

# Computer Network Links Rightist Groups and Offers 'Enemy' List

By WAYNE KING

Special to The New York Times

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One list available from the computer, titled "Know Your Enemy," includes the addresses and telephone numbers of regional offices of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the offices of the Communist Party U.S.A. It also includes names and addresses of "race traitors" and "informers."

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## 'War' on the United States

The splinter group, calling itself by various names, including the Order and the Bruder Schweigen, German for the Silent Brotherhood, was identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as the organizational link for several heavily armed individuals who had "declared war" on the United States Government. The Silent Brotherhood maintains that the Government, which it refers to as the "ZOG," for Zionist Occupation Government, has been taken over by Jews, whom the group regards as descendants of Satan who should be exterminated.

The leader of the group, Robert J. Mathews, 31 years old, was killed in December after firing on Federal officers with a submachine gun from a

hideaway on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound, Wash. The house was ignited by illumination flares dropped from a helicopter. Mr. Mathews was sought in connection with the wounding of an F.B.I. agent in Seattle and the robbery of a Brink's armored car in northern California.

Federal investigators later determined that the California robbery, in which \$3.6 million was taken by a band of up to 17 men who sprayed the truck with an automatic weapon, was conducted to finance a "war" against the Government. The authorities ascribed the same motive to counterfeiting operations they said were conducted by other members of the group.

## The Network's Messages

In the wake of the incident at Whidbey Island, Richard Girnt Butler, head of the Aryan Nations, said Mr. Mathews and several other members of the Silent Brotherhood were "former members" of the Aryan Nations. Mr. Butler called Mr. Mathews "a hero."

One message on the Aryan Nations computer network warns: "The older and less active spokesmen for the fold and faith are being replaced by the young lions. These dragons of God have no time for pamphlets or speeches. They are the armed party which is being born out of the inability of white male youths to be heard."

Another entry is a courtroom statement of a California man convicted in 1982 for killing a 17-year-old who informed on right-wing activities.

The statement accuses the "Satanic society" of the United States of "murdering Christians like Gordon Kahl, who you burned in Nebuchadnezzar's oven because he would bow to your golden Babylonian God and pay your tribute to finance Israel."

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killing two Federal marshals, was an outspoken member of a tax-protest group. He was killed in June 1983 when a concrete bunker crammed with thousands of rounds of ammunition exploded in a gun battle with the Federal authorities. He shot and killed Sheriff Gene Matthews of Lawrence County, Ark., in that incident. Mr. Kahl attended Aryan Nations functions and has been cited as a "hero and martyr" by the group.

The Government's continuing investigation has expanded to at least six states.

## Weapons and a Point System

Investigators have already found caches of weapons, including explosives and automatic weapons, one of which was identified by ballistics experts as the one used to kill Mr. Berg, who taunted right-wing extremists on his radio show. The authorities also found literature detailing a "point system" to achieve status by killing Federal officials, blacks and Jews.

The Federal authorities have also discovered the names of public officials and others viewed as enemies by rightists.

Late last month, for example, the F.B.I. notified Lieut. Gov. Bill Baxley of Alabama that he might be a target for revenge. Mr. Baxley, when State Attorney General, was responsible for obtaining the extradition of the racist J. B. Stoner for the bombing of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham.

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The Federal authorities decline to

discuss whether they are monitoring the computer network sponsored by the Aryan Nations.

It was set up by Louis Bearn, of Dallas, a member of the Ku Klux Klan. It can be reached through telephone numbers in Texas, Idaho and North Carolina, which has an active Klan.

## Access Is Restricted

The computer link, which has varying levels of passwords to restrict access, describes itself as "a pro-American, pro-White, anti-Communist network of true believers who serve the one and only God — Jesus, the Christ" and that it is "for Aryan patriots only."

Under a listing of "known ZOG (Zionist Occupational Government) informers," the network lists the names of an F.B.I. informer against the Klan and a man who testified against a Ku Klux Klansman charged with bombing a California radio station.

The informer was killed last summer, and the network exults: "He was blown to pieces on a recent morning, when he opened his mailbox to remove his newspaper. Oh, glorious day!"

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## Post Office Sues Magazine

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP) — The Postal Service filed suit Wednesday to stop Larry C. Flynt, publisher of Hustler magazine, from sending free copies of his publication "or any other pandering advertisement" to members of Congress who did not want them.

## PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL NOTICES

### PUBLIC NOTICES 5108

**ANNUAL REPORT (IRS Form 990-PF)** International Women's Health Coalition year ending 9/30/84 is available for inspection by any citizen who requests inspection within 180 days after date of this notice of 66 Park Ave., NY NY 10017, between 11 AM & 5 PM. Principal Foundation Manager is Joan Banks Dunlop.

The Annual Return of Rock Foundation for the fiscal year ended May 31, 1984 is available at its principal office located at 122 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019 for inspection. During regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within 180 day hereof. Principal manager of the Corporation is Adalberto de Alcantara.

**TRAVEL—VAN MOVING—CHEAP** Large empty moving van returning to L.A. around 1st of March needs full or part load. Cheap, insured. Call collect from Long EST, all day Sat/Sun. 818-371-9841.

### COMMERCIAL NOTICES 5102

OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY  
ECLAIR  
PASTRY SHOP & DELI  
GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL  
LOWER LEVEL  
OPP. TRACKS 103-105  
712-NY-4-8877  
ECLAIR  
Financial District  
1 Bankers Trust Plaza 212-775-1220

**Eclair Pastry**  
For Your Valentine  
Heart Shaped Decorated Cakes  
Petit Fours, Cookies

NOTICE NO. 85-20

DATE: Feb. 16, 1985

## OCEAN DUMPING PERMIT PROGRAM PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF A COMPLETE APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received completed applications and will hold a public hearing on two separate applications from Weeks Stevedoring Co., Inc. and Hughes Bros. Inc. (Ocean Barring, Inc.) for permits to transport and incinerate-at-sea wooden materials under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (the Act) 33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq. (1978).

EPA has made a tentative determination to issue Interim Permits for a term of one year to Weeks Stevedoring Co., Inc. and Hughes Bros. Inc. in accordance with provisions of the Act and the Regulations and Criteria issued pursuant thereto, found at 40 CFR 220-229 (Supp. 1977). The applicants propose to load wooden materials onto specially modified barges for towing and subsequent burning at an EPA-Interim designated ocean wood incineration site. Residual ash and noncombustible material are to be returned to shore for appropriate land-based disposal or reuse. Ocean incineration at the interim designated site has been practiced since 1978. The applicants' most recent ocean incineration permits (Nos. II-NJ-144 and II-NY-148) expired on October 4, 1984.

**Proposed Disposal Site** — The EPA-Interim designated wood incineration site is located at 19331 17th Street, 17 miles from the nearest coastline — Latitude 40°00'00" N to 40°04'20" N; Longitude 73°38'10" W to 73°41'00" W.

**Volume and Type of Waste** — Weeks Stevedoring Co. proposes to burn approximately 11,750 tons and Hughes Bros. Inc. approximately 19,900 tons of driftwood timbers, pilings, deteriorated barges and similar materials from deteriorated waterfront structures.

It is estimated that each bargeload (a maximum of about 3,500 tons) will result in the release (during a 24-hour period) of approximately 29.8 tons of particulates, 87.5 tons of carbon monoxide, 7.0 tons of hydrocarbons, 3.5 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 21.0 tons of ash. Sulfur dioxide emissions are expected to be negligible.

### Summary of Factors Considered in Reach(6) Determination

After reviewing the two applicants' need for ocean disposal of wood by incineration, and an assessment of alternative disposal methods available, EPA Region II has determined that sufficient need has been demonstrated for use of ocean incineration as a temporary disposal alternative.

The primary environmental impact of the proposed woodburning activities would be the short-term degradation of air quality (during the burn event) over the New York Bight ocean waters. The ocean incineration of these wood wastes will contribute additional particulates and aerosols to the current atmospheric load in the area. However, the location of the burn site is such that the pollutants released will not violate air quality standards of the coasting, due to dispersion and particulate fallout over the water. Additionally, the permits are restricted, by a permit Special Condition, from commencing transport to the site when prevailing winds are on-shore.

No detectable elevations of particulate pollution in the surrounding waters are expected from the woodburning activities. The maximum potential pollutant increase which may be expected in the surrounding water (due to

# PRESIDENTIAL SALE



Grand pianos, studio pianos, consoles, spinets, Fun Machines, organs — also used pianos and organs

Baldwin, the choice of famous musicians, can be yours at a sale price.

The low sale prices include matching bench, delivery, warranty and the expert service of your Baldwin factory store. Pianos include free tuning at home. Organs include free lessons.

For the most discriminating persons, Bechstein pianos are on display in Manhattan.

There are some excellent buys at this time in used

## LINK BY COMPUTER USED BY RIGHTISTS

### Neo-Nazi Group in Idaho Sets Up Network — 'Informers' and 'Traitors' on a List

By WAYNE KING

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United Press International

**ARMORED CAR MISHAP:** Florida state police officers unloading an armored car that went off the road and turned over in the morning rush hour yesterday in Miami. About \$100,000 fell out of the truck as it crashed. Two security guards in the back were injured. The money was recovered.

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Detroit News

4/28/85 P.C.

'FOR ARYANS ONLY'

# Hate mail sent via computer

## White supremacists are now linked by electronic network

*This on-line computer bulletin board is for Aryan patriots only. This is a pro-American, pro-white, anti-communist network of true believers who serve the one and only God — Jesus the Christ. Hail His Victory!*

— From the Aryan Nations Liberty Net.

**By Ric Bohy**

News Staff Writer

The slogans are similar to those sometimes scrawled on the walls of public toilets.

The message is racial and religious hatred. The medium is the computer.

White supremacists have gone high-tech.

**COMPUTERIZED** "bulletin boards" now operated by the extreme right in five states are devoted to the spread of race-oriented philosophy, theology and revolution. They comprise what the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith refers to as "networks of hate."

*Editor's note: Much national attention has been focused recently on a spate of killings and armed robberies attributed to neo-Nazi groups. This is the first of three articles examining the members and activities of such groups.*

Three of the systems are operated in Idaho, Texas and North Carolina by the Aryan Nations, the Idaho-based, neo-Nazi group currently targeted in a nationwide FBI racketeering investigation.

The group is known to have members and sympathizers throughout the United States, including Robert Miles, a former Michigan Ku Klux Klan leader who is still very active in the white supremacy movement. He is the Aryan Nations' only apparent Michigan connection.

**THE FOURTH**, and oldest, of the systems is run in West Virginia by 54-year-old farm broker George Dietz, who emigrated from Germany in 1957 after serving in the Hitler Youth and went on to become this country's largest purveyor of anti-Jewish material, according to ADL researchers. Besides posting excerpts from his publications, Dietz uses his computer to advertise real estate listings for his brokerage.

A fifth system — recently upgraded — is operated in California by the White American Resistance (WAR), founded by the former head of the state's Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Tom Metzger. WAR describes its system as "an electronic village square" for discussion of "news and views on late-breaking information that affects the white people and the racially conscious of the nation."

As far as is known, the far-left-wing groups have no comparable computer network.

Please see **Nazi/20A**

# Nazi White supremacists — preaching message of hatred

— are now linked by computer network

## From page 1A

Each of the right-wing systems can be easily accessed by anyone, anywhere, with a personal computer and "modem" — a device that allows computers to communicate over telephone lines. Using an inexpensive portable computer, The Detroit News monitored all five systems regularly during several recent weeks.

**ONE WISHING** to use a particular system's "bulletin board" places a phone call to the host computer, switches on the modem after a connection is made and then can read and respond to whatever is stored there.

Thousands of bulletin boards throughout the country provide technical and scientific information, news, research materials, computer games and a wide range of other data.

Their use is especially popular among the young, growing population of computer-literate students. For that reason, the existence of "racial boards" is of particular concern to such groups as the ADL.

"It is of concern mainly because of the use of computers by young people who are vulnerable to the kinds of messages you find on these things," said David Lowe, assistant director of the fact finding department at ADL headquarters in New York.

"I WOULD doubt that there is much potential for major conversions of people.

"But with young people, there should be some concern."

