

HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK NEWS

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WHITE SUPREMACIST ARRESTED IN BELGRADE: MCGUIRE CRONIES HAVE VIOLENT HISTORIES

Kevin McGuire, an organizer for the white supremacist National Alliance, routinely tries to portray the group as a harmless, European-American heritage group. In reality, the National Alliance has a history of producing violent activists (see the November 2004 and June 2005 editions of *Network News* for more information). This summer, McGuire himself ran afoul of the law.

On August 27, authorities arrested McGuire for barging into a Belgrade apartment and demanding to talk to a woman who lived there. He was asked to leave, but refused. Instead, he said he would fight three men who were at the residence. He left after the police were called. Police arrested McGuire shortly thereafter and charged him with criminal trespass and disorderly conduct. He pleaded not guilty and faces trial in October.

Convicted Skinhead and Domestic Abuser Support McGuire

One of McGuire's associates in Bozeman is Ryan Flaherty, formerly of the Montana Front Working Class Skinheads, who served prison time for committing a hate crime. The Billings-based Working Class Skins formed in 2000, and, according to court documents, began preparing for a racial holy war. One of their activities was "Park Patrol." Group members armed themselves with clubs, chains, and bats and patrolled Billings' Pioneer Park. They tried to make it a "whites only" location, and they were charged under the federal hate crimes law for verbally and physically threatening people of color who entered the park.

In 2001, six members of the Working Class Skins were convicted on the hate crimes charges and sent to prison. Flaherty received a little over three years and showed up frequently on white
(*McGuire, continued on page 2*)



Kevin McGuire
National Alliance

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profit organization.*

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Kaufmann, Ken Toole,
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Nicholson.*

(*McGuire, continued from page 1*) supremacist websites as an “Aryan Prisoner of War.” He was released from prison in August 2004.

Supporting McGuire has turned into a family affair for Flaherty. Ryan’s parents, Gregory and Judee, signed McGuire’s nominating petition when he ran for the Bozeman School Board (see the June 2005 *Network News* for more information on McGuire’s political campaign). Many people called the Network after learning of McGuire’s political campaign, concerned that a white supremacist was running for school board. A few actually had called the 39 people who signed McGuire’s petition. Most of the people who signed the petition had no idea who McGuire was or what he represents. However, callers to the Network stated that Gregory and Judee Flaherty showed no regret for signing the petition. In fact, members of the Bozeman community reported that Gregory Flaherty accompanied McGuire while he was gathering signatures.

Brandon Berg, who also signed McGuire’s nominating petition, showed up at a debate between school-board candidates to support McGuire. Like Flaherty, Berg has a violent past. In 2003, Berg hit his girlfriend in the stomach, bashed her head into kitchen cabinets, tied her to a chair with an extension cord, and threatened to kill her with a butcher

knife. Berg’s two felony charges were reduced to misdemeanor assault, and he was sentenced to six months probation, ordered to take anger management classes, and to not drink alcohol. In March 2005, Berg ran into the law again, when he held a meter reader at gunpoint (the gun turned out to be fake).

McGuire Teams Up with Another Racist Organizer

After failing to get on the Bozeman School Board, McGuire’s next public appearance came this

tions decided they didn’t like how Richard Butler was running the group. Dillavou, originally from the Midwest, moved to Missoula a few years ago. The group held its first major event and recruiting effort, “The Gathering,” last summer near St. Regis. It was on the same weekend Aryan Nations’ held its “Aryan World Congress” in Idaho and was clearly a strategy by Dillavou’s group to snatch members away from Aryan Nations. Dillavou’s move to Missoula is troubling. He has stated the group would like to buy land in the Rocky Mountain West, so it could

have an Aryan Nations-like compound of its own (for more background on the Church of True Israel, see <http://mhrn.org/news/0201CTI.html> and <http://www.mhrn.org/news/flash40.html>).

McGuire and Dillavou’s joint appearance in Helena is not likely the beginning of a formal working relationship between the National Alliance and the Church of True Israel at the national level. Instead, it

is common at the local level for fellow white supremacists to turn out in support of their racist comrades. While ideological bickering between national white supremacist groups is fairly common, hate group organizers at the community level, like McGuire and Dillavou, need any support they can find. This may not be the last time we see them together in public. □



Kevin McGuire and others protested the Montana Pride Celebration in Helena. McGuire is fourth from the left (in the shirt and tie). He was joined by James Dillavou of the Church of True Israel (second from the right).

summer when he and six others protested Montana’s annual gay rights celebration in June. Holding up a National Alliance banner and placards reading “Families Not Fags” and “Medication Not Marriage,” McGuire and his cohorts demonstrated in Helena’s Anchor Park.

