

# **Protect Arizona Now Selects White Supremacist Leader to Chair National Advisory Board**

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*The mission of the Center for New Community is to build community, justice, and equality. The Center's Building Democracy Initiative works to counter emerging threats to civil and human rights.*

## **Protect Arizona Now Selects White Supremacist Leader to Chair National Advisory Board**

By the Center for New Community

With charges of racism already swirling around I-200, the controversial “Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act” ballot initiative, the statewide anti-immigrant group supporting the initiative, Protect Arizona Now (PAN), has taken the surprising step of choosing a leading figure in the white supremacist movement to chair its new national advisory board.

In a July 26, 2004 press release posted to the Protect Arizona Now website, PAN founder Kathy McKee quietly announced the formation of a new national advisory board for the anti-immigrant ballot committee.<sup>1</sup>

The press release also revealed Virginia Abernethy as the head of the new national advisory board.<sup>2</sup> No other board members were named in the release. McKee described Abernethy as “the grande dame of the anti-illegal immigration movement.”<sup>3</sup> The release also provided a brief biographical sketch:

Dr. Virginia Deane Abernethy, professor emeritus at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Abernethy edited the scholarly journal, *Population and Environment*, for ten years. She is the author of *Population Politics*, available from Transaction Publications; her 1979 book, *Population Pressure and Cultural Adjustment*, will be reissued in paperback in early 2005. She is also on the boards of the non-profit membership organizations, Population-Environment Balance and Carrying Capacity Network.<sup>4</sup>

Conspicuously absent in this biography is Abernethy’s active leadership role in several white supremacist organizations, including the Council of Conservative Citizens and *The Occidental Quarterly*.

Moreover, in her role as head of groups that focus on population reduction, particularly the groups listed in the release -- Population-Environment Balance and Carrying Capacity Network -- Abernethy has served as a significant bridge between the mainstream and nativist/white nationalist wings of the anti-immigration movement.

### **Abernethy and the Council of Conservative Citizens**

In the announcement of her new position with Protect Arizona Now, Abernethy is quoted as stating, "I owe it to my own and others' grandchildren to work to maintain the environmental, cultural, and social integrity of the United States, and to hold the federal government accountable for their constitutionally-mandated duty to protect this nation from invasion."<sup>5</sup>

But veiled references to "cultural and social integrity" are a far cry from the ideas expressed by another organization Abernethy works with, the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC), namely that minorities are turning the U.S. population into a "slimy brown mass of glop"—a process likened to "genocide."<sup>6</sup>

Abernethy is intensely involved with the Council of Conservative Citizens, sitting on the editorial advisory committee and contributing articles to its publication, *The Citizens Informer*, and speaking at CCC conferences.<sup>7</sup>

It would appear difficult for Dr. Abernethy to feign ignorance about racism, the CCC, and her role with the group, given that she has been confronted about the problem on numerous occasions. When asked about her role with the CCC by the Southern Poverty Law Center in 2002, Abernethy retorted, "My view of the Council of Conservative Citizens is that they support traditional values and the freedom of people to associate with people that they want to associate with."<sup>8</sup>

The Council of Conservative Citizens finds its roots in the Citizens Councils of America (CCA), more commonly known as the White Citizens Councils. The CCA formed in the wake of the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* ruling that outlawed segregation in the nation's public schools. The White Citizens Councils did all they could to fight the *Brown* decision – by supporting segregationist politicians, inundating the South with segregationist propaganda and forming whites-only private schools.

While the CCA pursued these tactics, the organization attempted to maintain an air of respectability. But much of its membership overlapped with the Ku Klux Klan. One member with dual membership was Byron de la Beckwith, the killer of civil rights leader Medgar Evers. After failing to preserve legal segregation in the south, the once mighty Citizens Councils slipped into disrepair. They reemerged with a flourish by transforming into the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC). The Council of Conservative Citizens was established by a group of original CCA leaders - including Robert Patterson, Bill Lord and Gordon Baum (the CCC current CEO).

Patterson, a founder of both the CCA and the CCC wrote in the *Citizens Informer*, "Western civilization with all its might and glory would never have achieved its greatness without the directing hand of God and the creative genius of the white race." He continued, "Any effort to destroy the race by a mixture of black blood is an effort to destroy Western civilization itself."<sup>9</sup> Patterson's statement is not an anomaly. Today, all the CCC core issues remain racially charged: official recognition of Confederate battle flags, preserving monuments to the Confederacy, and attacks against affirmative action and non-white immigration.