Alan Shefman, national director of the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith Canada, agreed.

"My feeling is that any propagation of hatred should be taken seriously," Shefman said.

"Whether computerization is going to have substantial impact is doubtful.

"On the other hand these young people, 'hackers,' are looking to connect with something, see this and say this is great, fiery stuff, and start picking it up and distributing it.

"I think it's important to recognize that the Aryan Nations group is playing games with this computer network, but they do not play games with most of their activity. They're the most violent, racist group in North America, by far."

Shefman cited recent indictments and arrests of alleged Aryan Nations members in the United States as the basis for his characterization of the group.

**EARLIER THIS** month, federal prosecutors in Seattle announced the indictment of 24 members of a neo-Nazi group called The Order, an offshoot from Aryan Nations. They are charged with violating the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

Among the crimes attributed to The Order, and which comprised the indictments under RICO, were the machine-gun killing in Denver last summer of Jewish talk show host Alan Berg; the slaying of a former Order member suspected of informing on the group; and arson, counterfeiting and robberies that netted more than \$4 million.

Peter Mueller, an assistant U.S. attorney in Seattle, said nine of those charged "were formerly associated with the Aryan Nations."

Founded in the 1970s and now headquartered in Hayden Lake, Idaho, Aryan Nations set up its computer network late last summer.

**ITS ORIGINAL** purpose, according to Shefman, was to circumvent stringent Canadian customs laws barring the importation of hate materials and pornography.

Using the statutes, Shefman said, the League for Human Rights complained last April about the importation into Canada of the book *Hoax of the 20th Century*, by Arthur Butz, an electrical engineering professor at Northwestern University and "one of the chief spokespeople for the denial-of-the-Holocaust forum or hate propaganda.

"The complaint was submitted to the minister responsible for Customs Canada, it was reviewed and he ultimately decided this book should be placed on the list for prohibition of entry into Canada.

"Then in late summer of last year, I think August, a flyer was sent around a number of cities in Canada, a one-page flyer which announced the Aryan Nations computer network."

**BECAUSE OF** easy telephone access from Canada, Shefman said the flyer promoted the electronic bulletin board as the "coup de grace to the Canadian government's Iron Curtain censorship."

One early message left on the Aryan Nations network read:

"Finally, we are all going to be linked together at one point in time. Imagine if you will, all the great minds of the patriotic Christian movement linked together and joined into one computer.

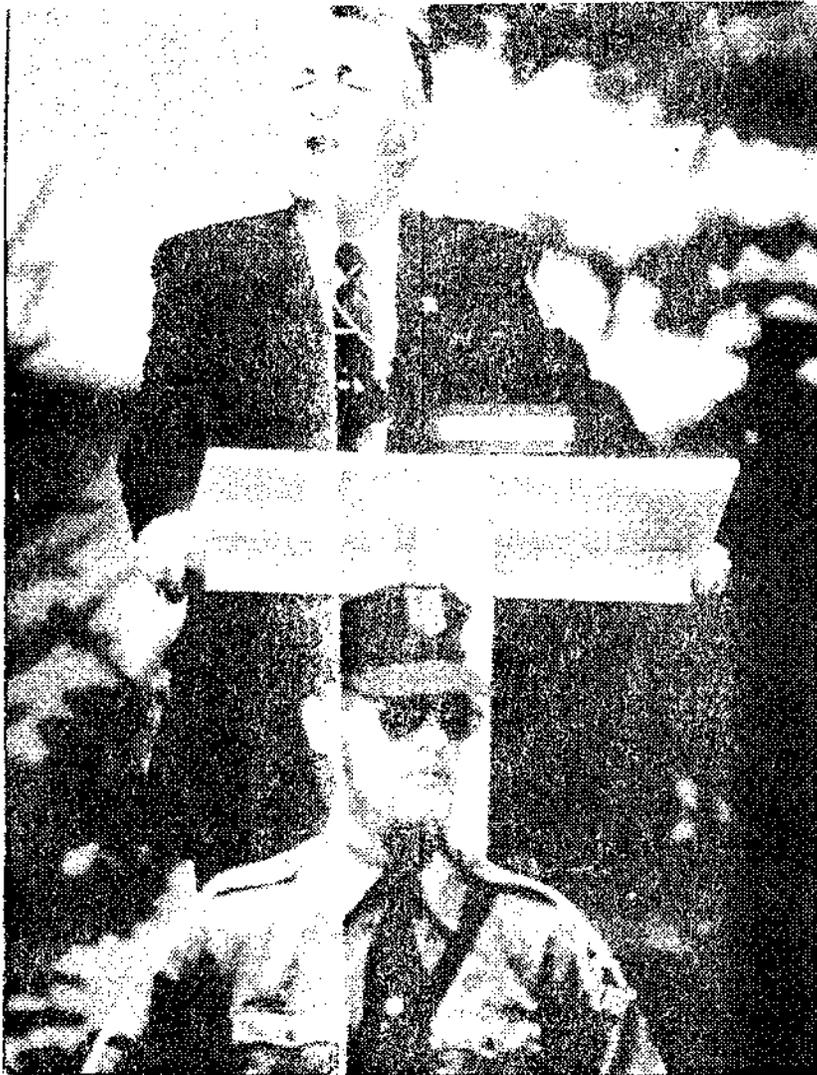


PHOTO BY PHIL SCHOFIELD, SPOKANE REVIEW

Richard Butler speaks at rally, with bodyguard Gary Yarbrough (foreground), who last month was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

"Now imagine any patriot in the country being able to call up and access those minds, to deal with the problems and issues that affect him.

"You are on line with the Aryan Nations brain trust.

"It is here to serve the folk."

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When the Aryan Liberty Net first went "on line" in Idaho, it did so with the blessing and enthusiastic support of a small-town Michigan pastor. His name is Robert Miles and his church is the Mountain Kirk of Cohoctah, a few miles north of Howell.

But Miles is not best known as a churchman.

IN 1971, shortly after Federal Judge Damon Keith ordered a busing plan to integrate Pontiac schools, 10 of the buses assigned for that use were destroyed by dynamite. Two years later, Miles was convicted as the "brains" behind a conspiracy to carry out the bombings.

At the time they occurred, he was a leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Michigan.

Miles served six years of a nine-year prison sentence and was released

in 1979, when he resumed his work as a white supremacist under the auspices of the "Identity Church" movement. The teachings of the movement, also subscribed to by Aryan Nations founder Richard G. Butler, hold that Jesus Christ was an Aryan, that whites are the true "chosen people of Israel," and that Jews are the children of Satan.

Richard Lobenthal, director of the ADL's Detroit office, described Miles as midwest regional coordinator of the Aryan Nations and "one of the biggies" of the hate movement in America.

**MILES PUBLISHES** a bi-monthly newsletter, *From the Mountain*, and in its issue last fall likened the establishment of the Aryan Nations computer system "to Bible smuggling into Russia."

"The rejection of incoming mail from Aryan Nations or any other racialist organization will thusly have no effect upon obtaining the truth," Miles wrote.

In the months since then, several messages were "posted" on the Aryan Nations system under Miles' pen-

name, "Fafnir," a derivation of his Free Association Forum (FAF) for various hate groups.

The Aryan Liberty Net is not a "secure" system.

**TO USE** most computer bulletin boards, one must "sign on" with a password, often a code that is assigned after the system operator confirms the user's identity.

But in the initial link-up with any of the Aryan Nations' three computers — one each in Idaho, Texas and North Carolina — the caller is automatically assigned a password after typing in "any name that you are comfortable with."

Access to most of the information "menu" then is granted with the instruction to mail in \$5 for password "validation" and full access. Although messages on the system occasionally hint at the existence of a super-secret "Level 7" access code, Aryan Nations leader Butler recently was quoted as telling a reporter "it was never really formulated.

"It was something we dreamed up to get all you guys and the Jews upset you know, the mystique of it. We have to have our fun, too, you know."

**ONE OF** the few extra privileges obtained with the \$5 validation fee is access to the network's user list. Of only three dozen names currently on file, many are obvious pseudonyms — such as John Paul Jones, Thors Hammer, Fafnir, Canadian Patriot, B.C. Freedom Fighter, The Baron and Nathan B. Forrest (the post-Civil War leader of the KKK) — and most of the rest are those of the system's operators and designers, such as Butler and former Texas KKK "grand dragon" Louis Beom, the Aryan Nations' "ambassador at large."

Once signed on, the user is greeted with:

"The Aryan Nations Liberty Net welcomes you. This on line computer bulletin board is for Aryan patriots only. This is a pro-American, pro-white, anti-communist network of true believers, who serve the one and only God — Jesus the Christ. Hail His Victory!"

What follows — the "truths" promised by Miles — includes:

■ An "intelligence report" on the build-up of a nuclear-armed Soviet tank force 200 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

■ A paean to the late Robert J. Matthews, founder of The Order and a federal fugitive who died in a fire last December during a shootout with the FBI at Whidbey Island, Wash. The message, entitled *First Blood*, begins: "What greater honor than to have been the first to have died in the final battle! The battle which shall preserve our beautiful Aryan children upon our Father's earth! Hail his victory! Thank you Robert J. Mat-

thews for standing tall . . . We promise thee Robert that we shall continue on, every growing stronger, ever growing bolder!"

■ Advice on how "any Aryan patriot in America" can get access to local cable television stations to broadcast

■ **WHITE SUPREMACIST** programs. "Already the blacks, Mexicans, Orientals and queers are claiming air time. What possible excuse could be given by an Aryan Nationalist for not going 'on the air.'" Videotaped interviews with Miles, Butler and others are offered free for such use. The tapes already are in use on public access cable channels in Texas.

■ Advertisement for the book *Essays of a Klansman*, by Louis Beam, described as offering "everything you ever wanted to know about the Ku Klux Klan — but was afraid to ask." The message was posted by "Nathan B. Forrest," a pseudonym for Beam.

■ An apparent reference to The Order's violent activities, posted under the name Fafnir: "We, the older and less active spokesmen for the fold and faith, are being replaced by the young lions. These dragons of God have no time for pamphlets, for speeches, for gatherings. They know their role. They know their duty . . . they are the products of the failure of this satanic, anti-white federal monstrosity to listen to more peaceful voices, such as our own . . . And now, as we had warned, now come the icemen!"

■ A warning that the Aryan bulletin boards are "bugged": "If you find yourself dumped off the BBS (bulletin boards) it was more than likely federal interference . . . The only callers that I dump are the nerds; you know who you are!! Just thought you'd like to know that 'Big Brother' (yours, not mine) is watching!!!"

■ An alert that excrement, described as "a Mexican care package," is washing up in the San Diego surf. The message was left by the computer system's operator, who also warned system users that anyone "posting messages not in good taste will be denied future access."

■ A call to arms against the country's "traitorous" government by Vietnam Veteran Beam: "I want these traitors to face their enemy now, the American fighting men they betrayed, all three million of us. They sprayed us with Agent Orange, now we're going to spray them with our wrath . . . If you are a Vietnam vet and would like to join with other Nam vets who have a mission, if you have had enough of these bastards who call themselves our leaders, then let us hear from you."

