



HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK NEWS

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WRAPPING UP 2008 ELECTIONS, LOOKING TOWARDS 2009

Right-Wing Republicans Rule House Again

As with recent elections, the 2008 results led to a closely-divided Montana Legislature. The House is tied 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans, and the GOP holds a 27-23 advantage in the Senate. Right-wing conservatives still control the Republicans in the House, as evidenced by the leadership the party elected.

Rep. Scott Sales (R-Bozeman) was named Republican Party Leader. During the 2007 session when Republicans held a 50-49 advantage (Rick Jore of the Constitution Party of Montana held the remaining seat), Sales served as Speaker of the House. He made sure right-wing ideology dominated the chamber and that the GOP voted as a block. Upon his election as Speaker in 2007, Sales said the session would be a “war.” His rhetoric and ideology fostered legislative gridlock that resulted in, among other things, the 2007 legislature not passing a budget during its normal session.

Sales’ support for the Religious Right is well established. He served as a board member for Bozeman’s Heritage Christian School. The school’s curriculum is based on the “infallible and inspired” word of God, including science classes that teach biblical creationism.

In order to attend the school, a student must have at least one parent who is a born-again Christian. The *Bozeman Daily Chronicle* reported that all fifth graders recite a pledge to the Christian flag every day. “I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, (Election, cont. on page 2)

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Culture Warriors Elected House Leaders

As they did during the 2007 Montana Legislature, Republicans picked leadership in the Montana House that has significant ties to the Religious Right’s agenda.



*Rep. Scott Sales
(R-Bozeman)*



*Rep. Scott Mendenhall
(R-Clancy)*



*Rep. Tom McGillvray
(R-Billings)*

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and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands,” the pledge stated, “one Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty for all who believe.”

Sales has opposed equal protection under the law for Montana’s gay and lesbian community and supported efforts to limit reproductive freedom.

In 2003, he sponsored legislation to gut Montana’s hate crimes statute. His bill eliminated all classes of people targeted by hate crimes and specifically removed cross burning from the current law. Sales’ bill ignored the history of discrimination and violence that fostered hate crimes laws. His bill died on the House floor.

Sales has consistently displayed anti-gay views. He supported efforts to keep Montana’s unconstitutional sodomy law on the books, even though it is unenforceable, because he thinks it sets a moral standard. When the Montana Supreme Court ruled the state must make the same benefits available to same-sex couples that it does to unmarried heterosexual couples, Sales attacked the Court.

“We have a very activist court that doesn’t reflect...the rank and file people of Montana,” he said. “They think they are rulers instead of judges.” He finished by calling the Supreme Court justices “a group of despots.” While he opposed civil rights for gays and lesbians, Sales complained that legislation banning open alcohol containers in vehicles would be a “loss of civil rights.”

Fellow culture warrior Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R-Clancy) was elected GOP floor leader for the 2009 session. Like Sales, Mendenhall is a favorite of the Religious Right. “My Christian beliefs are at the core of my personal life and how I make decisions,” he told the media during one of his campaigns. “In my mind, I have an ideal of what we aspire to—I want to be a supporter of the traditional family.” He has warned conservative Christians that they must fight against “the extreme liberal left” that seeks to “undermine traditional family values.”

Mendenhall opposes abortion in all cases, including

when pregnancy results from rape or incest and even to protect a woman’s health. When speaking at a 2005 anti-choice rally, Mendenhall said he always stands for Jesus Christ and that meant being anti-choice. He claimed that the *Roe v. Wade* decision was a “direct violation” of why America was founded.

On his campaign website, Mendenhall stated, “Family values are under attack now more than ever. We need to strengthen and preserve this institution.” His website also reported his support of “traditional marriage.” He proudly endorsed Montana’s constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and said that his candidacy was supported by the Montana Family Foundation.

The position of Assistant GOP Minority Leader in 2009 went to Rep. Tom McGillvray (R-Billings). In addition to serving as a pastor for ten years, he sat on the board for Montanans for Decency Through Law, a leading Religious Right group that pushes local censorship ordinances.

In 2007, he sponsored legislation to revive Montana’s anti-choice parental consent law, which has already been ruled unconstitutional. As for the likely prospect that the bill would face lawsuits if passed, McGillvray said, “bring ’em on.” During his time on the House Judiciary Committee, he has been a consistent anti-gay voice, especially in opposing any proposals he thinks would encourage gay and lesbian couples to adopt children.

