

anti-racist action bulletin

jan 2001



GWH

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Conference minutes and some commentary

The following minutes, taken at the conference by Sprite and Kristin, were posted to the e-mail list. I have taken a few liberties in editing them and also inserted some comments in italics. Please send corrections or clarifications to us for the next bulletin.
Sunday/Toronto

ARA Conference Notes Oct 2000 Detroit

CHAPTER REPORTS

Montreal – countering nazi street violence, pro-choice work, investigating violence vs anglophones

Lansing – anti-globalization work

Kent – setting up CopWatch, action training, forming NE Coalition to Stop TABD

Columbus – set up new downtown office, TABD work, Oct 22,

Chicago – dealt with arrests, WCOTC campaign, monitoring of fascist groups, Irving action, anti-nazi stuff in Berwyn, flyering high schools

Muncie – CopWatch, Oct 22, regional zine project, having Floyd Cochrane speak

PART – regional gatherings, DNC stuff, John Brown 2000 conference

Toronto-Mumia work, tracking resurgence of nazi street violence, shut down wp show, a few CopWatches, 3 shows

Kitchener-Waterloo – putting out CD, had a fencewalker defect to nazis, supporting Pierre George (Stoney Point), doused Canadian Alliance leader with chocolate milk

South Chicago – Mumia work, Oct 22 and police brutality, bringing Pam Africa in November

Oakville – small chapter, drove small group of nazis away, wiped out racist graffiti, Stoney Point work

Louisville – Attacked by boneheads (some arrested and facing jail), street campaign against nazis, clinic escorting, Southern Girls Convention, youth cultural center

Asheville – anti-globalization, Mayday rally

Yellow Springs – fizzled out, some new interest, trying to revitalize

London – rise in boneheads, chapter dying out

Western New York – getting together, setting up college chapters in area, boneheads in Niagara falls

Detroit – not doing very much, a few CopWatches, fizzling but still interest, police brutality work

Total Chapters present: 17

Chicago

Columbus

Montreal

Toronto

LA

Lansing

Ypsilanti

Louisville

Muncie

Maryland

Yellow Springs

Oakville

Buffalo

Kent

Detroit

Kitchener-Waterloo

Asheville

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Small groups formed with the intent of brainstorming agenda items for the conference.

Talks went well, common themes emerged and some proposals were constructed.

AGENDA

1. Regional organization
2. Decision-making between conferences
3. Communications
 - a) E-mail
 - b) Internal bulletin
4. Points of Unity
5. Network Web page
6. Online store
7. Intel unit
8. Endorsements: TABD, Julian
9. Next conference
10. Las Vegas Update

SATURDAY PLENARY

1. Regional Stuff

PROPOSAL:

That we select 5-10 chapters to be "regional contacts", with their contact info being promoted widely throughout the Network. The regional contacts will be responsible for responding to people interested in ARA, whether they respond directly or send those inquiries to a closer chapter.

Responsibilities for regional contacts

- forward email/mail/phone calls to other chapters and individuals in their region
- arrange face-to-face meetings with new folks wherever possible

Discussion: haven't we agreed to this already? why are we talking about it again?

We need more defined expectations? Can we expect a quarterly report, for example?

What kinds of sanctions can we place on chapters that don't follow

through?

Should the regional contacts rotate? If so, isn't there a problem with promoting contact info and then changing it every year?

Regional contacts should keep records of their correspondence & phone calls, and other ARAers should have access to that info (within security limitations).

These are the rough boundaries assigned to each region, and its contact chapter:

Eastern USA - Maryland
New England - Buffalo
S/E - Louisville
MW - Chicago/Columbus
NW - ???
SW - LA

Canada
East - Montreal
Central - Toronto
West -??

Ultimately the proposal passed, although no vote was recorded. ??s fall to the closest region.

Regional Gatherings

PROPOSAL: Instead of having Delegates Meetings, we encourage regional gatherings.
Consensus!

Regional caucuses to be held tomorrow at the end of the plenary.
Consensus!

2. Delegates Email/Phone List

PROPOSAL: That we establish an email list (supplemented by a phone list), consisting of two delegates for each chapter. This structure be established so that the Network can make decisions between conferences.

That there be a seven day time limit for responses for emergency decisions, and a 21 day limit for

endorsements and other non-emergencies.

Consensus!

This decision means that each chapter should be choosing their two delegates ASAP. This job can easily rotate, but chapters need to be on top of keeping those two people in the loop and vice versa.

3. Network Communications

a. Email lists

1. "Main" Discussion List - Internal communication only. This list is to be used for ARA-specific and related news and discussion. Two vouches are needed to be added to this list.

Michael Novick (PART), Kristin (Toronto) approved as administrators

2. "ARA News" list - administered by Melissa/Maryland ARA. Question from Maryland - should it be very ARA focused, or more broad?

Consensus was to keep it broad, but to put ARA-specific news at the top of every bulletin. This list is open to the public.

3. Delegates List (see above) - Giselle (Montreal), Angie (Columbus) approved as administrators

Lists - add a notification to the "welcome" messages that people who bounce mail will be temporarily removed.

b. Bulletin

Maryland complains that nobody sends stuff to the Bulletin - only Toronto & Chicago. Do we value this tool or not, as a Network?

Straw poll about whether it's worth it to continue publishing the Bulletin: Majority of individuals said yes - dissenting opinion was that energy is better spent on local work, rather

than Network projects. More positive view is that the Bulletin is one tool we have to revive the relationships among Network chapters.

Toronto volunteers to do the Bulletin this year.

4. Points of Unity

At last year's conference, a decision was made to include language about class in the Points of Unity. We were to come to this year's conference with proposals for wording. However, no proposals were on the table at this conference. We needed to decide how to deal with that.

A straw poll - do we want to dedicate time during tomorrow's plenary to consider proposals to change the four points of unity to incorporate language around "class"?

Result: 12 for, 31 against, 10 abstentions

SUNDAY PLENARY

Chapters from Kent, Asheville, Ypsilanti are not present, but adding in S. Chicago there are 15 chapters present.

Everyone is feeling good. Todd gives a rousing pep rally with support from Michael Novick. *Though we are a smaller conference group this year, we are all more or less on the same page.*

5. NETWORK WEB PAGE

Last year we voted to put ARA-NET web page on Tao, still has not happened. We are developing a more mutually supportive relationship with Tao, sending money to them needs to happen.

The aramet page was down at the time of the conference. Page domain

payment had lapsed and Tad paid it up till 2004.

We need a crew to handle web site, be accountable, get domain bill paid, upkeep content. We need a server to host it.

Regional contacts should also help submit material to a network web page.

Web Page Crew:

Sunday

Gerry

Tad

Todd

6. ONLINE STORE

This is run through Montreal's site and all chapters can link to it. Chapters can buy merch at cost + shipping. 30% of profits from an area go to the chapter from that area.

Montreal and Plattsburgh will handle shipping and site maintenance.

Chapters who make t-shirts, patches & stuff can distro it through the store. Contact ARA Montreal.

7. INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Proposal by Chicago ARA. Motivation – ARA can't rely on information provided by liberal monitoring groups like Klanwatch/ADL/Searchlight/CNC.

Most of their information comes from infiltrating mailing lists and e-mail lists. We also need more understanding of how the state is now and will continue to fuck with us.

We need to know our enemies to fight them.

Chicago ARA proposes to start developing a network-wide ARA Intelligence Unit that will tackle these concerns. Some ideas of how this will work:

Get 1 person from each chapter. Each person/chapter takes responsibility for monitoring a specific group or publication. Each raises their own money for subscription costs, etc. Each makes copies of the materials they get and sends them out to interested/affected chapters. Should have e-mail list for sharing info. Should have a web page for posting stuff specifically for attention of other ARA chapters and members. List of publications and e-mail lists to monitor attached.

Passed by consensus.

These people volunteered:

*Sheila (Louisville)

*Melissa (N. Md)

*Ben (Toronto)

*Remy (Montreal)

MN (PART)

*Emily (Jersey)

Mike (Detroit)

*Angie (Columbus)

*Phillippe (Quebec)

Adam (Muncie)

Davin (K-W)

*Kris (TO)

Not sure what the asterisks mean.

8. ENDORSEMENTS

On Oct 5th, Julian from Kitchener/Waterloo Ontario ARA was arrested for throwing milk on a pseudo-fascist Asking for financial support and trial support. Passed the hat. November 20th pre-trial in K-W.

TRANS-ATLANTIC BUSINESS DIALOGUE meeting, counterdemonstration in Cincinnati Nov. 16-18, 2000. Columbus' Call to Action endorsed by network. (See elsewhere for the text.)

A crew was set up to work on this and general anti-globalization movement work more deeply, although these minutes don't reveal the participants. It's not a secret, it's just not in

the minutes. Shawn/Asheville is one that I recall. Maybe he knows.

9. NEXT CONFERENCE

Montreal it is!

10. LAS VEGAS UPDATE

Vegas trial date set for Monday, Nov 28 in LV for John Butler's murder charges. The discussion generated ideas which each chapter could follow up on as they wished.

What to do?

Organize a demo in LV? Not seen as possible. But going to the court, giving support to the families is really important.

Bombard LV with postcards, letters Send letters to the editor of LV papers, as well as hometown

Questions: What is tone we want to set? Do we want Butler jailed? Given the death

penalty? Or do we want to send some other antifa message? Expose that the state is not prosecuting as well as it could?

Should make clear that state and prosecutors are not the solution to fascism.

People in LV know the network knows about them, they're isolated, they need backup.

We placed an ad last trial date, with message of remember D & S and people need to organize in their own communities

Some would rather see a militant street presence than another ad

Organize an antifa demo/nazi outing on same day in own communities

Decision: there was \$200 left over from conference. Proposal to offer it to Las Vegas to organize a response as they see fit. Passed by consensus.

The following flyer was distributed at the conference.

Our Take on the State of the Network

It seems to us that the network has been on the skids for a while now. Some of our historically strongest chapters have faded and many young people who might have previously joined the Anti-Fascist Movement are instead orienting to the "Spirit of Seattle" – the growing Anti-Globalization movement. None the less the fascist threat, mainstream white supremacy and patriarchy have not gone away. There remains a major need for ARA and the work we do.

The following is our contribution towards a discussion of what we need to do to rebuild and revitalize the ARA network to a higher level.

1. Anti-Fascist Work

We need to continue to organize militant opposition to the KKK, Neo-Nazis, and the Christian Right. We need to develop our own intelligence and analysis of the fascist movement, its major figures and organizations and the likely direction of the various trends. This can inform a strategy of direct action and counter information aimed at actually damaging and demoralizing the fascists and preventing them from achieving any significant victories.

2. Anti-Globalization / Street Protest Movement

Fascism didn't just fall from the sky, it was spawned from the exploitive capitalist system. Over the last year a movement has begun to emerge out of the dramatic actions against capitalist globalization (Seattle, DC, Toronto, Philly, LA, etc.) While all of this is very positive, there are major problems as well. The movement is politically dominated by economic nationalists (Buchanan, Nader, Hoffa) whose America-First, anti-immigrant stances are totally racist. Young direct-action advocates have come under attack from "peaceful protesters" and the "official sanctioned legal protest movement" and worst of all the major trends of fascism see this movement as a recruiting ground. Many ARA individuals have participated in these actions, but we need to do it collectively, bringing with us our uncompromising stance against racism and the fascists, and our direct-action methods.

3. Building Anti-Fascist Culture

Probably ARA's biggest strength is that we are not merely a collection of politicians but an expression of a semi-spontaneous rebellious anti-fascist culture. We need to build that culture – through music, graffiti, sports, parties, the Internet – providing a cultural space where we can try to imagine freedom – and create in society a clear, distinct vision counter to that of the fascists.

4. Getting Rooted in Working Class Communities

If we are to successfully compete with the fascists, challenge the status quo, and survive repression, we can not be isolated on the margins of society. We need to develop projects and campaigns that break out of narrow counterculture/student ghettos and become a pole of attraction for youth from the working class and oppressed communities. Taking up struggles against police brutality, welfare cuts, queer bashing, unemployment, etc. as well as staying alert to the fascists. This will not be easy, but only by getting rooted in communities of the oppressed will ARA understand the nature of the struggle and be strong enough for the long haul.

5. Develop Our Self Defense Capabilities

The tragedy of Las Vegas two years later is still sinking in; two comrades were tortured and murdered by Nazi boneheads without any adequate response from our side. Las Vegas was a wake up call that this business can cost you your life. We need to develop the capabilities to defend our groups and communities from fascist attacks and legal repression. We need better security, self-defense, lawyers, strong allies, and popular sympathy. It needs to be understood far and wide that there is a cost for attacking us.

We welcome criticism and discussion. ARA all the way!

Chicago ARA
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Chicago, IL 60622
312-409-1432 ara@wwa.com

Workshop on the Las Vegas Murders

There were many workshops, but only a couple were mentioned afterwords on the e-mail list. Slightly edited below.

From Giselle/Montreal:

Hey all.. 'k just wanted to go over some of the stuff that was discussed at the vegas workshop - and some ideas that came out of it. Here's the bulk of it, roughly summerized:

- - the lack of focus ARA as a network has had on the dan and spit murders (especially this past year), how to properly respond, and where to go from here. I don't really have the energy to get into all of this again, but let's face it. ARA has not done enough. Some of the sentiments expressed were because of the distance most chapters are to Vegas, the fear factor (pushing it under the rug.. too freaked out to deal with it), and the fact that the recent focus on anti-globalization has diverted attention away from other stuff we could be working on (spreading ourselves too thin). A lot of other factors came up, but those were some of the main ones. Canadians were the only ones in attendance at the workshop - and there were some feelings that more american ARA chapters should be stepping up in regards to this (especially since they are far closer geographically than the canucks are).

...

- - the November 28th court date for John Butler (who is the only person arrested for the murders, even though there were other very likely suspects, ...

- We discussed holding simultaneous demos or actions (outings, etc.) on that date. We figured that people who couldn't make it to Vegas could do shit in their towns, as well as send out press releases (something everyone can do) - to draw attention to the case. (and then sort of changed our minds on the demo thing and thought the press release focus would be a better idea - see point 4)

- We talked about people getting down to vegas to fill up at least half of the courtroom (flights to vegas are cheap if you book in advance). This is a critical psychological thing for the vegas fash who will most definately be there in the court room - if we can get as many ARA-ers and supporters in that courtroom, we can definately help support ARA Las Vegas, show our solidarity, and show the nazis our strength as ARA (and that we are keeping tabs on all of this and have not forgotten).

- July 3rd - (the night dan and spit were ambushed in the desert). Declaring July 3rd and International Day of Action.. in the name of Dan and Spit. We figured instead of whipping together some sort of network hooplah for the 28th of November, we could look more long term to July 3rd and really organize something big. This would require some more media attention before hand towards the murders but also to get the rest of the activist community involved.. this leads to our next point:

- Wording.. Someone brought up a really excellent point at the workshop and it was that in our press releases, propaganda etc. about the vegas murders thus far - we've used wording in sort of subcultural terms. These sorts of terms i think can confuse people who don't know enough about say -anti-racist skinheads, etc. Calling dan and spit "civil rights activists" for example instead of "two anti-racist skinheads" - is the sort of terminology that i think would wake up more of the broader activist community and take it out of a subcultural perspective. Wording it in a really profound way.. you know in a real sort of global historical way - is something we need to think about when we write up press releases, prop. about the murders - in the future. We also discussed holding public forums, stuff like that to make it a more globally recognized atrocity.

- One last point that came up both in the plenary and in the workshop.. there is some confusion as to the message that ARA wants to convey here. The state is pushing for the death penalty for John Butler - and ARA does a lot of work fighting racist death penalty laws (mumia work) - and we didn't want to contradict ourselves... etc. Also you know sort of organizing our efforts around the judicial and legal system of convicting more people for these murders isn't what a lot of ARA people want to be backing. So that issue has come up and different people had different opinions.

- More communication with Vegas, find out what they need.. how we can help.. etc.

...giselle

from Michael/Los Angeles:

Thanks for writing this up. Spit and Dan were also discussed at a simultaneous workshop on "Pacifism as Pathology" that a number of US chapters were at and contributed to the discussion (and thanks to your initiative we also did discuss things at the plenary, including the show of hands on people going to LV).

I would say that I don't really agree with the idea of referring to Spit and Dan as "civil rights activists." To me, that's Freedom Socialist Party talk. In fact people were critical last year of an early draft I wrote which referred to them only as anti-racist activists and didn't talk about them as skinheads, just members of ARA. I agree that we want to promote a wider understanding of the importance of their lives and death, but I don't think people are fooled by using liberal language. We should take on the prejudice directly in one or two sentences - by challenging the ADL-type bullshit that the killings were gang or drug related, and by pointing out that people who should have responded didn't because Spit and Dan were anti-racist skins. The argument we need to make is that this disarms opponent of racist violence, encouraged the nazi boneheads and helped lead to a definite increase in racist violence over the past couple of years.

