

SHIPWRECK THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOUNDERS



Intelligence Report

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FALL 2012 | ISSUE 147

DEATH IN THE DESERT

**ARE AMERICAN VIGILANTES MURDERING
UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS IN ARIZONA?**



PLUS
PAYING THE PRICE
Going Undercover in Florida's Racist Scene

WORLD NUTS DAILY
Antigovernment Conspiracy Website
Pumps Out Propaganda

Arizona, S.B. 1070 and the Enablers of Violence

BY MARK POTOK



IN THE END, IT CAME DOWN IN LINE WITH prior precedent. The Supreme Court, ruling in late June on the Arizona law that set off a tsunami of ugly legislation aimed at undocumented immigrants, affirmed decades of settled law, saying the federal government — not states or cities — has the right to control immigration policy.

The high court's invalidation of three of the four contested provisions of the law known as S.B. 1070 was immediately spun by nativists as a great victory. After all, they argued, the law's "papers, please" provision — the part authorizing police to demand that people prove they are lawfully in this country if there is "reasonable suspicion" to believe they are not — had survived. But that was highly disingenuous. In fact, the Court severely limited the scope of the provision and invited further lawsuits challenging it.

The reality, of course, is that Arizona — and the many cities and states that adopted similar laws — lost, and lost big. And so did the major backers of the law, people like Kansas lawyer Kris Kobach, its intellectual architect; Gov. Jan Brewer, who shrieked baselessly about Arizonans being beheaded by immigrants; Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, under federal investigation for racially profiling Latinos; and Russell Pearce, the bill's main sponsor, who went on to be elected state Senate president before being recalled by voters sick of his nativist antics.

It was about time. These men and women, along with countless other pandering politicians and pundits, had created an atmosphere in Arizona so poisonous that certain elements felt emboldened to go much further.

While the state and other politicians talked about secret Mexican plans to "reconquer" the American Southwest, hard-line "Minutemen" flooded into Arizona to mount armed "civilian border patrols." As public figures ranted about Latinos intent on defrauding our welfare system and destroying our culture, increasingly angry Americans decided to act, some of them with deadly plans and pipe bombs. When Arpaio frog-marched 210 Latino prisoners in stripes through the streets in a despicable display worthy of some barbaric medieval fiefdom, he thrilled the forces of intolerance, many of whom were ultimately moved to activism.

The line between politicians and neo-Nazis was far thinner in Arizona than most imagined. S.B. 1070 author Russell Pearce was for years a close friend and promoter of a man named J.T. Ready, even after Ready's neo-Nazi views became publicly known in 2006. Ready recruited into his neo-Nazi

group a man who was arrested later, in 2011, with three homemade bombs that he was apparently transporting for use against immigrants on the border. This spring, Ready murdered his girlfriend and three members of her family, including a 1½-year-old child, before killing himself, and the FBI revealed soon after that he had been under investigation for possible vigilante murders in the Arizona desert. The morning after the slaughter, Pearce released a self-serving statement disingenuously accusing the media of "lying" about his relationship to the killer, whom Pearce once called "a true patriot."

Is it possible that bigoted enablers such as Pearce have added fuel to something much worse than an explosion of intolerance and racial hatred aimed at Latinos in America? That's the question we tackle in this issue's cover story: Have American border vigilantes, who have been operating in Arizona for more than a decade now, produced a campaign of murder directed at immigrants?

There is no definitive answer, though the bodies have been piling up. In the late 2000s, an average of 223 bodies of migrants were found every year in just the Tucson Sector, now the busiest section of the border. As we detail, there are marked similarities between the murder of two immigrants this April and the nearby slaying of another four immigrants in two separate 2007 incidents. Although all the murders near the town of Eloy remain unsolved, the Department of Homeland Security, analyzing the two 2007 attacks, concluded, "It appears that the same group of individuals is working in concert to kill IAs [illegal aliens]." The agency also said robbery or drug theft "did not appear to be the motive in either incident" because survivors were left unharmed.

Of course, the Pearces, the Brewers, the Arpaios and the Kobachs of the world do not share criminal culpability for any killing that may have occurred in the state that has become Ground Zero in the immigration debate. There is no evidence that any of them engaged in anything that would amount, for example, to criminal incitement.

But that does not absolve them of moral responsibility. These people watered the seeds of prejudice, and they cannot disavow all relation to what now grows.

Chris Simcox, the one-time Minuteman leader who has now basically withdrawn from the fray, reluctantly said as much when he was tracked down near Phoenix by *Report* writer Ryan Lenz, author of this issue's cover story.

"You don't know who you're attracting to the border," Simcox said in discussing the effect of his and others' activism. "You got guys spinning off, and spinning off, all the time. That was the thing that concerned me most." ▲

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12 Shipwreck

The National Alliance was once the most important hate group in America. Now, 10 years after the death of its founder William Pierce, the once-powerful Alliance has been reduced to nearly complete irrelevance, although that hasn't stopped its recent recruits from engaging in at least a dozen murders and a range of other crimes.

ON THE COVER

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The unsolved murders this April of two undocumented immigrants near Eloy, Ariz., coupled with four remarkably similar 2007 killings in the same area, have again raised the specter of a possible campaign by U.S. vigilantes to murder Latino border crossers. One recently retired police detective warns of “a lot of angry, militant white men on the border sitting like hunters waiting for these people to come across.”



30 World Nuts Daily

For years, an extreme-right online “news company” called WorldNetDaily has been pumping out staggering volumes of baseless conspiracy theories, end-of-the-world predictions, and “birther” attacks on President Obama. But its truly defining moment may have come with the fairy-tale claim that soybeans cause homosexuality.



38 The Madman and His Motor

The case of Paul Pantone, an Oklahoman who says he's invented a contraption that will run on virtually any liquid, illustrates the link between defiers of conventional scientific wisdom and radical rightists who violently distrust the government. In fact, Pantone's alleged ties to radicals have both neighbors and law enforcement worried.

Intelligence Report

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Robert Killian spent seven years successfully infiltrating racist gangs as a neo-Nazi biker named “Doc.” It cost him his sense of security, and a great deal more.

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Near Shawano, Wis., a cult-like Catholic-bashing group fears a Vatican conspiracy to silence its founder, even as the group’s CEO has fled to avoid a court appearance.



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Facing an onslaught of “paper terrorism,” two Greensboro, N.C., police detectives have developed a comprehensive response to the “sovereign citizens” movement.

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Religious-right groups have used all kinds of metaphors to attack the gay rights movement. Now they have one more — the iceberg that sank the Titanic.

LAW ENFORCEMENT INQUIRIES WELCOMED

The Intelligence Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) welcomes law enforcement inquiries regarding right-wing extremists and hate groups. Please direct questions during normal business hours to Joseph Roy Sr. via the SPLC’s general number, (334) 956-8200.





Faces of the Front: Fourteen members of the American Front, 10 of them pictured here, were arrested in an alleged neo-Nazi conspiracy in Florida this spring. The group was led by Marcus Faella (top row, far left) and his wife Patricia (top row, far right).

American Front Members Accused of Violence, Planning for 'Race War'

On a rural plot of land in central Florida, surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by two pit bulls, Marcus Faella prepared his small band of neo-Nazi skinheads for what he considered an “inevitable race war.” The skinheads stockpiled guns and rations, trained regularly with weapons and explosives, practiced knife-throwing, hand-to-hand combat and other martial skills, and plotted violence to bring attention to their group, the American Front.

What Faella didn’t know was that an informant had infiltrated the group and become a full, “patched” member. For more than a year, the informant documented the paramilitary training and, allegedly, other illegal activities directed by Faella.

On May 4, FBI agents arrested Faella, 39, and his wife, Patricia, 36. Twelve

other American Front members were taken into custody in the following days. All are accused of participating in illegal paramilitary training, and eight are accused of conspiracy to shoot at, within or into a building. Faella is also charged with directing gang activities and leading paramilitary training.

Founded in the late 1980s, the American Front has long been associated with violence. The group began to fade in the late 1990s, but charismatic skinhead organizer David Lynch, one of the founders, led a major resurgence that began in 2007. Lynch, however, was murdered by an unknown attacker on March 2, 2011, in his Citrus Heights, Calif., home, and the group seems to have shriveled since then. Most of its active members today are, apparently, in Florida.

A law enforcement affidavit portrays a group and its leader preparing for war on Faella’s 10-acre plot located in St. Cloud, just south of Orlando, and abutting the sprawling woodlands and wetlands of the Bull Creek Wildlife Management Area. Faella, it says, was determined to turn his property into an “Aryan Compound” where all American Front members could live when the U.S. government collapses. The entrance was fortified with three entrenchments built of railroad timbers, cement pilings and other building materials. In the Faellas’ mobile home, the American Front leader had reinforced the walls and cut “firing ports.” Members made body armor and ghillie suits to conceal themselves. And the group was storing ammunition, water and military Meals Ready to Eat.

HATE IN THE MAINSTREAM

“[W]e shall not have any coarse [sic] but armed revolution should we fail with the power of the vote in November.”

—**PONCH MCPHEE**, editor of the Greene County, Va., Republican Committee newsletter, who in the same **March 19** column described President Obama as “a political socialist ideologue ... unlike anything world history has ever witnessed”

“The so-called ‘gay’ movement is rooted in sorcery and it is a child of the devil, and an enemy of everything that is right.”

—**MIKE HEATH**, co-founder of Maine’s No Special Rights Super PAC, which opposes “sodomy based marriage,” in a **March 27** blog post

“We got to do something about these Asians coming in and opening up businesses and dirty shops. ... They ought to go.”

—**MARION BARRY**, Washington, D.C., city councilman and former mayor, who later apologized for his **April 3** comment

“I and my coworkers could rewrite the book on whether our urban youths are victims of racist profiling or products of their failed, shitbag, ignorant, pathetic, welfare dependent excuses for parents.”

—Miami-Dade firefighter **BRIAN BECKMANN**, in an **April 11** Facebook comment about slain black teenager Trayvon Martin that resulted in his demotion

“Dads, the second you see your son dropping the limp wrist, you walk over there and crack that wrist. Man up. Give him a good punch.”

—Pastor **SEAN HARRIS** of Fayetteville, N.C.’s Berean Baptist Church, who later said his **April 29** comment wasn’t meant to encourage violence against children

“I think that one of the greatest mistakes America made was to allow women the opportunity to vote. ... They’re voting in people who are ... gonna take us down this pathway of destruction.”

—**JESSE LEE PETERSON**, an ultraconservative black preacher who once thanked God for slavery, in a YouTube sermon publicized by RH Reality Check on **May 7**

“Build a great, big, large fence ... put all the lesbians in there. ... Do the same thing for the queers and the homosexuals, and have that fence electrified so they can’t get out ... [I]n a few years, they’ll die out.”

—Pastor **CHARLES L. WORLEY**, reacting to the president’s endorsement of same-sex marriage in a **May 13** sermon at Providence Road Baptist Church in Maiden, N.C.

QUOTES ON THIS PAGE WERE COMPILED FROM MEDIA ACCOUNTS, WEB PAGES, E-MAIL GROUPS AND MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA, A GROUP THAT MONITORS THE FAR RIGHT.

Faella believed a race war would begin within a few years and “stated his intent during the race war is to kill Jews, immigrants, and other minorities,” the affidavit says. On the shooting range, members fired at jugs of water, and Faella told them to “visualize the jugs being nigger’s [sic] heads.”

This February, Faella started planning to “cause a disturbance” at City Hall in Orlando “so the media would report on it and bring new members to AF.” The group also planned to start an altercation with anarchists who were scheduled to demonstrate in Melbourne on May 1.

Faella hosted American Front members from around the country for training sessions. In July 2011, a national meeting of the group was held at a North Florida compound, and a member of the Missouri National Guard, who was also a patched member of the American Front, taught combat techniques. At one training session in February, Faella reported that a chapter in Oregon was expanding and that members were purchasing AK-47 assault rifles and conducting paramilitary training.

In late April, Faella became suspicious and asked the informant for his cell phone, which, the affidavit suggests, contained incriminating photographs taken at the compound. Surrounded by other members and toting a 9 mm pistol, the leader looked at the informant and said, “If I find out any of you are informants, I will fucking kill you.” The informant fled, and the roundup of members began several days later.

In addition to the Faellas, others arrested were: John Wyczlinski, 33, of Venice; Verlin C. Lewis, 40, of Lynn Haven; Mark McGowan, 29, and Jennifer McGowan, 25, of Canaveral Groves; Christopher Brooks, 27, and Dylan Rettenmaier, 25, of Palm Bay; Diane Stevens, 28, Dustin Perry, 21, and Richard Stockdale, 23, all of Kissimmee; and Paul Jackson, 25, and Kent McLellan, 22, both of St. Cloud. Another person charged has not yet been publicly identified.

RADICAL PROPAGANDA

Extremists React to Trayvon Martin Controversy

The Feb. 26 shooting death of Trayvon Martin inflamed extremists of many stripes, as groups on both sides of the racial divide threatened armed protests and radical black separatist leaders suggested vigilante justice for the neighborhood watch volunteer who shot the unarmed 17-year-old in Sanford, Fla.

In late March, a Florida spokesman for the New Black Panther Party (NBPP), Mikhail Muhammad, announced the start of a “Wanted: Dead or Alive” campaign, offering a \$10,000 bounty for the capture of George Zimmerman, the man who claimed self-defense and was not initially charged for killing the black teen. The New Black Liberation Militia (NBLM), an even more radical group led by the NBPP’s former “National Field Marshal,” Minister Prince Najee Shaka Muhammad, announced plans to conduct a “citizen’s arrest” of Zimmerman.

Not to be outdone, the National Socialist Movement (NSM), the country’s largest neo-Nazi group, said that its white foot soldiers would be conducting patrols in Seminole County to protect “local citizens ... who are concerned for the safety of their families.” The NSM’s announcement warned of imminent racial violence, saying that “the Melting Pot is brimming over like a powder keg ready to explode into the streets.”

Partly in response to this amped-up rhetoric, the NBPP announced its own plans to conduct “self-defense” training for blacks in the Sanford area.

In the end, the threats turned out to be little more than talk. Sanford Police, in an E-mail to the *Intelligence Report*, said there were no reports confirming that the NBPP had actually gone through with its plan to conduct self-defense training. The NSM patrols also failed to materialize, although the group did post a photo showing two members



holding a swastika-emblazoned flag near Sanford City Hall.

These groups weren’t the only extremists impassioned by the shooting and the ensuing national outcry. In an essay posted on his website, California State University, Long Beach psychology professor Kevin MacDonald, one of the premiere voices in academic racism and anti-Semitism, argued that the media attention surrounding the case was part of a Jewish conspiracy creating a new “anti-White religion” with a deceptive “narrative of Blacks as innocent victims of Whites.” During a March 26 appearance on ex-Klansman David Duke’s radio show, he said: “Certainly, it is the case that, that, that white people have stereotypes of blacks as criminals, but it reflects the reality that blacks *are* crim-,” catching himself and then saying that black people are “much more *likely* to be criminals.”

Gun rights advocates, incensed by questions about whether Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law (cited by police as their reason for not arresting Zimmerman the night he shot Martin) might have played a role in the shooting, also piped up. In an article published the week after Zimmerman was arrested and charged with second-degree murder, far-right attack dog Ann Coulter — who had

Members of the New Black Panther Party, seen here providing “security” at a rally for Trayvon Martin, were among the extremists who sought to capitalize on Martin’s death.

earlier likened critics of Zimmerman to a Klan lynch mob — wrote that if it were true, as some alleged, that Zimmerman killed Martin because of his race, then “every black person in America should get a gun and join the National Rifle Association, America’s oldest and most august civil rights organization.”

ANTIGOVERNMENT MILITIAS

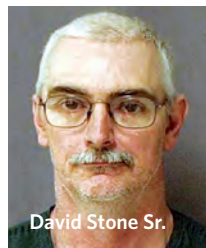
Judge Dismisses Case Against Seven Hutaree Militia Members

The high-profile federal case against Michigan’s Hutaree Militia came to an abrupt end in March when a federal judge dismissed most charges against seven members charged with plotting to murder police officers in an effort to ignite a revolution against the federal government.

U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts said in a 28-page order that the case was built largely on circumstantial evidence that fell short of proving guilt. “While this evidence could certainly



Joshua Stone



David Stone Sr.

lead a rational fact finder to conclude that ‘something fishy’ was going on, it does not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that defendants reached a concrete agreement to forcibly oppose the United States Government,” she wrote in her ruling.

Two members of the militia, however, pleaded guilty on March 29 to lesser federal weapons charges. David Stone Sr., 47, and his son, Joshua Stone, admitted they had possessed two unregistered .223-caliber rifles.

After the pleas were entered, the elder Stone, the Hutaree leader, told the *Detroit Free Press* that he thinks the case “will only lead to more mistrust of the government by militias.” Federal prosecutors, however, stood by their investigation.

In many ways, the ruling was an embarrassment for the federal government, which had a paid informant and an FBI agent inside the Hutaree Militia four years ago. “The plan is utterly short on specifics,” Roberts wrote of what those agents uncovered. “[I]t is a stretch to infer that other members of the Hutaree knew of this plan, and agreed to further it.”

Stone and his son, who have been in jail for two years, were released on bond pending a sentencing hearing, scheduled in August. Under the terms of their plea agreements, the elder Stone faces 33 to 48 months in prison. Joshua Stone faces 27 to 33 months.

HATE IN THE MAINSTREAM

Prominent White Nationalists Fired from the *National Review*

After years defending itself from allegations that it pays academic racists for their writings, the *National Review* in early April fired two prominent contributors — one for an overtly racist essay published online, a second for speaking in favor of white nationalism at an *American Renaissance* conference.

The first to go was John Derbyshire, a British-American journalist whose writings on race have ignited fury before. The final straw came in April, when he wrote a piece for Taki’s Magazine, a website published by Greek-born journalist and socialite Taki Theodoracopulos, a self-described anti-Semite. In the essay, Derbyshire suggests that white and Asian parents should warn their children that black people pose a threat to their safety.

“A small cohort of blacks — in my experience, around five percent — is ferociously hostile to whites and will go to great lengths to inconvenience or harm us,” Derbyshire wrote. “They will do this out of racial solidarity, the natural willingness of most human beings to be led, and a vague feeling that whites have it coming.”

The *National Review* responded quickly. On April 7, editor Rich Lowry

Ron Stone (at left in large photo) and his brother David were among the members of the Hutaree Militia freed after a judge ruled that most of the evidence against them was circumstantial. As a result, they were able to recover items seized by police.

announced the magazine was parting ways with Derbyshire, saying his essay “lurches from the politically incorrect to the nasty and indefensible. ... We never would have published it.”

In an interview with the racist website VDARE.com following his firing, Derbyshire defended his positions, saying that the term “white supremacist” is not a bad term, considering that a society “in which key decisions are made by white Europeans is one of the better arrangements History has come up with.”

A week after Derbyshire’s firing, the magazine let another racist writer go after it came to light that Robert Weissberg, a longtime contributor who once referred to black people as “the stupid black,” had given a speech to an *American Renaissance* conference discussing the future of white nationalism. *American Renaissance* is a racist journal whose editor once wrote that black people are incapable of sustaining “any kind of civilization.”

The speech, titled “A Politically Viable Alternative to White Nationalism,” argued that any movement expressly based on white racial identity is “dead on arrival” and must be repackaged in order to win recognition.

Weissberg also noted in his speech that there are still “Whiteopias” in America and endorsed the many ways to keep them white, such as zoning that requires a certain size of home.

ANTIGOVERNMENT ‘PATRIOTS’

Alaska Militiamen Convicted in Conspiracy to Murder Officials

Rejecting Schaeffer Cox’s claim that he was merely exercising freedom of speech when he spoke of killing a judge and law enforcement officials, a federal jury this

summer convicted the boyish Alaska militia leader of heading a murderous conspiracy against the government.

Also found guilty on June 18 of conspiracy to commit murder was Lonnie Vernon, a member of Cox's group, the Alaska Peacemakers Militia. The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict on that same charge against a third defendant, Coleman Barney. But Barney, 38, of North Pole, along with Cox, 28, of Fairbanks, and Vernon, 56, of Salcha, was found guilty of a host of weapons charges, including conspiracy to possess unregistered silencers and destructive devices.

The convictions cap an FBI investigation that began in August 2009 and culminated with the suspects' arrest in March 2011, after they began taking concrete steps to carry out a wild-eyed plot to kill, kidnap, and terrorize their perceived enemies in the government.

Described in court documents as "extremely paranoid and narcissistic," Cox was once something of a rising star in Alaska politics. In 2008, he received 37% of the vote in a Republican primary bid to upset a GOP incumbent in a race for the state House of Representatives.

But he soon drifted away from the mainstream, instead embracing militant antigovernment views. In 2009, he was

listed as a delegate to the We the People Continental Congress, which brought together antigovernment "Patriot" leaders, conspiracy theorists, tax protesters and other radical-right leaders. As an alternative to the established system he so reviled, Cox also organized a pseudo-legal "common-law court," which met in the back room of a local Denny's.

The Peacemakers developed their plot after Cox's 2010 arrest on misdemeanor weapons charges. Following a pre-trial hearing at which he acted as his own attorney and said the Alaska court system had no authority over him as a "sovereign citizen," Cox decided to skip his March 2011 trial.

Knowing a warrant would be issued for his arrest if he failed to appear, he and his co-conspirators devised their so-called "2-4-1" ("two for one") plot: If Cox were arrested, two law enforcement officers would be kidnapped; if he were killed, two targets would be killed; if his house were taken, the houses of two targets would be attacked and burned.

The Peacemakers also took concrete steps beyond mere talk to carry out their murderous plot, conducting surveillance and amassing a weapons cache that included pineapple grenades, fully automatic machine guns, silencers, and dozens of high-powered assault rifles. Under the law, only once such concrete steps are taken does conspiratorial and even murderous talk become a criminal conspiracy.

Two FBI informants infiltrated the group, providing the government with tapes of Cox discussing "overthrowing the federal government by violent means" and hanging court employees so their bodies dangled "like the wind chimes of liberty." He boasted that his militia had 3,500 members, a claim that federal authorities say was a ludicrous exaggeration.

On March 10, 2011, Cox and four alleged co-conspirators were arrested

and held, initially, without bond. But the case almost died when an Alaska state judge ruled that the FBI informants' recordings of their plans were inadmissible under state law because they were made without a search warrant. That prohibition did not extend to federal law, however, and this January a federal grand jury indicted Cox, Vernon and Barney for conspiracy to murder.

