TURNING THE TIDE

ANTI-RACISM NEWSLETTER

People Against Racist Terror, P.O. Box 1990, Burbank CA 91507

Volume IV, Number 1 January-February 1991 Fifty cents (50¢)

Tom Metzger and WAR: Down but not Out

Neo-nazi Tom Metzger, his son John, and their organization WAR -- White Aryan Resistance -- were socked with a multi-million dollar judgment by a civil jury in Portland OR which found them liable for inciting the death of Ethiopian refugee Mulugeta Seraw at the hands of several of their nazi bonehead followers.

But in southern California, Metzger is still a racist menace not to be ignored. His followers staged a fund-raising rally in an Orange County park in November. About 30 neo-nazis were met by counter-demonstrators, even after changing the site of their get-together at the last minute. Wyatt Kaldenberg, an ex-leftist follower of Metzger's, is also raising funds for the white supremacist's appeal of the Portland verdict. Paul Smith, a "former" nazi-skin, has put "Race and Reason," Metzger's talk show, on the air on a cable-TV system in Torrance, and plans to run all 80 segments.

Meanwhile, in San Diego, Carl Straight, a frequent guest on Race and Reason and one of Metzger's hard-core followers for years, has been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury investigating the pipe-bombing of the S.D. Federal Building in October. The White Fighting Machine which took credit for the bombing, demanding that Metzger's Portland trial be stopped, hate crimes laws be dropped, and the border be sealed. The FBI arrested one man, a racist named Soames, for sending threatening letters to Morris Dees, the attorney charging Metzger in the case.

Metzger is trying to extract political mileage from his Portland defeat, proclaiming himself a martyr of free speech. He appeared on "Harvey in the Lion's Den" on Channel 2 spouting this line with a couple of dozen nazi-bonehead followers, including Geremi Rineman, who was shot and partially paralyzed in a racial altercation in the San Fernando Valley several months ago.

Metzger's legal problems are far from over. He, Richard Butler of the Aryan Nations in Idaho, and several co-defendants are facing trial in Los Angeles on charges arising from a triple cross-burning carried out by WAR, the KKK, the Nazis and Aryan Nations more than 7 years ago. The case was kicked out of court twice by judges impressed by Metzger's free speech claims, but that decision has been overturned on appeal -- toolate to save the lives of the people killed by several of the co-defendants(including Jewsih talk show host Alan Berg and a Missouri state trooper) after they became federal fugitives.

Metzger is scheduled for a hearing in the L.A. Superior Court, Dept. 105, on January 11, at which time a new date will probably set for trial on the cross burning, which took place in Sunland in Dec. 1983.

RACISTS OUT ! ...

South African Consulate, San Fernando Valley:

Anti-Racists March in King Day Rallies

Two major anti-racist demonstrations are scheduled for January 21, the Martin Luther King Day holiday in L.A. PART is participating in both.

The King Day Coalition Against Hate Crimes has scheduled a candle-light rally and march at North Hollywood Park, Tujunga and Magnolia, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Earlier the same day, the L.A. Student Coalition is holding its fifth annual King Day anti-apartheid march, who demands this year also include an end to racism and hate crimes at home, and for peace and justice in the Middle East and Central America. The march will gather at Pan Pacific Park in the Fairfax area at 10:00 and set off for the South African consulate in Beverly Hills at 11:00. (See more information elsewhere in this issue.)

More Racist Vandalism:

Racists vandalized the Laguna Hills home of a Black family in November. Delano Da Silva, whose home suffered thousands of dollars in damage and was spray-painted inside with racial slurs, most of them mis-spelled. Da Silva, who had previously been thinking of moving with his family to Atlanta, vowed he would not be intimidated out of his home.

In Van Nuys, Grant High was the target of racist vandals, who spray-painted swastikas and neo-nazi slogans on the school. At least one Black student, a Black teacher, the Black assistant principal and the principal, a white man married to a Black woman, received threatening racist letters. Police have arrested Bob Snyder, an 18 year old senior for sending the letters, and suspect him of having vandalized the teacher's home this past June. Bail was set at $10,000.

"Mock" Klan robes, cross-burning in Fire Department, Sheriffs Department

Racism is particularly threatening inside the ranks of the uniformed services, when the force of government is in the hands of white supremacists. Two recent cases in L.A. show this problem is not restricted to the deep South. In the L.A. County Fire Department, the Black Employees Association is calling for the dismissal of a fire captain, who donned a white paper bag cut out to look like a KKK hood to intimidate a Black woman working at the dispatch center.

In the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Sherman Block has quietly reinstated two deputies, guards at a local jail, who made a paper cross and set fire to it with an aerosol can used as a blowtorch to intimidate Black prisoners. The FBI is looking into the case.

WHERE WE STAND

People have been asking PART to make clear what it stands for, apart from being against racist violence. While we do not have a hard and fast ideology, and aren't affiliated with any party or other political group, here's an outline of some of the principles we think should guide anti-racist activity.