My two cents.

-Michael

MURDER TRIAL of JOHN "POLAR BEAR" BUTLER

Summary of the case from the Asheville Global Report

January 2, 2001

Nazi skinhead leader convicted in activists' murders

By Shawn Gaynor

Las Vegas, Jan. 2— John Edward Butler, leader of the Las Vegas Independent Nazi Skin Heads, was convicted of murder in the first degree for the 1998 killing of Lin Newborn and Daniel Shersty, both anti-racist skinheads.

Shersty and Newborn were shot to death in a remote desert location outside of Las Vegas, at Powerline Road and Centennial Parkway, where they had been lured under pretense of a date by Butler's girl friend, Melissa Hack, and another unidentified woman on the night of July 4, 1998.

The jury took three days to deliberate the charges against Butler before finding him guilty. They will return Wednesday for the sentencing hearing in a case where the prosecution is seeking the death penalty.

Shersty, a 21-year-old Nellis Air Force Base airman and Newborn, 28, who was working at Tribal Body Piercing, were both active against the Las Vegas white supremacist movement.

Prosecutors presented compelling evidence against Butler, including witnesses that placed Butler at the murder scene and others who claimed Butler confessed about the murder to them.

Forensic evidence showed that at least two shooters were involved in the murder. Ross Hack, brother of Melissa Hack and member of the Hammer Skins, is the second suspect in the case.

Shersty died directly in front of his car from shotgun and handgun wounds. Newborn's body was found about 400 feet away, with wounds from a shotgun and a handgun of a different caliber than the gun used to shoot Shersty. Video tape from a convenience store where they stopped to buy beer show Shersty, Newborn, and Hack at around midnight on July 4.

An eye witness also identified Melissa Hack with Newborn around midnight.

Another key prosecution witness testified he saw Butler, Hack and Joseph Justin at the murder scene at 8am the next morning.

Joseph Justin, the key witness for the prosecution, confessed to police that he helped Butler and Hack retrieve evidence from the crime scene the morning after the murder that included shotgun shells and a beer bottle with Hack's fingerprints on it.

Justin said he became involved in cleaning the crime scene at the request of Butler. He was not a member of the Independent Nazi Skins and said that his involvement in covering up the crime was an initiation test.

"This would prove to him (Butler) that he had trust to put me in his crew," said Justin.

According to Justin, Butler claimed he shot Shersty with the shotgun while Ross Hack wounded Newborn as he fled into the desert.

"That's when he (Butler) chased him into the desert and finished him off," said Justin.

Justin's testimony was corroborated by a cell mate of Butler's, Richard Fishburn. According to Fishburn, Butler had bragged about how he "offed" two anti-racist activists. Fishburn testified that Butler confessed to the murders the first time they met and filled in the story over the following weeks.

Fishburn said Butler told him he was worried that police had been able to match his .32-caliber handgun to the murders. When Fishburn told Butler how stupid he was for having kept the gun, Fishburn said Butler told him, "It was his favorite gun. He wrote poems about this gun."

The caliber of the murder weapon was not released by authorities before the trial.

When Butler was arrested on July 14 after attempting to flee police, a handgun used in the murder was found in his path of escape.

Defense lawyers tried to construct an alibi for Butler, but defense witnesses contradicted each other on Butler's whereabouts at the time of the murder.

Butler's prior criminal history is stocked with convictions such as exhibiting a deadly weapon, rioting, carrying a concealed weapon, petite larceny and trespass. Also, he has a prior felony conviction for burglary.

Melissa Hack did not testify in the case, invoking her Fifth Amendment rights.

Prosecutors from the Las Vegas district attorney's office were slow to prosecute the case despite holding the key evidence necessary to try the case only a week after the murders. It was not until after a 500 person Anti-Racist Action protest in the fall of 1998 in John Butler's neighborhood, and a similar protest in 1999, where activists

marched down the Vegas strip distributing information on the case to tourists and demanding the case be prosecuted, that the district attorney acted.

Allegedly, Butler had received money in the past from the Las Vegas police department as a police informant.

Ross Hack, who fled to Europe when he was identified as a suspect two years ago, has never been charged for his involvement in the murder. According to the defense attorney, Ross Hack has been on a "two-year vacation in Europe," courtesy of his rich father.

Prosecutors say they have no plans to pursue charges against Ross Hack. Melissa Hack also remains uncharged in the case.

Lionel Newborn said his son had told him that he was involved in various organizations that opposed racism.

After the slayings, the father learned with some pride that his son played a leading role in this effort.

"I had no idea that he was involved to the extent that he was," Lionel Newborn said. "I probably wouldn't have been able to sleep at night."

Other relevant testimony from the mainstream media

[Note: pieces of the defense case are included when they give information about defense witnesses and other possible suspects]

Police familiar with accused killer

By Kim Smith <kimberly@lasvegassun.com>

December 11, 2000, LAS VEGAS SUN

(Excerpt)

On Friday Greg Damarin, a former Metro gang office... said that between 1995 and 1998 he had spoken with Butler about 30 times, the final time was on July 14, 1998, when he arrested him for the murders.

During one of those contacts, Damarin said Butler told him about getting into a physical confrontation with some SHARPs, although he did not name them.

Under cross-examination, Damarin said another racist skinhead group in Las Vegas, the Hammer skins, are known for being more violent than the INS.

Defense attorneys have said the man they believe committed the murders had ties with the Hammer skins.

The trial was expected to continue this afternoon before District Judge Michael Douglas.

Defense suggests another suspect in double killing

Witness testifies she made racist boyfriend jealous of skinhead victim found in desert

By GLENN PUT

Saturday, December 16, 2000, Las Vegas Review-Journal

A young woman upset by her racist boyfriend's cheating ways raised the possibility Friday that someone other than John Butler had a motive for killing two anti-racist skinheads in northwest Las Vegas in 1998.

Through the testimony of the woman, Malayna Thompson, 21, defense attorneys for Butler insinuated that former Las Vegan Daniel Hartung could be responsible for the killings.

Butler, 28, is charged in the slayings of Lin "Spit" Newborn and Daniel Shersty in the desert near Centennial Parkway and Powerline Road. Earlier in the trial, authorities presented a volume of evidence against Butler, including incriminating statements attributed to him.

Butler also has been described as a leader of a local racist group, the Independent Nazi Skins. The victims were also skinheads, though they opposed racism.

On the second day of defense testimony Friday, Thompson said shortly before the killings she used Newborn — a black man — to enrage her boyfriend, Hartung. Police say Hartung was a member of a racist skinhead group known as the Hammerskins.

In the weeks before Shersty and Newborn were slain, Thompson said she learned Hartung was having an affair. Furious, she told Hartung that she had twice visited with Newborn at Newborn's house and at a local tattoo and piercing shop.

When asked by Butler's attorney, Deputy Special Public Defender Joseph Sciscento, why Thompson decided to tell Hartung this, she said:

"To piss him off."

Thompson then acknowledged to Sciscento that Hartung had yelled at her for visiting Newborn, and that Hartung has an interest in firearms.

Another defense witness, Kristen Coffin, said that in 1996, she was present at a social gathering of racist skinheads that included Hartung and his brother, Ryan. The group repeatedly voiced ill will toward Newborn because Newborn was alleged to have flirted with one of the brothers' female acquaintances.

"Hostility was in the air," Coffin said. "You could cut it with a knife."

Outside of the presence of the jury, but in front of District Judge Michael Douglas, Coffin added that Hartung's brother, Ryan, talked about harming Newborn at the skinhead gathering.

"I think it's time we put out a green light on this (expletive) right now," Coffin quoted Ryan Hartung as saying of

Newborn.

On cross-examination, Deputy District Attorney Robert Daskas got Coffin to acknowledge that her memory about the incident was fuzzy, and that she was only reasonably sure Ryan Hartung was the man who made the "green light" statements about Newborn.

"It has been four years. ... It was a long time ago," Coffin said.

Sciscento said Daniel Hartung cannot be located by police or defense investigators.

In addition to raising Daniel Hartung as a possible suspect in the slayings, defense attorneys also have presented a series of witnesses who claim Butler was at his brother's house in North Las Vegas near the time of the killings. All of those witnesses are either close friends or family members of Butler's....

Father of murder suspect offers alibi

Trial continues in slayings of two anti-racists

By Kim Smith <kimberly@lasvegassun.com>

December 19, 2000, LAS VEGAS SUN

The father of two people implicated in a double murder case told jurors that the third suspect was eating at his house at the time of the slayings.

On Monday Jacob Hack testified that Butler and his daughter were eating at his kitchen table around 1:30 a.m. July 4 — the estimated time of the slayings. Even after he went to bed around 2 a.m., Jacob Hack said he could hear the couple in his daughter's bedroom across the hall.

Several other defense witnesses have placed Butler at his brother Lonnie's house at roughly the same time.

Under cross-examination, Jacob Hack told Deputy District Attorney Robert Daskas he never went to the police with information about Butler's "alibi." When asked why not, he never gave a direct answer.

Jacob Hack also said he was unaware that his children and Butler were members of a skinhead organization, adding several times that he strongly "disapproves" of such things.

When he was shown a picture of a tattoo on his daughter's ankle, Jacob Hack disagreed with Daskas' assertion that it said "skinhead" in part.

"I don't read that as skin," Jacob Hack said, adding he didn't know what it said.

Jacob Hack also denied taking part in discussions about fireworks, despite the fact that his wife, Jean Hack, also told police that Butler and her daughter were only out in the desert July 4 looking for a perfect fireworks spot.

In addition, Jacob Hack told Daskas that his son Ross was definitely not home when he got up at 7:30 a.m. July 4. That contradicts Butler's assertion that Ross Hack awak-

ened him at the Hack home on that morning pleading with him to help him pick up evidence Hartung left behind at the murder scene.

Jacob Hack said Ross has been in Europe since shortly after he was named a suspect. He also said his wife has been subpoenaed to testify in the case, but would not say if she was going to respond to it.

He was not allowed to answer when asked if Melissa Hack has been subpoenaed. He said she was at home...

Jury still deliberating fate of accused killer

By Kim Smith <kimberly@lasvegassun.com>

December 21, 2000, LAS VEGAS SUN

[excerpt]

...Ross Hack has been on a "two-year vacation in Europe" courtesy of a rich father, but "John Butler gets a public defender who has to do an investigation that should've been done two and a half years ago," [Deputy Special Public Defender] Sciscento said.

Sciscento suggested Butler may have wanted to fit in with the nice, rich Hack family and that's why he went to the murder scene that morning.

"Even if he's stupid enough to go out afterward and be an aider and an abettor, that doesn't make him a murderer," Sciscento said...

Neither the Hacks nor Hartung have ever been charged in connection with the case.

Reports from ARA observers

December 9 report from Pam

Besides the Spit & Dan trial being the top story on almost all the media, here's what's going on. Melissa Hack has been identified as one of the girls that lured Spit & Dan out into the desert & the other girl who hasn't been identified in court was at the courthouse on Thursday. The bartender at the bar 2 doors down from Tribal (where Spit worked) was on the stand Thursday identified the two girls (they were in the bar before going to Tribal). When she walked out of the courtroom & recognized the 2nd girl & followed her into the bathroom. I guess nothing really happened there, I'm not sure. When we were in the courtroom without the counselors, judge & jury, Butler was turning around and flipping off the skinsheads with us. During the trial he would turn around & give all of us dirty looks, as we would to him. When his friends would show up, Butler would smirk & smile, then receive more dirty looks from us. So far we've been able to out number of his friends in the courtroom & he's really pissed that we are there. I think we can really, really piss him off if more people

could be in the courtroom, not only showing support, but just to piss Butler even more. All of us here won't be here for the whole time so it would be really cool if more people could come down.

Report from Todd, December 21

Just wanted to let you all know that the jury is now out in the John Edward "polar bear" Butler murder trial. I know that Pam has been doing a whup-ass job of keeping y'all informed by posting the news as it goes to print, I just thought I'd let you know what it looks like from my perspective.

Both sides wrapped up their cases today. The prosecution seemed very on the ball and really pushed that it was effectively a hate crime and that Dan and Spit were murdered because they were anti-racist skinheads. They had a snazzy powerpoint summary of their case that left very little doubt in my mind as to what the verdict will be. At the end of their rebuttal, I couldn't help but notice one of the jurors nodding her head at everything the prosecutor said.

The defence was on the opposite end of the spectrum. Butler's lawyer resorted to some real cheap tricks and showboating, like drawing a swastika tattoo on his own arm to show to the jury to prove that having such a tattoo "doesn't mean you're a murderer!" I swear to god, he actually did that! Butler's whole defence rests on an alibi that he was somewhere else when the murders took place. Unfortunately for him, his own defense witnesses can't agree on where he was or even where they all were. He's been placed at two different homes at the times of the murders by defense witnesses - almost all of whom had priors for possession of crystal meth, dealing crystal meth and/or manufacturing crystal meth. Yes, it's been a "parade of tweakers" here in I.v. during the defense's case presentation!

So, we aren't 100% sure about when the jury will reach a verdict, but our betting pool places it at sometime between noon and 6pm tomorrow (the winner to receive a plush polar bear w/ "guilty" written on it's belly!). You all will be the first people to know. If the jury convicts, sentencing will be done next week, probably.

A final note: even if they convict, there are still at least 3 other people involved in the murder that are walking free and haven't been charged. Let's keep this point in mind at all times.

Love, Todd

ARA Montreal by way of glitter gulch, sin city, etc., etc.

Report from Pam, December 27, 2000

The two brothers, Dan & Ryan [Hartung] have an uncle Detective Vinten Hartung who was recently arrested

for having sexual activity with a 16 year old boy. Vinten is a narcotics officer (possiblity why Spit & Dan was a drug incident when the news first hit). The Defense in the case is trying to blame Dan for the murders (a year ago, rumor has it that Dan moved to Utah(?) with his wife, had some kids, works as a chef with all minorities & got out of the nazi thing. Tried to get younger brother, Ryan, to do the same... no deal). Ryan is still in Vegas, has a crew of at least 8-10 nazi skins, likes to flash his gun and thinks he's real hard. I guess it's not easy to try and follow in his brother's footsteps of hardcore nazis go. (Does this kinda sound like American History X yet?) As far as Ken Hartung goes, I don't know where he fits in the family tree, may be Vinten's older brother father of Dan & Ryan, but I don't know. I'd look it up if I knew how.

-Pam

The Penalty Hearing

Report from Pam, January 3, 2001

Butler is guilty & the penalty hearing started today... last night. It was pretty intense. I think Brandon said it best when he said "it was like a good movie... we laughed, we cried." True. When the defense was trying to ask a correctional officer he would take Butler out to the back of the jail to shoot him for taking a second piece of bread the officer went off on him. The prosecutor laugh & so did we. When Dan's aunt & Spit father took the stand we cried. So did some of the jury. Others from the jury watched us cry too. Cheesey yes. Intense Hell yeah. Butler had his head down the whole time Spit's dad talked until he said that he didn't hate Butler, then Butler popped his head up in surprise. Then Spit's dad started saying that he didn't know "how long the jury would let him live..." Butler went back to lowering his head. It was great. Very intense, sad, etc. But it was good. The prosecutors rested their side today & the defense will start in the morning. I don't think any of us are going to be ther tomorrow for the defense since it'll be a bunch of bullshit about the saint Butler is & a lot of nazis that we will be out numbered. Will keep updated & I want to sent Spit's father testimony when it is printed although it'll probably make a lot of people sad, but he said a lot of good things, very intense.

-Pam

Prosecutors focus on killer's crime-filled past

By Jeffrey Libby

LAS VEGAS SUN, January 03, 2001

[Excerpt]

The mostly white jury of six men and six women also heard emotional testimony from the aunt of Daniel Shertsy, 21, and from the father of Lin "Spit" Newborn, 24, two anti-racist activists — one white, one black — who were shot to death execution-style in the early morning hours of July 4 in the desert northwest of Las Vegas...

"We are here because Daniel Shertsy was shot at such close range at the bumper of his car that the shell casing embedded in his arm," Chief Deputy District Attorney Christopher Laurent told the jury. "We are here because Lin Newborn was chased out in the desert and shot."...

The testimony from the four correctional officers, a Las Vegas Metro detective and a probation officer portrayed Butler's adult life as one dominated by more than 30 arrests. Those arrests included instances of alleged illegal drug use, car theft, assault and domestic violence. Inside jail he was sanctioned for making knives, flooding his cell and beating another inmate.

Butler was also known to law enforcement as an informant who would talk in order to reduce penalties for his crimes, Officer Greg Damarin testified. Butler returned stolen firearms in exchange for reducing a drug charge for possession of methamphetamine in 1997 and supplied information in another investigation of an operation counterfeiting \$100 bills, Damarin said.