One of the original defendants, Michael O. Anderson, was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony. The other, Lonnie Vernon's wife Karen, still faces a separate trial (with Vernon) for allegedly plotting to murder Alaska's chief federal judge, who entered rulings in a case brought against the couple for refusing to pay federal taxes.

Cox and Vernon face terms of up to life when they are sentenced this fall.

ANTI-RACIST VIOLENCE

White Nationalists Attacked at Family Restaurant in Chicago

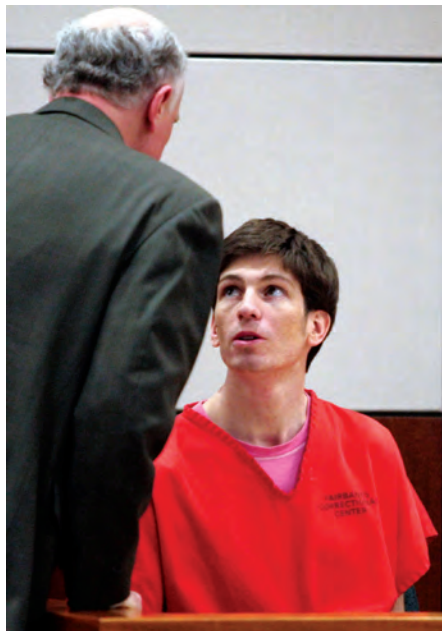
Lunchtime diners at a normally sedate restaurant in a Chicago suburb were treated to a rude shock on May 19 when 18 intruders, dressed in black and wearing masks, stormed in and began swinging steel batons, hammers and chairs. Their targets: white nationalists who were holding a strategy session.

Ten people were injured, and the owner of the Ashford House restaurant in Tinley Park estimated the attackers caused up to \$15,000 in damage.

Police arrested five Indiana men on felony charges related to the attack, which appears to have been organized by a group that fights racism with violence. Two of the participants in the meeting were also arrested.

The attack came during a meeting of the Illinois European Heritage Association, a strategy session organized on the white nationalist Web forum Stormfront.

Most of the white supremacists



Alaska Peacemakers Militia leader Schaeffer Cox faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced in a plot to kill, kidnap and terrorize government officials.

fled immediately, though three were treated at local hospitals, according to news reports. The two meeting participants arrested after the melee were Steven Speers of North Dakota, on an outstanding warrant for possession of child pornography, and Francis Gilroy of Florida, for unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon.

Tinley Park police said the suspected attackers were apparently affiliated with a group calling itself South Side Chicago Anti-Racist Action. Charged were: Jason Sutherlin, 33, of Gosport, Ind.; Cody Sutherlin, 23, Dylan Sutherlin, 20, and Alex R. Stuck, 22, of Bloomington, Ind.; and John Tucker, 26, of Spencer, Ind. They face charges of felony mob action, felony aggravated battery and felony criminal damage to property, according to Tinley Park



Police Chief Steven Neubauer.

At press time, police were still searching for the 13 other attackers.

In taking responsibility for the attack, Anti-Racist Action (ARA) said organizers of the white nationalist meeting included Shawn Kayden and Jeffrey Burns of the National Socialist Movement (NSM), and Beckie Williams of the Council of Conservative Citizens (CCC).

The ARA website pledges to fight racist and fascist groups partly “by denying (them) the opportunity to monopolize

Five Indiana men who allegedly joined 13 others in brutally attacking a white nationalist luncheon in a Chicago-area restaurant have been arrested. Police say they were affiliated with a group called Anti-Racist Action.

public spaces and by denying racists and fascists the chance to turn public spaces into spaces that are hostile toward people of color, women, immigrants, queers and trans folks, the disabled and others.” As a practical matter, that has frequently meant illegal violence.

TINLEY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT/PAH IMAGES



MARCH 31, 2012 • LA CRESCENTA, CALIF.

About 100 people attended the Crescenta Valley European American Heritage Festival, put on in a city park by a newly formed group called the Crescenta Valley European American Society (CVEAS). Although the gathering was billed as a mere cultural event, it was actually a white supremacist recruiting project organized by CVEAS' founder, who identified himself as Drake Szekler. Speaking on a radical radio program, Szekler said CVEAS was the nation's latest “Pioneer Little Europe” — an attempt to set up homogenous enclaves of racist whites based on an idea set forth in a 2001 pamphlet by H. Michael Barrett. Signs of the true nature of the event abounded: National Vanguard, the publishing operation of the neo-Nazi National Alliance, had a booth manned by Alliance associates including (center photo, from left) 2011 “Activist of the Year” Francisco L. and his wife, Connor Ring, his father and Alliance Sacramento Unit Leader Jim Ring (see related story, p. 12), and an unknown man. Kevin MacDonald, an infamous anti-Semitic California State University professor was there (inset photo, left), and reportedly told Alliance operatives that the group's pamphlet “Who Rules America?” (answer: the Jews) was “the most important document ever produced in pro-White circles.” Mark Weber, the nation's leading Holocaust denier, was the festival's keynote speaker. Along with ethnic European food, music and dancing, festival organizers tried to lure visitors by bringing along “lovely Swedish & German models” (inset, right), though there was no evidence that the women understood the true nature of the event.

Updates on Extremism and The Law

APR. 9 Mark David Simmons, who told investigators 55-year-old Steven Woelfel deserved to die because he had a Mexican girlfriend, was sentenced to life in a **Texas** prison in Woelfel's murder. While still on the run, Simmons visited Mike Hallimore, the founder of **Kingdom Identity Ministries of Harrison, Ark.**, a key purveyor of racist and anti-Semitic **Christian Identity** theology. Simmons had a book, *Vigilantes of Christendom: The History of the Phineas Priesthood*, endorsing the murder of mixed-race couples.

APR. 10 Frederick W. Thomas and Emory Dan Roberts, members of the **Georgia Militia** who were accused of planning to bomb federal buildings, assassinate public officials and attack cities including **Atlanta** with deadly ricin, pleaded guilty to conspiring to possess explosives and firearms. Thomas, of **Cleveland**, was the ringleader of the plot and a 30-year Navy veteran who had a "top secret" government clearance, and Roberts, of **Toccoa**, was a follower. Two other defendants have yet to face trial.

APR. 24 Joseph Thomas and Samuel Johnson, both former members of the neo-Nazi **National Socialist Movement (NSM)**, were arrested on federal drug and firearms charges. Police say the pair had discussed using homemade napalm in a truck bomb to attack the Mexican consulate in **St. Paul, Minn.**, among other things. The alleged plot emerged after the two broke away from the NSM in April 2011 to start a

spin-off organization called the **Aryan Liberation Movement**.

APR. 24 Daniel Evan Wacht, a self-described member of the **Aryan Brotherhood** prison gang, was convicted of shooting and decapitating Kurt Johnson, a **North Dakota** State University researcher who Wacht



Daniel Evan Wacht

drove home from a **Cooperstown** bar in 2010. A witness testified that shortly before the murder Wacht, 31, told him that he wanted to make his gang's presence known through a killing or bombing.

APR. 28 Authorities in **North Bend, Wash.**, discovered the body of Peter Keller, a 41-year-old **extreme survivalist**, in an elaborate bunker in the **Cascade Mountains** that he had spent eight years building. Keller apparently committed suicide after shooting his wife and 18-year-old daughter for reasons that remain unclear and leaving their bodies in the burning home they once shared.

MAY 9 A federal judge denied **Arizona** rancher and well-known **border vigilante** Roger Barnett's latest attempt to avoid paying damages awarded in a civil suit to a group of immigrants he detained at gunpoint in 2004. The ruling is the latest in nearly a decade of Barnett's legal wrangling to avoid paying \$87,000 to four undoc-

umented immigrants he threatened while they were crossing his property near **Douglas**.

MAY 10 Wayne Lynn Kurt was sentenced to 13 years on federal weapons and forgery charges nearly two years after the FBI disrupted a suspected terrorist plot in **Washington state** that included assassinating President Obama. Kurt was already a convicted forger and was associated with the **Vanguard Kindred** and the **Valhalla Bound Skinheads**, which practice a racist version of neo-pagan Asatrú theology and were known for their "coon-hunting" racial attacks in the region.

MAY 11 Gordon Winrod, a second-generation **Christian Identity** pastor who for years published a vicious anti-Semitic newsletter, was released from prison after serving more than 10 years for abducting six of his grandchildren from their fathers, who were estranged from Winrod's daughters. The children were between 9 and 16 when they were recovered in 2000, five to six years after their kidnapping. Winrod was pastor of **Our Saviour's Church in Gainesville, Mo.**, when he was arrested.



Gordon Winrod

JUNE 11 Peter Lucas Moses, the leader of a polygamous cult reportedly holding to sometimes anti-Semitic **Black Hebrew Israelite** theology, pleaded guilty to murdering a 4-year-old boy in **Durham, N.C.**, because he thought the child was gay. Moses faces up to two life sentences — he also killed a woman who tried to leave his group — but avoided death by agreeing to testify against his mother, brother and sister.

NEO-CONFEDERATES

League of the South President: Whites Endowed with Divine 'Superiority'



Michael Hill

It's no secret that Michael Hill, president of the neo-Confederate hate group League of the South (LOS), is a racist with a deep-seated contempt for black people and a more-than-rosy view of his "Anglo-Celtic" landmen.

The former professor, who for 18 years taught history at a historically black college in Alabama, has long opposed racial intermarriage, defended segregation as a policy designed to protect the "integrity" of both the black and the white races, and described antebellum slavery as "God-ordained."

Despite all this, it has until recently been easy enough to dismiss Hill as a garden-variety bigot. But with a bellicose essay published this June on the LOS website, Hill revealed himself as a white supremacist with views that are essentially indistinguishable from those of the Klan.

White people, he wrote, are endowed with a "God-ordained superiority." Black people "have never created anything approximating a civilization," and it's a "monumental lie" that all men are created equal. Slavery,

he contended, was "successfully defended from a Biblical standpoint" until "the institution's legitimacy was systematically undermined in the name of 'equality' and misappropriated 'Christian ethics'" by the "War for Southern Independence" and all that followed.

"[I]nstead of whites owing black reparations for slavery and its alleged attendant ills ... blacks in reality owe white America (especially the South) a debt that likely will be neither acknowledged nor paid," he wrote.

Hill has been moving in this direction for some time. Though the group was nominally non-racist when he and a batch of other white academics and Southern intellectuals founded it in 1994, its platform over the years has become distinctly white nationalist, with the stated goal of building a theocratic South defined by "the cultural dominance of the Anglo-Celtic [white] people and their institutions," as Hill once put it. At the same time, its early rhetoric demanding that the rest of the country treat the South with more respect has been replaced with explicit calls for a second secession from the "ungodly" North. Beginning in 2007, when the national conference was titled "Southern Secession: Antidote to Empire and Tyranny," each year has seen further and more militant dedication to that idea.

Hill's own militancy was on full display at last summer's national conference in Abbeville, S.C. "The mantra [that] violence, or the serious threat thereof, never settles anything is patently false," he said, adding later, "He who is willing to die for a cause will defeat one who isn't"

His June essay, titled "Our Survival As A People," seems to complete this evolution. "It is white Southerners themselves who must muster the courage to act and act soon," he wrote, noting demographers' predictions that whites will be a minority in America by the middle of this century. "If we are not willing to fight to preserve that glorious heritage bequeathed us by

men of honor, genius, and principle, then we truly deserve the disinheritor that will befall us within the next half century."

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Fearing Global Dictatorship, Alabama Passes Pointless Law

The growing influence of far-right conspiracy theorists on mainstream politics has come into sharp focus this year with a spate of laws, ordinances and resolutions opposing Agenda 21, a non-binding plan for global sustainability seen by many antigovernment hardliners as a Trojan Horse for socialist global government.

In May, Alabama legislators voted unanimously in favor of a bill barring the enactment of any policy recommendations traceable to Agenda 21 in the latest attack on what the far right sees as an insidious attempt to impose a one-world government that despises property rights and other freedoms.

Alabama's "Due Process for Property Rights Act" was hailed as a victory by the John Birch Society (JBS), a far-right group best known for accusing President Dwight D. Eisenhower of being a secret communist agent and for opining that fluoridated water is a communist plot to poison America. For a short time in the early 1960s, the JBS was an influential force in the Republican Party — until William F. Buckley Jr., the intellectual architect of postwar conservatism, led a campaign to "excommunicate" it from conservative circles, warning Republicans against "acquies[ing] quietly" to the JBS' "false" "rendition of the causes of the decline of the Republic and the entire Western world."

Buckley died in 2008, and the JBS has been making a steady comeback since. Since September, it has sponsored a national lecture tour claiming that Agenda 21 — in reality a completely voluntary plan for global sustainability signed in 1992 by President George

H.W. Bush and the leaders of 177 other nations — calls for “a profound reorientation of all human society, unlike anything the world has ever experienced.” The ultimate purpose of this 20-year-old plan, it says without any evidence at all, is nothing less than a “New World Order” in which rural regions will be depopulated and foreign bureaucrats will mandate family size in the U.S. and elsewhere, if necessary by imposing forced abortions.

Apparently taking these warnings to heart, the Republican National Committee in January passed a resolution opposing Agenda 21, which it called “a comprehensive plan of extreme environmentalism, social engineering, and global political control.” Counties in various states have adopted similar resolutions, as has the Tennessee House of Representatives. According to the JBS, activists in New Hampshire are lobbying to pass anti-Agenda 21 legislation. Arizona’s state Senate this spring passed a bill similar to Alabama’s, but it died before the session ended.

Agenda 21’s community sustainability efforts are coordinated through something known as ICLEI — the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives. Under its auspices, more than 1,000 cities and municipalities around the world, including hundreds in the U.S., have received grants (or bribes, if you agree with the conspiracists’ version of the story) that will help implement local sustainability proposals. Depending on how it’s interpreted, the Alabama bill may mean that Birmingham and Huntsville, the two Alabama municipalities that belong to ICLEI, will have to withdraw.

News of the bill’s passage nevertheless calmed certain nervous Alabamians. In an early June speech compared by one local reporter to a “tent-revival exhortation,” Baldwin County Commissioner Frank Burt reportedly said that if the non-binding initiative weren’t halted, the U.S. Supreme Court would give way to an international court located in The

Hague. “We are all for protecting the environment,” he said. “But this is something that has seeped in amongst us. I don’t think we need the United Nations to tell us what to do.”

ANTI-LGBT PROPAGANDA

Same-Sex Marriage Opponents Seek to Split Gays, Blacks

It’s been a rocky year so far for the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), the nation’s leading opponent of same-sex marriage.

This March, a series of 2009 NOM documents was released as part of a legal battle the group is fighting in Maine to hide the identities of its donors in the face of state law. The most embarrassing detailed a plan to divide LGBT people from potential black allies. “The strategic goal of this project,” NOM said, “is to drive a wedge between gays and blacks.” It proposed developing black anti-gay spokesman in the hope of “provok[ing] the gay marriage base into responding by denouncing these spokesmen and women as bigots.”

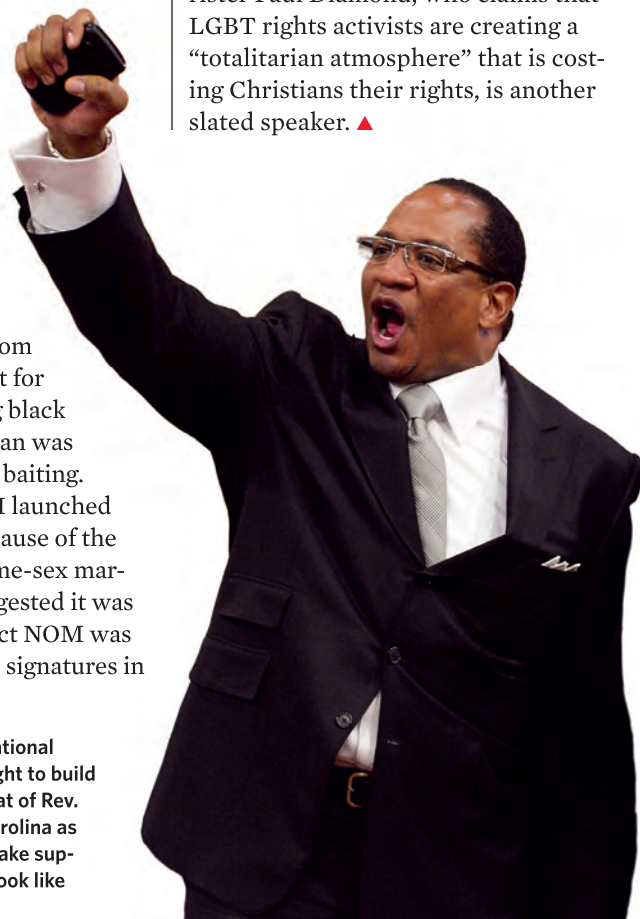
In other words, make supporters of marriage equality look like racists, drawing attention away from the overwhelming support for same-sex marriage among black civil rights leaders. The plan was widely denounced as race baiting.

The same month, NOM launched a boycott of Starbucks because of the company’s support for same-sex marriage. Although NOM suggested it was having great success, in fact NOM was able to garner only 22,000 signatures in

its first week — a period in which almost 300,000 people signed a petition supporting Starbucks.

Despite its claim to keep its criticisms of homosexuality both factual and civil — an assertion repeated this spring by NOM Culture Director Thomas Peters — NOM recently showcased a particularly hard-line North Carolina pastor. NOM posted a video featuring Patrick Wooden Sr., who advocates “whooping” boys who don’t dress in a sufficiently masculine manner and who falsely claims that older gay men must wear diapers or “butt plugs” as a result of anal sex.

In the same vein, the Ruth Institute, a NOM project, has scheduled several virulent speakers for its July “It Takes a Family” conference. Robert Gagnon, a theology professor and proponent of “ex-gay” therapy, has railed on about the “significant pathological side” to homosexuality, which he falsely claims is linked to pedophilia. British barrister Paul Diamond, who claims that LGBT rights activists are creating a “totalitarian atmosphere” that is costing Christians their rights, is another slated speaker. ▲



Secret strategy on race: The National Organization for Marriage sought to build up black anti-gay voices like that of Rev. Patrick Wooden Sr. of North Carolina as part of a race-baiting plan to make supporters of same-sex marriage look like anti-black racists.

SHIPWRECK

Ten years after the death of its founder, the once-dominant National Alliance has become the joke of the neo-Nazi movement

BY MARK POTOK

Last year, a balding, 46-year-old man slipped quietly into the men's rooms of three Orlando, Fla., area biker bars, where he warily pasted "Bring Our Troops Home" stickers on washroom mirrors. From there, his secret mission took him to an upscale Irish pub and a seafood restaurant, where he again made his way to the men's rooms and pasted up that sticker and another, "Stop Immigration!"

A few days later, Wendell Duke Witten detailed his daring exploits to fellow members of the neo-Nazi group

he'd joined seven months earlier, and on whose behalf he had been propagandizing. "I will check [the stickers] in a week to see how many are still where I placed them," he earnestly assured his comrades.

Welcome to the new National Alliance, once America's leading hate group. Ten years after the death of founder William Pierce — a former university physics professor and radical intellectual with a major following both here and in Europe — the Alliance has been transformed from the nation's radical-right powerhouse into a tiny band of small-time propagandists, criminal thugs and attention-seeking losers. Recruitment and income are dismal, and the group rarely makes the news. Its leader, fresh from a withering divorce from his stripper wife, is widely disrespected by his followers and does not even live at the group's West Virginia headquarters.

And the revolutionary activities of the Alliance, which seeks to build a fascist state peopled

solely by whites, have been reduced to a few bathroom stickers.

Not that the group isn't dangerous. In the last decade, the organization that once prided itself on the quality of its members has been distinguished by the pure thuggery of its people. Since Pierce's death, four Alliance recruits have been convicted or accused of having carried out at least a dozen murders. And that's not all. Even many more humdrum members are distinguished by their criminality.

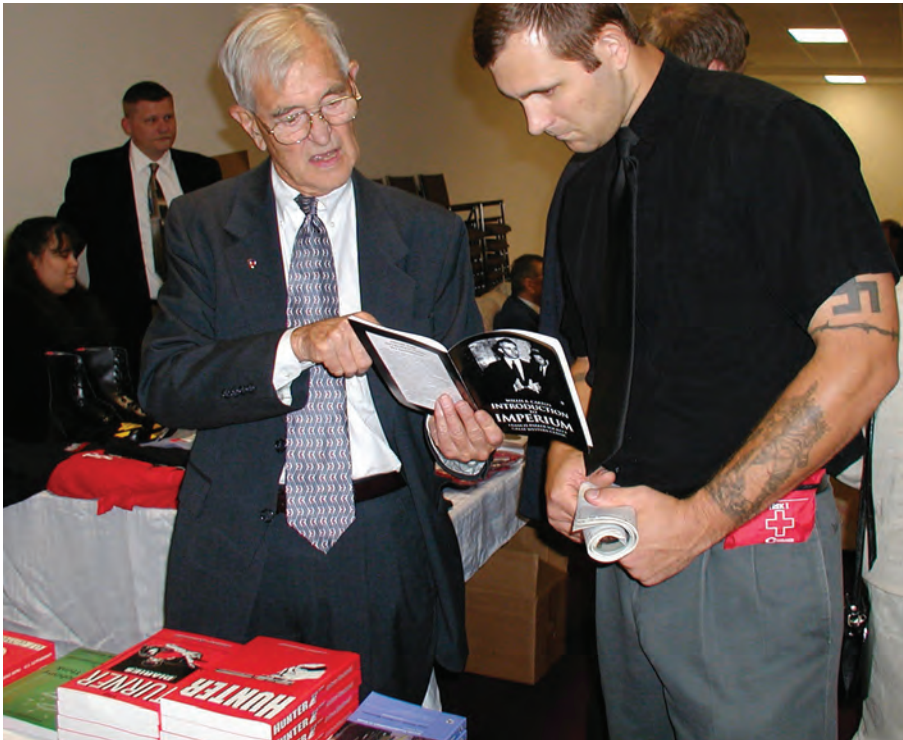
Take Wendell Witten, who battles for the Aryan race with stickers pasted in the men's rooms of seedy bars and chain restaurants. Witten, who goes by the name Edmond W. Duke on the Alliance's Resistance Web forum, is a registered Florida sex offender with convictions for aggravated assault and sexual battery that go back more than 20 years. His many tattoos include one that reads, "No Mercy."

Ten years ago, the Alliance had 1,400 carefully selected and clean-cut members, a paid national staff of 17, and great respect in radical-right circles in America and abroad. Its publications, including a newsletter and a journal, set the standard

on the extreme right, and its leaders regularly met with their counterparts in Europe. In Florida, it bought radio time and billboard ads. Between



Attack of the stickers: The once-proud National Alliance, an "elite" organization that long promised to lead Aryan "lemmings" to victory, has carried its message to several men's rooms in central Florida.



dues and income from its white-power music label, it was bringing in almost \$1 million a year.

