

64
Sorry to have to chop up your idea-filled letter. Maybe later, when I have a little more space. So, I'll try to respond to what I've cribbed. I am energized - energized with liberating ideas of insight and freedom. I'm lucky genetically and have trained myself to be productively efficient. I've a quick mind, fantastic reflexes and decent stamina. I'm quite adaptable and use what precious time I have, whenever. Religion is indeed a mind-distracting petulance. Racist capitalism doesn't go to the trouble of treating the vast majority of white people even decently. But to the blacks, they do herd into prisons and ghettos. The special ill-treatment, the brunt of the evil that is capitalism has always befallen the blacks of this country. We're all black, some are just lighter than others. If you can feel yourself as the poorest and weakest black feels, your awareness skyrockets. To shed your whiteness is to liberate your desires and flower as a full human being. To join your brothers and sisters as an equal describes freedom. It can enable you to transcend the mundane and join the struggle with empowered dignity. I always enjoy your very thought-provoking letters. Till later, buddy. - Tony.

Greetings, Anthony!

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I've finally finished issue #3 and enclose it for you. Hope you find something of interest in it. I've continued my child-raising advice with an article on caring for babies. How children are treated in this world is a pet subject of mine, considering so many children are living their lives under tyranny, suppression and all manner of abuse.

I'm glad to know you agree with me on how to treat kids. Sleeping with your children is one of the most nurturing, loving things you can do. My daughter and I slept together for years, until she wanted her own bed. She is just an amazing young woman, loving, positive, full of self-esteem, and a great tribute to my "weird" notions of child-rearing.

Thank you for the Race Traitor issue. I've read it all and found it very interesting. The concept of "whiteness" as it is addressed in Race Traitor is one I will address in PEPFERPOT! It's so true that as a "white" person I have been privileged all my life, in ways that are taken for granted and never considered. It is a subject very much worthy of discussion...

Greetings to your family. Keep hugging those boys and tell them you love them, every day! Kate, RR6 S15 - C20, Gibbons, BC VON IVO, CANADA.

Here is a letter I wrote that was printed in SEIU Action, the monthly report to SEIU Stewards, organizers, activists and leaders throughout the country.

I'm not a member-organizer, but I am a long-time plugged-in steward. I take my responsibilities very seriously, writing full explanations on meetings, grievances, and union company dealings, and distributing them to my co-workers.

You should redirect some of your energy away from the narrow focus of the union and expand the magazine to include educational material. What are organizations doing around the country to oppose the corporate juggernaut? How about a regular feature exploring some aspect of labor history?

Let's radicalize our members. People are fed up with this decades-long pendulum of reaction, and are looking for viable alternatives. Unclouded analysis is a rare, yet highly vital, necessity today.

Don't be afraid to appear "too radical" to your members. If you lay the truth on the line in plain English, people respond. - Anthony Rayson.

Dear Tony

I hope that by this time you've received the two packages, one containing the book, DREAM WORLD, and the other with the back-issues of The Match. It took me a while to put together those back-issues, as many landlord-forced moves over the years have jumbled the old tabloids together and it's hard to find anything...

In one of your letters lately you mentioned how your brother was shackled, drugged, and electroshock "treated" by psychiatrists. I hate psychiatry!! I regard it as the worst pseudo-science -- worse even than flying saucer nitwitism, because psychiatry has the ear of the law. Some years ago I ran into a former good friend of mine, and I asked him what he was doing; he said he worked in a psychiatric ward, and it was his job to drug people up the moment they were taken in, whether they wanted it or not. I told him he was a nazi, and turned around and walked away without another word. Never talked to him again....

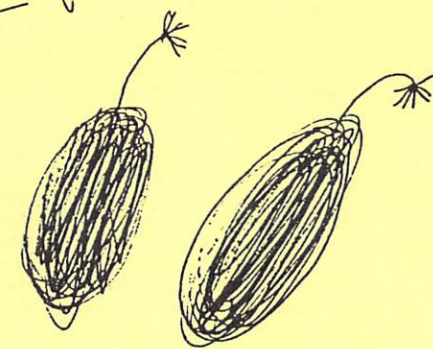
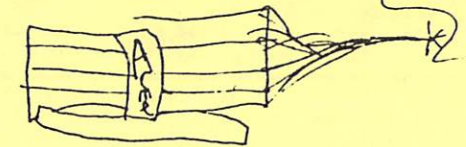
Best wishes, Fred Woodworth.

As usual, well said. - Tony

TRAITOR

ISSUE

BLAME



POW!

By: Anthony Rayson
Illustrated by: Stanton Rayson

Hello!

My name is Anthony Rayson. I'm 44 years old, have a brilliant and loving wife,² two wonderful sons, a nice little doll house in the woods and I've been a toll collector for 23 years. I live in the south suburb of Chicago, - Monee. The state has been trying to build an airport on this land for many years. I'm a long time union steward at work and I play a little tennis and golf. It's your basic brain dead idyll.

However, I also happen to be an Anarchist, an Abolitionist and an Atheist. I avoid society like the plague, read and write constantly and listen to homemade cassettes. I've been sending out numerous essays to people I think would be interested in hopes of getting feedback of a critical nature (positive or negative) to help me best pursue my writing obsession. I'm grateful (dead) to all those who've written back.

After spending tons of bucks on mailings, printing and buying zines, I now feel ready to promulgate my own zine. Using the latest technology (an electric typewriter!) and the able assistance of my nine year old son, Stanton, I will now, kicking and screaming, put my ravings into the whirligig of the papernet. Stanton will do what little graphics you'll see.

It's a sort of little red hen deal, as all of my old friends are either already dead, on the lam or somehow adjusted to living the lie. The very few friends I do have are not interested in participating in this insane venture, although they do enjoy reading it. Luckily, my wife is a reference librarian and helps me procure written materials, although she does so see the point of my pursuits. We are planning on spending plenty, to buy a stupid computer for Christmas. Stanton will teach me how to e-mail, so I can bug people who refuse to communicate any other way (which is a disgracefully high number of people.) I'm sure I will still use pen and notebook.

I will have a small, self-serving letter section of people who like me and jerks who hate me (which should make me look good, too.) You may reprint, plagiarize, quote, or take out of context anything you like - even claim it's yours - just don't change the words around. I will fill the left over parts of pages with quotes I like. I may even (get ready to barf) slip some "poetry" in there. So be forewarned.

I'm interested in the ideas of revolt. I craft my pieces to jackhammer through the calcification of the American mind. I don't think I've missed the existential depth of tupperware parties and football games. There's a better way to respond to the gleeful rush towards extermination than by toasting your television set.

I say fight! Study, learn, read, write, analyse and advocate your position, anywhere and everywhere. Make life miserable for the smugly accepting through the use of well-worded rationality. The courageous revolutionaries, past and present, throughout the globe didn't provide us their hard won insight for us to ignore! Since everything is so screwed up, you won't have far to go to find something appalling to uncover and struggle against. We're Americans! We have the singular privilege of pouring acid directly on this enemy of all life. Let's get off our ass and do our jobs!

Lucy Farsons!
Albert Farsons!
August Spies!
John Brown!
Abbie Hoffman! Let's go!

Anthony R. Rayson
27009 S. Egyptian Trail
Monee, Illinois 60449

p.s. I've begun making poor recordings (90 - 100 minute cassettes) of these essays for those of you who may want them. Those will go for \$2.00. The zine itself? How about 2 dollars and a 78¢ stamp or an ass-kicking trade. It's going to weigh exactly 3 ounces. I'm an emotional guy and I may go off the deep end now and then. A lot of people think I'm nuts and respond to me with muteness or tired shallow arguments. I will tell you this. I will never try to give you anything but the balls on truth, as I see it. I will write back to the point of overkill. I don't care about money, gussied up formats or any of that crap. Thoughts and ideas, baby!

(\$2.00 FOR THE REGULAR-SIZED SINGLE ISSUES.)

"The police are not there to create disorder, the police are there to preserve disorder." - Mayor Richard J. Daley.

"This is not funny." - Mayor Richard M. Daley.

"Never underestimate the power of a schnook." - Boris Badinoff.

"Get pen and notebook ready...Rave on, on printed page." - Van Morrison.

If you've ever suffered through a Christian sermon (who hasn't?) you know exactly how excruciatingly time dying this form of "slumbering" feels like!

"Somewhere our society must allow the long-overdue expression of minority hurts and grievances and the candid majority expression of frustration at being blamed for the sins of the fathers." *ibid.* Hey! Racism is an ongoing thing, gang! Slavery is gone, but slave ideology functions to keep blacks oppressed and whites "privileged." You can't wash your hands of pervasive reality as something that has happened already. It's yesterday, today and tomorrow and must be fought with rational analysis of our actual present day racist reality.

This whole Jesus thing, enriches those who run these privileged religious (and racist) institutions, while befuddling the heads of those who waste their time, mind and money adhering to such women-hating lies! Down with all religions! To hell with Christianity!! We've been suckered long enough! Take that goddam needle out of your arm!! The Bible is an Irving-like scam!!! Fight racism with the unencumbered truth! Study reality soberly! Learn about and advocate Abolitionism.

LETTERS

Dear Tony,

It was good to meet you, even though we only had a little chance to talk. I liked your piece on Matteson. It is what we are trying to promote--not "tolerance" of black people but an enthusiastic embrace of blackness as the concentrated expression of opposition to the whole shit. The critique of the liberals is what RT looks for. Would you be interested in expanding it into an article? If you are too busy with other things, or think you have already said what needs to be said, then we can write an explanatory note based on the news clippings you attached and publish it as a preface to the relevant parts of your comment.

Again, good talking to you. Noel Ignatiev.

I did expand it into an article. I don't know if any of it will appear in RT. Noel has been on a whirlwind tour of the country, promoting Abolitionist ideas. The latest edition of RT is at the printers, at this writing. Noel does the work of ten men. *None of my stuff is in #8. None-the-less, it's A GREAT ISSUE!*

Dear Anthony,

I received your mailing yesterday and read the material you sent me right away. What's the source of all your energy? You seem to have written a tremendous amount of stuff over a long period of time, and on top of that you've managed to raise a family,-- all while working what sounds to me like a difficult job. What makes you burn like roman candles (what's that line in Allen Ginsberg's famous poem about inspired artists?)...

Religion has never made any sense to me. God always seems to be about as real as Santa Claus, or any other fictional character...the use of reason has always been central in my life. Subjugating reason to faith is completely alien to me...

I was struck by the way you describe yourself as an abolitionist. I guess what you're trying to say is that black people remained slaves even after they were officially "freed."

I'd agree that most black people remained slaves even after the Civil War, but I wouldn't equate racism with slavery. Most black people remained slaves after the Civil War because they were poor. And if you're poor in a capitalist society, you're basically a slave. You have little freedom. You're forced to work just to survive. Your boss has almost total control over your life, especially when you're actually working. A major reason that black people were poor was that they were victims of racial discrimination. So there's a link between their slavery and racism. But they're not the same. For one thing, lots of white people were slaves, too. In fact, anyone who was poor or working class, was (and still is) a slave. So you can be a slave without being a victim of racial discrimination...

Well, those are just some ideas I had after reading the material you sent me. Trying to understand all this stuff is an ongoing process for me. I try not to be closed minded and dogmatic. Good luck with everything. Ed D'Angelo, Brooklyn, New York.

but one God (Penn's) and they, once again, come in peace. They "made" a treaty. "The tribesmen agreed to always obey the laws of Penn's Woods and to be loyal to the British Crown.

In return, the white man promised to protect them from trade abuses and assure that their hunting grounds would be preserved. They would never injure or defraud one another, as long as the river should run." p. 29. According to no less than Voltaire, this was the "only treaty between those nations and the Christians which never was sworn to and never broken." *ibid.* This treaty was made in 1683.

Unfortunately, Voltaire died. Alas, by 1737, the colonists broke this treaty, too. A Delaware Indian orator said, "I admit that there are good white men, but they bear no proportion to the bad; the bad must be the strongest for they rule. They do what they please. They enslave those who are not of their color, although created by the same Great Spirit who created them. They would make slaves of us if they could; but as they cannot do it, they kill us. There is no faith to be placed in their words." p. 30.

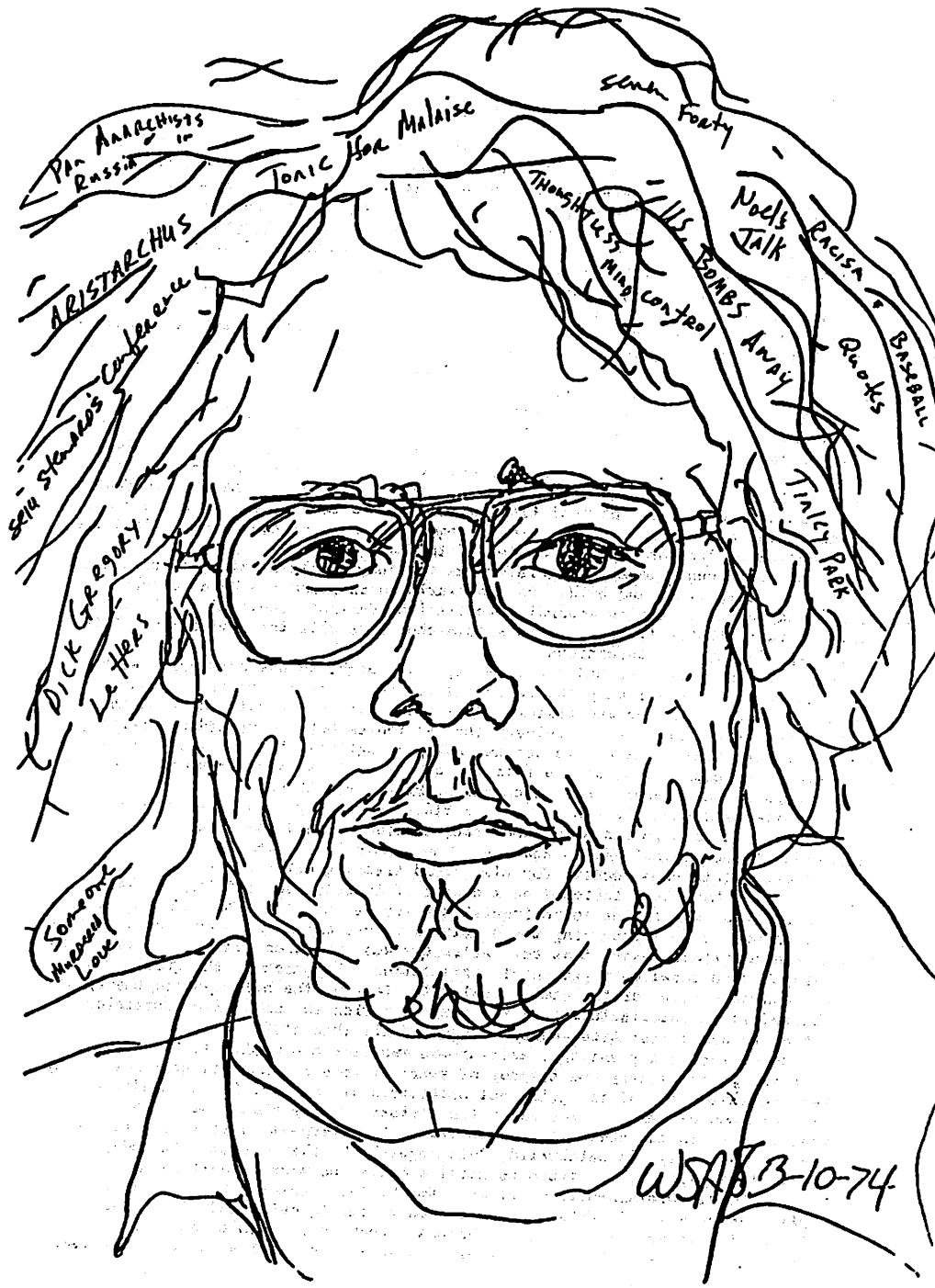
Precisely. There is no faith to be placed in their words!! Then comes the faith words. It's the "Word of God!" "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." p. 30. Of course, all the American Indians were genocidally marginalized, the blacks enslaved and capitalism is still enslaving most of the world's peoples, economically, as they destroy all life on our planet. No matter! "Only Christ in us can make the beautiful dream of Shackamaxon a reality." *ibid.* Gee, you mean we don't have to study, organize, struggle and die fighting this monstrous social beast? Nope! You just have to prostrate yourself and give yourself to Christ, whatever the hell that means! Everything will be hunky dory, in an insanely nebulous way! You even get eternal life tossed into the deal! If you don't profess to believe such convoluted fantasy, you're stuck with eternal damnation and you deserve the horror story of reality. After all, everything is "God's Will" - objective, historical, human reality are just pieces on his chess board. We have no control over this world. The oppressors have just as much right to eternal bliss, as long as they too, cop a before death plea. Let's handcuff and blindfold ourselves and try and fight racism!

Finally! We come to the last chapter. Hallelujah! "Until Justice Rolls Down Like Waters." They mention that the first slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619. "The sins of the fathers have been visited on us beyond even the biblically allotted third and fourth generation." p. 31. No! Surely the Bible can't be wrong!? It's the actual "Word of God!" Could God have screwed up??? Well, you know, he does have to administer every speck of the ever expanding Universe! Maybe he was busy billions of light years away and lost track of poor, insignificant Earth for a few centuries, even though he sent his only son here!!! I guess he didn't have any daughters! They were just made from some guy's rib, anyway. A feminist, God is not! He must love to enslave blacks too - and massacre Indians. He's very pleased with greedy white male capitalists, and enjoys his flock to be gallingly ignorant. People "worship" this joke!?! Insanely, yes!

"At its best the Church of Jesus Christ is a sign of hope, a sign of the Kingdom of God in our midst. It marches to a different drummer." p. 31-32. Yeah! It marches to a psychopathically self-deluding, tax-exempt drummer!

"Unfortunately, 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings is often the most segregated hour in America." p. 32. Hey! It's a rare bit of truth!

"The Church, in spite of slumbering, sins and hesitations, has stirred itself at times to be salt and light in the world." *ibid.*



Tinley Park: Racism, Ignorance, Lovelessness and "Madness"

Tinley used to be a small, old town, populated by the progeny of mostly German immigrants. Aside from the local bourgeoisie, the houses were modest dwellings. The yards were glorified postage stamps. These places were lived in to death by the explosion of children in the late forties, fifties and early sixties. Baby BOOM! indeed.

I arrived in this suffocating, yet surreal environment, in the middle of this birthing phenomenon, 1953. Politically, most of the adults were reflective reactionaries, absorbing societal lessons with superficial obsequiousness. A small percentage of the townspeople were liberal. Rounding out the picture were the usual minute number of natural outsiders - the crackpots, nutcases, criminals, thrill seekers, deviants, losers and "mad" men. A large mental institution was its main claim to fame.

With a dim bulb of comprehension, the translation of social values (schizophrenic to begin with) lost all ties to sanity, when these parents attempted to force feed this drivel into their numerous children. The results were children, given minimal nurturing and attention, basically on their own, with the basest racist and sexist mindlessness to fortify them for the future.

But it wasn't just a racist, sexist "education." Ignorance of any useful information of enlightening ideas was passed on, either through gross misinformation or the fearful withholding of facts. The "facts of life" were avoided like the plague for fear the children would be uncontrollably promiscuous. The wedge forced between the sexes bred fear, frustration, alienation and self-loathing, among those uneasy with the structure of reality. Who couldn't be uneasy? What was the point of having the sexes psychologically separated and any deviation from the U.A.S.P. ideal pitilessly ridiculed?

Racism was a constant. The town was lilywhite, so the objects of such venom were rarely visited, towns away. Blacks were considered like dangerous lepers, to be avoided and hated. Not a few lads were fixated on Hitler and the swastika, short-circuiting their brains with intellectually crippling anti-ideas.

I was six when the sixties began, nine when we were almost vaporized into radioactive dust (Cuban Missile Ego Crisis) and ten when Kennedy's chickens came home to roost. When the Chicago Blue Shirts went on their savage, nightly rampage during the convention, I was almost fifteen. You basic idyllic childhood.