Both Sales and Mendenhall beat out challengers who called for more civility and respect in the GOP caucus. Instead, the GOP again elected House leadership that wants to use the chamber as the battlefield on which to make right-wing ideological stands. After being named Republican Party Leader, Sales said the fact that Republicans maintained 50 seats following the 2007 session meant that Montanans approved of his party’s actions. He said he thought the GOP had a “mandate” for their agenda going into the 2009 session.

Koopman’s Successful RINO Hunters



Joel Boniek



Mike Miller



Mike More



Lee Randall

Four of Koopman’s RINO Hunters Win House Races

In March 2008, Rep. Roger Koopman (R-Bozeman)
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(Election, from page 2)

announced his intention to defeat moderate Republicans (often called Republicans in Name Only) during the GOP Primary.

In an e-mail to David Hart, the state coordinator for Ron Paul's presidential campaign, Koopman outlined his intention to recruit 13 "pro-freedom, Constitutional conservatives" to run in primaries against "socialist incumbent 'Republicans,' who have consistently sold out the cause of liberty in the Montana Legislature." He called his plan "The Liberty Project" and claimed he was working under the banner of the Republican National Assembly, which bills itself as "the Republican wing of the Republican Party." Koopman based his list of targets on a voting record compiled by Rob Natelson's Montana Conservatives.

All four of Koopman's protégés who won in the primaries also won in the General Election: Joel Boniek (Livingston), Mike Miller (Helmville), Mike More (Gallatin Gateway) and Lee Randall (Broadus). They will no doubt form part of the right-wing block in the Montana House. In 2004, Boniek unsuccessfully ran for the legislature on the ticket of the extremist Constitution Party of Montana (see below).

Constitution Party of Montana Swings Secretary of State Race

In 2006, Rick Jore won a seat in the Montana Legislature, becoming the highest office holder ever elected on the Constitution Party ticket. Due to the years he served in the House as a Republican, Jore was banned by term limits from running in 2008. Nonetheless, the party did field nine candidates for the Montana Legislature, one for Secretary of State, and one for president.

None of the Constitution Party of Montana candidates won office in 2008. Unlike past election cycles, the party also did not cost Republicans any legislative races. However, they can claim to have tipped one of the statewide

racers. The party's candidate for Secretary of State, Sieglinde Sharbono, received 11,722 "conservative" votes. That was more than enough votes taken from incumbent Republican Brad Johnson to result in Democrat Linda McCulloch winning the office.

The Constitution Party of Montana's presidential candidate, U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), did not perform as well as many predicted. In the Primary Election, Paul was still listed on the Republican ballot in Montana. In a head-to-head match up with John McCain, Paul received 22% of the vote. However, in the General Election on the Constitution Party of Montana ticket, he received only about 2% of the vote.

Two former Constitution Party of Montana candidates who were on the ballot as Republicans in 2008 had mixed results. Ron Marquardt lost his attempt to win Rick Jore's old House District 12 seat. Democrat John Fleming beat Marquardt with almost 63% of the vote.

However, Livingston's Joel Boniek easily won his race for House District 61. While he doesn't formally represent the Constitution Party of Montana, he brings that perspective with him. This was partially revealed by his participation in an "End the Fed" rally in late November (see related article on page 9).

Before the General Election, the Flathead County Constitution Party voted to support incumbent Republican Bill Beck in his race for House District 6. Although the party had a candidate in the race (Timothy Martin), spokesperson Richard Stevens said Martin did not attend party functions. However, Stevens said Beck did attend their meetings. Stevens stated endorsing Beck continued the Flathead Constitution Party's history of supporting "constitutionally based Republicans." Beck won the race.

Radical Right Reacts to Obama

The historic campaign and election of Barack Obama as the first person of color to serve as president brought a

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Rep. Bill Beck (R-Whitefish) was favored by Constitution Party of Montana



Sieglinde Sharbono's campaign website featured this picture of her with Ron Paul.

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backlash from various sectors of the right wing.

Some white supremacists hoped Obama's victory would serve as a wakeup call to the white race. A poster to the Vanguard News Network wrote, "He [Obama] will make things so bad for the white people that hopefully they will finally realize how stupid they were for admiring these jigaboos all these years." A fellow poster echoed this theme, saying an Obama presidency might make white people "pissed off enough to actually do something." Another said the Obama presidency would provide a huge boost to Ku Klux Klan membership.