1) White people need to oppose racism inside our communities.

The U.S. is one of the most race conscious countries in the world. "Race" is a category with no scientific basis, since Africans, Asians, Europeans, and indigenous peoples have always mixed together genetically in the course of human history. But racism is a hard reality, and what it means is not only prejudice or hatred toward another "racial" group, but the use of power and privileges to enforce that hatred and maintain "superiority".

As such, in America, racism is white people's problem. During the civil rights era, concerned white people were eventually told to stop trying to be missionaries to oppressed groups, and start cleaning up our act with our own people. As a whole new generation of hard-core racists is growing up, this imperative is more true today than ever.

2) Oppressed people have the right to self-determination.

The solution to the problems of poverty, racism and exploitation in this country is for the people who are exploited to have power over their own communities, their land and labor. This is a kind of de-centralization, democracy in action. The problem of gangs, for example, can be seen as a result of powerlessness, of the racism of society directed into self-hatred. Black gangs generally attack Black people. In other words, they are not an example of "Black racism" against whites, but an example of the way the Black community has been forced to internalize white racism.

The difference between "Black Power" and "White Power" is that Black people are calling for power over themselves, for the first time in this country, while "white power" is a demand to maintain the power of the white society over other people it has always dominated and exploited.

3) All forms of racism and domination must be opposed and ended.

There are links among racist right and neo-nazi forces in various social spheres, such as the anti-busing, anti-abortion, and anti-immigration movements. Anti-racists must unite with other progressive forces in the U.S. and around the world. To win the battle, we need to change the world, not just knock heads with a few bald or hooded racists. Apartheid, colonialism, zionism, sexism are part of a system that breeds racism. We need to fight for women's rights, to oppose U.S. military intervention in other countries, to support independence for Palestine, Puerto Rico, Namibia and other nations who are still colonized. We must oppose the hatred of gay men and lesbians that has motivated so much violence by nazi skins recently, and allowed Reagan to sit idle while AIDS claimed thousands of lives. We need to defend undocumented workers and language minority groups. We can't depend on the cops or the government to fight racism.

4) Anti-racists can't rely on the state.

Racism won't end until the results of slavery, genocide and stolen land are overturned.

"Blue by day, white by night" is a slogan that expresses a real connection between the police and organized racism. Locally, there have been exposures of consolidated racist groups in the Glendale P.D., the San Bernardino "Aryan Officers Association", and possible KKK members in the L.A. Sheriffs. In Portland, anti-racist skins have had to face a campaign of harassment and intimidation by the police even while under attack by nazi-skins. Nationally, there have been klansmen exposed in the cops, prison guards and the military in dozens of cities.

The anti-immigrant hysteria and the English-Only movement are examples of a campaign in which proto-fascists have achieved respectability and widespread support with government backing. The current wave of nazi-klan violence was unleashed when federal agents allowed the racists to kill 5 anti-klan organizers in North Carolina in 1979, and then the courts let them get away with murder.

In L.A., the cops and prosecutors similarly let Metzger, Aryan Nations head Richard Butler, and a half a dozen other racists get away with burning three crosses here in 1983. Participants went on to form the racist underground Order, robbing banks and killing a Jewish talk show host.

5) Racist propaganda and mobilizing are not free speech issues.

The KKK/nazis have no right to carry out organizing campaigns, spout their vile racism on TV or cable, or march and burn crosses. These actions are not speech, but simply the above-ground activity of factions that have always been committed to secretive violence and terror and para-military operations. Groups like the ACLU that go to court to win parade permits for the Klan when communities try to stop their marches are misguided. Their racism is not a matter of "expression"; it's part of a strategy to legitimize and intensify racist terror.

DEVELOPING ANTI-RACIST WORK

We get a lot of letters from individuals out there concerned about racist terror and organizing in their area and wondering what to do. We encourage everyone to start where they're at to develop anti-racist work and organizing. Even one person can establish an anti-racist focus and attract others with the same feelings and concerns.

Talk to your friends, classmates, teachers or people you work with. Maybe even people in your family, or neighbors, will share your ideas. You can start to put out a 'zine without much effort. There's lots of material you can use in newsletters, other 'zines, national anti-klan resources like those listed in this issue. You can get stickers and flyers from these groups that you post, or reprint with a local address, preferably a p.o. box.

If you've got a few bucks to spare, most cities have answering services which can take your messages for $10 or $15 a month. We recommend that you not use the "voice bulletin boards" where you can get an answering service based on a computer that allows you to record your own message and then record incoming calls. They are too easily jammed up by harassing phone calls.

Tom Metzger's WAR has been using one such system., Anmerican Voice Retrieval, to project his hate-mongering into several dozen cities. Boycotting AVR if it's in your town, and giving the nazi hate-lines a dose of the harassment they dish out, may be called for.

Find out if there's an established civil rights group in your area. Also, there are peace movement and religious groups around the country who are concerned about racism. The YWCA has a commitment against racism. Some of these groups are not always receptive to young people or new ideas, but they're a place to start.