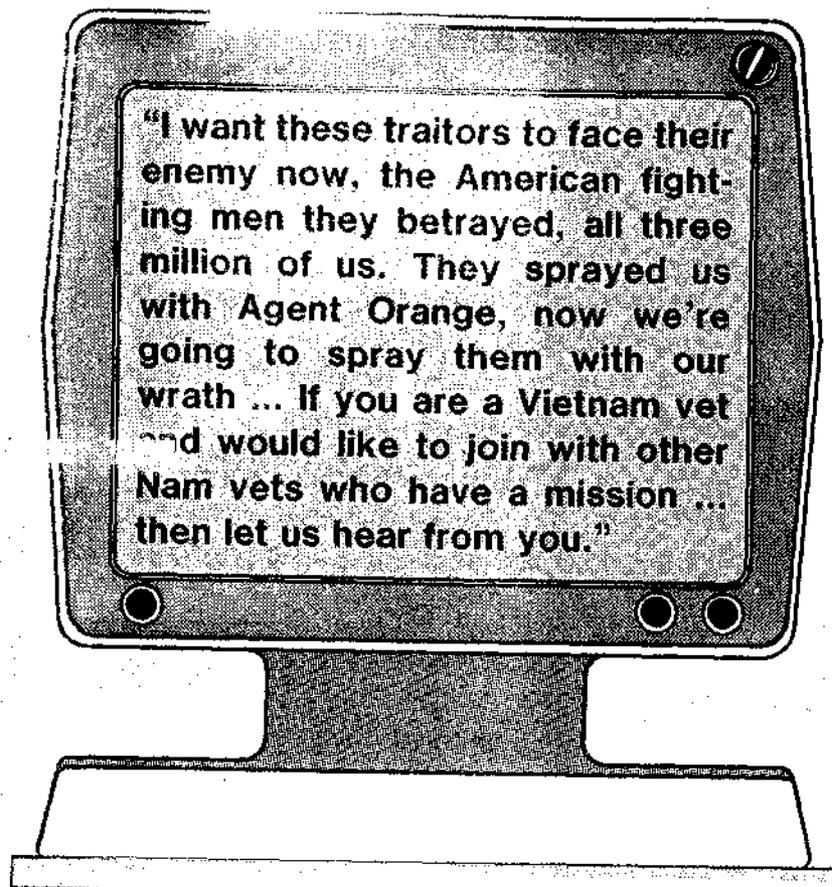
■ A congratulatory message to "The Legion of Doom," a group of Texas high schools students under investigation for vigilantism aimed at fellow students: "You are the best, you expect the best. So why is everyone so surprised when you try to rid your school of the scum? Thank you for a job well done."

■ An accusation that the head of an Alabama poverty program and anti-Klan activist is "a homosexual pervert among other things." The official's anti-Klan activities are attributed to the Klan's call for the execution of every homosexual in America, as per the Holy Bible."

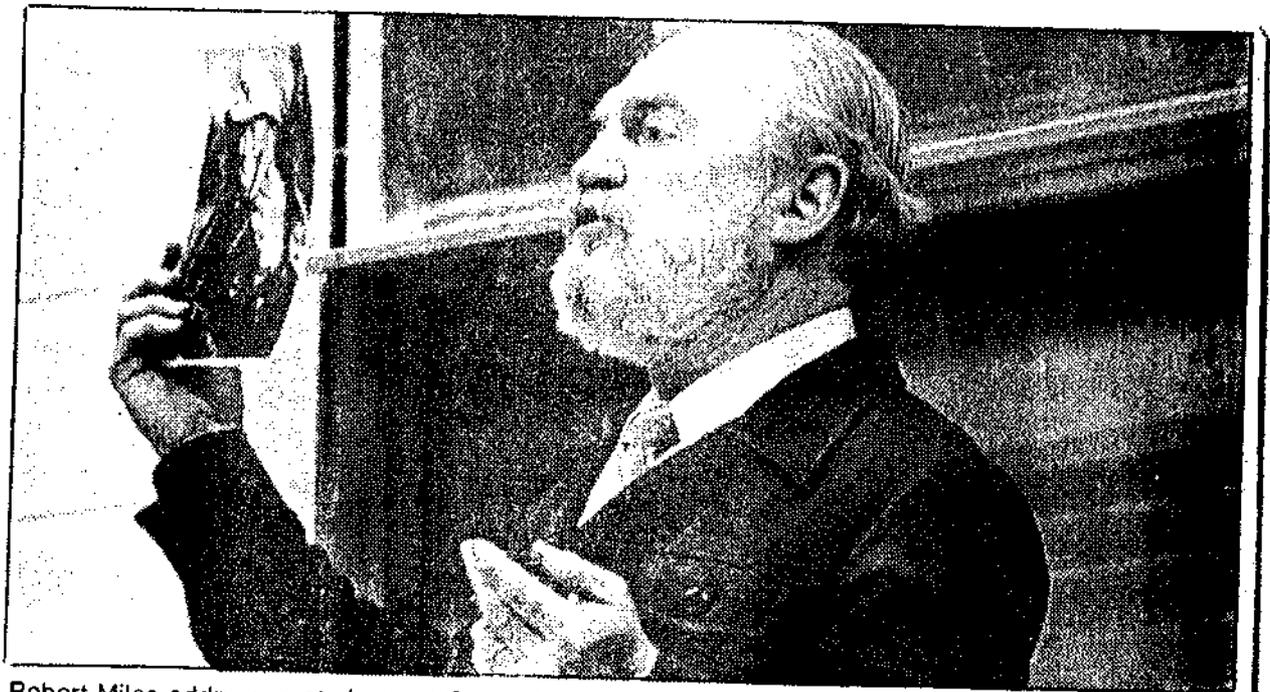
■ A list, entitled *Know Your Enemy*, of ADL offices throughout the world.

■ A letter, purportedly written by Matthews, The Order's late founder, in which he discusses plans to deal with an alleged FBI informant and "traitor": "If it takes 10 years and we have to travel to the far ends of the earth, we will find him. And true to our oath when we do find him, we will remove his head from his body."

News Staff Writer George Bullard contributed to this report.



NEWS ARTWORK / RICHARD R. RINKE



Robert Miles addresses students at Fenton High shortly after his release from prison in 1979.

# NAZI BBS: A CHALLENGE TO HACKERS

reprinted from 26x.

One of our correspondents made an interesting discovery last month. She found the telephone number for one of the bulletin board systems operated by American Nazis. With this number she was able to log on and get the information that the media has lately been all bugeyed about. Now we are prepared to talk intelligently on the matter.

For one thing, this bulletin board is an Apple running Network software. There are only about two dozen messages posted on it. Only people who pay \$5 can post messages or use electronic mail functions. The system is not used very often judging from the frequency of the messages. The people behind it seem to have no interest in changing anything in the software or doing anything imaginative with it.

(Example: on most Apple bulletin boards, the "B" command gets you a list of other bulletin board systems. At the end of the list, the program prints, "When calling other systems, be sure to tell them about [name of board]. This message can easily be changed. The Nazis use the "B" command also, except they use it to list addresses of "patriot" groups. Even though the list is not a list of bulletin boards, you still get the "When calling other systems" message at the end of it.)

There seems to be little or no attendance by any sysop based on zero chat availability and no replies to all kinds of feedback. "G" files exist (standard on Apple boards, usually used for storing large articles), however one of them requires Level 7 access. Or at least, that's what it says. The file in question is a list of race traitors, their addresses, etc. We are convinced that no such file exists, at least not there. When requesting this file, you are told: "Here is a list of race traitors: Level 7 access required." This doesn't seem right. Either you're allowed to read the file or not. In this case, you're allowed to read part of the file and then suddenly you're aren't. It's almost as if the file simply contains the above statement and nothing else. Unfortunately, the media never picked up on that.

Our point here is simply this: you computer hackers and phone phreaks that are reading this have the ability to uncover and analyze circumstances in

ways that most people can't. Some of you have the ability to recognize tones by ear. A few can tell where their calls are going by the sounds they hear. And still others are able to get into more than a few major systems and find the interesting stuff almost immediately. There is a very definite need in this world for such intelligence. Every authority figure in existence would like to get a piece of your abilities but very few are deserving of them. Besides, who really enjoys selling out?

Think of all the events going on in the world today. When all phone lines to Poland are cut off, use your tricks to route through Belgrade. Then let the press know that you can get through if they care. Track down interesting people in South Africa, El Salvador, the Soviet Union—especially in times of crisis. There's no reason why you cannot attain the same respectability that a ham radio operator has when things get desperate. We can all still have lots of fun, and at the same time move some mountains.

The Nazis are a start. If hackers can uncover a thing or two that nobody else knows about, we'll be on the road to finally being appreciated. Let us know what you find. But be careful out there.

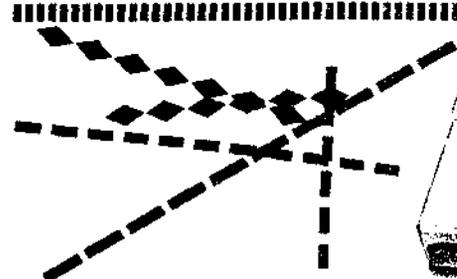
*The numbers for the Nazi boards are 2142633109 and 9193239888. If you would like a full printout of all of the messages contained on these boards, sent \$5 to 2600, Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953-0752.*

## KLAN & NAZI NUMBERS

by John from F.N.T.

Below are five of the six newly established "Aryan Nations Liberty Net" data bases. These data bases are available 24 hours a day and contain Klan/Nazi propoganda, enemy lists, electronic mailboxes, bulletin boards, and more. All bulletin boards are set for 300 BBS (baud) and most will let you into the system without a password by typing the word "NEW" when prompted. Have fun...

1. White American Resistance..(619) 723-8996
2. Aryan Nations.....(208) 772 6134
3. CKKKK BBS no. car.....(919) 322-9888
4. Texas KKK BBS.....(214) 263-3109
5. W.Va. BBS.....(304) 927-1773



## GREENS' COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

continued from pg. 7

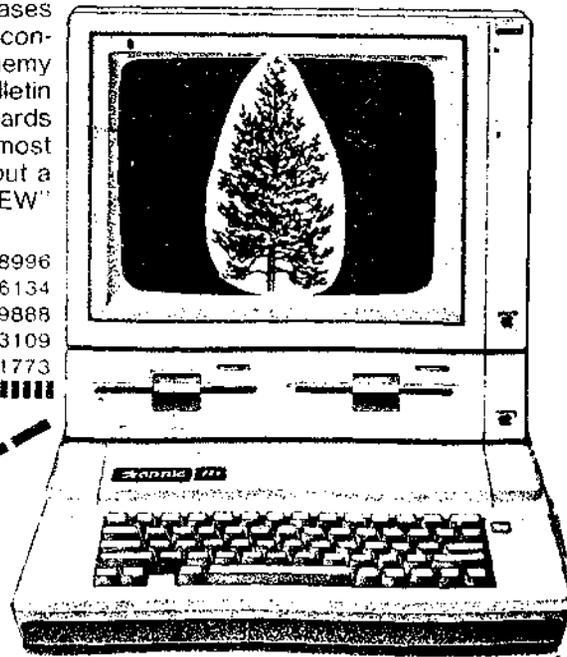
Delphi offers several other useful services, mostly at premium rates. The most expensive of these, Dialog™, searches 40 years of the New York Times and other newspapers for references to a given name or event, at \$75 per hour. If your search criteria are carefully phrased most searches take about 10 minutes.

### Getting on line

Any home computer can access Delphi if equipped with a modem (modulator-demodulator), a device for sending data on the phone lines. The 300 baud Volksmodem is \$48. Those anticipating heavy use are well advised to invest more (\$170) in a Volksmodem capable of transmitting at 1200 baud, as there is no extra Delphi charge for faster service.

Once you have your modem, you can join the network in a matter of hours. Call Dave at Mass. (617) 862-1139 or 864-4144, or Stan at (215) 922-0227, or Brian or Ben at (608) 257-5517. We will give you the local delphi number for your area, and instructions for signing on. We can also advise you on equipment purchases. Experienced telecommunicators can simply dial up delphi, give USER ID GREENSIGNUP, and PASSWORD GREEN to open an account.

Every affinity or working group who joins the net makes us all stronger, empowered by the multi-human powers of the network. It really is a phenomenal feeling to be able to be heard by people that make a difference and maybe chat with an author of politico you have admired for a while. As the other nodes become familiar with your group they will ask you to do things for them and you have the right to ask right back. This is a living network and it wants to grow in your direction.





by Nestor Mahkno

N.Y. area who had written to the C of C in response to a brief article which had appeared in the *Nation*.

25 people attended the first meeting where a general discussion of the green concept was held. The group decided to meet again and mailed 200 invitations to a meeting held the following month to discuss ecology and the green idea. 90 people showed up at that meeting which led to the formation of an agenda committee which organized a third meeting focusing on green principles. 150 people came to the next meeting, held at a local university. A variety of committees formed to draft statements further refining the principles (now 6) the N.Y. Greens have adopted: Ecology, base democracy, social responsibility, community economics, peace/nonviolence, and supportive human relations. Despite record-breaking cold, over 100 people returned the following month for discussion of these principles. The next meeting was attended by almost 200 people who adopted a working paper on principles for the N.Y. Greens.

