

HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK NEWS

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IMMIGRATION REFORM: REPLACE DIVISIVE POLITICS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

The politics of fear and resentment are nothing new in America. The Religious Right's ascent to right-wing political power came at the expense of the gays, lesbians, liberals, and others they demonized. The "patriot" movement of the 1990s mobilized through conspiracy theories regarding one-world government and internationalist cabals. During the 1940s and 1950s, the "Red Scare" found policymakers falsely accusing citizens of Communist espionage and bringing them before government panels for sanction.

In the 1840s, nearly a million Irish immigrants came to America, fleeing the potato famine in their homeland. They were treated as dirty, disease-carrying dregs of society by the Protestant majority, which also disliked their Catholic faith. Chinese, Italian, and other ethnic groups faced similar opposition. The era saw the formation of political parties like the "Know-Nothings" that wanted to keep immigrants from gaining citizenship and obtaining political power.

The latest round of the immigration debate is similarly unfolding in a destructive manner. Immigrants are still used as the scapegoats for everything from loss of jobs to problems with America's under-funded social service systems. As the country goes into the next presidential election, both major political parties hope to exploit "immigration reform" during the campaign season. This increases the likeli-

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Universal Declaration of Human Rights on Immigration

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 13:
(2): Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 23:
(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity.

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(Immigration, from page 1)
hood of political posturing around the issue but does not bode well for meaningful reform.

Montana is not immune. During the 2007 Montana Legislature, nearly a dozen anti-immigrant bills were introduced [see box on this page]. The measures included two proposals making it a felony for undocumented immigrants to register to vote (voter registration cards already require people to affirm they are citizens). Other proposals included denying public assistance to undocumented immigrants and requiring English proficiency to obtain a driver's license. One bill encouraged racial profiling, giving authorities the ability to question anyone (read person of color) suspected of violating federal immigration law.

Sen. Jim Shockley (R-Victor) sponsored five of the anti-immigrant bills. During a hearing on his bill supporting racial profiling, Shockley repeated many of the derogatory stereotypes commonly heard about undocumented workers. "This is about jobs," he said. "They're [undocumented workers] taking the jobs from our people. They are going to displace our people."

The Montana Human Rights Network and the ACLU of Montana were two of the main organizations that opposed, and ultimately defeated, all the anti-immigrant bills during the legislative session. The Network believes all people, regardless of citizenship or national origin, should be treated with respect and have the right to life, liberty and security of person. During the legislative session, the Network repeatedly pointed out that the anti-immigrant bills promoted the politics of fear, resentment, and, too often, were racist at their core.

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2007 Montana Legislature: Anti-Immigrant Legislation



Sen. Jim Shockley (R-Victor) led the anti-immigrant lobby, sponsoring five bills.

Sen. Jim Shockley (R-Victor):

◆ SB 258 - Prohibit undocumented immigrants from obtaining or renewing professional and occupational licenses. Died on the Senate floor.

◆ SB 259 – Prohibit deductions of wages paid to undocumented workers for tax purposes. Tabled by the Senate Taxation Committee.

◆ SB 260 - Registering to vote is a felony, if a person is an undocumented immigrant. Died on the Senate floor.

◆ SB 346 – Prohibit public contracts with contractors who employ undocumented workers. Passed the Senate/Died on the House floor.

◆ SB 389 – Allow police officers to stop any individual for questioning, if the officer suspects the person has violated federal immigration law. Tabled by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Rep. Edward Butcher (R-Winifred):

◆ HB 646 – Require testing in English for occupational/professional and drivers' licenses. Tabled by the House Business and Labor Committee.

Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R-Billings):

◆ HB 549 - Justice Department must make applicants for drivers' licenses take an English proficiency test and determine the applicant's citizenship status. Died on the House floor.

◆ HB767 – Non-citizens cannot receive public assistance in the state. Tabled by the House State Administration Committee.

Rep. Mike Jopek (D-Whitefish):

◆ HB 185 – Department of Labor would fine businesses that employ undocumented workers. Passed the House/Tabled by the Senate State Administration Committee.

Rep. Bob Lake (R-Hamilton):

◆ HB 783 – An undocumented immigrant registering to vote would be a felony. Passed the House/Tabled by the Senate State Administration Committee.