Once you begin to publicize your concern, especially if you're making people aware of racist activity in your area, you'll probably quickly come into contact with at least a few other people who will want to work with you. With some support, you can begin to do things like leaflet music shows and other more public activity which will spread the word even further.

HOW YOU CAN DO YOUR PART

PART needs all the help and support it can get to keep putting out this newsletter and carry out other anti-racist work.

We're asking our readers to help us out in a few ways:

1] Keep writing your letters in to us, and call. Your moral support and encouragement is really important. Excuse us if we don't always write back personally or at length.

2] Send us news clippings and your own reports about racist and anti-racist developments in your area. Even here in southern California, there's a lot going on that never makes the papers or the tube, outside of many one locality newspaper. This is an important way to build an anti-racist network.

3] List us in your 'zines and organizational newsletters. That's the main way word of Turning the Tide gets around.

4] Send us some cash. Lots of folks still get the newsletter free or maybe sent in a couple of stamps a couple of issues ago. We increased both the size and the press run of TTT substantially with this issue. If it's helpful to you, please send a few bucks our way.

KING DAY CANDLELIGHT MARCH, RALLY & MOTORCADE AGAINST HATE CRIMES

Agoura: Black family's home gutted by racist vandals.

Tarzana: White supremacist shoots up inter-racial party.

Van Nuys: High school splattered with nazi graffiti, principal and assistant principal receive racist threats.

Northridge: Inter-racial couple target of repeated anti-Jewish, anti-Asian harassment and violence.

Burbank: Racist, homophobic graffiti regularly defaces library.

Sunland: Nazis, KKK, Aryan Nations and WAR burn three crosses; case still dragging through courts for seven years.

Simi Valley: North Hollywood Adult School teacher's home vandalized by nazi-skinheads.

Glendale: Anti-arab t-shirts sold by novelty store spark protests.

L.A. County: 2500 hate crimes and bias incidents reported in the schools last year.

Throughout the San Fernando Valley and southern California, hate crimes -- violence and harassment motivated by bigotry against Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, Arabs, Jews, women, and lesbians and gays -- are increasing at an alarming rate.

This reign of racist, sexist, anti-semitic terror must be stopped!

In our schools, communities, places of worship, there is an urgent need for united grass-roots action, education and coalition-building to fight this menace, and to prevent organized neo-nazi forces from building a racist base among young people. Join us in a rally, candle-light march and motorcade against hate crimes on King Day.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21,

* 5:00 pm RALLY, NORTH HOLLYWOOD PARK, cr. MAGNOLIA & TUJUNGA.
* 6:30 pm CANDLELIGHT MARCH & MOTORCADE TO 1st PRESBYTERIAN CH. 5000 COLFAX, FOR VALLEY-WIDE INTER-FAITH KING DAY SERVICE

KING DAY COALITION AGAINST HATE CRIMES: Valley Interfaith Council, PART - People Against Racist Terror, Green Party/SFV, Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice, Democratic Party of SFV, LA Student Coalition, Valley NAACP, Valley DSA, Women's Intl. League for Peace & Freedom, Emma Lazarus Jewish Women's Committee and other concerned organizations and individuals. Info, call VIC 818-718-6460.

Remember the LA Student Coalition King Day March Against Apartheid, 11 am Pan Pacific Park, LA ③

Heard it through the GRAPEVINE

A critical situation seems to be developing in Colorado. I would like to stress that the following information is only hearsay... we have no documentation or anything of the sort. What we do have is the word on the street. We've been hearing the same story from too many different people to discredit what we've heard. As some of you may know, a skin named Norm Hillier was recently stoned to death by Nazi Boneheads in Boulder. Anti-racist skins in this area have informed us that Norm was formerly involved with a racist youth group in Michigan. We've heard he was with Hammerskins, Church of the Creator, and Aryan Nations.(Does anybody out there know for sure?) He moved to Colo. to escape all the Nazi shit, and became anti-racist. Word on the street is, he was killed by his former Nazi associates or another group acting on their behalf. (Confederate Hammerskins were passing through at the time.) The police say he was a Nazi (based on tattoos) and that he was killed by his Nazi "friends" over money. We are asking anybody who knew Norm or anyone who knows anything about this incident to write to us with what they know so that we have a better handle the situation, and see that the truth comes to light.