One of McGuire’s fellow protestors was James Dillavou, the main activist for the Church of True Israel. The Church of True Israel formed when certain members of Aryan Na-

MOM LEADER FACES CHARGES IN

WASHINGTON WHEN HE ALSO LEAVES HIM

John Trochmann, co-founder and leader of the Militia of Montana, faces charges of kidnapping and assault in Spokane, WA. They originated from a September 2004 dispute over a firearm.

The story revolves around John Trochmann's niece, Vanessa Sulpizio. The "Affidavit of Facts" filed with the court says Sulpizio and her boyfriend went to Noxon in September 2004 for her sister's wedding. They camped in a tent in Trochmann's backyard and only went in the house to use the bathroom and do laundry. After the wedding, they headed back to Spokane.

Trochmann and his wife, Carolyn, confronted Sulpizio while she was working at Goodwill Industries.

They accused her of stealing a gun from Trochmann. Sulpizio told them she knew nothing of the gun. The Trochmanns then physically removed her from the store and tried to force her into a car. A customer at the store intervened and told the Trochmanns to leave Sulpizio alone.

One witness quoted in the "Affidavit of Facts" stated she saw John Trochmann "roughing [Sulpizio] up" in the parking lot, and Trochmann was saying he had the right to force Sulpizio into the car. Another witness stated Sulpizio was "screaming for help" in the parking lot, and Trochmann was restraining Sulpizio in a "bear hug fashion." The Trochmanns left the scene before police arrived.

The Militia of Montana (MOM) reported on John Trochmann's situation in August 2005. The group asked its members for money to help retain a defense attorney. It promised to refund contributions as soon as it could "liquidate assets." Apparently, MOM didn't get much in the way of funds, because it later reported having to borrow \$10,000 to retain an attorney. On August 10, MOM reported that Trochmann was released from Washington's Geiger Correctional Facility and was free on a \$150,000 bond.

According to the court, Trochmann has a hearing set for October 10, 2005, at which he must appear. His trial date is scheduled for October 31.

Militia Family Values?

MOM's alerts about Trochmann's legal troubles in Washington kept referring to Carolyn Trochmann as John's "estranged wife." This alluded to a development earlier this year.

In February 2005, Carolyn Trochmann announced she was divorcing John. She reported that "my husband of 18 years has decided that he wants a divorce," because he "has gotten involved with another woman." Carolyn stated she would "be leaving the [MOM] office soon" and was training a replacement. Carolyn assumed the position of office manager after Randy Trochmann, a MOM co-founder, left the group in 2000. The only

person left at headquarters to help out was another MOM co-founder, David Trochmann, who took on some of the duties when Carolyn left.

"John Trochmann has lost yet another key component of MOM in Carolyn, not to mention another family member," says Travis McAdam, the Network's Research Director. "He already lost Randy Trochmann, and you wonder how long David will last. Our impression is that John was never the task master, and it fell on others to run the day-to-day operation. Losing family members and



John Trochmann
Militia of Montana

facing felony charges in Washington are the most recent examples of MOM's decline."

The Oklahoma City bombing, along with the failure of the world to collapse into chaos following Y2K, resulted in a loss of momentum for MOM. Also, MOM made a name for itself peddling conspiracy theories about militias fighting off an invasion of "New World Order" forces. MOM members may have tired of waiting for a revolution that never came. For the past few years, MOM's activities have declined to the point of staffing booths at gun shows around Montana and publishing its newsletter and preparedness catalog.

"Unfortunately, MOM's decline doesn't mean militia ideology is vanishing," McAdam says. "Instead, we have watched longtime militia activists gravitate towards the strident property rights movement and become in-

(Trochmann, continued on page 9)

LEGISLATORS LEND CREDIBILITY TO RIGHT-WING

PARTY

In June, the Constitution Party of Montana hosted Rob Natelson's annual Liberty Summit. Titled "Judges and the Constitution: Take Back the Court," the event revolved around the right-wing conviction that courts dominated by liberal judges are ruining America's social fabric. Summit participants included several Republican legislators, including Sen. Jim Shockley (Victor), Sen. Jerry O'Neil (Columbia Falls), Sen. Joe Balyeat (Bozeman), Rep. Roger Koopman (Bozeman) and Rep. Jack Wells (Bozeman).