(Immigration, from page 2)

Following the 2007 Montana Legislature, former Republican Secretary of State Bob Brown penned a guest editorial criticizing state lawmakers for not passing any anti-immigrant legislation. He recommended that an anti-immigrant ballot initiative should be run in Montana during the 2008 campaign season.

“Immigration Reform” at Federal Level

About the time the Montana Legislature was winding down, a bipartisan bill emerged at the national level to overhaul immigration policy. It downplayed current policy’s support of family unification and favored a merit-based system that gave an advantage to wealthy and highly-educated immigrants. It also included provisions to channel low-skilled workers into a new temporary guest-worker program, which created a permanent lower class of workers ineligible for citizenship.

The bill did grant immediate temporary legal status to undocumented immigrants already in the country and created a cumbersome process to citizenship. Although the Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids would have stopped, these temporarily documented immigrants would have been required to pay fines of \$5,000 and return to their countries of origin before applying for citizenship. Along with the fines, undocumented immigrants faced background checks and tests demonstrating proficiency in English. The federal bill also funded an additional 18,000 border patrol agents and the construction of a wall along the Mexican border.

“This is an unprecedented shift from family unity being the corner-

stone of our immigration policy,” said Isabel Garcia, leader of the immigrant-advocacy group Derechos Humanos. Garcia also stated the obstacles for immigrants in the bill were insurmountable. For instance, the \$5,000 fine is a significant sum of money for a worker who makes approximately \$360/week in places like Arizona.

The bill received bipartisan support. In fact, it became known as the “Bush-Kennedy Bill,” identifying U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and President George W. Bush as primary supporters. However, the bill also drew fire from across the political spectrum. Democrats faced criticism from Hispanic advocacy groups that felt the bill would make it more difficult for immigrants to bring their families to America. Meanwhile, right-wing conservatives blasted Republicans for giving “amnesty” to undocumented immigrants.

The *New York Times*’ editors stated the bill overlooked “the humanity of the immigrant.” They said the bill ignored that “hospitality for the stranger is part of the American ethos,” and that America needed compassionate and thoughtful immigration reform.

Similarly, *The Nation* said changes in immigration policy needed to recognize the “critical roles” immigrants play in our economy. “They pay more taxes than they receive in services,” the publication stated. “They provide the services that the middle class relies on from morning until night.”

Network Calls Out U.S. Senators on Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric

Montana’s two Democratic U.S. Senators, Max Baucus and Jon Tester, waded into the debate over

the Bush-Kennedy Bill using anti-immigrant rhetoric.

“I do not support amnesty for illegal aliens,” Baucus said, “and any immigrant who wants to become a citizen must pay back taxes, learn English, and go to the back of the line.” During the Senate debate on the bill, Baucus said he could not support the bill, because it “smacks too much of amnesty for me.” He added that he didn’t support the guest-worker program in the bill.

Tester’s message was similar. One of his spokespeople said Tester “does not support amnesty” and that immigrants wanting to come to America needed “to get in line no different than his [Tester’s] ancestors did.” Tester said he would support citizenship for undocumented immigrants already in the country only if the plan was “fair to taxpayers” and made “sense for homeland security.”

The Network was very concerned about the public statements the senators made and wrote to both of them, asking them to remember human rights principles when it comes to the immigration debate. It pointed out that undocumented workers were not cheating taxpayers. In fact, undocumented workers pay an array of local, state, and federal taxes and are vital to America’s economy. Despite paying taxes, they are denied the majority of services that they help fund.

To refer to undocumented immigrants as “illegal aliens,” or just “illegals,” is to minimize their humanity, stated the Network. The Network told Tester that his characterizations were “inaccurate and dehumanizing.” The Network believes it is essential to remember that immigrants—whether documented, undocumented, or irregularly documented—are people with jobs and

(Immigration, cont. on page 4)

(Immigration, from page 3)

families. They are taxpayers with growing roots in our communities. Immigrants live here, work here, and go to school here. They are our neighbors.

The Network pointed out to Tester that today's immigrants face more obstacles than his ancestors did, who immigrated to America during the country's open immigration period. Another major change has been the enactment of U.S. Free Trade Agreements that have decimated the economic conditions of many communities and cultures. The Network hopes Montanans will broaden their understanding of the reasons for which people migrate and work to create empathy for those who risk so much in order to provide for their families.

