TURNING THE TIDE

ANTI-RACISM NEWSLETTER

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

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COPS WAGE WAR ON BLACK COMMUNITY

Rodney King made his first mistake by speeding on the Foothill Freeway in suburban L.A. past a CHP car. He made his second mistake by driving off when the CHP signalled him to pull over, but as a Black man on parole, he feared getting in trouble. He made his third mistake by getting off the freeway in an area of the northern San Fernando Valley patrolled by the L.A. Police Department.

Quickly stopped and surrounded by L.A. cops alerted to the chase by the CHP, King got out of his car along with two passengers, on Foothill Boulevard in Lake View Terrace, a racially-mixed area that was the scene of a cross burning by the nazis and the KKK several years ago. There, early in the morning of March 2, King became another statistic -- the latest victim of a lynching by the violence prone L.A.P.D. Brutally beaten by three cops with batons, burned and shocked twice with a TASER stun gun, he was kicked in the head, face and stomach while down on the ground, while a dozen other cops, including a sergeant and officers from the CHP and L.A. school police looked on.

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BUSH WAGES RACIST MID-EAST WAR

The racist nature of the Gulf war is as evident in the aftermath as in the build-up. Despite the opposition of some racist groups to the Gulf War (see article elsewhere in this issue), U.S. intervention in the Gulf grew out of racist roots. The disproportionate number of Blacks and Hispanics among front line troops was noted (their relative scarcity among high prestige pilots less commented on). When Blacks picketed recruting centers in L.A., the L.A. Times reported several young Blacks about to sign up as saying that they felt they'd be safer in Saudi Arabia than on the streets of South Central L.A.

This is beyond the poverty draft; it is driving people into military "careers" with the stick of genocidal violence. And in fact, casualty rates for U.S. troops in Desert Storm were far, far lower than the casualty rate for young Black men in America's cities in the comparable period.

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letters to PART

Dear friends,

Forgive the mistakes I make, but I know only a little your language. I've read that you do a 'zine about the problem of nazi skinheads, and I would like to get a little information. In my country, nazi skins are a big problem for punks and also for people who go to independent concerts. The stupid nazis have no ideology, no principles, quite no mind. They do no concerts, they have no 'zine. Nazi skinheads here in Poland are ordinary hooligans.

In my country there are few Black people or other Africans, so the skinheads say, "white power" or "Poland for the Polish," then they go out and beat up white Polish. They are very aggressive. Anarchists and punks often have to fight with those idiots, because they (skinheads) don't like peace or freedom. They attack you if you have different hair or clothes.

I don't know how it is in your country, but I think that there it isn't hard to get guns in the hands of these skins -- it must be horrible. If possible send me some information about your problems, because I am trying to start my own 'zine about music, art and the problems of society. I live in a very poor country, where even a few dollars is already a lot of money, so I can't send you anything. I wait for your answer.

Ernest, Zielona Gora,
Poland

Dear folks,

I read about TTT in mrr. I've also read about PART in other anti-racist 'zines.

Over here in Orlando, things are messed up. There are many nazi skins, and they are screwing up the scene for everyone. I was in SHARP until recently. I left because they are sexist and homophobic, as bad as the nazis. I still love SHARP itself, just this chapter is messed up.

I'm thinking of starting my own anti-racist organization. I love to read and collect anti-racist literature and write to other people who share my views. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Winter Park, FL.

Hello, PART:

I need your help. I'm in Saudi Arabia and very far from local access to the information I need. I've been placed under investigation, due to a break-in in my room back in the States. They found non-racist business cards and a "true skinhead" flyer. They seem to be under the impression that all skins are communists. I need competent information to dissuade them of their beliefs. Please advise. Keep the faith.

Jeff,
APO NY 09657

Anti-Racist Action
San Diego

WHAT IS ANTI-RACIST ACTION?
ARA is a new organization on the San Diego punk music scene dedicated to fighting racism on our local scene, and also in the larger society. Interested individuals involved in the alternative, independent, underground and edge music scene locally are welcome to join, and eventually we hope to expand our membership from the punks and skinheads currently attending meetings to young people in general who wish to oppose racism.

WHAT DOES ANTI-RACIST ACTION BELIEVE?
ARA believes that racism, in whatever form it takes (white supremacy, anti-semitism, national chauvinism, etc.) is an evil that not only must be opposed, but also vigorously combatted whenever and wherever it appears. ARA understands that the punk scene has many who are proud to be called nazi punks and skinheads, and as members of the local punk scene we consider it our responsibility to fight this type of racism. But we also know that the media and certain public figures have created the false impression in the general public that all skinheads and most punks are nazis and fascists. This is not true. As important as it is for ARA to educate people on our scene to oppose racism, it is also crucial to inform the general public, not just that the punk and skinhead movements started out anti-racist and anti-fascist, but also that many skinheads and most punks today are against racism.

WHAT DOES ANTI-RACIST ACTION DO?
ARA at present prints, reprints and distributes anti-racist literature on the local punk scene as well as in the general community. We have individuals available to speak to the press and community groups for our group, to talk about the history of the skinhead and punk movements and the current state of racism and anti-racist organizing on the punk scene. ARA locally is also putting together "Rock Against Racism" music shows, which we hope to turn into benefit events to help raise money for worthy community organizations and causes.

Join The Fight Against Racism
Join Anti-Racist Action–San Diego

P.O. BOX 12812, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-3812

TTT,

HOWDY FROM HOUSTON! I'M WRITING THIS BECAUSE I'M CURIOUS AS HOW THE OTHER ANTI-RACIST CREWS FEEL ABOUT VIOLENCE. HOUSTON A.R.A. IS NON-VIOLENT. WE DO NOT PROVOKE THE NAZIS IN ANY WAY. THE WAY I SEE IT IF YOUR HOSTILE TOWARDS THE BONEHEADS, THEN YOU ARE JUST AS BAD AS THEM! THE MAIN REASON WERE AROUND IS TO STOP RACIAL VIOLENCE, RIGHT? WHAT GOOD ARE WE DOING IF WE ARE OUT THERE CAUSING VIOLENCE? I THINK WHEN ANTI-RACIST PEOPLE DO THAT, IT MAKES VIOLENCE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE NAZIS! FUTHER MORE, WHAT DOES BEATING THE SHIT OUT OF EACH OTHER DO TT STOP RACISM? SOME REASONS I THINK THAT WE VIOLENTLY FIGHT RACISM: THE MAIN THING I SEE HAPPENING IS KIDS GOING OUT THERE AND PISSING A BONEHEAD OFF, AND THEN THE KID DOES'NT REALLY KNOW WHAT THERE TALKING ABOUT AND THEY CAN'T BACK IT UP. SO, BEFORE YOU GO SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH, KNOW WHAT YOUR TALKING ABOUT! YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO BEAT UP A RACIST TO BE ACCEPTED! THATS BULL SHIT! YOU ARE NOT A WIMP IF YOU DON'T FEEL IT'S RIGHT.IT IS NOT THE WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, AND IT SURE AS HELL DOESN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP RACISM! O.K., SAY YOU KILL A RACIST, YOU THINK IT'S GOOD CAUSE THERE'S ONE LESS OF THEM, RIGHT? NOPE, THEN,ALL YOU HAVE IS ALL OF THERE BUDDY'S AFTER YOU, AND YOU'LL END UP EITHER RUNNING OR DYING! THAT'S NOT TOO COOL IF YOU ASK ME! AND VIOLENCE CAN GET YOU INTO SHIT LOADS OF TROUBLE! NOW, DO YOU THINK IT'S WORTH IT? ANOTHER THING I THOUGHT I'D THROW IN, GAY-BASHING GOES THE SAME WAY AS ALL OF THAT STUFF! SOMEBODY'S SEX LIFE IS THERE OWN BUSINESS! IF A GUY OR GIRL TRIES TO PICK YOU UP, DON'T KICK THERE ASS! JUST TELL THEM NICELY TO FUCK OFF! THEN IGNORE THEM OR LEAVE.