In the interim a variety of Ad Hoc study groups had been meeting to develop ideas for organizational structure, issues & actions, outreach, fund-raising, newsletter, and other issues of concern to the group. All of the meetings were held as a participatory

organic growth of their organization. Similar organizing strategies have been utilized nationwide, and the greens are increasing their contacts daily. Over 4,000 letters have reached the C of C, and been passed on to the appropriate regional groups.

### Questions Remain

As the Green organizing effort gains momentum several major issues are still to be determined. Will the greens emerge as a movement or a party? Will their focus be a holistic process of cultural reconstruction or will they confine themselves to a narrower political agenda? What issues will the greens make their own? Will a unified national movement coalesce around one of the existing networks or will a new national structure arise?

Given the electoral processes of the U.S. (very different from the proportional representation which brought the greens to power in Germany) is it possible for U.S. Greens to gain electoral successes? How will the greens broaden their constituency to include more culturally diverse groups? Is a majoritarian movement possible, or will they function more effectively as a moral minority—pressuring the Mainstream to respond to their initiatives?

The answer to these and other questions remains to be seen, but one fact is clear: the greens are here, and they represent the coming together of a variety of strains in American oppositional politics, the first truly new movement of the 80's. Will they realize their potential as a force for social change? That will be up to all those who have a stake in seeing the green principles become a reality.

spread us: for example, that we had no called for a withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon. Of course we had.

This criticism is a little surprising especially considering that it comes from within the Green party itself. After all while in Israel, as in all the countries we visited—we stood up for standard Green party political convictions: the right of all nations to self-determination, the call for a withdrawal of all foreign forces from other countries, observation of human rights. These were our beliefs before we left for Israel. If Henryk Broder, who emigrated to Israel from West Germany in 1981, accuses us in the *Taz* of alternative imperialism and Green post-colonialism, then one can only suppose he means we should have pretended we were politically naive—we should have forgotten everything we really knew: the occupation and de facto annexation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights by Israel since June of 1967; the occupation of southern Lebanon by Israel since June of 1982; the horrendous pictures we saw of the Israeli attack on Lebanon; the Israeli government's refusal to respond to the United Nations insistence on a withdrawal of troops, etc..

We do not contest that the Jewish-Israeli people have a right to self-determination and their own state. But whoever demands first and foremost recognition of Israel's right to existence should first of all recognize that an Israeli state ALREADY EXISTS, and that the Palestinians, on the other hand, are DENIED the same right by Israel. So what does one-sided mean here? What does one-sided mean if the deputy director of the Israeli department for foreign affairs was not even prepared to explain where the Israeli government considers Israel's borders to lie? Are we not right in assuming that a state that is not even willing to define its borders can be expected to expand? And what is one-sided if PLO-leader Arafat states that the PLO is prepared to take part in a Middle East peace conference with Israel—which is tantamount to a de-facto recognition of Israel by the PLO—but the Israeli government (and the Reagan administration) rejects such a conference because they do not wish to recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people?

Of course no conflict is so simple, and particularly not the knot in the Middle East, as to be done justice with a few remarks in an article like this. But an integral part of the historic truth of the Palestine conflict is that the creation of the Israeli state went hand in hand with the disenfranchisement, expropriation of land and expulsion of the Palestinians.

In 1922 the former British-ruled Palestinian protectorate was inhabited by about 88,000 Jews and about 660,000 Arabs. By 1939 the number of Jews in Palestine had

## GREENS' COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

### International Green Communications

Since November, activists from 20 U.S. locations, London, W. Germany, and recently Japan, New Zealand, and Switzerland, have been meeting by computer as the *International Green Network*.

Our experience thus far shows that online teleconferencing, electronic mail, and readily accessible bulletin boards are valuable organizing tools on regional and "national" as well as the international level. An extensive network of Community Terminals can provide:

1. Sharing of ideas, development of a common Green agenda.
2. An (eventually) daily international news service.
3. Midwifing and logistic coordination of tours, demonstrations and other projects.
4. A more truly democratic means of rapid decision making than ever before possible, both for existing organizations and the emerging Green presence. Far-flung af-

filiates have equal access much more cheaply than by sending delegates to too infrequent in-person national conferences.

5. Emergency response network.
6. AIRHITCH: a cooperative air transport service. Very cheap to Europe.
7. Database for corporate/military and environmental research. This is a longer term application due to currently high, but rapidly falling, costs for information storage.

The Green network is housed on Delphi™, a mainframe computer owned by the General Videotex Corporation, a relatively small independent company. They charge a one-time \$29 membership fee for each user account, plus \$6 per hour on line evenings and weekends, \$16 per hr. weekdays (to be avoided). The cost of a long distance carrier is included, so except in some rural areas there is no additional long distance phone bill. Delphi can now carry 40 users at once, soon 120.

continued on pg. 17

Apr./May 1985  
v. 7, N 1

exclusive exposé

*The Computer*

*Dec 1989*

# DARK CO

## Bigotry and Violence Online

Skinheads and other white-supremacist groups  
have a powerful new weapon in their arsenal:  
the electronic bulletin board.

**By Peter Stills**



# NTAGION



Connect 1200

Press <SPACE-BAR>

W.A.R. MESSAGE BASE COMMANDS

<P> POST MESSAGE      <R> READ MESSAGE  
<A> ABORT              <L> LOG-OFF (Bye)  
<K> KILL MESSAGE      <S> SWITCH MESSAGE

Command —> R

Press <ENTER>

MSG LEFT BY: SYSOP

FINALLY, WE ARE ALL GOING TO BE LINKED TOGETHER AT ONE POINT IN TIME. IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, ALL THE GREAT MINDS OF THE WHITE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT LINKED TOGETHER AND JOINED INTO ONE COMPUTER. NOW IMAGINE ANY ARYAN PATRIOT IN THE COUNTRY BEING ABLE TO CALL UP AND ACCESS THOSE MINDS, TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES THAT AFFECT HIM. YOU ARE ONLINE WITH THE ARYAN NATIONS LIBERTY NET! IT IS HERE TO SERVE THE FOLK.

THE WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE  
ACTIVE MESSAGE BASES:

<0> INTERNATIONAL  
<1> NATIONAL  
<2> REGIONAL

Welcome to the high-tech propaganda machine of the Radical Right: the electronic bulletin board. For more than five years, extremist groups across the political spectrum have used bulletin board systems (BBSs) to recruit and organize followers. But none of the boards have become as prevalent or as virulent as those run by skinheads—so named because of their boot-camp hairstyles—who are self-defined proponents of a violent neo-Nazi ideology.

Skinheads emerged in the seventies as a breach birth of the punk rock movement. Not all skinheads claim to be neo-Nazis, but their uniform (steel-toed Doc Martens boots and swastika tattoos) and their music (the hard rock that drives the movement) carry a singularly fascist message.

Today, skinhead rock remains the movement's

most important propaganda tool. But followers are discovering that the PC provides what the music can't: connectivity. Skinhead BBSs let users meet one another online, share information, and plan events—social and otherwise. They help skinheads turn ideology into action.

Several skinhead BBSs carry electronic bulletins or status reports, first-person commentaries about "award-winning purges" to help clean up the country:

*Sonoma State University—Riots and kicking ass,* touts one San Francisco-area board. *During an anti-drug rally a bunch of long-hairs were doing crack. When these guys saw us—all Skins—they started calling us "G.I. Joe" and "Nazi Queers." We didn't take that shit. We jumped these guys, busted several of the faggots' noses, kicked in the teeth of a couple of niggers, and smashed some others through a glass window...*

The American Front, another skinhead BBS located in San Francisco, home of the Bay Area Skinheads (BASH), carries several accounts under a file called "Hall of Fame Heroics":

—November 1988. *The beating of Ethiopian immigrant Mulugeta Seraw, with baseball bats, in Portland, Oregon. [Seraw died. Three skinheads were charged with murder.]*

—August 1987. *Sacramento, California. The crucifixion of former White Student Union organizer Greg Withrow. "Palms up, pierced with no. 8 spiker nails," reads the police report. [The White Student Union is a white-supremacist group. Withrow, a former member who has openly denounced the white-supremacy movement, had his hands nailed to a plank and was slashed with a razor.]*

—Summer 1987. *Chicago, Illinois. The beating of a "turncoat" skinhead by Clark Martell, leader of Romantic Violence. [Romantic Violence is a skinhead faction. Martell sprayed the woman with mace, beat her until she bled, and then painted a swastika on her wall with her own blood.]*

Besides the standard fare of racist rhetoric and violent fantasies, skinhead boards typically post phone numbers and addresses of "enemies" to harass, including Jewish business leaders and gay rights activists. Many boards offer practical advice for random

thuggery, suggesting, for example, that beating a homeless person with a baseball bat is more effective than setting his clothes on fire.

"We have debates, share opinions, and network about what's going on with the cause," says Mike Miller, the systems operator (SYSOP) of a popular neo-Nazi board located in Washington State. "It's just like any other BBS."

Miller's board recently hosted an online discussion about American hostages being held in the Middle East. Comments included a typical mix of racist violence:

*If we'd destroy the Jews, there wouldn't be any need for sand niggers to take hostages.*

**When investigators learned that a defendant in the Berg murder case was a "computer wizard," the FBI tracked his communications with other neo-Nazi groups. By tapping his modem line, they discovered an intricate network of BBSs.**

*We should just wipe out the entire region with tactical nukes and show them what America can really do.*

The same BBS regularly features online dialogue about strategies for ousting the current U.S. government (called ZOG, for Zionist Occupation Government) through armed rebellion, along with discussion of which "Jew-loving lawmakers" should be executed when the new order is installed.

### **Digital Conspiracy**

Though skinhead BBSs spew more violence than other boards, their brand of racism isn't unique. The Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi Party, the Order (a neo-Nazi organization), and dozens of splinter groups and sympathizers have operated or currently operate bulletin boards. Knowledge of the Radical Right's use of microcomputer telecommunications first came to the forefront a few years ago, during the FBI's investigation of the Alan Berg murder.

Berg hosted a late-night talk show on Denver's KOA radio, and his frequent and acerbic on-the-air ridicule of racist organizations irked members of the Order. He had received several death threats from the group. On the evening of June 18, 1984, Berg was shot in the driveway of his Denver townhouse. Soon after the assassination, the FBI moved in to arrest several known members of the Order.

When investigators learned that Robert Miles, one of the eventual defendants in the Berg murder case,

was a "computer wizard," the FBI tracked his communications with other neo-Nazi groups. Later, by tapping Miles's modem line, they discovered an intricate network of neo-Nazi BBSs.

The Berg assassination brought news of the technological advances of racist organizations into the daily press, fueling often exaggerated accounts of the "Klan's jump into high tech." It also inspired the computer networking scenes in the 1988 United Artists film *Betrayed* (starring Debra Winger and Tom Berenger), a fictional account of an FBI agent's infiltration of an unnamed white-supremacist organization whose members use PCs to plot a political assassination.

### **The W.A.R. Board**

Neo-Nazi boards began springing up in the United States as early as 1984, when a loose coalition of BBSs went online in California, North Carolina, and Illinois. One of the earliest, the W.A.R. Board (an acronym for White Aryan Resistance), began in the semi-rural town of Fallbrook, California, located halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego.

Tom Metzger, a blue-collar entrepreneur who owns and operates a television repair shop in Fallbrook, started the W.A.R. Board from his home in 1984 using a Commodore 64 at a lumbering 300 bps. Its single phone line was constantly busy, indicating the high demand for online white-supremacist material and the number of neo-Nazis with the technology to access such information.

Racist groups quickly hailed the W.A.R. Board as a technological breakthrough, which helped spawn Metzger's reputation as the technology godfather of the white-supremacy movement. Today, W.A.R. has more than 2,000 members, many of whom are skinheads. He has become a figurehead, helping provide leadership to the loosely strung movement.

Short and balding, Metzger is physically unimpressive, yet his prowess as a master of white-supremacist rhetoric is legendary. He now hosts his own public-access TV interview show, "Race and Reason," a cable program currently broadcast in Atlanta, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and seven other U.S. cities.