Today, the National Alliance is widely viewed as a joke.

"It's a shame watching yet another organization collapse," one poster lamented in a long thread about the group on the racist Stormfront Web forum this March. "There are hundreds of White 'Nationalist' organizations in the US — [but] not one is taken more serious[ly] than a street gang in LA.

Strange encounters: Willis Carto was an ally of Alliance founder William Pierce (top photo) in the 1960s, but the two anti-Semites feuded for the next three decades. Carto was nevertheless invited to a number of Alliance events in recent years, including one where he edified skinhead Ryan Maziarka, the swastika-tattooed treasurer of the group's current board of directors. The end result was the humiliation of Pierce successor Erich Gliebe.

And most not even that serious[ly]. ... Even the lowly negroid eclipses our best attempt at organization."

'Freaks and Weaklings' Redux

Not long after the July 23, 2002, death of founder William Pierce, the *Intelligence Report* published excerpts from Pierce's last speech, given on April 20 of that year. In his talk at one of the Alliance's "leadership conferences," Pierce mocked the white power movement, saying there was no such thing, and denigrated members of other neo-Nazi groups as "hobbyists, freaks and weaklings."

Those words, which increasingly describe the Alliance's own poorly screened recruits and hapless current leader, are coming back to haunt the group today.

Remarkably, Pierce's handpicked successor, Erich Gliebe, has managed over the last 10 years to hold on to power through a series of internal revolts, splits and personal attacks on him for his extremely weak leadership. But he has also taken the Alliance to a place where it has a membership of fewer than 75 people, has not published a magazine in recent memory, and is in desperate need of funds.

And Gliebe has been humiliated throughout. First, it was the series of splits that saw most of his membership disappear into other organizations. Then it was the revelation, exposed in the *Report*, that his calendar of supposed Aryan beauties was actually replete with photos of women from a stripper bar frequented by Gliebe and his one-time deputy. Next, Gliebe broke up with his wife, a once and future stripper who in 2009 publicly accused her soon-to-be former husband of "deviant sexual behavior" involving enemas

and Catholic schoolgirl uniforms, closet homosexuality, regular philandering, and an inordinate interest in a particular 5-year-old girl. The title of her blog, later taken down by court order, was “I Married a Freak.”

Things came to something of a head in 2010, when Willis Carto, a longtime anti-Semite who had feuded with 1960s ally William Pierce for decades, was

Virginia since — and the group never held the 2011 edition of its annual leadership conference there. (As a matter of fact, no one at all lives at the compound near Mill Point any more. A couple of members visit weekly to deal with the mail and other necessary tasks.) He lives in North Royalton, Ohio, near his mother, and reportedly works a few hours each night as a poorly paid custodian at a local

also posted pictures of his collection of World War II uniforms and memorabilia, along with hundreds of boxed dolls and toys from the Star Wars movies. “Don’t mind the Star Wars stuff,” he wrote.

That kind of “hobbyism” isn’t limited to Sean Woodcock. Another member, Joe Ross, reportedly left the Alliance \$10,000 when he died around 2003. But a photo has since surfaced of Ross posing in full-blown Nazi regalia, sieg-heiling before a flaming swastika at Nordic Fest, an annual white-power concert long put on by the thugish Imperial Klans of America at its Kentucky compound.

Even Jim Ring, the California Alliance leader and longtime member who is the group’s most dedicated remaining activist, held a 2009 party to celebrate the führer’s 120th birthday. Two years later, he posed with his son, Connor Ring, who had just joined the Alliance, while brandishing a Nazi SS officer’s dagger and a thick, gold necklace chain incorporating the Alliance life rune symbol — just the kind of garish display that Pierce despised and routinely attributed to black “ghetto” culture.

The Alliance has devolved into something Pierce would have been appalled to see. But its failings today are not limited to its members’ low-rent activities. It has also become known for the murderous nature of many of its people.

Crime and the New Alliance

Last year, after a lengthy investigation, federal agents arrested a Washington state man named Kevin Harpham, who that January had planted a deadly anti-personnel bomb laced with rat poison on the route to be taken by about a thousand Martin Luther King Jr. Day marchers in Spokane. (The bomb was discovered and dismantled before it went off.) When the Southern Poverty Law Center said it had evidence that Harpham had joined the Alliance several years before, Gliebe hotly denied that the man had any affiliation with his group. But after Harpham pleaded guilty, drawing a 32-year prison term, prosecutors entered Harpham’s Alliance membership card into evidence



Ice queen: Three years after gracing the cover of her husband’s magazine in a chilly-looking bustier, Erika Gliebe had a few things to say about Erich the “freak.”



invited to one of the Alliance’s leadership conferences. Carto gave a speech sharply criticizing Gliebe and arguing the Alliance was failing because of his leadership.

Members who were there describe Gliebe as almost paralyzed during the attack and say he did not respond or try to defend himself. Instead, Jim Ring, a longtime member who some see as the group’s real leader, took Carto aside later and ordered him and his entourage off the group’s West Virginia compound.

Many were shocked Gliebe had even invited Carto, who is not an Alliance member, and Gliebe later claimed he had not done so. But that was contradicted by the pre-printed program for the conference, which included Carto’s name.

Gliebe, despite frequently suggesting that he is writing from the Alliance’s headquarters, has not been back to West

product development and manufacturing firm.

He is now widely seen, to use Pierce’s word, as a “weakling.”

Pierce also despised what he called “hobbyists” or “Hollywood Nazis,” routinely mocking those who dress up in faux Nazi outfits. But Gliebe has been more forbearing — or perhaps just less attentive. This March, a man named Sean Michael Woodcock joined the Alliance, where, using the name Sean K98, he posted photos of himself at an event hosted by the Aryan Nations, one of the competing neo-Nazi organizations Pierce had belittled by name. He

"Don't mind the Star Wars stuff": Sean Woodcock's paraphernalia collection (below, right) typifies the "hobbyism" Alliance founder William Pierce despised. Even Alliance stalwart Jim Ring (right), joined by his son Connor last year, has taken to posing with Nazi SS daggers and gold jewelry.

as part of a sentencing memorandum.

Shortly after Harpham's attempted mass murder, federal agents arrested a former Arizona Alliance member, Jeffrey Harbin, for manufacturing pipe bombs and grenades that were apparently intended for use against Latino immigrants. They had been designed, a prosecutor said later, so as to "maximize human carnage." Harbin's father, Jerry Harbin, had for years been the Alliance coordinator in Phoenix. This February, the younger Harbin was sentenced to two years in a plea deal.

But that just begins to cover Alliance-related criminality. Consider:

► **In October 2002**, Alliance member Samuel Compton was one of three men who attacked an innocent bystander who was watching the men in a bar fight in Phoenix. Compton, a 20-year-old with "White Pride" tattooed on his back, and the other two stomped to death 20-year-old Cole Bailey, who was himself white, with the steel-toed boots favored by racist skinheads. After accepting a plea agreement, Compton was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

► **In March 2006**, Alliance member Jason McGhee and two other men stormed into a farmhouse frequented by young people in Cumming, Ga., and



stabbed or shot four people to death and wounded three others. Officials say the men apparently were responding to an insult that one of them had suffered at the house earlier. McGhee pleaded guilty last December and was handed four consecutive life sentences plus 100 years. The local district attorney said she believes McGhee, who has agreed to testify against his alleged confederates, did all the shooting and stabbing. (In 2001, McGhee and another man were arrested for yelling racial slurs and firing guns at a group of schoolchildren but were not prosecuted because the victims would not testify.)

► **In February 2008**, former Alliance member Jim Leshkevich, after writing that he was depressed over learning that his wife was having an affair, murdered her before killing himself in the couple's West Hurley, N.Y., home. Officials say that Leshkevich, 52, beat and strangled his



55-year-old wife, Deborah, in their bedroom before hanging himself in their attached garage.

► **In July 2010**, former Alliance member William Dathan Holbert and his girlfriend were arrested in Nicaragua while trying to enter illegally and returned to Panama, where authorities say they killed at least six people. Officials in Panama said the couple kidnapped other U.S.



Killer Alliance: Samuel Compton (left) and Jason McGhee, between them responsible for the murder of five people, are emblematic of the new National Alliance.

expatriates, killed them, and then stole their property. Holbert confessed to five of the killings.

These cases weren't the only evidence of the propensity of today's Alliance members and associates to criminality. Still another came up in October 2010, shortly after Gliebe's humiliation by Carto at the last leadership conference.

On the Alliance's Resistance forum, Gliebe lauded a speech at the conference by Michael David Carothers, who uses the alias Michael Weaver and who Gliebe had named the Alliance's 2008 "Activist of the Year." Gliebe said Carothers had delivered a "truly inspirational, high energy speech" and predicted that he would be invited back the next year — to the leadership conference that never happened.

Seven weeks after delivering that speech, Carothers drove a car up alongside a black man in Columbus, Ga., and attacked him with pepper spray. Last November, after a judge ruled that a jury could hear about a 1999 case in which Carothers had threatened three times to kill a 15-year-old girl, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year of prison, to be followed by nine years of probation.

Gliebe's response was to say privately



Facts and fiction: Erich Gliebe hotly denied that domestic terrorist Kevin Harpham was a part of his group. That didn't stop prosecutors from entering Harpham's membership card into evidence when he was sentenced to 32 years in prison.



"Seig heil": The surfacing of this photo of late Alliance member Joe Ross has come as another embarrassment to the group's leader.

that Carothers was being "railroaded." But he never commented publicly or offered any help to his one-time friend.

Winding Down

The Cleveland unit of the National Alliance, which Gliebe originally formed and still leads, reflects the general disarray into which the group has fallen. What was once a monthly meeting held in a large restaurant meeting room attended by dozens of members has diminished to half a dozen members, at most, gathering at a single table at Dimitri's Restaurant in a rundown area of West Cleveland.

The meetings today are marked by complaining and bickering. One local member, David Daams, was attacked for not donating enough money. Another,

Kurtis Kreit, has been ridiculed for his weight and not giving enough. Gliebe, who generally collects about \$30 in donations at these meetings, has criticized others, including his ex-wife and North Carolina coordinator Robert Arnett, for a variety of reasons. A man who was Gliebe's first recruit in the unit, Donald Myers Jr.,

recently began attending the meetings again, but mainly to complain about the state of the group. "The white race," Myers now laments, "is not worth saving"

When Pierce died in 2002, the Alliance was taking in about \$18,000 a week in dues, donations, book and music sales. Today, sales at Resistance Records and National Vanguard Books are down to about \$500 a week. The group's *Resistance* music magazine has not been published in five years, and its *National Vanguard* flagship publication has not appeared in three. Gliebe has been promising for 10 years to publish Pierce's last book, a collection of essays titled *Who We Are*, but has not done so — despite the threat that a major bequest to the Alliance

will not be released by the estate's executor until *Who We Are* finally goes to press.

And then there are the trees. Pierce, who originally bought the group's West Virginia property, long treasured the ancient oaks, hickories and red maples that grew there, even forbidding his followers to cut trees to stoke the wood-fired stoves that heat the buildings on the compound. But now Gliebe has begun to sell those trees to a logging company that has already cut over the property twice.

It's not clear how long the Alliance and its besieged leader can hang on in this atmosphere. But what is certain is the group is nothing like the tightly organized entity that William Pierce founded in 1970 and built into a real power.

"I was a member up until 2009 and believe me I held out as long as I possibly could," wrote one poster on the Stormfront thread entitled "Erich Gliebe RUINED The National Alliance." "Erich, you should really ask yourself why it is the NA is a mere shadow of its former self. You should be ashamed of what you have done to the legacy of William Pierce. ... Why the hell would anyone join the NA in its current state? ... Now all I can hope for is that everyone keeps his memory alive." ▲

PAYING the **PRICE**

An officer risked his life to infiltrate the violent subculture of neo-Nazis in Florida. In the end, it cost him dearly

BY HEIDI BEIRICH AND LAURIE WOOD **PHOTOGRAPHY BY OCTAVIAN CANTILLI**



For seven years, Robert Killian posed as a neo-Nazi biker named “Doc,” working his way slowly into the inner sanctum of violent white supremacists as part of a wide-ranging undercover investigation in central Florida.

This spring, his efforts paid off in a big way.

In March, six people who were either members or associates of the infamous Outlaws motorcycle gang and the 1st SS Kavallerie Brigade — the motorcycle division of the neo-Nazi Aryan Nations — were arrested on charges related to drug trafficking and explosives. Teams of federal, state, county and local law enforcement officers rounded up the suspects at several residences in central Florida and Chicago.

Killian’s role in the operation, dubbed “Primitive Affliction,” was crucial. Among other things, he introduced two other agents into the secretive fold of the white supremacist bikers.

Killian, 52, never intended to go undercover when he joined the intelligence division of the Orange County Sheriff’s Office in 2003 after eight years with the office and 16 years with other agencies. He had joined the unit as an investigator to monitor the area’s white supremacist groups and criminal motorcycle gangs after the former specialist retired.

He also never imagined that the danger, the strain of maintaining a racist alter ego, and the changes required in his lifestyle would destroy his personal life and ultimately contribute to the end of his marriage and loss of his family.

Making New Friends

It was slow going in the beginning. Killian knew he couldn’t rush things, because a misstep could easily spoil the investigation or, worse, get him killed.

So, equipped with a Harley he loved to ride and a familiarity with biker culture,

Killian set out to meet and become friends with local Outlaws in Orlando as he perfected his biker persona. He had earned his nickname years earlier as a young paramedic, but it became even more appropriate later when he received a doctorate in cultural anthropology.

Killian’s first step was simply to “hang out where they hang out,” he told the *Intelligence Report* in an interview about his experience. “I began to just be close to them, to listen a lot and not say much. Shoot some pool, talk some motorcycles and let them get used to me.”

His patience bore fruit. Eventually, he was invited to “open houses” where both “civilians” and “non-one percenter” motorcycle clubs were welcome. (Outlaw bikers are often called “one percenters” because, as the story goes, 99% of motorcyclists are law-abiding citizens, while the remaining 1% live outside society’s norms as “outlaws,” often engaging in criminal activity.) After about a year, Killian was invited to more-exclusive, weekly open houses.

“That’s another level of trust, because that says they’re actually looking at you



as ... being a member at some point,” Killian said.

At the same time, Killian was making contact with other extremists through social media. That’s how he met August Kreis, a “pastor” in the racist, anti-Semitic Christian Identity religion who headed up a splinter faction of the Aryan Nations, the granddaddy of most contemporary neo-Nazi groups.

After several online exchanges with Kreis, who had recently moved from Florida to South Carolina, the Aryan Nations leader asked “Doc” to join the group. Killian sent in his application, though it unnerved him. “It was like my undercover identity was hardly back-stopped at all. It was full of holes. I really thought this wasn’t going anywhere, [that] he would realize that someone was trying to infiltrate. But I got a call from him welcoming me to their Aryan Nations.”

Killian’s fears about his cover escalated one night when Kreis told him to expect a phone call from the Aryan Nations’ deputy director. “I don’t want

“I didn’t feel like I changed my personality for the role, but maybe the role was starting to change my personality a little bit.”

you to be nervous if you hear a police radio in the background,” Kreis told him. “He’s a cop.” That night, Killian received a call from James Elkins, an officer in Fruitland Park, Fla., just northwest of Orlando

“This is not what I wanted to hear,” Killian said, “because here’s a guy that probably has access to many of the same databases I do.” The conversation went well, though, and his identity wasn’t compromised. (Later, in fact, it was Elkins’ affiliation that was revealed. After leaving the Aryan Nations, he joined several Klan groups and was discovered leaving racist leaflets at homes in nearby Bushnell. He resigned in 2009.)

By 2007, Killian was a bona fide member of the Aryan Nations faction led by Kreis. He also became an active member of the 1st SS Kavallerie Brigade, an Aryan Nations motorcycle division formed in part by members of the Outlaws who joined the neo-Nazi group in an unusual alliance.

But even as his undercover work was soaring, so was the pressure. Every time he walked out of the office, Killian had to transform himself into “Doc,” the racist biker. The strain of being two people at once ate away at Killian, though it wasn’t always apparent to him how much of a toll the work was taking. While he was procuring evidence that eventually helped lead to the 2012 arrests, his personal life was slowly collapsing.

“I didn’t feel like I changed my personality for the role, [but] maybe the role was starting to change my personality a little bit,” Killian said.

He was forced to learn new, unseemly behaviors — like laughing at the racist jokes told frequently by his new pals. He saw and heard details of crimes already committed and violence, even murder, being planned.

Killian’s family noticed the changes more than his colleagues. “[I] became more secretive, less trustful of everybody, including my chain of command and co-workers. Those relationships [were] getting distant in slow increments. And it wasn’t something I was prepared for.”

As he burrowed deeper and deeper into the world of extremism, something unexpected happened. Killian began to see his new “friends” as real people, not just as potential criminals or domestic terrorists — and with that came a certain amount of empathy. “I don’t know how to describe it other than [that] you start to know these bad guys at a level that you don’t normally see them. You’re starting to see how they interact with their children. You’re starting to see how they handle the loss of a family member. They’re treating you like a very close friend and even sometimes like a family member. But this is a bad guy who I’m eventually going to have to put in jail.”

Crossing Paths

The feelings Killian experienced are, in fact, not uncommon among undercover officers.

“People have no idea of the stress that person is under twenty-four-seven,” Charlie Fuller, executive director of the

International Association of Undercover Officers (IAUO) told the *Intelligence Report*. “Most [officers] are not equipped to deal with that. The real stressor is not just the two lives you’re leading. It’s the bad things you see and the betrayal you do. They’ve been your friends, and now you have to betray them. It eats at you while you’re doing it and it eats at you after you do it. It haunts you. You think ... it will never go away as long as I live.”

Adding to Killian’s anxiety, members of his real family and his racist family began to cross paths. He started to run into the bikers while running errands around town, at the grocery store or Home Depot. “That’s incredibly stressful, because you never know — they show up in places where you don’t expect them.”

Sometimes, his wife would be with him. “It was like, OK, give her a nickname and don’t ever mention her real name and get out of there as soon as I can without arousing too much suspicion. But it was really starting to impact my day-to-day life.”

His wife was affected as well. “On the face of it, she handled it pretty well. I don’t think she really analyzed it too much until it really, really started to bother her,” Killian said. “She was the



In the belly of the beast: At the height of his undercover work, Robert Killian (right) joined the 1st SS Kavallerie Brigade, a neo-Nazi motorcycle gang headed by August Kreis (center). Another member was Brian “Dozier” Klose, who was arrested this March.

kind of person that saw the good in everybody, and as this progressed she started seeing people as bad and dangerous. And that really hurt her.”

As the investigation became more intense, the pressure was ratcheting up. Killian became short-tempered and even more distant from his family. To combat this slide, he came up with techniques to separate himself more cleanly from “Doc” when he was off duty.

“If I was wearing my biker vest and all this Nazi jewelry, I would take all that off before I would come into the house. And in my mind, I was telling myself this is how I was turning it off. Now, I’m going to be the ‘good guy’ and try to be the best stepfather and husband I can be.”

But it wasn’t so easy to turn it off in the evening and on again the next morning. The extremists didn’t keep regular hours. “Even when I was home and off, I would get a phone call from the Outlaws and Aryan Nations people and have to immediately go into the role. I’m sitting at the table playing Scrabble with my step-kids, and all of a sudden you have to run into the bedroom to talk to the national director of the Aryan Nations or some Outlaw calling you. It was the constant flicking of the switch, off and on, and it was starting to wear me down.”

The situation became difficult enough that by 2009 that Killian, with the help of his colleagues, began inventing excuses so “Doc” could slowly take leave of his Outlaws and Aryan Nations families. He faked a cancer diagnosis, giving him a reason to disappear for a few weeks at a time. Meanwhile, he was helping two other undercover officers he had introduced into this racist world solidify their investigations.

Unfortunately, a life-altering event forced Killian to rethink his undercover work. His wife left him and filed for divorce — something Fuller of the IAUO says happens all too frequently when officers go undercover for long periods.

The Extraction

Though Killian wanted to orchestrate his own exit from the racist scene, he couldn’t. Problems with security began



Looking the part: Racist paraphernalia is everywhere on the American radical right — a fact that undercover officer Robert Killian used to his advantage when he began wearing neo-Nazi jewelry.

to mount in 2010, so Killian and another agent scaled back, leaving only one agent undercover to finish the operation. Though Killian retired from the sheriff’s office in March 2011, he still had to be ready to become “Doc” at a moment’s notice to protect the remaining undercover agent. About five months after retiring, an Outlaw approached Killian’s ex-wife at a club and told her they were looking for “Doc” because he had introduced an undercover cop into the group.

Killian’s former supervisors and his FBI handler were concerned enough to videotape his statement to a Florida state prosecutor. “When it came down to it, it was like ‘here one day and gone the other.’ And at the same time I’m still running into these guys. They knew I was still in town.”

After the first arrests, in March, Killian knew no excuses would work if he ran into his former “brothers” at the local grocery store. His real identity had, in fact, been spelled out in the charging documents that were presented to the men who once considered him their

friend. His days of dancing on the edge, walking that thin line, were finally over. And that led to a new kind of stress.

Said Fuller of the IAUO, “When [the operation] is over, you’re asking, ‘What do I do now? Where is my identity?’ Then you have to go back to shuffling papers at your desk. You can’t just turn that off.”

Retired, Killian is on his own. He keeps a low profile and stays on constant alert. “All I can do is be very careful with my surroundings and aware of who’s around me. I try to vary my routine as much as possible and just try to keep out of their sight.”

Killian hopes other officers who plan to go undercover don’t make the same mistakes he did. He advises, “Prepare yourself emotionally and mentally, and with your family. Have some kind of backup you can talk to and deal with the issues.”

Was it worth it?

“No,” Killian says matter-of-factly. “The price was too high. When I was doing [the] operation, I saw it as ‘oh, this is going to be huge.’

You know, we are going to eviscerate the whole Outlaws motorcycle club, or so I thought at the time — [and] just eliminate Aryan Nations forever as an important factor.”

That, perhaps, was an overestimation of what the investigation would yield. But the arrests did dismantle the 1st SS Kavallerie Brigade, which was being viewed within the Aryan Nations and Outlaws as a model of cooperation that could be adopted nationwide. And, as part of the broader operation, agents, including ones from Killian’s agency, the Orange County Sheriff’s Office, arrested 14 members of the American Front, a violent, neo-Nazi skinhead group that was allegedly planning violence and engaging in paramilitary training on a heavily fortified compound in neighboring Osceola County (see related story, p. 3).