NOW, AN ALTERNATIVE TO VIOLENCE, LISTED NEXT ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE DO HERE AND THEY WORK! I KNOW ALOT OF COPS ARE ASSHOLES,BUT THERE ARE ALSO SOME VERY HELPFULL ONES. GET TO KNOW YOUR NAZIS, AND TELL THE COPS ALL YOU CAN. YOU'D BE SURPRISED THAT COPS KNOW ALOT ABOUT SKINS, AND HAVE THERE OWN FILES ON THE BIG ONES. WORK WITH CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS, JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE, AND OTHER ADULT ORGANIZATIONS. EVEN SOME CHURCHES CAN BE HELPFULL. SEND, OR PASS OUT FLYERS. DON'T JUST PASS OUT KID FLYERS, MAKE SOME INFO. FLYERS AND PASS THEM OUT AND TELL ADULTS, NOT JUST KIDS. MAKE YOURSELVES LOOK GOOD TO THE PUBLIC EYE. TRY AND GET SOME POSITIVE PUBLICLY. HAVE BENIFIT SHOWS, OR FREE ONES. BENIFITS ARE NICE IF YOU NEED MONEY! GET THE BAD NAZIS (NOT THE LITTLE BOYS PLAYING BIGOT) BAD PUBLICY. TAKE PICTURES OF THERE RACIST GRAFFITI AND SEE IF NEWSPAPERS WILL PRINT IT (EVEN A SMALL PAPER). THEN YOU CAN PAINT OVER IT! WELL, THESE ARE JUST SOME IDEAS, SO I HOPE YOU WILL AT LEAST THINK ABOUT IT.

THESE ARE JUST MY IDEAS ABOUT VIOLENCE. I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE SOME SENSE OUT OF IT! PLEASE WRITE ME FOR ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO ADD TO MY IDEAS. I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW SKINS FEEL ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE THERE SUPPOSED TO BE TOUGH! HA, I'M A SKIN, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

PASS THE FAITH,
UNITY OF HOUSTON A.R.A.
P.O. BOX 891001 HOUSTON,TX 77289

NAZI ALERT from Front Range Anti Racist Action in Greeley:
A group known as the Church of the Creator who affiliate themselves with the "National Front"(A strong Nazi organization overseas) are trying to mobilize in the Denver area. They have been using local Nazi skin OOOPS !! I mean Boneheads to distribute literature for them. we are asking that anybody who has any information about the Church of the Creator or the National Front to send it to us. the more we know about these groups the better we can fight them. So if you see any of their flyers, have a news clippings, or just "know" something pass it along to us. We will do our best to keep you posted on any new information that we might receive.

Front Range Anti-Racist Action
PO Box 102
Greeley,CO 80632-0102

1-2-3-4-We don't want this racist war!

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What does it say about our society that we have the resources to send half a million people half-way around the world, but can't end the homelessness, joblessness, racism and hopelessness that produces this plague of violence at home?

We must also ask ourselves who gave George Bush the power to wage this war -- and the uncomfortable answer is that we did. If 100,000 had taken the streets when Reagan invaded Grenada and Bush invaded Panama, nations close to home with a large Black population, then Bush wouldn't have been so free to unleash violence in the Middle East.

If the anti-war movement had been more forceful over the years in fighting for peace and justice in the Middle east, in defending the Palestinians, perhaps the U.S. wouldn't have been able to sustain the double standard of condemning the Iraqis in Kuwait and upholding the Israeli occupation of Palestine Syria and Lebanon.

If we'd been up in arms for 10 years while the government refused to fund the war on AIDS, refused to spend money on healthcare, housing, education, child care, while they spent trillions for more guns, bombs, cops and prisons, George Bush would not have been able to launch this war. Every bomb dropped in Iraq was a school, a hospital, a medical research center that was never built in this country.

The smart bombs and missiles were paid for with the blood of people who died needlessly of AIDS, with the blighted lives of a generation of inner city youth. We allowed those weapons to claim lives here in building them, as well as there in dropping them.

We must also look deeper into our character as a nation and the impulse that insists on denying all negative attributes in ourselves and projecting them on to a demonic "other". This impulse is at the roots of racism and all oppression of those who are different.

The demonization of Hussein and the dehumanization of the Iraqis, which so quickly replaced the cold war, grew out of the genocide of the Native nations, and the invention of the "negro" by racist ideologues seeking to project outward the criminality and guilt of slavery. The American psyche needs that external enemy, or it will be forced to look inward, and confront -- and heal -- its own divisions and illness.

The dehumanization of Arabs was everywhere, from the Pentagon references to "collateral damage", to liberal commentators referring to the reaction of the "Arab street" to the callous disregard for the massive casualties. The ratio of a 1,000 to 1 of dead and wounded on the two sides was related more to the history of massacres (like Wounded Knee) than warfare.

The analogies of Iraq to Hitler are laughable. Hitler rose to power in an advanced, industrial country with an imperial history. He enjoyed the support of the other imperial powers so long as his ambitions were directed against the "inferior" Slavs and the commies. Significant sectors of the rulers and the societies of the countries he conquered or allied himself with, supported his genocide of the Jews and gypsies, and his purging of "Christian culture" of homosexuals, decadence and liberalism.

To oppose the war was not to support or glorify Saddam. It was the war which built Saddam up, and which allowed him to carry out atrocities like launching missiles at civilians in Israel and flooding the Gulf with oil. If not Saddam, the perfect foil, Bush would've found someone else, somewhere else, because he wanted, needed a war: to test new weapons, to use up the old ones, and strengthen his flag waving stranglehold on domestic politics.

So the struggle against the war must continue. The U.S. still has a massive occupying army in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. It's being used for a "settlement" in the Middle East that will leave all the old injustices intact. We must call for U.S. with-drawal. We must demand that the vast store-house of weapons expended in the war not be replaced. We must demand justice and sovereignty for the Palestinians.

And we must demand an end to the war at home, through self-determination for the people oppressed inside this country. The recent video-taped beating by the L.A.P.D. shows all too clearly that there are occupying armies inside America that lay the basis for the armies of occupation we send abroad.

San Francisco Chronic liar

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10 YEARS OF EPIDEMIC
US Fights Foreign Wars While People Die at Home