Now for the issue I spoke of earlier. We've been hearing from many sources that major Nazi activity is about to occur in Colo. sometime during the Fall of this year. As we understand it, the Aryan Nations has many enemies imprisoned in the Colo. penal system. Metzger is supposedly sending a # of skins (People are saying anywhere from 5-500) to: One, get into jail anyway they can for the purpose of killing their enemies. Two, to recruit and organize Nazis in Boulder and Denver. Three, to establish an Aryan Nations outpost in Greeley. Finally, to cause general hell and make sure the border to Wyoming(the supposed new "Aryan State") is clear of non-whites. A Nazi in Greeley, formerly with a group known as the A.U.A.(has anybody heard of it?) in Idaho, is helping with the set-up of the future outpost. I find it hard to believe that Metzger could send 50 Nazis much less 500 to Colo., with all the shit going on in Portland and with his upcoming trial. But if there is not any truth to what we have been hearing, somebody has managed to pull off a perfectly orchestrated lie. We've heard this information in four different towns, from people completely unassociated. If anybody knows anything at all let us know as soon as possible! We are the only organized anti-racist force in Colo. that I am aware of. Even if Metzger is only sending 5 skins, it wouldn't be hard for 5 assholes who knew what they were doing to turn the disorganized Nazis in Colo. into an effective force. We must be ready and aware, or our small size and lack of information will destroy our group. Again, please respond as quickly as possible with any information you have.

Finally, we are asking anybody who knows of anti-racists or anti-racist groups in Colo. to send us their address or to send them ours. We don't have the money or the resources to reach all the people we'd like to, and as a result many people may not know of our existence. We need to get some unity in our scene, and it needs to happen now! Thanks for your time.

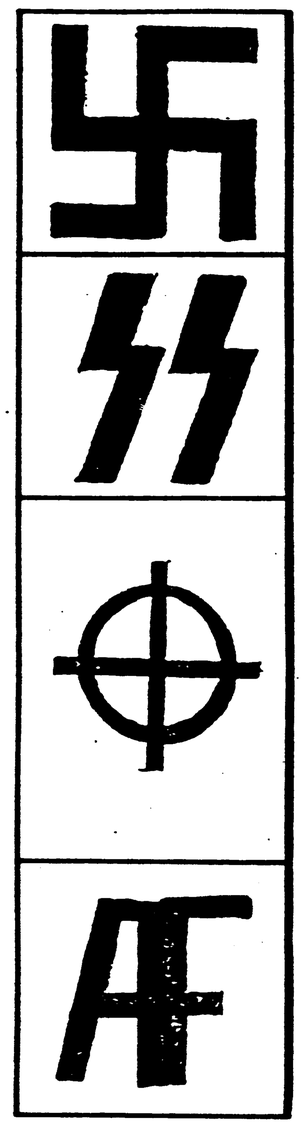
Chippewas are facing the new ooze of racism that is cropping up. It shows up on signs reading 'Too bad Custer ran out of bullets' and 'I Am Revolting Against Certain Indian Special Treatment' (spelling out RACIST).

Contact:
Midwest Treaty Network
731 State St.
Madison WI 53703

Alliance
of Native Americans
P.O. Box 30392
L.A. CA 90030

STAMP OUT RACIST GRAFFITI!

White out these symbols where you see them!



The ***Swastika*** was used in Nazi Germany by Hitler and his forces.

SS: Hitler's elite, like the Marines of the Nazi's.

WAR: White Aryan Resistance

Celtic Cross. A symbol stolen from old Irish culture by Vikings. Many white supremists claim it as their own.

AF: American Front symbol.

KKK: Ku Klux Klan

SWP: Supreme White Power

Dear friend:

For three years now, Turning the Tide has been reporting on the struggle against racist terror and for human rights. It has exposed and opposed the hate-mongers like Tom Metzger of WAR, David Duke, klansman-turned-politician, and local nazi-boneheads.

Turning the Tide, newsletter of *People Against Racist Terror*, has helped build a network of anti-racist activists around L.A., and around the country. It has exposed the links between the neo-nazis and the anti-abortion movement; defended women and lesbians and gay men against the fundamentalists and the bashers; marched against racists in Doc Martin boots and those in business suits.

But we can't continue without your help. Every week, we get letters and calls from people who have heard of T.T.T. or PART and want to get on our mailing list. But if Turning the Tide is going to continue, we need your paid subscriptions and donations.

This is a critical time to strengthen the anti-racist movement. Racist violence, gay-bashing and attacks on women are on the rise. In the face of the doubts and opposition of most people George Bush is pushing towards war. The economy is shrinking, so conditions are getting worse for Black, Mexicano, and other oppressed communities. Meanwhile, neo-nazis and fascists are organizing and recruiting students and young people in a backlash against immigrants, affirmative action and women's rights.

IF YOU VALUE THE ROLE TURNING THE TIDE IS PLAYING TO HELP BUILD AN ANTI-RACIST MOVEMENT, THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE IS NOW!

TURNING THE TIDE will not continue without your support!

Please send in your subscription or donation on the coupon below -- do it TODAY!

[] Enclosed is $5.00. Please enter my six-issue subscription.

[] Enclosed is $10.00 Send me PART's research papers (on KLAN-TV, KKK History, English Only, and Neo-Nazis and Abortion Rights). Enter my one-year sub, and send me future reports.

[] Enclosed is my donation of $_____. Keep up the good work!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ AFFILIATION: _____

Please return to P.A.R.T., P.O. Box 1990, Burbank CA 91507; tel: 818-509-3435.