Metzger operates the latest incarnation of the W.A.R. Board on a multiuser 286-based AT clone with a 40MB hard disk running FidoNet software. (The developer of FidoNet, Bay-area resident Tom Jennings, regrets the group's use of his software. "I don't like them using FidoNet," Jennings recently complained, "but I suppose it's inevitable.") The W.A.R. Board claims links with several other skinhead and neo-Nazi boards across the country and

hawks bumper stickers ("The Holocaust Is a Lie"), Aryan jewelry, and videotapes of Metzger's TV shows. It maintains several layers of password security, making whole parts of the board accessible only to those who know Metzger personally.

### **Murder Online**

Most skinhead BBSs run on cheap IBM clones and are networked via customized versions of FidoNet software. They use some kind of store-and-forward electronic mail system and surprisingly sophisticated software. Many offer users a choice of transfer protocols, including Kermit, Zmodem, and sliding-window protocols such as W/Xmodem.

Typically, new users learn about the boards through word of mouth. To earn passwords that give access to a board's higher security levels, users usually have to speak with the SYSOP over the phone. Access to a board's full range of files generally requires either a personal interview with the SYSOP or a recommendation from another high-level user.

Security has become a matter of increasing concern to skinhead SYSOPs since the rise of computer

viruses. Many skinhead boards that once operated publicly have gone underground, using unlisted phone numbers or systematically changing their numbers to keep out hostile interlopers who might sabotage their systems. A researcher who monitors skinhead boards for the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, a nonprofit organization dedicated to opposing bigotry, suggests that membership on all racist BBSs has become much more exclusive in the past two years.

Skinhead SYSOPs have also become increasingly wary of law enforcement agencies. The Berg murder case made it clear that a BBS can implicate users in criminal conspiracy.

In fact, police linked a skinhead board operating in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to the December 1988 deaths of four teenagers in nearby Bethesda. The youths died from the accidental explosion of a homemade bomb.

According to police reports, a 17-year-old SYSOP was arrested in connection with a separate March 26 pipe-bomb blast. The investigation led police officials to the youth's home, where they found a BBS

that contained several files for "growing your own homemade bombs," says a spokesman for the Montgomery County fire marshal's office. "We also found an array of bomb-making chemicals, 30 diskettes containing the formulas for making the bombs, and a printout with the names of about 1,100 other users."

Among the materials seized, investigators found several references to skinheads in other states, though many of the names were aliases. Three of the teens named had died in the December explosion.

### **Connection**

The Bethesda bomb blast alerted government officials and watchdog agencies to the proliferation of BBSs and their power to organize disparate followers of racist ideologies.

"With the use of computers, the skinheads are closing ranks," says Greg Withrow, the former White Student Union organizer and victim of the Sacramento crucifix-

## **Are BBSs Private?**

Last year when Michael Dukakis visited San Diego County, an electronic bulletin board (not a neo-Nazi board) carried a series of messages threatening the Democratic presidential candidate.

"The Secret Service was alerted by a user [of the BBS], and we approached the owner of the system," said a spokesman for the Service. "We tracked down the user [who had issued the threats] through a phone number he supplied online and took him into custody. He was just a kid. His threats were just pranks."

Incidents like this and the Alan Berg murder case raise the issue of what federal authorities can do when threatening messages appear on BBSs. No law prohibits the FBI (or any other government agency) from monitoring public messages on bulletin boards. The Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 protects private messages and privately stored files only. But what if an FBI agent monitors a BBS solely for the purpose of gathering information on the board's users?

One former FBI agent, a computer crime expert who asked that his name be withheld, suggests that such casual monitoring might be a violation of the 1968 Wiretap Act. "In order to use a wiretap," he explains, "you have to get a court order. If an FBI agent is monitoring a BBS to gather information, that becomes an interesting question, because there are very specific federal rules about a wiretap. My question is, 'At what point does monitoring turn into a wiretap-like act?'"

Good point. The answer is that there are no rules.

Unless asking for private messages, an agent can monitor, store, and manipulate any public message as he or she sees fit. —PS

ion incident, who now lectures before members of the ADL. At the league's Los Angeles offices, he spoke in muted tones, scratching at a series of bandages, reminders of the recent laser surgery that burned off the swastikas tattooed on his arms.

Withrow maintains that BBSs help translate vague political yearnings into action by allowing users to collaborate, discuss tactics, and draw up agendas. He says that Metzger wants to organize skinheads from around the country, and he lays out a sketch of the skinhead network: Chicago Area Skinheads (CASH) have ties to Detroit Area Skinheads (DASH) and the Confederate Hammer Skins of Dallas. The Dallas faction is networked with groups in Wisconsin and Oklahoma City.

While ominous, these links often mean nothing more than a time prearranged between SYSOPs to exchange binary files, so that DASH members, for example, can read and respond to messages and dialogues posted on a CASH board the previous day.

As racist chat lines, skinhead boards may pose little menace. But BBSs also allow users to collaborate while concealing their real identities. And this concerns the agencies that keep an eye on the Radical Right. "This is a Klan without robes," declares

**Skinhead bulletin boards allow users to collaborate while concealing their real identities, and this concerns those who keep an eye on the Radical Right. Says the research director of one watchdog agency, "It's a Klan without robes."**

Leonard Zeskind, the research director for the Center for Democratic Renewal, an Atlanta, Georgia-based nonprofit outfit dedicated to opposing racist organizations. He notes that electronic networks represent a high-tech twist on the early white-sheet days of the Ku Klux Klan.

#### **Anonymous Dialogue**

Many believe that the technology of computer communications is "a great equalizer" because it conceals race, creed, and color. Yet that very anonymity attracts closet racists to skinhead BBSs. Zeskind believes this is particularly true for young people who

THE INDEPENDENT GUIDE TO IBM-STANDARD PERSONAL PC



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are enamored of skinhead rock-and-roll and curious about the movement's political leanings but don't yet want to be associated with such groups.

Computer communications may be a more effective propaganda tool than printed materials. Unlike traditional extremist groups that rely on newsletters, skinheads are discovering that BBSs cross political organizations, helping them reach nonskinhead neo-Nazis who might balk at openly associating with them. And BBSs endow the skinheads' ideology with an aura of authenticity that a clumsily typed newsletter cannot offer.

BBSs also prove to be more effective at disseminating their message than the "Dial-a-Nazi" type recordings found in most major cities. Such recordings usually emanate from simple answering machines set up to broadcast but not record incoming calls. These systems handle only one call at a time, and the information they supply can quickly become outdated.

A BBS lets whole groups of people share in a dialogue, a capability missing from newsletters and voice-recording systems. BBSs also offer the affinity that comes from belonging to a community, as any user group does.

#### Guerrilla Warfare

The FBI won't comment on the volume of traffic on skinhead BBSs, insisting that because operating the boards is not illegal, the bureau doesn't monitor

them. Watchdog-agency estimates of the number of skinhead boards in operation vary widely. Many BBSs come and go according to the enthusiasm and financial resources of their SYSOPs.

Yet it's clear that the skinhead movement itself is growing rapidly. The Center for Democratic Renewal estimates that 3,500 skinheads in the United States identify themselves as racist today, compared with only 300 three years ago. And the movement is still in its embryonic state, according to Morris Casuto of the ADL's San Diego offices.

The W.A.R. Board's Tom Metzger scoffs at complaints that the movement is steeped in violence. "It's so overrated, I can't believe anyone buys into it," he says. "If the Jew-run newspapers would dig a little into the Baptist church, they'd find a higher percentage of crime among those church members than you would among skinheads."

Metzger places tremendous faith in technology to further his cause. "Electronic media is the only way to get to the white working class," he suggested recently. Indeed, he envisions installing a generation of technologically hip neo-Nazis throughout the military and government until, as he explains, "we can eventually seize power through the use of technology and the power of information." **■**

*Peter Stills is a pseudonym for a West Coast freelance writer.*

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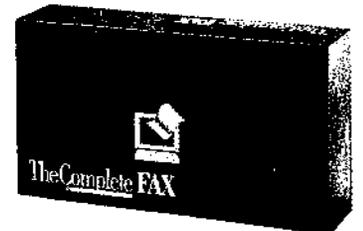


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CIRCLE NO. 112 ON READER SERVICE CARD.

Devin Burghart is a research analyst for the Coalition for Human Dignity.

# Cyberh@te: A Reappraisal

Devin Burghart

*"Now, non-whites, I want you to picture the mouth of that White Lion, just before he rips the flesh off your face and bones. Think of it when you get your welfare check. Think of it when you riot. Think of it when you do your next crime. Enjoy now—your day is coming. Oh! A special note to our Jewish Jackals. When you look down the throat of that roaring White Lion, you'll wish for the peace and tranquillity that you had in the concentration camps. This time the White Race will not be divided as in 1939."*

—an344123@anon.penet.fi posted to alt.politics.nationalism.white

**Don Black  
Stormfront**

**Oklahoma City  
Bombing**

**Cyberhate & the Media**

**The Virtual  
Community**

**T**he blare of racist epithets across a crowded chat room. Anti-Semitic flyers tacked to electronic bulletin boards and left in e-mailboxes. Swastikas spray painted upon an urban cyberscape. Billboards railing against the New World Order along dusty stretches of the information superhighway. It has been more than a year now since former Klansman Don Black posted the now infamous "White Pride World Wide" logo along with the bright red Gothic Stormfront lettering on the World Wide Web (WWW) igniting controversy.

In the rush to examine this "new" phenomenon, eye-catching images and inflammatory rhetoric have become privileged over information. Without context, exposés are more like ads. Stormfront's Black has noted that traffic on his web site increases dramatically after each news story.

Media coverage left many people without an understanding of the role Internet activity plays in white supremacists' communications strategy and with the mistaken impression that white-supremacist material has overtaken cyberspace.

Self-described "cyber-Nazis" and other on-line white supremacists have taken advantage of the Internet as part of a larger alternative media strategy—one that also includes short-wave radio and satellite television broadcasts, cassette and videotape distribution, and

many publications. The coverage of cyberhate is disproportionate to the rest of white supremacist activity. On-line communication is only one weapon in the arsenal of the white-supremacist movement. It is important to understand how they wield that weapon and to accurately assess the damage it can yield.

## **Cyberhate and Cyberhype: Untangling the Web**

The white supremacist movement has long been on the crest of technological change. But prior to the Oklahoma City bombing, and the scrutiny given the far right in its wake, media coverage of the Internet focused on its potential. Futurists saw technology that would make our lives easier. Corporations saw the tremendous money-making promise in this public resource. Progressives heralded it as a 21st century version of the polis or the town-square—a cure for the ails of democracy. For instance, the 1993 book, *The Virtual Community*, depicts cyberspace as a place where individuals come together to help each other and discuss issues to reach informed, rational decisions. This vision trumpeted a new "virtual community" as an alternative to the hegemony of corporate-controlled media.

What a difference a year makes. Now the Internet is being attacked by the Christian Right and their allies in the United States

Congress who see nothing but "cyberporn" on their computer screens. Meanwhile, the mainstream media seem to have "discovered" cyber-Nazis.

The vastness of cyberspace and its decentralized structure provides an excellent opportunity for those seeking nefarious ends. Steve Rowe, spokesman for the nonprofit International Internet Association, notes that because nobody "runs" the Internet, it is difficult to regulate the information that flows through it (*San Francisco Examiner*, May 14, 1995). The Internet offers white supremacists a new distribution medium. It is able to reach people across national boundaries and bypass laws, such as the restrictions on the publication of Holocaust denial material in France and Germany (see *Searchlight*, March 1996).

Tony McAleer, a Vancouver, British Columbia-based neo-Nazi skinhead who formerly ran the **Canadian Liberty Net** hate-line, vividly expresses the role cyberspace plays in disseminating racism to the world:

The Internet is great for communication. You can send electronic mail or chat with somebody anywhere in the world on the Internet for free. You can post messages on electronic bulletin boards where potentially millions of people can read your information. This information can be posted anonymously or with a pseudonym. You can debate with anti-racists or just post Racialist ideology and information. There are no limits to free speech on the Internet, anything goes. There are places on the Internet (I'll list them at the end of the article) where you can find information, books, literature, etc.... that you can download to your computer and spit them out on your printer (*Resistance*, Spring 1995, p.13).