Other white supremacists wanted to take violent action. "...[W]e all know what happened to the old

JFK," read one Vanguard News Network posting, "I just hope it happens in the timing of RFK BEFORE he [Obama] can take office." Even more direct, a message on another website stated, "I'm hoping someone will do his public duty of putting a bullet through Obama's head." Other postings recommended bringing back lynchings.

A plot by white supremacists to assassinate Obama was disrupted in late October. Federal authorities arrested Paul Schesselman and Daniel Cowart, who had met online through their common interest in white su-

premacy. Cowart was involved with the Supreme White Alliance, a racist skinhead group. In addition to killing Obama, the two planned to decapitate 14 other African Americans and kill 88 people all together.

The numbers are significant to the white supremacist movement. The "14 Words" are popular among racists, representing the statement, "We must secure the existence of our people and

to see Obama in a grave by mid-January. Another report involved two elementary students, likely repeating comments they heard at home.

Another manifestation of right-wing activity since Obama's election has been the influence of the gun rights movement. Montana newspapers have featured numerous articles about gun shops experiencing drastic increases in weapon and ammunition purchases.

This run on firearms locally was spurred by the national gun lobby which claims Obama will take away people's guns and/or implement strict gun control policies.

A few local quotes demonstrate the influence of this national rhetoric. "At the end of the day, Obama will have all of the weapons in his hands, not yours," Larry Blakesley, chair of the Gallatin County Republican Central Committee, told the media.

Bruin Herr of Missoula's Axmen Firearms stated, "People are paranoid, and they should be. Obama will restrict guns." An article in *The Missoulian* noted that local gun shops witnessed an increase in people buying assault weapons and handguns, not hunting rifles.

For more on how the right-wing uses gun rights to bludgeon its political opponents, please see the Network's special report *Shooting for Respectability: Firearms, False Patriots, and Politics in Montana*, which is available at www.mhrn.org. □



Paul Schesselman (left) and Daniel Cowart (right) were arrested for plotting to assassinate Barack Obama along with killing other people of color.

a future for white children." The number 88 is common in the movement as well. The letter "H" is the eighth letter of the alphabet, and white supremacists use 88 as shorthand for "Heil Hitler."

Threats of violence have not just been relegated to white supremacists. The Human Rights Network has received reports from community members concerned about threats they have overheard directed at Obama.

Among them was one report about callers to a local right-wing radio program who had threatened Obama, including one person who said he wanted

LESBIAN MOM WINS RIGHT TO PARENT HER CHILDREN

In late September, Missoula District Court Judge Ed McLean affirmed Michelle Kulstad's right to continue to co-parent her own children as she has done since they were barely toddlers. This was the first case in Montana to examine the parental rights of same-sex parents once their relationship has ended.

Kulstad and Barbara Maniaci lived together as a couple for 10 years. In 2001, they adopted a son and, in 2004, a daughter. They parented the children together, but because same-sex partners cannot adopt children as a couple, Maniaci was the legal adoptive parent.

After the two women separated, Maniaci attempted to sever Kulstad's relationship with the children. Kulstad was forced to go to court to maintain access to see her children. In March 2007, Judge McLean agreed she had a parental interest and granted her time with the children until the final ruling in the case. In September, McLean ruled Kulstad was a legal parent to the two children and awarded her joint custody.

According to Judge McLean, "To discriminate further against Ms. Kulstad because of her sexual [orientation] in this day and age is no different than telling a person to go to the back of the bus because of her skin color." The full decision can be read on the Network's website: <http://mhrn.org/findings.html>.

Maniaci had played a taped message every night to her children stating that Kulstad "is not your mommy." The court threatened that Maniaci's parenting time would be reduced if she continued to "indoctrinate the children against Ms. Kulstad."

Shortly after McLean's decision, Maniaci announced she would appeal the case to the Montana Supreme Court. The case is an important milestone in the movement towards full equality. A Supreme Court ruling that a same-sex co-parent has a constitutionally-protected parental bond with her children is a decision that would impact lesbian and gay families into the future. The ACLU of Montana recognized the legal impact of this case and stepped in to partner with Kulstad's attorney.