Anybody with glasses, left-handed, curly hair, braces, birth marks, scars, the wrong colored eyes, a funny name, small, large, skinny, fat or "bronsed" at all, was subject to endless taunting. In short, everybody was subject to belittling cruelty because after all, we were all unique individuals, aping our parents' take on how to live on hate. For shame! This poisoned atmosphere was presided over by oblivious parents, microscopically minded school administrators and underpaid, hotted teachers, saddled with purposefully untrue curricula. Many of the adults were sticklers for moronic rules, yet unaware of the town-wide psychological holocaust in the making. It was the boiled down essence of white culture.

What did children do with their time? Very few tried to make comprehensive sense of their surroundings or read such, except comic books. We did watch tons of television and group together often, to play. Tinley was still a backwater town, hardly connected to Chicago. The Rock Island line stopped in town, so you could commute downtown, or go the other way to Joliet. The small town atmosphere was intact and farms buffeted it from surrounding communities, as well as forest preserves. Our sister town was Oak "Stroke" Forest. We didn't see much of these people until we got to high school. They were similarly spiritually separated from themselves. We played outside a lot, rode our bikes, played baseball and tortured animals.

Spiders, and snakes, lizards, insects, birds, crayfish, squirrels - you name it, we'd capture and make suffer. We'd stick firecrackers in frogs. One friend of mine built a torture chamber/gulldotine for cats. I remember one time, some of us ditched school, went to the zoo and got thrown out. Some of the guys couldn't resist throwing rocks at the monkeys. We saved our meanest treatment for each other, concentrating our blind hatred inward.

This evil behavior was vented fully when the flood of depressant drugs (barbituates, alcohol and heroin) became commonplace. Weapons (vehicles and guns) added their terrorizing immediacy. "Mind expanding," psycho-active drugs, such as marijuana and LSD, were the drugs most hysterically lied about by the adults, but it was the "downers" that were the real scourge of the young.

59
Even some blacks are deluded by the myth of the civil rights struggles of the '60's. Just because some words were changed in the racist "laws," does not mean institutional, unrelenting racist propaganda, no longer has any effect. To an alarming degree, "white" people still think and act in self-crippling anti-black patterns. Racism is powerfully entrenched and daily re-inforced in countless ways. There is too much money and power at stake to honestly expose racism as the major tool of capitalist domination that it has always been and continues to be, through the mere rewriting of "laws." The "justice" system itself is a thoroughly racist institution. One of the growing money-makers today is the prison "industry," where blacks are herded like cattle.

The townspeople, "black" and "white" got together to rebuild the church. Naturally, the "Lord" had his hand in this effort. I guess the "Devil" must have had his hand in its destruction. Remember, anything "good" by whomever's definition, is caused by the "Lord" and all the bad stuff is the handiwork of the "Devil." It's all bull! The "Lord" and the "Devil" (Santa Claus, too!) are made up by the imaginations of people - nothing else!

"Here were people worshipping God, minding their own business, and somebody came along and interrupted that. I think that what we've truly seen is the true love of God showing forth." p. 15. No. It shows people are capable of human decency, despite the delusional fog which many people suffer from by their professed belief and faith in otherworldly fantasy.

"Fear is the basis of much of the problems we are experiencing." *ibid.* I sort of agree with that. Fear is a paralyzing factor in maintaining ignorance and the inertia to act effectively. "The problems we are experiencing" are systems of oppression - the "Church" being right up there with racism and capitalism. What the hell is Christianity banking on??? Fear! If people don't believe some form of this tortuously confused mass of dogma, they are shamed and forced to conform through fear - fear of ostracism, fear of hell! Whether people really "believe" any of this bunk or not, many feel compelled to pretend to go along with it. The only ones who truly "believe" are the cynical shysters, huckstering up enormous wads of cash for themselves as Christianities "messengers." It's quite vile all-in-all, and conveniently, tax-free!

They are pleased with the outcome of this racist arson and praise God. "If you want to be something, you've got to look up." p. 16. They must have forgot the word "diminished" between something and you've.

The Plain Truth interviews an elected official, W.I. "Bud" Doherty, who is the Pike County (Mississippi) Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. He says "We have recognized that when 40 percent of your population is black, and almost all of them are living below the poverty line, then economically that makes no sense.

Christ is telling us what to do, and that's why race relations have always been important to me." p. 16. It starts off sane, but he's wobbling into disconnected incomprehension. Later, recalling a Vision 2000 Workshop, he says, "They were put with people they had never worked with before, and they hammered this vision out. I spent a whole month praying before this, every day, saying, 'Please Lord, let race relations be mentioned.'" p. 17. I guess the Lord took pity on his prostrate, unable to influence anything ass, because most of the 70 people voted that race relations is the number 1 problem in America! It's another miracle! The Lord shows his mighty power over our undeserving planet, once again!

They ask him, "Is there some skepticism in the black community about what would be seen as white business efforts?" *ibid.* "Bud" says, among other things, "The only way we are going to solve the problem

from the near slave labor of "its" black native peoples. It praises its Nobel Prize winners. F.W. de Klerk won in 1993. Henry Kissinger won in 1973! At least Le Duc Tho had the lack of self-conceit so as to refuse to accept his Nobel! How in the world did that great humanitarian Richard Nixon get overlooked???

They sang the praises of Solidarity in Poland. They stood up to a bogus system, alright. Saturated in Catholicism, receiving the blessing of the Pope in Rome, Waleza and Co. sold the workers into capitalism's charnel house. The Gdansk shipyards are closed now. It was not profitable enough, so to hell with the workers. No thought was given to give them a chance at making the enterprise run intelligently, like always. Gee, Lech, you're not so popular anymore, how come? He got his stupid Nobel in 1983!

They go on to revel in the collapse of the Soviet bloc countries. After all, they were enslaved with "Godless communism." They were miserable countries alright, but not because they were "Godless." They had a dreadful socio-economic system of state capitalism - not communism. The workers never had control of the means of production or its distribution. They had a bureaucratic, dictated from above, mess, that toadied to the U.S.S.R. They attained a few social gains amid a stultified, censored oppressiveness. The Warsaw Pact did form some form of bulwark against American capitalist hegemony. Now, with its demise, the U.S. thieves are running roughshod over all the world's workers and peasants. GATT and NAFTA and all the systems of capitalist thievery (the World Bank, IMF, etc.) are taking away what little security these "communist" countries' workers worked for. Now, they have no security. Their pensions are valueless, their health standards are deteriorating. They are politically and personally helpless. Lawlessness reigns. The old people eat out of dumpsters. Ah, the sheer "magic" of the "miracle" of the free market!

They talk of Gandhi and how his "philosophy of nonviolence led India to independence and influenced freedom seekers around the world." p. 12. Of course, they neglect to mention the religious bloodbath between Moslems and Hindus which cost the lives of millions! India and Pakistan are wretchedly poor and continue to suffer religion-fueled ignorance and massacres. All religions do a terrible disservice to their people.

Then, it's back to the great "Jesus of Nazareth... We desperately need a much more important spiritual freedom - a freedom only God can provide." *ibid.* That's out and out horseshit! God can provide nothing, because he is nothing! Only men and women can do anything to improve the human condition. Take responsibility for your own life and work for concrete, actual social betterment.

"Jesus said he was sent 'to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed.'" (Luke 4:18) Of course, Jesus wasn't talking about liberating people from the Roman yoke. He wanted to free people spiritually by having them put their trust in him." *ibid.* Heaven must have forbid him to spawn a movement to instigate actual, real liberation! He wants to supplant the impetus to revolt with blind nebulous "trust" wheezas, somehow, while the body is decaying and being worn eaten, true "liberation" will be had. Trust him! What counter revolutionary nonsense!

"Those already emancipated by Jesus Christ can thank God Almighty that they are, at last, spiritually free." *ibid.* Ti and Do concocted a fantasyland which made at least as much sense as this bombastic hokum.

They go on from this banal sermonizing to recount recent racist church burnings in the South. A black lady, Rosie Young, said, "We just couldn't imagine that we had anybody still living here that was that mean. We thought that we had lived through that time." p. 13.

The Civil Rights movement of the early and mid-sixties served as justification for brainless racism. "See? We shouldn't have gotten rid of slavery." The racist slaughter in Vietnam gave the townfolks a chance to demonstrate their patriotism. Dead-end late teens actually enlisted. Some parents really were the first ones on their block to have their boy come home in a box! The rich got out of it with "deferments," just like during the Civil War.

We hated those comie gooks and Vietcong and loved to see piles of charred corpses of them on T.V. "You Don't FUCK With The U.S. of A!" The fact we went there to commit mass murder didn't matter. The dumbest version of whatever was told us, we believed. Hell, even Congress swallowed the Tonkin lie whole, too! So what do you expect from small town simpletons? The political cartoons featured Chinese "communists" with inanely leering looks, drooling, clutching huge bloody sabres behind their backs. After all, they were behind this whole Vietnam thing, you know!

Quickly, those sent "overseas" realized they'd been set up in a monstrous scam. Their lives were in grave danger, physically and psychologically. They took drugs and sent some home. Pot made its debut among the "heads" and "freaks." Some of the greasers, bikers, and junkies already had access. Now, they were seeing a market to exploit.

Juxtaposed against a dailydose of slaughter from Vietnam, there were inklings of mental freedom. The hippies seemed happy "living on love." Music became meaningful. College students were demonstrating and occupying buildings. Blacks had militant, young leadership and their ghettos went up in flames with bloody regularity. These militants were systematically gunned down by the police apparatus and fellow travelling reactionaries. I was sixteen when Fred Hampton's free breakfast program for ghetto children and adult education was utterly traumatized by his murder by sheriff abush. Fred was one of the very few great men of this country.

The young whites in Tinley started to wobble out of their lower class orbits. Their parents turned on them. The teachers never did like 'em, and the cops went on the offensive. The young would collect at rendezvous points - safe houses, parks, but mostly in the woods. When the cops invaded our party spots in the woods, we could usually scatter from our bonfire without capture. Someone might even toss bullets into the fire for their arrival. We hated the pigs. Sometimes, we'd see our friends, beaten to a bloody pulp, spill out of a car. "What happened to you?" "Fuckin' cops..." Other times, we'd see our friends for the first time in a long while - in court! Everyone ended up in court with some kind of bogus charge.

It was opposition for the hell of it, though. A friend of mine's brother burned down the mushroom factory. Abandoned buildings were systematically destroyed. First they were smashed with hammers, then burned. Some cars met the same fate (mine included!) People were under seige, but we had little or no political consciousness. Those that did, tended to steer clear of the assocal dopers that hung out on the street. They'd go downtown to demonstrate against the government and actually read. I did both scenes. I wasn't fond of downers, though. When "reds" or "twos" or "ludes" came to town, look out! After all, you've got to wash 'em down with cheap wine. Frustration from ignorance, hopelessness, lovelessness and victimization, raged. Car crashes, vicious fights, rip-offs and belligerence, were acute. Overdoses, sickness and despair were its residue.

Those frightened into ultra conformity, walked a tight rope of scorn and vigilance against temptation. These were the "socialites." They believed their parents lies that marijuana was the gateway to ruinatoin... They saw many around them dissolve and figured it all started with the evil weed. But, they were young, too, and couldn't avoid being lumped in with the rest of us. They had eyes and ears, too. Less and less of them wanted to go to Vietnam, especially after seeing a neighbor, friend or loved one come back dead or wounded, psychologically destroyed. It seemed the whole town was psychologically destroyed. "Something is not right, but what?" they thought.

Many of these teens, especially the fellows, wound up experismenting with pot, anyway. They never, thank GOD! got "with it" and easily fall back into their assigned worker slots, provided by capitalists' companies. The pot didn't melt their minds. Being grateful, they settled for life-long conservative no-think. Obviously, it didn't expand their minds, either.

As for the incorrigible ones, they'd float around to the music festivals, making a nuisance of themselves with their violent, doped-out, ignorant behavior. Attrition set in. Overdose by habituates and heroin became common. "Tick," "Angel Dust," PCP,

DHM, DMT, etc., often turned many into zombies. Some were gang-pressed into prison. Psychological torment reached unbearable levels. Like jackals preying on the weakest springbok, vulnerable young men and women were sucked into the psychological gulag, often by "well meaning" adults. It was like taking your sick or injured dog to the vet and have them "humanely" destroy them - and get billed for it. Tinley Park ("Twinkling Farts" my old friend Jerry Schmidt used to call it - he overdoses on horse.) had its own large "mental Health" facility. Most lost souls were kidnapped, drugged, and imprisoned there, processed, and sent to more inescapable institutions.

One sweet, lost-at-sea kid, named Billy Squiller, couldn't take it anymore and jumped out of a ten story window, I think at Michael Reese. He died. Suicide was becoming a common way out of total despair. One guy who took over my paper route when we were kids, George Ames, took this option. He was a sensitive guy, who once cared for a number of orphaned raccoons. He was engaged to be married. I went to a party, held at the house he was staying at. Before the sun rose again, he fired a shotgun through his head, splattering his brains along his bedroom wall. A friend of mine's sister recently fired a pistol into her head, in the shower. She lived a very loveless life. Her sister, however, managed to break away. She married a black man, against all her family's racist wishes, got the hell out, and experienced love and human decency. I was damn proud of her! How many drug overdoses were suicides or murders? Who knows??

Also, an alarming number of Tinley's street people were found dead. Somebody ran them over with a car or they were found frozen to death in a car, behind somebody's house. Nobody cared for society's dregs. Bodies were found in ditches or decomposed in the woods. So, they were disposed of. We'd call each other on the phone and learn of the latest death. "How ya doin'?" "I'm still alive!" "That's good - I guess." All this never happened. Tinley's become upscale. It's been restored and gentrified. It has no sordid past, anymore. Everything is on the commercial up and up. Expensive condos line up to accept the presence and money of middle managers. Life is ka-chinging along. Why, we even have our own "rush" hour! That's the definitive sign of making it.

We've learned from our mistakes in Vietnam, too! Don't tell 'em anything anymore. Send only thoroughly brainwashed personnel. Get it over quick (hyper war) and get the party started! Why think when there are so many products to gorge upon???

What's become of these spectres from the sixties and seventies? Many have scattered like the wind to other states - North Carolina, Texas, Arizona, Wisconsin, Indiana, etc. They're rarely, if ever, heard from again. Some were one step ahead of the law, anyway. Others settled nearby and fashioned some sort of truncated life. One of the more superficial socialites, went to Hollywood and became a big "success" churning out insipid screen plays and moronic situation comedies. Some are substance junkies. Some even managed to get a life, a wife and kids. All too often, attempts at a relationship ended in miserable failure and many, in their forties, still live at home. So, a supposed white idyll, Tinley Park, turned into some twisted version of the Possessed. How must it be for the young in the black ghettos??? They must have gotten a better take on reality, but they start with nothing. Racism, ignorance, and lovelessness lead to "madness." No big surprise, if you look at it.

A very small number of these people puke up the cyanide capsule provided so lovingly by society. Bastardizing themselves and selling out to the almighty dollar wasn't cool, either. They survived, somehow. They protected their brains and nurtured themselves, alone. In this wilderness, some found love and were able to become Abolitionists and Anarchists.

"Oh, the ones that slip through your fingers! If only we could do it all over again! With our computer technology, we could be so much more thorough! Infanticide! Long live death culture!!!"

"Garrison's language seemed outlandish and violent. Yet what he wrote was never coarse or vulgar, and to the fair-minded observer today, remembering the villainy that had to be described and the indifference to be overcome, it appears appropriate and necessary." - Louis Ruchames.

"I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth and as uncompromising as justice." - William Lloyd Garrison.

"Our reckless course, our empty rant, our fanaticism, has made Abolitionists of some of the best and ablest men in the land." - Wendell Phillips.

demagogue wants them to, as he invokes the "Lord," of course. Snap out of it, people! There is no natural law that forces people to not be aware and humanly decent unless they are under the spell of one of countless thousands of versions of religious nonsense! Many, many Christians manage to be among the most vile creatures on Earth! The constitution has as one of its basic rights the freedom of religion. We should have the truly liberating freedom from religion! The fact they receive tax-exempt status is an outrage, when everyone (beside the rich, of course) is forced to pay it. Some of the very few actually decent Christians, the Liberation Theologians, are drummed out of their organization (in this case, the morbidly sexist, repressed, reactionary colossus, the Catholic Church.) How dare these grass roots priests become involved to stop ignorance, disease, starvation and socio-economic immiseration? Just wear the silly outfits and tell the destitute that things get really wondrous after their agonizing, poverty wracked deaths. This as long as they follow the formula of meek submission to "their" barbarous tyrannies and the forfeiture of what meager pittance they come across, to further enrich the church, even though their children are dying of preventable diseases! After all, you mustn't rock the U.S. - propped death squad boat, if you hope to get to "heaven" - after, always after death!!!

Let's not forget the leaders of these death squads are the most God-fearing, deeply religious Christians around, - fighting "godless communism" with, sadistically, mass murders. What's there to be faithful for?

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," said Jesus of Nazareth (John 8:32.) That's right! But not if you are trying to decode this multi-authored, sloppily put together, ancient compilation of falsehoods! It's incredible that supposedly intelligent people still profess they put stock in this irrelevant crock. Very few "believers" actually even read it! Very few "Aryans" actually read the saneless Mein Kampf either, but they indulged their madman on his blood quest. Many paid with their lives, but didn't go to heaven - or hell.

When has Christianity not sided with the military and the state, who are always busy subjugating "civilians"? Their "God" must be a right-wing monster, whose dethroning is essential for any hope at genuine human progress. Too bad he doesn't exist. We'd have an object to fight against. If he did exist and we attempted to oppose him, he would smite us down easily being so all-powerful, vengeful, and omnipotent. He's just a long running, stubborn idea in the heads of many, whose parents pretended to believe it, so they do too. These folks can't even agree on what the hell "it" is anyway. What the concept of "God" really is, is a testament to the hubris, self-conceit and gullibility of the human animal.

O.K. let's go back and pick through the wreckage of this tract some more. They speak of Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. "When we let freedom ring... all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics..." p. 11. People aren't "children of God." They are children of their parents! Just like a governmental survey, King was codifying people into "black" and "white," "Jews," "Gentiles," etc. It's as if these artificial categories determine a person. We're to thank "God Almighty" that we are free at last. "God Almighty" hasn't come across with freedom, equality, - anything!

Martin Luther King was a very powerful speaker and leader. But his pious religiosity didn't prevent him from being an oversexed, egomaniac did it?

They speak of South Africa and the "dismantling" of apartheid. Too bad the economic situation is still in place, sending rivers of kruggerands to the "white" capitalists who "own" the wealth of that country, extorted

own love." p. 9. All these points are buttressed by bible quotes, which supposedly gives whatever these God-people say, instant credibility. "God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit," says (Romans 5:5...) for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." (Philippians 2:13) "You get the vague idea. Vagueness is the point!

"In Christ there is no black, white, brown, red or yellow. That is why living in him is the ultimate answer to racism." *ibid.* Funny, no quotes here. The Bible is replete with ignorance, racism and, heavily, sexism. The Mormons took off on the Bible with the lunatical Book of Mormon which explicitly claims blacks are inferior and doomed to hell. Dennis Rodman was right! Those people believe awful things and live their lives in racist piety.

"The most wonderful and desirable descriptor that could be applied to any of us is 'children of God' (1 John 3:2), which we become upon repentance and faith in Jesus Christ, when we commit to purify ourselves just as he is pure" (verse 3)." p. 10.

Many right-wing racist groups claim this specialness for themselves. They've "repented." They're chosen for heaven. They've got a Bible full of quotes, too. Obscure, meaning anything to anybody, the bible verifies whatever the "righteous" want to believe. Many of these people have not seriously studied racism, combatted it, overcome it, etc. They have become "born again," whatever the hell that means! All of us non-believing heathens can boast in hell! We're deserving of eternal damnation and, according to some of the more insane, physical liquidation as well! How the hell does that foster insight, awareness and the struggle against racist reality???

Some Christians pin the racist tag on the tail of the Devil. It's all his fault. Some Christians feel blacks are inherently inferior. The logic for any and all Christian beliefs are peppered with these cast-in-stone, terribly written, non-specific, deliberately obscure little sentences from the Bible. "The word of God" does not exist! The Bible and all other religious meanderings were written by self-serving priests, shamans, etc. There is no such thing as the "Word of God" because there is no "God" who could have "spoken" them! Once people realize this and disengage their brains from this morass of fantasy and confusion, the quicker they will be able to analyse situations more rationally, and the more effective they will be at combatting racism, if that's what they intend to do. It's a surrender of intelligence to give this centuries-old, myriad of gobbledygook, contradicting and shamefully poor writing, any legitimizing thought whatsoever. To do so is a waste of your time, the short while you are actually alive, here on Earth.

