

Dave,

Thank you so much for using the comments by Christie and me in today's Huckleberries. It is greatly appreciated.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to make a few observations about the media's coverage for more than 30 years of the human rights movement to counter the activities of hate activities and hate crimes in the Pacific Northwest. As I have said on numerous occasions, there is no doubt in my mind that the two journalists in the entire United States with the most extensive knowledge and expertise on this subject are Dave Oliveria and Bill Morlin. Between these two excellent journalists, they have a combined history of more than 60 years.

I have often referred reporters from such newspapers as the "New York Times" to Dave or Bill for background information. We are fortunate that you both have chosen to stay in the Inland Northwest during your successful journalism career. And the Southern Poverty Law Center was very wise to recently bring Bill on board as part of their blog reporting.

Dave, on a personal note, I will always cherish the remarkable and eloquent "Spokesman Review" editorials that you have penned over the years with regard to this struggle to combat the activities of hate groups and the responses from human rights groups and especially your compliments to the strategies and positions of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations.

You both should know that your journalistic coverage of human rights over these many years has a prominent place in the Tony Stewart North Idaho College Human Rights Archives/Collection. The collection has already been used by a graduate student from The University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands in writing his master's thesis on the work of the KCTFHR. The collection was used by Andrea Vogt as one of her sources in her book "Common Courage: Bill Wassmuth, Human Rights and Small-Town Activism". Finally, a graduate student from Kenya, Africa is presently using the collection as a major source for her Ph.D. dissertation at The University of Idaho. The topic for her dissertation is the history of the KCTFHR with an emphasis on the **Keenans v. Aryan Nations** civil trial covering the years 1998-2002. The NIC human rights collection including the articles and editorials from both of you has served as a vital part of these individuals' research.

As I realize the limited time some of us have left in a normal life span and if I could have one wish regarding this subject, I would select Dave and Bill to co-author the comprehensive and authoritative volume/book on this remarkable and historical story in the Pacific Northwest from 1973 when Richard Butler brought his Aryan Nations' organization from southern California to northern Idaho, the long history of crimes, the counter movements by human rights groups (e.g. the KCTFHR, the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, the rise of numerous local task forces, recent events and the significant growth in the minority population over the past 10 years in the Inland Northwest, etc.) and the defeat of the Aryan Nations. Finally, it has been our experience

that this Pacific Northwest historical series of events has not only impacted communities in the Pacific Northwest, but across the United States as well as in many foreign countries. We have personally worked with human rights' supporters, live and printed media, college students, professors, and writers from more than 12 countries. I recently did an interview with the Asian Desk of the "Voices of America" radio.

Once again I am truly grateful to both of you for giving us the opportunity to speak about our principles to untold thousands of people for more than 30 years.

P.S. Recently Norm Gissel, Professor Kathy Canfield Davis and I finished a journal article that has been submitted for possible publication titled "The Threat to America's Democracy from Hate Groups: The Story of How Two Pacific Northwest Communities Chose Social Justice Over Hate". The article is 6,000 words.

Tony Stewart,

Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations