

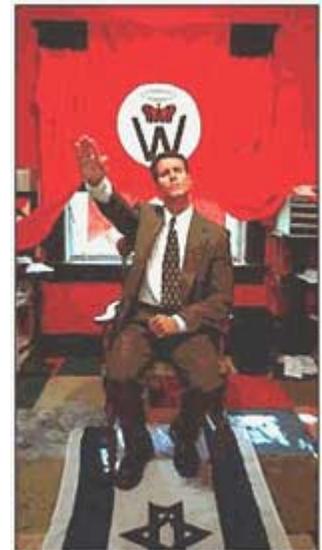
Matt Hale

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INTRODUCTION

An admitted racist since the age of 12, Matt Hale became one of the most effective and best-known leaders of the far right after he became head of the World Church of the Creator (as it was then known) in 1996. Under Hale's PR-savvy guidance the group regularly gained publicity for its activities and for the violent incidents associated with its members. A 1999 decision by the State of Illinois to reject Hale's application for a law license, due to his past "conduct," is widely thought to have helped trigger a murderous shooting spree by his follower, Benjamin Smith, in which two people were killed and nine injured - all of them members of racial or religious minority groups.

In November 2002, the World Church of the Creator lost a trademark infringement lawsuit brought against it by the Te-Ta-Ma Truth Foundation, which had successfully trademarked the name "Church of the Creator" years before. A federal judge ordered Hale's group to stop using its name, to give up its Web addresses and to turn over all printed material bearing its name. Hale refused to comply. In January 2003, upon arriving for a contempt of court hearing, he was arrested for soliciting the judge's murder. During Hale's incarceration, special administrative measures were imposed to reduce his ability to communicate with his followers. In April 2004, Hale was convicted of one count of solicitation of murder and three counts of obstruction of justice. Without Hale's leadership, the Creativity Movement has fallen into decline..



Quick Profile

Year of birth: 1971

Group: The Creativity Movement (formerly known as the World Church of the Creator)

Education: B.A. Bradley University; J.D., Southern Illinois University

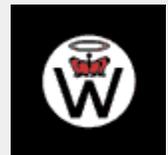
Residence: East Peoria, Illinois

Led group since: 1996

Ideology: White supremacy. "Creativity" considers itself a religion based on the belief that the white race is "nature's highest creation" and that "white people are the creators of all worthwhile culture and civilization." Followers do not believe in God, heaven, hell or eternal life. They consider Jews and nonwhites, whom they refer to as "mud races," to be the "natural enemies" of the white race.

Background: American White Supremacist Party, National Association for the Advancement of White People, National Socialist White Americans' Party

Influences: Adolf Hitler, Ben Klassen (founder of the Church of the Creator)



SOWING THE SEEDS

Matt Hale, born in 1971, is the youngest of four sons; his father, Russell Hale, Jr., a former police officer, raised Hale and his three brothers alone following a rancorous divorce when Hale was nine years old. Hale proudly claims that he began his "racial awakening" at the age of 11 after discovering that "white people had been responsible for the vast majority of progress in the world, and as such, the idea that the races were 'equal' to one another seemed incorrect." At the age of 12, he became fascinated with Adolf Hitler and National Socialism after reading *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* and, later, Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. At 13, he formed a group called The New Reich with a few school friends. Later, while a student at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where he completed a double major in political science and music (Hale is a violinist who favors Tchaikovsky), he founded the American White Supremacist Party. After dissolving the unsuccessful AWSP because, he said, "the organization only consisted of seven or eight people, few of whom were really committed," he tried to open a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of White People, a group founded by David Duke. It appears that the NAAWP leadership never recognized the chapter, and Hale abandoned this project as well.

Shortly thereafter Hale discovered Ben Klassen's Church of the Creator. Klassen, a one-time Florida state legislator who had drifted among far-right causes, formed the COTC in 1973 with the publication of a 511-page tome entitled *Nature's Eternal Religion*. The book was a call to "completely reject the Judeo-democratic-Marxist values of today and supplant them with new and basic values, of which race is the foundation." As his title indicates, Klassen believed that race had transcendent meaning; Christianity, by contrast, he disdained as a "suicidal religion." (Ironically, Klassen himself committed suicide in 1993. His death created a void of leadership in the group that Hale later filled.)

In 1992, as Hale's involvement with COTC grew, he also proclaimed himself "National Leader" of the National Socialist White Americans' Party, another tiny fringe group that, in 1995, he disbanded. He began concentrating his full attention on COTC, and on July 27, 1996, his 25th birthday, the group's Guardians of the Faith Committee "anointed" him *Pontifex Maximus* ("highest priest"). At the ceremony at member Slim Deardorf's ranch near Superior, Montana, the group itself was rechristened World Church of the Creator.

LEADING THE WCOTC

Hale revitalized the organization; it began to attract hundreds of mostly young male followers - as well as a considerable amount of media attention because of the legal and illegal actions of a handful of dedicated members. Hale and his supporters propagated their message through aggressive pamphleteering; the proliferation of WCOTC-affiliated Web sites; newsletters; a public access cable show ("White Revolution") that aired in three states; and highly publicized, albeit often sparsely attended, public meetings. The efforts have yielded significant dividends: the group now has more than 65 "contact points" (22 of whom are incarcerated members) spread across at least 22 states, and nine international contacts.

The WCOTC's most common method of spreading its message has been to distribute the 32-page anti-Semitic and racist booklet compiled by Hale, *Facts That the Government and the Media Don't Want You To Know*. Scattered on innumerable American driveways and lawns during the past several years by WCOTC members, the tract denigrates nonwhites and promotes hoary conspiracy theories about Jewish control of

the media and of the Atlantic slave trade, and about the "Kosher Food Tax," as well as material allegedly demonstrating the biological superiority of whites.