Racists infiltrate peace movement

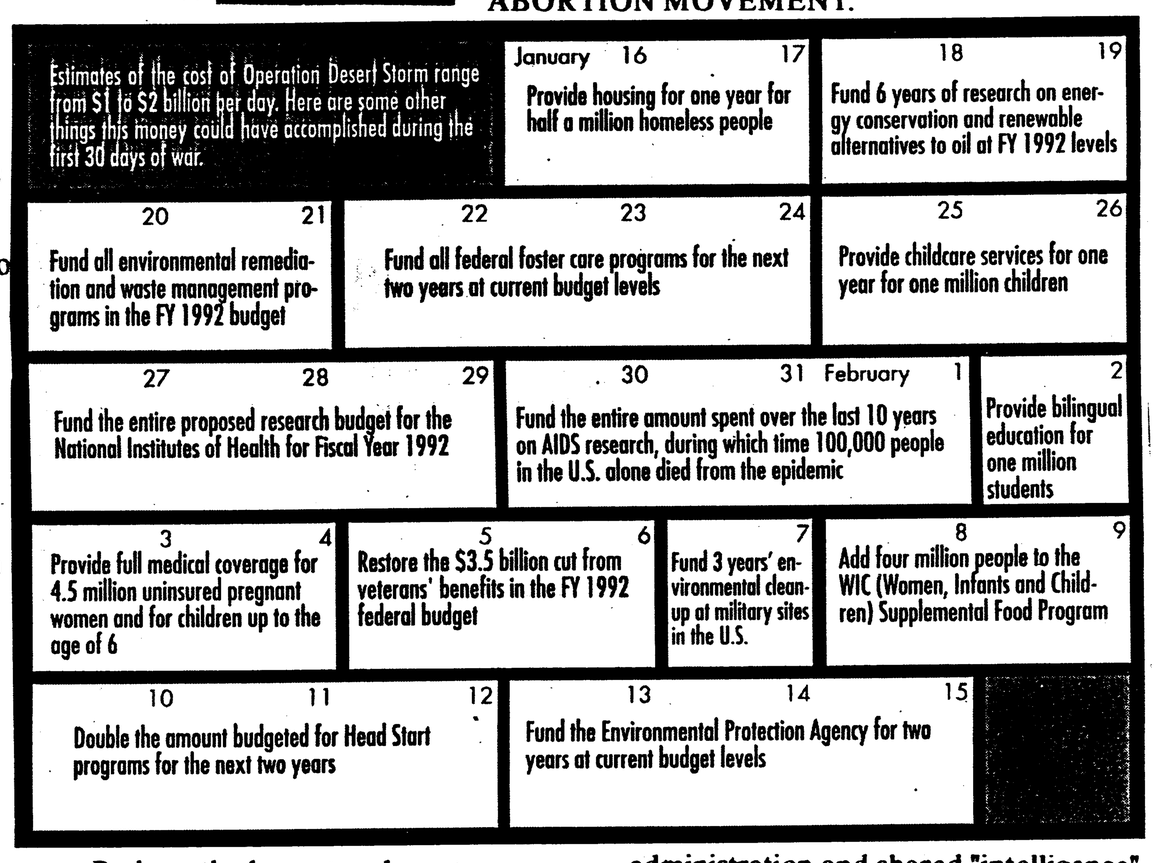
Several groups on the racist right wing made opposition to the U.S. military build-up in the Persian Gulf a major focus of their recent organizing. Efforts included an anti-intervention demonstration by the Populist Party, (the agglomeration of neo-nazis and tax protesters that ran David Duke for president in 1988), and a national "student peace" conference held in Chicago on Dec. 15-16 under the auspices of several front groups for jailed neo-nazi presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche. In Nevada, neo-nazi skinheads with ties to the KKK and Tom Metzger's organization sent upwards of 7000 letters addressed to "any white service member" to soldiers in the Gulf, urging them not to fight for Israel.

White supremacist Tom Metzger has been using the Gulf issue to fight back from his recent legal defeat in Portland, OR (for inciting nazi skins to kill an Ethiopian refugee). On his telephone hate-lines and in recent media appearances, such as on "Harvey Levin In the Lion's Den" on Channel 2 KCBS-TV in L.A., Metzger has emphasized his opposition – on "white racialist" grounds – to U.S. military action in the Gulf. Referring to Arabs as "sand niggers" and "camel jockeys," he portrays the U.S. action as a policy of the "ZOG" (zionist occupational government,

Similar thinking may motivate the Populist Party, which has long received substantial funding and organizational support from Willis Carto, founder of the anti-semitic Liberty Lobby. Echoing some of the views expressed by Metzger and by syndicated columnist Pat Buchanan, the Populists decry the "war party" in Washington as being controlled by Israel. They claim Bush is planning a war in Israeli rather than American interests.

The reactionary John Birch Society, which recently has been conducting a national campaign against Nelson Mandela and the ANC, also redirected its attention to the Gulf, organizing against the war at Merrimack College and elsewhere in Massachusetts. The Birch Society set up tables at several recent L.A. demonstrations against the war. They focused their propaganda on opposition to Israel and the U.N.

In "White Beret," the newsletter of the White Knights of the KKK, former Inperial Dragon Dennis Mahon urged Klansmen to work with anti-war activists. "Keep your white power thoughts to yourself and learn how the hard core lefties get the job done.... Most Klansmen are afraid to do some of the things these people will try.... Shame on you when I have to go to the left for help to fight ZOG. Some of these lefties ... will make excellent Klansmen and women."



credit: Breakthrough, PFOC

Perhaps the largest and most sophisticated campaign by neo-nazi forces against the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia was mounted by the groups associated with Lyndon LaRouche, the former SDS'er turn fascist. The LaRouchies have stepped up their organizing in L.A., among students and at such events as a city-wide teach-in on the Gulf crisis. LaRouche's newspaper, the New Federalist, has been focusing on the question, and issued a supplement headlined "Force Congress to Stop Bush's Mideast War!" which LaRouchites have been distributing at anti-war rallies. The group is actively seeking new adherents in the upsurge of spontaneous anti-intervention activism with some limited success.

Many new activists may be unaware of the history of LaRouche and his organization. LaRouche is a notorious homophobe who led efforts to impose a quarantine on people with AIDS through California initiatives. He is a sophisticated anti-semite who received funds and an entree to the racist right from Willis Carto of the Liberty Lobby. LaRouche's security was run at one point by Ray Frankhauser, a KKK leader. His followers received para-military training from Mitch WerBell, a noted right-wing mercenary.

LaRouche had access to top White House officials early in the Reagan administration and shared "intelligence" about progressive groups with contacts on the National Security Council. In the 70"s, LaRouche's followers became known as "brownshirts" for their strategy of physical attacks on left groups which LaRouche referred to as "Operation Mop-Up."

Under the auspices of Food for Peace, its farm organizing front group, and the Schiller Institute, a supposed cultural foundation, the LaRouche network held a so-called "national student peace conference" at a hotel in Chicago, with associated activity at a local campus, on the weekend of Dec. 15-16.

The LaRouche groups are particularly dangerous because, despite their fascist orientation, they have been attempting to recruit among Black groups for some time, and are casting their opposition to the Gulf war with an "anti-racist" slant. Their propaganda emphasizes the disproportionate non-white make-up of U.S. troops in the desert, and calls for an investigation of chattel slavery of Blacks by the royal families of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Several LaRouche gatherings, including a meeting of his International Caucus of Labor Committees in Washington D.C. this fall, have featured speakers from the Nation of Islam (NOI), and the editor of the NOI's newspaper, The Final Call, spoke at the LaRouche anti-war conference in Chicago.

GATES MUST GO!