The participation of GOP officeholders at an event sponsored by the Constitution Party of Montana (CP-MT) concerned the Network. CP-MT combines the militia movement's conspiracy theories with a hardcore Christian fundamentalism called Christian Reconstructionism. This theology advocates basing civil law on Old Testament biblical law, which calls for the death penalty for adultery, homosexuality, and even blasphemy. CP-MT falls outside any definition of mainstream conservatism, as the following points reveal:

- Michael Heit, CP-MT's founder, has praised John Trochmann, the Militia of Montana's leader and a former Aryan Nations participant; claimed he hasn't paid his income taxes since 1987; and tried to get rid of his Social Security Number. The latter two are hallmark practices of groups like the Montana Freemen.

- The party's platform has supported "unorganized militias," a term used by the militia movement to supposedly justify its constitutional existence.

- During the party's existence, its website has contained links to militia icon Bo Gritz's Center for Action, which offers paramilitary training courses.

- The party wants to abolish the Department of Education, Internal Revenue Service and the 14th Amendment.

CP-MT's venue for the 2005 Liberty Summit was Casey Emerson's business, King Tool, near Belgrade. During the 1990s, the facility served as the meeting place for the Bozeman chapter of the Militia of Montana.

When CP-MT's extreme ideology is combined with its frequent disdain for the Republican Party, the Network was puzzled and concerned by the GOP legislators attending the summit. In fact, most Republicans around the country treat the Constitution Party as something akin to a political plague. Research Director Travis McAdam wrote to the legislators expressing the Network's con-



Senators Jim Shockley (right) and Joe Balyeat (left) were two of the Republican legislators who attended the Constitution Party of Montana's "Liberty Summit."



cerns and included a copy of a report the Network issued on CP-MT in 2000.

The Network's chief concern about the GOP officials attending the event, McAdam wrote, was that they gave CP-MT a sense of political legitimacy and credibility that the party cannot obtain on its own. The letter gave the legislators the benefit of the doubt, stating they may have thought the summit was a "normal" conservative event. McAdam explained that the Network sent the letter and report as a resource to help them decide if they wanted to have future involvement with CP-MT.

Instead of denouncing CP-MT and its connections to the militia movement, the legislators attacked the Network. They said the Network was trying to abridge their First Amendment rights of freedom of association. In an exchange with Sen. Shockley, McAdam affirmed the Network's support of the First Amendment:

"We understand that you, and everyone else for that matter, can attend whatever meetings you deem appropriate. However, when you attend meetings featuring extremist organizations or speakers, we feel the public should know... If you want to lend your political reputation (Summit, continued on page 11)

“SAFE SCHOOLS” BILL PUSHES EDUCATION LOBBY

A primary focus for the Network over the past two years has been creating safer environments in Montana schools. Its interest began when gay and lesbian students approached the Network because of the harassment and intimidation they were subjected to on an almost daily basis in their schools. The Network became convinced that the best way to improve school climates, for all students, was the adoption of comprehensive anti-bullying policies at the school-district level.

A Legislative Approach

The Network helped draft and support legislation requiring all school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies in the 2003 and 2005 Montana Legislatures. The bills required a uniform definition of bullying and banned bullying based on many characteristics, including sexual orientation. Important decisions like implementation and enforcement of the policy was left up to local school districts. The results

of the 2003 and 2005 legislation differed dramatically.

In 2003, Rep. Tom Facey (D-Missoula) carried House Bill 449. School superintendents, teachers, parents, students and social workers all testified in support of the bill. They told the members of the House Education Committee that bullying was a serious problem in Montana schools that needed to be addressed.

Because HB 449 contained the words “sexual orientation,” a laun-
(*Schools, continued on page 6*)

BLUE CROSS AXES PARTNER BENEFITS

THE NETWORK SWITCHES TO NEW WEST

The Network switched health insurance providers at the beginning of September, because of a new discriminatory policy adopted by Blue Cross/Blue Shield that eliminated coverage for domestic partners.

“In their effort to continue to exclude families headed by same-sex couples, they had to exclude other families they had covered in the past,” said Network Co-Director Christine Kaufmann. “In a time when families are struggling with the rising costs of health care, Blue Cross/Blue Shield was willing to add to their burden.”

The Network also filed a complaint with Montana’s Commissioner of Insurance and Securities, John Morrison, asking him to investigate the legality of the policy change. In the letter, the Network called Blue Cross’ decision “immoral and short-sighted” and said it believed it may “constitute illegal discrimination against same-gender couples and

common-law married couples who are either not allowed to marry or who have chosen no to do so.”