While incarcerated at Indian Springs Correctional Center in 1994, Butler received 730 days in solitary confinement for his role in the beating of another inmate.

Butler and three others broke out of their cells, put a pillowcase over the head of an inmate and tied him to a bed frame with electrical cord. They beat him so badly that he had to be hospitalized, correctional officer Richard Smith said.

The victim had stolen a package "presumed to be drugs," Smith said.

But defense attorneys said many other charges against Butler had been dismissed. They said in recent years his behavior had improved and prison officers had entrusted him with small jobs. Probation officer Bonnie Kendall said in an interview with him he had spoken of hopes for the future.

But for most, the testimony described loss.

In her testimony, Dorothy Pinella described her nephew Shertsy, a Nellis Air Force Base airman, as a young man from a large, culturally diverse family.

"The image I'll always hold," Pinella said, "is of his sweet little face on the day he was born, just the possibility, the opportunities, when you bring in a new life."

His murder denied him the chance to marry and to have children, she said.

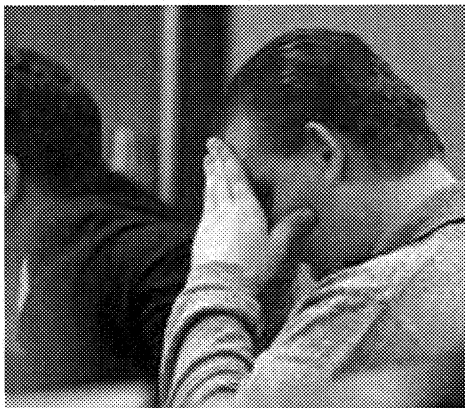
Lionel Newborn was similarly devastated by his son's death, saying it had left a void he could never fill.

"He was flawed in a way maybe we all ought to be flawed," Newborn said of his son. "He thought everyone ought to be able to get along together. But they can't. I don't know how many times I sat with him and told him to be careful of the people he surrounded himself with. But he was on a mission from day one."

In wide-ranging testimony that also described the recent deaths of his wife and his second son, Newborn left one juror openly weeping when he said, "We were becoming buddies. Lin would say to me, 'When are we going to have a beer, a sandwich?' And I said, 'We'll get around to it.' But I never took the time."



John Butler
April 99



John Butler, near end of trial,
December 2000

Melissa Hack
Member Independent Nazi Skins.
Girlfriend of John Butler.
Sister of Ross Hack.
Last known residence:
6550 Mesa Vista Avenue, Las Vegas
(her mother's home).

Joseph Justin
Snitched on Melissa Hack
& John Butler.
Last known residence:
3829 Boca Chica, Las Vegas

ARA, other anti-fascists, the nazis, and the cops

What's happened after the murders

July 4, 98: Dan Shersty's body is found. Police begin questioning ARA folks who are concerned that Spit is missing. ARA & Unity Skins comb the desert and search the area as well for signs of Spit. One media report says that some Unity Skins have taken refuge in an FBI safe house – this is untrue.

July 6, 98: Police find Spit's body.

July 14, 98: Butler arrested on other charges, questioned in relation to the murders.

July 18, 98: Funerals for Dan & Spit.
ARA holds their first press conference about the murders.

August 29, 98: ARA march through the neighbourhood where nazis live. About 250 attended. ARA people came from Toronto, Columbus, Yellow Springs, Detroit, Portland, PART, ARALA, ARASLA Arizona, San Diego, Berkeley/East Bay, Chico, and Vegas were there.

Folks also came from Freedom Socialist Party, the International Socialist Organization, The Revolutionary Workers League, the Workers World Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, Coalition for Human Dignity, the Center For New Community and NorthWest coalition Against Hatred.

Also, Joseph Justin – the nazi whose statement to police incriminates John Butler and Melissa Hack – is threatened, his home shot up by unknown assailants (presumed to be nazis).

September 8, 98: Butler charged with two counts of murder.

Fall 98: Vegas benefit concert for Spit's son's trust fund.
No bonehead trouble.

January 7, 99: Preliminary hearing with Joseph Justin. He talks about threatening phone calls he and his mother have been getting and also expresses his reluctance to testify.

July 4, 99 - anniversary of the murders
White power concert held in desert outside of Vegas. Neo-nazi boast that more than 50 boneheads attend, and more are turned away by police intimidation. Bands included Intimidation One from Portland, Oregon.

August 99: Columbus ARA co-ordinates "postcard campaign" to Las Vegas DA's office to protest inadequate police investigation.

August 29, 99

ARA mobilizes for a second demonstration on the Strip, focusing on the fact that only Butler has been charged in the murders. About 50 people attend.

Simon Wiesenthal Centre is quoted in media coverage questioning whether murders were politically motivated, claims they were "drug-related".

October 99: After some debate, ARA Network agrees to take out an ad in a Las Vegas newspaper as memorial to Dan & Spit and to demand a thorough police investigation.

November, 99: Preliminary hearing continues. Joseph Justin wins the right to give evidence by videotape, citing concerns about his safety.

March 29, 2000: Ad runs in Las Vegas entertainment weekly. Trial was scheduled to begin in April, is postponed.

October 2000: At the Network conference, we discussed possible responses to the upcoming trial (check out the conference notes earlier in the Bulletin). Basically, we agree that our priority should be to have ARA supporters from outside Vegas try to get to Vegas for the trial.

Another proposal: we work towards establishing July 3 as a day for anti-fascist action throughout the ARA Network.

The trial -- November 2000 through January 2001:

Several ARA people and friends regularly attend the trial. People travel from Toronto, Montreal and Los Angeles to offer support.

**Mail donations to:
Trust Fund for Nicodemus Newborn
c/o ARA Las Vegas
P.O. Box 29057
Las Vegas, NV 89126-1057**

**ARA Las Vegas
(702) 392-7934**

Klan snowed out of Skokie

from Sprite/Chicago

Hey all,

Here's a rundown of what went down from my POV. First off, we had a really positive response while organizing for this event the few weeks before. We had a good flyer with original art and we were contacted by loads of interested people.

A Chicago ARA planning meeting the week before was accidentally posted on a local activist and we had 30 people attend representing a dozen lefty and activist groups (including the ISO, RCYB, Chicago DAN, reps from a Palestinian support group, the new Aurora ARA, Chicago Rad. Anarchist Youth Network and others). That sort of caught us off guard, but we presented our plan to them and hammered out some points of unity for the action.

These were: 1) We would encourage responsible and intelligent direct action 2) There would be no intervention in direct action carried out 3) No working with the police We also created a spokescouncil with reps from different groups to coordinate the sound systems so that we weren't competing with each other and drowning each other out, and to allow different groups to have their say. We tried to get agreement not to go into the pen, but the ISO said they couldn't make that call until that day. We also coordinated public flyering as well as buses. Both Chicago ARA and Chicago DAN rented a bus each, and we had them pick up people at 4 different locations around the city. We also later had a meeting with the PLP, and they also agreed to the points above.

We also tried to get a local union to pass a resolution to support and send people to the rally, but it was blocked by labor bureaucrats. About a dozen Ohio ARAers joined us Friday night—props to those cats who came out! Just a few days before the rally, we discovered where the Klan's meeting point was. Unfortunately, we expected the Klan to be meeting a half hour before the buses were picking people up, and half our group was dedicated to pre-action prep work.

We still tried to mobilize people out there, but only got about 15 total. We arrived to find that the Klan had already gotten there (an hour and a half before we expected them to). A potentially dangerous confrontation with bigger Klan guys who were likely armed in a Dominick's parking lot early in the morning didn't really sit well with us, so after exchanging dirty looks for 10 minutes we backed off. I have to say I really hated conceding them that little victory.

A few hours later, and there was over 400 people in front of the Court house in Skokie. The Klan hadn't arrived yet (they had driven to a nearby Fire station, where they left their cars under police protection and later rode a bus in). The cops

had a pen marked off with nothing but yellow tape, which you had to submit to a search to enter. Less than 100 people went in to the pen. There was over a 100 cops, including horse cops, about four canine units and a bunch of cops doing surveillance from 2 nearby rooftops. The road in front of the courthouse was blocked off for about a mile, which is where the crowd milled.

Over the course of the rally we sniffed out at least 10 confirmed fascists who showed up in the crowd. The first few were verbally confronted, and either left in a hurry or hid behind the police for safety. The first action came when a guy was spotted wearing a "Hitler was Right" t-shirt. Some older guy who was standing next to him just off and punched him, and then the police swept in to arrest him and snatch the fascist away. That riled the crows up good, but while we were occupied they brought the Klan in. We tried to push the crowd past the police, but were kept back with snow, batons, dogs and horses. Lots of snowballs were flying at the cops. Several more nazis showed up and were ran off or beaten down, including Richard Mayers, a local WCOTC support who we "outed" last year. The cops were typically brutal, and a lot of them took off their badges and name tags.

One cop car rammed into some people as it tried to move through the crowd, and it was messed up by the crowd in retaliation. Several other cop cars were damaged as well. The crowd's mood was refreshingly militant. After only about half an hour, the crowd within the pen (who had been pelting the Klan with snowballs to the head the whole time) threatened to push through the flimsy police line and the cops can-



*Bonehead
experiences
some
whitepower*

*photo:
Benny Sieu
Milwaukee
Journal
Sentinel*

celled the rally. The klan was shipped out in a bus behind police lines, and then the cops began attacking the crowd to clear the street. The crowd resisted for awhile, taking several more arrests. As people were trickling away from the demo, two carloads of boneheads (some of whom had been run out of the rally earlier) pulled up on a group of people leaving the rally and jumped them. A 30-year old black woman was struck in the back of the head and had to be hospitalized. The people who were attacked fought back, though, and others also came rushing to their aid. Some of the nazis were beaten, and almost all of the windows on one of their cars were smashed in as they drove off. The total arrest count was 21. 3 of those were fascists, 1 of whom was the grand dragon of the Tennessee Klan, arrested for carrying a loaded handgun to the rally. 15 of the anti-racists were released on their own recognizance or \$100 bail that night. 2 others were charged with felonies, and bailed out Monday after their appearance in court. 1 guy from Refuse and Resist currently remains inside with \$500 bail (he has a long activist arrest record). We're working on getting him out, though R&R has refused to give us any support (!). All of the court appearances are set for January 2nd. The 3 fascists also have court at that time...

The cops, the courts, and the Ku Klux Klan.

by Aurora Anti-Racist Action.

The numbers were fantastic. We filled the streets with people, we came together in the face of hatred and violence and stood up for unity and peace. They numbered no more than 75, at the most. We were at the least six hundred strong. Possibly a lot more.

By 11:00am, we had a strong showing of about 150 to 200 people, and there was a constant stream of people coming in. Around 12:30 or so, the Klan rally started, and we kept trying to get past the riot police that were wasting our tax dollars in the defense of fascists and racist murderers.

It seemed every twenty minutes or so, something would happen. First, it was an older neo-nazi who showed up in the crowd wearing a "Heil Hitler" t-shirt. An older, bearded man reportedly punched him in the face, and was arrested. People surrounded the officer, and chanted "Let Him Go!" Riot police arrived, and attacked the crowd. The neo-nazi with the Hitler t-shirt recieved a police escort away from the crowd.

Things moved back towards the Klan, until a handful of World Church of the Creator (Matt Hale's Christian identity group) showed up amongst the anti-racists. Again, people moved to confront them, but were met with a phalanx of police.

A neo-nazi skinhead was followed into the nearby forest and beaten pretty badly by anti-racists. He was then chased back into the crowd, where the beatings continued. It could be

argued that the world that racists build around themselves is a world of violence, and that violence is one of the few things that they understand clearly. To people who base their whole existence around violently attacking others, it should be a wake up call for them to be on the receiving end of a steel-toed boot.

The bonehead was arrested, as were a few others. Apparently, while in jail, the police almost made the mistake of putting the neo-nazi in the same cell as the anti-racists. The anti-racists (graciously, some might say) reminded the officers of what could occur if that were to happen. He was placed in another cell.

At some point in the rally, with the Klan in full regalia, full of Confederate flags and "Seig Heil" hand gestures, some more opportunistic anti-racists decided to rush the stage. The proposed three hour rally ended after around forty-five minutes.

At this point, the Skokie PD, along with the various other police departments could have made one of the best public relations move they have ever had the option of making. The Klan was safely on their way home, with their tax-payer funded police escort, and the anti-racists on the street had rejoined with those who were in the police sanctioned protest pit. Had the police decided to withdraw, go home, and leave the crowd of anti-racists alone, we probably would have stuck around for about 30 minutes, chit-chatting, exchanging email addresses and phone numbers, handing out flyers, and maybe even selling newspapers (some of us, anyways).

But that would have been the intelligent choice. Skokie would have been hailed as a place where the police have their priorities in order, and the media would have lavished the boys in blue with praise upon praise about "keeping the peace" and "preserving order." So, of course, the police decided to instead attack the crowd of anti-racists and make arbitrary arrests. "Screw the citizens, we've got batons and riot gear, and we came to play with our new toys," said the police.

So what resulted was a two hour pitched battle between hundreds of anti-racists and hundreds of police, for no reason whatsoever. The police initiated a confrontation, and they got it. They swung their batons, brutalized innocent people, and made the most ridiculous show of force that Skokie has probably ever seen.

And it was all because of snowballs. Yes, those anti-racist militants had the nerve to throw snowballs at the police in an attempt to express their discontent that the cops would protect fascists like the KKK and their posse. Remind me, next time somebody throws a snowball at me, to find a stick, beat them with it, tie them up, and lock them in a steel cage. And then ask them for a couple hundred dollars when I let them out.

The police kept moving us. It didn't make sense that they were moving us. Where were they moving us to? What were they afraid we were going to do? Again, they could have withdrawn, and this whole mess would have been avoided. Instead, they just kept attacking the crowd, grabbing one or two people, and then falling back.

One police car ran into three or four people who were just standing in the streets. One protestor demanded to know the badge number of the officer who had possibly broken his arm. Unfortunately, none of the officers were wearing badges, so he had to demand a verbal answer. He didn't receive one. Instead, he received about eight to ten officers running into the crowd to grab him and arrest him for "Disorderly Conduct", which is newspeak for knowing one's rights.

I could go on, but hopefully further reports will fill in the holes that I have forgotten or missed. The questions that should be on everybody's mind is, "Why did the police act the way they did? What did they gain, tactically and politically, by attacking people? Who was really threatened by hundreds of anti-racists taking over a very remote street in a suburban neighborhood?"

Peace-Out, Aurora Anti-Racist Action

from Wynne/Chicago

Hello all, My name is Wynne, for those of you that don't know me, I'm an anti-fascist skinhead woman and member of Chicago ARA. I just wanted to give people my perspective as to what went down on Saturday, at the Klan Rally. I agree totally with everything that Sprite said, and he definitely described everything pretty accurately, especially in relation to the confrontations that happened with the cops and protesters. For me personally, I had two groups I was working with Chicago ARA, and local Anti-Fascist skinheads. Me and my people were not able to make it to the pre-rally action against the Klan, and for that I regret! I assumed that there would be enough people coming out to combat the Klan, and that they would be drastically outnumbered, it seems though that, that was the not the case at all. And, it's too bad I could've got my people together in time to go out for that. Myself as well as about 12 other anti-fascist and/or anti-racist skinheads came out to combat the Klan!

We had no desire to take part in peaceful demonstrations, though we did make a banner that said "Anti-Racist Skinheads Against the KKK" and did do a fair share on the sounds! When we got there the Klan had not yet come out, and the police presence, was somewhat of a minimum, compared to later on in the rally. I regret that early on in the rally, the mass of the protesters, did not cross the yellow police tape (that was separating the majority of the protester and the Klan), and the few pigs protecting it, because we possibly could have caused a bigger ruckus, and prevented the Klan from Rallying altogether! The majority of protesters hesitated however, and/or did not communicate the message quickly enough, and as a result, the yellow tape, became overcrowded with pigs, that had billy clubs, pepper spray, dogs, etc. in a matter of minutes! When the Klan came out, the crowd booed and heckled them so much that their words of hate didn't fly far at all. Also, it's kind of hard to talk when a crowd of protesters are whipping snow/ice balls at your face! The large mass of the crowd, tried pushing back the

yellow tape several times and did so effectively once or twice, pushing the pigs further and further, as crowd members spoke of, and chanted about rushing the cops! The pigs, however, were ready and willing to give the beat down to the few who pushed further than the rest! What stands out in my mind is how, at different points, I saw an elderly Jewish woman, and a 15 year old anti-fascist skinhead boy, cross the lines and get right up to the pigs, not backing down until they were pulled back by the protesters, for fear that they would be beat (which they surely would have). At some point a car load of boneheads did show up to support these redneck comrades, and did get rushed by protesters! I didn't see exactly what had happened with the Nazis, but I know that they quickly hid behind the protection of the police. At that point myself as well as the other skins ran over there quickly, and did take part in the confrontation that did occur with the police. Protesters, again, not backing down! The police were riding through the crowd, attempting to disperse the crowd, on horse, and in police cars (and in the process running people over).