Hale has also worked hard to disseminate his views on the Internet. He regularly forwards articles and letters about the WCOTC to his online mailing lists. WCOTC has spawned dozens of sites on the Web - unsurprisingly, given its mostly young and computer-literate members. Hale recognizes that the Internet "has the potential to reach millions of White People with our message and we need to act on that immediately." Updated frequently, the WCOTC home page includes articles about the group, editorials by Hale from *The Struggle* newsletter, announcements of public meetings and a number of audio files of Hale's radio shows and "Church services." The site makes WCOTC membership easy, providing a membership form, dozens of contact points and a lengthy membership manual that covers such topics as a WCOTC wedding ceremony, advice on dealing with law enforcement and a "Child Pledging Ceremony."

OUTREACH TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Unlike most other hate groups, WCOTC also makes a concerted effort to reach out to women. It offers two venues - The Women's Frontier and The Sisterhood of the WCOTC, each with its own Web site and newsletter. Although church ideology does not consider men and women to be equal, women do play a central role - they are not only encouraged to become members but also to become leaders: "While the Church first and foremost views women's most natural and important role to be that of mother to beautiful White children and loving wives to our glorious White men, our women members, just as our male Creators, can become ordained Reverends and rise to positions of influence." At present, the WCOTC Web site lists two contacts for The Sisterhood and two for The Women's Frontier. The Sisterhood advertises itself primarily as "an outlet for [white women] to express their feelings of racial loyalty in positive ways" like writing poetry and providing support for other "white sisters," while The Women's Frontier focuses on direct racial activism, like distributing WCOTC propaganda and attending meetings and rallies.

The WCOTC also actively recruits children. The WCOTC *Kids!* site (subtitled "Creativity for Children") utilizes child-friendly graphics to attract young Web users. The home page explains that "the purpose is to make it fun and easy for children to learn about Creativity." Instead of going into detail about the group's racist ideology, children are offered "games and stories and stuff," like crossword puzzles with the following clues: "The ___ are the deadliest enemies of the White Race" or "___ was the greatest White Leader that ever lived." The answers, "Jews" and "Hitler," are provided on a separate page.

THE MESSENGER AND THE MESSAGE

The best recruitment tool for the organization is Hale himself. Always promising to be controversial, he has been frequently quoted in periodicals and has appeared on numerous radio shows and on tabloid talk shows hosted by Jerry Springer, Ricki Lake and Leeza Gibbons. In July 2000 Hale was interviewed by Tom Brokaw for an NBC report entitled "Web of Hate"; additionally, in September 2000 he was included in a panel for a nationally televised show on MSNBC entitled "Race in America."

As Hale's sound-byte proficiency has grown, his campaign for public attention has intensified - especially since 2000. Conducting public meetings and college campus recruitment rallies at which the media and opponents of the WCOTC far outnumber followers of the group, his message rarely wavers: every social

problem derives from the presence of nonwhites and Jews, whom he compares to parasites and mosquitoes: "What stands between [the Jew] and his goal of destroying all that which is beautiful is you and I," he says, "we who are aware of the mosquito and have the hand to swat them. Through our efforts, the true 'judgment day' will come - the day in which the Jews will be rendered harmless for all time."

Hale and the WCOTC also attack Christianity, characterizing it as a religion concocted by Jews that demonstrates their talents as "Master Mind-Manipulators" - Klassen's phrase in *The White Man's Bible*. Yet, despite Hale's vilification, he realizes that he must attract white Christians to strengthen his organization. Predictably, there is no mention of the group's contempt for Christianity in WCOTC's promotional materials.

Like Klassen before him, Hale is aware of the psychological value of hatred. In an editorial in *The Struggle*, he says that "[White Christians] yearn not only for a friend but also for an enemy...for indeed, it is much more alluring to be a villain if hatred for the villain is 'off limits.'" Elsewhere Hale has written of trying to affect the climate of public thought by appealing to a general psychological need for scapegoats and placing blame: "While we Creators are of course in this great Cause due to our deep belief in our people, we must utilize whatever tactics necessary to pull the masses away from the degenerate causes and ideas that they currently embrace and realize further that it is possible to have profound influence on the masses without them ever formally joining with us."

He tells followers that the WCOTC is the "most dynamic and inspiring organization in existence for the survival, expansion, and advancement of our beloved White Race." In the introduction to "The Creator Membership Manual," Hale proclaims that the group has "the total solution to the ills of this planet." These sweeping assurances have appealed to many young, disenfranchised and often troubled people.

BENJAMIN SMITH

Even given Hale's talent for keeping his name in the spotlight, the church is best known for the actions of its 1998 "Creator of the Year," Benjamin Nathaniel Smith. By all accounts, Smith (b. 1978), a native of Chicago's affluent North Shore, had been troubled and angry for some time before first encountering the WCOTC and its teachings. A sophomore at Indiana University (where he transferred after a stormy year and a half at the University of Illinois), he had already tried to establish a white supremacy group when, in the spring of 1998, he noticed a flier with Hale's number tucked under the wiper blade of his car. The two later met for dinner. Smith energetically devoted himself to Hale's cause, and gained his "Creator of the Year" laurels for attracting "more media attention to the church than any other Creator, resulting from his massive distribution of *Facts That the Government and the Media Don't Want You To Know*." Hale encouraged other WCOTC supporters "to view Brother Smith's activism as an example to follow."

In the spring of 1998, Hale earned a law degree from Southern Illinois University and later passed the Illinois bar exam. He was denied a license to practice by the state bar, however, due to his bigotry. At a subsequent hearing in April 1999, testifying before the bar's Character and Fitness Committee, Smith praised his new mentor: "He's given me spiritual guidance....When I first met him, I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do with my life, what direction I was going to go." On July 2, 1999, a separate state panel turned down Hale's application, whereupon he released a statement declaring, "I have been denied my most precious rights of speech and religion. If the courthouse is closed to 'NON APPROVED RELIGIONS,' America can only be headed for violence." That night - the beginning of the July 4th weekend - Smith went on a 40-

hour shooting spree that left two dead and nine wounded before the young gunman fatally shot himself in a stolen van as police pursued him through the Illinois countryside. The victims were all members of racial and religious minority groups, including African Americans, Asian Americans and Jews. (Hale's reaction to the carnage: "As far as we're concerned, the loss is one white man.")