Maniaci enlisted the help of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). Austin Nimocks, Maniaci's ADF attorney, claimed the case was not about Kulstad's sexual orientation. This claim is undermined by the fact that the ADF was founded

by prominent leaders of the Religious Right to push their right-wing fundamentalist ideology in the courts. The ADF dedicates itself to many of the Religious Right's favorite issues—opposing equal rights for gay people, forcing theology into public schools, and limiting reproductive freedom.

At the same time he said the case wasn't about sexual orientation, Nimocks compared the women's long-term relationship to being "roommates" or "acquaintances" in an obvious attempt to diminish same-sex relationships.

Judge McLean rejected the testimony of ADF's "expert" witness, saying she was "not qualified to serve as an expert witness on the subject of the relevance of parental sexual orientation on children's develop-

ment because [she] does not possess the requisite knowledge, skill, experience, training, or education to assist the Court."

The court affirmed the American Psychological Association's conclusion that "there is no evidence to suggest that same sex couples are unfit to be parents, or that psychosocial development among children of same sex couples is compromised in any respect relative to children raised by heterosexual couples."

If Kulstad and Maniaci had been a straight couple, custody and division of property would have been simple and straight forward. Because gay and lesbian families do not have equal protection under the law, they can be legal strangers to the people they love the most, leaving them open to an out-of-state, anti-gay organization like the ADF to rip their families apart.

McLean's decision stated, "It is in the best interests of the children for Ms. Kulstad to have decision-making authority on par with Ms. Maniaci regarding significant matters affecting the children, including but not limited to education, activities, health care, and spiritual upbringing.... Ms. Kulstad is a loving and stable force in the children's lives."

Following the decision, Kulstad said, "Judge McLean said what I already know, that I always have been, and always will be a parent to our children." The ACLU of Montana's Scott Crichton added, "This shows that gay parents are every bit as qualified to care for their children" as

(Custody, cont. on page 10)



The Alliance Defense Fund litigated on behalf of keeping a lesbian mother away from her children.

NATIVE AMERICANS, MIGRANTS TARGETED BY HATE CRIMES

Anti-Indian Assaults: County Attorney Downplays Race

In early December, the Blackfeet Tribe called for the resignation of Glacier County Attorney Larry Epstein. "County Attorney Epstein can no longer effectively represent the Indian people of Glacier County because of his racial bias, which leaves the Indian people with no protection or fair prosecution of the crimes perpetrated against them," the Tribe stated. The Tribe also said Epstein "has shown and continues to show a disdain for members of the Blackfeet Tribe" and was often in the "center of much racial tension in Glacier County." Epstein has not resigned.

The Tribes' action is the latest development in a story that began in late September. Native American John Hall ran into trouble with three white brothers outside a Cut Bank bar. When a Glacier County Commissioner, also Native American, tried to intervene, he was assaulted with punches, kicks and racial slurs. Despite the role race played, the Glacier County Attorney didn't file hate crimes charges.

County Commissioner Ron Rides at the Door saw the brothers beating and kicking Hall on the ground. He was worried they were going to kill Hall. He stepped in to try and stop the fight. Todd Molenda and his brothers, Brian and Aaron, then turned their attention to Rides at the Door.

Rides at the Door told his attackers he didn't want any trouble; however, they started kicking and punching him. When he tried to dial 911, his cell phone was knocked away and one of the Molenda brothers called him a "fu**ing Indian."

Rides at the Door's wife tried to come his rescue and was told "Go back to Browning you fu**ing Indian." Dale Guardipee, also Native American, said the attackers were shouting phrases like "dirty Indian." When Guardipee tried to help Rides at the Door, he was also assaulted.

Despite the obvious role race played in the attacks, Epstein refused to charge the brothers with violating the

state's hate crimes statute. Instead, the brothers were initially charged with misdemeanor assault to which they pleaded innocent. The charges carried a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a \$500 fine.

Epstein told the press he didn't think race was the motivating factor in the case and that was why he did not press hate crimes charges. Rides at the Door disagreed. "Why would there be any racial slurs brought up if this was a typical bar brawl?" he told the media. "They could have called me any name in the book, but they called me a dirty fu**ing Indian."

In late October, the Blackfeet Tribe called on Epstein to file the assault charges as felonies under Montana's hate

crimes statute. If not, the Tribe suggested Epstein ask the Montana Attorney General to look into case. Epstein responded that he had already asked the attorney general to review his decision. The Tribe pointed out that all the targets were Native American, and the Molenda brothers used racial slurs during the attacks.