Blue Cross announced the new policy in a June 2005 letter to all companies covered under small group policies (two to 50 employees). It stated that, due to the *Snetsinger v. Montana* ruling, the company would no longer extend health coverage to unmarried heterosexual or same-gender couples. *Snetsinger* ruled that state agencies must treat unmarried couples, both straight and same-gender, equally when providing access to health insurance benefits. In other words, Blue Cross used a court decision based on fairness and equality to justify eliminating health insurance for some Montana families.

At a press conference in front of Blue Cross headquarters in Helena on September 14, the Network elaborated on its reasons for switching coverage and filing the complaint.

Kaufmann said that Blue Cross’ policy change appeared to be based on homophobia, noting that the Montana University System, State of Montana, and New West Health Services decided to expand their coverage following *Snetsinger*.

“They [Blue Cross] put the gays out as bait, then switch policies, and blame them [gays] for causing others to lose their chance at health insurance,” Kaufmann said. A small organization like the Network, she explained, is at the mercy of the policies dictated by insurance companies. So, while Blue Cross “cast the bait, we made the switch—to New West Health Services.”

The Network is encouraging other businesses and individuals to drop their Blue Cross coverage. State employees, who will receive their annual health insurance enrollment forms in the next few weeks, are also encouraged to switch their coverage to New West. Those employees who cannot leave Blue Cross should tell the company how they feel about its discriminatory policy change.

(Schools, continued from page 5)

dry list of Religious Right groups opposed it. The Montana Family Coalition's Julie Millam called the bill a "kid's version of the hate crimes bill" and said it protected "dangerous behavior [homosexuality]." Pastor Harris Himes of Hamilton's Big Sky Christian Center stated that being gay violated the Constitution and should be treated as a crime.

The bill died in committee along party lines. While the Montana School Boards Association opposed the bill citing concerns over local control, the Religious Right's paranoia and anti-gay rhetoric captured the media's attention. That would change in the next legislature.

In 2005, the Network returned to the legislature with Senate Bill 198 sponsored by Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R-Glasgow). Sen. Kitzenberg taught English for 15 years and the prevalence of bullying that occurred at his school amazed him. This led him to sponsor SB 198.

Like its predecessor, SB 198 garnered broad support. Educators, counselors, legislators, social workers, attorneys, parents, disability advocates, women's groups and civil rights groups testified for the bill. The Network's Betty Kijewski told the Senate Education Committee that the education lobby had done nothing to address bullying since HB 449's demise two years earlier. Kijewski said local schools say it is up to school boards. The school boards say they take their direction from the School Boards Association. The School Boards Association says it is up to the Montana Board of Public Education. While they debate whose role it is, "the buck stops on the broken jaw of a 14-year-old." She urged the Montana Legislature to take action.

Education Lobby Favors Politics Over Protection

Unfortunately in 2005, the main opposition came from the Montana School Boards Association and the Montana Board of Public Education. While individual educators supported SB 198, the organized education lobby stridently opposed it. The Board of Public Education's Steve Meloy claimed the bill was unconstitutional, as it would result in the legislature dictating policy to schools. Establishing policy, Meloy stated, was the Board of Public Education's jurisdiction. The School Boards Association echoed the mantra of local control.

Because SB 198 contained protections against bullying based on sexual orientation, the Religious Right joined the education lobby in opposing it. The education lobby provided political cover to some anti-gay lobbyists who sounded more credible by echoing themes of

Contact the Board of Public Education

Let the Board of Public Education know that Montanans want comprehensive bullying-prevention policies for Montana schools. The policies need to have a thorough definition of what constitutes harassment, bullying and intimidation. They need to prohibit retaliation for reporting incidents of bullying, and teachers must be required to intervene and stop bullying behavior. The policies need to specifically identify both the basis of discriminatory treatment and what actions are prohibited. Contact the Board of Public Education and tell the policymakers to create a worthwhile policy that will actually protect Montana students.

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local control. However, other anti-gay lobbyists still launched into anti-gay diatribes. Hamilton's Harris Himes stated SB 198 was part of the "homosexual agenda" to take over schools, while Helena's Becky Stockton said gay lobbyists supported the legislation to make themselves into a "special class."

SB 198 Almost Becomes Law

The Senate Education Committee sent the bill to the full Senate. Sen. Dan McGee (R-Laurel) continued to attack SB 198 as part of the "gay agenda." However, he
(Schools, continued on page 7)

(Schools, cont. from page 6)

and other right-wing Republicans were unable to remove sexual orientation from the bill, and it passed the Senate 29-21.