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But this time, the cops made a mistake. They kept up the brutal beat-ing for so long that the final 2 minutes were captured on video-tape by a nearby resident using a newly-purchased home video camera. The tape shows King, on his knees, attached to an electrical line from the Taser gun, being struck at least 50 times by baton-wielding cops. Taken to the emergency room, King needed 20 stitches, 5 inside his mouth, and treatment for burns, massive bruises and cuts. Later, doctors found his skull was fractured in 9 places. Even after surgery to rebuild his eye socket, he may have permanent damage to his vision. Weeks after the assault, he's suffering memory loss and symptoms of brain damage

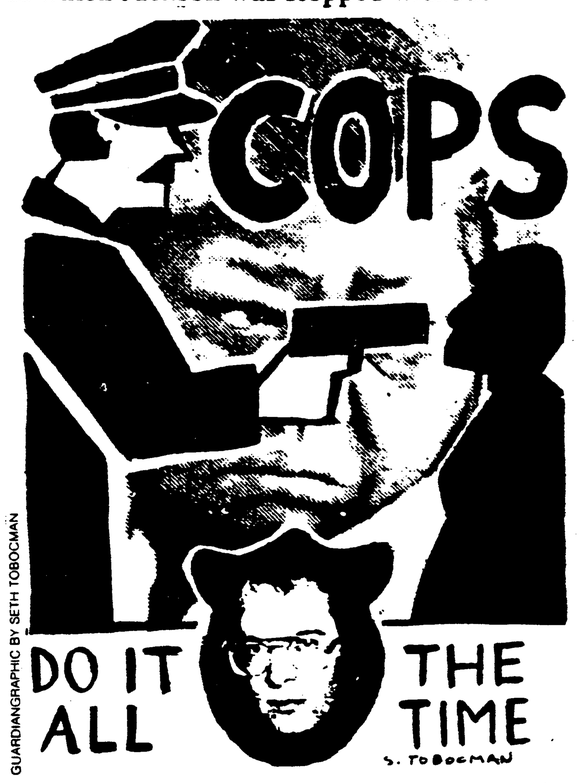
King's only crime was being Black. If not for the video footage, he'd have been charged with resisting arrest and assault on an officer, like other Black and Latino victims of police violence, and having violated his parole, he'd've been shipped off to state prison to await trial. But George Holliday, the 31 year old white man who shot the video was, like his neighbors, upset by what he witnessed and sent the documentation of the unprovoked brutality to KTLA, which aired it on the evening news and shared it with CNN. Instead of being another nameless, faceless Black victim of "street justice" by the L.A.P.D., Rodney King may help to bring down Police Chief Darryl Gates, who has run the department for 13 years, independent of civilian control, as a para-military occupying force in the city's Black and Latino communities.

The L.A.P.D. held King without charges, arrested "on suspicion of evad-ing arrest" for several days, while the protest built, fueled by the repeated airing of the video on TV. The D.A. refused to file charges against King. The State Department of Corrections refused to violate King's parole. The FBI announced an investigation of the incident and possible violations of King's civil rights by the L.A.P.D. It was disclosed that one of the cops had previously been suspended from the force for two months in 1987 for beating a handcuffed suspect. Hundreds of calls flooded into the L.A.P.D. headquarters at Parker Center, named for the chief who molded the department into the semi-military force it is today. Four of the cops were indicted by a grand jury.

The case may finally have ripped the lid off the sordid record of the L.A. police. Ramona Ripston of the ACLU reports that her organization receives more than 70 calls a week from victims of police abuse. "This isn't an isolated incident," says Jose De Sosa, head of the San Fernando Valley chapter of the NAACP and state president of the organization. "This is the type of thing that goes on under the cover of darkness throughout our city."

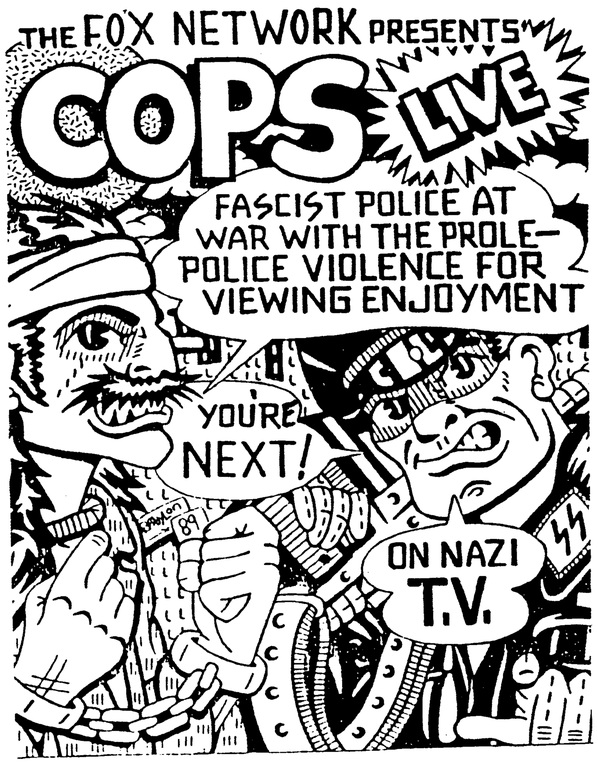
De Sosa called a demonstration demanding Gates' ouster, and more than 500 people marched and rallied outside Parker Center on Saturday, March 9, one week after the incident, to demand justice for Rodney King and an end to police brutality, while several dozen other protesters picketed the San Fernando Valley police station where the officers involved were based. Demon-strations are planned every Saturday until Gates is gone and justice is obtained in this case.

"If you believe Gates, you'd have to believe that the cops only do this when they're being video-taped," said one protester, referring to a series of similar recent cases in which police brutality has been caught on camera. In one of those cases, former police officer Don Jackson had an NBC camera crew come along on a sting operation in Long Beach, in which Jackson was stopped without



cause, smashed into the hood of a car and thrown into a plate glass window by two Long Beach cops whose trial coincidentally opened the week of the King incident. But even without video-tape evidence, the city of L.A. had to pay out more than $3.5 million in 1990 to settle 16 suits brought because of unjustified shootings and beatings by police. Complaints of police brutality have been increasing for years. The problem is systematic - it is racism.

Police in the King case denied that there was any racial motivation in the stop or the treatment. The L.A. Times editorialized that the beating of King is "a grim reminder of a time when all black people were fair game for white cops. That is not the case today. The entire L.A.P.D. should not be smeared for the improper actions" of a few cops. But in fact the hostility of the police toward the Black community which caused the Watts rebellion 25 years ago has not diminished.



In April, 1988, for example, the L.A.P.D. initiated Operation Hammer, the first of a series of massive police sweeps, utilizing 1000 extra overtime cops and mobile booking stations, arresting in one night almost 1500 Black youth and accosting thousands more on the streets.

The L.A.P.D. was re-organized on para-military lines in the 50's, with its chief appointed essentially for life, exactly to carry out this type of operation, and its rep for violence and racism has continued unabated for decades. Shortly after Gates took office in 1978, the department faced criticism over the police killing of Eulia Love, a Black woman shot to death in an attempt to evict her over an unpaid gas bill. It was subsequently disclosed that the police infiltrated community groups formed to protest police brutality.

Gates weathered that storm, and has faced down all opposition since. He continued as chief after he defended police killings of Black people with choke-holds, by saying Blacks didn't have the same arteries and veins as "normal people."

But community groups are stepping up the pressure on Gates following the King beating, holding the chief to account for the department's repeated abuses. Several petitions are being circulated calling for Gates' ouster. PART urges all anti-racists to join the weekly pickets outside Parker Center until Gates is brought down. White progressives have been noteworthy in their absence from these rallies so far. Gates must go -- and the whole rotten, racist system that uses cops as an occupying army must be transformed!

For more information, contact the Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA), at (213) 733 - 2107, or the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement at (213) 234 -5522.

PART's Viewpoint:

WHITE, MALE BACKLASH IN THE '90'S: THE ATTACK ON "P.C." THINKING

The jargon of racist and sexist stereotyping has added a new term to its lexicon: the put down of anti-racism and anti-sexism as being "p.c." – "politically correct" – usually said with a sneer. This dismissive term has gained currency on college campuses across the country, and made it into the mass media in the last year as a short hand way of putting down a new generation of student activism.

Instead of seriously dealing with the ideas and issues being raised, the p.c. put-down allows defenders of white and male supremacy to pigeon-hole those who challenge the system as being trendy and mindless. It is the 90's version of earlier epithets like "knee-jerk bleeding heart" in the 50's and "commie-pinko" in the 60's.

But the real meaning of the "p.c." put-down is as a code word for "nigger lover" and "race traitor," the damning terms that have historically been used against any white people who break with the dehumanizing system of white supremacy. We should view the development and promotion of this term as a measure of the success and growth of independent thinking among college youth, because if racism, sexism and homophobia was not being challenged, there would be no need for a backlash.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.?

The government denies it. Yet today there are more than 100 people locked up in U.S. prisons because of their political actions or beliefs.

The U.S alone among the world's governments maintains the fiction that it holds no political prisoners. The official position is that all those jailed for politically motivated actions are "criminals." The U.S. tries to hide the existence of political prisoners because they challenge the image that the U.S. is a truly democratic and humane society. These prisoners expose the fact that there are political resistance movements of such potential impact that the government is compelled to use repression against them.

By labeling political prisoners as criminals, the U.S. government has also been able to shield from view serious human rights violations against them. These include:

- excessive prison sentences—example: 8 Black political prisoners will soon begin their third decade behind bars;
- psychological torture;
- assault—example: one Puerto Rican prisoner of war was beaten to death by guards and his death labeled a suicide;
- sexual assault—example: under the guise of security, male prison staff forcibly conducted cavity searches on two women political prisoners at FCI Tucson;
- denial of medical care;
- placement in control units—example: the men's federal prison in Marion, Illinois, which includes several political prisoners among its 400 inmates, has been condemned by Amnesty International for violating international standards on the minimum treatment of prisoners. The men in Marion are locked in their cells 23 hours per day and are sometimes chained spread-eagle to their beds for days at a time.

WHO ARE THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S.?

Coming from many movements for freedom and social justice, they are people who have been imprisoned for their political actions or beliefs.

People of color are most often targeted. Black activists participating in the fight for Black Liberation and against racism are the largest group represented, with over 50 political prisoners. The Puerto Rican independence movement has also been heavily attacked, including the imprisonment of 13 prisoners of war. Other political prisoners in the U.S. include more than thirty white anti-imperialist and anti-nuclear activists.

FREEDOM NOW!

The government has sought to isolate political prisoners, not only from their friends and families, but from their ability to influence and lead political movements. Freedom Now, a campaign working for the amnesty and human rights for political prisoners in the U.S., is breaking that isolation. Join us in stopping the continued imprisonment and mistreatment of political activists in the U.S.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

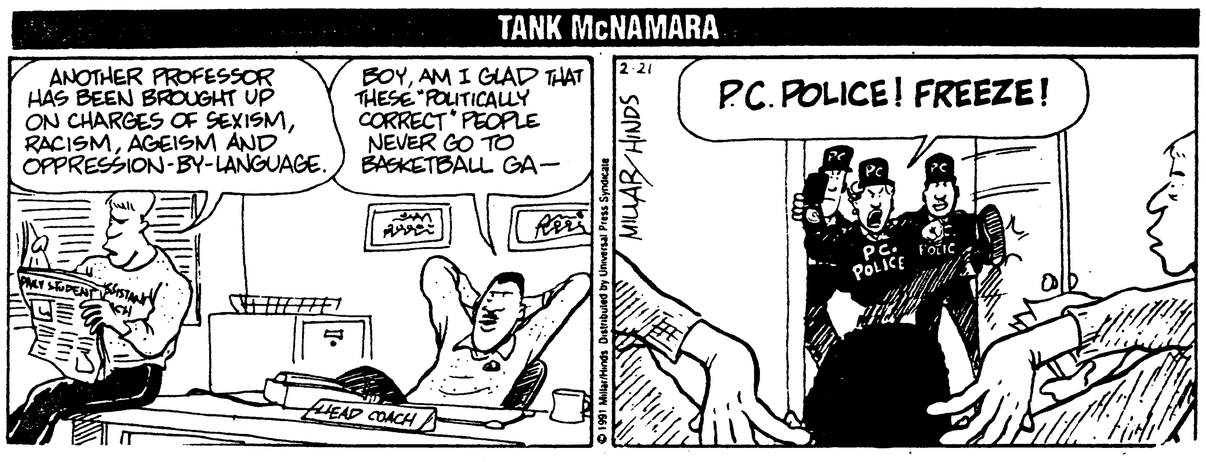
- Invite a Freedom Now representative to show a video about political prisoners in your home, at a program, or in a classroom.
- Join the Urgent Action Network of Freedom Now, a letter and telegram campaign to respond immediately to violations committed against political prisoners.
- Make a tax-deductible donation to Freedom Now. Checks should be written to the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Church — IPOC.

Freedom Now!

East Coast
1560 Broadway, Suite 807
New York, NY 10036

National Office
59 E. Van Buren, #1400
Chicago, IL 60605
(312)663-4399 or 278-6706

West Coast
3543 18th Street, #17
San Francisco, CA 94110



A startling 57 percent of teenagers say they've seen a racially motivated attack, according to a Harris poll of almost 2,000 high school students. Some 47 percent of the Black kids say they themselves have been the victims of episodes of bias.

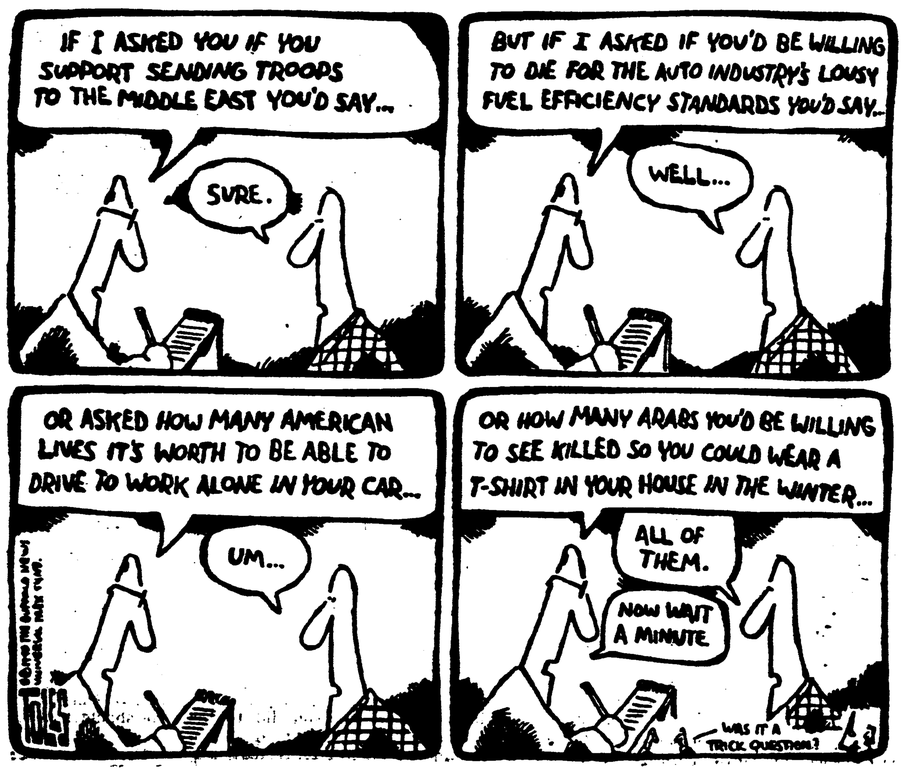
Denver boneheads are getting damn organized. From what I've heard from folks in Denver who have connections or know what's going on Nazis from elsewhere in amerikkka have moved to Denver and started to unify the fascist shitheads under either Church of the Creator or W.A.R.(White Aryan Resistance). Whatever it may be they are assigned a rank when recruited and move up as they pull off whatever shit they pull off. I've heard rumors that of a KKK chapter also.

Local anti racists are starting an ARA (anti racist action) group in Colorado Springs. Although we realize that there is already a strong backing for anti racists here. The group is largely being started to fight racist attitudes and acceptance in Denver from here. I would like to see anti racist groups from all over Colorado unite and stick together closely. The more support we have the harder they will fall.

As of now I've been screening patches mentioned earlier which we'll distribute at shows primarily. Write to the Onion address for more info!

Most importantly for the communication end of things here is that I have moved from my old address which is now irrelevant to **PO Box 263 , Colorado Springs , CO 80901.**

DESERT STORM UNLEASHES HATRED AT HOME



Dozens of bomb threats, death threats, and incidents of arson against Arab-Americans and U.S. Jews have been one result of the U.S. war in the Gulf. In L.A., fires were set in January at the businesses of a Lebanese-American and an Iranian-Jewish immigrant. Anti-arab graffiti was spray-painted on Fouad Halaby's gourmet coffee shop the day before it burned. Det. Mel Arnold of the hate crimes unit of the LAPD said the incident was being investigated as a likely hate crime related to the war. The suspected arsons were denounced by both Nazih Bayda, regional director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), and David Lehrer, L.A. head of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith (ADL).

In two local incidents, arrests were made. Kurt Haber, a 60-year-old Jewish man, was charged with telephoning bomb threats to the headquarters of the ADC inside an Islamic Center, and an Egyptian immigrant was arrested for making a false bomb threat to a non-existent airline flight from LAX.

Police are continuing to investigate the fire-bombing of a Jewish synagogue in North Hollywood whose congregation includes Morrocan and Israeli Jews. The temple had links to the Jewish Defense League (JDL) and Meier Kahane's Kach organization. The same night it was struck with several molotov cocktails, an arson fire also broke out at a retail store in another part of L.A. that housed a telephone line for the JDL.

Telephone bomb threats were received in the week after the war began at several Jewish schools and temples around the suburban San Fernando Valley. Gerald Lebovitz, the principal at one such school attributed the growing level of anti-Semitic hate crime to tensions fueled by the war. He ordered extra security measures, including a patrol by private guards. On Feb. 1, the Lomita home of Dr. Shlomo Elspas, head of the chassidic Jewish Chabad House of the South Bay was vandalized for the ninth time since the Gulf crisis began.

The LA police reported stepping up its patrols past both Arab and Jewish institutions. Numerous Arab-American business and professional leaders reported receiving threatening calls. The editor of an Iranian-American newspaper in the San Fernando Valley, Iraj Rostami, was attacked by a masked gunman who fired two shots at him in a scuffle before fleeing. Rostami, whose paper "The Iran News," is printed in Farsi, was treated and released in a local hospital. In San Diego, a mom-and-pop liquor store owned by an Iraqi immigrant family was burned down.

At the King Day candle-light march and rally against hate crimes in North Hollywood co-sponsored by PART, Youssef Haddad of the Arab-American Coalition Against the War denounced the violence and threats as an attempt to intimidate the Arab-American community and prevent it from expressing its opposition to the war and exercising its First Amendment rights. Rabbi Steven Jacobs, another speaker, expressed the importance of Arabs and Jews, Muslims and Christians uniting to oppose all such attacks, and to seek peace at home.

The violence has not been limited to southern California. In Michigan, which also has a large Arab-American population, the business of a Palestinian-American, Kareem Khoury, was destroyed in an arson fire. Khoury, a U.S. Army veteran, had been outspoken in his opposition to the war. As in the case of the coffee shop in L.A., the store was the target of vandalism shortly before the fire. Khoury's store was splattered with paint, and "USA No. 1!" was spray-painted on the store front the week before the arson. Neighbors as well as congregants from the Methodist Church where Khoury teaches Sunday school, immediately joined in cleaning up the wreckage, and the minister collected more than 600 signatures denouncing the vandalism.

In Lakeland, FL, an East Indian family received a threatening phone call, telling them to go back to Iraq, or "something like a missile attack" might happen. Shortly thereafter, a pipe bomb was thrown against their garage door. Police quickly arrested a 15-year-old. The high school student had mistakenly believed the family were Iraqi.

In Tulsa, OK on February 21, an Iraqi American family was burnt out of its home. According to Abdul Almusanni, the message, "You are dead," was spray-painted on his house. Police are investigating the arson attack as a hate crime. Tulsa is the home of several white supremacist groups including the Oklahoma Whitemen's Association, and was the site of one of Tom Metzger's racist hate lines, over which the WAR leader has propagandized against Arabs and Jews in the Gulf war situation.

In San Francisco, Moustafa Awadalla, a Kuwaiti immigrant, was brutally beaten while delivering a pizza in the Haight Ashbury district, which has also been the scene of organizing by WAR and neo-nazi skinheads associated with it. Awadalla, who required six hours of brain surgery to recover from the beating, believes he was attacked "just for being an Arab."

In Austin TX, someone tacked up posters featuring the racist caricature of an Arab man, and captioned "Wanted: Dead or Alive – Any Arab," at the University of Texas. In Boston, Ahmad Tahba, a Palestinian, received death threats and was forced to move from his home. His room-mate was told, "Kick the Arab out."

In Gaithersburg, MD, an Iranian American family was beaten by a road crew. The attackers fractured the father's skull in the beating, and he is still partially paralyzed. One of them was quoted as saying, "I want to kill these foreigners to teach them a lesson about complaining in our country."

→continued on next page→

DESERT STORM, U.S. HATRED

→continued from prior page

In Lowell, MA, this type of xenophobic hysteria resulted in totally false charges against an Arab accused by his co-workers of wanting to poison the water supply. In Cambridge, MA several Kuwaiti students were harassed in February, resulting in the suspension of those responsible.

In suburban Bloomington, NJ, police are investigating whether the vandalism of a Jordanian American family's home during the second week of February was a "bias incident." Omar Samman, a U.S. resident for two decades, had reported a threatening phone call received by his family a month before, as the war was imminent. "A man said that if anything happened to our troops in the Gulf, our family would pay for it," Samman told the press. Intruders slashed several pieces of furniture and broke a large mirror, leaving a yellow ribbon, symbol of support for U.S. military forces in the Gulf, in the living room. Many houses in the neighborhood displayed such ribbons, while the Sammans' did not, but neighbors and families of the children's classmates called with offers of help after the attack.

In Chicago on January 29, a Jordanian American store-keeper, Omran Jabbar, was beaten with a four-foot sledgehammer handle by a customer, in an attack motivated by the Gulf war. Jabbar suffered a facial fracture and numerous cuts in the severe beating.