Hale initially claimed that he scarcely knew Smith, then conceded that the two were closely associated and had in fact met days before the shooting. He continued to disavow any prior knowledge of Smith's plans. (Smith mailed a certified letter to Hale on July 2, 1999, formally breaking off his ties with the WCOTC. In the letter, Smith stated: "Although I have not been a member of the World Church of the Creator since April 1999, due to my past public support of that legal and religious organization run by Matt Hale, I find it necessary to formerly [sic] break with the World Church of the Creator because I am unable + unwilling to follow a legal Revolution of values.") He told *The New York Times*, when asked if he thought Smith's actions were connected to the Illinois State Bar's decision: "I do. I very much do." To date, Hale has avoided any liability in the case, although several suits have been filed against him.

VIOLENCE

While this brutal episode (along with several other criminal actions carried out by former and current members and followers of the WCOTC) brought the group significant attention, it has not, of course, brought it any closer to achieving its goal of white world domination - "free from alien control and free from pollution of alien races." Even Hale, while basking in the media attention, has acknowledged that violence is counterproductive. "The mud races may very well offer some resistance and that resistance will have to be destroyed," he has stated.

"However...violent, illegal acts only serve to put good people behind bars, feed the anti-racist propaganda, and hence diminish the effectiveness of our movement." He argues that the racial revolution, or Racial Holy War (RaHoWa), that he and his followers await depends upon changing the thinking of the uninitiated white masses: "...once we get the White Races thinking straight, the White Race will cease to subsidize the mud races, and they shall wither on the vine." If individual Creators bring sufficient zeal to the cause of racial "loyalism," Hale promises, "you and I shall one day celebrate our victory to the accolades of the masses - and over the graves of our enemies."

LAW LICENSE CRUSADE

It was this kind of rhetoric that contributed to Hale's failure to obtain his law license in Illinois. An Associated Press article on July 6, 1999 reported that the commissioners who denied Hale's appeal for the license did so because his activism was in "absolute contradiction" to the required conduct of lawyers. A report issued by the Committee on Character and Fitness quoted racial slurs from the WCOTC Web site as evidence of Hale's "bad character." Hale subsequently filed an appeal with the United States Supreme Court; Illinois officials, in urging the justices to reject Hale's case, argued: "as opposed to being excluded from Illinois' bar on the basis of beliefs or speech, Hale's past conduct, lack of credibility and inability to meet his burden of proof doomed his bar application." The appeal was denied; in response, Hale stated that he could "no longer in good faith and in good conscience urge, recommend, or instruct my adherents and supporters in general to obey the laws of this land....whatever blood is spilled with be [sic] on the hands of those who so severely wronged us today." While Hale vowed to continue to fight for his license in Illinois,

he also attempted to become accredited in Montana; in February 2001, the Montana State Bar denied his application. Hale vowed to appeal this decision as well and has indicated that he "will apply to all 50 states if necessary."

MESSIAH IN HIS OWN MIND

Hale has said that "Adolf Hitler was the greatest White leader that ever lived"; he has also repeatedly voiced his admiration of Klassen. The fervency of his praise - and his rhetorical fanaticism generally - add to the impression that he sees himself as a new Fuhrer leading a nation of Aryan loyalists toward world domination and a Thousand Year Reich. In a plea that would be comical had it not already led to murder and terror, he has urged his supporters to relocate to the WCOTC "World Headquarters" (essentially, his brother's old bedroom in his father's house, where Hale still lives): "Just as Adolf Hitler knew that before he could win Germany, he must first win his home turf, Munich and then Bavaria as a whole, before we can win the world, I fervently believe that we must win our capital, Illinois."

"I am proud to lead our Church," he says, "and I am proud to hear it said by Creators that I am the 'Great Promoter' that our Founder so unswervingly sought during his lifetime. I may have come too late to be the Great Promoter during his lifetime, but it is my unshakable determination that through my efforts and through the efforts of you, my Brothers and Sisters, that we will indeed completely and everlastingly win this Racial Holy War. RAHOWA!"

Report Updates (2002-2006)

WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUP USING TERRORIST ATTACKS TO FOMENT ANTI-SEMITISM

April 1, 2002

"Facts the Government and Media Don't Want You To Know," the conspiratorially anti-Jewish and racist booklet distributed widely by the white supremacist [World Church of the Creator](#) (WCOTC), has a new cover: a picture of the of the burning World Trade Center towers with a Star of David emblazoned across it.

WCOTC leader Matt Hale recently announced a "Creator Spring Offensive," during which the group aims to distribute 100,000 copies of the 32-page document on driveways, lawns and doorsteps nationwide within six months. Hale encourages "Creators" to purchase any amount - from 1,000 copies for \$100 down to 200 copies for \$20, the minimum order.

These distribution blitzes are a common tactic for WCOTC and are typically promoted in honor of white supremacist dates or birthdays - such as Hale's or that of deceased WCOTC founder Ben Klassen.

So far, the group is targeting Salt Lake City, Utah, claiming that its heavily Mormon population has historically been "sympathetic" to white racism. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, as the Mormon Church is formally known, has emphatically rejected this inference as "outrageous" and calls the theory that one race is superior both "abhorrent and tragic."

This is only the latest in a long string of attempts by Hale and other white supremacists since September 11, to blame Jews, Israel and U.S. aid to Israel for the terrorist attacks. Hale wasted no time, issuing a press release shortly after the attacks, under the headline "PRO-ISRAEL POLICY COSTS THOUSANDS OF LIVES TODAY." The release, calling for an end to U.S. aid to Israel and the "liberation" of the U.S. from "the manipulations of the Jews that have had such terrible consequences," set the tone for Hale's subsequent actions and rhetoric.

He urged followers to be as active as possible in spreading his message, calling for a "fervent and immediate response." His followers did respond: Within a week of the attacks, they had distributed fliers in Phoenix, Arizona, featuring the slogan, "Let's stop being human shields for Israel," and urging Americans to "find a nationalistic government that will look after their interests and not the interests of the Jews." Members in Spokane, Washington, distributed the same fliers.