Many of the protesters, refused to back down, and were at this point telling the cops to fuck off, and continued throwing snowballs at the pigs! And, yes cop cars were getting kicked, and their windows smashed, just as Sprite had stated! At that point the Klan was cut short! I heard from several people there, that it was because of the way that us, the protesters were getting "out of hand". And, that the pigs feared a riot! Which was, to a certain extent happening, as the crowd grew angrier, and angrier, towards the Klan, but more so towards the pigs, who faithfully backed up the Fascist's "constitutional rights"! The crowd however was not content, and was out for blood!

We all moved to the back of the building where the Klan, was supposed to be existing out of. At this time, a reserved police force proceeded to march out, in rows, out side of the back of the building, hundreds of them came out, in Riot Gear, with rifles, batons, pepper spray etc. And, yes, not one of them had their badges on, which made it all that more scary. The majority of the cops, as well, were minorities, which of course was quite disturbing! People in the crowd at this point chanted, and heckled the cops some more, calling black cops "Uncle Toms" and what not, and "Puppets". One of the black cops was seen, walking off the line, due to the insults and pressure that was being placed on him by the rowdy protesters! While all this was going on, the Klan was being rushed off, in a school bus, on the other side of the building, the front entrance. So, therefore, the pigs had tricked the masses, and created an illusion, to prevent us from getting to the Klan! By the time the majority of protesters got to the other side of the building, the Klan was driving off, and laughing at us at us all! At this point more confrontation happened with the police and protesters, who were extremely pissed, that the pigs had gone so far out of their way to protect the Klan, as to create a diversion, in their defense! Sometime around now, some boneheads were spotted sneaking around the outskirts of the crowd. Very few police were

protecting them, and they were easily accessible. I'd like to say at that point myself, as well as other anti-fascist skinheads I was with, rushed them and, proceeded to beat the dog shit out of them, booting them in the face and such, while the majority of protesters simply threw snowballs, and shouted at them! Some sadly, even went as far as to try to stop us, attempting convince us to leave the Nazis be. I'm still completely shocked and amazed by that myself! The police, fortunately did little to stop us, so we were able to thoroughly fuck them up! We decided then, it was best to leave, so we could avoid being arrested! As we were walking to our car, we were Seig Heiled by two car loads of boneheads! We then, ran back to our car, to catch up with them. We did spot them about a mile away, walking down the street. We jumped out of the car to fight them, (which would have been a good fight because there were 7 of them, and 7 of us, including one woman in each fraction) but, they ran in fear back to their cars! Also, one of them flashed a knife at us before he entered his vehicle! We almost caught up with them, but we were too late! We did manage to smash out their back window though, as they were driving off:!! We then ran back to our car to catch them. However we didn't get far when, we were pulled over rather quickly, by 5 different squad cars at that! There was a car of kids, we don't know who they were, that were ratting us out to the pigs. We're not sure who they were, or on who's side they were on, but nonetheless it wasn't cool! We fortunately were let go, when the pigs figured out that we were against the Klan and not in support of them. A fat old cop even wished us good luck before he let us go, shocking I know!

And, that's my version of what happened Saturday at the rally. Sorry, it's been a long one. I just want to say that we, the mass of people that came out in protest, KICKED ASS! Of course, I wish we could have done more, (I feel bad that we weren't able to get to that last group of boneheads in time. I believe they were the group that beat up that poor, black woman at the rally.)! Thanks, to everyone that came out! You Rock! I don't think that the Klan will be back in the Chicago area any time soon!

IN UNITY,

Wynne

SHUT DOWN THE KLAN stand up against white supremacy

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16, 12 NOON
5600 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL

The Ku Klux Klan is a racist terrorist. For nearly 100 years the KKK has espoused racial hatred, terror, and murder against Black people, Latinos, Asians, Native Americans, Jews, Gays and Lesbians and anti-racist militants.

Only a year and a half ago Wesley Runtz was shot and killed by a white supremacist activist in Skokie. Earlier this year a Latino grocery in Evanston was firebombed by neo-nazis, and racial hate-mongers have appeared on Chicago's downtown side.

The Ku Klux Klan's rally in Skokie is a provocation that must be challenged. Rallies like this by the KKK are part of their strategy of positioning themselves as a political alternative to the status quo for white people.

In order we need to unite against white supremacy and build an anti-racist movement.
Stand Up! Make Some Noise! Take Action!

Meeting Points: everyone should meet at 10:30am
1. Cafe Jumping Bean 1439 W. 18th Street, Chicago
2. Jinx, 1928 W. Division, Chicago
3. Evanston Public Library (Burrington and Church)

ARA Anti-Racist Action
ARA 312.409.1432
ara@www.ara.com



Some mainstream coverage

KKK rally in Skokie results in 20 arrests

December 17, 2000

BY ANNIE SWEENEY

STAFF REPORTER Chicago Sun-Times

About 20 members of the KKK rallied Saturday in Skokie, facing down an angry throng of counterprotesters that police had to disperse forcibly.

In all, about 400 protesters turned up at the Skokie courthouse where a Wisconsin chapter of the KKK had been given permission to rally for white power.

Police kept the crowd about 500 yards away during the 45 minutes of anti-Jewish and anti-African American speeches, although some protesters were able to get close enough to pelt speakers with snowballs.

Skirmishes broke out between police and protesters and between a group of skinheads and protesters at the end of the rally. Anti-Klan protesters broke windows, bent antennas on squad cars, and shouted at police.

Police made all protesters walk through a metal detector. A handgun was recovered by Skokie police from a man seen loading it in the back seat of a car going into the rally, police said.

In all, Skokie police made nine arrests. Charges included possession of a firearm, mob action, assault and assault on a police officer. Cook County sheriff's police arrested 11 people: 10 for disorderly conduct and one for criminal damage to property.

Skokie police were also investigating a report that skinheads assaulted an African-American couple. The woman, whose identity was not available, was treated at Rush North Shore Medical Center, Sgt. Michael Ruth said.

The trouble between police and protesters began after a small group of skinheads walked through the crowd and got into a skirmish with protesters. Police intervened, pulled protesters to the ground and apprehended them.

Shortly after, a school bus carrying the KKK members out of Skokie pulled away from the courthouse. Police stopped or held protesters back from the bus, and the crowd's anger heightened.

About 200 police officers, including Cook County sheriff, Skokie, forest preserve, and Illinois State, walked in formation with riot gear east on Old Orchard Road to push the protesters back.

Much of the crowd's message was angry. One chant was "death, death to the Klan, power, power to the workers."

But others came to the rally to counter the KKK with a message of respect for all races and people.

"They have a right to express themselves, but so do we," said Ellen Holland Rosenblatt, 53, of Skokie. "I feel that, just like children, you have to sometimes show your authority. And they are like children."

Columbus Scene Report

Hi folks, this is a not so brief scene report from us here in Columbus ARA. We've been fairly busy and haven't had a real chance to make a nice pretty presentation but we wanted to let you all know what we are up to.

In this report you'll find:

- A report on our work for the intelligence working group including updated information on Aryan Nations activity and leadership here in Ohio and in Michigan.
- A summary of our most recent outing of a National Alliance member here in Columbus and related ongoing work including 2 flyers
- A report on our recent call to action and subsequent black bloc at the meeting of the Transatlantic Business Dialog (TABD) in Cincinnati in November.
- A report on all the Anti-Klan events we've been to recently
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We hope the new year finds all our comrades healthy and ready to fight fascism (in and out of office).

Solidarity forever, -Columbus ARA

Intelligence Report:

At the 2000 network conference in Detroit, it was decided that a working group would be formed to build ARA's own capabilities to gather intelligence about the fascists, rather than relying on other organization to do the ground work. In line with that call several members of Columbus ARA joined the intelligence working group. Here is what we have to report to the network as of 1/1/01:

Aryan Nations:

We are concerned that we will be facing a serious increase in both organizational strength and level of violent activity from the Aryan Nations (long dormant in our region) in Ohio and Michigan (and possibly other Midwest states). This concern stems from 2 related events:

- The prolonged illness and slip from power of Aryan Nations head Richard Butler. Because Butler is in poor health, 83, and has lost his Hayden Lake Idaho compound to an SPLC lawsuit, we fear that a struggle for leadership of the organization will take place soon.

There are several possible candidates to succeed Butler. They are from several western states as well as from the Midwest. We believe that as Butler's health and power continue to slip, key players within the organization will prove their fitness to head AN by both building the organization and involving themselves in serious underground violent activities.

-The Release from Ohio prisons of 2 key Aryan Nations leaders: Ray Redfair and Vince Pinetti. Vince and Ray were friends in the joint but they had a falling out over who would be in charge. Summaries on both of them are below. Please note that both of them have expressed an interest in Anti-Racist Action and are looking for opportunities to strike against us.

Ray Redfair is the former Ohio head of the Aryan Nations. He has convictions for attempted murder and various weapons charges. He is well known inside and outside of prison as an extremely violent man. It is also possible that he is an ATF informant. The Kehoe brothers were on their way to sell guns to AN members including Ray Redfair when they were arrested after a shootout with the Ohio State patrol. Redfair is currently planning on leaving Ohio for a compound in Michigan (we are currently unable to locate it) in the near term. He has turned over his Ohio operations to a Toledo area man who is now the head 'pastor' at the AN's New Vienna, Ohio church.

Vince Pinetti is a former Ohio Grand Dragon in the Knights of the KKK. As Tom Robb's principle subordinate he built the organization to more than 15,000 members in 1993 and 1994. During that time he held over 70 rallies, including 50 in 1993. His goal was to hold one rally in each of the 88 counties of Ohio. Intensely charismatic, he was seen as one of the most capable and dangerous Klan leaders of his day.

He was sent to prison in 1994 for assault and domestic violence and released earlier this year. While in prison he was repudiated by Tom Robb and cast adrift. Many of his inner circle including several (as many as 5) of his bodyguards waited for his release. While in prison he met Ray Redfair, converted to the Christian Identity religion and joined the Aryan Nations. He is the only person to have been ordained an Aryan Nations minister while in prison.

He and Redfair had a falling out over power issues shortly before Pinetti's release on parole this year. He returned to the Cleveland area and is currently waiting for his parole term to be finished (about 6 months). We believe that he will then resume his style of work including many rallies and fast organization building.

His bodyguards (Nighthawks) are very dangerous men. Some are reputed to be former special forces soldiers and all are known to be intensely loyal to Pinetti. Pinetti is very concerned about ARA and maybe seeking an opportunity to strike at us. Both he and Redfair noticed the events in Las Vegas and may be looking to repeat them here.

Trends and intentions:

The release from prison of 2 key white power activists coupled with a coming power vacuum in the Aryan Nations

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can spell real trouble for us in the medium term (6-12 months). We are seeking more information on Aryan Nations activity of any kind in our region, especially as it relates to these 2 key people. We advise extra caution for Ohio and Michigan ARA members as both these White Power leaders have a history of extreme violence and they take ARA very seriously as a threat.

Regional Development Work:

We, along with Chicago ARA, were selected at the last conference to be the regional coordinating chapters for the Midwest. In line with this mandate we have been busy starting and restarting chapters and confirming old contacts, making an effort to work more closely with existing chapters.

Chapters are in the process of building or rebuilding in:
Ohio - Cincinnati, Athens, Cleveland
Indiana - Waverly
Illinois - Aurora
Michigan - Traverse City

We are seeking contacts for the following chapters (We want home Phone #'s) Muncie, Bloomington, Indianapolis, Toledo, Bowling Green, Dayton, & Steubenville.

We will be attending Chicago's regional gathering / protest marathon Jan 13-15. We are also planning a multi-day gathering here in Ohio to be held on rural private land sometime in the spring. We hope to see you all at both.

Anti-Klan events:

Columbus ARA, along with folx from the chapters in Cincinnati, Athens, Chicago, Lansing, and Aurora attended Klan rallies with varying levels of success in Cincinnati, OH, Auburn, IN, and Skokie, IL.

We are planning on attending a large anti-klan rally in Gary, IN on MLK Jr. day, and we anticipate a busy schedule of anti-klan events throughout the year. The new alliance between former hostile factions of the American Knights of the KKK and new 2nd-tier leadership are expected to bring about a resurgence of Klan Activity across the Midwest in 2001.

Cincinnati actions against the TABD.

In September, Columbus ARA issued a call to action against the Transatlantic Business Dialog. The TABD had its yearly meeting in Cincinnati in November. The TABD is a business organization that links over 200 CEOs of major corporations in the U\$A and Europe for the purposes of proposing ways to manage competition between companies and eliminate barriers to trade. Many of its recommendations are adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Columbus ARA put out a call for specifically anti-capitalist action. We were disturbed by many of the reformist trends of some groups organizing for demonstrations and teach-ins against the TABD. We found many of these groups to be too reformist and open to economic nationalist solutions to globalization.

The response was very positive and nearly 300 people joined the Black Bloc that we put out the call for. All of the participants in the bloc were comradely, creative and enthusiastic. Our faction was the strongest in the whole demonstration and worked well with all other sectors of the event that were radical and youth oriented.

Some property destruction and a good level of militance characterized the events. What was more heart warming was the level of political discussion and firmness of the critique that participants in the bloc brought to the table. All in all we are very proud of success of this action and happy with the new alliances that have grown from it.

Members of the Kent, Cincinnati, Athens, Yellow Springs, Louisville, and Aurora chapters also participated. See you all in Quebec City for FTAA.

Outings:

The National Alliance has been active in Columbus for at least 20 years, mostly underground. Their boldness has grown in the last three years with an increase in flyering and literature drops. Their attempts to enter both campus politics at OSU and the antiwar movement during the bombing of Serbia were defeated with swift exposure and confrontation, and their key leader in Columbus was driven underground in 1999.

Less than a month ago a member of the National Alliance became a producer at the local cable access station, and promptly had a copy of the World Church of the Creator's show White Revolution aired.


Using the stations records, we located his house, placed him under surveillance, identified at least one more of his allies and then outed him with flyers in his neighborhood and at the apartment complex of which he is the building manager.

He responded Christmas morning with an anti-ARA flyer which has been included for your amusement. In the near-term (1-2 months) we intend to complete his, and several other National Alliance members', political neutralization.


Operation Rescue in Cleveland:

Jan 19-22 – time to fight for choice. We'll report on this next Bulletin.

THIS MAN IS A NAZI



Name: Jerry Davis
Address: 208 Southwood Ave Apt D
Columbus OH 43207
Phone: 614 449 9879



Jerry Davis is a supporter of the *World Church of the Creator*, a dangerous racist hate gang. This gang believes that nature's ultimate divine creation is white men. Members of this group have committed hundreds of violent hate crimes since the groups founding in 1973. These crimes have included arson, assault, at least *4 known murders* and a violent attempt to take over the Canadian parliament building.

Last year, one member of this "Church", *Ben Smith*, went on a two-state killing spree. His victims included former Northwestern University basketball coach Ricky Birdsong. He managed to kill 2 people and wound 13 in racist drive by shootings before killing himself. He did this right after his leader, *Matt Hale*, was denied a law license because of his racist beliefs.

Jerry Davis recently submitted a TV program to Columbus Community Access (Channel 21) that was produced in the home of *Matt Hale*. This "Documentary" praises *Ben Smith* as a "hero" and a "1st amendment martyr"! During the show the claim is made that *Ben Smith* was so "oppressed" that he was driven to commit murder.

Chillingly, this TV show entitled "*White Revolution*" is the 1st in a series that the *World Church of the Creator* intends to air here in Columbus and across the country. *Jerry Davis* and his nazi friends are planning to turn more young people into racist murderers like *Ben Smith*.

Communitties need to unite to oppose this kind of racist organizing. We need to protect ourselves and our children. We need to send a powerful message that there will be no more *Ben Smiths*. We need to show this "Church" that they can not have our streets, they can not have our children, and they can not force us to live in terror.

Jerry Davis is not a lone wolf. He has connections, and works with other racists. If you see him walking on the street or driving his blue Dodge Neon (liscense plate # AGS 4491), consider him to be an armed potential killer. If you intend to approach or confront him about his sick murderous beliefs, do so with caution.

This has been a public service message from:

Anti-Racist Action
POB 10797
Columbus OH 43201
614 228 6824
aracolumbus@hotmail.com

A.R.A. TERRORISTS ARE TARGETING YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN!