One thing they're lucky for though, is when they die, they won't come to the realization that the time absorbed in religious hooey had been wasted, because they will be dead - no heaven, no hell - just dead!! But wasted time it is, this attempt to accumulate after-life brownie points, and it greatly diminishes the ability to understand and act on societies' complex and crying problems.

It's rather pathetic that the "miracles" of today consist of chemical reactions leaching out of the eyes of decaying "Virgin" Mary statues and paintings. He creates the universe, but can't so much as make a pebble defy gravity. This "God" is utterly powerless to influence anything on Earth, or anywhere else. Innocent children die every day by the boatload. God can't lift a finger to intercede. Have faith in this moron??? Why prostrate ourselves to this malevolent manipulator? It's an incredibly long running sham to be sure, but that doesn't give it any credibility. Grovelling, deluded, afraid of his mythical "wrath," people are mental sheep - perfect for doing what some persuasive

Remember seven forty? Seven percent of the worlds' population consumes forty percent of the worlds' resources. There's enough for everybody, but not if someone's going to take six times their share! We must all be wallowing in opulence and luxury, too, right?

How can you enjoy this gourmet meal on a table whose legs are made from human bones and the table top is formed, crushed skulls??? Most people in this country struggle to live, anyway. There's no trickle down.

How about the rest of the worlds' peoples? How the hell are they managing? Slums, shantytowns, huddled masses of starving refugees... Oh, sure! There are pockets of wealth, barricaded behind death squad police states, beholden only to their U.S. masters. They have to consciously beat and starve their own country-men, women and children to "enjoy" the fruits of "seconds" decadence. Their systems aren't so conveniently cloistered, law enshrouded and "official." Only white, male, American capitalism has risen to those sanctimonious levels of hideous deceit. It's beyond depravity. It's pure evil.

"Our" mass murdering is done by brainwashed flyboys dropping blankets of bombs upon foreign civilians. "We" pay and train local (foreign) torturers and murderers to keep the New World Order running smoothly on a daily basis. After all, top C.E.O.'s believe in keeping their hands clean.

What about our culture? Surely with all this "wealth" - stolen from the planet - we must be attaining the zenith and pinnacle of historical cultural brilliance? Yeah, right! Gilligan's Island remake are as good as we're capable of showing. It's an absolute abomination! As the world gasps for breath, as the rain forest lungs are relentlessly bulldozed, we watch hundreds of channels of mindlessness... Preparatory staged death. It's all so very hi-tech. The children of America are being inculcated with the "thrill" of repercussionless extermination. That's your "culture," gang!

We should be organising to revolt!

Of course, we've all but eliminated various social diseases such as racism, sexism, predation, etc., right? Hardly! Things are getting much worse! Racism will never go away until well after capitalism is utterly destroyed. It can't. Racism is like murder and the polite "war." It is absolutely vital for the "functioning" of capitalism. Just as unemployment is a built-in feature of any capitalist economy, so is the agonizing tortuous death by disease and starvation of many of the worlds' children. It's part of the package. Little children are dying so swine can repulsively live out lives of extraordinary excess. Each share of stock is somebody's death certificate.

Once we can disengage from the poison gas cloud of advertised irreality that passes for normalcy, the horror ride we're on starts to become visible. Jumping off is one thing. You've got to save your own skin. But you must then save as many people from oblivion and pointlessly lived lives as you possibly can. You owe that much, at least to the children of the future. You owe it to yourself. Attain some self-respect and some dignity. Learn to think and organise to revolt!

"I respect the rights of the poorest and weakest of colored people." - John Brown.

"I claim for the anti-slavery movement...it has been marked by sound judgement, unerring foresight, the most sagacious adaptation of means to ends, the strictest self-discipline, the most thorough research, and an amount of patient and manly argument addressed to the conscience and intellect of the nation, such as no other cause of the kind, in England or this country, has ever offered." - Wendell Phillips.

"We have facts for those who think, arguments for those who reason; but he who cannot be reasoned out of his prejudices must be laughed out of them; he who cannot be argued out of his selfishness must be shamed out of it by the mirror of his hateful self held up relentlessly before his eyes." - Wendell Phillips."

"I am in earnest. I will not equivocate - I will not excuse - I will not retreat a single inch - AND I WILL BE HEARD!" Those were the passwords of liberty.

- William Lloyd Garrison.

Well, the Sucks won another game last night, coming from behind twice to win 7 - 6, even though the manager tried to blow it, as usual. I had six tickets for that game, but I gave them to a guy from work. I couldn't stomach patronizing Reinsdorf. I hadn't been since before the '94 "strike." But then, who has? I thought maybe I'll go and see if I can spend absolutely nothing. The tickets were free (Wendy's giveaways.) I could park near IIT (for nothing,) and bring my own food. I still didn't want to go.

Ripodolt orchestrated the 1990 spring training lockout, the near suicide of 1994, lurked behind Stern's shadow during the threatened lockout of NBA players in 1995, performed the hatchet job on the Elmer Fudd, Fay Vincent, and master-of-ceremonied the elevation of that doofus, Bud Selig. His whole modus operandi is kind of like the constitution we gave Panama, after incinerating a few thousand of its people to arrest Noriega. He's the sports king of "fairness" in his own bubble-headed mind. Besides, him and "Crumbs" Krause were trying to trade Pippen and kill the Bulls awesome championship run. No thanks! Also, that morning, his sychophantic G.M. Gun Shooter, threatened the fans. He said he was going to scale back payroll if we didn't start buying tickets. Do whatcha want. He really sucked when he pitched for the Sucks! Now, he just sucks up.

The next night, I did go, because my nephew was in town, as was my dad. They're both big Sucks fans and this was my chance to hang with them. My brother had more Wendy's tickets. One of his sons, who brought two baseballs, rounded out our foursome. Real Sucks fans won't pay for tickets. After all the shit the owner pulled, you just can't make yourself do it. It was bad enough going for nothing. I parked by IIT, while all the white lemmings poured into Reamdog's parking lots, at ten bucks a pop. I had a soft cooler full of apples, a juice box and a plastic gatorade bottle of water. It was hot. We walked through the campus to the ballpark. As we got near, I had to admire the textbook display of the classic ticket scam. One guy comes up "asking" for tickets. A half-block down, another fellow, miraculously, is selling tickets! Nice try guys, but hell! Reichsdork can barely give these tickets away. Why would anybody actually pay for 'em?

Guys started coming at us, selling stuff. Peanuts, papers, programs. I bought a paper, Afrigue, for a dollar. He said he needed twelve dollars for his room. That was cool with me, whatever. I wanted to read what the press in the Black community had to say. The front page promised information about the Congo, Nigeria, Eritrea, etc. I said, "You sure as hell ain't gonna read about it in the goddam Tribune! That's for sure!

We came to the park. What I noticed is, now, right at the park, everyone seemed white, whereas a block before it was half white, half black. Also the structure itself is constructed along class lines. The plebsians are sent to the nosebleed section, way up in buafuck, along a winding ramp that keeps them away from the good seats and the corporate skyboxes.

As we entered through the turnstiles, the lady asked me to open my cooler bag. "O.K." "You'll have to pour out the water." "What!?" I walked towards a garbage, didn't waste my water, and caught up with my homies.

Once you finally finish the ascent to the 500 section, a scaled down array of food and drink is offered, at the usual bottle rocket prices.

There's no real "feel" for the game up here. You can see most of the field, but it's a million miles away. The chance to get a foul ball doesn't exist. Of course, Mark McGwire could hit a ball 500 feet high and foul! We sat down in the third row. Pretty good, considering we could have been marooned up there in row 50, where humiliation and vertigo go hand in hand. We got a drink and a crummy brat. Before long we had to stand up for the National Anthem, sung by some white girl, ever so sincerely. It got me to thinking. What must these people be thinking about, while listening and crowing this song? "I'd like to go and kill those people!" or maybe, "We should go over there and level the place!"

O.K. Batter up. Wilson Alvarez was pitching - coming off of a shutout of the Cubs. If he had lost to the CUBS!... It's too horrible to contemplate. Wilson's a quality lefty. I was happy to see Frank Thomas back in the line-up. After all, he is the best hitter in baseball. He started the game batting .324. I wanted to see Albert

and spiritual leadership in the fight against racism. Promise Keepers, prayer breakfasts, pastoral retreats, Jesus marches - these are beginning to focus on racial healing and reconciliation." ibid. The Promise Keepers are a dangerous bunch of male authoritarians whose leadership is decidedly reactionary. Much of Christianity is lunatic fringe, right wing. Pastoral retreats, prayer breakfasts and Jesus marches pose no threat to the racist powers that be.

"Washington for Jesus" rallies that include racial reconciliation as a vital theme, Christians and Jews participating in candle light vigils to show solidarity with terrorist victims in Israel..." ibid. The biggest "terrorist" in the Middle East is Israel!

"May God give us the courage to stand in the gap against racism." ibid. "God" has no influence on the situation whatsoever because he, like racism, is a construct of the human mind. He has no free will. He does not exist.

"Many of us don't celebrate differences. Some don't even accept them. Thus we don't peacefully share this good earth." p. 4. Whether we "celebrate differences" or not has no bearing on how racism affects the economic reality of racist capitalism.

"Our mailboxes receive white-supremacist tracts showing a black man shooting a nude white woman. Under the illustration is the slogan, 'Is your neighborhood crime infested or is it still all white?'" p. 4-5.

"Jesus said 'let the little children come to me, and don't hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" p. 5. Brainwash the gullible children and reap mental sheep as adults.

"Human governments seem impotent to cure social ills. And many people suffer from compassion fatigue." p. 6. Compassion fatigue! Oh, those poor overwrought saints!

"Sad to say, religion, too, has been used to encourage racial exploitation." ibid. You don't say?

"For example, some feel the Christian Scriptures exalt one race over others. Scripture dealing with the curse on Canaan in Genesis 9:24 - 27, were selectively applied to justify the enslavement of an entire people. The angels weep." ibid. The All Powerful can't "do" anything to prevent his angels from despair and impotence?

"Jesus raised his standard against racism and all forms of prejudice in the Sermon on the Mount.

You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgement.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell." ibid. He threatens all or most of us with "judgement" but what really is he saying???

"Christianity and racism can never co-exist. Not for a second." p. 7. It can and has for thousands of years, maybe, but not for one second!

"Jesus destroyed the power sin exerts. He defeated the 'acts of the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:19) - including the form of hatred known as racism," ibid. No! He did not! Don't lie!

"Ignorance. Social conditioning. Stereotyped thinking. Fear of breaking out of our narrow allegiances. Seeing other people as threats to our well-being. Experiences with actual injustice. These can sow the seeds of racist thinking. Thoughts then become actions." p. 8. Who benefits from the "teaching" of racism and why?

Here is a list of their solutions. 1. Remember the message of God's Word. 2. Treat others the way you want to be treated. 3. Get to know others, learn how they live. 4. Give others the benefit of the doubt. 5. Recognize when you're reacting according to social programming. 6. Don't overreact to one event. 7. Ask God to help you express his

Christianity, Irrationality and the Struggle Against Racism

54

The Center for the Healing of Racism was started in 1989. Their tenets are that racism is a disease of ignorance which violates the dignity of mankind. It retards the unfoldment of the potentialities of its victims and corrupts its perpetrators. It blights human progress. The patterns of racist thinking and behaving are learned not inborn. Racism is marked by the imbalance in economic, political and social power in favor of some racial, ethnic and cultural groups ("white") at the expense of others ("black.") An increased awareness of the development and perpetration of racism will lead to its elimination and the development of a just and peaceful world. Wait a minute. Wait a minute! It's just going to happen, without a struggle against those who profit from it? Individuals need to overcome their own racism, band together and attack it! The Center believes the struggle against racism must first and foremost be waged in the heart.

The goals of the Center are as follows: 1. To create a safe environment to explore racial issues. 2. To recognize various forms of racism. 3. To examine attitudes towards blacks and how society has conditioned everybody with disinformation. 4. To assist whites to become sensitized to blacks' experiences and unlearn racist patterns and empower themselves to interrupt racist remarks and attitudes. 5. To provide accepting, supportive atmospheres for blacks to heal the hurts suffered as a result of the oppression of racism. 6. To make available information about the rich heritage of people of color. 7. To build coalitions and associations with other groups who share a commitment to racial justice.

The services they offer include a program developed by a team of facilitators. They go about the country defining prejudice and racism. They tell where racism originates, how it is perpetuated, the positive means to overcome it. They discuss the forms of racism and how to heal its wounds. These facilitators encourage dialogue to promote real listening and understanding. Their sessions are nine evenings, once a week of two hours each or weekends of two eight hour days. Three times a year a nine week course is offered to the general public - free of charge. This is a valuable service, a much needed effort in the battle to understand and overcome racism. Unfortunately, their message comes saddled to the yoke of hallucinogenic, evangelical Christianity!

They've put out a booklet, entitled Standing in the Gap Christians Against Racism. It was compiled by the Plain Truth Ministries Worldwide out of Pasadena, California. The intention of this tract is to "proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through the mass media, to challenge non-believers to investigate the claims of Christianity, to encourage nominal Christians to come to saving faith in their Lord and Savior, to provide sound Christian instruction and resources that will inspire, edify and uplift. I am going to plod through this tract and analyse why Christian dogma and the struggle against racism are not complementary.

"America - the land of justice for all - may be turning a momentous corner." p. 1. This means our country is forsaking its holy duty by giving up on school integration. It's part of the greed driven racist reaction of today. Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers, and Ralph Abernathy, "serve as potent reminders of the power of an aroused Christianity to serve as an incubator of social change... The success of the 1960's

Civil Rights Movement was unthinkable without the black church." *ibid.* How about the racist "white" churches? These Christians didn't help much, did they? King "subpoenaed the conscience of the nation." *ibid.* True enough, but the gains were meager, unsustainable and now being reversed. "Where will the impetus come from this time to deal with the rising tide of racism?" p. 2. Like always, from the blacks, themselves. "Many are beginning to look to the churches to once again provide moral

Belle too, the big acquisition. He's got a mean streak! The Sucks were two games under .500, in large part because Rockin' Robin Ventura, their left-handed, slugging, gold-glove third baseman, was shelved, having broken his leg. He also ruined his ankle because the stupid third base coach waved him home, during an exhibition game. He exploded at home plate. Also, their manager is a dunce. But, he's stuck with a pitching staff that wanders through blown innings daily, to get to their closer. Defense is shaky and the speed is missing. Other than that, they can hit, some, at least.

So, we're watching the game. I look at Afrique. Some Nigerians were busted at their restaurant. "The Chicago Sun-Times allocated almost one-half page on page 3 of its May 1, 1997 edition (by the way, May 1st is MayDay, an international workers' holiday, celebrating the memory of the Haymarket Martyrs, not "Law Day.") beneath the headline, 'Cops seize 17.7 pounds of heroin, arrest 3...valued at \$2.2 million...' it was later discovered that the alleged heroin was in fact bags of foodstuff used to make a traditional Nigerian dish called fufu. Somehow the sophisticated Federal and Chicago law officials could not deduce that food ingredients would be found in a Nigerian restaurant, so they reported to the media that this was heroin without even testing the substance!" p. 15. Hey! At least they didn't kill these "criminal types!"

Another article headed "As the Oklahoma City Bombing Trial Winds Down... Remember: America's 'Heartland' Has Been Heartless to Blacks." "Historical texts recall nearly 50 of those lynchings to have taken place in Oklahoma alone, and that number does not include victims of the 1921 race riot in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in which the entire prosperous Black community called 'Little Africa' was burned to the ground with 300 Black men, women and children killed." p. 16. Gee, I don't remember learning about that in High School. I must have been "asleep" that day.

I looked up at the game. After two quick outs in the bottom of the second, the Sucks got the bases loaded. Ossie Guillen (a lefty) got a blooper hit (that we couldn't see) to score two. It seemed like our view of home plate was constantly being obscured by railbirds - would be gang toughs, lolligaggers, young teen girls trying to look pretty, little kids, whatever. My Dad led the vocal shooing away of these people. One trio of young girls was admonished by someone, "Hey! Charles' Angels!! Get out of the way!!!" They came back for an encore a couple of innings later.

In the third inning, Harold Baines (he's a clutch lefty!) slammed a ball off the left field wall, driving in two. This completed the scoring for the night. "He inside outed it." I said. "He inside outed it." My Dad repeated. My two nephews had vanished after the second inning. The hell if they were gonna get stuck with their uncle and Grandpa! Anyone their age would have done the same damned thing. I wanted to be with my Dad, anyway. We had to track 'em down in the ninth.

My Dad was at the end of the row of seats, by the steps. He put his iced tea down on a step, couched it close to his seat and happily exclaimed, "It's like a little table!" "Dad! Why don't you put it here? They got little built-in cup holders for your drink, so you won't spill 'em." He put it in, reluctantly, forgot about it, and got himself another one. Sure enough, some galoot came down the aisle... "Excuse me." There's no room to walk with people sitting in the seats. I'm sure the seating gets roomier, the more money you give His Extortionist. Galoots heel knocked the cup, spilling iced tea all over my area, soaking my reading material - the Afrique and a copy of the Match! Fred Woodworth's excellent Anarchist journal. I brought it along for pleasure reading, in case I got bored. The dope didn't even apologize. He just put on an even stupider look.

I got up to walk around. I got tendinitis in my left knee from sitting uncomfortably, and since there were people in front of us, I couldn't put my feet over their chairs. I went along the concourse and leaned over the rail, overlooking the outfield in left. A grossly humongous ad for the Chicago Tribune dominated the upper left field fascia. In right was a giant car. Ads covered the whole outfield, except for the black hitting background in dead center. I looked up at the exploding scoreboard and in the pinwheel in the middle, where there used to be a sort of lollipop swirl, was instead, an ad for "McDonald's". It was unusually obscene.

I went back to my seat. A young black boy was leaning over the rail, obscuring our view. My Dad said, "Son. Son! Could you move? You're blocking us." He lingered a couple of seconds. Some gutless racist cretin said, "Jump!" We should have tossed his ass. I can see the headline. "Racist Twit Thrown to Deserving Death."

The game ended and we walked back to our car. As we walked down the ramps, we could hear invigorating drumming. "What's that?" asked my out-of-state nephew. "Street musicians. They're part of the excitement, especially if the Sucks win. Decent people give them money." An idiotic, no doubt drunken white guy was frugging near one of the drummers. It reminded me of a passage from a book, The Slave Community: Plantation life in the Antebellum South, by John Blassingame, comparing black and white dancers, "The twistings, turnings, contortions, and springing movements... wonderful to behold. Physical strength required is tremendous. The body movements are extremely difficult and would probably kill a European." p. 138. This guy looked like a drunken, disheveled lary Fencik, staggering through the Super Bowl Shuffle.

We got to our car and right on the Ryan, while almost all the other suburbanites were still choked into Reekbarf's "safe" parking lots. The Ryan was unusually congested. We saw flashing lights and fire trucks.

The shells on the radio were gushing about the game and trying to conjure up a good crowd. "There were 18,000 plus tonight, plus many with free tickets. I'd venture to say there were 30,000 plus tonight!" Not! "We'd like to hear from you out there who went to tonight's game, even those of you who didn't pay." Read this!

Finally, we saw what the hang was. A cop car was burned out! It was such a happy sight. "Ooooh! Somebody had a bar-be-que!"

So, the Sucks won. Big deal. Without the transcient poetry-in-motion of Michael and Scottie, "professional" sports in Chicago ain't worth keeping tabs on.

July 24, 1997.

postscript: A few weeks later, about ten days after Ventura re-entered the line-up, early, so as to help his mates quicker, Balcor pulled the plug and had flunky boy, G.M. fire sale three of their best players for wet-eared rookies scattered throughout the minors. They gave Harold Baines to Baltimore "to give him a chance at a title." How could Thomas "DH" with Baines there? Simple, ignoramus! Just put his name on the line-up card under "DH!" Baines made it to the play-offs. So did Wilson Alvarez and Roberto Hernandez. They choked, however, and their teams went down. Don't blame us. It's gotta be the ex-Cub factor. Who cares anymore, anyway? I'll listen to an inning or two on the radio and then flick on the jams.