Each Internet component plays a role in advancing the white-supremacist movement's diffuse agendas. Bulletin Board Systems (BBSs) act as bunkers—archives where the most virulent ideas are guarded from easy public access by passwords that only proven activists obtain. E-mail and on-line chat (IRC) facilitate discussion of movement strategies and tactics. Usenet newsgroups serve as arenas for propaganda and recruitment. World Wide Web pages act as electronic billboards, openly displaying white supremacy to any-

one searching for it.

Nearly all elements of white supremacy have made the transition to the Internet: the sophisticated racist writings of *American Renaissance*; the vulgar, semi-literate cartoons of **White Aryan Resistance (WAR)**; the Hitler-worship of **NSDAP-AO**; the theological justifications for genocide at the **Scriptures for America** site; the technologically sophisticated **National Alliance** site; the simplistic **American Nationalist Union** page; the pseudo-Constitutional racism of the *American's Bulletin*; the Holocaust denial of the **Institute for Historical Review**; graphic skinhead violence depicted on the **Skinheads USA** site; preparations for war available on the **Militia of Montana** or other militia group sites.

As prolific as on-line white supremacists are, their material accounts for a tiny fraction of Internet content. Estimates show that there will be more than 6 million Web pages by the end of the year. The 100 white-supremacist Web pages amount to less than .000002% of the material on the WWW (Lycos search database, Web Developer, Spring 1996).

The actual number of cyber-activists is small. Often, one cyber-activist builds and maintains the Web pages of several organizations. For instance, the "Stormfront" site also contains the pages of **Aryan Nations** associate **Marc Thomas's Christian Posse Comitatus** and (until recently) the **Aryan Nations**. The **Skinheads USA** site contains the pages for **Nordland** (the European counterpart to **Resistance Records**), the **American Front**, **NS88**, **Hammerskins** and **British Movement**. The **Logoplex** site contains pages for **Scriptures for America**, **Militia of Montana**, **Council on Domestic Relations**, **Larry Becraft** and other Patriot groups.

*The Spotlight*—the largest distribution weekly periodical of the movement with a circulation of over 100,000—has recently established a regular "Internet Patriot" column written by **Logoplex** website creator **Glen Farkas**. Even so, **Liberty Lobby** General Manager **Paul Croke** noted, "The vast majority of readers of *Spotlight* are not computer literate" and can't get to the Internet or bulletin boards

**Cyberporn**

**American Renaissance**

**White Aryan Resistance (WAR)**

**NSDAP-AO**

**Scriptures for America**

**National Alliance**

**American Nationalist Union**

**Institute for Historical Review**

**Militia of Montana**

**Tony McAleer Canadian Liberty Net**

**Aryan Nations Mark Thomas**

**Christian Posse Comitatus**

**Resistance Records**

**American Front**

**Spotlight**

**Glen Farkas Liberty Lobby**

**Other Media:** short wave, satellite, video

(*Boston Globe*, April 27, 1995).

The Internet has not replaced other communications media. No marked shift in newsletter, short-wave, or other propaganda forms



**Karl Gharst (second from left), manager of the Aryan Nations' Web Page, giving a Hitler salute behind AN founder Richard Butler. (Photo by Spokane Valley Herald.)**

**George Burdi**  
**Resistance Records**

**Linda Thompson**

**Thule-Net**

**Gordon Ormesher**

**Neo-Nazi Propaganda:**  
**Turner Diaries, Mein Kampf**

**14 Words**

has been observed. In fact, the largest usage of the Internet has been to advertise the sale of non-Internet-related white supremacist material, such as books, audio tapes, and videos.

Nor has the Internet lead to an increase in mobilization. Even events that have been heavily promoted on the Internet have been failures. Linda Thompson's extensively cross-posted militia "March on Washington" collapsed. Freeman supporters putting out calls over the Net were only able to get 8 supporters, not 800, as they had predicted. The Coeur d'Alene, Idaho "Patriot Picnic" of Gordon Ormesher's Americans for Constitutional Government anticipated 1,500 people, thanks to the Internet, but drew only 100. And the much-advertised "Rally for the Constitution," set for August 31 and September 1 in Washington D.C., was attended by fewer than 300 of the anticipated 15,000. Most organizing activities still occur using face-to-face social networks rather than the Internet.

### **Virtual White Supremacy**

*"Connecting you to the White community,*

*connecting us to the world."*

—Our Nation BBS Cyber-Nazis

The lineage of computer-mediated hate stretches back to the 1980's when the Aryan Nations, WAR and others first discovered computers as a way to spread racism.

American neo-Nazi organizations now in cyberspace include the Aryan Nations, National Alliance, NSDAP-AO, the National Socialist White Peoples Party (NSWPP), White Aryan Resistance (WAR), the National Socialist Vanguard (NSV) and the Asatru Alliance. Neo-Nazi skinhead groups include the American Front, Volksfront, Hammerskins, NS88, and numerous neo-Nazi skinhead bands and record distribution companies from around the world, most notably George Burdi's Detroit-based Resistance Records. Holocaust deniers on the Internet include Ernst Zundel, Bradley Smith, Arthur R. Butz, the Adelaide Institute, and the Institute for Historical Review (located at both Greg Raven's WWW site, as well as on the Portland-based Banished CPU BBS, which is now accessible from the Internet).

Internationally, numerous sites now exist: Thule-Net, the German Web site for the most active European fascist BBS; the British neo-Nazi terror group Combat 18; the National Socialist Movement of Denmark (DNSB), the British National Party; Nationale Volkspartij/CP'86 of the Netherlands; British Movement; La Pen's National Front, international "third positionists" and more.

Important non-affiliated cyber-Nazi sites include Black's Stormfront site; the Alpha site (a huge site based in Philadelphia containing on-line publications of the *Turner Diaries*, *Mien Kampf*, and *This Time the World* by American Nazi Party founder George Lincoln Rockwell, posters, flyers, mirrored versions of other cyber-Nazi sites, phone lists, news and more); Independent White Racialists homepage (containing a tribute to the neo-Nazi terror group, the Order); the Aryan Crusader site, 14 Word Press, (dedicated to the writings of imprisoned Order member David Lane); and the Euro-American Stu-

dent Union page.

Cyber-Nazis see the Net as a new battlefield for Racial Holy War—RAHOWA. They provide the most brazen examples of white supremacy on the Net, resurrecting the symbols of Nazism and the rhetoric of genocide. For them, the Net is a place to circulate white-supremacist propaganda to gain new recruits for the race war. Information is being censored by the "Jewsmedia" and others who wish to keep the white race subordinate, according to many cyber-Nazis. Cyberspace provides a solution: a place for them to congregate and share information away from the peering eyes of the public.

Some cyber-Nazis, particularly younger racist skinheads, view the Internet as the ideal location for agitation and escalation of racial warfare doctrines. For them, it provides the means to wage "cyber-war."

Says Vancouver skinhead McAleer,

If you have a computer, or plan on acquiring one soon, be sure to blast into cyberspace, perhaps the greatest opportunity that has ever presented itself to the white resistance. The rules of the game are changing rapidly, and we must be the first to master this new dimension ("Plug into the Freedom of the Internet," in *Resistance*, [Spring 1995], p. 13).

In the words of a participant on the Stormfront e-mail list, "The Internet is our sword!" Similar sentiments are echoed by Jeff Voss, who founded CNG (Cyber-Nazi Group), a small, loose knit group of net-Nazis. He declared that the neo-Nazi "battleground is the Internet."

Ironically, some cyber-Nazi organizers who spend too much time in front of a computer terminal have been deluded into thinking that posting on the Internet will suffice for real political organizing.

Wyatt Kaldenberg, a WAR associate who claims to be the skinhead who broke Geraldo Rivera's nose, illustrates this in a post to the Stormfront-I list:

I agree with you about the Internet being more important than a march. One guy posting only one hour a day in his own home can get replies from two or more new people a day. 100 men marching in the

street don't get that many replies. Also, the streets are a legal bitch. People can get hurt or killed. With the Internet you can go into your software and put in a false name and no one will ever find out who you are (November 3, 1995 14:55:00 GMT).

The most visible aspect of neo-Nazi utilization of cyberspace has been the dispersal of propaganda. As ANA organizer and on-line publisher of National Socialism FAQs (frequently asked questions), Milton Kleim Jr. notes in his article, "On Tactics and Strategy for Usenet," a key use of cyberspace for white nationalists is to "create effective and innovative propaganda." He elaborated to *.net* magazine, "USENET, in combination with the Web, offers an unparalleled opportunity for our movement to get our views and, more importantly, our facts across to the general public."

Neo-Nazi organizations have capitalized on the freedom of the Internet by making literature like the *Turner Diaries*, the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, *Mein Kampf* and numerous essays available on-line. Technology now makes these extensive archives of white supremacist materials easily accessible, cross-linkable, and re-postable. "We can beat the Jews by putting racist literature into cyberspace," explains WAR associate Kaldenberg. These sources of racist and anti-Semitic material provide the weapons for cyber-Nazi agitators.

Cyber-Nazis disseminate racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic propaganda through Usenet groups like alt.politics.nationalism-white, alt.skinheads, alt.revisionism and alt.politics.white-power, as well as plaguing numerous other non-related newsgroups like alt.fan.oj-simpson. Kleim concludes his essay with the call, "Remember, SUSTAINED, electronic 'guerrilla warfare,' 'hit and run' style, using short, 'self-contained' posts is a major component of our struggle. Put your Net access to good use, today and every day!"

### Cyber-Patriots

Christian Patriots account for the largest portion of the white supremacist movement in the United States. They also maintain the

**Euro-American  
Student Union**

**Milton Kleim Jr.**

**Tony McAleer**

**alt.politics.nationalism  
alt.skinheads,  
alt.revisionism**

**Christian Patriots  
on the Net**

**Oklahoma City  
Bombing**

**Senate Subcommittee  
on Terrorism**

**Republic of Texas**

**Patriots and Net  
Culture**

**Knights of the Ku  
Klux Klan**

**David Duke**

**LeRoy Schwietzer**

largest and most influential presence in cyberspace by organized white supremacists.

After the Oklahoma City bombing, attention was briefly focused upon cyber-Patriots, as the Senate terrorism subcommittee moved to convene hearings on the availability of bomb-making information on the Internet. Senators expressed shock that militia organizations were using the Internet to distribute "mayhem manuals." The role the Internet and other computer resources play for Christian Patriots, however, has largely been ignored in studies of cyberhate.

Like cyber-Nazis, Patriots have a long history of using computer-mediated communications. Unlike the cyber-Nazis cyber-Patriots have established deep roots in the cultural landscape of the Internet. Such a continuous and active presence has even gotten cyber-Patriots chronicled in cyber-punk fiction. The 1996 "exploded post-novel" *How to Mutate and Take Over the World* includes a brief passage about **Bo Gritz** coming to the aid of notorious anti-Semite **Red Beckman** and the use of the Net to call for supporters.

Much like their attempted forays into the counter-culture and New Age groups, Patriots have actively attempted to recruit from the Hacker subculture. A recent issue of *Blacklisted! 411: The Official Hackers Magazine!* (Vol. 3, Issue 2, Second Quarter, April 1996) includes "Sixth Column Notes" by **Non Serviam**, which discusses Beckman's visit to Southern California, as well as a critique of **Philip Marsh** and **Irwin Schiff** for infighting. The same issue features an article on "Citizenship" by **Ken Adler** and "The Lynn Meredith Sovereign Status Declaration Package" by **KRC**, reprinted from *Freedom and Sovereign Technology* (Vol.1, Issue 7).

The Christian Patriot vision of cyberspace revolves around the creation of a white Christian Republic. Patriots employ cyberspace as a way to promulgate their numerous quasi-governmental institutions. The various formations are well represented on the Net: "warehouse" or "alternative" banks and financial schemes ("**Freeman**" **LeRoy Schwietzer's** certified money order scam, the

**Fortuna Alliance**, and numerous "trusts" and other money laundering enterprises); militias and other paramilitary formations; and common law courts. All of these items serve as kernels of this new white Christian republic. A vivid example is that of newly formed **Republic of Texas**, whose web site contains listings of governmental officers and a new constitution.