The attorney general's office agreed with Epstein that the assaults were not racially-motivated. However, the state did say the misdemeanor charges should be re-filed as felonies. The Cut Bank City Attorney dismissed the original misdemeanor charges so felony charges could be filed by the state. In mid-December, the Molenda brothers pleaded not guilty to the felony assault charges. They face a maximum of 20 years in prison, a fine up to \$50,000, or both.

Mushroom Pickers Targeted

In mid-July, migrant workers in the Flathead Valley were the targets of hate crimes. The workers were in the area picking morel mushrooms, which are valuable

(Hate crimes, cont. on page 7)



Photo from Glacier County website

When Glacier County Commissioner Ron Rides at the Door tried to stop an assault, he became the target of a bias-based attack.

(Hate crimes, from page 6)

commodities to high-end restaurants and typically grow in abundance on the forest floor following fires.

Three men from Marion have been charged with violating the state's hate crimes statute for their roles in attacking migrant workers: Edward Hubbs, Daniel Devine, and Karl Trent.

Authorities reported that Hubbs and his sister were at a gas station near Marion. At some point, they felt offended by the migrant workers who were also at the station. Hubbs waited outside in the parking lot and "began threatening people and shouting racial slurs." Hubbs would later claim some of workers had threatened to beat him up. The night's events didn't end at the gas station.

Police reports stated that two pickups and a car pulled into to the Moose Crossing campground about 10:00 p.m. on a Saturday night. Somewhere between seven and 10 men got out and started yelling racial slurs and throwing bottles into campsites. When they found the migrant workers they were looking for, they started knocking them down one by one until the migrants fought back. Witnesses said the migrant workers did nothing to provoke the attacks. One of the attackers, allegedly Hubbs, had a rifle and fired five or six shots into the air.

Some of Hubbs' friends tried to stop the attacks and later told authorities what had happened. Flathead County Sheriff Mike Meehan said this wasn't the first contact his department had with Hubbs and Devine. When Hubbs fired his rifle in the air, Meehan said it was not in self defense, but "an attempt to intimidate."

In August, Hubbs, Devine and Trent pleaded innocent to charges of felony malicious intimidation based on the campground attacks. "Their intent was definitely to intimidate based on race," said Meehan, "and there was definitely some hate-natured slurs." Meehan said it was clear they were the "aggressors." Meehan maintained that he thought this was an isolated incident and not part of any organized white supremacist activity. Each attacker faces five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines.

Kalispell white supremacist April Gaede was quick to declare the attacks a good development. Under the heading "Montana mushrooms spawn race war," she declared on a white supremacist website that the attacks were "great." She also wrote that "everyone I talked to today was on the side of the whites!!!!"

Fellow posters to the Stormfront website declared it was about time that "Whites are getting angry with the amount of illegal aliens in the country." Another said the real name for "migrant" was "illegal wetback."

Gaede also wrote a letter to the local newspaper. She stated she wasn't surprised "a certain amount of animosity exists toward foreign exploiters/vultures [sic]" in the area that picked mushrooms for businesses outside Montana. She said local citizens were in for a "big surprise" when the area was no longer a "white majority." She claimed crime would increase with more people of color.

Nothing in any of the reports suggested that the migrant workers were undocumented. Most likely, the workers of Asian descent were Hmong and U.S. citizens. However, it was not surprising to see white supremacists linking the attacks to the immigration issue.



Photo from National Vanguard website

White supremacist April Gaede of Kalispell was quick to call the bias-based attacks a good development that might lead to a race war.

"You could pretty much script how the white supremacist movement was going to react to the attacks," said the Network's Travis McAdam. "Hard-core white supremacists are always trying to weasel their way into the immigration debate. Unfortunately, all across the country, they are exploiting the hot-button issue of immigration policy for their own gains."

National organizations like the Southern Poverty Law Center and Anti-Defamation League have documented a rise in the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups due to the current debate over immigration. To read more about how right-wing groups are exploiting the scapegoating of New Americans, see the August 2007 edition of *Network News*. □

STOKES' MOUTH COSTS HIM OVER \$3 MILLION

RADIO HOST ALSO ORDERED TO TAKE DOWN SWASTIKAS

Since taking over Kalispell's KGEZ Radio, John Stokes and his callers have used his talk show, "The Edge," to target and harass people in the Flathead Valley. They have discussed violent acts they would like to carry out against community members, even giving directions and addresses to the targets' homes. Stokes has also burned green swastikas at his station to intimidate local conservationists, whom he calls "Green Nazis."