An armed and violent terrorist organization calling itself "Anti-Racist Action" (the A.R.A.) has resumed its reign of intimidation against any and all Columbus residents who dare to dissent from the A.R.A.'s Marxist, pedophilic and anti-American ideology.

The A.R.A. is an underground nation-wide organization, not registered with any government. The A.R.A. never reveals member names or its location, preferring to act in secret using a cell-type structure and vigilante tactics. It has conducted terrorist attacks against various individuals and legitimate organizations, including the following:

- The attempted murder of 3 members of the National Alliance in Pittsburgh, wherein 5 armed A.R.A. members invaded a private house at night, and while forcing the residents to kneel and face a wall in preparation for their execution were confronted by another Alliance member who shot and killed one terrorist, then held his fire as the others fled.
- An attack on author David Irving as he gave a speech at a Toronto restaurant by an A.R.A. terror squad that broke into the restaurant through a back door wearing their trademark black ski-masks, destroying as much property as possible then assaulting and beating Mr. Irving. Irving was targeted because he is known as a historian who in the past published scholarly texts that differed from the A.R.A.'s hard-left, extremist ideology. It is the A.R.A.'s stated policy to stop the dissemination of opinions it opposes.
- A slanderous propaganda campaign against a Columbus area university-student who dared to hold opinions with which the A.R.A. disagreed. The A.R.A. used illegal methods to obtain personal information on the student, and disseminated a lie-filled leaflet, which included the student's picture, home address and phone number – all coupled with demands that he be harassed or harmed for his opinions.

THIS CAMPAIGN OF TERROR MUST BE STOPPED!!!

Columbus residents must be informed that the A.R.A. is a totalitarian organization that uses and advocates anonymous vigilante attacks to force the public to accept abhorrent and obscene policies such as:

Government surveillance of political groups opposing A.R.A. views and tactics, including new and tyrannical "hate-crime" laws designed to punish Americans for merely having thoughts the A.R.A. opposes; The destruction of marriage and families by the use of same-sex "marriages" and attempts to push children into homosexuality; The murder of policemen, especially evident in their fanatical support of convicted and self-confessed cop-killer Mumia Abu Jamal, who also is an advocate of anti-Americanism; A vicious propaganda campaign against the Boy Scouts of America for the "crime" of advocating traditional American values!

DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE A.R.A. ATTACKS YOU!

The Columbus police and media have not acted strongly enough to stop the A.R.A., surely because they realize the A.R.A.'s policies reflect those of the leftist national media and the corrupt Clinton Administration. To protect your freedom and the lives of your family members, contact the only organization that is ready and able to stand up and fight the criminal tactics of the bloodthirsty and tyrannical A.R.A.:

THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE, P.O. BOX 90, HILLSBORO, WV 24946

New Year's Resolutions for Anti-Racists

from Todd/Montreal

I've given up trying to make you all straight-edge, so here's some other resolutions you might wanna consider as you're dealing with your new year's day hangovers:

1) Take personal security seriously.

The murders of Dan and Spit, death threats and attacks against ARA members in Montreal and Louisville, and countless other incidents just reinforce that we voluntarily put ourselves up against real and potential murderers. For this reason, it is crucial that we all take as many security precautions to protect ourselves as possible. Here's some examples of what we could be doing:

- ensure that your home phone number is unlisted. Never give out your home phone number to someone you don't trust 110%.

- If you can avoid having any utility bills in your name, do it. Eg. maybe you have a roommate or family member that's less of a heat score than you are and therefore wouldn't mind having the electricity bill in their name.

- instead of having mail come to your house, look into renting a private mailbox and have it sent there instead. If you can rent a private mailbox w/out showing valid id, or with id showing an incorrect home address and phone number, you're that much safer.

- Set up a voice mailbox for your chapter, not connected to anyone's home or work phones, so your ARA chapter can receive telephone messages without jeopardizing anyone.

- Be very careful about what you do on the internet. Set up a free email account that isn't connected to your real name or location. Use IP address disguisers that let you check out websites anonymously, especially racist websites. Never sign guestbooks. Watch what you reveal about yourself in chatrooms. Make sure your real name, address, etc. isn't up on the web anywhere (try doing a search using a search engine or two and your name as the search term. You might be surprised what comes up!).

- If you are talking to the media, don't ever use your real name and try to get them to ensure that they won't list info that could identify you in their story (what you look like, your age, where you work or go to school, etc.).

- Look into using PGP to encrypt as much of your email and private files as possible.

2) Examine our own prejudices & privileges.

This is the probably the hardest and most necessary thing

for real anti-racists to do: take a good, hard look at yourself and how you think and live. No one is free of prejudices. Try to identify what yours are and how they impact the way you live your life and deal with other people. Try to look at the ways your gender, your skin colour, your sexual orientation, your class, your physical abilities, etc. privilege your life by allowing you to live in a way where you can take things for granted that other people cannot.

3) Learn more about racism.

Racism = Bad is just not enough to know to be an effective anti-racist. Where does racism come from? What is it, exactly? Who buys into it? Who does it benefit? Who does it hurt? How does it work? All questions that anti-racists must try to develop answers to if we're going to win this struggle we've taken on. So do some research; on the 'net, in the library, at school, or just talking to people. Learn as much as you can about the topic so when you think about how to fight it you'll have a body of knowledge to guide you.

4) Reach out to other communities.

This is something that I think ARA has traditionally been a little weak on. Nearly every community has different ethnic groups, different classes, people of different sexual orientations, etc. All have different experiences. Most have to deal with the kinds of things ARA stands against on a day-to-day basis. It only makes sense to go to these people, see what issues are important to them, and try to help them with those issues. This is how we can fight hate in ways that actually matter to real people. It's also how we build allies and trust with the kinds of people we should be fighting for and alongside.

So find out what sort of immigrant groups are in your community. Locate some newspapers catering to ethnic groups. Talk to people involved in queer rights in your area. Go to their meetings. Call their offices. Show up at their demos. Pass out contact info for your chapter. Invite them to come speak to your chapter at your next meeting. Let them know that you're interested in helping them fight against racism, sexism and homophobia and you want to know about their experiences and their concerns.

5) Do something constructive, not just reactive.

A big criticism of ARA has always been that we are reactive, not constructive. Yet there is a ton of constructive work we do and could be doing, as a movement and as individuals.

Developing an authentic anti-racist youth culture is a good project to take on in your area. Organize events, con-

certs, parties, whatever that encourages youth from different cultures and backgrounds to come together and participate in building up something unique and creative that goes beyond the shallow "Racism = Bad" bullshit of "official" anti-racist programs.

Education is another thing we should really develop in ARA. Look at the hot issues in your area around racism, sexism and homophobia. Do some research. Write up a flyer or website or something that addresses these issues. ARA Toronto and Montreal collaborated a couple of years ago on a flyer explaining how immigration benefits Canadians, when much anti-immigrant bullshit was on the news. ARA Detroit ran a pretty bold campaign for a living wage and against the takeover of Motown by wealthy corporate interests. There's a ton of things you can take on if you brainstorm about it for 5 minutes. So go do it!

There's also a ton of shit you can do on an individual level. You support immigrants in your community? Volunteer to help them learn English or just to show them how to get around in your city - how to take the bus, get their utilities hooked up, how to make a resume, stuff like that. You'll not only be doing something concrete and constructive that will benefit real people in your community, you'll be building up allies that will be there for you when shit goes down. Or what about learning another language? It isn't hard to figure out what the dominant second language in your area is - learn it and you'll be able to do far more effective work in your community. It's really that simple.

6) Take a self-defense course.

ARA is pro-confrontation, and we like to confront people that communicate more with fists, clubs, knives, guns and bombs than with their brains. We have to be prepared to defend ourselves and others against violence.

So look into taking some practical self-defense courses. Many ARA members have a lot of experience with self-defense and are good resources to go to for advice and info. Members of ARA Columbus offer feminist-based self-defense courses for women and queers - get in touch with them. ARA Toronto, Oakville and Montreal brought Kaidi Allah from the Seattle Copwatch/Panthers up for a self-defense seminar - ask them about it. People with experience with self-defense, feel free to offer advice on what people should look into.

My own experience tells me in general that some martial arts are better for practical, street-fighting situations while others are more sport oriented. The ones I would recommend are jeet kune do, muay thai kickboxing, and some forms of kung fu. Some forms of karate like enshin or kyokushin are good, but I'd avoid more traditional forms

like shotokan. Escrima or kali are great for weapons training, as are some forms of kung fu, but might not be practical otherwise. Tae kwon do and judo are pretty sport-oriented and not very practical on the street, but good places to start from if you have no prior martial arts experience. Jujitsu is very practical for stuff that happens on the ground (especially a credible brazilian ju-jitsu program), but you might not want to take something so focussed on being on the ground with your opponent.

Try to check out any school you're looking into first before signing up. Who's the instructor and who trained him? A little 'net research will quickly tell you who the credible players are for any martial art. And most legit schools are cool about letting you sit in on and/or observe a session first before deciding to fork out any dough.

Whatever you decide to take, anything is better than nothing. Even the most impractical forms of martial arts will at least boost your confidence, which may be enough to get you out of potentially dangerous situations. They may also lay down some basics for you that will help you get a head-start on other martial arts down the road (e.g. having some tae kwon do experience was I godsend when I started up with jeet kune do). And no martial art will be of much use to you if you don't keep up with it over the long run. 2-3 times a week for about a year is probably what it will take for most people before they really start to internalize what they learn. By then, you'll be so buff you one is going to want to fuck with you anyway!

7) Tithe to the movement.

No movement is going to be successful unless it's able to fund itself. ARA is more strapped than most movements because we can't exactly count on government grants and such. We have to rely on ourselves.

If you're seriously committed to the cause, you shouldn't have to think twice about putting, say, a whopping 1% of your take-home pay, allowance, or whatever into the movement. You aren't even going to notice that 1% missing from your wallet when it comes down to it. Whether you save that up then fork it over for specific things when it's desperately needed, whether you put that into the war chest to help out your fellow anti-racists in trouble, or whether you regularly hand that over to your chapter, it would be greatly appreciated and you know it'll be spent on more important things than whatever you would've blown it on!

If everyone in ARA committed to handing over just 1% of their income, we would be ten times more effective because we'd have way more resources to use against the bigots. Think about it. Or better yet, don't think about it, just hand it over!

8) Get PGP.

PGP (or Pretty Good Privacy) is probably the best encryption software anyone can get. And you can download it for free off the 'net. It encrypts your email correspondence so that no one but no one is going to be able to crack it. It can do the same for private files on your hard drive. And it can add a "signature" to documents and emails to guarantee to the recipient that it is indeed from you and not a forgery.

No serious political activist really has an excuse not to download, learn, and use this program. It has literally saved people I know from doing hard time in jail. Get it today!

9) Teach skillz to other anti-racists.

We all come from pretty different backgrounds in ARA. We all know lots of different shit that could be useful for other people to know. So let's start figuring out what we can teach each other about how to do things, and let's start teaching each other how to do things, so we can all be as effective as possible.

Do you know how to write a press release? Or how to set up websites? Or how to track down boneheads? Or how to defend yourself against attacks? Or how to put on successful concerts? Or how to speak to a class full of kids about racism? Or something else I can't think of right now? Don't just keep it to yourself - start figuring out how best to teach it to other people in your chapter and people in other chapters, and start offering to teach other people!

10) Treat each other with respect.

Hey, we're not like the Borg here. A lot of us have very different opinions and perspectives from each other. That's one reason ARA has lasted 15 years and why it's so strong - you don't have to accept some all-encompassing dogma to be in ARA. But it can also create a lot of differences, friction and heated arguments with each other. That's fine too, just as long as we keep respect in mind at all times. It's fine to disagree with someone as long as you make it clear that you are disagreeing with their ideas, not with themselves as persons. And when someone disagrees with you, it doesn't mean that they are dissing who you are. If you're that attached to your ideas, maybe you need to step back and take a hard look at yourself, because you won't be doing much good for the cause being all defensive and close-minded about other ideas and opinions.

That's the one I'm going to work on this year!

I promise!

Love, Todd

Canadian War Chest

from Todd/Montreal

Hello sports fans and welcome to the 2nd annual Canadian War Chest Review. Here's a breakdown of what went on with the ARA collective anti-racist self-defence fund in the Y2K.

FUNDING

A total of \$822.50 was donated to the Canadian War Chest in 2000, about 18% less than the year before. 6 Canadian chapters made contributions to the war chest in 2000.

SPENDING

A total of \$778.50 was given out from the war chest, a 46% increase over last year. In 2000, we gave out to 8 war chest requests, as opposed to 5 requests in 1999. Because of the larger number of non-ARA requests in 2000, the average amount per request increased by only \$12.

In 1999, 3 of the requests granted came from ARA members; 1 request came from a non-ARA member arrested at an ARA action and 1 request came from a European antifa with no connection to ARA.

In 2000, 2 requests granted came from ARA members; 1 request came from a non-ARA member arrested at an ARA action and 5 requests came from antifa's with no connection to ARA.

FUTURE

A Cap On Non-ARA War Chest Requests

Toronto ARA has made a recommendation to revise the Canadian war chest structure so that requests from non-ARA members will only be entertained if the war chest's balance is in excess of \$1000CDN. The logic being that the war chest should be full enough to assist ARA members first and foremost and by limiting non-ara requests, which comprise about half of the requests made since its inception, this will be ensured.

So far in the discussion of this proposal, other chapters have pointed out that there is already a percentage limitation on non-ARA requests, which can only receive a maximum of 10% of the war chest total, as opposed to a maximum of 20% for requests from ARA members. In addition, it has also been pointed out that the war chest has never reached a balance of \$1000 at any one time, though Toronto was quick to retort this point by stating that this would likely not be the case had we not contributed so readily to non-ARA members' requests.

Fredericton ARA Anti-Alliance Demo a Success!

DAYS after I got roughed up by StockKKwell's personal RCMP goons, we had another anti-Alliance demo, this time at a candidates debate at St. Thomas University.

For weeks now our chapter has been planning this. We made a giant chocolate milk carton with anti-Alliance slogans on it, and even a face hole and arms holes. When the Canadian Alliance jerk Alan Neill, candidate who "can't debate on immigration policies of the Alliance" because he "doesn't know what they are exactly", I ran out of a door near the stage and did a little dance wearing the anti-Alliance carton while Dana, another ARA member passed out fliers to the packed auditorium, filled with hundreds of students. It was awesome, the whole place cheered, and we were urged on by the NDP candidate, a hardcore Socialist named Michael Dunn.

Later on in the evening I managed to get the last question of the night in. To Alan Neill. Once again, as in our past two Alliance encounters, it was on immigration. He flip-flopped on it, and when I responded to his answer by telling him that innocent refugees hiding in this country from brutal regimes should be told by him that they'll be deported and murdered, the audience once again made their views on the Alliance known. Cheers and applause abound.

We passed out fliers and talked to people afterwards. SO MANY people learned about ARA and were really excited about it. Lots wanted to get involved and we made lots of leftist contacts and helped get more anti-Alliance sentiment going.

Our whole chapter worked really hard for this, and it paid off. It was terrific, and we even mounted the giant box itself, named Stocklate Milk, on top of James Dunn hall for all the students to see the next morning. People really got involved and we pulled it off! Someone even offered to buy the carton (maybe we should salvage it later), money for Julian's defense!

We'll keep you posted on whatever else happens!
Thanks!

Hasta La Victoria Siempre, Shane
Fredericton Anti-Racist Action

DE-BONED

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Toronto Report

We just enjoyed another stellar benefit party. 800 people attended the three-floor event, featuring our signature Ska Ska Oi! concert on one floor, house beats & activist video on another, and – for the first time in a while – a successful hip-hop show on another. We made enough \$\$ to clear some debts, pay off Tao and send u all this bulletin – and we most importantly, we're ready to move in the new year! We have three main projects in development:

- 1) a series of film nites and other educational events in the west end of the city. This is where nazi violence began brewing last spring, although it quickly died down
- 2) organizing with other militants for the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City
- 3) a "schools project" to get some speakers into high schools, to meet kids and get a better handle on what is going on.

That's all for now!

POINT/COUNTERPOINT: A critique and some responses

Paul LeFrak writes:

...the [below] article is from a Marie Falcone in Chicago, a self-described anarchist who polemicizes against ARA, specifically the Chicago, Vegas, and Louisville chapters. There's a number of problems with the article, both factual and political. She seems to take a position that it's wrong to call for the prosecution of Butler and says nothing about other tactics that have been used there. While she correctly says that anti-fascists must have more than street fighting tactics in getting rid of the fascists, she one-sidedly makes it seem like that's all ARA does. Plus we do recognize that a real political alternative to the fash will take a lot more than just the forces assembled by ARA, so it's not a fair criticism. She also makes it seem like we never figured that the fash retaliate. There's a lot wrong with this article, but I'll leave it to others to respond to the specifics. -Paul

from Arsenal Magazine: Issue 2
arsenal@wwa.com>

Fighting Words by Marie Falcone

Anti-Racist Action (ARA) is facing some urgent and tough questions about its anti-fascist work. How these are dealt with and what decisions are made will determine the potency of that work. These decisions will determine ARA's influence within the developing anti-capitalist, direct action movement and its ability to survive the consequences of current activity. Frankly evaluating ARA's project of direct confrontation with members of fascist groups is a crucial first step.