Underpinning the CCC's ideology and motivating its strategy is the assumption that white people have lost unquestioned control of the "commanding heights" of American society. They contend that the defeat of Jim Crow segregation and the resultant changes have undermined traditions and values they regard as specifically Christian and European. As a correlate, they believe the economy is controlled by elites intent on creating a one-world global economy; that most politicians and elected officials kowtow to minorities (meaning people of color); and that mainstream culture is in the hands of godless liberals and race-mixers. In this context, any steps society actually takes towards racial equality are considered intrusions upon the privileged status of white people.

Immigration by people of color is thus regarded as a demographic threat to these prerogatives, as white people change from being the unquestioned majority of the population to becoming one minority among several. In recent years, CCC chapters have sharply increased their attention to the anti-immigrant cause. Between January 1997 and October 2003, local chapters organized almost thirty different rallies, meetings and protests aimed at brown-skinned immigrants. Protests have included picket signs with slogans such as, "Immigrants are a Cancer," "Now Swim Back," and "2 Million Illegals Voted Nov. 2000."

The high level of activity has attracted a large dues-paying membership base, which CCC figures put at 15,000. The bulk of that membership hails from the South, but growth is also occurring along the east coast, in the Midwest, and in California.

The Council of Conservative Citizens can also claim influence in state and national government. According to CCC co-founder Bill Lord, 34 members of the Mississippi state legislature are members of the organization. In addition, the CCC has benefited from the presence of Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice, former U.S. Representative Bob Barr (R-GA), and Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), among others, at CCC meetings.

### **Abernethy and the Occidental Quarterly**

In addition to her work with the white supremacist Council of Conservative Citizens, Virginia Abernethy also serves on the editorial board of the racist and anti-Semitic "scholarly" journal, *The Occidental Quarterly*.

First published in the fall of 2001 under the masthead “A Journal of Nationalist Thought and Opinion”, one year later they replaced the word “Nationalist” with “Western”, citing that their original slogan “failed to fully encompass our navigational compass as a journal devoted to advancing the Western culture of our European ancestry.”<sup>10</sup>

Articles in the journal include such titles as "The Question of Jewish Influence," "Eugenics: Past, Present and Future," "Is Race a Valid Taxonomic Construct?," "Bioculture: A New Paradigm for the Evolution of Western Populations," "Two Models of White Racism: A Preliminary Exploration of a Changing Morality," and "Understanding Jewish Influence I: Background Traits for Jewish Activism."

In order to further clarify their position, *The Occidental Quarterly* published “A Statement of Principle” which includes the publication’s position on immigration, “The European identity of the United States and its people should be maintained. Immigration into the United States should be restricted to selected people of European ancestry.”<sup>11</sup> The statement also identifies “ethnic and ideological enemies” as well as including platitudes about how “equality... is not a legitimate political aspiration.”<sup>12</sup>

*The Occidental Quarterly*'s staff includes Council of Conservative Citizens strategist Samuel Francis and Ted O'Keefe, the former editor of the *Journal of Historical Review (JHR)*. *JHR* is the journal of the Institute for Historical Review, the foremost disseminator of anti-Semitic Holocaust denial ideas in the United States.

The editorial board on which Abernethy sits includes a virtual “who’s who” of white nationalist “intellectuals,” including:

- Jared Taylor - Head of the racist New Century Foundation, the publisher of the white nationalist magazine *American Renaissance*. Taylor is also a Council of Conservative Citizens leader.<sup>13</sup>
- Kevin McDonald - Professor of psychology, California State University-Long Beach, and the editor of *Population and Environment* and former editor of the *Human Behavior and Evolution Society Newsletter*. He is the author of a trilogy of anti-Semitic pseudo-scientific rants on what he calls “an evolutionary theory of anti-Semitism.”
- Brent Nelson - President of the CCC's Conservative Citizens Foundation, an adviser to the *Citizens Informer*, and a board member of the American Immigration Control Foundation.