Since that time, Hale has led demonstrations in his hometown of East Peoria, Illinois, in which he and followers displayed signs with messages such as "America Before Israel" and "Arabs & Jews Get Out." He also continues to make outrageous accusations, such as that the war in Afghanistan is for the benefit of the Jews and that "this Jewish-dominated [U.S.] government...is quite willing to force non-Jewish Americans to become human shields."

Just a few weeks ago, he asserted that "The 'war on terrorism' is a phony war designed to take the minds of the people here at home off the real problems and destroy the enemies of the corrupt United States Government and illegitimate Israeli state." Regarding the death of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl at the hands of Pakistani militants, he wrote, "We couldn't care less about the death of this Jew who along with the rest of his parasitic race are clearly a form of vermin far more dangerous in fact than the kind that run on four legs..."

WCOTC ACTIVITIES SINCE 9/11

August 8, 2002

It didn't take long for the World Church of the Creator to devise a response to the most important event to date of the 21st century. Within a day of the September 11th attacks, leader Matt Hale issued a press release with a headline that read, "Pro-Israel Policy Costs Thousands of Lives Today." Hale made clear that he was going to exploit the tragedy in an effort to fuel anti-Semitism. He and other group members took to the streets distributing flyers with the slogan, "Let's stop being human shields for Israel," and urging Americans to "find a nationalistic government that will look after their interests and not the interests of the Jews." When the U.S. military effort began in Afghanistan, Hale suggested that the war was for the benefit of the Jews and he criticized the people "chomping [sic] at the bit to annihilate the anti-JOG (Jewish Occupied Government) forces in Afghanistan." In an April 2002 press release, he described suicide bombing as "an obviously effective technique that courageous Palestinians in their determination to expel the Jewish invader of their lands have decided to employ." The following month, Hale changed the cover of the group's primary recruiting publication, *The Facts*, by adding a picture of the burning World Trade Center towers with a Star of David emblazoned over them. He claims the group has distributed more than 35,000 copies of the booklet since the attacks.

Yet despite a sense of renewed activism on the part of some core members, there are indications that the group's popularity may be waning. Hale has continued to organize public meetings but they have drawn

diminishing attention - with the notable exception of his York, Pennsylvania, rally. In October 2001, prominent WCOTC leader and Women's Frontier head Lisa Turner left the group, citing personal reasons but suggesting she had issues with its leadership. Melody and Jason LaRue, longtime members from Washington, departed the next day for what appeared to be similar reasons. Once boasting more than 65 "contact points" spread across 22 states, the WCOTC Web site now lists less than 40 contacts, many of which are little more than e-mail addresses.

The WCOTC has also been involved in frequent litigation. In November 2001, the Illinois Supreme Court rejected Hale's contention that a statute requiring charities to register and report their finances was unconstitutional. The decision stemmed from a complaint filed by the state Attorney General that sought to apply the law to the WCOTC. Hale continues to argue that his group is a church, not a charity.

In January 2002, a trademark infringement lawsuit brought against the WCOTC by "Church of the Creator," a religious organization based in Oregon, was dismissed after a federal district court ruled that the name is a "generic" term akin to "Church of God" or Church of Christ." Subsequently, however, in a July 2002 decision that could ultimately force Hale's group to change its name, the Seventh Circuit Court overturned the decision, finding "Church of the Creator" to be a "descriptive" rather than "generic" phrase, and that therefore the WCOTC violated Church of the Creator's trademark. The appeals court ordered the lower court to enter an appropriate judgment in favor of Church of the Creator. Hale announced he will appeal this decision to the full Circuit Court, but he has also indicated that he may refuse to abide by an adverse ruling.

Hale continued to use the courts in his efforts to secure a law license. In March 2002, his lawsuit against the Illinois State Bar, the Illinois Supreme Court and individual defendants for having denied him the license, was dismissed. By May 13, his lawyers had filed an appeal of that decision at the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago.

WCOTC did score a legal victory of sorts in June 2002, when a federal district court held that an employer had demoted Christopher Lee Peterson, a WCOTC member, on account of his religion. The court found that "Creativity" met the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's definition of religion: specifically, the court found that Creativity, notwithstanding its opposition to the "notions of equality that undergird the very non-discrimination statute at issue," had characteristics of a belief system which "espouse notions of morality and ethics and supply a means of distinguishing right from wrong." Hale has already used this decision to try to influence prison officials and other public officials.

Finally, on June 3, 2002, Hale announced his candidacy for the East Peoria City Commissioner's office, a position he ran for unsuccessfully in 1995. He called his effort the beginning of "a long and dynamic campaign to win governmental power for our Cause-a campaign that will both frighten our enemies, inspire our friends, and bring further widespread notoriety to our Church and to Creativity." The election is scheduled for April 1, 2003.

MATT HALE SPENT MUCH OF 2001-02 DRUMMING UP MEDIA ATTENTION, FIGHTING INTERNAL DISCORD

August 9, 2002

Matt Hale spent much of 2001-2002 trying to drum up attention in the media while fighting discord within the ranks of his own group. Hale attempted to reinforce his control over the World Church of the Creator in July 2001, issuing a directive that all WCOTC "ministers" send him monthly reports detailing their activities or risk having their credentials revoked. He also published an article in the September 2001 issue of *The Struggle* urging "consolidation" - calling on Creators to move en masse to East Peoria, Illinois, where Hale lives. Instead, by the fall several prominent members had left the group, some insinuating that Hale was the cause.

Since September 11, 2001, Hale and his followers, like many in the white supremacist movement, have attempted to tailor that day's tragedy to suit their own ends. Hale has led the WCOTC in demonstrations, particularly in East Peoria, blaming the attacks on alleged Jewish control of the government and American support of Israel. Yet his message is ambivalent: sometimes he vaunts the "courageous Palestinians," other times he disparages Arabs as "mud people." One of his more prominent "successes" was a high-profile white supremacist rally in York, Pennsylvania, arranged by the WCOTC and the neo-Nazi National Alliance, with the participation of other racist groups. Hale gave the major speech at this large rally, which was held in York because nine people there face charges related to two murders during race riots in 1969. The rally itself was marked by conflicts with counterdemonstrators; police arrested 25 people.