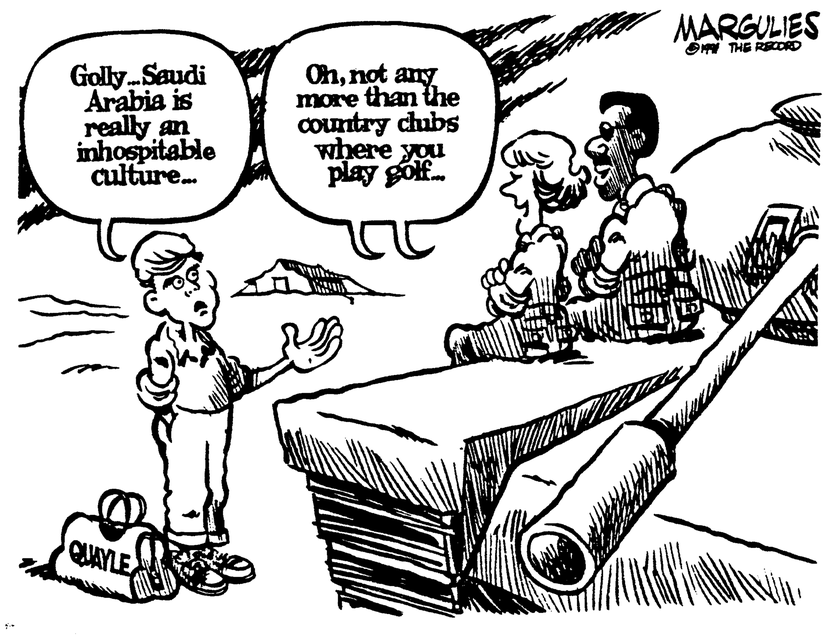
Since Operation Desert Storm began, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee has received more than 50 reports of such acts of violence, harassment and intimidation against Arab Americans. These follow on the heels of 47 incidents since Iraqi troops entered Kuwait. Incidents increased from a rate of fewer than one month early last year to 58 in January 1991 alone. In releasing the figures, the ADC also criticized continuing FBI questioning of Arab Americans.

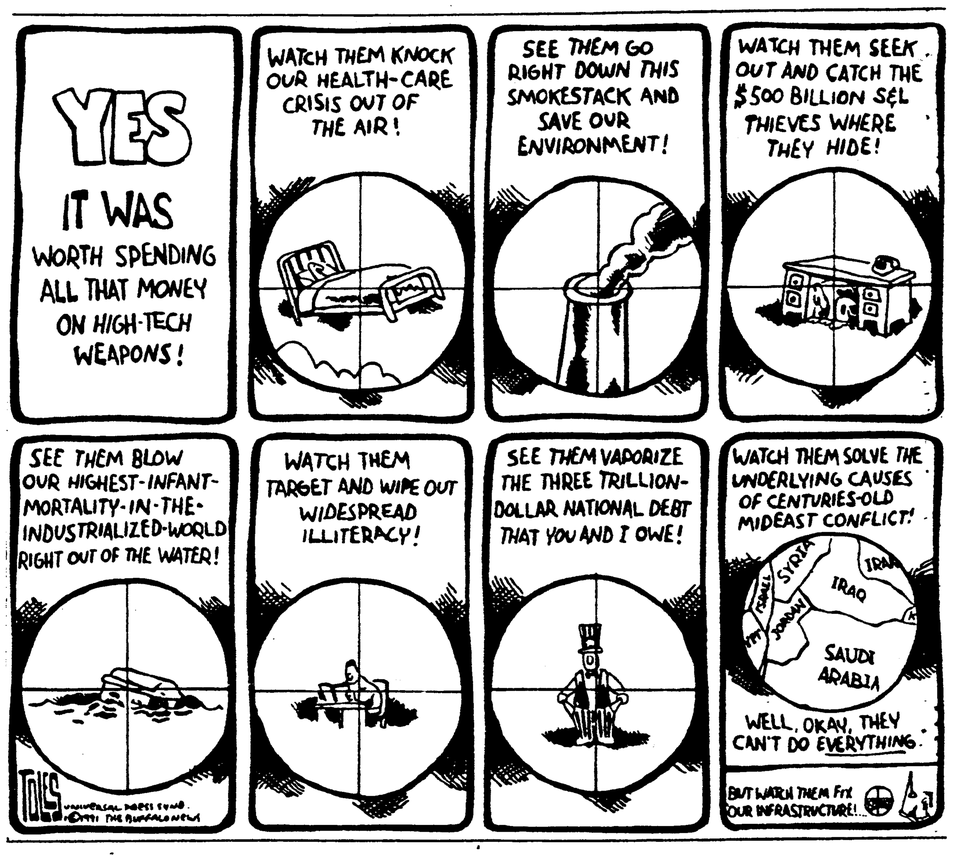
Ghassan Khalek, an employee of the Federal Communications Commission, described the negative effects of having FBI agents arrive at his office and flash their badges to question him, making him appear as a suspect. "There are people who don't want to hang out with you because they they know the FBI is looking for you." But he also told the press conference that at least one co-worker hung a sign on his office door saying "Arab people are our friends, not our enemies."

Government actions stigmatizing and harassing U.S. Arabs have not been restricted to the FBI. In L.A., the state Department of Motor Vehicles attempted to revoke the personalized license plates purchased last February by Dr. Kareem Jaffer for a 12 year old BMW he got for his son. The plates read "4 JIHAD," the teenager's name. A spokesman for the DMV said the agency had received a complaint about the plates from a motorist and that since they are "advertising they are for a holy war against U.S. forces in the Gulf, they would be very offensive obviously to many people."

The agency sent a letter calling the plates "offensive to good taste and decency," and asking Jaffer to turn them in voluntarily or face legal proceedings to cancel the plates. But the agency backed down after press reports disclosed that Jihad was the youth's name. Dr. Jaffer also pointed out that "holy war" is a derogatory western translation of an Arabic term from the Koran that means "spiritual struggle."

Arabs haven't been the only victims of the climate of hate generated by the war. The B'nai Brith Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported a record number of attacks against Jews last year, with a 71 % increase in California alone. Betsy Rosenthal of the ADL said, "If what's happened so far this year is any indication of the ramifications of the Persian Gulf crisis on anti-semitic crimes, I would have to anticipate" that 1991 would be even worse.





North Carolina Activist Murdered

CHAPEL HILL, NC–Bob Sheldon, longtime political activist and owner of Chapel Hill's Internationalist Books, was found critically wounded in his store Thursday night. He had been shot in the side of the head with a smallcaliber pistol. He died Friday afternoon at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Police have no leads in the killing. People who were in the area Thursday night did not report hearing any shots or seeing any suspicious activity.

The style of Sheldon's murder, and the fact that the store was not robbed, have convinced some of his friends that the killing was politically motivated.

PART: WHERE WE STAND

P.A.R.T. tries to point out the distinction between "racism" and "prejudice". Prejudice is a problem of individuals, animosity based on ignorance, often psychologically rooted in a lack of self-esteem, and a corresponding need to put someone else down so you can feel "superior." Anyone can be guilty of prejudice.

But racism is much more than this; it is a system, a set of relations between nations and groups of people, based on the denial of a decent life or even life itself to one group so the other group can enjoy privileges.

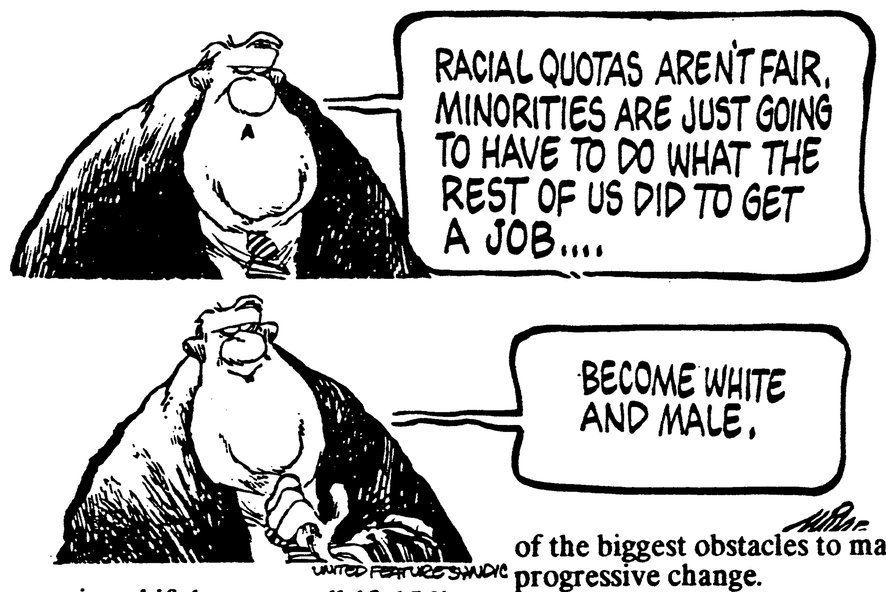
In U.S. and world history, racism is rooted in a process of colonialism, conquest and slavery on the basis of skin color. Racist thinking and ideas were encouraged in people to justify and enforce this system by dehumanizing its victims.