ANTI-RACIST RESOURCE LIST

Organization for a New Equality
485 Columbus Ave.
Boston MA 02118

Rock Against Sexism
464 Harrison Ave.
Boston MA 02118

New Liberation News Service
P.O. Box 41, MIT
Cambridge MA 02139

Political Research Assoc.
678 Massachusetts
Cambridge MA 02139

SHARP
P.O. Box 904
Oakhurst NJ 07755

Comm. Against Anti-Asian Violence
P.O. Box 20756
NY NY 10009

John Brown Anti-Klan Comm. (JBAKC)
P.O. BOX 406
NY NY 10009

Guardian
33 w. 17th St.
NY NY 10011

SHARP
469 LaGuardia Pl #387
NY NY 10012

Rock Against Racism
2647 Broadway #2W
NY NY 10025

Skins & Punx Against Racism
c/o AS PO Box 1595 Cath Sta
New York NY 10025

National Alliance Against Racism & Pol. Repression
11 John Street #702
NY NY 10038

Educators Against Racism & Apartheid
16404 Goethals Ave.
Jamaica NY 11432

SHARP
Box 70
Philadelphia PA 19144

Upper Hand
P.O. Box 11211
Shawnee on Del, PA 18356

Group Research Report
733 15th St. NW #527
Washington DC 20005

U.S. Student Assoc.
1012 14th St. NW #202
Washington DC 20005

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1517 "U" St. NW
Washington DC 20009

Refuse & Resist
P.O. Box 53089
Washington DC 20009

Student Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism
P.O. Box 18291
Washington DC 20036

People for the American Way
2000 "M" St. NW
Washington DC 20036

National Institute Against Prejudice & Violence
31 S. Greene St.
Baltimore MD 21201

Organization to Stop Sexism & Racism
P.O. Box 471012
Charlotte NC 28247

Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR)
P.O. Box 50469
Atlanta GA 30302

Community Against Hate Crime
P.O. Box 14712
Gainesville FL 32604

A.R.A./Eric R.
2134 Patton St.
Birmingham AL 35226

A.A.N.
3325 Loma Rd. #2
P.O. Box 360999
Birmingham AL 35236

Rosa Parks

Danny Welch/Klanwatch
P.O. Box 548
Montgomery AL 36195

AYF Mid-South
P.O. Box 241532
Memphis TN 38124

Freedom Info. Service
P.O. Box 3568
Jackson MS 39207

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 02106
Columbus OH 43202

SHARP
P. O. Box 8946
Toledo OH 43623

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 19305
Cincinnati OH 45219

Anti-Racism League
P.O. Box 20092
Cincinnati OH 45220

A.R.A.
P. O. Box 20748
Indianapolis IN 46220

SHARP
P.O. Box 885
Chesterton IN 46304

No. Indiana Skin Heads
P. O. Box 737
Whiting IN 46394

UCAR - Baker Mandela Ctr
3 E. Engineer
Ann Arbor MI 48109

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 1092
Detroit MI 48231

SHARP
15941 S. Harlem #210
Tinley Park IL 60477

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 11211
Chicago IL 60611

JBAKC Chi.
1340 w Irving Park Rd #25
Chicago IL 60613

Northside Crew
P.O. Box 46346
Chicago IL 60646

The Syndicate
P.O. Box 578065
Chicago IL 60657

SHARP
P.O. Box 1332
St. Peters MO 63376

Center for Demo. Renewal
P.O. Box 413767
K.C. MO 64141

Coalition Against Racism & Nazism
806 Perdido St. #205
New Orleans LA 70112

Mobilization to Stop David Duke
P.O. Box 53113
N.O. LA 70153

Liberation League
P.O. Box 13851
N.O. LA 70185

SHARP
P.O. Box 59324
Dallas TX 75229

Dallas/Ft Worth Info
P.O Box 13642
Arlington TX 76094

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 89101
Houston TX 77289

Romani Union
c/o Ian Hancock
Manchaca TX 78652

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 402145
Austin TX 78704

National Committee Against English Only
98 Wadsworth Ave. #127-17
Lakewood CO 80226

Front Range A.R.A.
P. O. Box 102
Greeley CO 80632

P.U.S.H. c/o Sean
P.O. Box 894
Gilbert AZ 85234

IMWU
4072 E. 22 St. #306
Tucson AZ 85711

SHARP
P.O. Box 56956
Sherman Oaks CA 91413

Whole Damn Pie Shop
PO Box 7904
San Diego CA 92107

A.R.A.
P.O. Box 90312
S.D. CA 92109

Skins & Punks Against Racism
P.O. Box 119002 #222
San Diego CA 92111

Alt. Youth Brigade
P.O. Box 90537
Santa Barbara CA 93190

JBAKC S.F.
220 9th St. #443
San Francisco CA 94103

Justice for Geronimo Cmpgn
214 Duboce Ave.
San Francisco CA 94103

SHARP
P.O. Box 4571
Moraga, CA 94575

Bay Area A.R.A.
P.O. Box 3501
Oakland CA 94609

North Bay A.R.A.
P.O. Box 2935
Petaluma CA 94952

SHARP
P.O. Box 681
Citrus Hts, CA 95611

Coalition for Human Dignity
PO Box 40344
Portland OR 97240

Coke Boycott/Lew Church
P.O. Box 40821
Portland OR 97240

Utd Front Against Fascism
5018 Rainier Ave S.
Seattle WA 98118

CDR
P.O. Box 88359
Seattle WA 98138

Letters to P.A.R.T.