Christian Patriot publications have also made the leap into cyberspace: *Media Bypass*, *American's Bulletin*, and **Robert Wangrud's Behold! Newsletter**. Even the Colton, Oregon-based singer **Carl Klang** is now on the Internet, with a Web page featuring sample songs and order forms.

## **Cyber-Klansmen**

Despite the relative decline and the fracturing within the contemporary **Klu Klux Klan**, some organizers have tried to bring their burning crosses to the virtual community. The **Knights of the Ku Klux Klan** have a page at the **Alpha** site and **Aryan Crusader's Library** featuring addresses, hate-line numbers and even photos of "cross-lightings." The most insidious example of klansmen shedding their sheets in cyberspace may be that of **David Duke**, who currently has a web page devoted to his U.S. Senatorial campaign.

## **Conclusion**

For those trying to understand the complex social dynamic that underlies the white supremacist movement, cyberspace is a bad place to start. Although it does provide a glimpse into the world of neo-Nazis, Patriots and others bringing hate to the Net, the lens through which one looks is distorted by the inherent limitations of this new communications medium. Movement size, strength, relationships and agendas can become blurred by looking primarily to cyberhate propaganda. Instead, those concerned about civil rights and democracy must continue to incorporate cyberhate into a social movement context, investigating where virtual white supremacy becomes real bigotry and violence. (H)

The development of the Internet has afforded big new opportunities for the extreme right to spread its propaganda in a relatively unchecked fashion.

For readers unfamiliar with the Internet, let us first explain briefly some key terms. The Internet is really a series of computer networks, all interlinked and uncontrolled by the authorities. Anyone with a computer, a modem and a reasonable amount of technical know-how can plug themselves into this vast store of information.

Of interest to extreme rightists is a series of "sites" that perform different functions. The Usenet hosts an enormous array of "news-groups", where people with a shared interest can debate, discuss and chat. There are bulletin boards (BBSs), where an organisation can "post" information that can be read by subscribers or browsers, and there is the World Wide Web (WWW), popularly known as the Web, which is best described as like an encyclopaedia of interconnected pages.

Anyone who has full Internet access can also have something called a "homepage" on the Web, which describes the user and provides information about them. Selecting key words on a particular page will lead the reader to further pages, either by the same author or produced by others with a connected interest.

The extreme right has begun to make good use of the Internet's possibilities within the past few years. The Internet itself has expanded massively since the beginning of the 1990s. At the same time, the price of computer hardware has dropped dramatically and excellent software has been developed to enable "Netsurfers" to make the most of the opportunities that cyberspace has to offer.

Early attempts by the extreme right to place publicly available information on computer systems were rather crude, compared with what is possible today. Nazi and white supremacist organisations in the USA set up bulletin boards on home computers, into which interested people could dial. Later some European extreme-right groups made use of the same technology, although the number of BBSs in Europe has been far lower than in the USA.

These BBSs were not linked to the Internet. To have access one needed the telephone number to which the BBS was linked. To obtain that usually meant finding it in an extreme-right publication. Therefore access was generally limited to those "in the know" and wider distribution of propaganda and information was somewhat limited.

However, such bulletin boards were still useful to the nazis as they enabled fascist organisations to post information to far-flung sympathisers, important in the USA, given the size of the country, and helped to provide a feeling of cohesiveness and camaraderie. BBSs also offered the opportunity to make available information of a sensitive nature, such as plans for illegal demonstrations.

But ultimately the BBS was limited, because public access to it was restricted. When the Internet became more open to the general public, the BBS went out of fashion in America and few exist there today. Most extreme rightists have turned their attention to the Internet instead. However, in Europe

# Hate *on the* Internet

## ● A special report by Louise Bernstein

the BBS remains a common method of computer communication.

In Europe BBSs have been most used in Germany. One of the most important nazi computer networks is the **Thule Network**, which has different layers of access for members of the movement. Only the most trusted and hardline nazis can gain admittance to the most secure sections, after passing through an elaborate series of identity checks and passwords installed on the system. Around 1,500 activists are estimated to be using this network.

The operators of the Thule Network have not yet been prosecuted, because the origin of the propaganda they distribute is hard to track down, let alone prove. The Thule Network has at least 14 linked bulletin boards, two of which – in Frankfurt and Kassel – were shut down in October 1994, with all their equipment confiscated.

The main BBS in the Thule Network, **Widerstand** (Resistance), had charges dropped against it in 1994 after the authorities decided that instructions for making bombs that were circulating in it had been planted by leftist saboteurs.

Anti-fascists in Germany say that the authorities are treating nazi computer networks with undue leniency. They have pointed out that it is technically possible to read encrypted e-mail once it has been decoded at its destination, and that this can be done through electronic eavesdropping.

Another Thule BBS called **Kraftwerk**, which is based in the Bavarian village of Weissenbrunn and run by Kai Dalek, a leading activist of the nazi *Gesinnungsgemeinschaft der Neuen Front*, has posted digitised photographs of anti-fascists and other "enemies" as part of the "anti-antifa" (anti anti-fascist) offensive seen in northern and western Europe in recent years. Those targeted are codenamed "Zecken" (ticks) and the names of some judges and journalists have also been posted. Other code words include "Schöne Mädchen", which refers to the police. Kraftwerk also has links to Austrian BBSs which may be connected with the spate of letter bombs that have rocked Austria since December 1993.

The Thule Network has several functions, apart from keeping track of anti-fascists. With the aid of encryption programmes, including a modified version of the American "Pretty Good Privacy", it is used to organise demon-

strations in Germany and for arranging meetings with foreign comrades in The Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium and elsewhere. It is also used for distributing the propaganda of the US-based NSDAP-AO, which is highly illegal under Germany's strict, but still inadequately enforced, anti-nazi laws.

The NSDAP-AO, run by Gary Lauck, has also distributed electronic propaganda by other methods. Lauck, now awaiting trial in Hamburg, frequently distributes one of his magazines, *Endsieg*, around Europe on floppy disks. It has turned up in Austria, Germany, France and The Netherlands. Once the disks have arrived in Europe, the contents can be distributed via modem or BBS. This was certainly the case with *Endsieg*, and a 1993 edition, which offered a detailed home bomb-making manual, found its way to most west European countries within a couple of months.

In Austria computer disks have been used to distribute antisemitic propaganda and computer games in schools. The material denies the existence of the Nazi gas chambers, trivialises the Holocaust and routinely contains crude antisemitic attacks on Austrian politicians and journalists.

Sweden already had between 15 and 20 active nazi BBSs by 1993, many used as a vehicle for antisemitic hate. Some of them are indirectly connected to the violent nazi **Storm Network**, which appears to have recruited a cell calling itself **Kämpgrupp Väst** from one bulletin board.

Much of the propaganda on the Swedish BBSs is Holocaust denial material. Two people have been chiefly responsible: "Fritz Goldman" and "Oskar Andersson", as they call themselves. Goldman also uploads files to a number of public BBSs which contain an accurate Swedish translation of the *Leuchter Report*, denying the existence of gas chambers in Auschwitz. One public network, **Fidonet**, has also been host to antisemitic expression, particularly in open forum discussion groups on racism, politics and history.

The Norwegian BBS, **Nasjonal Alliansen**, was allegedly run by Arnliot Moseng, a leader of the youth section of the fascist **Fedrelands Partiet** (FLP). This BBS posted propaganda from the FLP and hosted several discussion forums. Moseng admitted that he established links with the German Thule Network to exchange regular reports. After this BBS was exposed in the Norwegian

**WARNING**

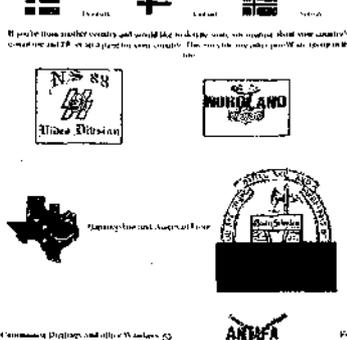
Welcome to Skinheads U.S.A.



**The Good Guy**

- 1. Organize 10, 1000 members... (text is small and partially illegible)
- 2. ...
- 3. ...
- 4. ...

It is your duty to your country and to the world to do this work...



**Continuing Struggle and Other Windows**

- 1. ...
- 2. ...
- 3. ...
- 4. ...

**British National Party News Service**

... (text is small and partially illegible) ...

**BEATEN TO DEATH BY GANG**

... (text is small and partially illegible) ...

**! DANGER !**

The following Document contains insecure Informations !

Do not follow any of the described operations if you are not familiar with chemistry.

Getting injured or even killed by trying any of these experiments is easy !

Think before you act OR death is can be immediate !

**The Big Book of Mischief !**

Please note that the following documents are for information purposes only !

Information contained in them can be highly inaccurate !

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**BNP WEB SITE**

The BNP is now on the internet with its own web site, called **British National Party News Service**. The development is a tremendous advance, because the internet is the most significant political development since the coming of television. Within two years, the Net will have a user base of over 5 million. These people will be able to access BNP comment & news and read *British Nationalist* & *Spearhead* at the click of a button. Media censorship is bypassed.

**BNP News Service at:-**

Top: Pages from a US skinhead web site. The reproduction here does not do justice to the full-colour original. Above: Bomb-making instructions are freely available on the Internet. Right: A British National Party homepage. The problem the BNP has is that it is as boring on the Internet as it is in print. Right, below: Advertisement for the BNP's web site in the February 1996 issue of the BNP magazine, *Spearhead*.

press, Moseng panicked and closed it down. Another Norwegian BBS, *Motstand*, also went off line after a brief existence after two nazis were arrested for posting threats and insults against an Oslo police officer.

In Britain, two members of the Scottish section of the Anti Nazi League received death threats by telephone after their names appeared on an Internet forum used by anti-fascists. On another occasion, in 1994, the **British National Party** posted a message from Norway onto British BBSs, announcing that it had banned cross-membership with the violent terror organisation **Combat 18** (C18).

The message defended the decision by claiming that C18 had been infiltrated by government agents in order to incite BNP members to commit crimes. The BNP also has a contact, codenamed **D Man 1**, on an American BBS called **Cyberspace Minutemen**, which acts as a major contact point for many on the extreme right in both the USA and Europe. However, British nazis have generally been much less sophisticated and

organised than their European counterparts. Bulletin board addresses are also regularly published by the extreme right in the form of contact lists. In Norway nazis recently printed a list of over 40 nazi BBSs in Sweden, Germany and the USA, listing the names, "sysops", contact numbers, etc.

The Internet worldwide already has more than one million registered user sites; there are many more than that as not all Net providers are registered. A Net provider is a company that provides e-mail facilities and Net access to individual subscribers and has the necessary computer capacity to "talk" to the Internet's own computers.

Individual access to the Internet is inexpensive, enabling many people to hook up and receive e-mail, explore the more than 30,000 databases available online, join in discussions with people on the other side of the globe and even perform day to day tasks such as booking airline tickets. The possibilities are truly endless and the extreme right has been quick to exploit them.

The most rapid developments have taken place in the USA. American fascists have always been much faster at taking advantage of the new technology. One reason for this is that the Internet originated in the USA, as a means for different universities, scientists and researchers to share academic data, research and other information.

Another reason for the USA's lead is that computer hardware is comparatively cheaper across the Atlantic, making it harder for Europeans to keep up with the latest technological developments. However, over the past year or so, it has become clear that European extreme rightists are also cashing in heavily on the advantages of going online.

Most nazi activism on the Net now consists of postings in newsgroups or on homepages on the Web. Some organisations, including factional warfare plagued **Ku Klux Klan** groups, have also taken out subscriptions on commercial online services such as **CompuServe** and **America Online**, which mimic the Net by providing similar discussion groups (forums), libraries and interest groups.

Commercial services are more expensive than a regular Net subscription, but also offer the chance to use e-mail facilities and participate in cyberspace in a more controlled environment. Providers such as CompuServe already have more than four million subscribers around the world, but also make it more difficult for the extreme right to use the facilities without problems. Commercial providers normally require subscribers to

agree to a code of ethics when using the service. Those who violate it risk having their subscription terminated. All newsgroups and forums have a "sysop" (system operator) who regulates the group. The sysop will normally block access to anyone who breaks the rules.