Hale and the WCOTC have also been involved in frequent litigation, not all of it to Hale's liking. In November 2001, the Illinois Supreme Court rejected Hale's contention that a statute requiring charities to register and report their finances was unconstitutional. The decision stemmed from a complaint filed by the state Attorney General that sought to apply the law to the WCOTC. Hale continues to argue that his group is a church, not a charity.

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RACIST GROUP ORDERED TO STOP USING NAME

November 27, 2002

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) welcomes a recent court order issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois compelling the white supremacist group World Church of the Creator to stop using its name, to give up its Web addresses, and turn over all printed materials bearing its name.

The order follows the group's defeat in a trademark lawsuit brought by the Te-Ta-Ma Truth Foundation, which successfully trademarked the name "Church of the Creator" years ago. The World Church of the Creator, presently run by the anti-Semite and racist Matt Hale, won in district court in January 2002, but lost on appeal. As a result, Hale's group no longer may legally use any form of the phrase "Church of the Creator."

"World Church's loss of its 'brand name' may hinder its ability to spread its virulent message of hate," said Richard S. Hirschhaut, ADL's Greater Chicago/Upper Midwest Regional Director. "The order is another positive step in countering prejudice and bigotry."

CREATIVITY MOVEMENT "MOVES" TO WYOMING

December 12, 2002

Matt Hale, leader of the racist and anti-Semitic group World Church of the Creator (WCOTC), announced last week that he was moving the group's headquarters from Illinois to the Wyoming home of one of his followers. Hale said he had no plans to move to Wyoming himself.

The announcement came in the wake of a recent federal court injunction ordering WCOTC to turn over or destroy materials bearing the group's name because of trademark violations. Hale's efforts to avoid losing his group's materials, yet at the same time maintain the support of his followers, have placed him in an increasingly precarious position. His actions so far have ranged from efforts to avoid seizure to hints at physically resisting enforcement of the injunction.

Hale made it clear that he was unwilling to comply with the courts. In July, Hale informed his followers that he would not stop distributing WCOTC materials, claiming that he had a constitutional right to distribute them that trumped any court order.

Even after the injunction was issued, the group remained defiant. John King, editor of a WCOTC e-mail newsletter, stated that "we are and will remain THE WORLD CHURCH OF THE CREATOR no matter what any Jewish judge may say." Furthermore, he announced that he would soon publish the names and addresses of "all the Jews and Jew-lackeys" involved in the court case.

Hale called the injunction a "slick, draconian order" that placed his group in a "state of war" with U.S. District Judge Joan H. Lefkow, who issued the order against WCOTC in a lawsuit by the TE-TA-MA Truth Foundation, which successfully trademarked the name "Church of the Creator" years ago.

Hale quoted deceased WCOTC founder Ben Klassen saying that the "Jewish Occupational Government" were criminals violating the Constitution and that "we can...treat them like the criminal dogs they are and take the law into our own hands."

Although Hale announced that he had appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, he claimed that he had neither "the power nor the desire to change our religion to meet the dictates of a corrupt judge," and accused Judge Lefkow of becoming "part of the criminal conspiracy" to destroy rights.

Hale continued his offensive against the injunction with a press release in early December in which he stated that any confiscation order was a violation of the Constitution that should be opposed "by whatever means," and reiterated that the injunction placed the WCOTC in a state of war. To one local reporter, he characterized the injunction as "fighting words," and said it must "be resisted by any means necessary."

While Hale gave interviews, WCOTC members debated the implications of the court order and possible responses. Many were clearly agitated, so much so that one Illinois member, Scott Ronald Gulbranson, had to quiet them. In a Creativity newsletter, he said that "anybody who has thought about getting his guns needs to remember to calm down," and suggested that if the WCOTC did resort to "guerrilla style warfare," it would lose.

Hale, though, had his own plans. On December 6, 2002, he announced to his followers that he was moving the "World Headquarters" of the WCOTC to Riverton, Wyoming, home to one of Hale's most loyal followers, Thomas Kroenke (promoted to "Hasta Primus," or Hale's chief assistant).

A former private investigator, Kroenke moved to Wyoming in 1999 and got a job with the Wyoming Department of Corrections (where he learned about WCOTC from an inmate). According to Kroenke, he is currently on paid leave because his superiors learned of his involvement with the hate group. One of Kroenke's first actions as "Hasta Primus" was to encourage WCOTC members to contact the law firm representing the TE-TA-MA Foundation to demand that the firm cease its "harassment."

The decision to move "Headquarters" to Wyoming was clearly tied to avoiding the injunction. Hale informed WCOTC members that the group's materials "are now in Wyoming safe and secure" and assured them that "no tyrant's paws will ensnare our Holy Scriptures!" He also suggested that he was "planning many surprises for our enemies both inside the court room and out." The Wyoming move would provide Hale "with more time for this purpose." To a Wyoming reporter, Hale said that he could not be specific about all the reasons for the move, but said, "We are, of course, being persecuted right now by the federal court system."

Some of Hale's followers applauded the Wyoming stratagem. Charles Smith, an Ohio member, stated on the WCOTC's message forum that "this ought to throw a monkeywrench into their little ZOG (Zionist-Occupied Government) party, at least for a while. Must be rather disappointing for these steins to watch their prime catch slip right through their fingers." Bill White, operator of a Maryland extremist Web site, Overthrow.com, even claimed that federal court orders could not apply in Riverton because it was located inside an Indian reservation (an incorrect assumption).

At the same time the WCOTC tried to keep its literature and materials intact, it also sought ways to protect its Internet sites. In early December, the moderator of the WCOTC discussion forum announced that he had been instructed to find a secondary domain name for his site in case the WCOTC lost control of its current one. However, he was confident that his servers were protected and that the Foundation could not gain control of them.

Nevertheless, in October and December, the WCOTC made some changes to its Internet domain name registry.

The administrative and technical contacts for its Web pages are now listed as "SW Forest Services," a company with an address allegedly in Haiti, but which gives a telephone number with a Washington state area code (which, however, is disconnected) and an e-mail address from a Swiss Internet company. The servers that host these sites are located in California. These changes may possibly be part of an attempt to make seizure of the WCOTC's Internet domain names more difficult.