The Network urged both senators to support immigration policies that made family reunification a priority. More importantly, it encouraged the senators to support policies that bring "our undocumented neighbors, co-workers, and friends out of the shadows and allow them to fully participate in society." It asked the senators to remember that immigration is an American experience and acceptance is an American value.

Even though the U.S. House of Representatives wasn't debating the Bush-Kennedy Bill, Montana Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT) expressed his dislike of it. In a guest editorial, he echoed the conservative rhetoric that the bill granted amnesty to undocumented workers. He also repeated the false claim that undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes but receive goods and services. He promised to do everything in his power to defeat the legislation if it made it to the House.

When the bill finally stalled in the Senate, Baucus and Tester received much of the credit. They voted against the bill, citing a proposal in it to create a national electronic verification program for businesses. The Montana senators said this provision violated privacy laws. Baucus stated, "If Jon and I brought down the entire bill, that's good for Montana and the country." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said the Senate may revisit the bill later this year.

Debate Exploited by Radical Right

In its letter to Baucus, the Network criticized the senator for saying undocumented immigrants needed to go to the "back of the line." It pointed out that the phrase resonated with the "back of the bus" requirement of African-Americans before the civil rights gains. "Whatever your intention may have been," the Network's letter stated, "the language plays right into the racial overtones that are sure to plague the debate on immigration."

Race is central to the current debate over immigration, even if it sometimes exists below the surface. Some lip service is paid to America's border with Canada. However, the focus of the current debate is on the *(Immigration, cont. on page 5)*

**Margins or Mainstream?
Sometimes It's Hard to Know**

"I believe that what we are fighting [illegal immigration] here is not just a small group of people... bent on destroying ours [civilization]. If Western civilization succumbs to the siren song of multiculturalism, I believe we're finished."

-- U.S. Representative and presidential candidate Tom Tancredo (R-CO)



"Multi-Culturalism and 'Diversity' are lies. The non-White birthrate, coupled with massive immigration (both legal and illegal) and racial intermarriage, will reduce the founding people of America into a minority in our own nation. As the racial composition of America changes, so will America. Our children and theirs will live in an America where alien cultures and values will not simply be present, but will dominate us."

-- Former Klansman David Duke

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Southern border, where the vast majority of the people coming across are people of color.

White supremacists have been “warning” about the “invasion” of America by “turd world hordes” coming across the border for decades. They have found renewed interest in their cause and an avenue into the mainstream by way of the current immigration debate. The Southern Poverty Law Center and Anti-Defamation League have documented significant increases in racist anti-immigrant groups and Ku Klux Klan chapters over the past few years due to the immigration issue.

Hate groups like the National Alliance have used immigration as a recruiting tool for years. Kevin McGuire, a Bozeman-area activist for the group, provided a recent example. In June, McGuire protested a fundraiser for a group raising money to help families adopt orphans from overseas. McGuire held a sign reading, “Stop Immigration, Keep America White.” He told the press, “Immigration is absolutely a racial issue.” He complained that whites would be a minority in America in 30 years and be governed by “alien invaders.”

Other radical right groups are also getting a boost during the current immigration debate. The militia movement, which has increasingly died off since the Oklahoma City bombing, has found a new expression as border vigilante groups like the Minuteman Project.

Like the militia leaders of the 1990s, the members of the Minuteman Project and its allies portray themselves as American patriots dedicated to defending the homeland. Militia members were ready to go to war against “New World Order”

forces and black helicopters. Now, the enemy is viewed as people of color coming across the border. Both are based on a paramilitary/private army structure. Also like the so-called “patriots” of the 1990s, there is a focus on citizenship status. For the Montana Freeman, it was between God-given or government-given rights. Now it is between “legals” and “illegals.”

Border vigilante groups aren’t a new idea. The pioneers of these ventures were the Ku Klux Klan back in the 1970s. “The Klan Border Watch” started in the late 1970s, created by then-Klan leaders David Duke and Tom Metzger. Duke and Metzger said the border group would stretch from California to Texas and predicted thousands of volunteers who wanted to “halt the flow of illegal aliens” across the Mexican border. Like its modern-day compatriots, the Klan group managed to mobilize dozens, not thousands. Closer to home, in 1995, Helena-area militia member Mike Hankins announced that he and other members of the National Volunteer Militia planned to join militias from other states to patrol the Mexican border.