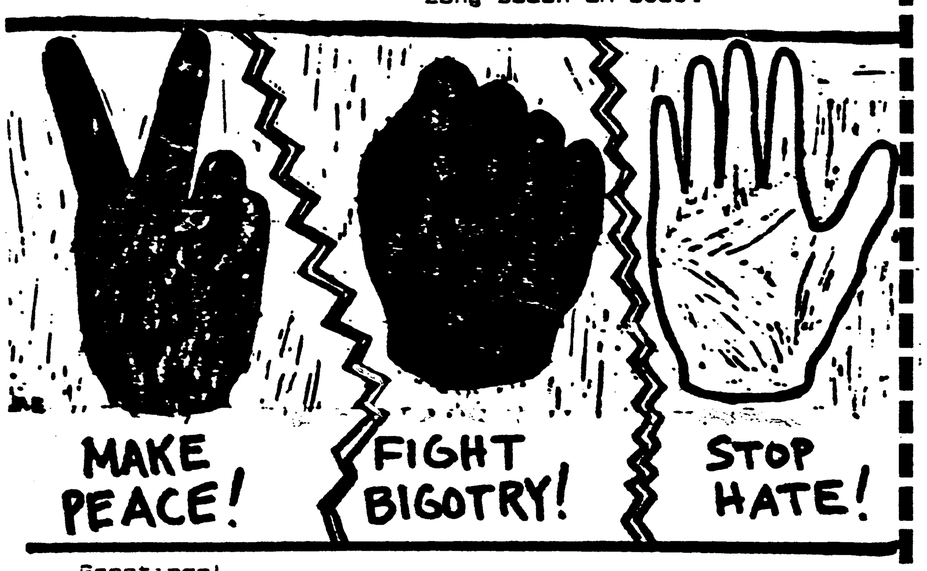
Dear TTT,

I'm just writing to say that after getting your publication for six months, I've kind of taken it for granted that you put out this truly fantastic newsletter. I'd love to contribute some money to you, since I"m sure you need it, but I'm unemployed right now. When I get enough $$, I'll definitely send some.

I like TTT because it's not a liberal anti-racist paper. What I mean by that is that you don't have white guilt and think that all minorities are saints, you're also not afraid to tell people to fight back at racism, and most of all you don't apologize.

You're also not some slick glossy high priced magazine that you can buy for $2.95 at Vons or Ralphs supermarket, and you don't have big corporate ads. You also criticize the system, whether it's dealing with capitalism, police brutality, or the U.S. forcing "democracy" on other countries. Please keep up the great work!

Peace through punk,
S.M. Steppenwolf
c/o Food Not Bombs
P.O. Box 4472
Long Beach CA 90804



Greetings!

Christian here from Front Range A.R.A. in Colorado ... In a recent copy of TTT, a guy wrote in with a letter out of Homocore (a fabulous zine for homos/bi's and yes even us heteros) talking about a group of SHARPs as fag-bashing. As much as I'd like to write this off as bullshit sensationalism, I'm afraid it's quite true.

A friend of mine was living with a parent in L.A. last summer, and he was assaulted by a group of SHARPs for the crime of having the majority of his head shaved but not being a skinhead. I've been told by a fellow ARA member from Portland (a black skinhead himself) that many SHARPs in Oregon, and other states, do indeed go fag-bashing.

I have corresponded with Marcus Sharp and I've written to and spoken with many other SHARPs and I thought they were above this hypocrisy and hate. If SHARP is indeed anti-racist, anti-sexist, yet remaining homophobic, it has destroyed its credibility with a lot of us. I'd like to hear from SHARP members in the U.S. or UK as to the excuse or a lame excuse. Thanx for your time -- keep the faith!

P.O. Box 102
Greeley CO 80632

Dear PART and readers:

This is the second letter I've written to your publication concerning the false allegations branded on the L.A. chapter of ShARP.

One of your readers once wrote that he was a victim of fag-bashing from some of our members. This is a straight-out lie. There isn't now and hasn't ever been a member that believes a person has more or less rights because of their sexual preference. To judge someone on this basis would be the same as judging them on religion.

I'd be the first to admit that skinheads are aggressive, but we're not out to take over the world. We just want to live out our life without anybody getting in our way; after all, we don't get in anybody else's way.