The loss of the trademark case puts Hale in a difficult position. If he complies with the injunction, adopting a new name for his group and turning over its old materials, he faces both financial loss and the loss of respect from many of his followers, as well as other, unaffiliated white supremacists. Yet to defy the injunction invites a confrontation with the law—even a possible physical confrontation if authorities move to seize WCOTC materials.

Hale's maneuvers suggest that he is trying to buy time for himself and his group, obscuring where trademark violating materials may be located while remaining openly defiant of the court order. When time runs out, however, Hale's options will be fewer and he himself may be more desperate.

ADL LAUDS LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR PREVENTING EXTREMIST VIOLENCE WITH ARREST OF MATT HALE

January 8, 2003

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) applauded law enforcement for today's arrest of Matt Hale, leader of the virulently anti-Semitic and racist World Church of the Creator, on charges he attempted to solicit the murder of a federal judge. ADL said the arrest "was not surprising given Matt Hale's propensity for violence and hatemongering and his contempt for the law."

"Matt Hale has been outspoken, even praiseworthy, of those followers who seek to violently act out their hatred against Jews, Blacks and other minorities, so his arrest on charges of soliciting the murder of a judge is not surprising," said Richard S. Hirschhaut, ADL Chicago Regional Director. "We have long known his propensity for violence."

Having monitored the growth of World Church of the Creator for many years, ADL has become increasingly concerned about the violent propensities of Hale and his group. In 1999, one of Hale's followers, Benjamin Smith, went on a murderous shooting spree in the Midwest targeting Jews, African-Americans and Asian-Americans that left two dead and nine wounded before killing himself. Smith had previously been designated as a "Creator of the Year." Since the shootings, Hale has continued to praise Smith's deeds and hold him up as a model member of his group.

RACIST GROUP HOLDS ANTI-IMMIGRATION RALLY IN MAINE

January 16, 2003

About 30 members of the anti-Semitic and white supremacist group World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) held a meeting on Jan. 11 at the Army National Guard Armory in Lewiston, Maine, in protest of the recent immigration of 1,100 Somalis to the town.

The group went ahead with the meeting despite the arrest of its leader and planned speaker, Matt Hale, who last week was charged with soliciting the murder of a federal judge in Chicago. Hale was to have spoken on "The Invasion of Maine by Somalis and How We Can End It."

In place of Hale, "Reverend" Jon Fox, the WCOTC Illinois state leader, spoke about the danger of the White race being destroyed by a so-called "national conspiracy" that wants to rule the world. Fox stated that his message is being ignored by the "Jewish-controlled mass media." He added, "We're not into hate. We're into love, but we love our own kind."

Besides Fox, there were two other WCOTC speakers: Robert Freeman of Old Lyme, Conn., and David Stearns of Portland, Maine. Stearns said that the so-called "conspiracy" has become personal for Maine, adding that immigrants are taking away the unskilled jobs that he did as a child. "It's a battle for survival," he said. All three speakers called for Hale's release from prison.

The meeting at the armory was relatively peaceful, with the group leaving from the back of the building into a waiting van. Approximately 200 protestors had assembled outside the armory where the racist meeting took place.

The state assembled a massive police presence, described as the largest law enforcement callout in Maine's history. Only one protestor was arrested for disorderly conduct. "I don't think we could have imagined it would go so well," said Phil Nadeau, the assistant city administrator.

Nearby, over 4,000 people gathered at a counter-rally in the Bates College Merrill Auditorium for two and a half hours, with the rest overflowing outside. The diverse "Many and One Coalition," formed by anti-racist Lewiston residents, was joined by many other groups.

Among the participants in the Bates counter rally were the Minneapolis-based Somali Justice Advocacy Center, and various Maine officials including Gov. John Baldacci, state Attorney General Steven Rowe, and U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins. Gov. Baldacci said, "We stand united as one in Maine when it comes to neighborliness, when it comes to tolerance, when it comes to opportunity."

Although no new Somalis have arrived in Lewiston since August, the town's mayor, Laurier Raymond, felt that the Somali immigrants had placed a huge burden on the town's assistance programs and schools. On Oct. 1, 2002, he sent an open letter to the Somali community, which asked them to reduce the stress on the town's financial resources. Five days later, a group of Somali elders responded by pointing out the contributions made by the Somalis to the town and accusing the mayor of bigotry.

The WCOTC, along with other white supremacist groups, felt that they could exploit the situation in Lewiston by promoting their racist ideology there. The WCOTC planned the meeting with hopes of galvanizing support among local residents.

THE CREATIVITY MOVEMENT IN 2003

May 13, 2003

The first half of 2003 was a rocky time for the Creativity Movement, which has been struggling to cope with two related legal setbacks: the loss of a trademark lawsuit that has resulted in the group being stripped of the right to use its original name; and the arrest of its leader, Matt Hale, in January 2003 on charges that he solicited the murder of the federal judge who presided over the trademark trial. Hale's trial date is set for September 22, 2003.

With the arrest of Matt Hale, around whom most of the operations of the group centered, the Creativity Movement's main challenge has been to survive at all. Hale's ability to lead the group from jail has been limited at best, and some members have raised the question of whether the group should choose a new leader or "Pontifex Maximus"-an issue angrily quashed by Hale loyalists such as Virginia adherent John King, who stated that members "OWE it to this man, to stand behind him in this frivolous case brought by the Jewdicial system."

Other Creativity adherents suggested changing the very nature of the group. Pittsburgh adherent Hardy Lloyd announced in February that the days of "memberships and street rallies" were drawing to an end and that "the time of the LONE WOLF is drawing ever nearer." He proposed a new group, "Cobra Command," his answer to "infighting, arrests, disunity and information distribution." This "leaderless resistance" structure, with no real leader and no hierarchy, would presumably be less vulnerable to disruption or destruction.