While the arrests were major accomplishments in the fight against racial extremism and domestic terrorism, Killian paid a hefty price. He gave up his wife, his family, his sense of security and a 32-year-old career in law enforcement. On some days, it doesn’t seem like much of a win at all to him. ▲

Angels & Demons

MEMBERS OF A CATHOLIC-BASHING 'CULT' FEAR A VATICAN CONSPIRACY TO SILENCE THEIR LEADER — A 'BUSINESSMAN FROM INDIA' BY LEAH NELSON

SHAWANO, Wis. — Just outside the city limits here lies the Midwest Amusement Park and USA International Raceway, its vacant grounds and winter-worn buildings evoking the same kind of eerie feeling that makes off-season attractions such good settings for horror films.

In receivership since 2010, the amusement park is at the center of a long-running, angry dispute between the town and members of a mysterious, Catholic-bashing group that intended to use profits from the attraction and other local businesses to build a school here and fund another in India.

Now, the group's CEO is on the run after failing to show up in court last December to explain why she filed court papers denouncing a bankruptcy judge as a "Catholic Knight Witch Hunter" and "popess" — and why she called U.S. bankruptcy courts a cabal of "white Supremacist" "Catholic beasts."

The imbroglio is just the latest chapter in the strange history of the Dr. R.C. Samanta Roy Institute of Science and Technology (SIST), a nonprofit organization with extensive property holdings in the area that once included the Midwest Amusement Park.

SIST was formerly known as The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ — or "Brethren," as they called themselves internally. City officials call the quirky, standoffish group a cult. It was founded in the 1970s by Rama Chandra Behera, a charismatic Indian convert to Christianity whose iron-fisted micro-management of his followers' lives led

to repeated kidnappings by "deprogrammers" in the 1970s and 1980s.

In the last decade, the Brethren have again drawn unwanted attention, as young adults who were raised among them claimed to have suffered abuse at the hands of the leader their parents so admired. Some former members, including one who spoke to the *Intelligence*



One face, many names: The Maryland-based leader of a radical Wisconsin group has been variously known as Rama Chandra Behera, R.C. Samanta Roy and Avraham Cohen.

Report, have alleged that Behera punished them for perceived infractions by applying an electric cattle prod to sensitive parts of their bodies.

Behera has not lived with his Wisconsin followers for many years, and repeated attempts to reach him through SIST were unsuccessful. Today, he is known as Avraham Cohen and lives in Maryland, far from the turmoil surrounding the group's affairs here. As his followers fume about what they believe is a Vatican plot to undermine SIST's business interests and destroy the group, the group's CEO, Naomi

Isaacson, 38, faces a federal arrest warrant for contempt of court.

Board members and employees of SIST — which claims more than \$6 million in net assets and whose unpaid president is Cohen — are worried about what might happen to Isaacson and enraged over alleged attacks on their group.

SIST declined to provide an official spokesperson to discuss its claims and the allegations against it. However, a group of six people that included three SIST board members, one of whom has acted as an attorney for SIST, met with a writer for the *Intelligence Report*. Miriam Sindt, a paralegal whose father joined the group in the 1970s and today sits on SIST's board of directors, said she fears the worst. "Either she'll get locked up and we'll never see her again," she said of Isaacson, "or she'll come out on a stretcher," the victim of a Catholic conspiracy to silence her forever.

A Hindu is 'Born Again'

Situated about 35 miles northwest of Green Bay, the town of Shawano (pop. 9,305) appears stereotypically Midwestern. Children sled on snowy hills in the winter, and mud-spattered pickups speed down arrow-straight roads when it's warmer. At the Farm Inn on Main Street, you can get more kinds of pie than there are days in the week.

Just outside of town sits a ranch-style house, its windows covered with tarps. Parked at the end of the driveway is a sedan whose grim-faced occupant waits to photograph any interlopers.

These days, SIST partisans refer to the building as "headquarters." But

once upon a time, it was just “Rama’s house,” where on weekends The Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ gathered to pray, work and engage in Christian fellowship. Behera, a Hindu-born Indian evangelist who claimed to have been born again into Christianity after Jesus visited him in 1966, preached a fundamentalist and anti-modern message that had a certain appeal among those who were unsettled by changing values in America.

Most of the Brethren worked regular jobs. On weekends, they listened to marathon sermons and toiled at menial labor on Behera’s property. Long-skirted women and plainly dressed men fixed up the house or worked the land while their children cut grass — with scissors, according to one woman who was raised in the group — or hauled water to distant plants. For the most part, the “Ramas,” as locals called them, kept to themselves, though there were occasionally run-ins over taxes and construction permits. Local teens made “Rama-runs,” speeding by the house and throwing things out of car windows.

In 1978, shots were fired into Behera’s house. Years later, a homemade bomb sailed into an empty field near the house, terrifying its occupants.

No one was ever arrested for the shooting or the bomb — a fact that Behera’s followers see as further evidence of a massive conspiracy directed by the Shawano-based agents of the Vatican, who are “white supremacists” and “neo-Nazis” who cannot bear to see “a businessman from India,” as Behera’s followers usually refer to him, succeed.

In 1990, Behera changed his name to Samanta Roy. Around the same time, he declared his intention to build the Samanta Roy Institute of Science and Technology, or SIST, which was to have campuses in both India and Wisconsin. SIST was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1996, with the stated purpose, according to more recent tax documents, of “provid[ing] the American system of



Members of the Dr. R.C. Samanta Roy Institute of Science and Technology live on this compound in Westcott, Wis., just outside Shawano.

education to India, a land that has been dominated by the British-Indian method for centuries.” Eleven years later, having drifted theologically toward Judaism, Behera/Roy changed his name again, this time to Avraham Cohen. At 72, he reportedly now lives under that name in Pikesville, Md., and apparently has not spoken to the media since 1982.

There is evidence that a school of some sort is operating in India, but the one in Wisconsin seems little more than a pipe dream. SIST — which raises money from gifts and loans from its backers, along with income from its businesses — is increasingly mired in court battles that may end up costing it everything.

Christianity as ‘Death Cult’

As Cohen’s followers see it, the Catholic Church has been responsible for practically every major war and atrocity in human history: the French Revolution; the Holocaust; the Rwandan genocide; the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy; and a dizzying array of others. Hitler and Himmler were Jesuit agents, as are Shawano Mayor Lorna Marquardt, Shawano Police Chief Ed Whealon, federal bankruptcy judge Nancy Dreher and myriad alleged co-conspirators. Catholics are said to control the banks, the government and the media.

These beliefs are, for the most part, drawn from anti-Catholic conspiracy theories that have been accumulating at least since the Protestant Reformation and that have, like their anti-Semitic and antigovernment cousins, proliferated since the advent of the Internet.

“When you ask how do we have solid proof, it’s a whole compilation of things they’ve done over the years,” said Miriam Sindt, one of the group that met with the *Report*. “When we say ‘they,’ we don’t know entirely who is ‘they.’”

What Sindt says she does know is that “Christianity is a false, evil religion that was fabricated.” She and other SIST partisans go on to argue, repeatedly, that “historians” have

identified the faith as “dirty, filthy, and the most dangerous death cult in human history.”

Though Cohen reportedly preached against the practices of mainstream Christian denominations from the beginning, his followers did not always harbor such poisonous hatred for Catholics in particular. According to a 35-year-old woman who was raised among the Brethren and spoke to the *Report* on condition of anonymity, it wasn’t until the 1980s that Cohen told his followers to begin “researching” the Catholic Church.

It was around this time that the group had its worst run-in with “deprogrammers,” who tried to free some of Cohen’s followers from what they saw as his unnatural hold on them.

In 1982, the families of 24-year-old William Eilers and his pregnant wife, Sandy, hired deprogrammers to “rescue” their children from Cohen’s group, believing they had been brainwashed. The families were Catholic and Lutheran, and the deprogrammers took the abducted couple to a Franciscan (Catholic) retreat in Winona, Minn., and held them until they renounced Cohen’s group. Sandy Eilers was apparently sincere, but William Eilers returned to the Brethren. He later sued the deprogrammers, and a federal court ruling in his favor proved pivotal in a series of legal precedents making clear that the abduction of adult children from the clutches of perceived cults is not legal.

“There is ample evidence that this group is an authoritarian religious fellowship directed with an iron hand

by Brother Rama Behera. ... [But] the beliefs and practices of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ should not be, and are not, on trial,” wrote the judge in the case. Expressing “substantial sympathy” for the Eilers’ parents, the judge nevertheless ruled that the deprogrammers’ actions, no matter how well intentioned, amounted to illegal false imprisonment.

In the late 1980s, Cohen began to take up Old Testament ideas, telling his flock to celebrate the Jewish holidays of Passover and Rosh Hashanah, and ultimately renouncing Christianity altogether.

Cohen was known as a harsh disciplinarian. Speaking with the *Report*, the woman raised among the Brethren recalled in vivid detail a time when, she said, Cohen punished her for crying at age 3 or 4 by picking her up by the ankle and carrying her into a back room, where he sat on her and “zapped” her with a cattle prod. Teenage girls who displeased Cohen, she added, had their heads shaved.

Cohen also allegedly arranged his followers’ marriages and named their babies. He told them what professions to pursue. He forbade peanut butter and Italian food — “Pope food,” he called it — and would not allow birthday or Christmas celebrations. Only holidays that would “make us meditate and feel bad about our sins” were celebrated, the woman recalled. “It got stricter and stricter and stricter.”

One young man left the group and became Amish, the woman said. “I think he was attracted to it because it was a similar life to what was had, but there was more freedom.”

Sometime after finishing college, she also left — like many of the other children born in the group in the 1970s and 1980s.

Today, the SIST representatives who met with the *Report* deny that their organization has anything to do with religion. Pressed, they acknowledge that “the businessman from India,” who is still listed as SIST’s president on 2010 tax documents, is an important figure in their lives but insist that that’s only because of his wisdom and concern for their wellbeing.

A ‘Hit List’ Emerges

For years after the deprogramming scandals died down, the Brethren lived a reclusive existence, interacting with

local government as little as possible. The peace ended in the late 1990s when Shawano County announced that a bypass intended to ease traffic to a nearby Indian casino would run directly across Cohen’s land. His followers protested furiously, claiming they wanted to build their school on that exact spot. But the county, using its powers of eminent domain, negotiated a purchase instead.

In retaliation, the Brethren handed out swastika-festooned fliers comparing the zoning committee to Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler and suggesting that its chairman was an escaped Nazi who had survived by eating bugs.

Tensions grew even more strained in the early 2000s, when SIST started buying commercial properties. When some buildings remained empty and were boarded up, SIST claimed that “Catholic” and “neo-Nazi” city officials were warning potential tenants away because of a racist vendetta against “the businessman from India.”

The disputes accumulated, many over unpaid taxes and other bills. Meanwhile, in 2002, a former follower of Cohen’s was sentenced to 12 years in prison for sexually assaulting his teenage daughter. Other former followers wrote the court to claim that the man would never have committed the crime had he not been “brainwashed” and emotionally abused by Cohen — a defense that failed in court but set local tongues wagging. Many other former Brethren have since emerged to make allegations of appalling abuse and manipulation.

The group’s financial troubles continued after it bought Midwest Amusement Park in 2003. It wasn’t long before fliers — and even a series of YouTube videos — began to appear accusing Mayor Marquardt of being a neo-Nazi who was waging a systematic campaign to destroy SIST.

In November 2008, the FBI informed 60 city and county officials, media representatives, and other prominent locals that their names had appeared on a “hit list” believed to be connected to SIST. A man who had done business with the SIST subsidiary that ran the amusement park claimed he had accepted the list, along with a \$175,000 payment, because he could think of no other way to recover the money SIST owed him, and that he never had any intention of killing anyone.

Isaacson, the SIST CEO, retorted that the list was a “deadly swindle” devised by city officials to cover up their “illegal interference with SIST’s financial and business plans.”

The investigation is technically still open. But according to the FBI, there have been no breaks for years. In the meantime, relations between SIST and local officials have never been worse.

Cohen’s supporters continue to crank out screeds accusing Marquardt of being at the center of a conspiracy to destroy them. In one YouTube video posted by the group, a Cohen partisan describes the mayor’s Lutheran faith as a “bestial belief system” and a “tumor.” At People’s Express, a SIST-owned gas station in Shawano, the marquee accuses Marquardt and Whealon, the police chief, of sending “emissaries” to steal gas and the local “Neo-Nazi Newspaper” of covering it up.

Asked to describe the group, the first word Whealon uses is “frustrating.”

“It’s a group of people who have never taken responsibility for what they’ve done,” Whealon said. “It’s always someone else who’s done it to them.”

Is SIST dangerous?

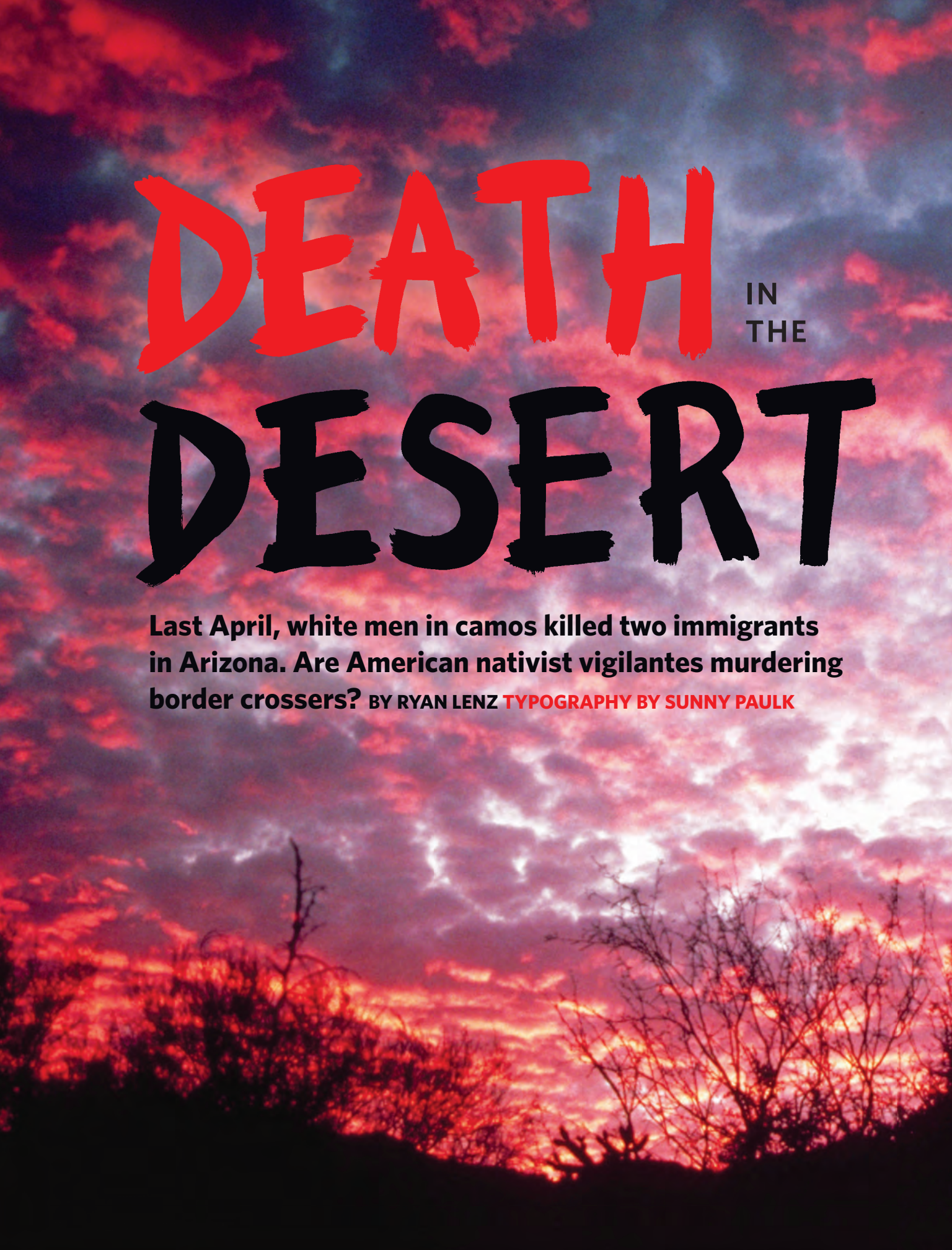
“There are members of this group that are more than capable of inflicting harm,” the chief said.

The mayor is upset at the damage Cohen’s followers have done to Shawano’s reputation and feels intimidated by them. She says they’ve followed her home and put video of her house online, and that she once received an unsigned threat in her mailbox. “It’s a nightmare,” she said.

Now, many of SIST’s assets have already been liquidated by the bankruptcy court, and Isaacson is on the lam.

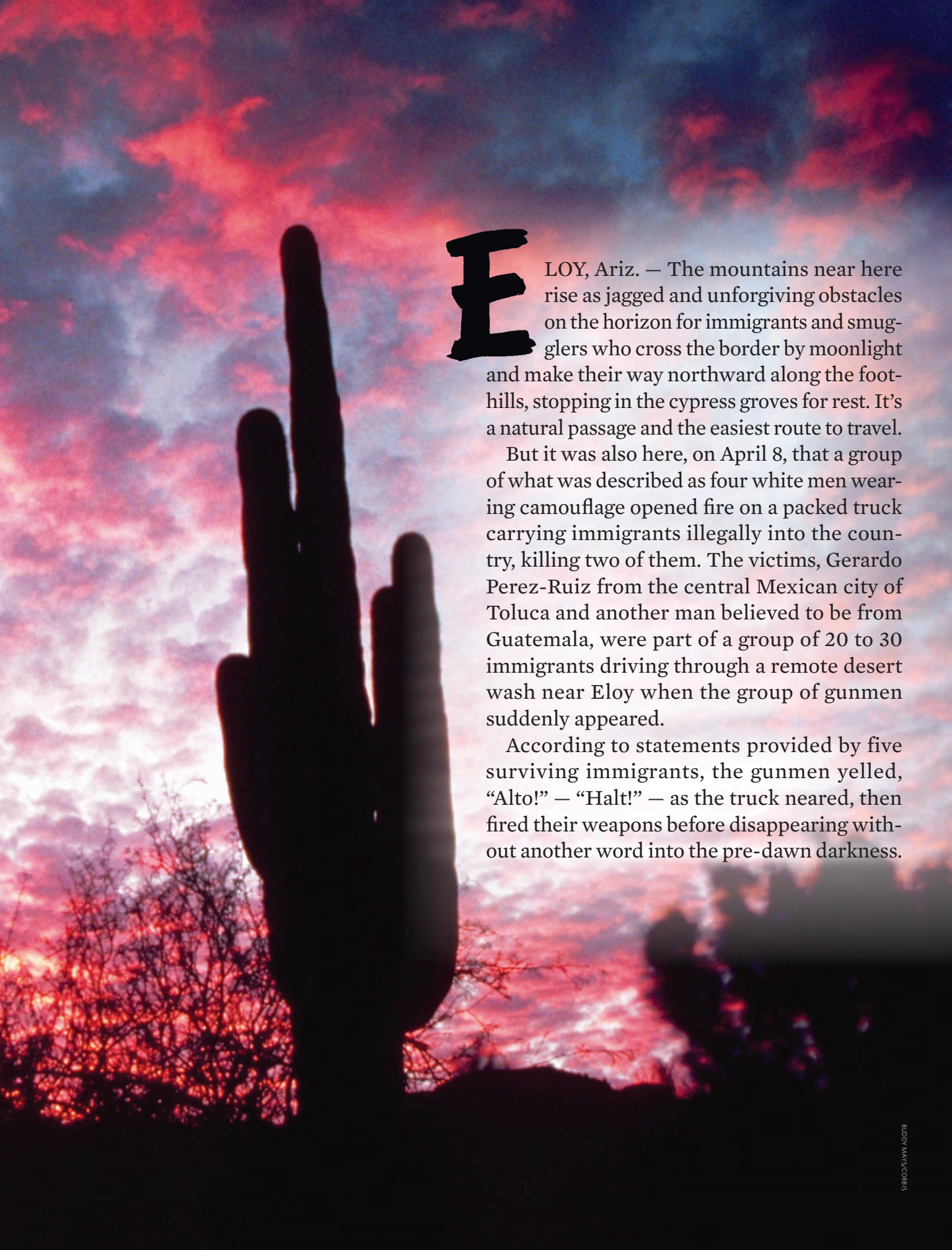
In a Jan. 2 open letter to “Churches and Ministers of the United States of America,” Isaacson claimed there was a Christian-orchestrated plot to poison her. She threatened to go to India and organize a revolt against “foreign Christian missionaries” unless the alleged persecution of SIST is called off. “As a White American, I cannot tolerate injustice any longer,” Isaacson wrote to the ministers. “Let’s solve the problem peacefully before your mission faces a big warfront in India.”

“I will fight until I die,” she wrote. “The choice is yours.” ▲



DEATH IN THE DESERT

Last April, white men in camos killed two immigrants in Arizona. Are American nativist vigilantes murdering border crossers? BY RYAN LENZ TYPOGRAPHY BY SUNNY PAULK



ELOY, Ariz. — The mountains near here rise as jagged and unforgiving obstacles on the horizon for immigrants and smugglers who cross the border by moonlight and make their way northward along the foothills, stopping in the cypress groves for rest. It's a natural passage and the easiest route to travel.

But it was also here, on April 8, that a group of what was described as four white men wearing camouflage opened fire on a packed truck carrying immigrants illegally into the country, killing two of them. The victims, Gerardo Perez-Ruiz from the central Mexican city of Toluca and another man believed to be from Guatemala, were part of a group of 20 to 30 immigrants driving through a remote desert wash near Eloy when the group of gunmen suddenly appeared.

According to statements provided by five surviving immigrants, the gunmen yelled, “Alto!” — “Halt!” — as the truck neared, then fired their weapons before disappearing without another word into the pre-dawn darkness.



Since 2005, large numbers of armed “citizen border patrols,” many of them using the Minuteman name, have sought to prevent undocumented immigration from the south. Some fear the movement may have produced a team of assassins.



“Minutemen” groups that President George W. Bush characterized as “vigilantes” and that were enraged by what they saw as a purposeful invasion. A neo-Nazi leader who led fellow armed radicals to the border spoke of laying mines to prevent non-whites from entering — and later reportedly asked a witness to help him surveil homes where he hoped to murder Latinos. Law enforcement has found at least one pipe bomb planted on a smuggling trail, and last year a neo-Nazi was arrested with other bombs he was taking to the border. Still other neo-Nazis told the *Intelligence Report* several years earlier that they were scouting sniper positions at the border.