Initially, SB 198's chance of passing the House looked good. The Schweitzer Administration began supporting the bill, and Sen. Kitzenberg showed the House Education Committee why SB 198 was needed. He contacted 76 schools for copies of their bullying-prevention policies, and 36 did not have one.

The School Boards Association and Board of Public Education continued opposing the bill on constitutional and local-control grounds. Steve Meloy said the Board of Public Education had never been asked to address the bullying problem. Sen. Kitzenberg responded that the Board of Public Education had been contacted on the issue and had done nothing. He also blasted the School Boards Association for creating confusion about SB 198 to scare local schools.

The House Education Committee referred the bill to a subcommittee, and SB 198 was rewritten. This signaled the beginning of the end, as the bill's content was weakened. Neither side liked the revised legislation. Original supporters objected to the elimination of both the standard definition of bullying and the requirement that school personnel stop such behavior. The education lobby said the legislature was still trying to dictate policy.

During its hearing on the revised bill, the subcommittee repeatedly came back to one point—education organizations had done nothing on bullying prevention since the 2003 Legislature. The subcommittee decided to make more changes to SB 198 and took it back to the House Education Committee. By this time,

the Board of Public Education had announced it would consider bullying-prevention policies at its regularly-scheduled May meeting.

The House Education Committee ultimately passed a much weaker version of SB 198. With the changes to bill, some of the original supporters did not lobby for SB 198's passage in the House. That combined with opposition from the education lobby and the Religious Right meant the bill faced a tough battle on the House floor.

SB 198 passed a preliminary House vote 52-47. Republican Representatives Don Roberts (Billings), Jon Sonju (Kalispell), and Elsie Arntzen (Billings) joined Democrats in supporting the bill. When the final vote came, the three GOP members toed the party line and opposed the bill. It died on a tie vote, 50-50.

SB 198 Serves as Catalyst

In direct response to SB 198, Steve Meloy assured legislators that preventing bullying was now on the Board of Public Education's "fast track." It made the discussion part of its May 2005 meeting.

During the meeting, the Board of Public Education heard testimony supporting comprehensive bullying-prevention policies from nationally-recognized specialist Dr. Marlene Snyder, as well as from Dr. Joe Fontana from the University of Great Falls who did his doctoral dissertation on bullying in Montana schools. Teachers, citizens, and Network staff also provided testimony. The meeting resulted in the Montana Office of Public Instruction saying it would

draft an issue paper with model policy by May 27, 2005.

The resulting paper from the Office of Public Instruction acknowledged that bullying is a problem in Montana schools. The paper, however, lacks a comprehensive definition of what constitutes harassment, bullying and intimidation. It recommends a model policy that is both ob-

scure in meaning and falls short in addressing bullying issues. It fails to prohibit retaliation for reporting incidents of bullying, and it does not require teachers to intervene and stop bullying. The Board of Public Education will hold three public readings of the policy, with the final one scheduled for November 2005. If passed,

school districts will have to comply with the weak policy requirements by May 2006.

Issue May End Up Back at the Legislature

The Network is lobbying board members of the Board of Public Education to support comprehensive bullying-prevention policies (see box on page 6). In an e-mail, Program Director Ken Toole told the board that policies in local schools should follow established civil rights laws in America and specifically identify both the basis of discriminatory treatment and what actions are prohibited. The current proposal falls short in these areas. Toole also stated that, if the Board of Public Education doesn't adopt a policy providing "significant guidance to [school] districts," the Network will go back to the Montana Legislature to address the problem.



Sen. Sam Kitzenberg
(R-Glasgow)
Sponsor of SB 198

RALLYING AGAINST *ROE*: RELIGIOUS RIGHT, REPUBLICANS AND ROBERTS PICK UP THE PACE

When President George W. Bush nominated Judge John Roberts to a position on the U.S. Supreme Court, Roberts' anti-choice views became central to the debate. Roberts worked for two former presidents, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush, and his writings for those administrations came under close scrutiny.

The Religious Right mobilized instantly to support Roberts. National groups like Focus on the Family, Christian Coalition of America, and the Family Research Council urged members to lobby their senators on behalf of Roberts. Likewise, Montana-based groups like the Montana Family Foundation and the Montana chapter of Concerned Women for America wrote to local newspapers supporting Roberts. Progress for America, a national group supporting Roberts, spawned a Montana chapter led by former Republican Governor Judy Martz. Other Montana Republicans joined the Roberts bandwagon, including Secretary of State Brad Johnson and former U.S. Rep. Rick Hill.

Roberts' writings reveal why the Religious Right and right-wing Republicans support him. For the first Bush Administration, Roberts wrote a legal brief in favor of overturning *Roe v. Wade* that stated, "We continue to believe that *Roe* was wrongly decided and should be overruled." A memo written by Roberts in the early 1980s negatively referred to the basis for women's right to choose as the "so-called 'right to privacy.'" In a memo for the Reagan White House, Roberts referenced the "abortion tragedy." His wife was vice president for "Feminists for Life," an anti-choice organization masquerading as a women's rights group. The National Pro-Life Action Center enthusiastically supported Roberts' nomination, saying the U.S. Supreme Court needed justices who oppose *Roe*.

The Capitol Becomes a Pulpit

It wasn't surprising to see Martz and other Montana Republicans backing an anti-choice judicial candidate like Roberts. Republican legislators in Montana routinely try to undercut reproductive freedoms bestowed by *Roe*. During the 2005 Montana Legislature, Republican lawmakers joined the Religious Right to stage an

Anti-Choice Rally at the Capitol

The following legislators spoke at the anti-choice rally held at the Capitol in Helena during the 2005 Montana Legislature.



Rep.
Scott Mendenhall
(R-Clancy)



Sen. Duane Grimes
(R-Clancy)



Sen. Dan McGee
(R-Laurel)



Rep. Roger Koopman
(R-Bozeman)

anti-choice rally at the Capitol in Helena.

Sen. Dan McGee (R-Laurel) revealed that his anti-choice views stemmed from his wife having an abortion in 1974. According to McGee, it was the guilt over committing this "murder" that spurred him to run for office. He said he knew it was his "duty" to fight for fetuses and God.

Also addressing the rally was Rep. Roger Koopman (R-Bozeman). Koopman received a standing ovation for
(Roe, continued on page 9)

(Roe, continued from page 8)

sponsoring a bill requiring death certificates to be filed for aborted fetuses. Of the bill, he said, "The least we can do is honor their short lives." He said the pro-choice opponents to his bill "only support the choice of death." Koopman's bill died in committee.

Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R-Clancy) stated he always stands for Jesus Christ and that means being anti-choice. He said the Declaration of Independence placed the right to life above all others, so *Roe v. Wade* violates our Founding Fathers' ideals.

Longtime anti-choice Sen. Duane Grimes (R-Clancy) stated the family is the "God-ordained foundation of this country." He said anti-choice forces will ultimately prevail, because they uphold the "spirit of truth."

As in past legislative sessions, a flurry of anti-choice bills were introduced but failed to become law. On the other hand, 2005 saw the legislature pass the first pro-choice bill in Montana history. However, with the likes of Koopman, McGee and others, the battle is far from over. At the national level, nominees like Roberts could signal a shift as well.

Roberts Dodges the Issues

The Senate Judiciary panel approved Roberts' on a

13-5 vote and passed his nomination onto the full Senate. As we go to press, the full Senate has not yet voted; however, U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (D-Montana) has announced he will vote for Roberts' confirmation.

During his confirmation hearings, Roberts refused to go in-depth about his views on abortion and civil rights. However, some members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee showed no hesitation in sharing their anti-choice views.

U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-KS) went on a tirade against *Roe v. Wade*, concluding that the decision had resulted in the murder of "nearly 40 million children." Likewise, U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) complained that the Supreme Court's decisions regarding choice are "schizophrenic" and deny that life begins at conception.

While Roberts told the panel that he considered *Roe* settled law, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales added to the controversy. He told the press that the U.S. Supreme Court is not obliged to follow precedent and uphold *Roe*. With President Bush having the opportunity to fill two vacancies on the high court, there is no doubt that right-wing Republicans are trying to roll back *Roe*.

LATE BREAKING NEWS: The day this newsletter went to the printers, the U.S. Senate approved Roberts to the Supreme Court by a vote of 78-22. □

(Trochmann, cont. from page 3)
involved in contentious land-use issues."

Carolyn's Mother Sues the Justice Department

Another relative to the MOM family made headlines in June 2005. Ovando's Carol Boyd sued the Justice Department over a law enforcement raid on her property. Boyd is Carolyn Trochmann's mother.

The raid occurred in March 2003 and covered 500 acres of Boyd's land. However, the focus of the search was the gravesite of Boyd's son, Tony Eichenlaub. Law enforce-

ment refused to give up much information on the case it was investigating; however, the search warrant given to Boyd provided some details.