- Derek Turner - Editor of the British white nationalist publication, *Right Now!* and former leader of the Social Action Initiative, an Irish neo-Nazi group, according to the British publication, *Searchlight*.<sup>14</sup>
- Wayne Lutton – Editor of *The Social Contract*, the journal of the anti-immigrant organization US Inc. Lutton sits on the board of the New Century Foundation, which publishes the racist magazine *American Renaissance*, and on the editorial advisory board of the *Citizens Informer*. Lutton also has the distinction of having published over a dozen articles in the Holocaust denial publication the *Journal for Historical Review*.<sup>15</sup>
- Richard Lynn – A director of The Pioneer Fund, a foundation that specializes in funding eugenics and other “science” dedicated to demonstrating white intellectual and moral superiority.<sup>16</sup>
- Miles D. Wolpin - Professor Emeritus of Political Science, State University of New York, Potsdam (N.Y.). He is a frequent contributor to *The Social Contract*, and serves on the editorial advisory board of the *Citizens Informer*.
- Frank Ellis – Professor at Leeds University in England and a regular contributor to *Right Now!* Ellis also writes for *American Renaissance*. In a November 1999 article entitled “Multiculturalism and Marxism” he notes, “What makes multiculturalism particularly insidious and difficult to combat is that it usurps the moral and intellectual infrastructure of the West.”<sup>17</sup>
- Joseph E. Fallon - Freelance writer who regularly contributes articles to *Mankind Quarterly*, *Chronicles*, *The Occidental Quarterly*, and *The Social Contract Press*. In a March 2002 article entitled “Power, Legitimacy, and the 14th Amendment” in *Chronicles*, Fallon asserts that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment is illegitimate and has corrupted the American system of government.<sup>18</sup> Fallon also believes in the racist theory of “reconquista” – that Mexican immigration into the U.S. is part of a sinister plot by Mexico to re-conquer the U.S. Southwest.
- James C. Russell - Freelance writer and author of books on medieval German history and articles on America’s “Western heritage.” In *The Occidental Quarterly*, he has attacked school integration because it promotes “miscegenation.”<sup>19</sup>

## Abernethy and the Carrying Capacity Network (CCN)

The Carrying Capacity Network (CCN) serves as a bridge to the nativist/white nationalist wing of the movement in the person of board president Virginia Abernethy.

While CCN itself is focused on population and immigration, the organization's self-positioning goes well beyond a concern with the disproportionate consumption of Americans. A recap of its policy positions on the organizational website states:

Most of America's main problems—from traffic, to classroom crowding, to pollution, depletion, welfare dependency, increasing taxes, and cultural fragmentation, have deep roots in our unsustainable population growth. Because of that, CCN focuses on stabilizing our population. We are even willing to face the awkward demographic fact that immigration is the cause of most of our recent growth (at current rates, immigration will cause about 80% of our growth as we double in an estimated 50 years or so).<sup>20</sup>

Despite the laundry list of concerns, CCN believes that stopping immigration is the solution to all those problems.

Under Abernethy's leadership, the Carrying Capacity Network actively courted white supremacists. Since 2000, CCN has run at least 15 advertisements in the Council of Conservative Citizens newsletter, the *Citizens Informer*.<sup>21</sup>

Nor is Abernethy the only white nationalist on the CCN board. Another of Abernethy's co-directors is Louis T. March. Like Abernethy, March is a supporter of the Council of Conservative Citizens, and sits on the executive committee of its North Carolina chapter.

March's writings have displayed his extreme, xenophobic views. In *Immigration and the End of Self-Government*, he notes "The most serious flaws of current immigration policy are its lax enforcement and anti-European bias, which have allowed a peaceful penetration of the U.S. from throughout the world."<sup>22</sup> In *The Great Betrayal: The Elite's War on Middle America*, he and CCC leader Brent Nelson write, "Third World colonization of the U.S. is well under way. The English language and American culture are under unremitting multiculturalist attack."<sup>23</sup>

## Conclusion

As McKee points out in her press release, the PAN initiative has become a "huge" issue nationally, particularly that it is the only anti-immigrant ballot measure anywhere in the country to even submit signatures for qualification on the November 2004 ballot.

If approved by voters, the so-called "Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act" would deny access to public services not mandated by the federal government to anyone unable to



produce proof of citizenship, require Arizonans to prove their citizenship when registering to vote and show identification when casting a ballot in person. Additionally, state or local government workers who don't report undocumented immigrants who apply for government services could be charged with a misdemeanor and face up to four months in jail.

The difficulties facing Arizonans relating to health care, education, crime and numerous other problems are very real issues. Unfortunately, criminalizing civil servants and blaming undocumented immigrants for all of these problems will not solve them. Instead, an atmosphere of intolerance is injected into the political dialogue.

PAN's appointment of Dr. Virginia Abernethy, an individual active in the leadership of multiple white supremacist organizations, has numerous disturbing ramifications. It legitimizes racism and xenophobia in the political arena, helping to "mainstream" white supremacy. It conveys respectability on white supremacist organizations. And, as California's Proposition 187 campaign demonstrated, it forebodes the likelihood of an even uglier and more divisive situation in Arizona.

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> This announcement comes on the heels of an open schism between McKee and national anti-immigration groups, including the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and the American Immigration Control Foundation (AICF) over control of PAN. FAIR, the FIAR Congressional Taskforce and AICF contributed \$305,500 (of the \$405,500) to pay for initiative signature gatherers. Like the current national leadership of PAN, FAIR and AICF have both been exposed for their financial ties to white supremacist groups. The two groups have received a total of more than \$1.2 million from the Pioneer Fund, a white supremacist foundation endowed in the 1930s to promote eugenics and white racial superiority.