ARA has a history of confronting fascists. In fact, the first point of unity indicates a confrontational attitude and activity. As much as I like that, several problems are becoming apparent:

1) Fascists fight back; 2) Arrests/greater charges/lengthy sentences are increasingly likely; and 3) Risk that physical confrontation becomes the totality of the project and the group becomes militarized.

Fascists Fight Back

The murders of Newborn and Shersty in Las Vegas and the beating in Louisville (see sidebars) prove that not all fascists will run for the shitter when met by an ARA unwelcoming committee. While I'm not arguing that all confrontations between ARA and fascists will result in death or beating, retaliation is always a possibility. It's not clear to me that ARA accepts this. Whether this stems from wishful thinking or not knowing how to deal with the difficult ramifications, I don't really know. By not taking this into account, though, ARA sets itself up for more major problems.

When reality comes crashing down, it becomes clear that ARA's second point of unity doesn't guide much of anything. Without diminishing the tragedy of the murders and understanding the outrage and simultaneous helplessness ARA comrades feel, the ARA Las Vegas response is, at the very least, reliance on the cops and the courts. Their newspaper ad states: "It is unacceptable that police and prosecutors have charged only one man, and allowed a conspiracy of racist killers to get away with mur-

der." "Call the Las Vegas authorities today and tell them to act." "Is this justice?" I know ARA is made up of multiple political tendencies and levels of experience, but that doesn't excuse this response. What should ARA's response be? Is ARA prepared to retaliate in a substantive way? How can the group as a whole prepare for and defend themselves against the inevitable fascist attacks? What if the fascists turned the table and started "outing" ARA members?

Cumulative Risks

Chicago ARA has had an on-going project of exposing and directly confronting members and/or sympathizers of the World Church of the Creator in their homes and neighborhoods. This activity is both an organizing tool and an effort to deal with ARA's internal pacifist tendencies. It has been carried out very openly. They organize a leafleting of the targeted neighborhood and then go to the house of the wotc member. Even though arrests and charges have increased with each action, no one here is facing a lengthy sentence. Most charges were dropped or settled as misdemeanors. That will likely change if ARA continues this project. Some ARA members are now known to law enforcement, and a continuing determination to engage the fascists is a basis for pre-emptive arrests at the very least. We have to assume that our faces, names and addresses are known to the fascists, too.

Militarization Risk

What if these ARA outings were carried out much more anonymously and secretly? An obvious problem is that there would no longer be a way for everyone to participate and therefore ARA wouldn't adequately involve new people in militant activity. When a group attempts to carry out both open and covert actions, even military planning and preparation tend to make any public militancy risky. Functioning clandestinely is not any guarantee of avoiding the legal hassles either. Just check history for the evidence.

If we need a model that avoids dealing with political questions and focuses on physically attacking nazis, Red Action in England serves that purpose. Red Action claims that while working within Anti-Fascist Action they have made it impossible for nazis to hold demos, concerts or even leaflet. They argue that the right-wing activists have been reduced to either running for local/national office or functioning clandestinely.

There's no denying that what Red Action says and particularly what they do is attractive. However, there are some problems that are relevant to ARA. There is a fascist resurgence throughout Europe. Would Red Action have us believe it's because there just aren't enough tough guys beating the shit out of the nazis anywhere but in England?

I have to politically and factually question their claim that they've driven the nazis off the streets. Unless their publications and websites are totally fabricated, fascists do seem to be functioning openly in England and not just in terms of running for office. In fact some of them report on the clashes with Red Action. Even if the street actions of some fascists have been curtailed, it's not necessarily the result of Red Action's hard work. The right wing

is comprised of various political tendencies. Some groups lean toward electoral politics and some head for clandestinity-just like on the left. To claim victory when the British National Party runs for office is shallow-it's their politics.

While they currently express righteous and utter contempt for the traditional left, Red Action knowingly serves as the "shock troops" for their demos, etc. That allows the entrenched left to avoid responsibility for violent street action, even to disavow it, but to still get the benefits from having nazis sent running and bleeding from their pathetic demos. Allowing it to appear as if fascism is being defeated politically by those whose politics clearly won't ever defeat anything is a political evasion and undermines our organizing potential.

The admitted flow of ex-nazis into Red Action (and we should probably assume the reverse is also true) indicates a political weakness. While I'm not questioning Red Action's commitment to anti-racist politics, I do question whether people are attracted on the basis of physical fighting ability rather than political agreement.

Finally, the police can heavily determine the outcome of any serious and prolonged street battle between fascists and anti-fascists. They can allow it, stop it, pre-empt it and decide who "wins" it. Even implicit cooperation with the police will quickly become a political liability, allowing the fascists to reap the political rewards of being "against the system."

Conflicts and contradictions within capitalism create the basis for revolution-rightwing and leftwing. As conditions change, so do strategies for revolt. When "fighting fascism" revolves around physical/military attacks, victories are momentary while the threat is perpetual. It's critical that anti-fascist, anti-racist, anti-capitalist activists have an accurate assessment of current fascist tendencies and strategies. We have to address their strengths as well as their weak points, and in the process challenge ourselves to develop and implement a substantial alternative.

Murder in the Desert

On July 4, 1998, the body of Daniel Shersty, a white man in the Air Force, was discovered in the desert - badly beaten and shot. Two days later, the body of Lin "Spit" Newborn, a black professional body piercer, was found 150 yards away - shot in the back.

Spit and Dan were best friends and members of Anti-Racist Action Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Unity Skins. Committed to fighting fascism and opposing racists in the streets. They were lured into the desert and assassinated by a group of local neo-nazis. Their murder was a blow to Las Vegas ARA - many members of the group left the state or went into hiding in fear for their lives. A month after the killing, ARA held a memorial and march for Spit and Dan. ARA Las Vegas said "They want to get rid of us first, because we're the street-level opposition. If they beat us, you're going to see a wave of hate crimes in Las Vegas."

At this time, only one neo-nazi is being tried for the murders - even though mounting evidence indicates many more nazis were involved. ARA's response to the trial has been to run an ad in a Las Vegas newspaper to educate the public about the situation, and to plead that justice be served.

Nazis Attack Louisville ARA

In response to nazi activity, Louisville ARA posted notices around the neighborhood with photos and names of the neo-nazi Derby City Skins.

On June 10, a week after the flyers went up, six members and friends of Louisville ARA were circled by carloads of nazi skin-heads. Between 10-15 of the nazis got out of their cars. The ARA members and friends ran.

Jadon Welke, friend to several ARA members, was caught and severely beaten. He says that as he was being kicked, one attacker exclaimed "That's for your flyer." Jadon, who had nothing to do with the flyers, is now suffering from multiple facial fractures, loss of vision in his right eye (possibly permanent), and medical bills exceeding \$1,500.

The attackers threatened that they would go after Louisville ARA's "headquarters" next. The nazis reportedly walk the street publicly without opposition. The leader of the Derby City Skins has said "To me, this (ARA action) has gotten way out of hand. It's to the point where I think it might end hard out in the streets." In the meantime, Jadon Welke is pressing charges. "I did nothing to deserve this," he says.

Responses

1. from Todd/Montreal

...I think she's off-mark by portraying us as not understanding that "fascists fight back." Please, ARA knows this more than any other leftist group out there! But this does raise a good point- that chapters who are going after racists in their communities need to prepare themselves as much as possible for their response. Either way, fascist retaliation against ARA is itself a victory, as it shifts their violence away from people of colour, queers, Jews, etc. onto targets (us!) that are more likely to be prepared for it and prepared to minimize the damage done.

Her criticisms about Las Vegas' criticisms about police incompetence surrounding Dan and Spit's murders is typical ideological claptrap. Does she offer an alternative for ARA l.v. to take? No. She just claims that their response (the newspaper ad) is "inexcusable." Nevermind that ARA isn't some sort of idealistic dogmatic anarchist collective (apologies to anarchists on this list!), any reliance on the authorities is something ARA should apologize for in her view. What alternatives does she offer us? None. Only cautions that "implicit cooperation with the police will quickly become a political liability, allowing the fascists to reap the political rewards of being 'against the system.'"

Of course, the facts don't back up her prediction. Ask anyone who's attended a KKK rally what side the police protect. The fascists may front like they're "against the system," but time and time again when we confront them, it's the badges and guns of their sworn enemies - the cops - that they run to for protection.

No answers from her anywhere, just questions that matter little to ARA members on the ground. "What if fascists turned the table

and started 'outing' ARA members?" she asks. Well, first of all, they have, at least in Montreal. Second of all, so what? We should be ashamed of being anti-racists? I think not. The strength of outing nazis is that they should be ashamed of being nazis and they know it. That's why they are so afraid of their neighbours finding out.

Her point about the cops' power to determine which side would win a "prolonged street battle" is well-taken, but not applicable to ARA. We are simply not stupid enough to be organizing for a "prolonged street battle". That sort of paranoid, macho, survivalist scenario is the nazis' style, not ours. If we were doing that, the cops would have shut us down long ago, just before we lost any public support we currently enjoy.

Her point of the importance of anti-racists knowing our enemies' strengths and weaknesses is true, as is her suggestion that we develop alternatives to their ideology. I think ARA has gone a long way towards that, but we need to go further by addressing the issues racists attempt to capitalize on.

Throughout her article, Falcone keeps referring to ARA's role in the "growing anti-capitalist movement." Falcone's mistake is the classic "all leftists are on the same page on all issues" error that sinks movements. Sorry, I know a great many people on this list are against capitalism, but I don't think ARA has an official position on capitalism and if we did, I think it would seriously weaken our movement by veering us too close to the divisive sectarian edge. Think I'm wrong? Imagine if a proposal to adopt a Point of Unity against the exploitation of animals was suggested.

I guess to sum up, I'd like to say that before people respond to this sort of thing, we've got to assess what we gain by responding and what we lose by directing our best efforts and energies to radical leftist squabbling instead of towards organizing more anti-racist victories like Skokie.

Love,
Todd

2. from George/Toronto

Re: Fighting words, Arsenal issue #2

I was glad to see an article in Arsenal that attempted to address the challenges facing Anti-Racist Action (ARA) since the assassination of anti-fascist skinheads Dan Shersty and Lin "Spit" Newborn by neo-nazis in 1998.

The article raised some good questions about resistance to Fascism and ARA's response to the fact that Dan and Spit paid for that resistance with their lives. I'm always interested in hearing critiques of ARA from fellow anti-fascists and anarchists.

However, there are some omissions and errors about ARA's response to the murders that I wanted to clear up first.

The newspaper ad that ran in spring 2000 was one of a number of responses that ARA organized in the wake of the murders. In August 1998, only a month after the murders, ARA Las Vegas organized an anti-fascist march that drew several hundred people

from all over the western United States as well as ARAers from as far as Toronto. The march, which was held in a neighborhood where known Las Vegas nazis lived and considered a stronghold, showed the fascists in Las Vegas that ARA wasn't going to be intimidated and terrorized by Nazi thugs.

In 1999, ARA Las Vegas staged another demonstration on the Las Vegas Strip to draw attention to the fact that in spite of eyewitnesses putting another 3 known fascists at the murder scene with John Butler and evidence that as many as 40 people were involved in the murders, the police have arrested only one man. This response as well as the newspaper ad were intended not to beg for the cops and courts to solve Las Vegas' fascist problem. We recognize that defeating fascism is a political struggle and not a law enforcement issue. ARA Las Vegas, after an initial and understandable period of regrouping, has continued to organize anti-fascist youth in Las Vegas.

However, when we have two of our activists killed in an execution style double murder we will hold the cops and courts accountable and insist they do their fucking jobs for a change. Especially when the city of Las Vegas, whose economy relies heavily on tourism, would rather sweep the murders under the rug than admit that Las Vegas has a big problem with organized and violent fascists.

That stated, let's move on to the rest of the article's premise.

1. Fascists fight back.

Few understand better than ARA that there's a very real physical risk in doing effective, street level, anti-fascist work. While the murders of Dan and Spit were certainly the most extreme example of Fascist violence against ARA it was far from the first and will definitely not be the last.

Many ARAers have been threatened, assaulted (usually with weapons when outnumbered), had their homes broken into and even firebombed by fascists.

ARAers are encouraged to take a number of steps to protect themselves from this threat, from regular self-defense training to sharing information on how to stay safer at anti-fascist actions and avoid being tracked by the Fascists as much as possible. We always take our safety and security seriously and it's safe to say that ARA has one of the strongest "security cultures" of any legal above-ground activist group.

It is an tremendous credit to anti-fascists involved with ARA that when push has come to shove and we suffer injuries or deaths that we don't back down and disband chapters but rather step up to the challenge and continue to organize and fight back.

2. ARA suffering more arrests with greater charges and heavier sentences.

As the article stated, to date ARA has managed to avoid long sentences being given to it's activists for the militant direct actions that ARA is known for.

Largely this is because when an ARAer gets arrested they have tremendous support from their community and the ARA network.

ARA has mounted some of most successful high profile legal defense campaigns for militant direct action in North America.

Notable examples are:

The 1993 defense campaign in Toronto for four anti-fascists charged with trashing Heritage Front spokesman's Gary Shippers house (which housed the Heritage Front's hotline).

The 1994 anti-fascist defense campaign in Minneapolis. That successfully defended an ARAer accused of assault after thumping an attacking neo-nazi with a flashlight.

The 1998 Ann Arbor defense campaign where over 30 anti-fascists were targeted by the state and charged with multiple felonies for the successful attack on a police-protected KKK rally.

As well as the arrests ARA Chicago successfully defended themselves from last year when they outed WCOTC organizer Justin Forge in Glenview IL and successfully attacked a WCOTC rally Decatur IL.

On a network level, ARA administers an ongoing ARA general defense fund. The ARA defense fund has financially assisted ARAers up on charges in Chicago IL, Toronto ON, Montreal PQ, Louisville KY and Kent, OH. The ARA defense fund has also contributed money to the defense funds of anti-fascists in Poland and the Czech republic.

I agree that ARA and the anti-fascist / anarchist / anti-authoritarian movements in general should be more prepared to deal with state repression. We need to improve the effectiveness of our legal defense work and funds as well as prepare for the eventuality that one day ARA is likely going to have to support ARAers who are imprisoned for participation in the anti-fascist and anti-capitalist struggles in which we're on the front lines.

3. The militarization risk

While I understand and largely agree with the author's analysis of underground resistance to fascism I don't see ARA heading down that path. ARA has always been about open, militant resistance to fascism at the street level. That doesn't mean that covert anti-fascist resistance (like the 1995 firebombing of nazi-propagandist and holocaust denier Ernst Zundel's home/office here in Toronto, or the recent shooting of a NPD leader in Germany) is less legitimate than our work but it's not ARA's role to participate in it.

I also disagree with the idea that Red Action is a purely physical group and "avoids dealing with political questions". Even a cursory look through the Anti-Fascist Info Bulletin (<http://burn.ucsd.edu/~aff/afib.html>) will turn up numerous political analysis' of Fascism in the UK by Red Action. However, I will leave responding to your criticism of Red Action to Red Action themselves as I have sent a copy of the article to them.

On a more personal note, I take issue with the assertion that the fact that anti-fascist groups like Red Action and ARA have ex-nazis involved with them "indicates a political weakness".

As a former neo-nazi turned anti-fascist I work with ARA because it's one of the few organizations that has a realistic approach to combating fascism on the street level. That is, ARA has the guts to stand and physically fight if that's what it takes. However, to "...question whether people are attracted on the basis of physical fighting ability rather than political agreement." is downright

insulting to ex-nazis such as myself who've since joined the ranks of the militant anti-fascist and anarchist movement.

The fact that I was a working-class recruit into the radical right only shows the failure of liberalism and most "revolutionary" leftist groups who, unlike the fascists, fail to speak to working class youth about issues affecting them like unemployment and the bleak future for working class youth in today's society.

If anything I would argue that the "admitted flow" of ex-nazis into militant anti-fascist groups is a sign that those groups' politics, strategy and tactics are seen as effective by people who've been on the other side.

I personally have more faith in people sticking around anti-fascism for the long haul if they come from a background where they can understand why some working class youth see the radical right as a viable alternative to the status quo rather than middle class people who are "anti-fascist" for altruistic reasons or because nazis are "bad".

