

Extremists turning to bigamy, expanding ranks

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Family and friends were stunned when Angie Murray told them she was going to enter a polygamist marriage with a neo-Nazi skinhead.

"She didn't bat an eyelash when she told me about it," said Kelly Meyer, manager of the sandwich shop where, until recently, Angie Murray worked. "She said, 'I'm his second wife and we're moving to Oklahoma. ... The only thing I regret is that I went into this not loving him.'"

With that, Del and Mary Ann Murray of suburban Mead lost a second daughter to the Christian Identity Movement, which combines Old Testament and white supremacist beliefs. Angie's sister, Susan Murray Settle, joined six years ago.

"We're just devastated, because now we've lost our youngest daughter, too," Mrs. Murray said in an article published last week in *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper.

The youngest of six Murray children, Angie called her mother a few days after attending the Aryan World Congress near Hayden Lake, Idaho, July 8.

"She told me that she had married this man who already had one wife who is pregnant and expecting next month," Mrs. Murray said. "That's the way they believe."

The Murrys filed a missing person report with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office and a bigamy complaint with the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department.

But they concede there is little law enforcement can do. Bigamy is rarely prosecuted, and Angie Murray turned 18 a week ago.

The Murrys' situation is not much different than that of other parents whose children have embraced white supremacist groups, said Tony Stewart of the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations.

"There is a lot of difference between believing in something and acting on something," Stewart said from his Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, office.

"An important point is that when young people, or whole families, become deeply involved in extremism, there's just a long trail of tragedies that take place," he said.

"It could be she's involved and has really followed though and wants to follow the Aryan Nations," said Bill Wassmuth of the Northwest Coalition Against Malignant Harassment in Seattle. "It's also possible she's infatuated with the person she's teamed up with. It's also possible, whatever the reason, if that changes, she'll come out of it."

It is not surprising that some Christian Identity devotees would turn to bigamy as a way of expanding their ranks, Wassmuth said.

"Sometimes people come up with these rationalizations for behavior they want to pursue," he said, noting that the late Robert Mathews, who in the late 1980s founded a violent neo-Nazi organization called The Order, had "spouted that sort of thing for validating having a child with a woman other than his wife."

Susan Murray Settle, the first of the Murrys' daughters to embrace white separatist beliefs, confirmed that her younger sister had joined the Christian Identity movement and had gone to live with the 20-

year-old neo-Nazi skinhead.

"She got married to one of our best friends," said Jake Settle, Susan's husband. "(His) only reason for doing this is not sex, but to bring more of God's real children into the world."

The man and his wife have one child, who is almost two years old.

Del Murray said he is angry with the Aryan Nations and the movement's "totally ridiculous beliefs. They stand for everything I'm against."

The Murrys said they remain close to their four other grown children and would like to re-establish ties to Angie and Susan.

The Murrys wrote to Richard Butler, self-proclaimed pastor of the Aryan Church of Jesus Christ Christian, who was away from the sect's compound last week and unavailable for comment.

"You are the person directly responsible for so much pain in our lives. This is our second daughter that has been swept away in the blink of an eye by your group," the Murrys wrote. "Whatever you think you are, it is definitely not Christian."

Support floods in after office bombing

TACOMA (AP) — Far from scaring people away, a bombing at the local NAACP office has resulted in new members and an outpouring of support for the civil rights organization.

"Some have said, 'I'm sorry it took this incident for me to join the NAACP,'" said Tacoma branch President Oscar Morris. "Many comment on what a reprehensible act it was."

The July 20 explosion shattered some glass and punched a few holes in a wall and desk. No one was injured.

Two white supremacists were arrested and charged with staging the bombing, which authorities say was part of what was intended to be a racist terror campaign in the Northwest.

A third man also was arrested after three pipe bombs were found in the car of one of the alleged bombers.

While the bombers' aim may have been to promote fear, the reaction instead has been for people to unite under the banner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Organizations and people from across the state have called and written the branch to express support or to join the civil rights group, Morris said.

One day last week, Morris said, he arrived at the office to find a woman waiting to sign up as a lifetime member.

Meanwhile, members are redoubling efforts to increase the group's membership, which stood at 500 before the bombing. Morris and other members planned to speak to local church congregations about the local NAACP's efforts to investigate discrimination and fight hate crime.

"We'll make them aware," he said, "that they should come home to the NAACP."

Pro-pot woman elected to board

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) — Is Lynnette Shaw an impostor or a visionary?

The 39-year-old Marin County musician claims she's living proof that marijuana heals. The leafy green plant has cured her own chronic depression and friends who smoke it have weaned themselves from alcohol or quelled the pain of AIDS or cancer, she says.

Bouyed by this and "thousands of years of medical information" on the drug's benign qualities, Shaw sought an unlikely forum — a seat on the county's Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Problems.

Last week she won, but not without controversy. "The truth has prevailed," she said after county supervisors voted 4-1 to reaffirm her seat on the 17-member advisory board. "I won through trial by fire."

Two weeks ago, Shaw's seat was sent into limbo after the advisory panel urged supervisors to reconsider the appointment, handed down about a month earlier.

Shaw's foes called her a marijuana crusader undeserving of a role on the citizens' panel, which acts as the county's liaison to local drug prevention service providers.

Included on the board's roster are law enforcement officials, therapists, attorneys and recovering addicts, none of whom express vocal support of reforming drug laws, member Patricia Bonelli said.

"The board has some concerns relative to Ms. Shaw's motivation," Bonelli said during a July 19 emergency meeting to discuss Shaw. "This seat is not my platform for personal political persuasion, nor is it the charge of this board, nor is it our focus."

Bonelli said the community, and particularly drug

addicts, might read Shaw's appointment as an endorsement of pot smoking. And, she said, it could haze battle lines in the local war on drugs.

"The message here is principle before personalities. Our primary principle is recovery, which is defined by abstinence," Bonelli said.

Others grilled Shaw about her affiliation with the Hemp Renaissance Council of Marin, the California Hemp Coalition and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Shaw assured them: "Even though I think pot is benign, I don't want to see kids smoking."

San Anselmo Police Chief Bernard Del Santo, in voting to oust her, said he and Shaw "philosophically think of drugs from a different aspect." He reportedly threatened to resign from the board over the furor.

But Shaw won the backing of AIDS sufferers, drug law reformists, and "Brownie Mary," a Marin County resident who makes marijuana brownies for the chronically ill. Most lauded both Shaw and the healing properties of marijuana and said any citizens' panel needs a diversity of views.

"Here we have someone who is willing to serve. If we throw this person out, it almost sounds like a witch hunt here," said Brian Friedland, one board member who supported Shaw.

Supervisors also sided with Shaw and her insistence that she's no drug pusher or "some wild drug-legalization mama out to embarrass" the board. She was sworn in and said she was planning tours of local health service providers who work with substance abuse problems.

"There are hundreds of people counting on me to tell the truth," Shaw said. "I believe I can help save people's lives."

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