<sup>2</sup> Two days after Abernethy was named to the national advisory board, Population and Environment Balance contributed \$15,000 to the PAN ballot committee.

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.pan2004.com/press\\_release\\_2004jul26.htm](http://www.pan2004.com/press_release_2004jul26.htm)

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> Thomas B. Edsall, "Barr Spoke to White Supremacy Group" *Washington Post*, December 11, 1998; Page A23.

<sup>7</sup> Abernethy has been involved with white nationalist groups since at least 1997, when she made an appearance on the "Immigration - Are We Being Overrun?" panel at the November 14, 1997 CCC National Conference. She also was on the "Immigration: Is the debate over?" panel at the July 9-10, 1999 National CCC conference and the "Invasion of America" panel at the June 8-9, 2001 National CCC conference. She also spoke at the September 23, 2000 Mississippi CCC meeting in Bahalia, Mississippi, and the St. Louis, Missouri CCC "Discussion Club" dinner on September 14, 2000 where she delivered a speech entitled "Mass Immigration Thirty-Five Years Later: A Critical Look." She also was on an "Immigration Invasion" panel at their 2001 conference in Asheville, North Carolina; and the 2003 Conference outside of Memphis, Tennessee.

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<sup>8</sup> "The Puppeteer" *Intelligence Report*, Issue 106, Summer 2002.

<sup>9</sup> Robert Patterson, "Citizens Forum: Prophetic Words," *Citizens Informer* (3rd Quarter 1998), p. 12

<sup>10</sup> *The Occidental Quarterly*, Vol. 2, No. 2 - Summer 2002.

<sup>11</sup> *The Occidental Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 4 - Winter 2004.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Functionally, the New Century Foundation serves as the think-tank of the CCC. The two organizations share interlocking directorates.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.searchlightmagazine.com/stories/RightNowUSTerrorAttacks.htm>

<sup>15</sup> W. H. Tucker, *The Funding of Scientific Racism: Wickliffe Draper and the Pioneer Fund* (Springfield: University of Illinois Press, 2002).

<sup>16</sup> The Pioneer Fund is infamous not only for its funding of classic eugenics research in the pre-World War II era, but also for continued funding of opposition to civil rights and racist science. The current Pioneer director is University of Western Ontario psychologist J. Philippe Rushton. Rushton is best known for his advocacy of a theory correlating genital size inversely with intelligence and morality and parsing this by race (J. P. Rushton, *Race, Evolution and Behavior* [New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Press, 1995], chapter 10). For a closer look at the Pioneer Fund see W. H. Tucker, *The Funding of Scientific Racism: Wickliffe Draper and the Pioneer Fund* (Springfield: University of Illinois Press, 2002).

<sup>17</sup> Ellis criticizes the film *White Men Can't Jump*, writing, "What, I wonder, would be the reaction of the equal opportunity commissars to a film with the title No Black Society has Ever Produced a Written Language or Mathematics?" *Right Now!*, December 1999.

<sup>18</sup> "Like the emperor's new clothes, however, the 14th Amendment does not exist. It was never constitutionally ratified, and, thus, acts of the government of the United States that are based on the 14th Amendment are actually illegitimate... The 14th Amendment made a mockery of the U.S. Constitution."

<sup>19</sup> "It [school integration] also compounds the culpability of media moguls who deliberately popularize miscegenation in films directed toward adolescents and pre-adolescents. In the midst of this onslaught against our youth, parents need to be reminded that they have a natural obligation, as essential as providing food and shelter, to instill in their children an acceptance of appropriate ethnic boundaries for socialization and for marriage." *The Western Contribution to World History*, *TOQ*, Vol 1 No 2.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.carryingcapacity.org/whatis.html> (February 29, 2004).

<sup>21</sup> Carrying Capacity ads in the *Citizens Informer*, September-December 2000, pg. 20; January-February 2001, pg. 23; March-April 2001, pg. 8; May-June 2001, pg. 22; July-August 2001 pg. 21; September – October 2001, pg. 11; November – December 2001, pg. 20; January – February 2002, pg. 8; March – April 2002, pg. 6; May – June 2002 pg. 6; July-September 2002, pg. 7; October – December 2002 pg. 19; January-February 2003 pg. 10; March-April 2003, pg. 10; May – June 2003 pg. 10; Special Edition Fall 2004 (actually fall 2003) pg. 16.

<sup>22</sup> Louis T. March, *Immigration and the End of Self-Government* (Raleigh, N.C.: Representative Government Press, 1999), p. 103.

<sup>23</sup> Louis T. March and Brent Nelson, *The Great Betrayal: The Elite's War on Middle America* (Raleigh, N.C.: Representative Government Press, 1995), p. 64.