The search warrant stated authorities were looking for evidence of violent sexual crimes, pornographic material, and remains of a human fetus. The search involved personnel from various county sheriff departments and the Department of Justice. Authorities were heavily armed, because Boyd's family had warned law enforcement to never come on their property. Several males in the family had histories of violence, including rape and kidnapping, not to mention the connection

to MOM. Authorities said they had information that the evidence was buried in Eichenlaub's grave. The warrant remained sealed, so there was little public information available on the investigation. In June 2003, the Justice Department suspended the investigation and no charges were ever filed in connection with the raid.

Boyd's lawsuit against the Department of Justice seeks \$120,000 for alleged wrongful seizure and property damage. She is also seeking \$750,000 for emotional distress related to alleged damage of Eichenlaub's gravesite. □

(Hurricane, continued from page 12)

white supremacists seized the opportunity to restate their belief that people of color are an inferior, subhuman race.

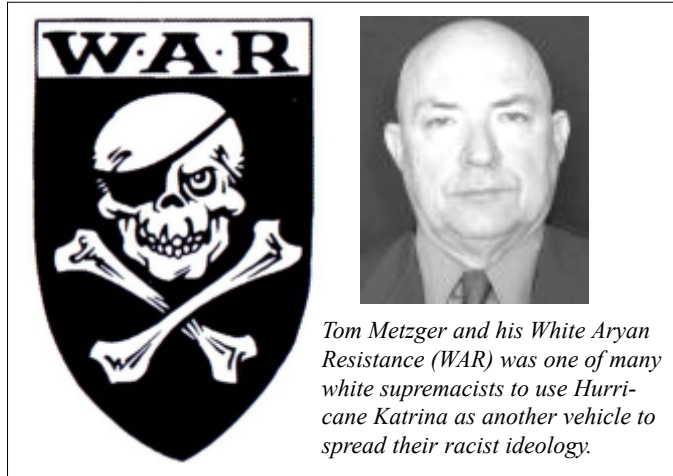
Edgar Steele, an attorney who has represented such hate groups as Aryan Nations, wrote to his e-mail list that Katrina resulted in a “boundless display of black depravity.” He continued, “Blacks simply are far more prone to lawlessness in general...It’s genetic and cultural.” He also stated the media was withholding stories of “the black cannibalism” happening in New Orleans, saying, “Today they [African Americans] are eating corpses. Tomorrow they will be seeking out fresh meat.”

White Revolution, a hate group based in Arkansas, announced it was running a “Cartridges for Katrina” program. It described the program like this: “For every black looter you shoot, and provide proof of a clean kill, White Revolution will provide reimbursement of all expended ammunition, at no charge.” The group stated that it is trying to seek out and help whites stuck in “black-infested” refugee camps. It was looking for volunteers to help in this endeavor.

David Duke, the longtime Klansman who repackaged himself as a conservative

Republican in Louisiana, said people of color were acting like “rampaging animals” while looting stores and houses. He stated New Orleans is experiencing “African tribal uprisings” that are filled with “brutality and inhumanity.”

White Aryan Resistance’s Tom Metzger could hardly contain his glee when describing Hurricane Katrina. He said the hurricane was punishment for imprisoning Klan members Edgar Ray Killen and Sam Bowers. Killen received 60 years in prison, while Bowers got a life sentence, for their roles in killing civil rights activists during the 1960s. “ITS [sic] NOT NICE TO PROSECUTE WHITE RACISTS,” Metzger wrote. “THANK YOU MOTHER NATURE.”



Tom Metzger and his White Aryan Resistance (WAR) was one of many white supremacists to use Hurricane Katrina as another vehicle to spread their racist ideology.

Sin, Sodomy and Slush Funds

Outside of the debate over race, the Religious Right found numerous rationales for and results of Hurricane Katrina. Some viewed it as a cleansing by God, while others saw it as an opportunity to tap into federal funds.

The American Family Association’s news service carried an article about Rev. Bill Shanks of the New Orleans’ New Covenant Fellowship. Shanks claimed Katrina was God’s judgment for the city’s support of abortion, gay rights and false religions. He said, thanks to the hurricane, the city was now free of abortion, “sodomites,” and witchcraft.

The Alliance Defense Fund, a national Religious Right law firm, chastised “radical activists” in California for using Katrina as a distraction to pass legislation

supporting gay marriage. It claimed that gay-rights activists always wait for a national tragedy and strike while nobody is paying attention.

Religious Right groups are also using Katrina fallout to support President Bush’s “faith-based initiative.” President Bush wants to funnel more money to fundamentalist organizations that provide social services like soup kitchens, homeless shelters, etc. Current

policy already allows this; however, the Bush Administration wants groups getting federal funds to be able to discriminate in hiring practices and use the funds to proselytize. Because of all the charities and religious organizations collecting funds and donations for hurricane victims, Religious Right lobbyists see an opportunity to get Bush’s legislation passed.