When we say racism is white people's problem, it's in this sense: that the powerful groups that have created and benefited from this system have always tried to convince all white people that it's in their advantage to participate, because that makes us superior to other races. This is a process that exploits prejudice and fear, and also depends on the real material differences in the conditions of existence of most white people compared to most Black people. It is similar to the way kids with a weak sense of identity and self-respect get manipulated and organized by the nazis, WAR and the KKK as shock troops or a base.

But too many white people have always bought this. Because racism is designed to put white people on top, we have a special responsibility to oppose and uproot it, not because we pity Black people, but for the sake of our own humanity as well as those off all people, and for the sake of a decent future. No one can be free while continuing to identify with their own and others' oppressors.

We believe there is only one race, the human race; but the way for the human race to unite is to recognize and overcome the oppression created by the very real system of racism. Within the human race, there are many nations and cultures, and those suppressed by the dominant European ones have a right to preserve and determine their own destiny.

Some people who are anti-establishment or even anti-racist think that supporting Black liberation is racism in reverse, and that the government supports this policy through "affirmative action." This is a failure to look deep enough at what is really going on. Bush and Quayle play lip service to civil rights -- but it's for a simple reason.



They're convinced if they can pull 10-15% of the Black vote away from the Democratic Party, they can create a permanent electoral majority for right-wing Republicans. That's why Bush is willing to play host to Nelson Mandela at the same time that prisons here in the U.S. hold dozens of Black and other political prisoners. in reality, the government opposes the empowerment of Black and other oppressed people because it relies for its own power on keeping them marginalized and powerless.

Also, the problem is not only racism against Black people. Men have a special responsibility to oppose male chauvinism, violence against women and homophobia. Jews have a special responsibility to oppose zionism and brutality agaimst Palestinians. Christians have a responsibility to oppose anti-Semitism. This is not guilt tripping or being "p.c.", it is trying to face reality and make a future different from and better than the past.

Anti-racists need to participate in the defense of women's clinics, and in an affirmative campaign to extend reproductive freedom. We need to support the self-determination of Black communities, of Native people, and to campaign against the hard-core racists behind the English Only movement. Anti-racists need to oppose the U.S. war in Central America and the Gulf.

We should support the efforts of the people of El Salvador, Nicaragua and other countries to build a new, freer life. We need to take our message into the schools and community groups, to defend artistic and educational freedom from the book burners. Anti-racists need to expose the repressive potential of the war on drugs and support the efforts of people to recover from drug abuse without government coercion. And people involved in all those efforts for women's rights, civil liberties, non-intervention, need to get involved in conscious anti-racist action, because racism has always been one of the biggest obstacles to making any progressive change.

The U.S. is not the only race conscious society on the planet. We can see fighting in many countries, involving the Sikhs, the Tamils, the Hindus, the Moslems, the loyalists and the Republicans in Ireland, and so on. But based on the slogan, "Think globally, act locally", P.A.R.T. is composed of white people trying to do what we can about a big problem right here that we can and should deal with.

Mostly,we think anti-racist action involves not so much fighting with committed racists, as in carrying out education and organizaing to prevent people from becoming hard-core racists in the first place, and in challenging the racist economic and political power structure.

We hope this helps clarify "where we stand" and would be delighted to get letters or calls about these or other issues. We also want to thank those of you who've been communicating about your activities and developments in your areas, and we'll try to keep sharing it with the readers of T.T.T.

Hate Crime Update:

L.A., January 1991:
A Mexican national was shot to death on New Year's by a deputy sheriff. The deputy involved was one of two who was reinstated to the department after being involved in burning a cross inside the county jail to intimidate Black prisoners.

San Diego, Jan. 1991:
Two white men in El Cajon beat and stabbed a Black 17-year-old whom they incorrectly thought had punched a white woman who called out a racial slur at two Black teens. They chased him and smashed in the door of the apartment he ran to.

Granada Hills, Jan. 1991:
A Black supermarket employee had racial slurs and the letters KKK spray-painted on his car after he received an anonymous phone threat that his car would be blown up. A fake bomb was attached to the car and removed by the bomb squad.

Santa Monica, Feb. 1991:
An art gallery displaying works by a Holocaust survivor was defaced with swastikas and nazi slogans that were spray-painted on twhe exterior walls.

Lomita, Feb. 1991:
The home of an Orthodox Jewish leader was spray-painted with a swastika and the slogan "white power." It was the tenth attack since October, including two shots fired through a window, rocks thrown into the house, and graffiti. In January, two youths rammed his car in his driveway and sped away.

Lancaster, Feb. 1991:
A five-foot wooden cross was burned outside the home of a Black couple who had been living in a mostly white neighborhood for about a month. The Jamisons said their daughter and son-in-law were both stationed in the Gulf with Desert Storm.

NATIONAL RACIST CRIME WATCH:

New York, January 1991:
The Rev. Al Sharpton was stabbed in the chest by a white man as he was about to lead a protest march in a white Brooklyn neighborhood where a Black teenager was killed last year. Police said his life was probably saved by the heavy coat he was wearing because of the cold weather.

Dallas, TX, Jan. 1991:
Two neo-nazi boneheads were convicted of murder in the slaying of a Vietnamese immigrant. The two kicked and stomped him to death.

Jacksonville, FL, Jan. 1991:
A federal grand jury indicted three white supremacists for illegal possession and transportation of weapons, including Green Beret Sgt. Mike Tubbs, who was involved in the theft of the weapons from Fort Bragg. Tubbs was returned from deployment in Saudi Arabia under Desert Storm to face the charges.

Calumet City, IL, Jan. 1991:
A cross was burned in front of a Black family's home. The attack on the Nichols family was the third in six months against Black residents.

New Jersey, February 1991:
Joe Doak, head of the NJ KKK and two followers were indicted for plotting to kill two former members of the Klan, to punish them for splitting off to form their own Klan group.

Orange Park, FL, Feb. 1991:
Racist literature was circulated and death threats made against a dozen Black students and two Black administrators.

On the night of January 12th nazi skinheads went on a violent visit to downtown Montréal. They attacked people they suspected of being Gay or Lesbian in the Gay Village and sent an Arab to hospital with punctured lungs before being arrested.

Two of the six arrested were identified in the local newspapers as Rock Quirion and Martin Lévesque, from nearby Ville-Emard. They are both 18 years of age, but their accomplices are minors, and so cannot be identified.

Three days later both Quirion and Lévesque were released on $10 000 bail each (so much for "working class skinhead youth"), posted by their fathers who also testified at the bail hearing about how their sons were good students at school and came from stable families.

Although no information is available about their four cohorts, it is important to note that both Quirion and Lévesque are reservists in the Canadian army. "A childhood dream, to one day be able to serve my country," explained Quirion.

Judge Maximilien Polak released them on bail with a 9pm curfew, except on nights when army training requires that they stay out later (in which case they must be escorted by their fathers).

They are to return to court on March 4th.

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