Here's a poem, written by Joffre Stewart, a long-time Anarcho-Pacifist poet and activist held dearly to the heart by Chicagoans lucky enough to have known him.

SOMEONE MURDERED LOVE

It was getting twilight on the third day of the 4th, Barely hour before Elisabeth distributed the little lights that wax bright in the dusk I responded to a Rosemoor Buffalo Soldier by asking Why cheer the day as happy when Independence meant expansion of the slave trade and treating Indians like Palestinians Carlos Cortes, too reasonable to be a veteran was putting his rehitent meaning into Word Salad under the roof of Pontiac notwithstanding that the Illinoisan was not a pacifist

number 182 between a HappyNew Year and dubious fireworklugs in Hong Kong For a backdrop We had the IIT high rise Where Titus unimpressed by my revolutionary nonviolence applied his math genius to equations for the most effective concentrations of H - BOMBS But what does one remember from naming 181 conned into do-it-yourself genocide David Stone recognises 2 or 3: his students at Englewood HI... Love died to give me title to this poem... Who was Sergio Matias? When it came my turn I read my 8% of the names:

Derrick Perry, Walter McCullins, Lorender Patrick, Florence Miller, Renee Neversn, Ronnie Owens, Stewart Truly, Stanton M. Abernathy, Dennis C. Woods, Larry L. Lowe, Charles Banks, Adonis Williams, Pablo Barajas, Garvin Ward.

-condensed version

And after reading how Satanists are taking over the Vatican for the Masonry I walked across 35th Street onto a CHA "prairie" for a midyear Vigil Against that Violence that almost made Lenard Clark

to abolish the 'white' race from within as race traitors. Race is not a biological or physical thing. It is a notion that is profoundly and in its very essence, ideological. It is entirely socially and historically constructed in a way that class is not. Racism today is the remains of the legacy of slavery. It is institutionally ingrained.

I would like to read a couple of quotes. James Baldwin said, "As long as you think you're white, there is no hope for you." Amen to that! W.E.B. DuBois, the brilliant historian, wrote, "It was bad enough to have the consequences of (racist) thought fall upon colored people the world over; but in the end it was even worse when one considers what this attitude did to the (white) worker. His aim and ideal was distorted... He began to want not comfort for all men but power over other men... He did not love humanity and he hated niggers." Francis Scott Key wrote a verse to the "Star Spangled Banner" that you never hear at ball games, "No refuge could save the hireling and the slave/ From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave." Frederick Douglass, ex-slave and Abolitionist, proclaimed, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

White workers must bear responsibility for overcoming their own racism and begin to struggle for its abolition, for their own good!

Modern day Abolitionists have an insightful journal to focus our efforts around, called Race Traitor. Our guiding principle is "Treason to Whiteness is Loyalty to Humanity." I have copies of my essays and a few Race Traitors. Thankyou.

I got a smattering of applause, much to my astonishment. But, it was a reactive applause. They clapped for everybody. Cherry, Chris and Willard may have been the only three to comprehend and really "hear" what I had to say. The rest didn't want to hear it, didn't want to deal with it, or couldn't absorb it, for one reason or another. They certainly didn't want to respond personally to me about it! Anyway, the other speakers spoke about their lives and how racism or sexism has adversely affected their lives. There were some poignant, moving moments, bared souls, and also minutes of tedium. One lady told of how this miserable excuse for a man, maltreated her at work, due to his ignorant insecurities. A black man recounted how he was overlooked at work, although qualified, because of racism. Another spoke of how he was denied an apartment for the same sick reason. A fellow talked about his mother's upbringing in Germany, during the Nazi era. A white lady told of how her whole life, she stopped herself from trying until just last year, because of an ingrained inferiority complex given her as a child. The poor thing just wanted to pursue her sewing.

Soon enough the show was over. It was already past lunchtime. As the meeting broke up, I waited to talk to Cherry and Chris. Cherry looked at me, beaming and said, "Well, don't I get a hug?" With her arms stretched out, I embraced her and kissed her on her neck. I told her I admired her talk today. I told her a little bit about the nascent Abolitionist movement and she was very happy to hear of it. I gave her and Chris each a copy of Race Traitor and some of my essays. People were filing out to go to lunch. I was trying to make eye contact with people possibly interested in Race Traitor, etc., but was treated as if invisible. I soon left to go to work. I had switched shifts with somebody so I could make it to this workshop and participate in the panel discussion. I thought to myself, 'It's like water off a duck.' To only those few who "know" the real story of racism, does truth have significant meaning.

Kingsley was right. It was an exercise in feel good for most everybody. Nobody new was going to be motivated to go out and fight racism actively.

After lunch, the program called for worship services, among other things. I guess this is what they'd been waiting for, anyway. Maybe they could get all worked up, speak in tongues and writhe on the floor.

I'm glad I heard and met Cherry. I heard the message about love. I'm going to redouble my efforts to love my wife, my children - even my old family. Religion does not have a monopoly on human warmth. They claim its source is otherworldly, anyway. Racism... God sure is into having humanity suffer.

"Why should the fear of what somebody might say about us stop us from doin' things we like to do?" - Rotary Connection.

"I desire peace, the peace of universal love,...the peace of a common interest, a common feeling, a common humanity. But so long as slavery is tolerated, no such peace can exist. Liberty and slavery cannot dwell in harmony together... Peace! There can be no peace between justice and oppression, between robbery and righteousness, truth and falsehood, freedom and slavery." - John Greenleaf Whittier.

"What we hate is white supremacy mentality. We don't hate white people. We have to stop saying whites will never change. Because, if you believe that, then you believe that women hate men for sexual oppression. Then why do we marry 'em and have children?" I've often wondered why that was... "You have to hate sexism! Duke Ellington said, 'Whenever God's children have abandoned their fears, miracles happen.'" Where are all these miracles??? It's breaktime, folks!

Chris talks. He mentions the sheet handed out about suffering and healing. It's the "Phases of Suffering" out of a book somebody wrote. Kingsley came and had to leave before my forum. He had an appointment in Aurora. He suffered through as much religion-tainted talk as he could stomach. He left me with a dozen Race Traitors. Chris says racism is America's original sin. Martin Luther King said, "Anytime we rob the dignity, we are hurting ourselves." Chris makes an "image of God" reference. "We're numbing ourselves to those hurts. He comes up with a definition of racism. "Prejudice is an emotional commitment to ignorance." He makes everyone repeat it. Prejudice is an irrational attitude directed towards others, a negative attitude. What kinds of racism are there? There is institutional racism. It is prejudice plus power. All of the institutions are involved. Then why do you guys support this right wing religious institution? There is blatant racism. There are 335 hate groups in this country. There is unaware racism. People are not conscious of it. They accept the pabulum received via the media, what they've been told, etc., in this culture of racism. There is the separate but equal racism. "We don't have anything against them... but we just don't want them living near us." There is cultural racism. This targets everyone. It denegrates certain groups' culture as compared to the dominant culture. There is internalized racism. Victims of racism believe these lies and turn it inwards, placing limitations on themselves. They take out the pain and frustration on themselves. Racism is a form of conditioning. We can become reconditioned. There is hope for positive change!

An hourlong video was next presented. It was titled, "Ethnic Notions," It chronicled the history of racist depictions of blacks throughout American history, as seen through the eyes of racist "white" culture, through books, figurines, products, minstrel shows, blackface, "dance" films, television and actual lynchings. It dawned on me. This was (and is) the contribution of "white" culture these last several decades - the leerily vulgar, insanely jealous, brainlessly paranoid, uniquely cretinous depiction of blacks, used to justify beastly oppression, packaged as family entertainment! We made Julius Streicher and Herr Goebbels look high brow. I could hear older whites snickering throughout - no doubt reliving their "memories." To many whites, the whole day's events were a sort of entertaining day out, with a nice long lunch. Where's the outrage???

They were trying, in a way. They did come. There is a fear level that most people dare not cross. It is the fear of thought. Unacceptable ideas openly expressed is even worse when coupled with that horrible ring of truth! Open, free thought is just not acceptable in polite society. It's just not tolerable! And why is that? It's because of the fear of ideas caused by years of mental timidity and the lack of resistance to the onrush of societal sewage. Their brain chemistry and wiring are strongly circuted to avoid, repel and deny alternative ideas. This has a lot to do with why adults fear, loathe and bully children and young people.

This filmed exposé of "white" culture reminded me of the good clean fun the Nazi brass must have had watching the video of the slow, gruesome deaths by piano wire of the July 20th plotters. Waiting for this panel...

The show is over. It's 12:30. The panelists are called to the stage. I purposefully stride up first and sit in the middle, a bulging packet of Race Traitors and essays under my arm. They thank us and ask for a volunteer to go first. I volunteer and read my prepared statement.

"The reason I am here today is because I'm an Abolitionist essayist and I want to advocate my position.

Because I am a so-called "white" man, I don't suffer directly from the racism that is so woven into the fabric of this society. But I do have to live in this filth, every day. White people assume I have also swallowed this "privilege of the white skin" whole, and feel free to spew their racist venom. Blacks who don't know me, suspect I'm another stupid racist "white" person, as so many of us are.

I work in a toll booth in Harvey, and see maybe a thousand people every day. This racist pall hangs in the air like a poison cloud, rendering most people incapable of understanding &/or addressing societies' crying problems. The goal of Abolitionism is

"Hey! I was brainwashed about Vietnam!" So ends George Romney's once flourishing presidential bid. Honesty is just not acceptable in the American political arena.

Vapid texts throughout grade school sugar coat and render slavery, civil war, revolution, mighty world struggles, into insipidly explained "things." Things without life, just occurring, with elementary government bolstering "reasons." "Oh! O.K. That's good - nice and simple!" After half an hour, the subject is changed. "Let's learn words or numbers." You'll never learn exactly what has occurred, or why, much less how it can be meaningfully transformed! You'll be a nice, dull-witted worker, consumed with our products.

I overheard a commercial as I was trying to rest and my eight year old was watching some stupid cartoon show. It said something like "teaching kids how business works." Yeah... I'll bet! It was sinister, proudly aired indoctrination. The television is pure poison. Capitalism. Capitalism. Capitalism! Non-stop brainwash and disinformation. Sexism and racism drilled into young (and old) minds, all the while stupefaction is hammered in. So as you get more ignorant, you become more infected with self-ruining, malignant ideas. The movies are the glossy display of Big Brother Thought. You pay to get your brain pounded by pyrotechnic, violent, anti-thought. "Wasn't that cool!" No, it was an absolute waste of time and also brain damage.

Can people read? No. Can people write? Please! Can people think? Why in Hell would we want them to do that??? Do people do assigned jobs in a meek manner, go home to compartmentalized lives and consume products ceaselessly? Precisely. That's what we're all about. It's America baby, home of the grudes - the many - the thoughtless - the knaves! Thank God we've got 501 channels! Or is that jeans? Oh well, who cares? "What are you doing?" "Oh nothing. What are you doing?" "Oh, nothing..." GOOD! Keep it that way!!

There's some rogue countries out there. Pretty soon we'll have to go bomb the shit out of them! "Oh, O.K. Why?" "Why? WHY??? Because, that's why!" "Oh, yeah, O.K. For sure. We'll show 'em."

"Did you see the paper, today?" "Yeah, what about it?" "Well... what was in it?" "Oh, a coupon for canned barf. The Sox lost and some cops had to kill some crazy people." Another heavy news day. "Have you heard about anything going on in any other country, ever?" "I know that El Salvador, Mexico voted for the contrae, that we had to go and kill, a while back." "You're incredibly knowledgeable!" "I get magazines. You know, about what's happening." "Oh, yeah? What magazines?" "You know, 'People' 'Us' 'News' magazines."

Did you know that the Heaven's Gate guy, "Do," was called Elmar the Pud, behind his back? "No! Tell me all about it!" "Have you ever heard of East Timor?" "What's that?" Anyway, these castrated dupes of this white guy, believed this idiotic stuff, gleefully going to their deaths, believing they were chosen to lift off into space for some real great times... Wait a minute! That describes most white Americans, only they are mentally, not physically castrated. Yikes!" "You're talking crazy, again." "I forgot. Meaningful analogy is verboten in polite society. Mass murder is O.K., though. It's tough to keep all the rules straight, when you've flipped over the table full of lies and gotten out." "I wish you'd do something illegal, so they could put you where you belong - behind bars, crammed with all the other misfits." "Yeah, I know... Everything's illegal though, so don't worry." "You know, I actually like you, but you're just too radical." "Sure you like me. I'm a nice guy and I do things for people out of the kindness of my heart. You can never be too radical. I'm gonna go. I've got to play with my children, do some work, and hopefully, read and write some. What are you gonna do?" "I'm gonna watch T.V. for five or six more hours, eat a bunch of garbage and go to bed. I gotta work tomorrow." *****

"Begin with the children and train their minds to habits of just feelings and acting, and you may hope for great success. But, once you let the mind become imbued with the martial spirit - which is the same as the spirit of slaveholding, a spirit which leads man to domineer over his brother, to crush him and despoil him - that mind will not depart from this diabolical spirit." - Henry Wright.

"We stamp on the forehead of the slaveholder... the infamy of theft, adultery, manstealing, piracy, and murder." - Stephen S. Foster.

The U.S. Bombs Away, Then Slinks Out of Vietnam

14

Arnold R. Isaacs has written a clear-sighted account of the ending of America's involvement in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, titled Without Honor: Defeat in Vietnam and Cambodia. He was a years long in-field reporter remaining literally to the bitter end (helicopter evacuation.) This is important history, giving air to both sides' views measured up against the reality of the situation, something Americans have striven to avoid. The lessons "learned" by Americans from Vietnam and the lessons taught the rest of the world are completely at odds. A thorough examination of this seminal conflict is in order.

In 1962, Ho Chi Minh said, "I think the Americans greatly under-estimate the determination of the Vietnamese people." p. 491. America never even tried to understand Vietnamese realities either, always putting their plight in the context of the crusade against supposed world-wide communist expansionism. The Vietnamese however, were blessed with brilliant leadership and a long history against foreign invaders. Whereas the Vietnam was America's longest conflict, it was Vietnam's shortest.

Isaacs' story begins in 1972. After years of bloody fighting, secret negotiations were going on between Henry Kissinger and the North Vietnamese chief negotiator, Le Duc Ho. Quang Tri City has been pulverized into rubble and the North's offensive has been blunted.

The North Vietnamese break the negotiating impasse by removing their demand that the Thieu regime must go. All American "objectives" are agreed to. By 1972, the specific concrete demands of the United States had been reduced to exactly one: American prisoners must be returned. Beyond that, for American purposes, the U.S. askedanoi only for restraint - that is, that it not take advantage of American disengagement to humiliate the U.S. Such were the goals of U.S. involvement! Two million dead, a sub-continent destroyed for not a noble purpose or even an evil one (anti-communism) but for no purpose whatsoever! It boiled down to a chimeral stab at retaining credibility."

Kissinger arrives in Saigon two days before he is to finalize the agreement inanoi. For the South Vietnamese, an English-only copy is offered for their perusal and implied quick consent. In contrast, "The Communists were distributing and explaining it even to their low-level cadres in the field, while the Americans refused the same confidence to the president of the allied country whose survival was at issue." p. 39. South Vietnamese officials reacted to Kissinger's agreement anti-semitically, saying they had no interest in Vietnam and wanted more American aid sent to Israel, and that they cared about the Nobel Peace Prize. Both of those opinions were not without factual merit.

The U.S. so dominated every facet of S. Vietnamese policies and military strategy, the Thieu regime had no plan for their country, so dependent had they become. The U.S. negotiated on the cease-fire date because of Thieu's intransigence, and promptly blamed the impasse on the North. "Kissinger still emerged from the crisis in pretty good shape for a man who had just deceived both his enemy and his ally and had led the United States to an act of bad faith that can have few parallels in its diplomatic history." p. 47.

Shortly after the supposed agreement, "a massive American airlift began pouring weaponry and equipment into South Vietnam." *ibid.* A U.S. general said of the shipment, "If we had been giving this aid to the North Vietnamese, they could have fought us for the rest of the century." p. 48.

Trying to wrest more concessions from the North to appease Thieu, the U.S. decided on a murderous bombing campaign by B-52's, called "Linebacker II" - known to the rest of the world as the "Christmas Bombing." "War by tantrum," a columnist called it. A final finale to one U.S. involvement and an evil presage of how the U.S. military would conduct future operations (i.e. Panama and Iraq.) This concentration of bombing on enemy's civilians to expedite negotiations was cruelly copied by Israel, as they pulverized Beirut in 1982.

"Schools, pagodas, markets, shops and homes were all targets of the 'barbarous' and 'criminal' bombing Hanoi charged... Americans comparing those losses with the much greater ones of Dresden, Tokyo... replied that if they had been trying to terrorize civilians, the casualties would have been much higher." p. 56. Olaf Palme, later Premier of Sweden, ordered, compared it to Nazi atrocities. Le Monde likened it to Guernica. The London Daily Mirror said the bombing "made the world recoil in revulsion." p. 57. Die Zeit

says, "Oh... I see." It's a very good point to bring up how children are poisoned by their parents. Parents are the pits! Ignorance, with or without religious bliss, is inexcusable. Children deserve the utmost effort. They usually get the minimum. 51

It didn't end there. Grandparents, uncles, cousins, extended families, the institutions of religion and education played a large role in feeding us misinformation, and just as damaging, no information.

I'm sure you can tell by now, but I must say, most all of the tender, loving, useful insight in here is mainly Cherry's. Chris and Willard gave good accounts of themselves. I'm the spoiler who provides some of the disturbing, sarcastic bite to this piece. I'd rather not think of religion much at all, but if I see it, I react to it. Billy Graham? He used to schmooze around with Nixon, one of the most offal genocidal monsters of the century! I just don't believe the leaders of this church genuinely know or care about racism and destroying "whiteness." Religion itself is just a huge, manipulative lie! Back to the story.

Cherry relates about her time in grade school. All the images were white; Dick, Jane, Sally, Winky, etc. She speaks of the Chinese who came to build the railroads, "but I didn't read about that!" She did learn to fear "savages." "There was no information at all about people who look like me!" People never learned about all the inventions and contributions black people make every day. "You have no knowledge of Africa - the continent we were taken from! Do you know the first center of knowledge and culture was Timbuktu - in Africa!?. When I see statues of angels, those angels did not look like me! What it says is I am not an angelic creation, nor are people that look like me." Angels are just made up! "It also says the same thing, in reverse, to the dominant group." Excuse me, but the institution of religion, for centuries, has been a patriarchal, racist, reactionary dispenser of doctrinal hooey. How can anyone believe that stuff??? Woman created from some guy's rib! Oh, that damned apple! Fuh-leeze!

"How is racism perpetuated? Another way is the abuse of children. I'm speaking not of physical abuse. I'm talking about how we talk down to children. We do not, as adults, let them do their own thinking. They are growing up without the strength and power of self-reliance. They have not been empowered. They're fidgeting, cowering down. "Little bitty me... what can I do about it?" Racism is so powerful. We must stop abusing our children." Amen, sister! Corporations do not want workers who can think for themselves. They have parents do much of the lobotomizing.

"The other thing that is very important is talking about it. Racism is a very scary thing to talk about. Racism is so scary, you have to keep vigilantly in denial. If we ignore it long enough, maybe it will go away. Through misinformation, we have to get many people to participate. How was it possible to get so many people to participate in the extermination of the Jews? They built cathedrals and churches, but they did horrible things. One of the ways was the color of their eyes. Blue, eyes, blue eyes - and white skin equated to the master race. The Jews had brown eyes. They tried to change their eye color without anesthesia, to allow them into the master race." Hey! The Pope gave Hitler and Mussolini his blessings and he's got a direct hotline to the Man Upstairs!

"We shame people into going along - embarrass and criticize them. If it was not for the clear-thinking white people that aided in the destruction of slavery and the dismantling of Jim Crow... Many people, white people, gave their lives to end the oppression, that black people have suffered." Not that many! Those clear-sighted people are called A-bo-li-tion-ists!

"Once you are clear-sighted enough to defend blacks, you are shamed. You are shamed as a race traitor. You, God, your race and your country are put to shame." Well, our country is a crime, this God thing is a scam, and the "white" race are scum! Everything in this country has been made for white people. They were set up by some white men. Some laws have been changed. We have a long way to go.

"This organization, the Center for the Healing of Racism, wants to help people recover. Human beings have natural processes to heal the hurts. Yawning helps. Trembling and shaking are natural reactions to being hurt, as is crying. Racism is an emotional commitment to ignorance. We must battle against this ignorance. This is a racist country and I would insult your intelligence if I did not say that. Racism is a system. Every system supports this belief of white 'superiority.'"

something to deal with racism. Six people from there went to a racism conference in Nashville recently, drew up a policy statement and delivered it to Clinton. He says Clinton said, "Money cannot buy this goal (racial reconciliation) power cannot will it - it must come from the human soul." - something like that. When has power "willed" anything? It forces death and destruction to get its way! Clinton's the sound bite guy at the head of this monstrosity. C'mon! Is he really willing to see racism uprooted and destroyed, necessarily dragging all the rotten institutions with it, which prop up his lecherous butt?!

Chris talks of his own problem. He never killed a chicken. So he told us how he did it. He says chickens are in denial right up to the end - even after their chopped-off heads pretend they'll live on. "I was O.K. about racism. I thought I was a liberal guy, adequately not racist. I was a white male. I was a Christian. God sent me a woman. She helped. (What's his address?) What you are not aware of, you simply don't know. I've learned." He said he had to go to the source of the problem - himself, to begin to solve the problem. "Now, I help others. My relationship with Cherry is one of family, friendship, trust. We must look honestly at ourselves to learn to overcome our racism." Keep looking and get rid of the liberalism and the sky pie.

He re-introduces Cherry. She was watching "Roseanne" (Ugh!) and one night D.J. came home upset because in school his friends were talking about what religion they belong to. His family didn't have one. What religion do we belong to? "Uh..." They went to their family history. Their grandparents were something. Dan said, "Well, we're good people." Roseanne said, "But we're not practicing." You have to practice. The moral? You gotta have religion to be practicing morality. That's false! I'm an atheist and I "practice" basic human decency, daily, without the albatross of hocus-vocus! That show was skank! The writers must have had cocaine hangovers for that episode. That bilge was number one for years. "Popularity" guarantees banality.

Cherry speaks of her fear of flying. They were in a holding pattern. "God must have a sense of humor. I've been in a holding pattern all my life." God must also have a bloodthirsty sense for centuries of suffering, genocide and tyranny. Wait a minute! The "Devil" gets that rap!

The question now is racism and how it is perpetuated. It's important to look at the ways it works. There are three mechanisms to the workings of racism. The first is to continuously feed false information to the targeted group by the dominant group and to indoctrinate the dominant group in these lies. If you tell a lie long enough, people will believe it and act upon it as if it was the truth. (Hitler modeled his campaign of territorial conquest, mass genocide and the use of slave labor after the successful, "white" American model...) Number two, you must keep people separated. They will never understand information fed to them that they have no personal feel for. The third mechanism of racism are the visual aids and language, such as gross negative stereotypes of the targeted group. In the U.S. we've stereotyped many types of people and many many people believe it even though reason and logic reject it. The targeted even feel that they are like the stereotyped depiction of them. Many, many people claim to believe a wild assortment of religious notions, reason and logic be damned! Language is very important. Look up "white" and "black" in the dictionary. White is positive and black is vile and negative. Words have to have meaning. What about the commercial, "Good Guys Wear White Hats?" Angel food cake is white. Devil's food cake is black. We have all these negative images and words help to blunt us into racism. Maybe this evil dude ain't so bad, after all. Too bad he's just a wisp, a phantom.

"The first thing is little children." They're the only thing! "Adults were fed every wrong information." So far, they always have been. "Our parents were not bad. Human beings do the very best they can with the information they have. With incorrect information, this is what we're to work with. The first thing I do to children is apologize to them. 'I'm sorry, I did the best I could with the information I had and I also apologize for not being aware earlier for what I said and more importantly, what I didn't say.' It's essential and important to know how we came into this world. Little children had only one agenda; to play with other children. They want to play and have fun. 'Look Ma, that's a little child just like us!' She talks about a very nice little girl, blue eyes, blonde hair, who became friends with a chocolate girl! He excitedly asks her mom, 'Can she come over to play doll with me?' Silence. What went through mother's mind as to why she couldn't come? 'They, uh, are different from us. Black people and white people just don't get together in our home...' Little girl

editorialized, "Even allies must call this a crime against humanity." *ibid.* The Christmas Bombing was perceived by the U.S. as a sort of parting gift of destruction for the Thieu regime.

A new cease-fire was established for January 28, 1973. The agreement called for the Americans to contribute to the post-war reconstruction of North Vietnam without any political conditions. It also called for withdrawal of N. Vietnamese troops from Cambodia and an end to U.S. bombing. The cease-fire was ignored by both sides. Very few articles of the treaty were carried out, save for the return of U.S. prisoners and U.S. disengagement. Laos was bombed until the minute of the cease-fire and Cambodia was massively bombed until Congress prohibited it in August, 1973. Kissinger advocated resuming the bombing of North Vietnam after the peace accords, to persuade them to co-operate in Laos and Cambodia, but he was a lone wolf in the growing paranoid atmosphere of Watergate.

In Laos, 2,092,900 tons of bombs were dropped from American planes - equal to all the tonnage dropped by the U.S. in the European and Pacific theatres in WW II. "The planes came like birds, and the bombs fell like rain." To Washington, this was "armed reconnaissance." The "electronic war" costing \$2 billion, saw the United States drop thousands of sensors to detect troop movements and truck traffic. A false alarm became a "nontargetable activation." Laos offered American military planners a chance to test out their latest gadgetry.

Meo tribesmen's choice was supplying teen-aged boys to CIA-run guerrilla camps or be regarded as Pathet Lao and bombed mercilessly. The American CIA advisors flew out of the hills every night to the safety of Vietiane. To replace the Hmong (Meo) who had been decimated, Thai "volunteers" from the Thai army had been "sheepdipped" with Lao identity cards and hustled to the deadly Plain of Jars.

The U.S. left lush Laos hideously cratered. The Pathet Lao attained much greater power in Laos than they had aspired to before the unprecedented bombing frenzy.

The Control Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) was the Holy Grail sought by U.S. strategy planners, and was used to justify wider, more intense, illegal (even by U.S. standards) bombing campaigns in Vietnam and Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge were almost non-existent until Sihanouk began attacking N. Vietnamese and Vietcong positions in Cambodia, combined with secret B-52 bombings. Hill tribes revolting against forced labor began to be supported by Viet forces. "The act of deceit that began the American war in Cambodia - the secret B-52 bombing - set the pattern for everything that would follow." p. 197. As in Laos, U.S. involvement in Cambodia focused on tactical opportunities, and never on the possible consequences for those who lived there. Lon Nol's coup and the subsequent unleashing of anti-Vietnamese passions, had the consequence of dragging Cambodia into the U.S.-Vietnamese conflict. The murder of tens of thousands of unarmed Vietnamese civilians living inside Cambodia was a pre-Bosnian form of "ethnic cleansing." Lon Nol was deluded into thinking he had full U.S. support. For domestic political reasons, Nixon could not commit the U.S. to his defense. The result of the war for Cambodia was a countryside controlled by the N. Vietnamese-spawned communists and isolation from Phnom Penh.

Lon Nol's troops were like lambs to the slaughter whenever engaged. "Its tactics usually consisted of lining soldiers and vehicles up along a road as if on parade, and ordering them to advance, without flank security and without the slightest idea of where the enemy was." p. 208. There was no supply system, so soldiers' families tagged along to keep the soldiers from starving. They slowed the troops to a crawl and added themselves to the casualty lists.

"American actions from 1969 on helped turn Cambodia into a slaughterhouse in which teen-age peasant boys on both sides now murdered each other mindlessly and died in the mud, almost without memory of why they fought. The land lay slathered in blood, but neither in early 1973 or later did the United States offer any plan or policy that promised anything but more fear, pain, and butchery." p. 211.

After the Paris Agreement, there was virtually no co-operation between N. Vietnam and Khmer Rouge forces. From February 9, 1973, for six months, bombing in Cambodia peaked and hit populous areas, particularly its heartland, west of the Mekong River. Death from above was pandemic. Casualties were anonymous, yet enormous. "It was as if the bombers had sought to destroy the earth itself." p. 218. This bombing had no tangible effect on Communist gains, even though by the time of their entrance into Phnom Penh, the Khmer Rouge had suffered an astronomical casualty rate of 95%!

Lon Nol held to the pipe dream that "American B-52's are killing a thousand enemy every day and the war will soon be over." p. 219. The U.S. refused to acknowledge the enormous civilian suffering. Instead of sending food and medicine, they bombed "the enemy" and issued statements claiming the victims were adequately cared for.

The explanations for this neglect were particularly galling. Pharmaceutical supplies were disallowed for fear of having them fall into Communist hands or because misuse by the needy could cause "a serious medical problem." They finally offered a few thousand "Chocks" vitamins. "The miserly relief effort coincided with the utter devastation of Cambodia's economy." p. 224. As the infra-structure lay ruined, hyper-inflation reigned.

The fury of the bombing and its aimlessness made the European community feel that the U.S. had gone "crazy." "More and more, the bombing seemed to take on the quality of rage, as if pure violence could succeed in achieving American goals when nothing else could." p. 226.

At the height of the climactic siege in Phnom Penh, "for the privileged elite there were tennis matches, night clubs, expensive French meals, and opulent brandy-drenched dinner parties." p. 244. Phnom Penh was at the height of desperation when Khmer Rouge forces entered. A truly massive relief effort would be needed to prevent mass starvation and disease (Mogadishu?) This would not be forthcoming.

The Khmer Rouge were spawned and nurtured in the crucible of Hell. When they brought their antithesis of life to the Cambodian people, it had a logical dialectic of unleashed evil. Rwanda comes to mind. The lasting image of Cambodia is shelves upon shelves of human skulls.

When Congress finally, finally! cut off all aid early in 1975, it hit the Thieu clique like a gigantic "concussion bomb." In March and April of 1975, during the collapse of the government, higher ranking officers were the first to run away. As usual, the criminal masterminds have access to an escape route. Some were captured and done justice to and some received refuge in America, Canada and France with their ill-gotten gains.

Vietnam was a people in anguish, who for a decade frantically wandered the country looking for family members. There was no let-up in their suffering. Only after liberation were basic needs met - life, food, the chance at stability. South Vietnamese society crumbled in the face of onrushing communist victories. In Da Nang, "the city was in an uncontrollable panic in which hundreds of people were killed not by the Communists but by their own rioting soldiers." p. 363.

The North Vietnamese took advantage of the South Vietnamese armies' panic, chaos and collapse with bold, improvised, yet massively co-ordinated military actions. They were under the command of the hardened leader, who was Nguyen Vo Giap's understudy at Dien Bien Phu, General Van Tien Dung. He wrote a candid and insightful account of the campaign called Great Spring Victory. The Communists moved up their timetable - from 1976 to before the rainy season in May, 1975. Saigon was their ultimate destiny. Their army gained momentum accumulating massive quantities of war booty, which they incorporated into their final offensive.

With no relationship to its own people, the Thieu regime rallied no one to its defense. Everyone looked out for their own and their family's survival, only. To the bitter end, Ford and Kissinger nursed the belief that South Vietnam could be "saved" by the U.S. military assistance, somehow extracted from Congress. Thieu held onto this fantasy during the paralysis of Saigon's waning days.

The misinterpretations, the paralysis, the doomed, panic-stricken evacuations showed how clueless the U.S. really was all along about the realities of Vietnam. Without the awesome military might as a catch-all answer to its "foreign policy," the U.S. became paper tigers.

The refusal to accept the inevitable by Graham Martin in Saigon and Kissinger in Washington, served to leave thousands of compromised S. Vietnamese stranded. Their assurance of evacuation was but a final betrayal.

The Americans had hoped to sneak out of Saigon via helicopter after a radio signal (the playing of "White Christmas.") Their Vietnamese staffs quickly caught on. At the end, Americans would trample over the backs of Vietnamese, punching, kicking and shoving them away with rifle butts to board their flights.

The Vietnamese used and compromised by involvement with the Thieu regime and/or the Americans, had a hard time in "re-education camps." Many suffered the horrible

This workshop was put on by the Worldwide Church of God, August 23rd and 24th of August, 1997, at the Joliet Job Corp. Center. I'm hoping to blow peoples' minds by advocating Abolitionism during the panel discussion. I must admire the courage of Willard High for inviting me to this panel, after hearing my remarks at the Matteson forum of August 13. I talked with him after that forum, and agreed to meet with him later. Two days later, my two children and I went to visit him and firm up his offer to appear on this panel. He also has two sons. Our two nine year old went off to play together. They are both very bright and enjoyed eachothers company. Maybe they can play again some time. I impressed upon Willard the heartfelt earnestness of my Abolitionist beliefs as my three year old, Stephen, sat on my lap. The offer still stands. That's good.

I arrive at the meeting place, in Joliet. It is definitely a cult-like atmosphere, with brochures of fundamentalist Christian themes, on a literature table as we walk in. One tract features Billy Graham. Church music echoes through the halls.

I met Willard backstage and gave him a copy of what I will say, later today. He introduces me to a big honcho (white) from this church, up from Texas. He's upstairs in this Church of God, somewhere. I shook his hand, after Willard told him I would be on the panel. The Willard said, "Anthony is an Abolitionist." He tried mightily to disguise a sunken heart. I showed Willard a copy of "New Abolitionist News." He honed in immediately to the subtitle, "Abolish the White Race - By Any Means Necessary." He said, "Ooooooh. I don't know about that!" So, I kept the copy.

I next went back to the literature table and talked to the two people there. They reluctantly agreed to accept a few copies of three different essays of mine, dealing with racial themes. These type-written pieces were incongruous beside the glossy religious ones. The lady placed them behind the others, close by her, as if to tell the people that they were not available to them. I guess she felt compelled to "protect" people from them, yet not deny me. She had no idea what ideas were presented in them. Later on, I retrieved every one of them. God's flock was too sheepish to peek. Kingsley came later and added copies of New Abolitionist News. I found these later, off the table altogether, on a sort of ledge. I took them back, also to prevent them from being tossed in the garbage. Where's the thirst for knowledge?

I took a seat in the auditorium and waited for noon to come, when the panel discussion is scheduled to take place. It's only nine a.m. right now and I'll have to endure this religious affair. Oh well, this is my "easter" this year. They are trying to focus on racism and how they can learn to live honestly, racially. That's good.

Songs and a few words kick off the event. Willard High welcomes and greets the people who have come here. He talks about the process of loving - loving your children, loving your wife, loving your brothers and sisters. It's a learning process to have these people feel loved by us. That's nice. I have a problem loving my own brothers and sister because our views are so dissimilar and they almost never write me back. Willard is a genuinely decent human being. He's got depth. He's very religious, but he's also got courage and no small amount of intelligence. I'm going to call my dad right now, it's his birthday! I'm at work and had to call collect. The automated service screwed up. I could hear him faintly, yet frantically trying repeatedly to accept the charges, but the recorded lady said they were "sorry," but the other party refused to accept the charges. Computers instead of humans, decide. Let's go back to the workshop.

Cherry Steinwender and Chris Bean from the Center for the Healing of Racism speak next. She's black and he's white. She has a velvety delivery - a warmhearted gentleness. She says she's gotten to know Chris well, as they've spent many hours together and have begun to feel like personal family. That's good. It's also natural. I'm glad they get on so well, together.

Chris is introduced as if he is the second coming! Chris is a native Chicagoan. His folks are here, too. It's a nice mix of people, roughly 50% black and 50% white. I was afraid it would be overwhelmingly black, although I'd have probably preferred that, personally. They're all part of this fundamentalist phenomenon - Adam and Evers - polite, well dressed, economically comfortable. Although they have come here, I'm beginning to be afraid they'll be impervious to my message. They believe Noah's Ark, Rib Cage Birth, Water Walking, etc.

Chris claims the Center is in the top twenty organizations in this country in doing

A white guy says, "I'm Margaret's husband." He gets a laugh. "You'd better say that!" his buddy chimes in. Isn't sexual reality just the most wonderful thing? He says they live in a 90-95% black neighborhood. The problem is that whites won't move in. His friends ask him "Why are you still there??" It's because they love it. He suggests that only whites be allowed to move into his area. Shouts of "Why?" "Because no one ever does it!"

48

Another black man in a suit says we have to teach our children about right and wrong as to racism. He mentions that on August 23rd and 24th, there is to be a Reconciliation Workshop about racism, sponsored by church groups at the Joliet Job Corp Center at 1101 Mills Road, Joliet, Illinois. For more information we could call him at home. He's a local preacher in Matteson. He said flyers about the workshop were back on the literature table.

Another black man says we live in a racial paradox and it won't be willed away. It's going to require patience. We need to be thick-skinned. "Left on our own, we'll fall, stumble. We need more programs for opportunities for sensitivity training to slowly gain understanding."

A black man, obviously a scholar on the subject, explains that racism is a social construct. It sounds like something straight out of Race Traitor. He's the second man (both black) who made a point to look straight at me while they talked, and he also made a point to refer to my remarks earlier. I'll talk to him at length later, I hope.

A white man says September is Unity Month and the village will have a Unity Day with ethnic food, a D.J. etc. "We need to interact and hold serious discussions."

One of the officials tries to wrap things up. "Matteson is on the cutting edge. You must assume the mantle. You must sell us in a positive way. Thankyou."

An older white gentleman approached me and said, "You are right on the money with your comments. You have to have a class analysis to understand the situation properly. I'm from Scotland, and I've lived in England a long time and associate with the Socialists. People in this country don't know anything." "You're right. People in this country are horribly brainwashed and thoroughly, mindlessly racist. Personally, I'm an Anarchist. All governments are based on force and that's vile. This government is the most dangerous in the world. It relies on ignorance, racism and violence. The people are thoroughly brainwashed and the government is paranoically armed to the gills, and uses blind force whenever so compelled without legitimate opposition anywhere in the world. It's been nice talking to you."

I was anxious to talk to the two specific black men who'd made a point to refer to my remarks during theirs. I talked to the preacher about the workshop and sold him a Race Traitor. I sold my other two, talked briefly to several people and handed out numerous essays I've recently written.

The other fellow I'd hoped to meet, I didn't get a chance to talk to. He was talking to someone else and I didn't want to rudely intrude on his conversation. I signed my name on a list to be a part of a future "coffee."

I learned there are some very insightful people in Matteson and I will pursue their intellectual companionship. I kept thinking, "I wish my buddy Kingsley Clarke were here." He's one of the editors of Race Traitor, who has acted as a sort of big brother and guide to me. He got me to study the racial situation in Matteson, during a brainstorming session at a coffeehouse, after a few sets of tennis, a few months back.

I'm going to attend the Saturday morning session of the Racism Reconciliation Workshop, sponsored by the church groups. I'm an Atheist, myself. Tangible, logical rationalism is the only way to go, for me. But I detest racism with a zeal and a fervor that matches the intensity of any religion. Anywhere human suffering is being caused, should make a person respond as if his own child were being threatened.

"...in a packed meeting house, he (Brown) defiantly escorted some of the Negroes down to the Brown family pew. The act struck the audience - and the church deacons like a 'bombshell.' The following day the deacons called on Brown to admonish him and labor with him for what he had done. But Brown defied them all and that night with the bold audacity of a man who knows he is right, Brown took his black brothers straight to his pew." p. 43 of To Purge This Land With Blood, by Stephen B. Oates.

John Brown was expelled from that church, never to rejoin another. The only immortality is that which lingers in the hearts and minds of those who respect a job well done.

nightmare of the "Boat People," wandering the oceans, acceptable to no one, unwelcome everywhere.

"After a period of retreat in the mid-70's, the United States began to revise history and derive "lessons" from the war. Ronald Reagan said, "We will never again ask young men to fight and possibly die in a war our government is afraid to win." p. 488. This protected the politicians from the fiasco, soothed military professionals who couldn't understand their failure to "win" and proclaimed that America's "special moral standing" had not been tarnished. Any guilt was shaken off. Lethargy to act in the world would not be a problem. The war was lost, not by American timidity, but by Vietnamese tenacity and the legitimacy of their struggle.

The lesson taught the U.S. military was not to let Americans suffer even moderate casualties, as the U.S. people will not take it. An all-volunteer army was instituted to better control the forces. Massive use of air power would be even more extensively employed, keeping ground troops to a minimum, and these would be heavily armored. Massive "enemy" casualties are nothing compared to one U.S. death (Shwartzkopf.) Panama and Iraq were massively bombed from the safety of supersonic airplanes or off-shore destroyers.