The recent shootings near Eloy, coupled with the murders in January and February of 2007, have raised these worries again. An internal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) report from the earlier period, obtained by the *Report*, said the 2007 shootings were likely connected to each other. And in the second incident that year, police found two men with non-Hispanic names “concealed in the brush” nearby watching the police response — a “curious” fact, the DHS report said.

Through it all, most Arizona authorities have dismissed virtually all the non-weather-related deaths as the result of attacks by drug and human smugglers — and there is little doubt that that is behind some of the mayhem. But many activists and at least some in law enforcement fear that a small but committed cadre of hard-core extremists on the border may actually be engaging in murder.

Matt Browning, a retired Mesa police detective who spent years undercover infiltrating racist border and neo-Nazi skinhead groups, is one of them.

“In Arizona, we might not have Hammerskins or Volksfront or the Klan,” Browning said, referencing some of the more prominent contemporary white supremacist groups. “What we do have is a lot of angry, militant white men on

The murders this spring were not the first in the smuggling corridor near Eloy. In fact, they bear distinct similarities to the killings of four immigrants in the area in 2007 — high-profile incidents that accelerated fears that U.S.-born vigilantes had begun a shooting war meant to turn back the tide of undocumented immigrants.

For more than 10 years now, the bulk of undocumented immigrants from the south have poured across the Arizona border, pushed by a change in U.S. border policy from the coastal cities and states into the far more treacherous Sonora Desert crossing. Partly as a result, the

number of those dying, or being killed, as they cross the border has accelerated dramatically. Between 2004 and 2011, an average of 223 bodies of migrants have been found every year in just the Tucson Sector, now the busiest section of the border — and that doesn’t include hundreds of skeletonized remains. Although most of the deaths certainly were the result of searing heat, in hundreds of cases, the victims’ remains were too rotted to be sure.

And there is much to suggest that something else may be going on. For years, the area has been crisscrossed by “civilian border patrols” — the

the border sitting like hunters waiting for these people to come across.”

'Hispanics Would Be Killed'

This May 2, a man named Jason Todd “J.T.” Ready strode into the house he shared with his girlfriend and her family in the Phoenix suburb of Gilbert. Minutes later, a frantic Lisa Mederos was on the phone to 911 reporting threats from an enraged Ready. Next came the sound of a shot, and the line went dead.

By the time police arrived, Ready had shot Mederos, her grown daughter and her boyfriend, and the young couple’s 15-month-old daughter, before walking outside and shooting himself dead as well. Another Mederos daughter, who survived by hiding in a bedroom, told police Ready had done all the killing.

Authorities quickly concluded that the quadruple murder and suicide was the result of a domestic dispute, although

the details remain murky. But the slaughter, coming 24 days after the latest Eloy murders, again raised the specter of vigilante violence — Ready was a well-known neo-Nazi who since 2010 had been heading armed, aggressive border patrols with a group he started, U.S. Border Guard. He had been close to Russell Pearce, the legislator who authored Arizona’s S.B. 1070 anti-immigrant law and went on to become state Senate president as a result.

The Pima County Sheriff’s Department, which investigated both the 2007 and the 2012 killings near Eloy, cleared Ready of involvement in the April attack — and, indeed, it still has no suspects in any of the Eloy area murders. But after Ready’s death, the special-agent-

in-charge of the FBI’s Phoenix office, James Turgal, revealed his agency had been investigating Ready’s activities for nearly five years.

Ready, Turgal told a local TV news reporter, “rode the edge of that dividing line between protected speech and criminal activity.” Turgal said his probe involved “domestic terrorism” and the shooting of immigrants. But he did not further clarify those comments, and the FBI declined to elaborate on them to the *Report*.

Still, the news was not entirely surprising.

After neo-Nazi immigrant-hunter J.T. Ready murdered four people in his home and killed himself this spring, the FBI said it had been investigating Ready for possible “domestic terrorism” aimed at undocumented Latinos.





Members of J.T. Ready's U.S. Border Guard, many of them also affiliated with the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement, boasted of capturing undocumented border crossers. The Border Patrol reported two incidents where the group apparently illegally held people against their will, but federal prosecutors declined to act.

“to drive into South Phoenix on a Friday night disguised as officials with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and look for a house or yard party to raid, during which several Hispanics would be killed.” Heppler said Ready and friends had drawn up a list of equipment for the planned raids and even asked him to join them on dry runs.

Lemons turned Heppler over to the FBI, he said, and the man agreed to become an informant. However, he was later reportedly dropped by the FBI after telling a business partner that he was working as an informant.

In another incident, on Sept. 27, 2010, a U.S. citizen called the Border Patrol to say he'd encountered Ready while hiking and that Ready had asked him to join his U.S. Border Guard group. According to Border Patrol documents obtained by the Talking Points Memo (TPM) news site, the man said he was reporting the incident “because JT Ready mentioned ‘killing’ and harming the illegal aliens.”

While still with NSM, Ready also recruited Jeffrey Harbin, son of a well-known local neo-Nazi. In January 2011, the younger Harbin was arrested with three homemade bombs that he was apparently transporting for use against immigrants on the border. Twelve more devices were found in Harbin's home. Ready said he didn't know what the bombs were for, “but I will say that domestic terrorism is real.”

Twice during 2011 — on Feb. 26 and July 17 — Border Patrol agents found Ready and others detaining immigrants in the desert, according to documents. Ready had flex-cuffed an immigrant in the first incident and pointed guns at a group in the second, both likely criminal acts of false imprisonment. Agents reported the incidents to the U.S. Attorney's office, but no action was taken.

Ready was growing increasingly paranoid. This April 29, he E-mailed friends about his fears: “I sleep with a Loaded



Ready was an ex-Marine court-martialed twice for bad conduct, and over his years in Arizona he had developed a reputation for intemperate talk and violence. Running for Mesa City Council in 2006, for instance, he chased a Latino man into a dead-end street in a car, apparently because he thought the man was undocumented. Ready later claimed the man fired at him with a BB gun. Ready returned fire with a .38-caliber revolver he kept in an ankle holster. Neither man was hurt, and police ultimately arrested the Latino man, who allegedly had fired first.

In the ensuing years, Ready would attend several neo-Nazi events and joined, for a time, the National Socialist Movement (NSM), currently the country's largest neo-Nazi group. At one point, at a Tea Party rally in Tempe, he distributed an NSM flier featuring his name, a picture of a landmine, and the following words: “We should be actively advocating

daily to mainstream America the most humane, non-racist, fair border security plan available. Namely, A MINEFIELD!”

In 2009, an anti-immigrant activist who had worked with Ready approached Stephen Lemons, a columnist with the *Phoenix New Times* newspaper. According to Lemons, David Heppler said that Ready had recently told him of plans

shotgun under my bed and a 9 mm on the nightstand. I have 2 Ar-15's, other hardware, and a trained German Shepherd in the backyard. Mossad or ZOG [a neo-Nazi acronym for Zionist Occupied Government] or the Cartel or some ANTIFA [antifascist] freak may make a move on me.

"Hopefully I can give them their just desserts first."

Three days later, J.T. Ready murdered his girlfriend and her family and then committed suicide. Arriving at the bloody scene, police found, among other things, six 40 mm anti-tank grenades.

Hints of Violence

The suspicion of vigilante violence in Arizona does not rest only on the exploits of J.T. Ready, or even the six murders near Eloy. Over the years, a number of cases have cropped up that hint at possible campaigns of killing.

In 2005, during the first major muster of the anti-immigrant Minuteman Project, the *Intelligence Report* interviewed two men who described themselves as members of the neo-Nazi National Alliance (see related story, p. 12). Identifying themselves only as Johnny and Michael, the two said they were part of a six-man team who had joined the muster, in part, to scout future sniping positions.

"You get up there with a rifle and start shooting four or five of them a week," said Michael, outfitted with body armor and a semi-automatic pistol, "the other four or five thousand behind them are going to think twice about crossing that line."

In 2009, a Border Patrol agent found a live pipe bomb on a smuggling route near Tucson that was described as "moderately complex," according to a classified memo released by a group that hacked the Pima County Sheriff's Office.

Another hacked memo, this one from the Arizona Department of Public Safety, revealed that a militant group called "A Concerned Citizen" was trying to shut down a stretch of interstate to stop smugglers in 2010. The memo warned of the "potential for human rights violations and a possibility of violence."

Other documents also revealed episodes of apparent extremism that were

previously unknown to the public. In March 2011, for example, Border Patrol agents encountered a heavily armed man in the desert south of Tucson. The man, identified as Tim Foley, told the agents he had military experience as a sniper and that he planned to conduct "mercenary type operations" along the border. He also allegedly told them he had deployed an improvised explosive device in the desert.

The deadly rage of many nativists who came to Arizona in recent years was highlighted in the person of Shawna Forde, founder of the vigilante group Minuteman American Defense. Forde, along with two confederates, is on death row for the 2009 murder of a Latino man and his 9-year-old daughter. The pair were shot in their own Arivaca, Ariz., home, not while trying to cross any border. They were U.S. citizens who Forde intended to rob in order to fund her nativist activities.

Chris Simcox, who co-founded the Minuteman Project and went on to form the now-defunct Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, told the *Report* in an interview that he knew nothing of any specific murders, but recognized a reality that has long plagued the movement — that some do come to the border to hunt Latinos.

"You don't know who you're attracting [to the border]," said Simcox, who is now working as a private math tutor in Phoenix. "You got guys spinning off, and spinning off, all the time. That was the thing that concerned me the most."

Still, the most intriguing cases may be those near Eloy.

Investigators have noted a number of marked similarities linking the 2007 cases and the murders last April. In each case, authorities believe there were four attackers who were described by at least some witnesses as white. In 2007, they wore similar "military style" clothing; in 2011, the attackers were described as wearing camouflage-style clothes. No spent shell casings were recovered in any of the attacks, suggesting that the killers used "brass-catchers" to avoid leaving evidence. In all three, the attackers wasted few shots and seemed to coordinate their work carefully, covering each other as if they had military training.

The DHS document analyzing the 2007 attacks contained another remarkable detail. After the Jan. 27 shooting, responding law enforcement officials heard vehicles a short distance from the shooting site, but out of sight. They found two men who claimed that they were watching the police response to the shooting — but were actually not in a position where they could see that response. "It is curious," the document said, "that the subjects did not attempt to approach the scene as several other onlookers had, but they choose [sic] to remain concealed in the brush."

The DHS' conclusions were not definitive, but they were intriguing. "It appears that the same group of individuals is working in concert to intentionally kill [illegal aliens]," it said. Robbery or theft of drugs "did not appear to be the motive in either incident as the subjects were left unmolested after the shootings."

Recently, the *Arizona Daily Star* reported an apparent resurgence in border activities by groups led by men like Jack Foote, a Texan who once headed a paramilitary anti-immigrant group called Ranch Rescue (and who reportedly recruited Tim Foley, the man who told officials in 2011 he had sniper experience). Foote's Ranch Rescue disbanded following a 2003 lawsuit filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of immigrants terrorized on a Texas ranch. But the *Daily Star* reported that Foote recently returned to the Arizona border with a new group, the Arizona State Defense Force Foundation. The group is recruiting "field researchers" with "prior Tactical Ground Operations training and experience" to scout the border for "evidence of the ongoing cross-border insurgency."

Are some individuals or even groups in Arizona targeting immigrants for death? It remains impossible to say. But it's hard not to think about the kind of anger that came from Jack Foote recently, after the state Legislature rejected the Arizona Special Missions Unit, a newly proposed state-sanctioned border militia.

"We have now washed our hands of our state's Legislature," Foote said in words that worried many. "Now we are going to do things our own way." ▲



WORLD NUTS DAILY

A far-right website, when it's not busy claiming soybeans cause homosexuality, is a leading source of baseless conspiracism

BY LEAH NELSON ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MCCABE

WorldNetDaily (WND) describes itself as “an independent news company dedicated to uncompromising journalism, seeking truth and justice and revitalizing the role of the free press as a guardian of liberty.” The online newspaper, which this year celebrated its 15th year in operation, is one of the “very few sources” martial artist and action film hero Chuck Norris (who happens to be a columnist) trusts for news and an operation that megachurch pastor Greg Laurie (also a columnist) says does “a service to God and Country.”

WND is the brainchild of Joseph Farah, a self-described “radical” and longtime antigovernment propagandist and apologist for the Confederacy who believes “cultural Marxists” are plotting “to transform our political system, to change the way we think, to attack our values, to demean our faith in God, to reduce that shining city on the hill to the status of a drab public-housing project.”

Together with a coterie of antigovernment “Patriots,” anti-gay activists, white nationalists, Muslim-bashers, conspiracy theorists, end-times prophets and ultra-conservative hardliners, Farah — who did not respond to requests to be interviewed for this article — has built WND into a modest media empire including a book imprint, an online subscription-only “intelligence resource,” and a glossy, full-color monthly magazine. At press time, Alexa, which ranks websites, said WND was the 1,832nd most popular website in the world and the 423rd in the U.S. — just above the site for Nickelodeon and a few notches below Victoria’s Secret.

WND’s point of view is best described as a cross between the now-defunct super-market tabloid *Weekly World News*, which was famous for reporting on Elvis sightings, and *The New American*, a monthly magazine published by the far-right, conspiracist John Birch Society. In its 15 years online, it has introduced readers to a smorgasbord of bizarre ideas, specializing in anti-gay, anti-Muslim, and anti-liberal

propaganda; antigovernment conspiracy theories; and end-times prophecy.

It featured a six-part series claiming (falsely) that soybean consumption causes homosexuality and promoted Scott Lively’s vile opus *The Pink Swastika*, which says that gays were behind the Holocaust. It has identified the first “leftist” as Satan, and declared that Muslims have a “20-point plan for conquering the United States by 2020.” It has warned of secret plans to create a North American Union, advised readers to invest all their assets in gold, and promoted myriad, if conflicting, theories about when and how the world will end.

Its most enduring claim, by far, is that President Obama is constitutionally ineligible to serve as president because he supposedly is not a “natural-born” U.S. citizen.

WND’s stable of writers includes “birther” conspiracist Jerome Corsi; Bob Unruh, a former Associated Press reporter who once sued his fifth-grade daughter’s school after it forbade her to distribute

promotional materials for his wife's "vacation bible school"; black neo-secessionist Walter E. Williams, who in a 2002 WND column wrote that the Civil War was an unconstitutional exercise of "federal abuse and usurpation;" and a panoply of other far-right and ultraconservative voices.

The online paper is also a launching pad for a new generation of extremists. Kevin DeAnna, founder of the white nationalist student group Youth for Western Civilization, was recently hired as marketing coordinator. DeAnna, 29, also has written articles for WND — including one that asserted that Earth Day falls on April 22 in order to honor Lenin's birthday. Another young pundit who benefits from WND's patronage is Jason "Molotov" Mitchell, 33, a self-declared "Christian Supremacist" who wants his co-religionists to reject "effeminized American Christianity" and start "advancing the Kingdom on earth."

Farah shares those sentiments. "I don't think the Scriptures teach us to passively wait for God to take care of the world. We are taught to occupy until he comes," he wrote in his 2003 book, *Taking America Back*. "Don't you think He wants us to reestablish the promises of America — one nation under God born of a creed?"

Despite — or perhaps because of — all this, WND has had unnerving success at injecting its agenda into the public sphere. Especially since the election of America's first black president sent the far right into paroxysms of anxiety, this far-right super-market tabloid of the Internet has become a force to be reckoned with.

From Left to Right

Joseph Francis Farah, 57, of Centreville, Va., is a former liberal activist who as a high school student in 1971 was arrested at a massive Washington, D.C., May Day anti-war demonstration, voted for George McGovern and Jimmy Carter (twice), and says he once volunteered to serve as a bodyguard for anti-war activist Jane Fonda. In the 1980s, while working his way up the journalism food chain to become editor of the now-defunct *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, he became a devoted fan of Ronald Reagan, to whom his 2007 book, *Stop the Presses*, is dedicated.

He also found God and cultivated what he describes as a "Christian worldview."

He claims that becoming a journalist was his response to the question, "What would Jesus do?" and says that his chief influences are Watergate muckrakers Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein; Matt Drudge of "The Drudge Report"; Ronald Reagan; and a book called *Marx & Satan*, which improbably claims that the author of *The Communist Manifesto* belonged to a Satanic cult.

Farah became the subject of national headlines in 1990, when he was hired as executive editor of California's conservative *Sacramento Union*, whose new owners hoped that fresh blood would help turn the struggling 139-year-old paper around. Instead, during Farah's 15 months at its helm, the *Union's* circulation dropped by more than 25% as he dragged it sharply to the right.

Under his direction, pro-choice advocates were described as "pro-abortion" and environmentalists were reportedly called "eco-fruities." The word "gay" was reportedly forbidden, replaced by "homosexual" — and once, in a column by the late David Chilton (who elsewhere wrote that "The Christian goal for the world is the universal development of Biblical theocratic republics, in which every area of life is redeemed and placed under ... the rule of God's law."), with "sodomite." Farah also convinced rising conservative radio star Rush Limbaugh (who had left *Sacramento* a few years earlier to take his show national) to write a daily column, and ran it on the paper's front page.

Journalist Daniel Carson described the *Union* as "a mouthpiece for the fundamentalist Christian right, preoccupied with abortion, homosexuals and creationism."

"[E]ach day seems to bring a bizarre new episode," he wrote in 1990. "Farah altered a news story to call the National Organization for Women a 'radical feminist group.' A front-page story speculated about whether the confrontation in the Persian Gulf is the political beginning of Armageddon."

Editors, managers and writers reportedly left in droves. "The feeling is it's not really an objective newspaper anymore," a former *Union* reporter told *The Washington Post* in 1990. "We didn't go into journalism to work for some slanted publication."

In October 1991, Farah resigned. Twenty-seven months later, the *Union* — which was at the time the oldest daily

paper west of the Mississippi — closed its doors for good.

But Farah kept on writing. That same year, he founded the Western Center for Journalism (WCJ), a non-profit whose purpose was "to encourage more philosophical diversity in the news media." In 1994, WCJ was hit with a \$2 million libel suit for promoting a "report" suggesting that White House Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster had been the victim of foul play, rather than suicide. (The suit was later dismissed.) Farah also contributed occasional op-eds to respectable outlets like the *Los Angeles Times*, and ran a series of "watchdog" publications focused on liberal media and culture.

In May 1997, together with his wife, Elizabeth, Farah founded WorldNetDaily as a project of WCJ. In 1999, he used \$4.5 million in seed money from unnamed investors and incorporated WND as an independent for-profit company. It quickly became one of the most popular "news" sites on the Web.

If Washington won't
"yield the power it
has usurped from
the states and from
sovereign, self-
governing individuals
like you and me," then
"it's time to reconsider
the idea of secession."

Taking Sides

Farah makes a lot of noise about WND's independence from political and partisan causes. "I've been a newsman my whole adult life" and "I believe the proper role of a newsman is to seek the truth without fear or favor," he wrote in *Stop the Presses*. "Unlike many of my colleagues in the press, I have avoided political parties, organizations, and associations that could compromise my integrity."

As is so often the case, Farah's version of reality is unique.

According to research compiled by the

Institute for First Amendment Studies, as of 1998, Farah was a member of the Council for National Policy (CNP), a highly secretive group that lobbies for hardline conservative positions. At that time, CNP's membership roster included many conservative heavyweights, among them Tom DeLay, Trent Lott, Jerry Falwell, Oliver North, Constitution Party co-founder Howard Phillips, and R.J. Rushdoony, father of Christian Reconstructionism. (Reconstructionism is an ultraconservative take on Christianity whose proponents seek to impose strict "biblical law" on the United States and have promoted the death penalty for "practicing homosexuals," adulterers, and "incorrigible" children).

Farah has spoken at numerous political events. He gave the keynote address at a 2004 homeschooling conference run by a religious-right organization called the Alliance for Separation of School and State. He was scheduled to be a featured guest at a 2007 conference run by Vision Forum Ministries, an ultraconservative outfit whose director Doug Phillips is the son of Constitution Party co-founder Howard Phillips. In a 1997 book available on the Vision Forum website, the younger Phillips described Robert Lewis Dabney (a Confederate chaplain who called blacks a "sordid, alien taint" marked by "lying, theft, drunkenness, laziness, waste") as "a man of extraordinary principle whose character remained unblemished throughout a long and distinguished career."

In 2010, Farah boycotted the Conservative Political Action Conference, the right's most important annual shindig, because it included an LGBT Republican group. He held his own conservative conference instead. Its lineup was a "Who's Who" of far-right luminaries including U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann (R-Minn.), former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Victoria Jackson, former U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), anti-gay hate group leader and Christian Reconstructionist theologian Gary DeMar, and R.C. Sproul Jr., a mover-and-shaker in the theocratic Christian "patriarchy" movement and a prominent advocate of homeschooling.

WND's board members — who in addition to Farah and his wife Elizabeth include Wayne Johnson, Norman Book, James Clark, and Richard Botkin — are also politically involved.

Johnson, who has been on WND's board since 1999, is a Sacramento political consultant whose firm, according to TheRawStory, coordinated the campaign for California's Proposition 8, which sought to outlaw same-sex marriage in that state. Until June 2002, he was a board member of the Chalcedon Foundation, a Christian Reconstructionist outfit and anti-gay hate group.

Book, who joined the board in 2008, is WND's executive vice president of finance and technology. As an undergraduate at Stanford University, he co-founded *The Stanford Review*, which according to his LinkedIn profile was a conservative student weekly meant to "add balance to Stanford's stifling liberal atmosphere."

Clark, a board member since 1999, was difficult to track down. Based on the address he listed on WND's tax form, he appears to be a recently departed lobbyist for the American Bankers Association (ABA). According to his LinkedIn profile, he served as ABA liaison to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a controversial and highly secretive group of far-right state legislators and business lobbyists that writes and pushes model bills. One of them was the pro-gun "Stand Your Ground" law that authorities cited as their reason for not immediately recommending charges against George Zimmerman, the Florida man who shot and killed unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin in February.

Least noteworthy is Botkin, a Sacramento-area financial advisor and former Marine who has been on the board since 1999 and is an occasional contributor to conservative candidates. According to ConWebWatch, he worked with Farah in 2004 during a short-lived effort to revive the *Sacramento Union* as a magazine. His book about the Vietnam War was published by WND.

From 2000 to 2002, the board also included Robert Beale, an MIT grad who made his money in computers, served as the Minnesota campaign manager for televangelist Pat Robertson's 1988 presidential bid, and eventually came to sympathize with the radical antigovernment "sovereign citizens" movement. In 2008, Beale was convicted of tax evasion, conspiracy, and fleeing authorities, charges he attempted to evade first by

hiding from the law and then by conspiring to intimidate the judge — who, he said, God had commanded him to "destroy" — by filing fraudulent liens and issuing fake "arrest warrants" against her.

God, Guns and Armageddon

Like most well-trafficked websites, WND makes money through selling ad space and sending E-mails tempting subscribers with "special offers" from third parties.

In a May 2012 E-mail "from the desk of Joseph Farah," the WND editor personally endorsed an offer from "the Millionaire Patriot" who was, he said, giving away "lifetime gun training memberships" to the first 500 subscribers to respond to his offer. The Millionaire Patriot is Ignatious Piazza, owner of Nevada's Front Sight Firearms Training Institute and an accused con man. In 2007, Piazza settled for \$8 million dollars a class action lawsuit brought by previous subscribers to his membership scheme. The plaintiffs alleged that he was running a Ponzi scheme, had misrepresented the value of memberships, and had diverted money "for his own personal use and benefit, including his Hollywood career."

None of this was mentioned in WND's E-mail to subscribers. Instead, Farah wrote that he "can personally vouch for Dr. Piazza and his Front Sight Training Institute" and urged readers "to prepare for what may be coming in the next four years! NOW is the time to get armed and trained."

In 2010, subscribers received an E-mail hawking a book titled *How to Survive the Collapse of Civilization*, which warned that terrorists might attack the U.S. power grid with an electromagnetic pulse device that "could throw America into the dark ages in a split second." The next year, a message titled "Gun Control Imminent — Stock Up Now!" warned that the president was "secretly conspiring to strip American Citizens of the right to bear arms" and promised "Burnin Hot Deals" from USA Ammo (motto: "Ammunition with Attitude").

And, in 2011, WND shilled for a publication titled "The Antichrist Identity" that claimed President Obama is a crypto-Communist "apostle" of the "New World Order" who is setting up the planet for a takeover by "Jewish Masonic" elites who will reduce the population by 5.5 billion

and “enslave all of mankind under the thumb of a Jewish master race led by a world messiah of Jewish ancestry who is to rule from Jerusalem.”

That “The Antichrist Identity” also scoffed at the idea that Obama was not born in the United States — a conspiracy WND has been tirelessly pushing for years — apparently did not bother the marketing team that approved the promotional E-mail.

Truth (or even internally consistent conspiracy theories) is not WND’s strong suit. But then, objectivity and consistency are not Farah’s goals. As he spelled out quite explicitly in *Taking America Back*, what he really wants is to foment a “revolution” — ideally, bloodless — that would eradicate most of the federal government, push LGBT people back into the closet and prayer back into the classroom, and “return” America to its supposed roots in biblical law.

The federal government, Farah wrote in *Taking America Back*, has “no lawful power outside its limited jurisdiction” and can only “impose its will on local communities and in the various states ... through force of arms.” If Washington won’t “yield the power it has usurped from the states and from sovereign, self-governing individuals like you and me,” then “[i]t’s time to reconsider the idea of secession.”

The Civil War was really a “second war of independence” — and, “the motivations of many in the Confederacy were ... a desire to live up to the promises of the U.S. Constitution, to test the principle of a voluntary union, to promote self-government and the rights of states.”

Farah’s own formula for revolution is simple: Turn on, tune in, and drop out. “Find a good reliable source of news — like WorldNetDaily.com — and be informed.” Buy guns — “more than you think you need.” (He notes these are for self-defense and to “preserve freedom.”) And above all, withdraw your children from “government schools,” those “indoctrination centers” and “brainwashing hubs” run by “statists who seek to steal our children and make a mockery of the family.”

“There is no neutral ground in the spiritual warfare consuming this universe,” he advises readers in the final sentences of *Taking America Back*. “Now stand up and join me in taking America back.” ▲

Crazy For Sale

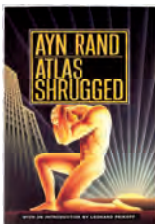
WorldNetDaily, after a ‘thorough’ vetting by its ‘review board,’ offers up a cornucopia of reading. Fasten your seat belts!

Like every online publication, WorldNetDaily has to pay the bills. One of the ways the far-right “news” source raises money is through the WND Superstore, where faithful readers can buy “Unique Products for Discerning Minds” — such as the NRA-endorsed Second Amendment Range Pack, which can hold, among other things, four pistols and 36 magazines, and which comes with the Second Amendment printed inside its front pouch.

Because WND hopes you will consider it “your personal library consultant,” also on offer at the superstore are 830 books on “history, theology, philosophy, political science, education, natural science, society, and family,” each one “thoroughly examined” by WND’s “review board” to “enlighten and empower you in your personal quest to protect your family, engage the culture, speak out against injustice, and fight for what is right.” In keeping with WND’s daily content, it proffers a conspiracist version of reality in which communists, liberals, Muslims, and atheists — sometimes in cahoots with time-traveling demons, other times acting on their own volition — lurk around every corner, secretly plotting to destroy the world.

The *Intelligence Report* doesn’t have the staff (or the patience) to read every single book on WND’s list, but we did check out quite a few of the more interesting titles. In the capsule reviews below, you’ll learn the “real” reason Earth Day is celebrated on April 22; discover that demons, masquerading as aliens, are abducting human females; and see that a secretive cabal of global elites plans to enslave humanity and implement a “New World Order.” No matter what flavor of crazy you prefer, there’s something here for everyone — even the kids.

Enjoy!



ATLAS SHRUGGED

Ayn Rand | Signet, 1957

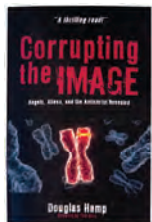
No far-right library is complete without this classic from screenwriter and “objectivist philosopher” Ayn Rand, an anticommunist activist and rabid atheist once described as a “gateway drug to the Right,” whose 1957 magnum opus ranked as the second-most-influential book in America (the Bible was most influential) in a 1991 poll.

Today, with help from the likes of Rush Limbaugh (who frequently refers to Rand on his show and once called her a “brilliant writer and novelist”); Wisconsin congressman Paul Ryan (a Tea Party hero who has said that Rand is the reason he entered politics and who — ironically, given Rand’s characterization of faith as “a sign of psychological weakness” and of Christianity’s central teachings as “monstrous” — claims to give copies of *Atlas Shrugged* as

Christmas presents); and Muslim-hating blogger Pam Geller (who named her blog *Atlas Shrugs* after the book), this ultra-libertarian classic — which sneers at religion, champions selfishness, and advocates the abolition of nearly all government services and private philanthropies — is enjoying a renaissance on the American far right.

Part manifesto, part romance novel (in one scene, the heroine, wearing a diamond bracelet, displays “the most feminine of all aspects: the look of being chained”), *Atlas Shrugged* portrays a dystopian near-future in which capitalists go on strike to protest government regulations, vowing to return only “[w]hen the looters’ state collapses ... like the mystic-ridden nations of the Orient.” At that time, “[w]ith the sign of the dollar as our symbol ... we will move to reclaim this country once more from the impotent savages who never discovered its nature, its meaning, its splendor.”

"There is no neutral ground in the spiritual warfare consuming this universe. Now stand up and join me in taking America back."



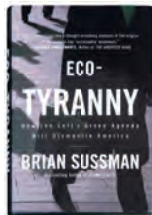
CORRUPTING THE IMAGE: ANGELS, ALIENS, AND THE ANTICHRIST REVEALED

Douglas Hamp | Defender Publishing, 2011

Since man was created approximately 6,000 years ago, he has been stalked by Satan, who is intent on destroying God's work and replacing it with his own.

In antediluvian times, Nephilim — the half-demonic offspring of fallen angels and their human wives — roamed the earth. Today, Hamp says, Satan has a new and infinitely more insidious plan to destroy God's creation. "The fact that beings whom we have identified as demons are manifesting in the sky is undeniable," he writes. "As the many abductees have testified, the 'aliens'" — who, according to Hamp, are actually demons *disguised* as aliens — "are using their sperm and eggs to create a new race (post human). The demons are mixing their seed with the seed of men." Scientists also are mingling human DNA with that of other species, while propaganda from Hollywood, the New Age movement, and Darwinists desensitizes mankind to Satan's unnatural work.

When the Antichrist — likely a Mason — comes, most will believe that the Rapture is an alien abduction. Those who stay true will be rewarded in heaven. Those who fail will burn. In *Corrupting the Image*, Hamp teaches readers how to protect themselves — before it's too late.



ECO-TYRANNY: HOW THE LEFT'S GREEN AGENDA WILL DISMANTLE AMERICA

Brian Sussman | WND Books, 2012

"Each time you hear an eco-activist or representative of an environmental organization speak, know this: he or she is knowingly pushing the message of Marx and deviously hoping to see the United States changed." These are the

words of Brian Sussman, a former TV meteorologist who believes that climate change is a myth manufactured by Communists "hell-bent on transforming society into a colossal, highly regulated, redistributive commune void of inalienable rights."

According to Sussman, Earth Day is on April 22 in celebration of Lenin's birthday, Bill Clinton's Council on Sustainable Development was a "seditious cabal of anti-American operatives working at the behest of the United Nations," and "smart meters" and "smart grids" — technology designed to help lower utility bills and prevent brown-outs — are actually a way for "Big Brother" to "control your life." Environmentalists belong to a religion called "biocentrism," whose earth-worshipping adherents celebrate rites such as buying hybrid vehicles, becoming vegans, "[a]nd for the exceptionally devout," having abortions "to fight global warming."

To combat this madness, Sussman writes, we need leaders who will "immediately abolish" the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Clean Air Act, and most environmental regulations.

"There are no more excuses. There is little time. We need majorities in Congress to accomplish this great work," he declares. "We must restore and preserve our nation as originally founded if we are to have anything of value to leave to our posterity. It will certainly take much sacrifice and determination, but with God's help, it can be done."



THE ESSENTIAL SECOND AMENDMENT GUIDE

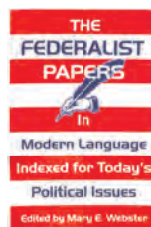
Wayne LaPierre | WND Books, 2009

The Second Amendment is "the first right among equals, because it is the one we turn to when all else fails," says National Rifle Association Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre in his introduction to *The Essential Second Amendment Guide*.

LaPierre, who once referred to federal agents as "jackbooted government thugs,"

and has warned that President Obama's failure to push gun control during his first term is part of "a massive Obama conspiracy to deceive voters and hide his true intention to destroy the Second Amendment during his second term," has no doubt that the day may come that citizens will face a government attack on their freedom. The threat may also come from the anti-gun "puppet masters" at the U.N., who have long harbored plans to confiscate our guns and "reprogram" us.

Fortunately, "a determined people who have the means to maintain prolonged war against a modern army can battle it to a standstill." Well, then, pass the ammunition!



THE FEDERALIST PAPERS IN MODERN LANGUAGE

Mary E. Webster | Merril Press, 1999

Mary Webster is a mystery novelist and American Sign Language interpreter who enjoys quilting, painting, "polymer clay caning," and TV's Dr. Phil. She's also a fourth-cousin-five-times-removed of Noah and Daniel Webster — a credential she apparently believes crucial in qualifying her to write this mind-numbing book, purportedly a modern English "translation" of these 18th-century essays, which were originally produced by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay for the purpose of promoting the U.S. Constitution.

Webster, who describes herself as "the quintessential citizen editor," believes that other countries are jealous of the United States. "[N]o matter what the United States does, much of the world will always hate us," she wrote in a 2005 commentary after watching an episode of Dr. Phil that reminded her of the *Papers*. "We don't have to do something negative to elicit these feelings against us. As long as the US exists, other nations will hate us."



THE FLIPSIDE OF FEMINISM: WHAT CONSERVATIVE WOMEN KNOW — AND MEN CAN'T SAY

Suzanne Venker and Phyllis Schlafly | WND Books, 2011

These days, everyone's talking about the "war against women." Suzanne Venker

and her aunt Phyllis Schlafly (founder of the ultraconservative Eagle Forum) know who's behind it: Feminists — who are also, as it happens, behind a war on men, capitalism, and human nature itself.

"When women usurp men's role in society, as they do now, it messes up the order of things," Venker and Schlafly proclaim. What's more, "[f]eminism is a branch of socialism ... which draws on a sociopolitical movement that attempts to create a stateless society in which policy decisions are pursued in the (supposed) best interests of society." In pursuit of its radical agenda, the "female left" has destroyed the institution of marriage, emasculated men, and created a generation of neurotic children.

It's not too late to reverse the trend, but to do so, "[w]e must stop talking about women's rights, women's needs, women's problems, and progress for women." Women must return to the home, stop trying to "make fathers and husbands irrelevant," and — most importantly — recognize that the only people they are victims of are the feminists themselves.



THE HARBINGER: THE ANCIENT MYSTERY THAT HOLDS THE SECRET OF AMERICA'S FUTURE

Jonathan Cahn | FrontLine, 2012

America is suffering from "a strangely intolerant tolerance" "for everything opposed to God," in which "[c]hildren [are] taught of sexual immorality in public schools while the Word of God [is] banned."

That's why Lehman Brothers collapsed exactly seven "biblical years" after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks on the World Trade Center — or so says author Jonathan Cahn, a Messianic Jew who is "known for opening up the deep mysteries of Scripture and for teachings of prophetic import."

To learn the details of how "Paleo-Hebrew engravings" foretell America's fate and how the country can redeem itself, read *The Harbinger* today!

HELP! MOM! HOLLYWOOD'S IN MY HAMPER!



Katherine DeBrecht | World Ahead Publishing, 2006
Sisters Janie and Sam

plan to use their babysitting money to buy new bikes — until Hollywood stars show up and tell them to spend it on new clothes and luxuries. Soon, the girls are up to their elbows in onion-scented perfume and ballots for Congresswoman Clunkton of the Liberaland Socialist Party. They even consider a switch to Toenailology, religion of the stars! Can common sense prevail, or will Hollywood brainwash the girls forever?

HELP! MOM! THE 9TH CIRCUIT NABBED THE NATIVITY! (OR, HOW THE LIBERALS STOLE CHRISTMAS)



Katherine DeBrecht | World Ahead Publishing, 2006

"Christmas may seem like a wonderful celebration to you, but not to us liberals!" says Senator Weary. "To us, it represents a *religion* with *values* and *morals*. Surely your teacher taught you that values and morals interfere with the way we liberals like to run things." With that pronouncement, it looks like there'll be no Christmas Pageant for Miss Bardin's third grade class this year — until mysterious Justice Thompson shows up to save the day!

HELP! MOM! THERE ARE LIBERALS UNDER MY BED!



Katherine DeBrecht | World Ahead Publishing, 2005

Tommy and Lou want a swing set. They know they'll be "better people" if they earn the money themselves, so they set up a lemonade stand. Everything's going great for the two young capitalists — until liberals show up demanding a share of earnings, force the boys to take down their picture of Jesus, and try to nationalize the stand. To find out how the boys get out of this mess, read the book Grover Norquist calls "ingenious" for its insight into "the threat that taxes pose to the American Dream."



THE LATE GREAT USA: NAFTA, THE NORTH AMERICAN UNION, AND THE THREAT OF A COMING MERGER WITH MEXICO AND CANADA

Jerome Corsi | WND Books, 2007

Though he's best known as chief propagandist of the anti-Obama "birther" movement, WND Senior Writer Jerome Corsi is a man of many interests. One of these is the so-called "North American Union," a classic antigovernment conspiracy theory outlining a supposed plan to merge Canada, Mexico, and the United States into a single country. National currencies will be replaced by the "Amero"; immigrants will flood unchecked over our (former) borders; and a "NAFTA Superhighway" catering to corporate globalist powers will be constructed across our formerly independent country.

A "shadow government" is poised to take power — by means of "an executive branch coup d'etat," if necessary — so Americans seeking to save their country from doom must act now. "At stake is nothing less than the continuance of an economically strong and politically sovereign United States that we cherish for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come."



MARX & SATAN

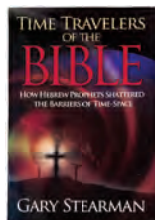
Richard Wurmbrand | Crossway Books, 1986

A slim volume can pack a powerful punch, and Richard Wurmbrand's 143-page, *Marx and Satan* is no exception. Described by WND founder Joseph Farah as "a book that changed my life and worldview," *Marx and Satan* draws on poetry Marx wrote as a young man to prove that the author of *Das Kapital* "received the rights of initiation" of a "secret Satanist church" and became the Devil's "elect servant."

According to Wurmbrand, a Jewish convert to Christianity who was imprisoned and tortured in Romania, Lenin was also "dominated by Satanist ideology." So were Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, Kim Il-Sung, and former Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

"Marxism is not an ordinary sinful human ideology. It is Satanic in its manner of sinning," Wurmbrand's book concludes. "Marxism is a church. ... [I]ts god is not named in its popular literature. But, as seen by the proofs given in this book, Satan is obviously its god."

Obviously.



**TIME TRAVELERS
OF THE BIBLE: HOW
HEBREW PROPHETS
SHATTERED THE
BARRIERS OF
TIME-SPACE**

Gary Stearman |
Defender, 2011

In the late 1960s, while piloting a routine flight from Dallas to Lubbock, Texas, Gary Stearman encountered a UFO, which “probed” him with “waves of energy” and “opened [his] mind to the absolute reality of beings who have what appears to be a technology that’s eons ahead of ours.”

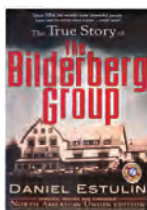
In *Time Travelers of the Bible*, Stearman reveals that the beings he mistook for aliens were, in fact, divine in origin – angels or demons (he’s not sure which) who became momentarily visible through a transdimensional portal that must have opened just as he was flying by.

Such entities have traveled between dimensions for millennia, Stearman says. Intent on destroying God’s plan, demonic “Sons of God” have for millennia attempted to “tilt the minds of human leaders toward the cause of Satan,” at times even taking human brides to produce half-demonic offspring, including the Greek gods Zeus and Apollo. The Flood wiped out the first generation of their spawn, Stearman says, but now — as prophesied by time travelers like Adam, Moses, Jesus and John — they’re back and gaining strength.

When the Tribulation comes, God’s chosen will be taken to Heaven (which is actually a cube-shaped “mobile city” from a parallel universe, “capable of navigating time-space in the dimensions between heaven and earth”). Those who remain will be ruled by Satan and his minions, who even now wait in Hades, a cavernous realm beneath the earth’s surface which is accessible only to shamans and occultists capable of “popping through” the “dimensional door in time-space” that protects coal miners and others whose work takes them beneath the earth’s surface from accidental encounters with the underworld.

Confused? You won’t be after reading Stearman’s book, which, according to prophecy expert Thomas Horn, “is not just a key, but *the* key to understanding the elusive scientific and supernatural wisdom surrounding a Grand Universal Theory of

Everything that just happens to be located at a pivotal ‘center of the symmetry of time’ at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.”



**THE TRUE STORY
OF THE BILDERBERG
GROUP (North American
Union Edition)**

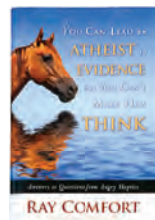
Daniel Estulin | TrineDay,
2009

If a shadowy cabal of the world’s most powerful people were well on its way to establishing a New World Order in which “world citizens” would be subject to “total enslavement” through mind-control and orchestrated chaos, wouldn’t you want to know about it? Thanks to the courageous work of “investigative journalist” Daniel Estulin, a self-declared “non-conformist” who compares himself to Galileo and says he’s “the vehicle of the collective psyche of a society whose natural instinct spells *freedom*,” you can.

The Bilderberg Group, a secretive organization whose fluctuating membership includes some of the world’s most powerful men and women, has long been a target of antigovernment conspiracy theorists across the globe. According to Estulin, its agents have attained nearly total control of the U.S. government. They decide who will sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, they run the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and they have “made a secret commitment to surrender irrevocably to the United Nations the means of protecting [America’s] national sovereignty,” in part by confiscating all privately owned weapons and interning dissidents like himself in “Guantanamo-like concentration camps.”

Estulin, who claims that familial ties to the KGB have given him privileged access to intelligence agencies across the globe, says he was introduced to these terrible secrets in 1992 by a former KGB/MI5 double agent nicknamed “Vladimir.” Drawing on alleged leaks from an international network of unnamed “conscientious objectors” within the Bilderberg Group and its various offshoots, articles from *Spotlight* and *American Free Press* (both founded by notorious anti-Semite and Holocaust denier Willis Carto, a detail Estulin glosses over with an oblique note that the papers are “of dubious agendas”), and his own “research,” Estulin warns against complacency and urges his readers to think for themselves.

“I am attempting to rip the mask off the New World Order and show it for what it is,” he writes. “There are many sources and documents in this book which can corroborate at least a good number of the facts, and which will leave, I hope, an intelligent reader wondering if there is more to all of this than might seem plausible.”



**YOU CAN LEAD AN
ATHEIST TO EVIDENCE,
BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE
HIM THINK**

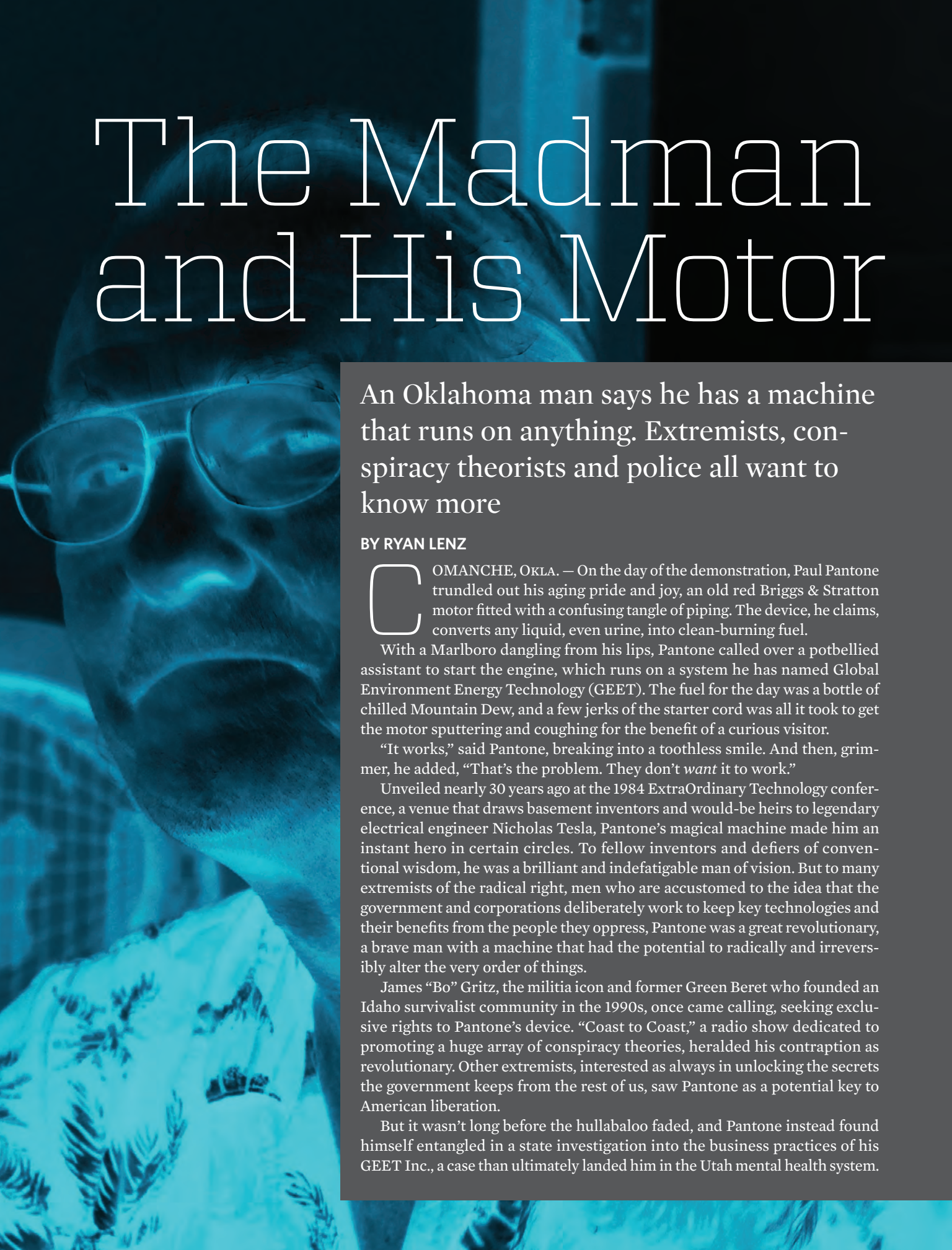
Ray Comfort | WND
Books, 2009

Evolution is a “brainless and unproven theory that comes from the imaginations of sinful men” and “any evolutionary believer (especially an atheist) speaking on behalf of science is like Jeffrey Dahmer speaking on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America.” So says Ray Comfort in *You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence, But You Can't Make Him Think*, released the same year that Comfort partnered with teen heartthrob-turned-Christian nationalist Kirk Cameron to produce a 150th anniversary edition of Darwin’s *Origin of Species* with a 50-page creationist introduction.

In a 2006 video featuring Cameron, Comfort used the morphology of the “modern banana” to demonstrate exactly the kind of irrefutable evidence of God’s existence that this book is full of. “Notice how gracefully it sits over the human hand. Notice it has a point at the end for ease of entry. It’s just the right shape for the human mouth. ... It’s even curved toward the face to make the whole process so much easier. Seriously, Kirk, the whole of Creation testifies to the genius of God.”

Chock-full of arguments like these (for instance, the winning, “Either no one created everything out of nothing, or Someone — an intelligent, omnipotent, eternal First Cause — created everything out of nothing. Which makes more sense?”) — plus a few digs at the Catholic Church for good measure — *You Can Lead an Atheist to Evidence* will delight your Christian friends and confound your atheist ones (assuming you can tolerate those people!). Run, don’t walk, to your nearest bookstore to pick up a copy today! ▲

— Leah Nelson



The Madman and His Motor

An Oklahoma man says he has a machine that runs on anything. Extremists, conspiracy theorists and police all want to know more

BY RYAN LENZ

COMANCHE, OKLA. — On the day of the demonstration, Paul Pantone trundled out his aging pride and joy, an old red Briggs & Stratton motor fitted with a confusing tangle of piping. The device, he claims, converts any liquid, even urine, into clean-burning fuel.

With a Marlboro dangling from his lips, Pantone called over a potbellied assistant to start the engine, which runs on a system he has named Global Environment Energy Technology (GEET). The fuel for the day was a bottle of chilled Mountain Dew, and a few jerks of the starter cord was all it took to get the motor sputtering and coughing for the benefit of a curious visitor.

“It works,” said Pantone, breaking into a toothless smile. And then, grimmer, he added, “That’s the problem. They don’t *want* it to work.”

Unveiled nearly 30 years ago at the 1984 ExtraOrdinary Technology conference, a venue that draws basement inventors and would-be heirs to legendary electrical engineer Nicholas Tesla, Pantone’s magical machine made him an instant hero in certain circles. To fellow inventors and defiers of conventional wisdom, he was a brilliant and indefatigable man of vision. But to many extremists of the radical right, men who are accustomed to the idea that the government and corporations deliberately work to keep key technologies and their benefits from the people they oppress, Pantone was a great revolutionary, a brave man with a machine that had the potential to radically and irreversibly alter the very order of things.

James “Bo” Gritz, the militia icon and former Green Beret who founded an Idaho survivalist community in the 1990s, once came calling, seeking exclusive rights to Pantone’s device. “Coast to Coast,” a radio show dedicated to promoting a huge array of conspiracy theories, heralded his contraption as revolutionary. Other extremists, interested as always in unlocking the secrets the government keeps from the rest of us, saw Pantone as a potential key to American liberation.

But it wasn’t long before the hullabaloo faded, and Pantone instead found himself entangled in a state investigation into the business practices of his GEET Inc., a case that ultimately landed him in the Utah mental health system.

Magical mystery machine: To its enthusiasts, it could alter the very order of things. To a key detractor, Utah fraud prosecutor Richard Hamp, claims about the contraption are “pure, unadulterated nonsense.”

Now, three decades since the creation of GEET and three years after he was released from a Utah hospital where supporters claim he was “railroaded,” Pantone has reappeared in Oklahoma with a recharged vision for his product. He has built a sprawling compound where he offers to teach paying customers the secrets of his GEET technology, and a stream of outsiders have been making their way there to study at his feet. At the same time, while he has local supporters, rumors abound in surrounding communities that his home is fitted with secret passages and even, some say, a sort of lookout tower said to be fitted with shooting ports.

It’s those kinds of stories, along with questions about whether Pantone is again attracting the politically extreme, that have some locals, along with Stephens County Sheriff Wayne McKinney, unsettled. “It’s raised some concerns with the neighbors,” McKinney told the *Intelligence Report*. “We certainly have been keeping an eye on him.”

Mr. Pantone’s Brain

The American radical right has long been fixated on secret technologies and machines that the government allegedly either keeps from the people or, as they claim, uses against them in its nefarious efforts to crush freedom. One of the most popular far-right theories, for instance, is the idea that colloidal silver, which was used in nose drops almost a century ago, is a surefire cure for more than 650 diseases. (It isn’t, and in fact the material, if ingested, has long been known to rapidly turn human skin a cadaverous grayish blue.) Other remedies supposedly held back by a heartless government include blueberry enemas and laetrile, a substance derived from apricot pits that some people insist can cure cancer.

Similarly, many right-wing extremists believe the government has developed



secret weapons, typically sounding a lot like sci-fi rayguns, that it uses against its enemies. Many warn about the black helicopters supposedly used to track and harass American dissidents. Some say there is a secret weather machine hidden away underneath the city of Brussels, Belgium, that is being used to destroy American farmers, while still others



What, me worry? Paul Pantone knows his claims — and his friends — have caused a stir, but he laughs off his neighbors’ concerns. Still, he will allow, “Something is coming down the pipe.”

insist that officials are secretly implanting microchips into citizens’ bodies in order to track and control them.

And then there is GEET.

Billed as an “endothermic reactor,” GEET is a “compact plasma fuel refinery that renders just about any liquid into usable and highly volatile fuel” through the cultivation of “electro-magnetic and other energy fields,” as Pantone once wrote. Despite that “explanation,” the origins of the GEET system are clouded in a fantastic tale that even some of Pantone’s supporters have questioned.

According to the story he told dozens of news outlets, the technology behind GEET was given to him in 1975, while he worked as a carpenter, by a mysterious woman named “Mrs. Cunningham,” who he believes was an angel. Such claims — along with even wilder ones he made off the record to the *Report* — inevitably led to serious scrutiny of Pantone and his assertions.

In 2005, as Pantone was living in Salt Lake City enjoying widespread pop-

ularity as a rising star at conspiracy conferences, the state of Utah charged him with two counts of securities fraud relating to allegedly ripping off investors for more than \$200,000.

Richard Hamp, an assistant attorney general in the Utah Attorney General's office who prosecuted the case, told the *Report* that Pantone's claims about his engine were "pure, unadulterated nonsense" — the crackpot notions of a "fraud" looking to get rich quick. The engine, for all its apparent mysteries, was really running on re-circulated gasoline left in its fuel lines or still unburned in its exhaust, he said.

Pantone's trial was a "zoo," Hamp said, with supporters picketing the courthouse and challenging the proceedings as a witch hunt meant to tar the inventor who dared to challenge the status quo. All of that didn't amount to much, however, as Pantone was convicted of two counts of securities fraud.

But as sentencing neared, Pantone began an odd series of legal maneuvers.

Following the advice of supporters, he asked Judge Royal Hansen of the Third District Court in Utah, to excuse him from sentencing, claiming he was mentally incompetent and unable to understand the nature of the proceedings. He missed court appearances, his physical appearance suffered, and his behavior became erratic. Hansen ordered a barrage of mental examinations, ultimately determining what, for most, was already utterly apparent.

"Much to Mr. Pantone's chagrin," Hamp said, "he *is* crazy"

According to one evaluation obtained in 2007 by the *Salt Lake Weekly*, psychiatrists found that Pantone "exhibit[ed] grandiose and persecutory delusions, complicated by a personality disorder and a history of substance abuse." He was sent to the Utah State Hospital, a mental health facility in Provo, where he was held for three years pending being judged competent to undergo sentencing.

Meanwhile, Pantone and his many supporters claimed that he was being tortured as part of a multinational corporate plot to discredit his invention. He was diagnosed with hepatitis C, skin rashes and infected gums. His teeth were rotten. His home-grown support network, the Paul Pantone

Defense Project (PPDP), began advocating for Pantone's immediate release amid charges of "inventor abuse."

"As we go to press, Paul Pantone, the developer of GEET, struggles as a prisoner railroaded into a mental ward of the State Hospital at Provo, Utah," George Gabouri, president of the Tesla Society in San Francisco, wrote in 2006 for the society's journal, *ExtraOrdinary Technology*. "Some of Paul's teeth are broken in half. Some have fallen out. His mouth is swollen. He has bleeding skin sores contracted from other patients. ... Every day is a new battle."

Indeed, photographs of Pantone from that time show his physical appearance radically changed. Gone was the handsome inventor once championed in the underground as the next Bill Gates; in his place was a man who seemingly aged decades in a short while. In one photo, his mouth is agape to show teeth ground to nubs. Others show toes curled and broken, his buttocks raw with a rash.

Ultimately, the state agreed to let Pantone leave the mental health facility without serving any jail time — he had been in the hospital for more time than any sentence he would have received anyway. But he emerged a bitter man.

"He thought that Utah had conspired to do this stuff to him," Hamp recalled. But, in reality, he added, "We fixed his teeth. We fixed his feet. All in all, Utah taxpayers spent a lot of money on Mr. Pantone. One thing we didn't fix is his brain. He wouldn't let us fix that, and we got tired of messing with it."

Free at Last

On May 12, 2009, a website called GEET Friends posted the news. "Paul Pantone is FREE," the article read. "He is cheerfully recovering from the physical damages inflicted on him and is finally receiving treatment." Supporters wasted no time declaring Pantone "an American hero who has survived horrific inventor abuse by corrupt Utah officials and businessmen." And Pantone, for his part, wasted no time starting anew. He left Utah for Stephens County, Okla., where a friend had parceled off several acres on which he could build a home.

He was angry and defiant, according to many accounts, and came to Oklahoma

"There is no question Paul is eccentric. Whatever is going on with him internally, it seems to be there is something viable going on with the technology."

to rebuild, away from the corruption he felt he had been subjected to. It was here, according to law enforcement officers, that Pantone began to take on the personality of an embattled hermit.

This April, at a gas station outside of Comanche, a woman waiting in a line of farmers buying breakfast gave directions to Pantone's home. It wasn't far, she said, adding in a whisper, "He's a genius." Even with such support, though, Pantone shows signs of paranoia. On a corner outside the gas station, a man wearing a nondescript security guard-type uniform and wearing a holstered revolver — later confirmed to be Pantone's security guard — quietly sipped coffee from a Styrofoam cup as he scanned the scene.

Pantone's compound is about three miles off the blacktop down a narrow country road. A large edifice totaling 6,800 square feet but with only two bedrooms, the building doesn't look like a farmhouse. In fact, it is reminiscent of Mt. Carmel, the ill-fated, dorm-like Branch Davidian main building in Waco, Tex., where cultist David Koresh held sway. A tower-like gable rises from the middle of the roof to form what sheriff's deputies say could be used as a shooting position.

Pantone, who claims to own no guns, laughed at the implication that he is readying for a standoff. But he does boast of having created 180 inventions, including some that sound anything but benign. "One is how to turn water into a detonation device," Pantone told the *Report*. "I could level a jail cell with six ounces of water."

Yet when confronted with law enforcement concerns about his activities and house, he laughed and offered a tour of the home he shares with his



half-brother to dispel worries born amid small-town coffee talk.

The building is sparsely furnished. Its living room is large with a few flat-screen televisions and a black leather sectional couch. The walls of an office adjacent to the living room are covered in odd décor, including a photograph of a man riding a motorcycle outfitted to look like a naked woman on her hands and knees. The kitchen floor is painted to look like marble tile, and Pantone's bedroom is kept like a monk's quarters. As for the tower in the middle of the structure — one of many features of the building that appear oddly out of place — Pantone said it was simply a storage area.

"Would you like to see?" he said, cracking a door on carpeted stairs rising toward the next level. Then, without explanation, he closed it again. "We shouldn't go up there," he said with a laugh. "We've got a bit of a wasp infestation."

'You Better Be Ready'

It would be easy to dismiss Pantone's tale as a kooky story, the bizarre but unimportant case of a man living out his life in seclusion except for occasional contact with the extreme right. Or you could

The tinkerer: Paul Pantone's claims aren't limited to machines that can run on any liquid at all. He also says he could "level a jail cell with six ounces of water."

see him as his followers do: an ostracized visionary and a brilliant man victimized by a conspiratorial web of industrial interests hell-bent on destroying him.

The Sheriff's Office is careful to stress that Pantone has not been accused of breaking any laws. Pantone himself says that he has distanced himself from extremist elements who once came calling because of his invention. However, there still are legitimate concerns, law enforcement officials say.

In recent months, Pantone has been involved in an ongoing, increasingly volatile, feud with a neighbor, Forrest Pitman. The two have argued over property, with 911 records indicating that the confrontations have edged closer to violence. Pittman did not return phone messages seeking comment, but Pantone has told authorities that Pittman has repeatedly harassed him with weapons.

What comes of Pantone, in many ways then, remains to be seen. His supporters dismiss questions and worries surround-

ing Pantone as the byproduct of years of persecution; though even they note his behavior has changed.

"There is no question Paul is eccentric. ... [But] whatever is going on with him internally, it seems to be there is something viable going on with the technology," said Gabouri, the Tesla Society president.

He added: "Paul is just trying to make sure he doesn't get backed into a corner again."

After years of struggling to develop a viable business model to make money from his GEET technology, Pantone announced this May that he planned to open "schools" beyond the classes he offers at his home compound. He claims that some schools — by which he apparently does not mean brick-and-mortar buildings, but rather simple gatherings of hobbyists in a garage or a basement to tinker with small motors — already exist in Brazil, Israel and Pakistan.

The base of operations will be from Pantone's home in Oklahoma, where the inventor has set himself tirelessly against the known world, joined by a new breed of students who come with worries and fears regarding the economy, the environment and, yes, the government.

It's impossible to say if the worries about Pantone are valid. But what is indisputable is that he represents a phenomenon quite common on the American radical right — the intersection of self-described inventors and creators of alternative technologies with those who despise the government for political reasons, sometimes to the point of violence. Once one believes the government is conspiring against them because they know key scientific secrets, it's often not a far leap to believing that action against that oppressive government is needed.

Pantone didn't explicitly address the ideas and concerns of antigovernment radicals in his interview with the *Report*. But when he speaks, he does seem to suggest that something big, and perhaps scary, is coming.

"[My students] know that something is coming down the pipe. They know that power is going out sooner or later," Pantone said, pausing for a brief moment for effect. "And when it does, you better be ready." ▲



Greensboro, N.C., detectives Kory Flowers (left) and Rob Finch say police aren't the only ones who need training in dealing with "sovereign" extremists — so do court officials and many others.

Dealing with 'Sovereigns'

Faced with skyrocketing threats and 'paper terrorism,' two North Carolina detectives have built a training program for officers

Detectives **Kory Flowers** and **Rob Finch** of the Greensboro, N.C., Police Intelligence Squad were both involved in tracking white supremacists when, a couple of years ago, a new threat started to show up on their radar. After receiving phone calls from several officers whose routine traffic duties had brought them into contact with hostile drivers spouting bizarre nonsense about being exempt from U.S. laws, the detectives realized their county had become a destination for “sovereign citizens” — particularly self-proclaimed followers of Noble Drew Ali, a black separatist from the early 20th century whose “Moorish” ideology has been selectively adopted by many sovereigns.

Determined to protect their county against the avalanche of fraudulent property liens and other baseless paperwork (“paper terrorism”) sovereigns were filing against public officials they felt had wronged them, Flowers and Finch developed a comprehensive training system whose purpose was to arm officials with the information they need to combat the problem. The detectives, who have spent hundreds of hours interviewing sovereign ideologues, emphasize that it is not only police that need training, but clerks of court, registrars of deeds, district attorneys, judges, fire inspectors, and other public officials involved in enforcement.

The effort by Flowers and Finch comes as the number of sovereigns expands rapidly along with the larger antigovernment “Patriot” movement. The Southern Poverty Law Center has estimated that there are some 100,000 hardcore sovereigns operating in the United States, along with an estimated 200,000 more people who are dabbling in its bogus legal techniques. The number of Patriot groups, including sovereign organizations, has exploded in the last three years, from 149 in 2008 to 1,274 last year. The ideology, which was birthed by white supremacist groups and originally said only white Americans could be sovereigns, has expanded rapidly in recent years in the black community, typically among the black nationalist so-called Moorish groups, as well as in many other populations.

The Intelligence Report spoke with Flowers and Finch about what they’ve seen, what they teach, and what steps they think are needed to manage the problem.

Was there a specific incident that prompted you to look into the ‘sovereign’ movement?

KORY FLOWERS: We had two different traffic stops where our guys stopped sovereigns, and then minutes later other sovereigns were showing up and handing them documentation and talking about suing our officers, talking about immunity and aboriginal rights and various things. Our [officers], while they weren’t completely ignorant, were just overwhelmed, and they contacted us in the Intelligence Unit, hoping we had answers for them.

ROB FINCH: Then a couple of our guys got sued. We caught two different lawsuits in excess of \$70 million each where the sovereign sued the officer, sued the officer’s direct supervisor, the police department, the police chief and the city of Greensboro. That caught the attention of some of our administrators who were beginning to pay attention, and really drove home our resolve to get dialed in on this movement and create some training to keep officers safe.

And you train police officers for the most part?

FINCH: Law enforcement is only one piece of this entire puzzle. If you don’t have the other elements of the criminal justice system or of government as a whole, up to speed, these guys are going to still be effective with their paper terrorism tactics.

So we started training the registrar of deeds, the clerks of court, our district court and Superior Court judges, our assistant district attorneys. We even trained defense attorneys so they would understand, you know, this is not just a crazy person who they are representing, [that] this is actually somebody who believes that the government is illegitimate and this is why they believe that.

We are to the point now where if sovereigns decide they want to file a fraudulent lien against an officer or anybody in law enforcement or the criminal justice system or city government, or file a lawsuit, that information is brought to us immediately. In Guilford County, if a sovereign comes in the registrar of deeds’ office to file any type of sovereign paperwork, whether it’s a lien,



lawsuit or an affidavit renouncing their citizenship, we will get that information typically within 20 or 25 minutes of that sovereign leaving the office. And that allows us to be preemptive with the liens and the lawsuits that they are trying to file against judicial officials, our patrol guys, or anybody in the criminal justice system, because then we can take that information to the district attorney's office [where it's decided] whether to prosecute, and we can bring it to the city attorneys and make sure they can [seek] summary judgments dismissing those lawsuits. So it's made the process quicker and it's allowed us to be proactive instead of being reactive to it.

What do you do when you realize that someone who filed a lien is a sovereign?

FINCH: We go ahead and send them a

letter from the Intelligence Squad saying that it's come to our attention that you recently attempted to file "sovereign" paperwork, and [this is] basically just to advise you that none of that is legitimate.

Do they respond?

FINCH: [Sometimes] we get phone calls from some of these folks that literally were duped. We have actually unconverted a couple of up-and-coming sovereigns, "amateur" sovereigns, I guess you can call them.

Our police attorney is a very proactive guy. He also sends a letter on behalf of the city legal department saying, "Just so you know, if you do ever anticipate filing a lawsuit or false lien on any of our officers, we advise you already we will countersue." That's been the position of our police attorney since he came in

six months ago or so. It's been very, very persuasive.

FLOWERS: We insulated our county, I think, as best you can. We train everybody from parking enforcement to meter-reading folk who will see the tags and contact us immediately. We [also] trained our dispatchers to pick up some of these buzzwords so they can then notify the officer to be aware on calls for service or traffic stops, and we've trained all levels of our command staff. It's been a pretty big net we have thrown out, which has been very effective.

How do you collect information about sovereigns?

FLOWERS: We go out after our patrol guys run into [them, or] after we get an E-mail from a parking guy or the registrar of deeds, and we talk to these folks in a very congenial, nonaggressive manner — basically, telling them that we want to understand their political and ideological stance in order to train up our folks. We spend hours sitting down at sovereign kitchen tables and on their couches, in their backyards sipping lemonade. And they'll just talk to us. A lot of them haven't had anybody that would spend the time to listen to them. They will tell us everything we need to know in order to predict their behavior the next time they're run into by officers.

We have infiltrated some of their meetings in an undercover capacity also. But a lot of our best intelligence is just very overt intelligence gathering, just questions and answers.

Can you talk a little more about the nature of the movement in your area?

FINCH: The Washitaw Nation and the Moorish Nation [both predominantly black groups], those are our most prominent and dominant sovereign groups in North Carolina as a whole.