The Minuteman Project is the most well-known of the current border militias. In 2005, it gained international attention when it organized a patrol along the Mexican border in Arizona. Jim Gilchrist, co-founder of the group, predicted 1,300 volunteers would participate. He called them “white Martin Luther Kings.” In reality, the patrol drew a couple hundred people. Among the volunteers were members of the National

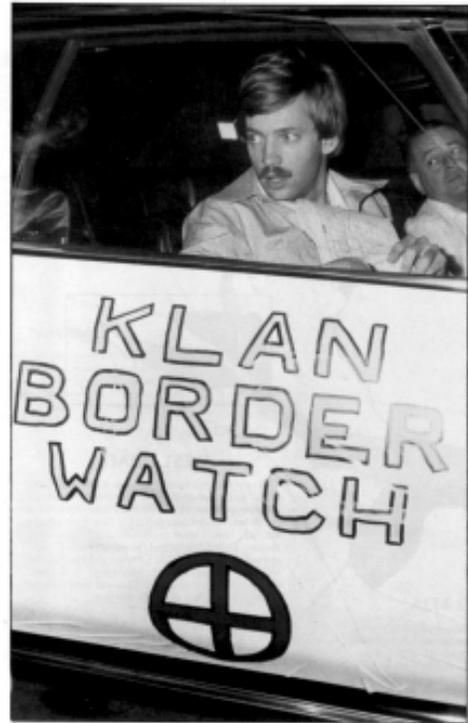


Photo from Blood in the Face

In the 1970s, Klansman David Duke took part in his group's “The Klan Border Watch.”

Alliance, a white supremacist group. The Alliance’s Shaun Walker told the press, “We have members that will participate.” Two days before the start of the Minuteman Project’s border muster, National Alliance literature was distributed in a nearby community. “Non-Whites are turning America into a Third World Slum,” the literature stated. “They come for welfare or to take our jobs. Let’s send them home now.”

Montanans Have a Choice

The current debate over immigration policy is rooted in the “us versus them” mentality. Too many people participating in the debate are not learning from or remembering America’s immigrant history. They are also not trying to understand why people come to this country. Instead,
(Immigration, cont. on page 8)

NETWORK'S VOTING RECORD FOR 2007 SESSION

The Montana Human Rights Network has compiled a voting record for the 2007 Montana Legislature. The entire voting record, including descriptions of the bills used to determine the percentages listed below, will be available at our website: <http://www.mhrn.org/legislature.html>. Copies can also be received by contacting the Network directly.

Montana House of Representatives

Duane Ankney (R-Colstrip).....19%	Mary Caferro (D-Helena).....94%	Eve Franklin (D-Great Falls).....94%	Teresa Henry (D-Missoula).....100%
Elsie Arntzen (R-Billings).....13%	Tim Callahan (D-Great Falls).....94%	Julie French (D-Scobey).....88%	Edward Hilbert (R-Glendive).....0%
Shannon Augare (D-Browning).....94%	Margaret Campbell (D-Poplar).....94%	Kevin Furey (D-Missoula).....94%	Dennis Himmelberger (R-Billings).....0%
Debby Barrett (R-Dillon).....0%	Edith Clark (R-Sweet Grass).....6%	Dave Gallik (D-Helena).....100%	Cynthia Hiner (D-Deer Lodge).....75%
Bill Beck (R-Whitefish).....0%	Jill Cohenour (D-East Helena).....100%	William Glaser (R-Huntley).....0%	Galen Hollenbaugh (D-Helena).....94%
Arlene Becker (D-Billings).....94%	Douglas Cordier (D-Columbia Falls)....81%	Wanda Grinde (D-Billings).....94%	Pat Ingraham (R-Thompson Falls)....6%
Bob Bergren (D-Havre).....94%	Sue Dickenson (D-Great Falls).....100%	George Groesbeck (D-Butte).....100%	Hal Jacobson (D-Helena).....100%
Norma Bixby (D-Lame Deer).....100%	Robyn Driscoll (D-Billings).....100%	Robin Hamilton (D-Missoula).....88%	Joey Jayne (D-Arlee).....88%
Mark Blasdel (R-Somers).....0%	Ernie Dutton (R-Billings).....19%	Betsy Hands (D-Missoula).....100%	Llew Jones (R-Conrad).....19%
Scott Boggio (R-Deer Lodge).....6%	Bob Ebinger (D-Livingston).....94%	Ray Hawk (R-Florence).....0%	William Jones (R-Bigfork).....25%
Gary Branae (D-Billings).....94%	Ron Erickson (D-Missoula).....100%	Ralph Heinert (R-Libby).....6%	Mike Jopek (D-Whitefish).....100%
Ed Butcher (R-Winifred).....0%	George Everett (R-Kalispell).....0%	Gordon Hendrick (R-Superior).....6%	Rick Jore (C-Ronan).....0%