Another method of destroying your enemy is to create and train local killing units ("Vietnamization.") This was done in Argentina, Guatemala, Mozambique, Angola, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, etc. The School of the Americas is to their peoples, The School of Assassins. The Phoenix program which targeted alleged "Vietcong" for torture and death, provided a training ground for many future American "advisors." This keeps the American public shielded from believing in anything but America's munificence. Going around the world killing people, destroying the environment, installing ruthless client-states is O.K. We (U.S. people) do not suffer directly and are informed our actions are needed to promote "human rights." Greatly limiting battlefield reportage is enforced to eliminate the unpleasant images and screams of those we have murdered.

To Richard Nixon, writing in his memoirs, the anti-war protesters (and Congress) are to blame for America's defeat. Anti-war protesters were portrayed as anti-U.S. soldier and the effusive "Support Our Boys" campaign in Iraq served to sidetrack any discussion or protest of this vile bloodletting by mainstream America.

Kissinger absolved himself of any culpability by saying, "We should never have been there at all. But now it's history." p. 485. Guilty of war crimes to rank with those hung at Nuremberg, he is a Nobel Prize winner, respected guest on Nightline and elder statesman of the Republican Party.

The North Vietnamese paper newspaper Nhan Dan characterized Nixon as "an extremely bellicose aggressor, an international pirate, a loathsome bloodthirsty man and a dangerous plotter." p. 20. Recently buried, he was acclaimed by the U.S. press as a foreign policy genius. As China and Russia left Vietnam in the lurch in 1972, cozying to Nixon, North Vietnam had this prescient appraisal of the socialist camp: "For a country to care for its immediate and narrow interests while shirking its lofty internationalist duties not only is detrimental to the revolutionart movement in the world but will also bring unfathomable harm to itself in the end." p. 21. Witness Russia today. It's people are eating out of garbage cans, its economy is in a free fall, adjusting to a "market economy."

The American public got stressed out from having nephews and cousins, neighbors and sons return from their one-year stint in Vietnam horribly altered. Surly, shell-shocked, drug-addicted, deeply traumatized, homeless spectres, injured or dead inside a box - they anonymously reappeared. Their localities were going through a nationwide bad acid trip - Vietnam being the poison. The war had to stop. The American people cried "Uncle!"

Upon Saigon being renamed Ho Chi Minh City, a slow return to human society occurred. The legacy of death remained and continues to haunt Vietnam. More Vietnamese citizens have died after the war from unexploded U.S. bombs than all American deaths during the war. Dioxin and country-wide ecocide has seared into the quality of life. Their birth-rates remain low, their cancer rates are high and hideous birth defects are common. As in Iraq, it's the children who today still suffer greatly from the result of massive American terrorism. Excuse me, I meant to say, "America's defense of freedom and respect for human rights."

"We had to destroy the village to save it." - a soldier in Vietnam.

The Tonic for the Malaise of Vietnam

18

"Wow! This is the coolest video game ever! Just like the simulators in the commercials! Be all you can be, LA LA LA LA, in the ar-ar-mee!"

"Did you see those body parts flyin' in the air? How cool!"

"Damn! We're outta missiles! What do we do?"

"I'll look through the field glasses. Hmma... They're pretty well sandblasted to hell. Oh wait! I see a white flag! Somebody's comin' out with their hands up! Quick! Fire the machine gun!"

"What are we gonna do with this mess we made?"

"Call the Lieutenant!"

"Lieutenant! What do we do? We're out of rockets."

"Have you sustained heavy casualties?"

"No! Johnson's got a blood blister on his second finger from holding down the trigger so much."

"How about the enemy?"

"Most of 'em are dead, but the rest want to surrender. What do we do?"

"Don't take prisoners. Keep shootin' 'em!"

"What about the bodies and stuff?"

"We've got 'em covered. There's a bulldozer battalion right behind you. They'll bury 'em all in big heaps. They won't survive that shit! We'll send the ammo truck with more rockets, over!"

"Cool! Over!"

"Boy, you gotta love the army. They're so damn efficient!"

"Sergeant! Bad news. We're supposed to stop fighting."

"Damn! We're just getting into it. What happened???"

"They're saying the President went soft on us."

"Mr. President, you've got to let us continue. We've got 'em set up for dissolution. They're fish in a barrel. C'mon, c'mon, c'mon! Don't make us stop! It's a classic military campaign of extermination. It's so textbook! Oh, please! C'mon! You brought all this stuff over here! Let us use it! Old Saddam won't know what hit him!"

"On humanitarian grounds, I'm stopping the war. The world might think we're brutal or something. It's the vision thing, I think. How many prisoners have you taken?"

"Oh, maybe a thousand..."

"How many enemy dead?"

"Who knows? A hundred thousand or so!"

"Isn't that enough?"

"Not near what we could have!"

"Well, I'm sorry. At any rate, stop it. They've already agreed to surrender unconditionally. You've got to go meet Saddam's representatives. The Tent is already up."

"This is kinda sudden, ain't it? Jeepers! It'll take a few hours for the gums to die down and I want to finish the sorties we have scheduled for today."

"Whatever. But remember! It's time to close up shop. We don't want any more precious boys dead!"

"Alright, alright! Nobody's died in a week, though, and that was friendly fire!"

"That's an order!"

"Yes sir! Bye."

"Gentlemen! We got to quit. The Chief's gone soft."

"How the hell are we supposed to get medals and promotions without battlefield experience?"

"Fluff up the reports. Who knows what really happened? The press sure as hell don't! They swallowed their daily dose of b.s. whole and wagged their tails."

"...And now entering the Tent is the Honorable Brigadier General Arapit Wartsoff!"

"A pleasure to meet you. My name is Sadass Hussein."

"Are you related to Saddam?"

"Yes. He is married to my sister. He has fucked my mother and shot my father. He's tortured my brother and gassed my daughter. I'm his personal negotiator."

"I guess you'll qualify. Has Saddam been taught a lesson?"

"Yes. He was quite thrilled with the fireworks display and even dined in his bomb shelter once. He thought your bombers were just marvelous. I probably shouldn't

The cops never solved the crime, but told them they think one of their black neighbors did it. As they have no proof, this is a sinister complicating factor for their continuing to live here. Fortunately, they decide to stay, vaguely suspicious and estranged from all their neighbors. I then launched into the meat of my remarks.

"Racism is used by the rich to bleed the poor and further enrich themselves. There's a class war going on and racism keeps whites ignorant and docile. There is money to be made from white flight. By who? By the banks, the real estate industry, land speculators, the construction industry, the taxing authorities, etc. This country was built on slavery. The founding fathers were founding slave owners. The constitution is a slave-sanctioning document! Slavery is over and the racist language has been deleted from the laws. But the racist ideology that came with slavery still dominates this country. Every white person in this room and in this country has been infected with racism since day one. It's an insidious disease that must be fought relentlessly. I'm an Abolitionist essayist. I wrote an essay for the Abolitionist journal, entitled 'Racism and Housing in Chicago's South Suburbs,' six weeks before this show was aired. I have copies of it, if anyone is interested. I sat down to stunned silence. Someone said "pass it around." One of the officials, a lady of mixed race, came over and asked for the article. I gave her three or four various articles and sold her a copy of Race Traitor on the spot. I don't want to disrupt the flow of conversation. I'll stay until the end and talk to those I've made an impression on.

A white lady gets up and says she believes we should try to get along and be tolerant. We should be human beings.

A black man wonders what we are doing to address the problem. People aren't educated. "I won the beautification award for keeping my property up. We all need to keep our property up. If everyone worked together, we'd have no problem."

A black man says his wife and two children have lived here since 1986. "My feelings were hurt when my neighbors decided to move because of all this. The show has, at least, demonstrated a fundamental human truth. Maybe we can bear this cross for the rest of our south suburban brothers and sisters, and become better human beings." Amen, brother!

An official of the village tries to explain why he supports affirmative marketing. He says if "more people look at Matteson's housing, selling prices will rise. Isn't it better to have thirty people look at your house, instead of thirteen? We're trying to find people who believe the same thing. We're trying to ensure that everyone gets a fair shot. Let the market take care of itself."

A black lady from Roseland came to town, via Naperville, where she felt quite uncomfortable. "There's no diversity there (it's overwhelmingly white.) There must be something here, because my husband works in Highland Park. So you know we must like it here to have this poor man drag himself out of bed so early every morning and drive all the way to Highland Park." People finally got a chance to laugh.

A white lady has recently moved from California, where she resided in a decent, mixed racial situation. She has a black husband and two children. They rent an apartment in Richton Park and are looking to purchase a home, possibly in Matteson. "My husband won't let me move back to California. He's from Chicago."

A young black boy, about ten, is introduced by his beaming father. The boy says that "racism is like the scary monsters little kids fear, and we could overcome racism as easily as children overcome their fear of monsters." Oh son! I wish!!!

A white man from Buffalo, N.Y. spoke next. He said "Buffalo is like a mini Chicago." He meant Buffalo suffers dreadfully from racism, as well. He recounts his racist-drenched upbringing and tells of two frightful incidents where he was set upon by angry black youths. He says he must face the monsters, like the young man who spoke before him. He says "racism, sexism and all the evil 'isms' must be struggled against." I greatly admire his personal efforts to overcome racism. It is anything but easy.

A white lady who works as a nurse in one of the local hospitals believes we need to get to know each other better. "Neighbors need to have potluck dinners. You should invite your neighbors. That's the only way." She tells of just completing a twelve week seminar on racism. "We must go on. You have been spotlighted on national television. You have an incredible challenge to overcome. There's one race - the human race."

A black lady moved here nine years ago and enjoys it. She loves a racially diverse neighborhood. "I hate crime, whether it's white or black. I hope Matteson can come together and transcend its neighborhoods."

In response to Tom Brokaw's June 27, 1997 T.V. show "Dateline NBC," about the racial situation in Matteson, IL. entitled "Why Can't We Live Together?" a forum was held at the St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Matteson. Residents were given the opportunity to express their opinions. ostensibly about the show, but really about their feelings about the community and their views on racism.

For the first half hour, various village officials and a guest speaker from Oak Park, generally applauded "us" for our bold "leadership." I guess because by showing up, we showed out concern for working to gain an understanding of what racism means and does and how it effects us in this area, specifically. They claimed that racism is not Matteson's problem, but rather, the country's problem. Insightfully, someone said it is not a black problem, but a white problem. Of course, because whites are so thoroughly inculcated with racism, blacks suffer as its victims.

The ground rules for the discussion were laid out. There was to be freedom of expression. A three minute limit was asked for (not enforced.) Supposedly, there was no right or wrong thing to say, as long as the comments were pertinent. Everybody's opinion was to be respected. Speak for yourself, only! Listen well and cut each other some slack. These seemed fair enough.

Some jerk (white) won't shutup about some time-wasting nonsense about a "letter" sent out by Matteson, which the village officials deny doing. He won't stop harping about it and wastes a good fifteen minutes on this non-issue. It's obvious to everyone that he does not understand how racism has infected his thinking. He's finally calmed down enough to allow other people to talk.

A white lady felt let down because shortly after the T.V. show, news trucks came by her house and filmed her children playing basketball in the driveway. She thought the village officials let her down by allowing this to happen and scolded them because of their unavailability (this was after business hours.) She didn't know anything about the show. She was very upset. The village officials said they have no control over the media. The first amendment protects free speech. The forum is getting off to a poor start.

Henry Swan, an intelligent black activist, who was in the show, speaks next. He talks sense. "What I've seen happen, has happened all my life. What I want you to think about is that resegregation happens because whites and blacks move out. It happens because of ignorance! Will my white neighbors be here when this community is 99% black? "Balance" is a dangerous notion. Let's focus on me getting to know you, and you, me. We need to cross-pollinate. I call it the "old 1950's Chicago Syndrome."

A white lady says she is a long-time resident. "Brokaw didn't ask me! why we stayed! We like our neighbors. We feel safe. We're a minority. I'm a school teacher, who knows her students by name, not the color of their skin."

The lady sitting next to me, spoke next. "I wanted my children to grow up in a multi-ethnic situation. That's why I moved here. She's black.

A black man with a Caribbean accent spoke next. "There are black niggers and white niggers." Shouts of "Right on!" "The problem is with undesirables.

A black lady says she loves the community. Another black lady says white people are not aware that when blacks come into a neighborhood, they are seeking a better life. She rails against realtors who've come and engaged in "panic peddling." She's received flyers in her mailbox, telling her "Blacks have moved into your neighborhood!" These scum are hoping to get the white flight home selling business. That is disgusting. Racism is usually much more subtle than that.

A white lady says several of her old (white) neighbors have moved to Manhattan. Manhattan is a burgeoning white flight haven south and west, mentioned on Brokaw's show as the next way station on the white flighters mindless hejira. Many of her old neighbors have asked her to move out there, too. "Aren't you afraid to live here???" They say. Manhattan doesn't have shopping. Matteson has Lincoln Mall. "I enjoy living here." She's practical.

I speak next. Everybody has said their name and where they live. So far, everybody is a resident of Matteson. I'm from Monee, maybe seven miles south. I don't want then to think I'm some "outside agitator" so I mention that my wife's sister and her husband live in Matteson. I recount that they were burglarized a few years ago and they'd thought of moving. We encouraged them to stay, so as to enjoy their close by company.

say this, but I detected a hint of envy in him."
"Good. I suppose he won't be go invade countries we finally decide we don't want 19 him to, eh?"

I wouldn't know about that. Not for a while, anyway. Oh. He insists on being allowed full use of our helicopters. It's sort of like being allowed to keep our pistols. Please allow us this dignity among men of honor."

"What for? We demand the country be a no-fly zone, except for us."

"No, we won't fly our planes, just the helicopters. That's all we have left, anyway."

"I suppose a few helicopter gunships can't do such harm. Oh! We're gonna encourage the Shiites and Kurds to rise up and overthrow Saddam. You wouldn't be thinking of mowing them down, would you?"

"Oh, I wouldn't know about that. Would you be assisting in these efforts?"

"Naw, we're through. I'd have liked to get Saddam myself and string him up by his balls - how dare he give us the finger! But, the Chief has called it quits. Saddam bit off more than he could chew and we think he got his fingers burnt. We don't want to go to Baghdad, anyway. Too many people dying there. The press would tag along. We'd sustain a few casualties. It ain't worth the hassle. We've got some major celebrating to do! There you have it. There's your peace agreement. Oh, yes, sanctions - we're keepin' 'em. That's about it. Now, where's the show line start. Oh, one last thing. Get on your hands and knees and kiss my ass! O.K. We're outta here! See ya next war! O.K. boys. Let's go home! I'm gonna retire, make millions and be forever loved by the whole damned country. Yippee!"

The Pan - ANARCHISTS in RUSSIA, JAN. 1918

the wind cuts through your rag. Passions riot beneath warm blankets - but your lips are frozen, your heart is aches, your hands are ice. You nestle yourself resignedly against a wall in some corner and doze fitfully. Nearby a prostitute walks back and forth. It's your daughter, selling her youth! fame to old hearts crusted with gold.

You stupid wretch! Right here is a home, here is warmth, here is comfort Go in and settle down. Let the owners of the houses and palaces roam the streets and feel their own teeth chatter. Let their own daughters sell themselves if they refuse to build a new order on earth. Create Anarchy! Oppressed and smouldering people, ignite the flames of Anarchy. Let your life's blood, now grown cold, turn to the fire. Burn everything around you. Boldly ignite the flames of Anarchy. CREATE ANARCHY!

Rejected, fallen, despised ones, arise and destroy that society in which there is "higher" and "lower". Arise and show that you are above us, that we are unworthy of your company, unworthy even of your contempt. Everything that was above you will be beneath you. Create Anarchy! Shave, open your eyes and see that you are free! The deceivers are putting new chains on you. Fling them to the devil! Obey no one. Humble yourselves before no one. Create your own freedom, your own happiness. CREATE ANARCHY!

Uneducated ones, destroy that loathsome culture which divides men into "ignorant" and "learned". They are keeping you in the dark. They have put out your eyes. And in this darkness, in the dark night of culture, they have robbed you.

A Weekly Free Speech Forum

People, the priests and scientists have robbed you, robbed you of your wholesome thoughts, your simplicity, your spontaneity, your feeling! Religion lies to you, people, and cunning science lies to you. The reign of heaven makes a fool of you; the priests deceive you; they trick you with a future order, a future socialism. The scientists and professors deceive you. Don't believe them. They hypnotize you and fleece you. They captivate you with the tawdry brilliance of their intellect.

People, your happiness is not in heaven but here on earth, not in the future but in the present. It lies in your own hands. Create Anarchy - completely, everywhere, and now. Destroy the churches, those nests of gentility; destroy the university, that nest of bourgeois lies. Drive away the priests, drive away the scientists! Destroy the false religion and bourgeois heavens. Smash their Perusa, gods and idols. There is only one god on earth: it is you, the people, you, Man.

People, you can be happy, you must be happy. CREATE ANARCHY

From *Iskra* (Petrograd), 27 January 1918, p. 1.

Perusa: god of thunder and chief pagan deity of the eastern Slavs before the Christianization of Russia.

Nov 15 a CoC regular returns

Jeffre Stewart the Anarcho-Pacifist

Since 1951

College of Complexes

The Playground for People Who Think

Saturdays

Presentation at 8:00 PM

Jan 31

Modern Day Abolitionism
Mtg #2335 -

Anthony Rayson, prolific author/essayist

Irving & Damen, 4000N - 2000W
Free Parking Available

Lincoln Restaurant
4008 N. Lincoln Ave

James Kao introduces Noel on behalf of S.A.W. (Students Against Whiteness.) Noel has written How the Irish Became White, and along with John Garvey, edits Race Traitor. The project of Race Traitor, or its goal, is to abolish "whiteness" as a socially significant category. Noel has just won a National Book Award for Race Traitor.

The Civil Rights Movement "legally" abolished racism, on paper anyway. The word "white" was stricken from the constitution. Today, the New Abolitionist Project is to identify, challenge, defy, disrupt and finally destroy the institutions that reproduce race, such as the racially funnelling of job references, tracking, red-lining, racially loaded S.A.T. - type testing, exclusionary practices of trade unions, etc. The reasons to attack "whiteness" are number one, its elemental morality. Two, racism is a fundamental distraction in dealing with basic societal problems. In American politics, racism is all-pervasive. It is drummed into everybody that black males are criminals and black females are immoral. Without the poisoning interference of race, people could seriously address their real problems.

The pre-Civil War Abolitionists were the most successful of all U.S. revolutionaries. How could such a small group become so powerful?

Abolitionism began to receive the organized input of white people in 1831, with the publication of the first issue of The Liberator. William Lloyd Garrison was the spearheading force in this effort. He proved to be an uncompromising abolitionist. Two seminal events occurred during this time. A black man, David Walker wrote a powerful appeal to black slaves, which came just short of being a call to arms. Nat Turner's Rebellion occurred in 1831. It was the largest slave rebellion in U.S. history. The slaves responded by intensifying the repression. They drove free blacks out of the South, and those whites opposed to slavery, notably the Quakers. Fugitive slaves, plus free Negroes emigrated North. The 1830's saw a great leap forward in the formation of black social institutions in the North. This was in response to their burgeoning needs. Abolitionism developed as a product and response to developments in the black community in the North. The first 3/4 of the subscribers to The Liberator were blacks. They were the source of its militancy.

Abolitionism went by two principles. The first was the unconditional, immediate emancipation of all slaves. The second demand was for full equal rights for all black people. Abolitionism emerges not as a means to oppose the slave owners, but in opposition to anti-slavery forces willing to compromise with slavery. Garrison started The Liberator to oppose these anti-slavery forces advocating the "colonization" of ex-slaves. They felt these people should be relocated in some other country. Garrison at first shared these beliefs, but blacks convinced him that they belonged in this country. The slaves had actually built this country, and were native to it, many for many generations. The black abolitionists lectured Garrison against any form of gradualism. They advocated for the immediate emancipation of all slaves. It was immoral and must be abolished. The black people in this country had at least as much claim to America as any European. Full civil rights for all ex-slaves was their corollary demand. Garrison learned his lessons well and remained a steadfast militant.