I'll bet most of the people that make these accusations don't know what they're talking about. They just heard it from somebody else. How many of you people have written ShARP to ask what we're about? Let's not be prejudiced against each other. Let's get together and fight the cancer that affects us all.

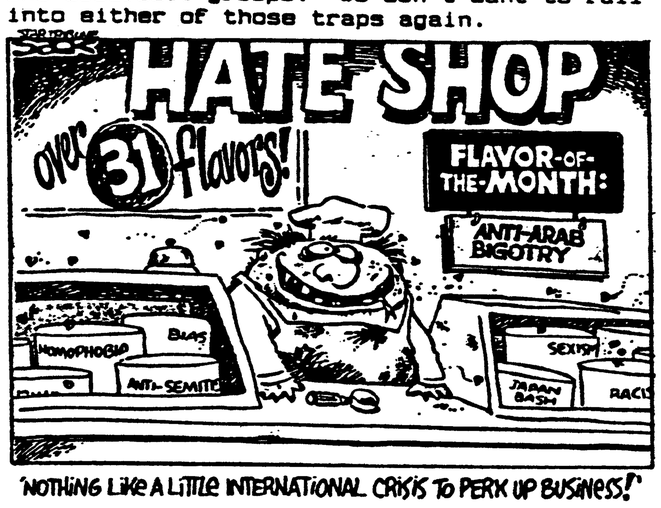
Unity,
Jonathon,
L.A. ShARP
P.O. Box 56956
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413.

PART RESPONDS:

We can only speak from our experience. In several different coalitions and activities we have worked on with L.A. SHARP over the last couple of years, they have been willing to participate with gays and lesbians, to support lesbian and gay rights, and oppose gay-bashing and hate crimes against gays and lesbians. This is a better record of action than many people and groups who claim to have an enlightened position on gay liberation.

In regards Portland, I have seen SHARP skins doing security for gay events and an AIDS benefit, and at the recent ARA national conference in Portland, the local SHARP chapter participated actively and honestly, including in discussions about sexism and homophobia and how to overcome them. Several SHARP members showed more willingness and openness to hear criticism and examine themselves than some members of ARA, which specifically defines itself as anti-sexist.

We need to uproot homophobia and eradicate gay bashing. We also need to be very careful of blanket condemnations and of spreading unsubstantiated rumors. In the '60's and 70's, progressive and anti-racist groups did themselves fatal damage through sexism. In that same time period, the government was working over-time, with great success, to heighten disunity, spread rumors and discredit groups. We don't want to fall into either of those traps again.



"NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS TO PERK UP BUSINESS!"

PART-

I have been receiving your newsletter for quite a while now and I must say I'm greatly impressed. You seem to be creating quite a network. I also enjoy the fact that you deal with issues that do not necessarily directly revolve around racism. This shows a level of political sophistication that sadly is lacking in a lot of issue-oriented political groups. Bravo!

After returning from the USSR for the second time a few days ago, I've begun to think that the struggle for Social Justice has got to be internationalized. The Soviet Union's reforms, like anything are a double edged sword. New organizations and movements are only now beginning to spark and catch fire. Groups like the Soviet Greens and the dubious but never the less interesting Anarcho-Democratic party are growing stronger by the day. But there have been some horrifying new trends unearthed by Glasnost's wave of change. The most frightful of which is "Pamyat" (Memory).

Pamyat, which started as a preservation group, supposedly lobbying to restore Russian church, is now the equivalent Europe's National Front or Metzger's WAR. Pamyat is a testament to the complexity and strangeness of the current situation in the USSR. One would think that in a country that lost over 20 million people to Nazi terror, a bunch of Swastika -brandishing boneheads would have no chance of becoming much more than a backyard club. On the contrary, Pamyat continues to gather support especially among the youth of Leningrad and Moscow.

If Pamyat and similar groups throughout Eastern Europe were to link up with other organizations in the world who share thier racist ideology, we could be looking at a MAJOR problem. Already, Le Pen is the third largest Political entity in France and here in America David Duke could be setting a horrible trend. In your last issue of TTT, you talked about a British chapter of the KKK. I hate to sound like a McCarthyesque witch-hunter, but these guys seem to be popping up everywhere.

My organization, the Alternative Youth Brigade, a fellowship of activist minded kids from across the political spectrum, is dedicated to building a network to combat Facsism and other threats to human rights. There are a few international political action groups, (Amnesty etc.) but none that are entirely youth controlled and influenced-as the AYB is. Through our youth exchange wing-the John Reed Foundation, we want to send people all over the world to work with different groups. The object is to then host activists from these foreign countries in the states. We have contacts in Finland, Sweden, Poland, Israel and an AYB chapter in the Ukraine. The AYB is not a huge group, and we've just begun building ourselves, but those of us that are working on our many projects are very optimistic.

If there is anyone reading this letter who is interested in our work, please contact us.

Power to the People!