Hale's own leadership efforts were significantly disrupted. In February, a federal judge ordered that Hale be denied bond, stating that he was a "danger to the community" and a "flight risk." Because Hale had been denied social visits, his efforts to lead his group were limited largely to sending out messages from jail to his followers. Even these efforts seemed in danger; Attorney General John Ashcroft ordered the invoking of "special administrative measures" that significantly reduce a defendant's ability to communicate with the outside world (measures imposed when the government believes that a jailed person could send information to "conspirators at large"). These measures included even monitoring Hale's conversations with his attorney; however, a judge overruled this particular provision in April, saying the restriction violated Hale's Sixth Amendment rights.

The Creativity Movement received another blow at the end of April, when Judge Joan Lefkow, presiding over the trademark case, ruled that the group had not been complying with court orders regarding trademarked materials and ordered that the group pay a \$1,000 a day fine for each day it continued to use its old name. She also ordered the group's Web sites shut down until trademarked terms were removed

and ordered the freezing of bank accounts held by the group or by one of its leaders, Thomas Kroenke. She authorized U.S. Marshals to seize materials containing trademark violations if the group does not turn over such items for destruction. Finally, she ordered the group to turn over its membership list.

The result of all these developments has left the Creativity Movement disrupted, with significant limitations on Matt Hale's ability to lead it, and on the group's ability to get out its racist and anti-Semitic message to followers through publications and Web sites.

MATT HALE STRUGGLES TO LEAD MOVEMENT FROM JAIL

May 13, 2003

For Matt Hale, the year 2003 has been dominated by his January 8 arrest (on charges that he solicited the murder of the federal judge presiding in the trademark lawsuit case against Hale and his group, now known as the Creativity Movement) and its aftermath.

Denied bond after a judge ruled that he was a "flight risk" and a "threat to the community," Hale was faced with the prospect of keeping his faltering white supremacist group together from the confines of a jail cell. Even this task seemed daunting, as in March the Justice Department imposed infrequently used "special administrative measures" designed to reduce Hale's ability to communicate with his followers; such measures can be imposed when officials believe that a jailed person could send information to "conspirators at large." As a result, severe restrictions were placed on Hale's ability to use the telephone, receive visitors, and send out messages. However, in April a federal judge overturned one of the measures, which would have restricted Hale's ability to talk privately with his attorney, ruling that the restriction violated Hale's Sixth Amendment rights.

Hale's messages to his followers from jail were essentially attempts to maintain morale in the group and to assure followers that he was confident of eventual success. In one communication sent in early February, he informed adherents that not only was he "unbroken and unbowed," but that he was "actually quite flattered that this tyrannical government has acted in such a manner." He assured them that he was innocent and urged them to "remain strong." In another letter, he urged followers to donate money to his legal defense and to write letters supporting his release that stressed his commitment to "legal and peaceful change"-although Hale ended this plea with "RAHOWA!", an acronym standing for "Racial Holy War."

It is clear that Hale's efforts to maintain morale have not been that successful. Some members of the Creativity Movement spoke of the possibility of appointing a new leader or "Pontifex Maximus," while others advocated going over to a "leaderless resistance" model. These rumblings were enough to cause Hale loyalist John King to speak out in the group's newsletter calling for adherents to maintain their loyalty to Hale.

Hale will have time for more letters from prison. In May, Hale's trial date was set for September 22, 2003, with a final pretrial hearing a month earlier.

MATT HALE FACES NEW CHARGES

March 26, 2004

Another charge of solicitation to murder has been brought against Matt Hale, this time based on the testimony of former Creativity leader Jon Fox. Fox claimed in October 2003 that Hale attempted to have the attorneys opposing him in a trademark infringement case in 2002 killed. Fox also said that Hale, who remains imprisoned without bail for allegedly soliciting the murder of the judge in that case, had reason to believe that his disciple, Benjamin Smith, planned to go on a shooting spree that left nine people dead in 2001 – a charge that is currently being investigated by federal authorities.

Hale's trial on both solicitation charges will begin in April 2004. He has pleaded not guilty, and has claimed moreover that his funds are exhausted – which led a judge to order the U.S. government to pay his defense costs. In a separate ruling, the judge ordered Hale and other current and former leaders of his group to pay a \$200,000 fine for violating court orders in the trademark infringement case.

With their leader in jail, some Creativity members have joined other extremist groups, but the former World Church of the Creator is apparently making a new attempt to reach out to members, supporters and even possible recruits in the prison system. Illinois Creators have started a new newsletter, "due to the great success of our prison outreach program," called Outlook Monthly; it is "especially made just for our brothers and sisters behind the wire." The first issue contains updates on recent Creativity Movement activities, a biography of Matt Hale and the "Sixteen Commandments" of the Creativity Movement.

MATT HALE FOUND GUILTY OF SOLICITING MURDER

April 27, 2004

A U.S. District Court jury in Chicago has convicted white supremacist leader Matt Hale for soliciting the murder of a federal judge.

Hale, 32, leader and self-proclaimed "Pontifex Maximus" of the virulently racist and anti-Semitic [Creativity Movement](#) (formerly known as the World Church of the Creator), was found guilty on April 26, 2004, of one count of solicitation of murder and three counts of obstruction of justice. He was acquitted of a second count of solicitation of murder.

During the trial, jurors heard recorded conversations of Hale trying to persuade FBI informant Anthony Evola, who acted as Hale's bodyguard, to kill Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkowitz. Jon Fox, a former Hale follower, also testified that Hale asked him to kill the judge who had presided over a trademark infringement case involving Hale's group. Hale's group was ordered by Judge Lefkowitz to stop using its name, to give up its Web addresses, to turn over all printed material bearing its name and to pay a fine of \$1,000 for each day it continued to violate the court decision.

Prosecutors also played tapes of Hale laughing about a murderous 1999 shooting spree by a follower, Benjamin Smith, who targeted Jews, African-Americans and Asian-Americans during his rampage. Smith killed two people and wounded nine others before killing himself as police closed in. He had previously been designated by Hale as a "Creator of the Year."

Hale, of East Peoria, Illinois, faces up to 20 years in prison for the solicitation of murder charge and an additional 10 years for each of the three obstruction of justice counts.