You hear [references to] Timothy Drew [who is also known as Noble Drew Ali]. He started the Moorish Science Temple in New Jersey, but he's originally from North Carolina. As with any movement, folks always want to flock to the homeland.

How are people getting into the movement to begin with?

FINCH: Kory and I believe that a lot of

these black sovereigns are getting indoctrinated in the prison system in New Jersey, and elsewhere, on a very basic level. Because there is such a large contingency of black sovereigns in this area, they can come down here and already have that sovereign support system in place. So there's a huge influx of New Jersey folks coming to North Carolina — that's why the movement is growing daily.

FLOWERS: When we identify a new Moorish apartment building a lot of times, we go do surveillance there and we notice there's an overwhelming number of New Jersey tags. And some of our partners from New Jersey say that they've noticed a lot of North Carolina tags amongst the New Jersey Moors. So it's not coincidental.

Do you have any sense of how many sovereigns are in your area?

FINCH: In just this center part of North Carolina, I would be comfortable with a conservative number of around 300. And I think there's more. I think that for every one that Kory and I go out and interview and identify, there are probably three or four more that just got indoctrinated and haven't yet had a law enforcement encounter.

And they're all active — filing liens, confronting officers and so forth?

FLOWERS: They're on a continuum. Sixty to 70% of them are not going to be combative. They're not going to sue officers, they are just going to give us lip service and give the standard paperwork. And then you've got the others, 25-30% that are going to actively resist arrest, fight officers, sue officers.

We try to identify the threat level of each one. We try not to just make a blanket statement, "Sovereign equals danger," [as in] physically dangerous, because a lot of them are not. We hope to dissuade a lot of them before they kind of get to that point.

Has there been any violence?

FINCH: What we have been dealing with is your roadside traffic stop where [individuals] are resisting, they are actively fighting, they are trying to hurt the cop on the side of the road. But we haven't had any large organized group of

sovereigns try to harm anybody.

FLOWERS: We had a couple sovereigns that climbed up on furniture in court and yelled at judges, thrown paperwork toward the judge, to the point where they would have to get tased multiple times, double-restrained and dragged out of court. They just don't play by the same rules as even our most hardcore, run-of-the-mill criminals. Run-of-the-mill criminals, even if they are real badasses, they don't yell at the judges, and throw stuff at judges. These guys are just a different breed. Their mindset is totally different.

FINCH: We have had a couple of our white sovereigns and a couple of our black sovereigns threaten district court and Superior Court judges verbally and with letters. Not actually saying, "I'm going to kill you," but "I don't respect

your authority. You have no authority as a judicial official and harm is going to come to you." And we have had a couple situations of harassment where they have constantly sent E-mails and letters to a couple of judges' houses. We have had to go out and investigate and do threat assessments on those folks.

How much of a threat is this to law enforcement and other officials in your area?

FINCH: I don't think it's the No. 1 violent threat, but it's definitely the most intrusive threat to law enforcement, because of paper terrorism and the associated paperwork.

FLOWERS: It's much more intimidating and corrosive than threats of physical violence. You know, our guys, they aren't afraid of bullets and knives — but the idea of losing their house, losing their liveli-



“We insulated our county, I think, as best you can. It’s been a pretty big net we have thrown out, which has been very effective.”

hood; it's propagated because it's worked. We get calls from officers who are discouraged from stopping sovereigns, because they know of their reputation.

Do you think the movement will fade away eventually?

FLOWERS: We don't believe that we will ever get rid of it, but we can definitely [affect] it. Word is getting out among the sovereign circles in the

Southeast that this is not the place to be. It's our hope to just move them. And if everybody else would just work to insulate their counties and states, then they will eventually run out of places to be.

We probably trained 5,000 cops or so in the last couple of years. We get calls pretty regularly after a training session [from officers who run into sovereigns], who tell us they handled the encounter safely because of the training. That's the

payoff for us — a big-time payoff.

Does North Carolina have a paper terrorism law?

FLOWERS: It's a misdemeanor right now to file a false lien, or a lien that has no merit whatsoever. It's a step above a heavy speeding ticket.

Rob had a meeting in March with the attorney general of North Carolina, just to sit down and talk about this, about what we can do to create more proactive laws to squash a lot of this stuff. [And] we ran a training session for the North Carolina governor's crime commission in November. They are intrigued and wanting to do something about it. Hopefully, North Carolina will be enacting some cutting edge legislation in the months to come.

Do you have a sense of how many fraudulent liens and other documents have been filed in your area?

FLOWERS: In every training we hold, classes of 40 to 50 guys, there will be eight or nine who are either currently being sued, have been sued or had had a lien put on their property. It's really thick.

FINCH: In North Carolina, the laws are so lax and there are so many loopholes that they could effectively threaten law enforcement and scare law enforcement away by filing these frivolous liens and lawsuits. And it's worked to a certain extent, you know, every 100 traffic stops on sovereign citizens, 10 or 15 are going to result in liens and lawsuits. Eventually, word gets around.

What steps should be taken to reverse this trend?

FINCH: The most effective thing to do is train and educate. Don't just keep the training in-house. Don't just train law enforcement. You have to train everybody from the courthouse personnel, all the way down to your parking enforcement folks.

FLOWERS: We even trained a bunch of fire inspectors, fire department building inspectors, because these guys are going into houses and running into sovereigns.

FINCH: If our guys feel comfortable and prepared when dealing with these guys then we have done our job, because then they will do their job safely and effectively. ▲

Three States Act to Shield Officials from 'Paper Terror' Tactics

For years, law enforcement agencies have been warning of the dangers of "paper terrorism," a common tactic of members of the so-called "sovereign citizens" movement, comprised of people who believe that they do not have to pay taxes or obey most laws. Paper terrorists typically attack perceived foes, many of them judicial or law enforcement officials, with fraudulent liens on their property and bogus lawsuits, creating financial and legal problems that can take years of effort and thousands of dollars to sort out, clogging the courts in the meantime.

During the first wave of the antigovernment "Patriot" movement in the 1990s, more than 25 states passed new laws or strengthened old ones to punish the filing of fraudulent liens and other paper terror tactics. Now, as the second wave of the Patriot movement continues the explosive growth that began in 2009, states are again beginning to act. According to the National Council of State Legislatures, three states passed laws this spring creating or strengthening penalties for the filing of unjustified property liens for the purpose of harassing public officials.

A new **Alabama** law makes it a misdemeanor to record a fraudulent lien or other instrument, with the crime becoming a felony if the documents are filed with the intent to "defraud, intimidate or harass" a public servant. The law also creates a process by the office that recorded the instrument to administratively nullify or expunge it from the record once it is determined to be fraudulent.

In **Georgia**, a new law makes filing false liens against public officials a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Developed at the request of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), and written and sponsored by Republican state Rep. B.J. Pak, the law in its current form protects public officials only. But GBI spokesman John Bankhead says that Pak — an accomplished attorney who was himself once the victim of a fraudulent lien — hopes next year to expand it to protect private citizens and to look into developing language that would allow recording clerks to reject such documents in the first place.

Louisiana's law criminalizes filing false liens against law enforcement or court officers, but only "as retaliation against the officer for the performance of his official duties." Violation carries a fine of at least \$500 and/or imprisonment "with or without hard labor" for up to two years.

Legislators in Indiana and Wyoming also proposed bills that would have strengthened protections against bogus liens, but they were not passed before those states' spring legislative sessions adjourned. The Wyoming law would simply have slightly modified legislation that was already on the books as of 2010.

— Leah Nelson

FOR THE RECORD

INCIDENTS OF APPARENT HATE CRIMES AND HATE GROUP ACTIVITIES LISTED HERE ARE DRAWN primarily from media sources. These incidents include only a fraction of the approximately 195,000 reported and unreported hate crimes that a 2011 Bureau of Justice Statistics report estimated occurred annually between 2003 and 2009. This listing carries a selection of incidents from the second quarter of 2012. Any additional listings can be found on the Intelligence Project's website at www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-incidents.

ARIZONA

Phoenix • May 21, 2012

A homeless white man allegedly called a black man a racial slur and then stabbed the man during an ensuing confrontation.

Phoenix • May 22, 2012

Longtime white supremacist Dennis Mahon, 61, was sentenced to 40 years in prison for a 2004 bombing that wounded a black city official.

ARKANSAS

Little Rock • April 6, 2012

Gary Dodson, 33, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and three years of supervised release for his part in the January 2011 fire-bombing of an interracial couple's residence.

CALIFORNIA

Echo Park • May 21, 2012

A man and a woman allegedly made anti-gay remarks and stabbed two men they had seen earlier in a bar.

Los Angeles • June 29, 2012

A gay homeless man was allegedly beaten by a man who used anti-gay slurs.

Modesto • June 5, 2012

Nicholas Velasquez, 29, was charged with elder abuse and committing a hate crime after allegedly yelling "I hate white people" while punching a woman in a wheelchair.

Novato • May 16, 2012

A 17-year-old boy was charged with suspicion of criminal threats after he allegedly called a Latino woman racist names and threatened to kill her.

Oakland • April 29, 2012

Brandy Martell, a 37-year-old transgender woman, was fatally shot in a car parked in an area frequented by transgender women.

Sacramento • May 11, 2012

Two gay men who were holding

hands were beaten by two men, one of whom used anti-gay slurs.

Ukiah • May 19, 2012

Edward Steele, 22, was charged with suspicion of battery and committing a hate crime after he allegedly yelled anti-gay slurs and punched a man.

Visalia • May 12, 2012

Joseph Regalado, 21, and a teenage boy were arrested for allegedly making anti-gay remarks to a 18-year-old boy at a party and then stabbing him.

COLORADO

Berthoud • April 12, 2012

A black foreign exchange student from Germany allegedly was attacked by a group of white men who made racial comments.

Denver • April 30, 2012

A Moroccan man was allegedly beaten by two people who made racial remarks.

Greeley • May 5, 2012

A 24-year-old Army veteran was allegedly attacked in the restroom of a bar by two men who used anti-gay epithets.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington • April 21, 2012

Phillip M. Bushong, a 23-year-old Marine, was fatally stabbed allegedly by a fellow Marine who yelled an anti-gay slur. Michael Poth, 20, was charged with second-degree murder while armed.

Washington • June 26, 2012

A 16-year-old boy was allegedly stabbed by three people who yelled anti-gay slurs. Ali M. Jackson, Alvonica Jackson and Desmond Campbell were each charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

FLORIDA

St. Cloud • May 7, 2012

In a series of arrests that stretched over several days, 13 people connected to the rac-

ist skinhead group the American Front were charged in connection with illegal paramilitary trainings for what they saw as an upcoming race war and plans to cause disruptions at events in Orlando. The group's Florida leader, Marcus Faella, 39; his wife Patricia, 36; Mark McGowan, 29, Jennifer McGowan, 25; Diane Stevens, 28; Kent McLellan, 22; Paul Jackson, 25; Christopher Brooks, 27; Verlin C. Lewis, 40; Dustin Perry, 21; John Wyczlinski, 33; and Richard Stockdale, 23, were all charged with paramilitary training, attempting to shoot into an occupied dwelling and evidences of prejudices while committing offense. Brooks and Stockdale were also charged with possession of a weapon or ammunition by a convicted felon. Dylan Rettenmaier, 25, was charged with hate crimes and conspiracy.

GEORGIA

Atlanta • May 29, 2012

Dorian Moragne, 19, and Dareal Damare Williams, 18, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault, robbery and participation in gang activity after they beat a gay man outside a convenience store on Feb. 4.

IDAHO

Bayview • June 19, 2012

Self-proclaimed racist skinhead Daren Abbey, 29, was sentenced to up to five years in prison for threatening to stab a black man.

ILLINOIS

Crest Hill • June 3, 2012

A man allegedly yelled racial epithets at a black man in a convenience store then fired a BB gun outside, damaging a gas pump and shattering a window. Nicholas Tsantrizos, 22, was charged with aggravated battery, committing a hate crime, vandalism and disorderly conduct.

Joliet • May 30, 2012

Brian Moudry, 35, a former official in the white supremacist World Church of the Creator, was charged with arson, using fire to interfere with housing rights on the basis of race and using fire to commit another felony after he allegedly set fire in 2007 to the house of a black family while they slept.

Normal • April 21, 2012

A gay student at Illinois State University allegedly was attacked by a group of black men who yelled anti-gay slurs.

Oak Park • April 17, 2012

A white man was allegedly attacked by a black man who reportedly was upset about the February shooting death of an unarmed black Florida teen by a neighborhood watch volunteer. Alton Hayes III, 18, was charged with aggravated battery, a hate crime and robbery.

Oak Park • June 2, 2012

A gay nightclub was set afire and anti-gay remarks allegedly were written inside.

Skokie • June 25, 2012

A white couple was allegedly attacked by three black teens who yelled racist remarks at them.

INDIANA

Boonville • April 5, 2012

The residence of an interracial couple that has been the target of racially motivated vandalisms since 2010 was set afire.

KENTUCKY

Louisville • April 12, 2012

Cousins David Jenkins, 37, and Anthony Jenkins, 20, were charged with a federal hate crime after they allegedly lured a gay man into their truck in April 2011, took him to a state park and beat him. Alexis Leeann Jenkins and Mable Ashley Jenkins, both 19,

pled guilty to kidnapping and aiding others in causing bodily injury to a man because of his sexual orientation. Alexis Jenkins is the wife of Anthony Ray Jenkins and Mable Ashley Jenkins is his sister.

MICHIGAN

Dearborn • June 12, 2012

A storage building owned by the American Muslim Center was set afire and graffiti that included the word “Arabs” was found at the scene.

Grand Rapids • May 15, 2012

Eric Pierson was sentenced to nine months in jail for using racial slurs and pulling a knife on a black man in Solon Township in December 2011.

Novi • May 12, 2012

A lesbian couple’s residence was set afire and graffiti was written inside.

MINNESOTA

Bemidji • May 25, 2012

A cross bearing a racist message was burned at the residence of a white woman with two biracial children. Two men, 19 and 20, were charged with suspicion of making terroristic threats and use of an incendiary device.

New Independence • May 26, 2012

A gay man was allegedly assaulted at a party by a crowd of men after he was asked if he was homosexual. Two men, 18 and 19, were arrested.

Otsego • June 8, 2012

An interracial couple was allegedly confronted by a white man who used racial slurs. The couple also allegedly had their car tires slashed and residence burglarized.

NEVADA

Las Vegas • April 22, 2012

A gay man was allegedly assaulted after leaving a nightclub by a black man who shouted an anti-gay slur.

NEW JERSEY

Bass River • June 27, 2012

Nicholas Comis, 23, and Daniel Enders, 22, were sentenced to 270 days and 180 days in prison respectively for burning a cross

near a black family’s residence in 2011.

Jersey City • May 26, 2012

A gay man was attacked by a man and woman who yelled an anti-gay slur.

NEW YORK

Albany • April 25, 2012

James Hennessey, 59, was sentenced to one to three years in state prison for making more than 200 threatening and racist phone calls in 2010 to black people, people with black spouses and people who rented to black people.

Brooklyn • June 5, 2012

A 14-year-old boy was left blind in one eye after he was allegedly beaten at school by classmates who yelled anti-gay slurs at him.

Buffalo • April 10, 2012

Three teens allegedly smashed a window of a residence while yelling racial slurs. Wilfredo Vasquez, 17; Jamie Zawadzki, 19; and Alex Boivin, 18, were charged with aggravated harassment as a hate crime and criminal mischief.

Manhattan • April 6, 2012

An Indian man was allegedly beaten by two Asian men who called him an anti-Arabian epithet.

Mott Haven • June 6, 2012

Alejandro Gonzalez, a 19-year-old homeless man, allegedly slashed three Middle Eastern men with glass shards while claiming he was “fighting terrorism.”

Nyack • May 22, 2012

A Latino man was allegedly attacked by a black man who made anti-Latino remarks while wielding a baseball bat. Wendy Jean, 17, was charged with felony assault as a hate crime and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

OHIO

Columbus • April 26, 2012

Two men were allegedly beaten in a restaurant by two men who yelled anti-gay slurs.

OKLAHOMA

Tulsa • April 8, 2012

Two white men, Jake England, 19, and Alvin Watts, 33, were each charged with three counts of

first-degree murder, two counts of shooting with intent to kill and five counts of malicious harassment for allegedly fatally shooting three black men and wounding two others in a shooting spree in a predominantly black area of the city.

OREGON

Springfield • June 2, 2012

Matthew Robert Dean Booster, 22, was charged with felony intimidation after he and three other white youths allegedly chased a biracial teen down with his truck while yelling racial slurs and threatening the youth. Two boys, 16 and 17, and a 17-year-old girl were charged with second-degree intimidation.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bangor • May 30, 2012

David Ackley Jr., 22, pled guilty to aggravated assault and terroristic threats for beating a man and calling him racial epithets in December 2011. He was sentenced to one to two years in prison and four years of probation.

Stroud Township • June 2, 2012

Kevin Fahey, 47, was charged with three counts each of terroristic threats and ethnic intimidation after he allegedly threatened his neighbors with a shotgun and used racial slurs.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Florence • June 20, 2012

Chase McClary, 23, pleaded guilty to committing a federal hate crime for beating and slashing a black teen in 2010.

TENNESSEE

Chattanooga • April 13, 2012

James Smiley, 27, and Kyle Montgomery, 22, were each sentenced to one year in prison and three years of probation for launching mortar-style fireworks on black public housing residents in July 2011. Colton Partin, 22, was placed on six months of house arrest and 18 months of probation for his role in the incident.

Murfreesboro • June 21, 2012

Javier Correa was charged with interfering with the religious

freedom of members of a mosque by threatening to use force against them when he allegedly left a racist message threatening to bomb the building in 2011. Correa was also charged with threatening to use an explosive device.

TEXAS

Arlington • June 18, 2012

John Austin Cartwright, 17; Seth Stephen Hatcher and Daniel Sibley, both 18; and a 16-year-old girl were arrested for allegedly spray-painting racist and anti-gay graffiti on cars and property in a neighborhood earlier in the month. Later, Morgen Aubuchon, 18, was charged with felony graffiti for her alleged part in the incident.

Houston • April 16, 2012

Three white men, Charles Cannon, 26; Michael McLaughlin, 40; and Brian Kerstetter, 32, were convicted of a federal hate crime for using racial slurs while attacking a black man at a bus stop in 2011.

Plano • May 27, 2012

Two men allegedly yelled anti-gay slurs at two women who were holding hands and then beat a male friend who tried to defend the women.

VIRGINIA

Manassas • May 30, 2012

White supremacist Douglas Howard Story, 48, was charged with illegally obtaining a fully automatic AK-47 after suggesting President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder should be removed from office by violent means.

Roanoke • June 8, 2012

Former neo-Nazi leader William A. White was arrested in Playa Del Carmen, Mexico, for violating his supervised release after serving two and a half years in prison for making threats.

WASHINGTON

Harrah • June 28, 2012

Donald Dowell Gasperson was charged with malicious harassment for allegedly threatening his Mexican-American neighbors with a knife and calling them racial slurs. ▲

The Iceberg's Agenda

Running out of scary metaphors to describe LGBT advances, some on the religious right reach for more frightening stuff

BY RYAN LENZ

Elements of the anti-gay right have searched long and hard for logic to make condemnation of homosexuality resonate: Gay men are pedophiles, homosexuality causes God to send hurricanes to Florida and kill off blackbirds in Arkansas, and, perhaps most silly, the theory that an intricate LGBT plot — the so-called “radical homosexual agenda” — is on the verge of gutting Western civilization.

It doesn't stop there. Homophobes are certain that acceptance of same-sex marriage will destroy all marriage. Gender differences will dissolve. Straight children will go gay. The armed forces will collapse as gay men and lesbians turn hardened warriors into limp-wristed pantywaists. People will start marrying their children, their siblings, their dogs, even certain attractive cars.

But to their surprise, polls show that Americans increasingly aren't buying what the gay-bashers are selling. Something new, it seems, was needed.

And so the anti-gay movement this spring hit upon a new metaphor. The old lines of attack, apparently, weren't stirring up enough indignation to satisfy the professionally indignant, and the whole movement was in need of something big, a new way to frame homosexuality in properly terrifying terms — something like the treacherous iceberg that sank the Titanic, conveniently, 100 years ago.

That's right. The luxury ocean liner that collided with an iceberg and foundered on April 15, 1912, killing 1,514 people in one of the worst disasters in maritime history, has become the symbol of the season for some who have made it their mission to warn the rest of us of the Rainbow Peril at our doorsteps.

“The homosexual agenda,” Mathew Staver, president of the Liberty Counsel, declared in a recently produced Internet video, “is the moral iceberg.”



Produced by Truth in Action (TIA) Ministries, the video offers up a “Who’s Who” of anti-gay voices who collectively complain that a “radical homosexual agenda” is advancing at breakneck speed, “dulling our sense of righteousness and undermining the American family.” Against a backdrop of ominous seafaring images and towering frozen monoliths threatening a ship on rough seas, Staver warns that homosexuality is “the biggest threat ... in our lifetime to religious freedom and the fundamental values we share here in America.”

Michael Brown, the mustachioed pundit who has emerged as the anti-gay right's most credentialed intellectual, takes the metaphor one step further: “We’ve already hit the iceberg, and the ship is already going down.”

It shouldn't be all that surprising that TIA, formerly Coral Ridge Ministries, would take the centennial of the Titanic's sinking as one more opportunity to try to scare the bejeezus out of us. Earlier this year, the group did its level best to draw attention to the shocking fact that the Day of Silence, part of an anti-school-bullying campaign, coincided this year with Adolf Hitler's birthday.

Of course, Truth in Action is not alone in paying homage to the Titanic anni-

versary. Western civilization, facing the “moral iceberg” of the “homosexual agenda,” is headed straight for Davy Jones' locker — or so say some of the more hysterical anti-gay organizations.

All this year, history buffs have revisited the many facets and mysteries of the Titanic and its fateful maiden voyage. James Cameron recently released a 3-D version of his 1997 blockbuster movie “Titanic.”

And Vision Forum, considered one of the major purveyors of hard-right Christian home-schooling materials, held a “Titanic 100” event last April at the Lawrence Welk Resort in Branson, Mo. — complete with an “Edwardian Ladies Tea,” during which women wore period costumes as if they had been aboard the doomed vessel themselves. The event was meant to celebrate the men who went down with the ship in order to save women and children — or, more particularly, the family values that led them to act with such Old World chivalry.

One might ask if it isn't all just a little much. How many times can someone cry, “The ship is going down!” before starting to sound shrill — and a bit untethered from reality — when calm waters are all around?

The obvious answer: Just once. ▲

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