Dave Kasten (R-Brockway).....0%	Mike Milburn (D-Cascade).....0%	Scott Sales (R-Bozeman).....0%	Kendall Van Dyk (D-Billings).....94%
Jim Keane (D-Butte).....88%	Penny Morgan (R-Billings).....25%	Diane Sands (D-Missoula).....100%	Dan Villa (D-Anaconda).....100%
Krayton Kerns (R-Laurel).....0%	John Musgrove (D-Havre).....100%	Jon Sesso (D-Butte).....100%	Chas Vincent (R-Libby).....6%
Harry Klock (R-Harlotown).....19%	Art Noonan (D-Butte).....88%	John Sinrud (R-Bozeman).....0%	John Ward (R-Helena).....19%
Roger Koopman (R-Bozeman).....0%	Bill Nooney (R-Missoula).....6%	Veronica Small-Eastman (D-Lodge Grass).....94%	Jack Wells (R-Bozeman).....0%
Deborah Kotel (D-Great Falls).....88%	Jesse O'Hara (R-Great Falls).....13%	Jon Sonju (R-Kalispell).....0%	Frankie Wilmer (D-Bozeman).....100%
Bob Lake (R-Hamilton).....6%	Alan Olson (R-Roundup).....25%	Wayne Stahl (R-Saco).....6%	Bill Wilson (D-Great Falls).....88%
Carol Lambert (R-Broadus).....25%	John Parker (D-Great Falls).....88%	Ron Stoker (R-Darby).....6%	Jonathan Windy Boy (D-Box Elder).....81%
Michael Lange (R-Billings).....0%	Ken Peterson (R-Billings).....6%	Janna Taylor (R-Dayton).....6%	Brady Wiseman (D-Bozeman).....100%
Gary MacLaren (R-Victor).....6%	Mike Phillips (D-Bozeman).....100%	Bill Thomas (D-Great Falls).....75%	Craig Witte (R-Kalispell).....6%
Bruce Malcolm (R-Emigrant).....6%	JP Pomnichowski (D-Bozeman).....100%	Montana Senate	
Dave McAlpin (D-Missoula).....100%	Holly Raser (D-Missoula).....100%	Keith Bales (R-Otter).....0%	John Brueggeman (R-Polson).....40%
Bill McChesney (D-Miles City).....88%	Michele Reinhart (D-Missoula).....100%	Joe Balyeat (R-Bozeman).....0%	John Cobb (R-Augusta).....60%
Tom McGillvray (R-Billings).....0%	Diane Rice (R-Harrison).....6%	Gregory Barkus (R-Kalispell).....0%	Vicki Cochiarella (D-Missoula).....87%
Walter McNutt (R-Sidney).....25%	Rick Ripley (R-Wolf Creek).....0%	Jerry Black (R-Shelby).....7%	Mike Cooney (D-Helena).....100%
Scott Mendenhall (R-Clancy).....0%	Jack Ross (R-Absarokee).....19%	Roy Brown (R-Billings).....20%	<i>(Record, cont. on page 8)</i>