In mid-September, Stokes' rhetoric finally caught up with him when he was slapped with a \$3.8 million judgment in a defamation lawsuit. The lawsuit was filed by Todd

and Davar Gardner, who had won a previous case against Stokes involving an easement on the property where KGEZ's broadcast towers are located.

As a result of the easement case, the Gardners were frequently discussed on "The Edge." Whenever they came up, the

Gardners would tape the show and those recordings provided the basis for the defamation suit. It focused on three statements Stokes made on the air after losing the easement case:

- ◆ The Gardners lied under oath during the easement litigation.
- ◆ The Gardners submitted a false affidavit during the easement litigation.
- ◆ The Gardners committed bank fraud by obtaining a \$900,000 loan from Glacier Bank under false conditions.

Prior to the defamation trial, both sides agreed in court filings that the statements were false. However, while on the stand, Stokes said he stood by the accuracy of the statements. While Stokes claimed the remarks were true, his



attorney, Greg Paskell, argued that the comments were protected under the First Amendment.

During the trial, much of the evidence contradicted Stokes' claims. The Gardners' attorney said his clients lost some business due to Stokes' comments and had damage done to their reputations. Of the \$3.8 million judgment against Stokes, \$900,000 was for monetary and emotional damage. The jury also found that Stokes acted with malice and awarded an additional \$2 million.

Following the verdict, Todd Gardner said he knew it was unlikely they would ever see any money. However, he said the ruling was still important. "Just because you have a microphone doesn't mean you can attack someone," he told the press.



John Stokes burns a green swastika at his radio station to intimidate local conservationists.

The day after the jury's verdict, Stokes was back on the air. "Out of 4,600 hours of being on the air," he claimed, "I screwed up for three minutes."

The reality is Stokes has always played fast and loose when it comes to the veracity of his comments on the air.

For examples of his rhetoric, check out the Network's 2002 report *School Yard Bullies: The Harassment of Conservationists in the Flathead* at www.mhrn.org.

Court Orders Removal of Swastikas

In July, Lake County District Court Judge Kim Christopher ruled that John Stokes could not display a sign featuring swastikas and the message, "Keep out. No entry. No stopping. No hunting. No travel. No trespassing. If you stop long enough to read the sign, we've had enough time to put a rifle scope on your head and vehicle. Get out and stay out. This property protected by The Brotherhood."

Stokes had posted one of the signs by the entrance to
(Stokes, cont. on page 10)

HELENA HOSTS PAUL-INSPIRED “END THE FED” RALLY

On the coattails of the November presidential election, Montana supporters of Ron Paul joined their allies from around the country to rally against the Federal Reserve System.

In late November, a small crowd, including two incoming state legislators, gathered in Helena to protest what they considered to be the unconstitutional use of a private bank to regulate national currency. This “End the Fed” rally was held outside of the Federal Reserve Bank in Helena and was one of 39 rallies held around the country by Ron Paul supporters.

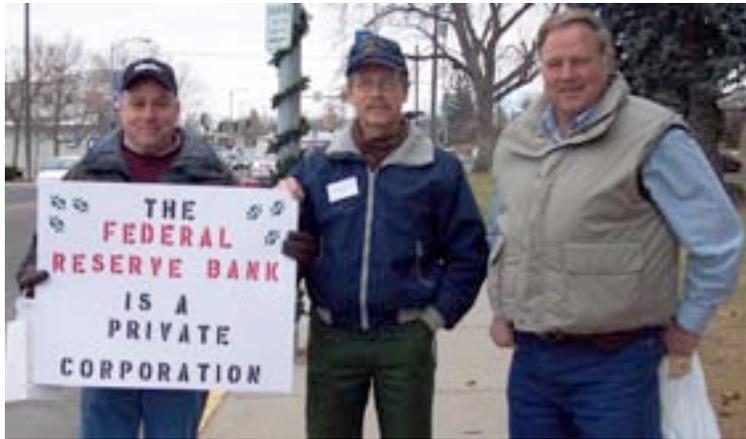
The fight by Ron Paul for the Republican presidential nomination may have ended in a loss; however, it fostered a significant online and on-the-ground movement to change the Republican Party.