Anti-Fascism must not be just about physically stopping the fascists from marching, rallying and organizing, it must also fight for real issues that affect working class youth and present an alternative to the status quo, discredited leftist groups and Fascist organizations.

For myself and many others in ARA that alternative is anarchism. While ARA is a non-sectarian group with a variety of political tendencies you really don't have to look too hard to find people in ARA involved with explicitly anarchist projects, usually those on the cutting edge of militancy. An excellent example would be the Revolutionary Anti-Capitalist Bloc in Washington DC last April. Much of the 1000 strong bloc of anarchists consisted of affinity groups from ARA chapters. The decentralized and autonomous structure of the ARA network is another example of strong anarchist participation in ARA.

Finally, while I think the article is a good starting point for discussion on anti-fascist strategy I would like to hear what strategy the author proposes in order to fight the far-right or what ARA could have done that would have been a more effective response to the murder of Dan and Spit.

3. From Christian/Chicago

to respond to your article George, I liked most of it. I can't go into a depth on it right now, but I like the way and agree with how you see that the left doesn't offer at times any real answers to white working people and our failure to do so (offering an articulated program that will challenge the conditioned racist mindset that whites have and win them to a new perspective) allows the fascists and racists to organize, or that all revolutionary change seems useless or abstract and thus the continued upholding of this capitalist system is maintained. I grew up in the south and had one time friends become white power or nazi skins. These kids were poor, rural white kids. We would later fight when we ran into one another, and later some of them go out of the nazi skin scenes, in no small part due to our anti-racist stances and continued challenge to the nazis in our punk/skin scenes.

anyway, I'll try to give some more responses soon.

as for marie falcones piece on ara. we in chicago are going to make a response to the article. we agree with some of the criticisms she brings up, but also feel the article is one sided in that it does not bring up or look at any positive role ara has played in the development of a militant, youth based, left movment. one more thing about marie's article, we dont see her as hostile or being a hack in anyway. she has tried to offer a concise critique of a movement (ARA) that it is obvious she is encouraged by and supports, despite the questions and potential weakness she feels exist.

cheers,
christian

4. from David/Claustrophobia

... i think the emphasis on anti-klan demos has gave us a false sense of street power. At the same time that we've been succesful at attacking klan rallies (in the somewhat mediated form of confrontation they take) we have been beaten in most street conflicts we've been involved with. that's a dangerous trend that shouldn't go unnoticed. cheers, david

Subject: Re: [ARA] Re: Fighting words, Arsenal issue #2

George,

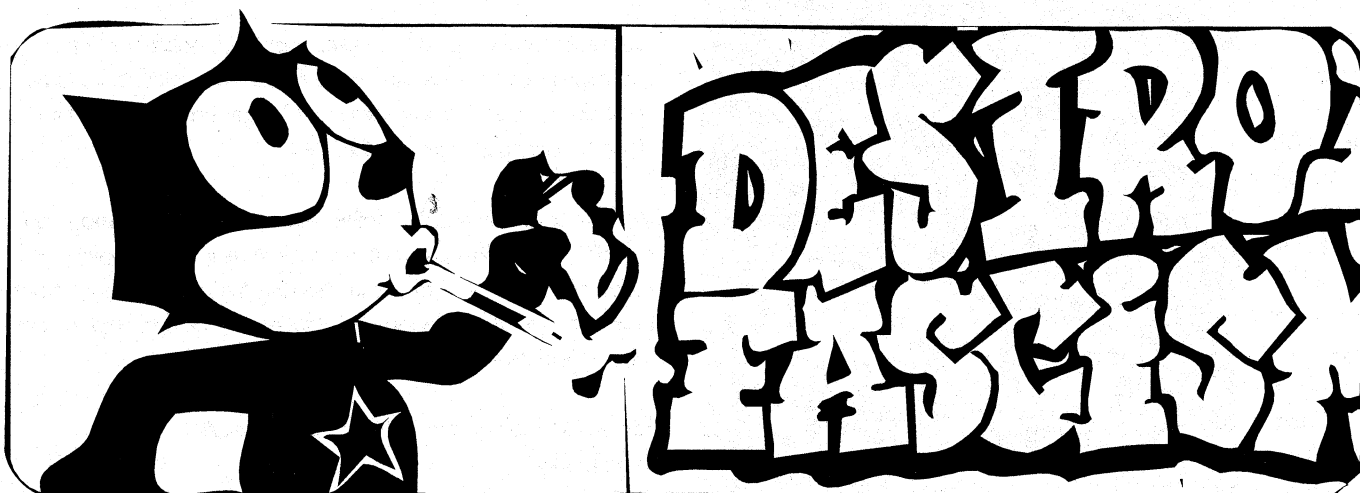
thanks for forwarding your response to the arsenal critique of ara. i thought Falcone's comments were kinda odd and didnt really lead anywhere. the only part i felt that was legitimate in the critique was the question of a less than effective physical response to the situations in Las Vegas and Louisville. She made a weak criticism of this, nothing too direct, but i do think that those situations showed up some serious weaknesses. The criticism of LV for relying on the cops to retaliate is only half moral, its also just a realistic assesment of a weakness. We should not be in a position that we need to rely on the police. i don't think it was honest to say that pressure was put on the police as a way to expose their disregard and complicity. The ad did not draw this out, to the contrary, It looks to be a call for help, plain and simple. And the situation in Louisville where a friend was left behind to get crippled by the nazis - that's unconscionable.

People should fess to that. Your letter didn't address this part probly cuz you would have a hard time defending that i'd guess. Anyway, the point is not to beat people up about it, but to admit to ourselves what we've failed at.

We're just seeing a new crew of nazis (eastern hummers) come around. its been about 10 years since the last wave got busted (by other kids and the police got a few too). the response is almost purely physical. They have little real social base for a fight at this point so i don't see it lasting too long as soon as it gets going. they ain't even half of what they were last time, but we'll see. A city's culture and the culture that any crew like ARA is connected to is the determining factors for how strong of a fight can be waged. You gotta know alot of people and you gotta know alot of people who feel comfortable fighting. that might sound like a given but its not to be assumed. its something that a college or uber activist style doesn't carry, and that's the direction ara has been moving in for a little while now. ... people don't have to be part of ara to fight the nazis. we don't have a chapter here but we are helping set up alot of little crews of people wha are getting ready to whoop ass. this pretty much formed of its own out of the punk scene that was getting harassed by the boneheads. we're pulling other people in to it. Falcone's limited comments about "militarizing" are real onesided too. the influence of war on a culture is often very positive, strengthening and liberating. you are right to point out the frequent positive interaction of underground and aboveground strategies. Some form of militarizing, which is nothing other than preparing for activity outside legal protections, is to be assumed as an anarchist or any other revolutionary. What kind of militarization tho. wartime is often a space for taking action against all kinds of barriers to our freedom (like civil rights battles during ww2, or women's lib among zapatista women) or it could also be the context in which new oppressions were imposed. we determine that outcome, that's why we take the gamble in the first place.

these thoughts arent too coherent i know, but i wanted to give you some input. i hope maybe this discussion contives and helps a better stance develop in ara.

sobering up a little, david



ANTI-FASCISTS VS GLOBAL CAPITALISM

ARA COLUMBUS TAKES ON THE TABD (TRANS ATLANTIC BUSINESS DIALOGUE)

A Call for Anti-Capitalist Action in Cincinnati, OH for N16

We are calling for Revolutionary Anti-Capitalist people to come to Ohio and join us in opposing yet another undemocratic authoritarian structure functioning quietly in peace this year. On November 16th thru 18th the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialog (TABD) will hold their annual CEO meetings in downtown Cincinnati. The TABD has positioned itself as the executive vanguard of the World Trade Organization. They represent the interests of the European Union and North America in the process of the globalization capitalism. These meetings will bring more than 100 CEOs and top government officials together to resolve trade "issues". This body represents the interests of the white, first world, capitalist elite, and exists to impose their collective will, not only the governments and capitalists of other nations, but on the working peoples of the world as well. Anti-capitalists of all backgrounds and philosophies must come together to oppose these authoritarian and exploitive policies and procedures. The TABD is yet another anti-democratic structure in the capitalist elite's march toward unopposed world supremacy. Along with the WTO, IMF, World Bank, UN, NATO, and NAFTA, the TABD is just one more tool for reducing inter-capitalist conflict, allowing them to better exploit the rest of us.

Many coalitions are calling for actions, rallies, marches, and teach-ins during this latest undemocratic meeting to divide the world's resources and the fruits of all people's labor for the benefit of an elite few. Many of these actions will be legal, permitted, and reformist. Others will be of a non-violent, civil disobedient nature. But regardless of



these various coalitions' stances on tactics, none of their political statements represent our views or needs. For this reason; we find it necessary to organize in solidarity with these coalitions, but autonomously, on our own terms and with our own explicitly anti-capitalist analysis.

We are not necessarily calling for any specific tactic aside from revolutionaries visibly standing together against imperialism and exploitation. We feel it is important that we stand apart from the advocates of "fair" trade and green capitalism. Whether it is the TABD or another global capitalist structure, our opposition is the same, we stand with indigenous people and the working class the world over against the facade of "improvements" on global capitalism; capitalism cannot be improved, it must be destroyed. We stand for a bright future, when the fruits of the world's labor are used for the needs of the people that do the producing.

To that end we are against narrow economic nationalism. We refuse to play the game of pitting the working peoples of one nation against the working peoples of another, one state against another, or one eco-system against another. Capital is globalized; the resistance of the working class must be as well.

The first-world business leaders who comprise the TABD think they can quietly meet in a very conservative midwestern city, plan, dine, drink, play, and slip back to their palaces and offices. We aim to show them that even here they will meet resistance. This is why we reach out to anti-capitalist people of all ideological persuasions to join us in our disruption of business as usual in Cincy.

We feel it is important as well to stand together with the rest of the movement in solidarity and opposition, but at the same time visibly apart in our presence and analysis. It is time we spoke out about what we want, both within the anti-globalization movement and to the world at large. It's time for the world to hear the voices behind the masks.

Our place and purpose is to keep resistance solidly anti-capitalist, uncompromising, total, and global. Let the capitalists have no quiet city. Let the forces of reform no longer use us as silent foot soldiers. Let capitalism feel another blow.

We ask other like minded collectives and networks to move quickly to both endorse this proposition and join us in the planning and execution of this action. Join us in showing the capitalist class that the midwest is not their playground, that resistance can happen anywhere, and that revolution is afoot the world over.

Toward the new world we carry in our hearts,
In Solidarity,
ARA Columbus

Endorsed by:

The Anti-Racist Action Network ,Eugene Anarchist Action (Eugene OR), Kent Anarchist Black Cross Federation Branch group (Kent OH), Kent Anti-Racist Action (Kent OH) , Chicago Anti-Racist Action (Chicago IL) , Radical Artist Terrorist Team (Yellow Springs OH), Antioch Anarchist Group (Yellow Springs OH), Yellow Springs Anti-Racist Action (Yellow Springs OH) ,Prole Revolt (Morgantown WV) ,Some Cincinnati Anarchists (Cincinnati OH) , Infoshop.org (Washington DC)

ARA Columbus vs Mike Dolan

Mike Dolan's 1st letter to Columbus ARA re: our call to action for the N16-18 TABD conference in Cincinnati

Hi there -

This is Mike Dolan with Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. We are organizing some of the permitted stuff during the TABD confab in Cincy, plus a Teach-In opportunity to educate people and press about the TABD's pernicious corporate agenda.

I have seen your call for anti-capitalist action bouncing off a few lists and I just wanted to check in and tell you that I am quite pleased that you all will be coming down from Columbus for this historic confrontation between civil society and corporate rule.

I want to assure you further that we will never endeavor to marginalize your message or your actions. As we all learned in Seattle, this anti-globalization movement is large enough to accommodate a broad continuum of critique and tactics. It does none of us any good to taunt one another for being "reformist" or unstrategic. I believe - and I hope you agree - that we can work in tandem against the TABD (and all institutions of corporate globalization) without disparaging our parallel approaches.

In that spirit, I just want to point out that the bit about "silent foot soldiers" does not accurately characterize the relationship of the Fair Trade movement to the direct action network, anarchist or other sectarian cadres, either in Seattle nor before nor since.

I will be in Cincy next on 10/2 for a couple of days, setting some things up, and another GTW organizer will be on the ground working with local activists the following week. If you would like to get together and discuss this challenge, please don't hesitate to reply hereto.

On behalf of the Citizens Trade Campaign and Global Trade Watch, I honor your call and your commitment. I look forward to seeing you on the streets of Cincinnati.

In Solidarity,
Mike Dolan
Deputy Director, Global Trade Watch
Field Director, Citizens Trade Campaign



Columbus ARA's response to Mike Dolan's 1st letter re: the TABD and Columbus's call for an anti-capitalist Block

Dear Mike,
Thank you for your letter. It's nice to know that other folks out there consider Cincinnati an important battleground in the fight against oppression and its reorganization. We are also pleased to see that you are alert enough to see and respond to our call so quickly. We apologize for taking so long to respond. We feel this is a very important issue, and took the time to deliberate each word as a collective before responding.

Unfortunately you did not give our call the reading it deserved. You attach too much to "silent foot soldiers," and not enough to "We reject narrow economic nationalism," which is more relevant to our disagreement with you. We don't disparage other progressives or liberals who don't want to go the full distance against capitalism. We do, however, disparage those who will get into bed with Pat Buchanan, who's populism becomes fascism. When you accept money from people like South Carolina textile magnate Roger Milliken, a union busting, red-baiting, arch-conservative, you do so at the expense of your legitimacy in this movement. We are not in this movement to exchange foreign Chinese sweatshops for Roger Milliken's domestic ones.

Columbus ARA is an anti-fascist organization. That means we fight in the streets against fascism. The term fascists loosely includes people you are far from ashamed to accept money from and build coalitions with.

We read with interest your e-mail exchange with Chip Berlet some months ago concerning your strange political bedfellows. We felt that the tone, tenor and attitude you employed in that exchange

more accurately reflects your politics than does the letter we have below.

After calling the left a bunch of "navel-gazers" and "lotus-eaters" you responded to Berlet's mention of Gregor Strasser by asking who Strasser was. We feel that this was and is an important and relevant question, as Strasser was a figure who exemplified the populist and socialist currents within fascism.

Gregor Strasser was a nazi and a contemporary of Hitler's before the nazis seized power in Germany. As you may know, "Nazi" is an acronym for National Socialist German Workers Party. Strasser and his clique advocated the Socialist and Workers part of the acronym more than the National part. While they were socialists, they were still nazis and met an end such as nazis deserved. Having outlived their usefulness to Hitler's schemes, they were eliminated in Hitler's "Blood Purge" of 1935, also called the "Night of Long Knives".

We think that this history is relevant to the anti-globalization struggle now. Unlike 70 years ago, some of us refuse categorically to make deals, temporary or tactical as they may be, with right wing forces. We feel that there is no place for fascism in any movement we are a part of; nor is there space in any such movement for people who would make common cause with them. The point is that you can't make common cause with our enemies and claim you share a movement with us.



This may seem harsh, but after your letters to Mr. Berlet we know where you really stand. Now where we stand is on the table as well.

Sincerely,
Columbus ARA

Michael Dolan's most recent response to Columbus ARA.

Dear Columbus ARA,

Odd, I don't know your name(s) and here I am writing you on Columbus Day. I assume you all are involved in a local protest against the imperialist legacy represented by this holiday. I am back in the Bay Area where I live with my anarchist direct action organizer partner Hilary. We are expecting a child on or about N16 so I won't be able to be in Cin'ti myself for the confrontation with the TABD.

I was surprised by a couple of aspects of your reply and I just want to clarify a bit, after which we can discontinue this dialogue, if you like. But first, thanks for explaining who Strasser was. Now I know.

I didn't realize that you had a preexisting disagreement with me, nor that you had ever heard of me. I reached out to introduce myself - a cold email, as it were. But of course that exchange with Berlet has bounced all over the place and poisoned many wells for me.

Not that it probably matters to you, but I replied to Chip privately, in response to the last of several inquiries he sent to my office in DC. I replied very impatiently (I was really busy on the China vote at the time) - hence the "tone and tenor" stuff to which you have objected. Then he shared my reply with the world. I have never spoken to him, but I hate him for that. Live and learn; by the way, I consider this exchange to be private between us, whoever you are.

I think you misunderstood my hasty reply to Chip though. I didn't mean to suggest that the Left are all navel gazers or lotus eaters. I am of the Left also. But I am an organizer with little patience with those that try to distract me from the coalition building and grassroots education (about the institutions of global corporate capitalism) that this movement demands. In particular, Berletian lefties who occupy themselves with marginalizing one another are singularly annoying and, I believe, part of the problem, not of the solution.