The right-wing’s emphasis on privatization may benefit the most from Hurricane Katrina. Like his conservative peers, President Bush pushes privatization of government services, while cutting program funding and declaring that government doesn’t work. Bush and the Religious Right are quick to point out that Katrina relief from churches and charities arrived sooner than the government. Instead of questioning the inadequacies of the

(Hurricane, continued on page 11)

(Hurricane, continued from page 10)

Bush Administration and its political appointees within FEMA, the right-wing blames government as a whole. Hurricane Katrina may be used to justify cutting more government services and turning them over to the private sector.

Spotlight on Poverty and Race

The editor at *Sojourners* recently said, "Sometimes it takes a natural disaster to reveal a social disaster." About the only result of Hurricane Katrina that could be positive is that the American public is being forced to examine issues of race and poverty. The political mainstream tries to avoid these subjects, hoping that Americans will not realize the level of inequality existing in one of the world's wealthiest nations. The contrast between the "haves" and "have nots" is graphically visible in New Orleans right now. A positive outcome of this natural disaster would be citizens pushing their elected officials to spend taxpayer dollars on social services, health care and building American infrastructure. This would be a substantial change in policy away from cutting corporate taxes, slashing public services and spending billions of dollars on an ambiguous worldwide "war on terror." □

(Summit, continued from page 4)

tion to groups like the Constitution Party of Montana, it is absolutely your right to do so. We're just trying to make sure you do it while being well informed."

CP-MT supporters took the dispute to the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle's* op-ed pages. Both Sen. Balyeat and Casey Emerson wrote scathing pieces condemning the Network for exercising its freedom of speech to disagree with the legislators' actions. The *Chronicle* has yet to publish either of the Network's responses.

By turning their attendance of the Liberty Summit into a debate about the First Amendment, the GOP officeholders dodged a central issue—constituents have a right to know what kind of political company their leaders keep. Ironically, the legislators, who referenced the First Amendment, seemed unconcerned about violating the Network's right to critique public officials.

"It speaks volumes that the legislators refused to distance themselves from a party with militia-oriented ideals, but did try to keep the Network from using its freedom of speech," says McAdam. "This information might be something their constituents would like to know. I think they helped prove our point." □

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THE RIGHT WING, RACE AND RESPONSES TO HURRICANE

KATRINA Hurricane Katrina landed on August 29, it caused catastrophic damage to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. As the death toll rises over 1,000, the public continues questioning the Bush Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency about their slow response and lack of planning. Issues of race became a centerpiece of this ongoing debate. While the Bush Administration tries to distance itself from accusations of racism, hardcore white supremacists tapped into a new venue to spread their ideology.

Compassionate Conservatism?

Following Katrina's devastation, many media outlets carried stories chronicling how the people who did not leave New Orleans tried to survive. Many of these survivors were people of color who had no choice but to stay and endure the hurricane, due to a lack of resources.

Many press articles reported the high poverty rates in New Orleans and that it is a highly-segregated city. The *New York Times* reported that most of the people who could afford

to evacuate the city were white, and 35% of African Americans did not own a car. With many people of color stranded in the hurricane zone, it didn't take long for questions to surface about whether or not race played a part in the federal government's slow response. A poll featured in the *Washington Post* found that 66% of African Americans believed the government's response would have been faster if more white people had been impacted.

The media coverage didn't help diffuse allegations of racism. *Salon*, an Internet magazine, commented on this dynamic in a story about captions for photographs. It found that people of color searching for goods and services were consistently labeled "looters." White people, on the other hand, were described in positive ways, such as citizens "finding" needed goods.

President George W. Bush's handling of Katrina resulted in his approval rating diving to 39% by mid-September. President Bush has repeatedly denied that race played any role in the government's response. However, people of color and

progressives were not so sure.

"I mean it's puzzling, given his immediate response during 9/11, that he [Bush] did not feel a greater sense of empathy toward the folks that were experiencing this enormous disaster," U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) told one media outlet.

Some organizations speculated that Bush's slow response may have been due to a realization that his budget and social policies had contributed to the high poverty rates in New Orleans. NAACP President Bruce Gordon stated, "It's clear that the administration has not had [people of color and the poor] as high on their priority list as they should have."

Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, bluntly told the press that "the ugly truth [is] that skin color, age and economics played a significant role in who survived and who did not."

White Supremacists Demonize "Looters"

With news coverage regularly labeling people of color looters, (*Hurricane, cont. on page 10*)

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