In Montana, the Constitution Party of Montana and the right wing of the Republican Party exploited the state GOP’s caucus and rallied behind Paul, a Republican from Texas. Paul finished second, with 24.5% of the vote, to Mitt Romney. Later in June, Paul returned to Montana as the featured speaker at the Montana Republican Convention. He appeared on the General Election ballot in the state as the presidential choice of the Constitution Party of Montana.

In September when the National Republican Convention met in Minnesota, Paul’s *Campaign for Liberty* and 10,000 supporters held the *Rally for the Republic* just miles away at the

Target Center. At the Republican Convention, Paul received 15 delegate votes to John McCain’s 2,343 and Mitt Romney’s two.

Paul has long been a favorite of the “patriot” movement, due to his support for unlimited gun rights, one-world government conspiracy theories, and flirtations with white su-



Incoming Republican state Representative Joel Boniek (middle) and Bob Wagner (right) attended the “End the Fed” rally in Helena.

premacists and anti-Semites. Within the “patriot” movement, he is especially liked by the anti-tax movement, because he believes the income tax is unconstitutional and that Federal Reserve Notes (our cash dollars) are worthless currency.

In addition to abolishing the income tax and the IRS, Paul has fervently advocated that America return to the gold and silver standard and get rid of the Federal Reserve System.

In November 2007, federal agents raided the National Organization for the Elimination of the Federal Reserve (NORFED) offices in Indiana and Idaho. NORFED is a “patriot” scheme intended to disrupt America’s banking and currency system. The raid happened right before NORFED was preparing to mail out its

first batch of “Ron Paul Dollars,” copper coins that were to be sold for \$1 and featured Paul’s face. NORFED had already shipped out over 10,000 silver “Ron Paul Dollars” that sold for \$20.

An affidavit filed by the federal government stated that NORFED engaged in mail fraud, wire fraud, money laundering and conspiracy. Two years ago, the U.S. Mint issued a warning against using NORFED’s standard “Liberty Dollars.”

The *Campaign for Liberty* was created by Paul in the summer of 2008 as a means of continuing the grassroots efforts that had surrounded his presidential campaign. The mission

of the organization is to “promote and defend the principles of individual liberty, constitutional government, sound money, free markets, and non-interventionism, by means of educational and political activity.”

Paul and the *Campaign for Liberty* have an active online community, which was where plans for the “End the Fed” rallies in Montana and around the country were organized.

“End the Fed” rallies were held at Federal Reserve Bank branches across the country to promote the view that the Federal Reserve System is unconstitutional. Supporters of the effort claimed that the current financial and economic crisis is a direct result of the relationship between the Federal Reserve, the U.S. dollar, and financial
(End the Fed, cont. on page 10)

(End the Fed, from page 9)

markets.

The anti-Semitic *American Free Press* reported on the 39 “End the Fed” rallies, stating, “The tanking economy—run with Federal Reserve debt notes that represent the captivity of the people’s money and credit by entrenched private bankers—is aggravating an increasing number of Americans who are fed up with living in Fedville.”

Comments such as these were not unlike those heard at the “End the Fed” rally in Helena. There were almost 20 people at the event. Some were from Helena, but many were from other places in Montana and the region, including Pony, Billings, and Boise, ID. Local organizers Illa Adams and Terry Frisch are active in the *Campaign for Liberty* and are local Republican precinct people on the Lewis and Clark Republican Central Committee. Terry Main from Billings was another primary organizer. She said the *Campaign for Liberty* was a way to get politically involved in your local precincts for Ron Paul, to end the Federal Reserve, and to “tak[e] back our country.”

A couple from Boise and other participants declared the income tax unconstitutional and supported getting back to gold standard. Conversations, however, didn’t stay on economics alone and the broader right-wing agenda of the participants was apparent.

A man from Helena went on an anti-choice rant where he equated abortion with eugenics and claimed incoming President Barack Obama wanted to increase abortions. A woman from Boise responded that China’s one-baby policy originated from America’s eugenics program, which she said is now known as Planned Parenthood. Anti-gay sentiments were also murmured throughout the crowd.

Incoming Republican state legislators Bob Wagner (R-Harrison) and Joel Boniek (R-Livingston) attended the Helena rally. Wagner spent most of his time hanging up banners, while Boniek talked about the “fraudulent money system.” Boniek referenced buying silver and gold and taking actions to “protect yourself.” He said he previously ran for the Montana Legislature on the Constitution Party of Montana ticket, but said that, “Republicans in Montana are better than a lot of places.” Boniek also claimed most current problems are a result of bankers trying to control us.