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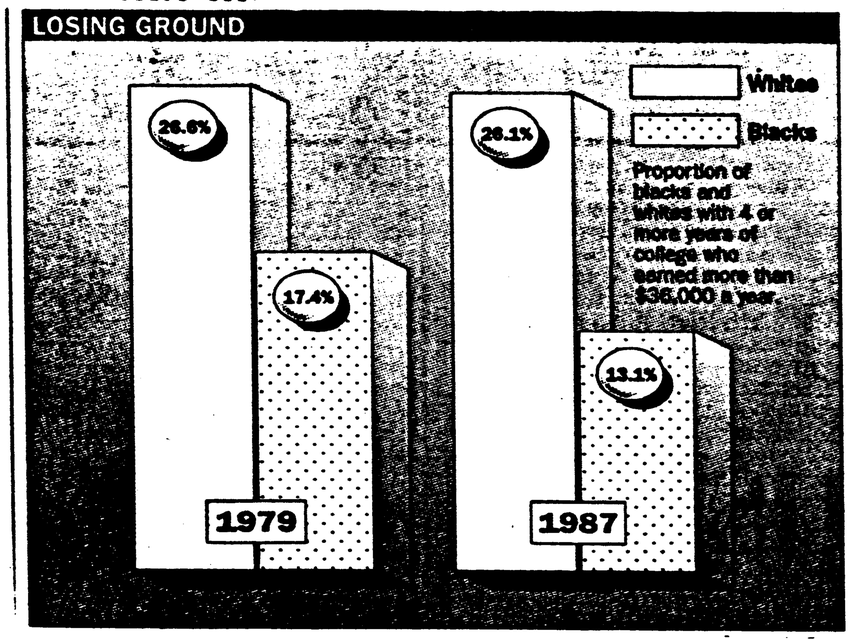

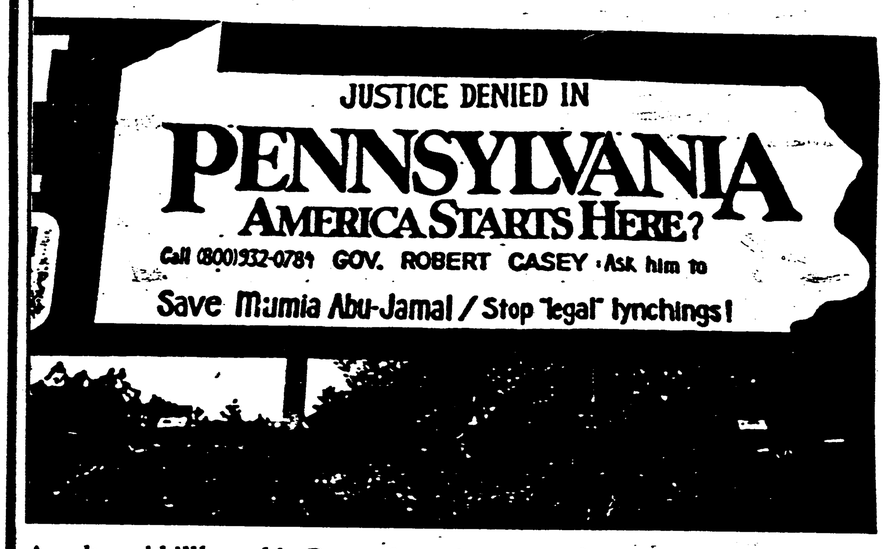

An altered billboard in Pennsylvannia

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a Black journalist, a former Black Panther and a supporter of MOVE who is on death row in Pennsylvania on a political frame-up. For more information on his case and that of other political prisoners and prisoners of war in the U.S., contact Freedom Now!, 59 East van Buren #1400, Chicago IL 60605, 312-663-4399.

ANTI-IMMIGRANT HYSTERIA:

RACISM AT THE BORDER,

The vigilante "Light Up the Border" campaign marked its first anniversary with another mobilization of RV's and pick-up trucks to shine their headlights along the U.S. U.S. - Mexico border and assist the Border Patrol in apprehending undocumented workers. However, in the wake of counter-mobilizations by the immigrants' rights movement, the number of participants was down. The border was blocked from the Mexican side by demonstrators protesting the shooting of a teenager by the Patrol.

At Occidental College:

Racism provokes student sit-in

More than 30 students have been sitting-in at the Occidental College administration building in Los Angeles since Nov. 15, following a decision by Dean of Students Brigida Knauer to cancel a scheduled rap concert and graffiti art exhibition. The students charge the school with racism and hypocrisy, and the protest has broadened to include demands for an effective student voice in campus decision-making.

The administration's initial response was to allow the building to be locked up and ventilation shut off with the demonstrators still inside. Officials have since agreed to negotiate on student demands. One of the supporters who camped overnight outside Coons Hall in solidarity with those inside said, "This action is the first real multicultural event at this school. It has brought all the different racial and ethnic groups together."

General Motors issued a formal apology when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors protested about abusive language in a company training and promotional film for employees. The film referred to a Japanese truck as a "little faggot vehicle."

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