<i>(Record, from page 7)</i>	Verdell Jackson (R-Kalispell).....0%	Lynda Moss (D-Billings).....100%	Corey Stapleton (R-Billings).....13%
Aubyn Curtiss (R-Fortine).....0%	Larry Jent (D-Bozeman).....80%	Terry Murphy (R-Cardwell).....7%	Donald Steinbeisser (R-Sidney).....7%
Jim Elliott (D-Trout Creek).....100%	Carol Juneau (D-Browning).....100%	Jerry O'Neil (R-Columbia Falls).....0%	Robert Story (R-Park City).....7%
John Esp (R-Big Timber).....20%	Christine Kaufmann (D-Helena).....100%	Gerald Pease (D-Lodge Grass).....87%	Bill Tash (R-Dillon).....20%
Jeff Essmann (R-Billings).....13%	Sam Kitzenberg (D-Glasgow).....73%	Gary Perry (R-Manhattan).....13%	Joe Tropila (D-Great Falls).....80%
Steve Gallus (D-Butte).....100%	Rick Laible (R-Victor).....20%	Jim Peterson (R-Butte).....7%	Mitch Tropila (D-Great Falls).....93%
Kelly Gebhardt (R-Roundup).....13%	Lane Larson (D-Billings).....80%	Don Ryan (D-Great Falls).....80%	Dave Wanzenried (D-Missoula).....100%
Kim Gillan (D-Billings).....93%	Jesse Laslovich (D-Anaconda).....93%	Trudi Schmidt (D-Great Falls).....93%	Dan Weinberg (D-Whitefish).....100%
Kim Hansen (D-Harlem).....80%	Dave Lewis (R-Helena).....20%	Jim Shockley (R-Victor).....20%	Carol Williams (D-Missoula).....93%
Dan Harrington (D-Butte).....93%	Greg Lind (D-Missoula).....100%	Frank Smith (D-Poplar).....100%	
Bob Hawks (D-Bozeman).....100%	Dan McGee (R-Laurel).....0%	Carolyn Squires (D-Missoula).....100%	

(Immigration, from page 5)
 the debate has focused on dehumanizing immigrants and scapegoating them for society's ills.

!! Save the Date !!

Join the Network for the
First Annual Progressive Revival

November 9-10, 2007
 Helena

Keynote Speaker:
 Eric Ward, Center for New Community

Stay Tuned for More Information

America's policies, institutions, and attitudes too often keep immigrants on the margins of society. Montanans can provide a valuable service to the debate by recognizing that immigration is an American experience and that acceptance is an American value. We can encourage lawmakers to remember the humanity of immigrants and support policies that allow immigrants and their families to fully participate in our society. American history contains many examples of immigrants being forced to the margins of society only to later be accepted. As political forces continue to marginalize undocumented immigrants, Montanans can encourage their policymakers to support efforts to allow individuals and families to fully participate in our society. □

MISSOULA NEIGHBORS GRANTED PROTECTION FROM WHITE SUPREMACIST

Dean A. Yates is currently the Montana contact for the American National Socialist Workers' Party. Virginian Bill White formed the group in 2006 when an internal fight caused him to leave the National Socialist Movement, also known as the American Nazi Party (see the October 2006 and June 2006 editions of *Network News* for more information on the National Socialist Movement). White's group claims to fight for "white racial socialism and the white working class."

In July, five Missoula households filed for an Order of Protection against Yates in Missoula County Justice Court. A judge granted the Order, which prohibits Yates from assaulting, threatening, abusing, harassing, following, stalking, contacting, or disturbing the peace of the petitioners and their families or guests. The order prohibits Yates from possessing or using any firearms. He must stay 1,500 feet away from the residents' homes and the Highland Golf Club. He also can no longer live at a neighborhood home.



A recent newsletter issued by the American National Socialist Workers' Party.

Yates had been residing with Fran Therriault, a relative of his girlfriend. His girlfriend is currently in mandated treatment after violating her parole because of an incident involving him, during which she was drunk and resisted arrest. Yates' impact on his neighborhood has been severe. According to court records, he has: discharged automatic weapons; directed anti-Semitic comments at his

neighbors; patrolled in front of his neighbors' houses with an assault rifle; threatened to kill the owner of the Highland Golf Course; assaulted one neighbor; threatened a University of Montana football coach's children; and generally harassed his neighbors.

He has placed National Socialist Movement literature on the front doors of homes, in mailboxes, and on cars, once during a neighborhood Easter egg hunt. Yates has been quoted as saying the following in front of his neighbors:

◆ "The Jews belong in an incinerator."