Organizers handed out gift bags with *The Republic* magazine, DVDs, and brochures/articles from various anti-government and free-market commentators. A brochure from the Yellowstone County Constitution Party and a DVD called *End Gave*, were also included. □

(Stokes, from page 8)

a neighbor’s property. The neighbors were trying to sell their property. Stokes offered to buy the land, but the sellers found his proposal unacceptable. The neighbors’ “For Sale” signs were torn down, and Stokes put up the placards featuring swastikas. The neighbors said the signs scared away potential buyers.

Stokes responded that he had posted swastika signs on his property for up to 13 years without any objections. In a letter regarding the case, Stokes said the swastika was a “religious symbol” and it was “well-known” that he was “associated with swastikas.” Stokes has burned green swastikas at his radio station to intimidate conservationists. However, the swastikas on these signs were black, which are commonly used by neo-Nazis.

In typical Stokes fashion, he counter-sued his neighbors. In filings, he claimed they had intimidated him with fully-automatic weapons, and he had received numerous death threats. He sought \$5.6 million in damages.

In her ruling, Judge Christopher declared that Stokes could not post his swastika signs on the road shared by Stokes and his neighbors. She also required him to pay over \$5,800 in legal costs.

These two losses add to a list of failed litigation Stokes has endured. For more on past cases involving Stokes, please see the December 2007 and December 2005 editions of *Network News*. □

(Custody, from page 4)

straight couples.

The Network believes all families should be treated equally under the law and is committed to strengthening the law through the legislative process. Whether it is about employment rights or relationship rights, we know that Montanans support fairness. According to a recent poll of Montana voters by Lake Research Partners, more than 8 out of 10 Montanans (84%) believe that gay couples and their children deserve the same legal protections as other people. Full poll results can be found on the Network’s website: <http://mhrn.org/equalityproject.html>.

To fight this attempt to break up her family, Kulstad has accumulated substantial legal fees. The Network is asking you to help. To contribute to Kulstad’s defense online, please go to: <http://mhrn.org/findings.html>. Also, checks can be made out to MHRN legal defense fund and sent to P.O. Box 1509, Helena, MT 59624. □

Photo from the Network's Archives

In April 2008, both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton spoke at the Montana Democratic Party's annual Mansfield-Metcalf Dinner in Butte.

Bozeman-area white supremacist Kevin McGuire showed up at the event with a placard featuring a swastika and racist slurs. McGuire has been active with both the National Alliance and National Vanguard, both national hate groups.

Members of the local peace group were also present outside the event, demonstrating against the Iraq War. Offended by McGuire's sign, they stood by him with their signs and sang songs about equality and justice until he took his sign and left. A special thanks to Butte TAPS for sending along this picture.



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HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL



January 19, 2009

Myrna Loy Center

For Tickets 442-5506 or www.mhrn.org

\$30 Full Day Pass

\$10 Evening Film

\$5 Afternoon Film

FEATURING:

2:00 pm

Mighty Times: The Children's March

Youth Film (10 yrs+) Young people in Birmingham Alabama braved fire hoses & police dogs in 1963 & brought segregation to its knees.

5:00 pm

Strange Fruit

Exploring Billie Holiday's haunting classic & the history of lynching through the interplay of race, labor, the left, & popular culture.

6:15 pm

Fundraising Reception

Immigrant Rights as Human Rights: Featuring Speaker Shaid Haque-Hausrath of Border Crossing Law Firm. Wine & hors d'oeuvre provided.

7:45 pm

The Immigrant & Detained

Charlie Chaplin's Classic paired with "Detained: The New Bedford Immigration Raid" about two families effected by a 2007 I.C.E. raid of undocumented immigrants, mostly women with small kids, who were working at a factory producing vests for the U.S. military.

9:20 pm

Do the Right Thing

The 1989 classic Spike Lee film tells a tale of bigotry & racial conflict in a multi-ethnic community in a Brooklyn, New York neighborhood on the hottest day of the year.

Preceding Features

Media That Matters Shorts

A showcase of short films on the most important topics of the day. From gay rights to racial discrimination, the films are equally diverse in style and content. What all the films have in common is that they spark debate and action in 12 minutes or less.

MONTANA HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

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