I think we can identify enough real enemies of the working class without turning on our putative allies in the movement, in other words. Which leads me back to your original call to action. I was VERY GLAD to see the call bouncing on DAN and other list serves. I appreciated the anti-nationalist temper. My only comment was that it was unnecessary to throw in the dig at the so-called 'fair traders' (which we all know is short hand for NGO's like Public

Citizen).

I should mention in this context that I am concerned about digital agents-provocateur, anonymous voices on-line who join discussions of message and action and endeavor to sow seeds of division among us. You could be cops or corps, for all I know (I do not suspect this, nor am I accusing you, note), anonymous as you are behind your organizational cadre tag. But even if you are not working for the Man, you are giving aid and comfort to the enemy when you taunt others in the movement. I reached out to you to ask you to cease and desist as we prepare for the TABD; and I do so again here.

Finally, please understand that I was not suggesting that we work together. If you re-read my original note, you will see that I spoke only of our "tandem" and "parallel" efforts. My only hope is that we all keep our eyes on the prize and remember who the real enemies are. They want us to snipe at each other; they want the progressive anti-globalization movement to fracture.

I won't give them the satisfaction (again, I despair that Berlet posted my petulant response to him for this reason); you will never hear me marginalize any of us or you publicly in either the mainstream or independent media. Can you please say the same?

Respectfully,
Mike Dolan

n16 arrests Cincinnati "direct action"

Posted to indymedia.org by Mike Dolan November 18 2000,

Just three comments about the mobilization against the TABD in Cincinnati:

1) The turnout was quite low and part of the reason is that so-called "liberal" constituencies that have serious membership - e.g., organized labor and mainstream enviro groups - were concerned about the confrontations between so-called "radical" (self-styled "anti-capitalist blocs") and the police. Tear gas, property destruction, arrests, etc. So they stayed away.

2) The events that were organized by CHE and Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch - namely, the rally/press conf at Fountain Sq and the Teach-In at St. Peter in Chains, both on Thursday - were successful. A

multi-sectoral critique of corporate globalization was described and proclaimed at both events, which the mainstream media covered fairly well.

3) The "direct action" seems to have consisted of some folks leaving the permitted march route on Friday, knocking some stuff over and moving some barricades, maybe breaking a window or two, and then getting gassed and divided up by riot-gear and mounted cops. I'm a little surprised that nothing more creative was planned by the CDAC or any of the affinity groups who came to Southern Ohio to help expose the pernicious agenda of the TABD. There were probably some more clever and energetic actions that haven't been reported in the Cincy rags; I look forward to hearing about them.

Concl: the elements of the anti-corporate globalization "movement" need to coordinate better and avoid marginalizing one another in the planning of these big tent actions.

Mike Dolan

Black Bloc Organizers Respond to Mike Dolan

Tue Nov 21 11:58:38 2000 -

To Mike Dolan:

Your recent post on the indymedia site in regards to the actions in Cincinnati in opposition to the TABD was a great disappointment, though certainly not a surprise. The correspondence that has been traded between yourself and this collective has been included with this post, as we feel your recent statement is a continuation of that conversation, which you have now made public.



In the letter you initially wrote to Anti-Racist Action (ARA) Columbus in response to our call for anti-capitalist action in Cincinnati you assured us that you will "never endeavor to marginalize [our] message or [our] actions." The reality is that you have tried to silence and marginalize the radical left in the anti-globalization movement from the start, while simultaneously accommodating right-wing racists, union busters, and the state. Your post is only the most recent in a long line of actions which have pursued these goals.

As you have chosen to reopen this dialogue in a public forum, we would like to take this opportunity to respond to the post in question, as well as your politics as a whole.

In regards to your first point, we would like to assert that attendance at CHE events was not low due to "so-called 'liberal' constituencies" being frightened by the possibility of "confrontations between so-called 'radical' (self-styled 'anti-capitalist blocs') and the police." The lack of representation from these constituencies lies in the fact that CHE has no mass base in the community. When we began organizing for these actions, we reached out to CHE. We took the time to travel to Cincinnati to attend meetings (without the luxury of paid expenses or salaries for doing so). We arrived early and happened to overhear comments such as, "This coalition doesn't endorse any direct action; we don't want any direct action; and what if those people from Columbus come down?" While in the meeting we witnessed a discussion about reaching out to communities of color. Again, this discussion was framed in terms of working with "those people." When a union representative at the meeting suggested that holding the main march on a Friday would drastically decrease participation on the part of union members, no changes were made to the schedule. CHE made no effort to support the ongoing struggle against police brutality and rampant racism in Cincinnati. No attempt was made to link issues of gentrification of the over-the-rhine neighborhood or police murder (you do know that the Cincinnati PD went on a killing spree the week before the protests?) to issues of globalization. CHE was not willing or able to do the outreach necessary to their own constituencies and to communities in Cincinnati in order to mobilize a mass base around their analysis of globalization and the appropriate way to protest it. This is why turnout was low at CHE events.

It is surprising that you would criticize CHE actions as being poorly attended, and then characterize these same events as successful in your second point. This suggests that according to you, a successful action is one which is "covered by the mainstream media fairly well." We are under the impression that the movement to stop globalization or global capitalism is about resistance to oppression, not about symbolic action or getting good press. How is pursuing the approval of NBC, which is owned by GE, or ABC which is owned by Disney, an act of resistance to globalization? We are not here to engage in a futile dialogue with the manufacturers of nuclear weapons and racist cartoons about the lengths of our chains and the sizes of our cages, nor do we measure the successes of our actions in terms of praise and approval from these organizations.

Your third point stands in direct contradiction to your conclusion that "the elements of the anti-corporate globalization 'movement' need to coordinate better and avoid marginalizing one another in the planning of these big tent actions." The statements made in your third point are a transparent attempt to discredit the actions of the Radical Anti-Capitalist Bloc (RACB) and the many other affinity groups and individuals who decided to join the bloc in its break-off march. The fact is that more than the majority of the protesters present at this "big tent action" chose to march with the RACB on Friday; your attempt to downplay this action suggests that the main goal of your post is to erase the presence and silence the voices of the majority of the protesters. This is certainly not in the "democratic" spirit you claim to pursue.

The fact is that your "big tent" is not as inclusive as the terminology would suggest. Apparently, "big tent unity" comes, for us, at the price of our silence and obedience. This was made clear when we were ordered by CHE to march silently to Fountain Square, and



when we were publicly told to leave if we did not organize around CHE's agenda and tactics. It's also clear again that you would rather have Buchannon in your tent than working people and people of color. Perhaps this is why you and CHE had few people other than us at a demonstration you called. After all, it is easy to say people were afraid to be near us; much easier than blaming your racist politics and paternalistic attitude. You can not reach out to people who are specifically targeted for extra suffering by fascists and then turn around and share a movement with fascists; the tent simply is not big enough.

We understand now that when you asked us to keep our correspondence with you private, it served a number of functions: your racist politics were not exposed prior to the Cincinnati actions; your boss, Lori Wallach, was not exposed as an informant for testifying against the black bloc in Congressional hearings; and you were able to avoid taking responsibility for cop-baiting us.

The Anti-Racist Action Network is a decade old, continentwide, and well respected for the anti-police work we do. In our correspondence, you accuse us of divisiveness and you state that "even if you are not working for the Man you are giving aid and comfort to the enemy when you taunt others in the movement. Third-string COINTELPRO tactics, like cop baiting, are far more useful to the "Man" than is raising principled issues concerning race, class, and fascist collaboration. We feel these are essential discussions. Your alliances and your stand are clear to us, and there is no room in the big tent for informants and racists. Apparently the good will of a murdering, racist police force and a fascist like Pat Buchanan are more important to you than working with radical youth, working class people, and communities of color.

If you are sincere in your pursuit of an inclusive anti-globalization movement, you will uphold the promise you made us (and, therefore, the RACB) in your second letter to Anti-Racist Action Columbus that we will "never hear [you] marginalize any of us publicly in either the mainstream or independent media." If you are sincere in your pursuit of an inclusive anti-globalization movement, you will cease collaboration with right-wing racists like Pat Buchanan and union-busting textile magnates like Roger Milliken. We intend to pursue an inclusive anti-globalization movement, and will await actions on your part which suggest you intend the same.

Sincerely,
Columbus Anti-Racist Action

NEXT STOP QUEBEC CITY (FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS & FTAA)

From: www.quebec2001.net

The FTAA (Free Trade Area of The Americas) extends the NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) to the entire hemisphere, and is to be implemented by no later than 2005. The FTAA is also an extension of the reach of capitalist globalization, aiming to submit health care, education, as well as environmental and labor standards to the so-called logic of the free-market.

Negotiated behind closed doors, and imposed unilaterally, the FTAA process is yet another example of the kind of economic violence that aims to suppress the gains of popular struggles of the past, and reinforce the power of cash and cops over our lives. The demonstrations against the WTO in Seattle announced to the world the existence of an anti-capitalist resistance movement in Canada and the United States. The same spirit prevailed last April in Washington during the IMF and World Bank meetings, and in Windsor last June during the general assembly of the Organization of American States (which initiated the FTAA process). On each occasion, thousands took to the streets to refuse the free market fundamentalism of governments and business. These demonstrations did not emerge from no where, but were the result of many years of collective struggles against colonialism, poverty, police brutality and injustices of all kinds.

Next April in Quebec City, the Anti-Capitalist Convergence (La Convergence des luttes anti-capitalistes, or CLAC, in French) will participate in a large-scale grassroots mobilization against the FTAA. The CLAC, which is based in Montreal, is organizing a Carnival Against Capitalism (which will include teach-ins, conferences, workshops, concerts, cabarets, street theatre, direct actions, protests and more) as well as helping to convene a North American conference in conjunction with Peoples' Global Action against "Free" Trade (PGA). We are hoping to facilitate a convergence in Quebec City of a vast array of people who aim to create a world free of oppression.

The CLAC believes it is possible to radically and creatively oppose imperialism and the capitalist system while at the same time maintaining the spirit of openness that is necessary to develop a diverse and pluralistic resistance movement. The mobilization against the Summit of the Americas is being organized within the framework of a long-term struggle, in the North and South, against capitalist globalization. For its part, the CLAC is committed to participating in the globalization of genuine solidarity between peoples, with the goal of collectively resisting the same root causes of exploitation.

Talk - Action = Zero



The colours of resistance (COR) statement.

Colours of Resistance is a network of people who actively work to develop multiracial, antiracist politics in the movement against global capitalism.

We are committed to helping build an antiracist, anti-imperialist, multiracial, feminist, queer liberationist, and anti-authoritarian movement against global capitalism.

Colours of Resistance is made up mostly of organizers of colour, but we recognize that both white organizers and organizers of colour have roles in our work, and that these roles are distinct from one another.

Colours of Resistance is both a thinktank and an actiontank, linking global issues with those in our own communities, and providing and sharing support, ideas, and strategies across borders. Our collective work includes but is not limited to producing a zine, a website, and published articles, sharing ideas through an email discussion list, and facilitating workshops and events.

While we do use the internet as a networking tool, we believe that real resistance comes from real communities, and are committed to rooting our work in community-based organizing.

Colours of resistance came together as a response to the disturbing divide between the issues and movements of certain communities - in particular, the alienation of people of colour from the "anti-globalization" protests which caught mainstream public attention at the turn of the 21st century. It is our hope to connect these mass anti-capitalist convergences back to the local struggle.

colours@tao.ca
<http://www.tao.ca/~colours>

Email lists:

ftaa-l is an international e-mail list about the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the upcoming Summit of the Americas meeting in Quebec City (April 2001).

ftaa-l is an English language list. zlea-l is the corresponding French language list, while alca-l is both the Spanish and Portuguese list.

To subscribe to ftaa-l, send an e-mail message, with a blank subject line, to ftaa-l-request@lists.tao.ca with the following text: subscribe

You can similarly subscribe to zlea-l and alca-l.
Contacts for Groups organizing against the Summit of the Americas & FTAA

Contact info for groups organizing against the SOA / FTAA

The Anti-Capitalist Convergence (Montreal)
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The Summit of The Americas welcoming Committee (Quebec City): la_casa2001@hotmail.com

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Independent media
<http://www.cmaq.net/>

Anti-Racist Action Presents:

From protest to resistance A radical look at the FTAA (Free Trade Area of The Americas)

7pm, Thursday
January 25th
FREE!
(donations accepted)
Venue TBA
Call 416-631-8835

Speakers:

Quebec City Welcoming
Committee (Quebec City)

The Anti-Capitalist
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Sue Collis, Ontario
Coalition Against Poverty

Pauline Hwang,
Colours of Resistance

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin,
Ex-Black Panther &
Political Prisoner. Anarchist
activist. (Kalamazoo)

Steve Swart, Active
Transformation (Lansing)

Anti-Racist Action (Toronto)

Videos:

Fighting To Win! (TVAC)
Resist FTAA! (TVAC)
No To WTO (Pickaxe)

ALL AGES!



ANTI-FTAA BORDER CARAVAN

Community activists in Kingston, ON. would like to invite all FTAA opponents to take part in a border action caravan the day before demonstrations at the Summit of the Americas conference in Quebec City.

We encourage all of those either organizing locally or travelling to the Summit of the Americas to fight against international capital every inch of the way.

Ensure Safe Border Crossing for All People

Organizers, and activists from Peterborough, Belleville, Toronto and all points west are invited to stay in Kingston with billets on the evening of Wednesday, April 18. We will leave Kingston at 7am Thursday 19 in caravan and travel towards Quebec City, along the "NAFTA Free Trade Corridor" Hwy 401. We will do this very slowly, creating a clogged artery in a major Canada-US trade route. We will stop at the 1000 Islands International Bridge past Gananoque to wait for allies from Syracuse, Utica, binghamton, the rest of New York State and beyond. A cell phone number will be available for any comrades from the US. If they are not allowed free passage, we will close down the border. If they can't pass, nothing will.

From the 1000 Islands bridge the Caravan will continue east, picking up activists from Ottawa at the junction of Hwy 401 and Hwy 16. (If we are blocking the bridge Ottawa activists could join us)

Shut Down the Life-Lines of the Global Economy or Block the Locks!

The caravan will stop in Cornwall, again to ensure safe crossing at the border for anyone who wants to enter Canada.

Near Cornwall are a series of locks for the St. Lawrence Seaway. We will lock down these locks, stopping the vast commercial shipping volume in or out of the Seaway. Paul Martin, Canada's Finance Minister owns CSL (Canada Shipping Lines) Closing the locks closes down not just an inhumane economic system but directly affects the pocket-books of the very people implementing the neo-liberal agenda.

From here caravanners could continue to Quebec City or keep the locks shut down. We hope to be in Cornwall by noon, which would leave lots of time to get to Quebec City the evening before the all of the action.

Please visit the Smash FTAA website at

www.tao.ca/~kdwg/smashftaa.html



A cannon along the walls of old Quebec City guarding the Chateau Frontenac hotel, which will be one of six used by delegates to the Summit of the Americas. Thousands of protesters are also expected at the summit, prompting police to plan for a huge security zone of wire fencing around much of the old fortress above the St. Lawrence River in Canada.

When up and running the site will include

1. Cellphone numbers for the caravan.
2. Contact numbers for local activists from towns and cities in Ontario and New York who will join the caravan.
3. A detailed timeline of the caravan.
4. Maps.
5. Links to more anti-FTAA direct actions including the border action at Buffalo

If you are interested in joining the anonymous "Smash FTAA" list serve to discuss the Anti-FTAA

Border Caravan or other regional (ON/NY) organizing please send and email with "Smash FTAA" in the subject line to msilburn@kingston.net

In solidarity and resistance,
The People's Community Union

Note from George, ARA Toronto:

ARA Toronto is committed to organizing people for the mobilization in Quebec City which means we probably won't participate in the border caravan. This information is provided for people in the Ontario / New York region who might not be able to go all the way to Quebec City, Americans who need to cross the border (though you might want to try a less heat score crossing 1st) and for inspiration in organizing regional anti-FTAA actions

ANTI-RACIST ACTION CHAPTERS (LISTING AS OF 01/13/01)

If you notice any errors, omissions or inactive chapters listed please inform ARA Toronto as well as your regional contact.

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A NOTE FROM THE INTERNAL BULLITIN CREW

First off we hope you enjoyed the 1st issue of the bulletin for 2001.

As you might already know ARA Toronto is now publishing the bulletin, so please send all scene, action and information reports, as well as photos and flyers you've made to us for inclusion. See the chapter list for our address.

If you don't have the time to write something up for the internal bulletin we also re-print exerpets from any publications that your chapter publishes. Send 'em to us!

Finally, printing and mailing this bulletin isn't cheap. Please subscribe to the bulletin to insure your chapter continues to receive it. Send \$15 to us to subscribe for the year. Checks can be made out to "Anti-Racist Action".

That's all for this issue,
ARA Toronto.