◆ "I think she is Jewish [referring to a neighbor]. She worries that I would hurt her grandchildren, but I wouldn't – they are cute and they're so white."

◆ While spraying for wasps at his residence, he said, "Jews are like wasps: there's no reason for them to live. They should all be killed like these wasps. This [the sound of the spray can] is the
(*Yates, continued on page 10*)

ANTI-GAY ASSAULTS PLAGUE MONTANA COMMUNITIES

In July, two anti-gay assaults occurred in Montana communities, while suspects in another attack face charges in Missoula. Even though anti-gay bias fueled these crimes, they cannot be treated as hate crimes under the state's Malicious Intimidation and Harassment Act. The Act does not currently include sexual orientation. These recent incidents continue to demonstrate that anti-gay violence happens in Montana and that the current statute needs to be changed.

On July 2, 2007, a middle-aged man was at the Stillwater Bar near Whitefish when he was assaulted by men who assumed he was gay. According to the targeted man, the assault was initiated by Ben Palmer and two other men who directed anti-gay and sexually derogatory comments towards him. The bartender stepped

in and attempted to protect the victim, because she believed Palmer and a second man, Michael Downing, were going to kill him. The victim suffered severe trauma resulting in damage to his brain, eye socket, left ear, jaw and stomach. Early in August, the victim was told by the Flathead County prosecutor that charges would not be filed against the assailants. The victim believes the sheriff's office is basing their case solely on the word of the assailants.

Later in July, following a successful PRIDE Celebration in Billings, a gay man was assaulted outside of a Billings bar. Both witnesses and police consider the attack to be motivated by anti-gay bias. Neither the witnesses nor the victim could provide enough of a de-
(*Hate Crimes, continued on page 11*)

(Gaede, from page 12)

supremacist women. It was up to Gaede and the Women of Aryan Unity to pick the “sisterhood of the 14 Words.” The remaining ashes, Gaede stated, would be dispersed near Robert Mathews’ final resting place. Mathews, the founder of The Order, died in a shootout with law enforcement near Washington’s Whidbey Island.

Gaede reported that the 14 pyramids of ashes were to be kept separated until a “White homeland” was created in the Pacific Northwest. At that time, the ashes would be reunited and become part of a pyramid that would be constructed as a memorial to Lane’s vision. Gaede said she was executing the plan that Lane had described to her. She was also raising money to publish a book of his writings.

“Nazi Pop Twins” Reveals Tension

In July, a British documentary about April Gaede and her teenage daughters was released. Titled “Nazi Pop Twins,” it contained footage of the Gaede family and revealed cracks in the unified front Gaede tries to portray. The film included some disagreements between April and her two daughters over the direction of Prussian Blue’s music. Lamb and Lynx wanted to downplay their racist content, while April wanted it to be front and center. The film left the viewer feeling that Gaede has forced her white supremacist ideology onto her daughters, and Lamb and Lynx are starting to push back. Another interesting set of interviews in the documentary feature April’s mother, who discusses how her husband’s obsession



Lamb and Lynx Gaede perform as the white-power music group Prussian Blue.

with Nazism has ruined their lives. She complained that April is like her father.

David Lane is also part of the documentary. “When the girls were little, they were like daughters or something,” Lane said during a phone call with the Gaede family. He continued by saying, “Now, they’re growing into women and being a natural male....” He started struggling for words. Flustered, he said, “you know what I’m trying to say.” The narrator said it was clear what Lane meant, but the narrator seemed to be the only one bothered by it. Lane finally finished by saying Lamb and Lynx were “like sisters, daughters, fantasy sweethearts” to him.

The inappropriate sexual implications of Lane’s comments about Lamb and Lynx were even more troubling in the context of the hate group to which Gaede belongs, the National Vanguard. The group splintered off from the National Alliance in 2005. Led by Kevin Alfred Strom, it quickly became a major player in the white supremacist movement. However, it fell apart when Strom was arrested on child pornography charges in 2007. By March 2007, the National Vanguard website was encouraging people to join another group, “European Americans United.”

“Just because April Gaede lacks a formal organization for her activism does not mean she is finished,” says the Network’s Travis McAdam. “She will continue using her daughters to sustain her profile in the white supremacist movement. After seeing the documentary, I think the real question becomes how long her daughters will put up with the exploitation.” □

(Yates, from page 9)

last sound you’ll ever hear.”