Commercial online services which have seen the most antisemitic and Holocaust denial propaganda posted on a regular basis are the bulletin boards **GENie** (owned by General Electric) and **Prodigy**. Prodigy, which has around two million subscribers, has been the focus of hundreds of complaints about the racist messages that have appeared there.

However, most extreme right activity takes place on the Net proper, where online behaviour is generally unchecked. This is what makes the Internet so attractive to all users and so suitable for those who use it to spread hate propaganda.

Newsgroups run by extreme rightists have flourished in recent years. Newsgroups can generally be identified by their headings, often "alt.", which is shorthand for "alternative discussion". Thus alt.revisionism is a newsgroup to discuss Holocaust denial, alt.skinheads is a general meeting place for skinheads and alt.politics.whitepower is a discussion group for white supremacists. A number of other newsgroups exist specifically for extreme right activists.

A typical posting in the alt.skinheads newsgroup read: "I don't believe Hitler gassed six megakikes [kike is a derogatory term for Jew]. And even if he did, so what?". Another posting in alt.politics.whitepower stated: "The 'Hoaxicaust' is a political tool created by Zionists to win public sympathy for Israel".

Of course the danger is that access to these newsgroups is not limited to fascists. Many casual Netsurfers find their way into these groups by chance, accident or curiosity. Such newsgroups therefore provide excellent conditions for recruiting new members or spreading nazi propaganda to the less discerning. This is a particular problem where Holocaust deniers are concerned, as they have an environment in which to post their pseudo-scientific "research" where it can be read by those who are insufficiently equipped to recognise it for what it is.

There are also "channels", Inter Relay Chat, which enable participants to talk to each other "live" through their keyboards. But generally the newsgroups are used for posting messages and starting discussions, which are then read and added to later by other newsgroup users. A particular "thread" (discussion topic) can run for weeks or even months as people keep adding to it.

The real interest today lies in the World Wide Web. Thousands of homepages are available online, which in turn are linked to others. Sophisticated software means that reading homepages is just like browsing through a real book. It is here that the extreme right has best exploited the new technology.

As is to be expected, the Holocaust deniers have made enormous use of the Web. Ernst Zündel, a prominent Holocaust denier based in Toronto, Canada, has his own homepage, as does the **Institute for Historical Review**, which is widely considered to be the grand-

## Attempt to block Zündel fails

Germany's biggest Internet provider cut off all access to Webcom at the end of January because one of Webcom's 1,500 sites was maintained by Ernst Zündel, the German-Canadian nazi, who uses it to post propaganda denying that the Holocaust took place. Denying the Holocaust is illegal in Germany and Deutsche Telekom took the action after prosecutors in Mannheim said they were considering bringing incitement charges against the company for facilitating the distribution of neo-nazi propaganda on the Internet.

Within days of the ban students, not known to be nazis, at a number of universities in the USA made copies of Zündel's web site available, on the grounds that they were upholding "free speech".

Earlier, on 29 December 1995, a German court ruled against the commercial online service CompuServe on the grounds that child pornography was being distributed in its discussion forums.

CompuServe immediately responded by blocking access by all its subscribers worldwide to Internet discussion groups on sexual matters. However access was restored in mid February when CompuServe introduced new parental controls to enable parents to restrict their children's access to the Internet.

While these actions are to be welcomed, they have highlighted the difficulties of tak-

ing legal action at international level on matters concerning the Internet. No international laws exist to prevent exploitative or hate-mongering materials being circulated in cyberspace and measures taken in Europe are almost impossible to apply in the USA, where many Internet providers are located.

A growing amount of racist and fascist propaganda is being distributed internationally on the Internet, especially from the USA or by Europeans using US providers. For example, during the latter half of 1995 CompuServe's Jewish discussion group, the Israel Forum, was awash with complaints about the revisionist filth being posted by a handful of members in the History Forum elsewhere on the service.

CompuServe has clear house rules for subscribers about posting material and sysops are under strict instructions to monitor forum postings and block material that is potentially against the law. This did not happen in this case.

In The Netherlands a complaint has been made to the police about racist material circulating on the bulletin boards of one Internet provider, which may result in court action. Dutch law is specific in that offensive materials posted on the Internet in The Netherlands by Dutch users can be subject to prosecution. Dutch observers and anti-fascists internationally are awaiting the outcome with interest.

father of organised Holocaust denial, publishing vast amounts of literature and holding regular conferences attended by key Holocaust revisionists such as **David Irving**, **Robert Faurisson** and **Fred Leuchter**.

Hundreds of other Holocaust deniers have gone online in the USA and Canada, although at present it is difficult to be clear about precisely how many of their European counterparts have done so.

Apart from revisionist material, a wide array of other extreme right propaganda can be found on the Web, ranging from the Canadian **Milton Klein's National Socialist Primer** to "White Nationalist ideology and tactics" and the "Aryan News Agency".

More topical is the profusion of pages posted by **Christian Patriots** and the various ultra right-wing **Militias** active in the USA, which received so much press attention after the Oklahoma terror bombing in April 1995.

At least a dozen Web sites are available to these groups, some of them of general interest, while others specialise in firearms, the Second Amendment (gun laws) and the strange conspiracy theories that never cease to capture the imagination of the American extreme right.

One of the biggest Web sites is that of the **Stormfront**. On accessing the Stormfront homepage the viewer will first see red Gothic letters on a grey background, followed by a Celtic cross and the menu. Stormfront's homepage is divided into several sections, including a German language section complete with quotes from Oswald Spengler and Ernst Jünger. Stormfront also has at least two electronic mailboxes on other parts of the Internet.

The Stormfront site is visually attractive and well produced, in common with most Web homepages, and offers access to

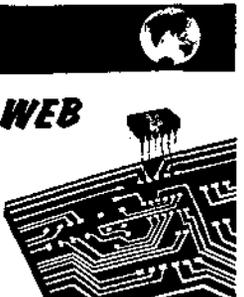
**White International**

**THE WORLD-WIDE WHITE WEB**

*The Rune goes into unpoliceable  
Cyberspace...*

THE worst nightmare of the Granes of Woburn House has come true - the Rune is now on the Internet. From now on we can exchange ideas, information and intelligence with a growing secret

their situation fast. The Labour party has a whole magazine devoted to encouraging its people to use computers and the Internet. Nationalists must ensure that the early reputation of the Internet as being a happy



Nick Griffin's British nazi magazine points at the unpoliceability of Cyberspace

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other linked homepages, including ones by ●Resistance Records, which promotes and sells fascist rock music and is run by the lead singer of **Rahowa**, **George Burdi** alias **Eric George Hawthorne**. This organisation, which produces CDs, videos, T-shirts and a top-of-the-range glossy magazine is probably one of the most successful examples of nazis using the Internet both to propagate their ideas and to sell merchandise. People accessing this site can look at multi-colour images, listen to extracts from the company's latest recordings and order goods by credit card.

●**William Pierce's National Alliance**, a white supremacist organisation. Pierce wrote the infamous *Turner Diaries*, which described a fictional fascist revolution in the USA and directly inspired the nazi terrorist organisation **The Order** and the April 1995 Oklahoma bombing

●**White Aryan Resistance**, based in California and run by **Tom and John Metzger**, which tries to recruit young people, especially skinheads

●**Greg Raven**, an employee of the anti-semitic Institute for Historical Review in California, who publishes both standard and bizarre Holocaust denial material.

There are other Web sites of interest to racists. **The Nation of Islam** has at least two homepages. The imaginatively named **Cyberhate** is a general racist homepage that, like **Stormfront**, offers further access to more hard-core material.

As previously stated, most Web sites are based in North America, although they are easily accessible from Europe, especially as telephone links normally pass through a local provider, keeping costs down. However, there is limited evidence to suggest that some European fascist organisations are starting homepages. For example, in The Netherlands the fascist **Centrum Partij '86** already has a site on the Web.

In conclusion, it is fair to say that what unites the extreme right on the Internet is antisemitism and Holocaust denial propaganda, although in some countries, such as Germany, it is also much used as an organisational and training tool. It is also true that much of the material circulating in Europe is American in origin.

The extreme right in Europe has been generally slow to catch on to the possibilities of computer technology, compared to its American counterparts. Fascists in northern



**Kai Dalek, a leading German nazi activist, whose bulletin board includes photographs of anti-fascists**

and central European countries, such as Sweden, Norway, Germany and Austria, have been the most organised at harnessing the Internet for their own purposes, while the extreme right in southern and eastern Europe have no cyberspace presence.

## EC targets racism on the Internet

The Council of Ministers' Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia has now set its sights on cleaning up the Internet from the evil racist filth which is increasingly finding its way onto the information super-highway. The propagation of racial hate, anti-semitism and nazism is growing and the young are dangerously susceptible to being influenced by this propaganda because it is dressed up in Internet technology. In a declaration on 26 January, after its meeting, the Consultative Commission called for: all Member States of the European Union to keep a close eye on the rigorous implementation of their existing legislation on racism and xenophobia, and for Member States to cooperate voluntarily in implementing any action needed in pursuance of this same objective and in acting at national as well as European level; and urged the European Council to instruct the appropriate compositions of the Council to examine with diligence ways of remedying this situation.

The use of the Internet by racists is flourishing. At the meeting we heard about the leading Canadian neo-nazi, Ernst Zündel, who uses space on the Internet in California to spread his evil views. Zündel welcomes his visitors by saying "The Zündel site has as its mission the rehabilitation of the honour and reputation of the German nation and site challenges the traditional version of the 'Holocaust' - an Allied propaganda tool concocted during World War II - that is not based on historical fact but is a cleverly used ploy to keep the German war time generation and their descendants in perpetual political emotional spiritual and financial bondage."



*Glyn Ford, MEP, a member of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament and a leading campaigner against racism and fascism, reports on the actions of Europe's parliamentary far right.*

The same phenomenon is found in Britain. The latest extreme right-wing group to supply information on the Internet is the British National Party (BNP). In order to avoid protesters finding the source of its message, it has used an Internet subterfuge to announce its existence with no address. Details of how to contact the BNP have appeared on the Internet using a Finnish computer service to strip identifying codes from electronic messages.

We should emphatically reject the "common carrier defence" of the Internet service providers who disclaim responsibility for the contents of messages carried on their systems. The service providers say they are no more responsible than an airline is for drugs or arms smuggled on one of its planes. Let's face it, if an airline were told that it was about to fly a consignment of drugs or arms across Europe, it would be a scandal if it did nothing whatsoever about it. It is common knowledge that the Internet carries racist material. It is a duty and responsibility of the service providers to stamp this out.

The Consultative Commission has instructed Uta Wurfel, the German representative on the Consultative Commission, to prepare a summary of possible measures that can be taken by Member States against the dissemination of ideas inciting racial hatred by telematic means. In the European Parliament, a hearing is being planned, in conjunction with the Inter Parliamentary Council Against

Anti Semitism, on the use of the Internet by racists, with the intention of bringing forward proposals to place limits on the material that can be carried on the Internet.

The Consultative Commission is continuing its work on the feasibility study for a European Monitoring centre on Racism and Xenophobia ready for the European Council meeting this coming June. The proposal will be adopted in early May. An attempt is being made to draw the teeth of such a centre by a double dilution of its work. First, expansion of its area of concern to include the whole of the Council of Europe (CoE) will take its geographical concerns to within a dozen miles of Japan, now that Russia has joined the CoE. Secondly, making it a joint venture with the CoE inevitably limits its resources to twice what the cash strapped CoE can afford.

In this column in December I mentioned a visit to Strasbourg by a team of senior black trade unionists from the public service union, Unison, and the Civil Service union, NUCPS. They met Pdraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, to talk about the problems black Europeans face. As a first step an attempt will be made to organise a European conference with Commission funding for representatives of black Europeans.

The Communication from the Commission on Racism, Xenophobia and Anti Semitism and the proposal for 1997 to be designated as a Year of Harmony, agreed by the Commission in December, will come before the Parliament shortly. It looks like they will receive a very positive response. After more than a decade this represents the first tentative step on what will be a long march.