In 1833, the Anti-Slavery Society was founded. Abolitionism was growing. In 1834-35, mobs attacked abolitionists in northern cities with increasing levels of vitriol. Elijah P. Lovejoy was murdered by a mob ransacking his home in Alton, Illinois, in 1837. This violent reaction by whites was proof to the abolitionists of the effectiveness of their uncompromising position. Why did white mobs attack them? White people were led to believe that the abolition of slavery would break up the union. They also objected to complete black equality. Immigrants were afraid for their monopoly of jobs.

In the 1840's, abolitionism underwent a political division. It split over the issue of women speaking in public denouncing slavery. The Grimké sisters and Lydia Maria Child, among others were very effective writers and speakers in the cause of human decency and freedom. They defied the customs of male/female segregation. This initiative by women was denounced by the protestant churches. Some in the movement thought it would discredit abolitionism to allow women to speak publicly in their name. Womens' liberation was then an even more blasphemous concept than full equal rights for slaves. Garrison argued for women. To him, they must be allowed to speak freely and publicly, as abolitionists. He rejected the path of social "respectability."

I thought the show "Why Can't We Live Together?" with Tom Brokaw, was a tunnel-vision glimpse at the situation, more interested in making the host look good, than answering its own question.

Getting ignorant whites to say stupid things is just about the easiest thing to do there is. Just let them open their mouths. Why are so many whites mindlessly racist? Who benefits from white flight racism? That's what he should have been investigating.

This country was built on the backs of black slave labor! Racism has always been a basic force in the accumulation of wealth - controlled by white corporate America. The founding fathers were founding SLAVE OWNERS!! Racism exploits blacks ruthlessly and renders whites ignorant and docile, working against their own best interests - genuine human development, inter-racial understanding and co-operation and the empowerment to improve the human condition. Racism does not exempt whites from exploitation - it reconciles them to it! It also poisons their personal and social development.

Aside from native Americans, who have been genocidally marginalized, black Americans are the only true Americans. They were here the longest of any group, worked the hardest, contributed the most, culturally, spiritually, economically, socially, politically, etc. and are still oppressed to no end! Why??? It is because it is very profitable to the monied interests to rip-off blacks and have whites act as their deluded pawns. Wages are kept down through racism and worker solidarity is minimized. Racism is a basic impediment to the understanding and addressing of all of society's outstanding economic and social dilemmas. Progress comes through its abolition.

A brief look at our own history is very instructive in seeing what can be accomplished when blacks and whites work together for social advancement and why the powers that be so fear such a coalition.

Before the Civil War, a tiny number of white Abolitionists joined with blacks to struggle to destroy the slave system. Their efforts served as a catalyst which hastened the ignition of this inevitable, seminal conflict. By 1863, as ever increasing numbers of poor northern whites refused to be impressed and slaughtered, Lincoln came hat-in-hand to the Abolitionists for a solution to this quagmire. The country was nightmarishly disintegrating. They told Lincoln, and a joint session of Congress, to number one, declare the war, a war to end slavery and number two, to train and arm black soldiers to fight it. Black soldiers spearheaded the defeat of the southern armies through incredible tenacity and bravery. Thanks to them, the Union was saved.

As for the specifics of racism and housing in Chicago's south suburbs, the changing of towns from all-white to predominantly black, is a very clear example of how capitalism profits from racism. White flight, unnaturally accelerates the turn over in housing. Who profits? The banks, the mortgage companies, land speculators, the home building industry, the real estate industry, all taxing bodies and others with capital having a stake, benefit to a higher degree than they normally would because of the racist generated increased turn-over of single-family housing.

Tom Brokaw assiduously avoided to mention of this reality, I guess, so as not to step out of the parameters of allowable discourse and ruffle the feathers of corporate sponsors. I thought the dismissive treatment of nearby towns was very inadequate and rather deliberately deceptive, in order to neatly fit things into his simplified scenario. His smug holier-than-thou sense of self-importance was too much for him to disguise. He's a liberal, alright! I wonder where the hell, he lives? Probably it's a multi-million dollar enclave with ludicrously intense security. He may very well have a few black neighbors. If he does, they're millionaires too, who've long since forfeited their memberships to the black community. Maybe he plays tennis with Clarence Thomas. Big deal!

There is an inspired, radical, instructive, alternative for the understanding and explication of what racism means, does and says - and how to fight it! Modern day Abolitionists have a journal to focus their efforts around, called Race Traitor, credo is "Treason to Whiteness is Loyalty to Humanity." The best of the first four issues was compiled into book form and has recently won a National Book Award. If you desire personal intellectual enlightenment and moral development, I urge you to look into it. The book is fifteen dollars and the journal is twenty dollars for four issues. Their address is Box 603, Cambridge, Mass. 02140-0005.

and the workers are given an inadequate amount of time to construct the homes properly. Rain and snow may be allowed to damage the homes before completion. Serious flaws are papered over instead of corrected. "They'll ruin 'em, anyway." These workers are victims of this white status consciousness, too. Poorly trained or non-union workers may be used on cheaper housing, which blacks tend to get stuck with. When an expensive (i.e. "white") house or neighborhood of houses is constructed, pride in workmanship, quality materials and attention to detail come to the fore. The most experienced craftsmen and top of the line machinery are employed. The blueprints are followed to the letter as foremen and inspectors swarm the site. The police presence is noticeably increased, minimizing vandalism during construction and giving their imprimatur on the soon to be sacred addition to the hallowed institution of private ("white") property. Sickened yet?

These problems were delineated in the late seventies, when a half-hearted effort was still being made to do the right liberal thing. This was a coasting to a stop from the impetus from the civil rights movement of the sixties and the "Great Society's War on Poverty" - a sham offensive ending in miserable failure. This, as they were pulverizing Southeast Asia - another war they lost. The tiny tethering on the Gulliver of naked racist capitalism has been ripped away by the rightist tide. The openly anti-human regimes of the Reagan, Bush and Clinton eras, were prepared by Carter's "rehabilitation" of American might. After their Vietnam defeat and the Watergate sludge, Carter spoke of "human rights," as the U.S. prepped the Central and South American Death States. Now the beast is stalking up North.

Each of these South Chicago suburbs has their own sordid history of racist relations (typical throughout the U.S.) as they become integrated or formed as planned ghettos. The black children going to the schools breaking the color line, had to go through emotionally and psychologically what Victor Jara was forced to endure, physically... I'm sure most whites reading these paragraphs will react unacceptingly, discounting the true nature of society and how it affects people. Blacks know what I'm saying is all too true. Who do you think has a handle on what racism means and does?

As the veil of the special privileges of "whiteness" is being shredded by naked ambition for profitizing, glimmers of enlightenment and understanding of bitter reality spread, and more and more whites angrily realize they've been played for fools. Their black brothers and sisters aren't their "enemies." In fact, they're your closest friend. White youth are more intuned to black culture, particularly musically. They agree with their message of defiance.

We're all in this together, brothers and sisters! Know thine enemy! We've recently seen the remarkable example of a whole people in revolt against a swindling government. This of course, was Albania. Mass revulsion leads to spontaneous revolution! "Enough! to the guns!! Get these bastards out of here !!!" Of course, the U.S. and its clientele are dampening it down now.

So what are we gonna do about it? Well, we're not gerbils in a cage. We're human beings with advanced minds. The Bhopal-like intellectual fog that pronounces this country in it staggering, stupefying torpor to the rest of the world, must not be succumbed to. It's an insanely daunting task to challenge this blindly arrogant genocidal monstrosity. Fear and hopelessness, though, are unacceptable excuses for inactivity. As Frederick Douglass said, "If there is not struggle, there is no progress."

What we must steel ourselves with, is the mental toughness of a Michael Jordan, and the physical courage of the Vietnamese people. They whipped the U.S. soundly, remember? We'll need the insight of social and political analysis of the world's keenest minds. We should strive to grasp difficult concepts with the sheer brilliance of a Stephen Hawking. We need to attain cosmic awareness as it applies to this planet, all washed down with the joy for life exuded by the Fish.

There's a better world out there, damnit! Our job is to go out there and build it. We can't afford to be afraid - of anything, least of all our own thoughts. We are armed with rationality which uncovers the truth, no matter how obscurely packaged it be. Exposing & challenging racism and other evils of capitalism is everybody's highest moral duty. Our assignment for the rest of our lives is to hammer away at this world of oppression and ignorance, with each breath, on the count of every heartbeat. There are babies to be saved - beautiful BLACK babies* (some lighter than others...)

"The sighs and groans of the oppressed had entered into his soul."
 - George Washington Williams, on Brown.

Abolitionists disrupted church services, denouncing them for their complicity and accommodation to slavery. The moderates moved toward electoral participation to plead their case. This marginalized them into ineffectiveness. Garrison refused to dilute his position.

The constitution forbade abolition. Moderates felt they had to trim their sails as to their goals. They dropped the demand for equal rights for blacks. Garrison advocated for the disruption of any and all institutions compliant with slavery. Somehow, he felt, slavery would be stopped. The country as a whole, was in complicity with the federal government to maintain and assist in perpetuating slavery. The bayonet used by the U.S. was the Fugitive Slave Law. Garrison's slogan was "No Union With Slaveholders." The militant abolitionists were trying to get the North to secede! They implemented this drive with slave rescue attempts and resistance by direct action, challenging the fugitive slave laws. The blacks, as always, were in the lead in these efforts.

In the 1840's and '50's, resistance to slavery took on many forms, such as the Underground Railroad and slave rescues, etc. These abolitionist actions gave concrete form to their stated objections, using direct action to help procure human freedom on an individual basis. It helped to undermine the crumbling edifice of slavery. In 1846, the Mexican War signalled a massive land grab in the Southwest. David Wilmot wanted white workers to be "free" of slave competition and proposed this in Congress. This brought to the fore the conflict of slave labor and wage labor. Slavery marginalized the wage system. So, the push was on, not to only ban slavery from the newly extorted territories, but to exclude all blacks. So the "moderate" position became a Hitlerian call for racial purity.

Over in Kansas, a civil war erupted in 1854 to decide who could "vote" on whether to be a free or slave state. Pro-slavery Missourians tried to dictate a slave constitution for Kansas, and overran free Lawrence and torched it. After the murder of a few "free staters" John Brown and a number of his sons took up arms and gave the slave lovers hell. They killed a few rednecks and waged guerrilla warfare. He even crossed into Missouri and led a dozen slaves to freedom in Canada. The upshot had Kansas banning slavery, and also free blacks. The country was inexorably heading for Civil War.

In 1859, John Brown launched his mythic attack on Harper's Ferry. John was a serious student of insurrection. His band of about twenty-two men, including two of his sons and five blacks attacked the armory in hopes of providing the means for slaves to achieve liberation. He brought many weapons with him. He had hoped to spark slave rebellion, but failing that he knew that such a defiant act would catapult the country into civil war. Protecting his hostages, he allowed himself to be captured after being repeatedly stabbed and beaten. His two sons laid dead by his side. Another son, Frederick was murdered in Kansas. Five from his party escaped. His courageousness and eloquent convictions during his interrogation, his quick trial, his imprisonment and his spectacular journey to the gallows energised waves of new abolitionists. The result of his actions was to terrify the South into accelerated irrationality. The South used the attack to demand from the North more than it was willing to do in support of slavery. Southern arrogance pushed the North to the wall, compelling them to resist. In 1860, the slaves, in effect, elected the president. The abolitionists were forced into hiding, as most northern whites were still blinded by racist thought. John Brown, one man standing up for human freedom and justice, was blamed for the dissolution of the union. He blew the lid off the facade, alright, and died an internationally revered hero.

Wendell Phillips, a powerfully persuasive abolitionist, was forced to go underground. Frederick Douglass had to flee the country. John Brown had tried to persuade him to come to Harper's Ferry with him. Shields Green was at the meeting, too. He was also a black man. He said, "I'll go with the old man." Put his name in the pantheon reserved for special heroes. He also gave his life for his people.

Two years later, Phillips was addressing a joint session of Congress. How did this phenomenon transpire? Initially, the Civil War had both sides fighting for slavery. The North wanted the union preserved. Lincoln advocated that no slavery be allowed in the new territories. The issue in 1860 was whether slavery should be expanded (South) or restricted (North.)

The war bogged down. The North and South sent many poor whites to their slaughter. The slaves took care of the plantations' women and children. White wage slaves became unwilling to fight and die for northern armies. Phillips told Congress to one, declare the war an anti-slavery fight and two, recruit and arm black soldiers. They had overwhelmed northern armies, looking for safety and a chance to fight for their freedom. They rendered meaningless the argument the conflict was not about slavery. Lincoln finally realizes that the war can only be won if he acknowledges the true nature of the conflict and openly pleads for the slaves to rescue the country from this nightmare. He issues the Emancipation Proclamation which signals to blacks that they are now welcome in the North. A "general strike" by slaves paralyzes the South as they withdraw their labor and put it in service to the North, as workers, cooks, spies, scouts and soldiers. One hundred and eighty thousand blacks join the Northern armies as fighters and proved their worth with incredible determination and bravery. Often, racist white officers led them on suicide charges. Their impetus, however, spearheads the defeat of the Southern armies. So, blacks freed the country from the slave system and the abolitionists are proven right. Their uncompromising militancy and direct action serve as a catalyst in the destruction of the slave system.

Noel Ignatiev urges everyone to study Black Reconstruction in America, by W.E.B. DuBois, for the clearest account of post-Civil War America.

Two points are stressed. Abolitionism developed in opposition to the anti-slavery movement, and a tiny band of committed abolitionists cast their weight at a crucial moment in history and proved effective.

Slavery was eliminated, but racism remains entrenched. After Lincoln's assassination, Andrew Johnson let the South off the hook. Racist black laws and vagrancy laws, Jim Crow society and KKK vigilante "justice," derailed any hope of genuine reconstruction. The thanks given black people for saving the country was merely a more subtle form of racial oppression. The work of Abolitionism remains unfinished.

Race Traitor's focus will concentrate on race. Race is politically pivotal and opens up the challenge to all the other social and economic issues that scream to be addressed. It's an attack on capitalism through the achilles heel of racism.

"Possessive investment" is historically accumulated wealth. This is a white thing. "Accumulated family wealth" is something some whites have (ultimately derived from slave labor.) Race gets reproduced. It is passed on from generation to generation. Racism "does not exempt whites from exploitation - it reconciles them to it." Noel urges modern day abolitionists to creatively employ the tactics which proved so successful in the mid - 1800's.

I was very taken by the message Race Traitor is teaching. I read an interview by Danny Postal with Noel in Z Magazine. It really made me feel relieved that here was brilliant articulation of ideas I had felt most all my life, and there was now a new movement to advocate and agitate these beliefs. I wrote a letter to Race Traitor and sent for a subscription. A short time later, Noel called me from Cambridge. He asked if he could print my letter in the next issue. I said, "sure." I met Kingaley Clarke, an associate editor of RT from Chicago. He provided me with back issues and a much needed contact. I was ready to go! I went around naively advocating militant abolitionism to the enthusiastic response of most blacks and the utter incomprehension of almost every "white." I started buying magazines, books, zines, etc. I had my wife research the subject and bring me home print outs and books. The more I learned the more impressed I became with the abolitionists of yesteryear. I tried to get people to be as enthused about fighting racism as I am, to little avail. The spell of racist thought is so strong, many "whites" even enlightened ones, fail to see the importance of such single-minded concentration on this issue by "white" people. I'm now trying to write about this subject so that the history and lessons of abolitionism can be usefully understood by "white" people of today. In the next issue of "Thought Bombs" I will have a lot more to say about the subject. I will look at racism and housing, white-flight racism, and racism and religion. The stridency of Race Traitor has made white people uncomfortable and unaware of the insight it has to offer. They argue that we are on a guilt trip and that we're ignoring the class nature of capitalism. W.E.B. DuBois was a Marxist, but he fully understood the unique position race has always held in America. It behooves us all to shine the klieg lights on it and stare!

areas or they refuse to deal with racial concerns altogether." 8. p. 35. Another revelatory bombshell, eh?

The schools are schools of racism. Lily white schools allow whites to avoid blacks altogether, re-inforcing racist beliefs by being denied living examples of real blacks. Interracial schools attract blacks, which sends white parents packing their kids off to other schools. As the black percentage of students increases, the funding for these schools dries up. Invariably, the blacks are blamed for being the cause of their own victimization. After all, the schools are "going bad."

On the individual home buying level, the "actions of many homebuyers and homesellers are often self-limiting and against federal fair housing law. Many white and black homebuyers are self-steering themselves into neighborhoods where they feel they would be the most comfortable when their assessment is based on very limited factual information. Furthermore, the actions of some homesellers such as selective showing and selling as well as different home prices for each race are illegal. On the other hand, some majority homesellers have panicked and sold their homes at a loss after the first minority move in." 8. p. 41. Do the remaining whites blame these bastard neighbors for dragging down their home values by their gutless fleeing? Nope. Almost invariably, the blame is on their new (black) neighbors.

Financial institutions insist on appraisals for every sale not sold on a cash basis. "The appraisal process penalizes homes located in older areas and in areas where residents are of mixed racial, ethnic and income background." 8. p. 44. Appraisers must go to school to take courses at the institutes sponsored by the Society of Real Estate Appraisers and the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. Their texts state that neighborhood homogeneity effects the "value" of a neighborhood. The student outline states, "As a general rule, minority groups are found at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder and problems associated with minority group segments of the population can hinder community growth." *ibid.*

A slide show accompanies the Institute of Appraisers course, "The accompanying sound track said of a neighborhood analysis 'one exceptional factor which may affect value is the influx of inharmonious social or racial groups.' The slide on the screen showed a burned out store." 8. p. 45. The prospective appraisers are told the single most important "value level" of a "residential neighborhood are influenced more by the social characteristics of its present and prospective occupants than any other factor." *ibid.* So, the appraiser is supposed to make a snap judgement as to a future homeowner's "social characteristics" after being inculcated with racist appraisales!

"Low balling" by appraisers and employees of mortgage companies (which are often a branch of some bank,) is common. They "low ball" the appraisal of a house in a changing neighborhood - even when a buyer has agreed to buy the house for a higher price than the appraiser claims the house is worth. The deal is therefore, nullified. The appraiser is just doing his job of sabotaging a neighborhood that is "changing." Modest, single-family homes are purchased by working people. They can't just plunk down a wad of cash and skip the appraisal. The potential buyer must get a mortgage loan to purchase the house, so the bank determines how a neighborhood is changed. Needless to say, the banks make an enormous commission on the sale of every house, through a complex myriad of fees charged to both buyer and seller, and continue to "make" money on the interest on the mortgage loan, which usually amounts to two or three times the amount of the actual loan! Blacks pay higher interest rates on their mortgages.

As for relying on builders and developers to mind their profit-driven "P's" and "Q's," "Discrimination and/or failure to market affirmatively can be negatively sanctioned. Watchdogging, however, is not easy and often HUD regional offices do not have the resources to do the job adequately - even with aid from community organizations. If the regulating office is not swift and sure in its enforcement, and sanctions are not 'harsh' in cases of definite non-compliance, the developers are not likely to feel that non-compliance is much of a risk." 8. p. 50.

The actual construction is another nail in the coffin perpetuating racism. When construction workers (almost always white) build a tract of homes, it depends on how expensive the homes will be, who they are to be sold to, and the whims of the builder(s) involved. When white construction workers know they are building a development that will be targeted to blacks, funny things happen. The nailing becomes haphazard and some are skipped altogether. Warped pieces of wood are sheep-dipped into place. The whole job is done with a mind-set of "half-ass." The builder may provide shoddy materials

decency for the monied interests. Small concessions may be made and lip service paid, but the economic engine of racist capitalism is not even imperceptively slowed. 42

In the more affluent suburban housing, you're seeing condos, quadriplexes, etc. They're very expensive and "secure." Often each building is an exact clone of the next. More profit and more sameness - less "blackness."

The media is another culprit. It covers racial incidents incessantly, headlining crime stories, daily. They're trying to maximize ratings and assiduously avoid the consciously constructive endeavors of people. With seven million or so people concentrated in this megalopolis, somebody is going to kill somebody else, in a most gruesome fashion, daily. This hammering on the subject, re-reinforces ignorance and fear. Black "suspects" are depicted as horrible, scary monsters.