In June, Yates had repeatedly fired an assault rifle in the neighborhood, and he was involuntarily committed to the Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs for 90 days. He only served 30. His neighbors expressed fear for their children, grandchildren and themselves after his release. Some neighbors didn’t feel comfortable staying

in their own home because of what they feared Yates might do.

When issuing the protective order, the judge told the sheriff to confiscate all the weapons at the Therriault residence. If Yates violates any of the order’s provisions, it is a criminal offense and carries penalties of up to a \$10,000 fine and up to five years in jail. □

(Hate Crimes, from page 9)

scription of the attacker to the police to generate any suspects at this time. The victim was treated for his injuries in intensive care at the Billings hospital.

Currently in Missoula, Daniel Lemay and Christopher Newrider face charges of aggravated kidnapping, felony robbery, and aggravated assault for the brutal attack on Steven Paul Richey. Richey suffered a collapsed lung and numerous broken bones after being hogtied, punched, and kicked by Lemay and Newrider, whom yelled anti-gay epithets during the attack. Both are currently being held in Missoula County Jail on bond and face the possibility of life in prison. Although Missoula Police Detective Dean Christenson investigated the possibility that this was a bias-based crime, the county attorney will be unable to prosecute it as a hate crime because of current law.

Missoula is no stranger to anti-gay assaults. In 1997, Travis Rowell violently stabbed his roommate in a des-

perate attempt to convince him to "become a heterosexual." Rowell was convicted on assault charges. In 2005, five young men attacked two pedestrians, who were perceived to be gay, in downtown Missoula. While yelling anti-gay slurs, the attackers pummeled the victims to the point that both were hospitalized with serious injuries. Two of the assailants were convicted of assault and robbery charges.

Because Montana's hate crimes statute does not include attacks based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, the Network supported legislation during the 2007 Montana Legislature to add it to current law. The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The possibility of enacting hate crimes ordinances at the local level is being considered in Missoula. These types of ordinances have been tried in various communities across the country. For information on options in your community, contact the Network. □

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GAEDE FULFILLS WISHES OF DECEASED ASSASSIN: NEW DOCUMENTARY REVEALS TENSION IN FAMILY

April Gaede's efforts to distance herself from the white supremacist movement became more difficult over the last few months, as she spearheaded the memorial for a racist murderer and a new documentary about her family was released.

Ever since moving her family to Kalispell last year, Gaede has portrayed herself as a benign advocate for the white race. She has continued this characterization despite her history of activism in the hardcore white supremacist movement, which includes her daughters' high profiles in the white-power music scene as Prussian Blue (see the October 2006 edition of *Network News* for more information).

In late May, David Lane died of cancer in an Indiana federal prison. He was 68 years old and serving 190-year sentence as a result of assassinating a Jewish radio-show host and convictions on racketeering charges. His prison sentence stemmed from his participation in a paramilitary white supremacist group, The Order, during the 1980s. The Order accu-

mulated millions of dollars during a crime spree that was then distributed to various white supremacist groups with the hope it would spark a racist revolution.

Once imprisoned, Lane became a prolific writer for the white supremacist movement. As a jailed member of The Order, his musings were treated as gospel by many in the movement, who considered him a prisoner of the race war. Lane coined the "14 Words" which are used as a rallying cry by white supremacists: "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White children."

April Gaede and her family kept in touch with Lane. In fact, Prussian Blue, comprised of Gaede's teenage daughters Lamb and Lynx, even wrote a song with him. However, Gaede's close relationship with Lane became clearer after his death. The prison chaplain contacted her the day Lane died and she arranged to get his body transported to the Flathead. He was cremated at the Bigfork Funeral Home in early June.



Photo from National Vanguard website

April Gaede

On white supremacist websites, Gaede described how Lane's racist legacy would be preserved. She said seven women came to pay their respects to Lane before the cremation. They placed a Confederate flag on his chest and Irish coins in his eyes. "He was a large man," Gaede wrote, "and even in death he looked very imposing and regal as a king." Following his cremation, Lane's ashes were split into 15 piles. Fourteen were placed in engraved bronze pyramids to be distributed to 14 white
(Gaede, continued on page 10)

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