As head of the Creativity Movement since 1996, Hale was one of the best-known leaders on the far right. Under his leadership, the group gained publicity for its resurgence and for the violent incidents with which it was associated.

HALE CONTINUES APPEALS AS SENTENCING LOOMS

October 25, 2004

The date for Matt Hale's sentencing following his conviction on charges of soliciting the murder of Judge Joan Humphrey Lefkow and on three counts of obstructing justice has been set for November 15, 2004.

In August 2004 Hale dismissed his attorney and began representing himself in court (he has a law degree but has been refused admission to practice). He continues to appeal his convictions, submitting handwritten court papers because of his limited access to a typewriter or computer while in prison. Hale continues to insist that the dialogue on audio tapes heard by the jury, in which he talks with Anthony Evola, an FBI informant, does not refer to killing Judge Lefkow herself, but possibly to killing two other individuals also discussed on the tape.

Should Hale's current appeal be denied, he can appeal to a higher court.

Hale's group, the Creativity Movement, has decreased significantly in numbers since Hale's arrest, and lacks clear leadership or focus.

MATT HALE SENTENCING HEARING SCHEDULED

February 4, 2005

Matt Hale's sentencing hearing in Chicago has been scheduled for April 6. Hale was convicted by a jury in April 2004 of soliciting the murder of a federal judge, and has been in prison since early 2003. His sentencing had been postponed pending the resolution of two cases regarding sentencing guidelines before the U.S. Supreme Court.

FAMILY OF FEDERAL JUDGE WHO CONVICTED MATT HALE SLAIN

March 1, 2005

The husband and mother of U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow were found murdered in the basement of her Chicago home. Judge Lefkow presided over a trademark infringement lawsuit against a white supremacist group headed by Matt Hale. Hale was convicted in 2004 for soliciting her murder.

The murders took place just five weeks before Hale is scheduled to be sentenced for his crimes.

Investigators in the February 28, 2005, murders of Michael Lefkow, 64, and Donna Humphrey, 90, have not yet publicly drawn any connections to Hale or his followers. The investigation is still in its early stages.

Matt Hale tried to have Lefkow killed because in 2002 she presided over a trademark lawsuit against Hale's racist and anti-Semitic group, the World Church of the Creator. Hale was convicted of soliciting Lefkow's murder in April 2004. His group, now known as the Creativity Movement, has been in disarray since Hale's arrest in January 2003.

Authorities have been aware for some time that Hale's group has had a reputation for retaliation. The most notorious such incident occurred in 1999, when Hale follower Benjamin Smith embarked upon a deadly two-state shooting spree, targeting minorities, after the Illinois State Bar denied Hale a law license.

Because of the concern that Hale would urge retaliation after his arrest, authorities placed the imprisoned white supremacist under tight security measures reserved for terrorist suspects that severely restrict his ability to communicate with the outside world.

Similarly, because of concerns over retaliation, authorities put significant security measures in place at the Lefkow home in 2003. However, neighbors said that such measures had lessened.

Hale's sentencing is scheduled for April 6, 2005.

INVESTIGATION INTO MURDER OF JUDGE'S FAMILY CONTINUES

March 9, 2005

The investigation into the murder of the husband and mother of U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow continues in Chicago. Judge Lefkow presided over a trademark infringement lawsuit against a white supremacist group headed by Matt Hale. Hale was convicted in 2004 for soliciting her murder.

The murders took place just five weeks before Hale is scheduled to be sentenced for his crimes.

A joint task force consisting of Chicago police, the FBI and U.S. marshals have yet to announce any suspects in the February 28, 2005, murders of Michael Lefkow, 64, and Donna Humphrey, 89, though they have released sketches of two "persons of interest." A \$50,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the capture of the killers.

Investigators are looking at several possible theories behind the murders, including a linkage to members of hate groups. Law enforcement officials have interviewed numerous white supremacists in connection with the investigation, including followers of Matt Hale.

ADL has been in contact with investigators to share information that could be useful in the investigation.

Hale tried to have Lefkow killed because in 2002 she presided over a trademark lawsuit against Hale's racist and anti-Semitic group, the World Church of the Creator. Hale was convicted of soliciting Lefkow's murder in April 2004. His group, now known as the Creativity Movement, has been in disarray since Hale's arrest in January 2003.

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Similarly, because of concerns over retaliation, authorities put significant security measures in place at the Lefkow home in 2003. However, neighbors said that such measures had lessened.

Hale's sentencing is scheduled for April 6, 2005.

MAN ADMITS KILLING JUDGE'S FAMILY IN SUICIDE NOTE

March 16, 2005

A 57-year-old man admitted killing Judge Lefkow's husband and mother in a letter to a Chicago television station and in a suicide note in his van. Bart A. Ross, who committed suicide on March 9 after he was stopped for a routine traffic violation in West Allis, Wisconsin, said that he killed Lefkow's relatives because of the judge's ruling against him. Authorities said that the DNA found on a cigarette butt at the scene of the murders matches that of Ross. The .22-caliber shells investigators found in Ross' s van also matches the casings found in Judge Lefkow's home.

MATT HALE RECEIVES 40-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE

April 6, 2005

Matt Hale received a 40-year prison sentence today for soliciting the murder of a Federal judge in 2002. The former leader of the Creativity movement was convicted last April of trying to arrange the murder of U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow, who had ruled against Hale's group in a trademark infringement case.

"Before you does stand a man who not only is innocent, not only is demonstrably innocent, but who refused to join a plot against Judge Lefkow's life," Hale said during the sentencing hearing.

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS MATT HALE CONVICTION

June 19, 2006

On May 30, 2006, the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Matt Hale's 2004 conviction and 40-year sentence for soliciting the murder of U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkow. Lefkow had ordered Hale's white supremacist group to stop using the name World Church of the Creator in a trademark infringement case, causing Hale to become enraged, according to evidence presented at the trial. Hale tried to persuade FBI informant Anthony Evola, head of Hale's security force, to kill Judge Lefkow.

At one time Hale was one of the most prominent far-right leaders. Since his incarceration, his group, the Creativity Movement, has dwindled into insignificance. Many of its members have joined other groups, and there is no discernible leadership.