.

After the "fiasco" Stanko had claimed publicly that he left the COTC. However, following Klassen's death, the Montana Human Rights Network first reported that Stanko obtained the inventory of books and literature of the Church of the Creator. By 1996, Stanko's "Creator Publishing" was running full-page ads for *Natures Eternal Religion*, *White Mans' Bible*, and other books by Klassen in *Resistance*, the glossy magazine of the white-power music scene. The full page color advertisement included Stanko's Montana address.

Then newly appointed Pontifex Maximus Matt Hale was clearly threatened by Stanko, and his control of these resources. Hale wrote, "Mr. Stanko is making a living off our money selling our books" and concluded that Stanko is "interested in Rudy Stanko, and not the future of Creativity." Hale also proclaimed that Stanko had been kicked out of the organization.

When it suits him, Stanko has continued to claim he is COTC's leader. For instance, he tried to gain access to women prisoners in Montana, saying he was an ordained minister of COTC. In 1999, the Montana Supreme Court denied him access. He has also sold COTC's publications, including *The White Man's Bible*, through his company from time to time.

Having recently moved to Fremont County, Wyoming, even before the WCOTC headquarters moved to Riverton, Stanko began stirring up controversy. He has been asking the County Commission to empower him to "eradicate" any wolf or grizzly bear, both endangered species, which he sees as a threat to his cattle. The commission has taken Stanko's request under advisement, even though the county attorney has stated that federal law supercedes local law in this case, and that the Endangered Species Act must be enforced.

In looking at defying federal law, the county commission is flirting with "county supremacy." County supremacy, also known as county home rule, advances the idea that the county commission should have absolute power over the land within its borders. This absolute control would extend to public land under the federal government's jurisdiction and would allow the county to ignore federal and state law. It is embraced by both the anti-environmental "wise use" movement and the anti-government "patriot" movement.

APPENDIX C: RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are suggestions for communities concerned about World Church of the Creator activity. For additional information, resources, and organizing support, contact the Center for New Community, Montana Human Rights Network, or Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity.

Break the silence -- If there is WCOTC activity in your area, such as literature distribution, let people know. Contact local law enforcement, anti-bigotry organizations like the Center for New Community, the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity, the Montana Human Rights Network, the American Jewish Committee or other groups in your area, and your neighbors. WCOTC members, and other white nationalists, view silence as a green light to conduct further organizing.

Prepare your community – World Church of the Creator activists distribute racist and anti-Semitic flyers neighborhoods around the country. Distribution occurs in the middle-of-the-night, with drive-by leafleting. The hate literature is often wrapped in orange plastic bags, making it look like a normal newspaper. To find out if your community is a potential target, learn about the group and spread the word before it happens. Obtain additional copies of this report and distribute them to local community leaders, including government officials, law enforcement agencies, community groups and religious leaders.

Speak out -- Just as groups like the WCOTC have a “free speech” right to spew their message, it is the free speech responsibility of those who care about human dignity to challenge the bigotry spread by the WCOTC, and all similar groups. Develop and distribute your own literature. Hold your own public events.

Face the fear together – In addition to recruiting, another reason white nationalist groups like the WCOTC distribute flyers in the middle-of-the-night is to intimidate and isolate community residents. When literature is distributed in your community, get together and go door-to-door to pick up the literature. Doing so allows community members to know how many homes received the hate literature. It also provides an opportunity to get to know your neighbors better and to have a dialogue about hate activity and how you can work together to stop it.

Encourage Youth Peer-based anti-bigotry organizing – Groups like the WCOTC target young people for recruitment into the white nationalist movement. Young people need to be equipped with the tools and skills to enable them to develop their own creative ways to challenge organized bigotry. Youth organizing youth is far more effective than adults trying to organize young people. To aid young people in the fight against the newest hate recruiting tool, white power music, the

Center has published the Turn it Down Resource Kit – designed to help youth oppose this form of bigotry.

Organize for the long haul – Organizing is the process of relationship building that coalesces community response in creative and effective ways, and that results in action. Organizing is a long-haul commitment and responsibility. White nationalist activity is a symptom of a chronic illness that does not go away quietly or quickly. The tendency of communities, however, is to react and respond when hatred makes a “public appearance,” and then to assume that the problem has been taken care of, that it has disappeared, once we have responded publicly. However, deep commitment to community and to community life means that every such “public appearance” is seen as an opportunity to enlarge the table at which leaders from all walks of life grapple with the daily realities of bigotry and racism in their midst.