Unfortunately, this is the only media known to the vast majority of whites. Newspapers, television and magazine sound bite, shallow take on stories, provides no insight to a television somnambulist public, who accept trite sensationalism as "news." In depth, insightful analysis of reality isn't profitable either. The liberals want to persuade the media to be more "responsible." The reactionaries have convinced many that the news media suffers from "liberal bias." It suffers cancerously from both.

Rental management agencies see whites as more favorable tenants. Realtors play their role as cogs in the racist machinery. "As a consequence of self-steering by race as well as illegal realtor manipulation, the dual housing market is perpetuated and realtors have too little incentive to alter market trends." 8. p. 25. Once again, it's not profitable to function humanely in this capitalist system. We have to go with the flow of "market trends" of ingrained racism. We all know who lives in the most rundown apartments, houses, tenements, high rises, tax paper shacks, underpasses, heating grates, and prisons - EVERYWHERE IN THE WHOLE DAMNED COUNTRY - don't we?

Community organizations "operate in isolation and often their programs duplicate and overlap each other. In addition, these housing groups generally are understaffed, underfunded and their activities are not publicized. Community organizations in predominantly white areas have not made serious efforts to promote minority housing." 8. p.27 Here, supposedly, is "democracy" at the grass roots level - fighting for their racial turf. This is what capitalism has reduced white people to - scared, ignorant-of-reality consumers, oblivious to their real best interests (inter-racial living and genuine human development).

As for builders and developers, "Most new housing is constructed in all white developing areas rather than in older established mixed race neighborhoods... Black homebuyers are discouraged from moving into new areas because some builder-developers feel that black home buyers will drive away white traffic... some builder-developers have also created 'instant ghettos' by constructing some subdivisions, often substandard, and marketing them exclusively to minority families." 8. p. 21. Big surprise here, isn't it? Gee, I think I'm detecting a pattern.

The "image" a community acquires, as viewed by outsiders, whether factual or not, "often determines who moves into that community." 8. p. 29. In a racist society, blacks have limited options, often opting for an area that provides at least a semblance of acceptance. Naturally, the "poor" whites then have to bail out and seek out new honkified enclaves.

The law merely claims to protect a person "from having his/her freedom of choice abridged; the laws do not rectify racial discrimination of the past nor do they protect interracial community living." 8. p. 31. The law! Go to any court in the suburbs for a traffic ticket or something. The building is overflowing with black defendants! The whites are the judges, the cops and the greasy lawyers, with a smattering of white defendants. Have you ever gone to a court and seen a civil rights case sincerely fought on the behalf of a wronged black person? Blacks are hauled off to prison with the voluminous regularity of the Nazi cattle-cars full of Jews!

As for government, rest assured they care little for racial decency. The feds claim to favor local control, yet pour in the national police at any sign of "trouble." They rob us blind, bully the world and put on the long-running abomination known as Congress and the Presidency. Oh, yes! Let's not forget our excuse for legalized tyranny, known as the judicial system. As for local government, "Many local governments actively work to exclude themselves from region-wide problems and responsibilities in housing. Furthermore, some local governments either do not invest in local, interracial

The first order of the day, as always, is to make coffee. It's snowing out and I must drive downtown from Monee. City driving, especially in the snow with limited visibility thoroughly unnerves me. Traffic was mercifully light. I even got here early. I met and chatted with a few people I know, registered and got my little name tag, with which if I stick it out, gets me the goodies at the end of the conference. These will consist of a union hat, shirt, bag and a nice little socket set, along with various items donated by other interests (a sort of form of advertising.)

A makeshift choir was chant and responding to a lady calling for power, - union people power. I fumbled through my papers, having forgotten most of the ones I really wanted to bring. I've got three copies of Race Traitor and a couple of "New Abolitionist News." I can wing it. I'll talk about Abolitionism today, when the opportunity presents itself to interested individuals. I signed up for the Discrimination workshop. What's a white boy doing in a discrimination workshop? Plenty. I'm also a steward and we all need to know how to deal with discrimination in all of its sickening manifestations on the job site. I also happen to detest racism. I long for the day of genuine racial equality, freedom and dignity for the uniquely oppressed blacks of this country. Most whites can't understand this viewpoint. It's O.K. to be passionately interested in say, stamp collecting, but human liberation, what's that? Blacks, on the other hand, are interested in the participation of whites in their struggle and are quite open in offering their insight into the situation, which all whites could sorely use, if they could throw off the deluge of racist brainwashing, they've been so subject to. White workers need to realize that racism does not exempt them from exploitation, it merely reconciles them to it. Most of the stewards here are black and the "white" ones are racially much more intelligent and natural than "white" society in general. As trade unions go, this is a pretty good one.

I find a place to sit, drink some coffee and read how the Bulls rode roughshod over Charlotte last night. M.J. took care of business in his usual, spectacular way. Pip is still in street clothes.

It's time for the meeting. We file into a powerfully arranged, tight little auditorium. A killer large portrait of Malcolm dominates one wall. He has a look of intense, stern-lessoned conviction. Across the way, on the other wall, a black musician caresses a violin. Now I feel at home. It seems like a sparse crowd, due to the snow storm and whatever. People trickle in all day.

Andrew Stern, S.E.I.U. International President is introduced by Tom Balanoff. Tom calls Stern "the most dynamic labor leader in the country." To Tom that may be true. A few people stand. Stern pooh-poohs himself and returns the compliments to Tom. He digs at colleges and their "boring professors." He wants to see and play with his kids today, so he's leaving shortly. They're going ice-skating. Sounds good. He has good things to say about local #73. He had Pia Davis go to New York to straighten out their mismanaged local, of 30,000 workers. She's our Vice President. Stern claims labor won the U.P.S. strike and the Frontier strike out in Las Vegas. That action dragged on for seven years, with no-one crossing the picket line in all that time. He says President Clinton was persuaded by labor to veto the fast track legislation which would make it more easy for capital to exploit the world's workers, including us. This rush to profit-taking is euphemistically called "free trade." Stern asserts that "labor is back!" and it is now "Kip to be union!" He says the best way to fight discrimination etc., is to have a decent contract bargained by a strong union. We organize new union members to better represent the members we have. Well, a decent union certainly helps their members receive liveable wages and benefits. The vast majority of Americans are without unions or jobs and suffer under the weight of institutionalized racism, sexism, militarism, jingoism, etc. - the whole oppressive weight of the state. We need to use the union as a springboard to address all of societies crying problems, not merely as a self-contained end in itself. Stern says we must get stronger, but not if our numbers do not increase and we can't very well procure better wages when the shop down the street is non-union. So we need to recruit those workers to the union. This will help them and us.

Stern goes on to recount how 1997 was the unions most successful year as far as recruiting new members goes. Ten thousand new workers were added to the union from the central states. He did say real wages for workers have gone down or have remained stagnant for the last twenty-five years. He said Bill Gates has more money in his bank accounts than the entire gross national product of Central America. Pent-up rage inside! These death squad "fledgling democracies" help U.S. companies run smooth, profit-wild enterprises off the super-exploited labor of these countries' workers. On the average, American C.E.O.'s got a 20% raise last year. He says Reagan had it all wrong. It's not "trickle down" it's torrenting up from the pockets of the needy to the bank accounts of the greedy.

Stern lists three things to increase the power of the labor movement. Number one is health care. Our union must put pressure to bear on management to insure against non-union health care plans which are often offered to union members. We gave health care back to the employers. "Let's get back in the health care business!" The goal should be universal, free health care for every man, woman and child.

Number two is pension power. We would think our pension money could be used to improve our standard of living. We gave our pension money to the rich who use it to further enrich themselves! Who are these companies? They're the same ones privatizing our jobs! The biggest culprits are our dearly beloved defense contractors who produce the weapons of destruction unleashed on workers, world-wide. Lockheed is an example. They're the folks who brought us \$650.00 toilet seats and the \$7,500.00 coffee pots for their F-16's! These guys are now going to make welfare "efficient!" "Our money goes to our pension fund to go to companies that are taking our jobs! I don't think this is good for our retirement!" So says Andrew Stern. He says the union will try to recover control over our pension money. Please do!

The third thing Stern lists is politics. "Who gets what." "We're getting it, not giving it." He claims their lobbying efforts and vote drives have given a few reactionary congressmen early retirements. "Politicians on the day before elections are after our vote, and on the day after, are after our throats!" He says our job is not to be the lapdogs of politicians but rather, the watch dogs of our members. They will campaign on issues and substance, instead of party politics. They will support either democrats or republicans, whoever is pro-union on a particular bill. He says people who make over \$100,000.00/year have a 90% voter turn-out rate. Workers vote at 1/3 that rate. Now, why the hell is that??? Is it maybe that the laws, (written by lawyers) the courts, business and the "democratic" political system is by and for the rich? When have legitimate worker parties ever had legislative impact in America? Never! Giving PAC money to supposed worker-friendly legislators is a waste of money. Let's organize on the streets! Let's use direct action! What is our most effective weapon? It's the strike. Nothing paralyzes capitalism like a powerful strike. Better yet, is a general strike! Then things move quickly. When workers are empowered in their own organizations is when real social gains are to be had. The two-party system is not a democracy. Both are boss parties. Stern says we should have "unreasonable" expectations and "passionate" beliefs. How do you get passionate about putting Joe Blow democrat/republican in a cushy legislative seat, throw money at him and see how corrupt he'll wind up? The system is every workers' enemy, anywhere around the globe where workers make money for U.S. companies through the surrendering of their time and labor. Voting only encourages them.

Mr. Stern then swears Tom Balanoff in as his Vice-President. Tom raises his right hand and repeats after Andrew. Tom is an intelligent, deserving, sincerely motivated trade unionist, who I feel, really cares for the membership of this local. I don't agree with their focus on electoral politics, but the I.W.W. this union is not. As AFL-CIO unions go, this is one of the more progressive. It just is.

It's time for the various reports. Phil Martini of security along with two of his cohorts does an I-Spy number with trench coats and sunglasses. It's kinda funny. The black guy reminds me of the bodyguard for Huey P. Newton in the Panther's heyday. Phil (who is white) says the companies he must deal with give him the old tired

settle for, so it's "official."

"Surveys have shown that whites consider a neighborhood to be 'integrated' if one or two black families live there. African-Americans tend to think a substantially higher minority presence is necessary before a truly bi-racial ambience is achieved." 7. p.16. When blacks move in, "white buyers tend to look someplace else." *ibid.* "In the absence of white demand, integration dissolves into white-to-black 'resegregation.' First home values slide, then the tax base, then public services." *ibid.*, p. 16. So, in a thoroughly racist society, blacks are blamed for everything, most specifically, their blackness. For this ruins everything for the poor whites, who must uproot their families and flee.

"The status consciousness of white residents is viewed as a basic factor underlying their perception and evaluation of racial change." 6. p. 375. Status is defined as the "social estimation of honor." *ibid.* Status consciousness is the "degree to which status considerations are important to the individual the extent to which he is concerned about his own relative status or to which status factors tend to color his interactions with others." *ibid.*

Social estimation of honor "is clearly distinguished from the concept of 'class.' The desire for status protection lay beneath the white behavior in racially changing neighborhoods... and that this desire was usually manifested as avoidance behavior based on status consciousness - that is, that the mechanism precipitating white flight was white status consciousness." *ibid.* In other words, racist Joe Blow could forget the reality of his wage-slavery, so long as he had his white status consciousness (privilege of the white skin) but he could "enjoy" it, only if there were no blacks visible to "spoil" it for him! How base is that???

Capitalism wants whites to be full of racist mindlessness, essentially afraid of their own shadows. This "status consciousness" of whites is the rich vein mined by MAD Magazine in their mockery of American culture. This ephemeral "status" is what we spend our lives striving to attain for our families. By some nebulous racist gauge, we're supposed to have attained the zenith of the American ideal if we accumulate enough material possessions (a fancy house and car, maybe a boat - whatever) in our sparkingly lily-white enclaves! So the capitalists see whites working doggedly for their companies with their sole societal goal being material accumulation and racist "status." That is why I say white society is cultureless and soulless. The last thing most whites want to have happen is to be judged on the content of their character, instead of the color of their skin, because they would all fail miserably.

"Black" carries the imputation of status inferiority and a black or integrated neighborhood is considered low status." 6. p. 377. That's insanity believed as truth! Treason is your answer to this stultifying mind-melting rot! It's much healthier to hang with blacks than only with other whites. That is the truth!

What is best for blacks? I can't really say, because I'm not physically black and haven't had to live under this apartheid system. They are not bothered, per se, by the presence of whites. This is an enormous stroke of luck for those whites smart enough to pursue their own best interests. Blacks need the company of blacks and feel quite comfortable with non-racist whites. Whites need the company of blacks. "Whiteness" is everybody's enemy.

Institutional racism is involved in resegregation as their motives are purely profit driven. Racism increases profits.

Racist perception of a neighborhood dictates lending policies. "Many financial institutions view inter-racial neighborhoods as poor investment risks. When financial credit is denied to an individual or enterprise on the basis of the racial composition of a neighborhood rather than on the ability to repay the loan, redlining occurs. Many racially integrated areas are wrongly considered as 'high risk' loan areas and residents and businesses in these areas are often denied credit or forced to pay a surcharge for a loan. Furthermore, the backers of new development tend to favor large scale urban development in suburbanizing areas rather than small-scale redevelopment in established neighborhoods. This process of financial favoring developing communities as opposed to established neighborhoods is called disinvestment." 8. p. 17. So the racist perceptions of financial institutions determine which community is allowed to flourish and which ones will die. Capitalism is only interested in capital accumulation, not human welfare. Liberal reformers somehow hope to succeed in "reversing the bias of financial institutions." *ibid.* But there's no profit (or interest) in basic human

enforced are the ones black people so condemnably (supposedly) break.

"Steering" is not just a phenomenon of selective advertising and real estate agents. 40 Segregated housing subdivisions are planned by the collusion of builders and government.

"The pattern developed by Kaufman and Broad in the south suburban area is typical of the operation of the 235 program all over the country. Kaufman and Broad, one of the nation's largest corporate builders, built the all-white development of 'Appletree' in Country Club Hills and eight miles away in Chicago Heights built the amongst all black 'Forest Heights.' This was not an accident. The marketing procedures must have been carefully designed to produce this result. HUD not only did not question these procedures but aided the builder by allotting 255 section 235 mortgages to the builder to be used in Forest Heights. This is over 90% of the new homes in lower income subsidized mortgages. In Appletree they allotted some 113 and black buyers going to Appletree were told that 235 mortgages were not available in Appletree. These two projects were built at the same time with almost identical houses at the same price level. HUD and FHA made no attempt to help or inform low-income buyers, but left this entirely up to the builder." 6. p. 358. So such for government agencies or "watchdog" groups keeping the fair housing laws adhered to. The racist conduct of business, unfettered, is the American way.

"Although advertised as an integrated development, the majority of the homes were sold to blacks - many from Chicago's south and west side ghettos. Given the fact that Kaufman and Broad placed the bulk of their advertising in the black media, the volume of black buyers in Forest Heights is not surprising." *ibid.*, p. 356. Forest Heights is cut off from Chicago Heights proper. It was originally meant to be an industrial park under the jurisdiction of Park Forest, but when industry spurned the town's courting, the whole area was platted into small, single-family units - every bit of it. No parks or schools were allocated for.

Forest Heights is a miserable section, bounded on the north and east by railroad tracks. To the south a forest preserve begins and to the west is Western Avenue, a busy highway that is the boundary to Park Forest. It is a busy four lane commercial highway. When the housing in this section began to crumble due to shoddy construction, it was the black occupants, naturally, who were blamed for the deterioration.

"A reporter for the Chicago Daily News, visiting a Forest Heights' family in its 23,259 bi-level home (these are sixties prices) leaned against a steel column that provides the main support for the living room as well as for the load-bearing wall in the upstairs hallway and found that it swung loosely from the beam overhead. This was one of many such examples of shoddy construction in the subdivision." *ibid.* According to an article in the Chicago Sun-Times, these residents were "families from the city, women and children without fathers in the family... The majority of these people had never before owned a house... for most of them the transition was from a high-rise slum to a one-family house (that) began deteriorating because they had no experience in keeping a place up..." *ibid.* They assume these people to be manless tramps who don't know how to live in a dwelling, even though they've lived somewhere previously. "Reporting" they call it.

The children of these residents poured into the schools; ill-prepared for the assault the system would spring on them. Although Chicago Heights residents, they overflowed the schools in Park Forest. These students from Forest Heights said "Black students are separated from the majority of the student body by virtue of the tracking system... The majority of the black students are placed on a low-level track without adequate programs to help them advance... tracking is a major factor contributing to black and white conflicts because there is no opportunity to interact." *ibid.*, p. 362. Remember, this is in the relatively benign town of Park Forest. You can imagine how miserably treated the black students were at more racially ignorant areas.

This racist tracking happens everywhere black students go to school, unwelcomed. As racial incidents increase and get more violent, the townspeople panic, the realtors pick up on it and steer blacks one way and whites another.

"The general conclusion must be that at each income level and regardless of socio-economic characteristics, a concentration of black families is perceived negatively by whites." *ibid.* This is not thought of as the crux of the problem - outrage that it is, but as a fact of life that blacks should accept as the way things are and must adapt themselves and their behavior to accommodate. After all, that's the reality most whites

25
line about how they have to compete with non-union security contractors. Phil thinks to improve our position, we must unionize these non-union security guards. It's the same sick broken record. Companies are in business solely to realize a profit, the lives of their workers and their families are of secondary (or worse) consideration.

Next up is the Downstate Director, Al Pieper. He reminds everybody that this week marks the anniversary of the hanging of the Haymarket martyrs. November 11th, has been co-opted as Veteran's Day. In Canada and elsewhere, it is considered Remembrance Day, in honor of these brave Chicago anarchists, who were railroaded into a hangman's noose after a kangaroo court. Their courage inspired legions of social justice fighters around the world. Mayday (May 1st) is also in honor of them. This week also is the anniversary of the 1909 Cherry, Illinois mine disaster. Two hundred and fifty-nine miners were killed in this tragedy. He also mentions Mother Jones, a legendary fighter for freedom and justice, who is buried in his neck of the woods, in the only union cemetery in the United States, outside of Springfield. These people in Springfield are much more class-conscious than most. They distribute Wobblly literature. I was pleasantly surprised with them when I went to Springfield recently.

The next speaker was Christine Boardman, who is a lawyer for the tollway. She represented the public sector workers, which the tollway is part of. Six people came out with large signs that together spelled, P-U-B-L-I-C. Their message is that public workers deserve decent contracts and respect while doing a difficult, impossible to please everybody task, all the while having the seven-headed hydra of the state as an employer. We must absorb the impact of the public's venom, to boot. For joy!

The next speaker was Eli Medina, representing the Industrial sector. He got us to chant, "Fast track is dead! Fast track is dead!" It is more wishful thinking than the legitimate gloating over a rotting corpse. He said, "We don't need all that NAFTA. This is one year we'd like to forget. Downsizing and moving jobs overseas has cost the union 250 jobs." Many more non-union and other union jobs were lost to this profit-driven scam. The industrial sector is the most vulnerable sector which the union represents, as products can be manufactured anywhere a company is allowed to set up shop. With NAFTA, GATT etc., this has become much easier for companies to do - pack up and leave the local workers high and dry and go off to super-exploit other (non-union) workers down south or in other countries. He did say they managed to secure a contract at Koehler with "no management rights." He promises to "kick our way to the top." Good luck in a tough sector.

The fifth speaker is Chris Anderson from social services. He says union members range from those with PhD's to others having degrees from "the school of hard knocks." They're being squeezed by speed-ups, overwork, cutbacks in funding, all symptoms of the disintegration of the social fabric of this polarized country.

Next to speak was Pia Davis on health care. This is a growing division as hospital workers are more and more being added to the union rolls, despite the pessimism shown from other unions that this was an undoable task. Local #73 is showing the way for other unions to emulate in the organizing of health care workers. She proclaims in "the auditorium of Malcolm X 'By Any Means Necessary'" to organize health care workers. She gives plaques to retiring stewards and has stewards with less than two years experience stand up and beseeches them to soak up these retiring stewards' commitment and dedication. She puts on a tape, the song "I believe I Can Fly," which we all try to sing.

Chris Williams delivers the organizing report. "What time is it?" "Union time!" He says it "is more fun to make demands than to beg for a contract." Barbara Moore, from Oak Forest Hospital, does the call and respond number they'd been practicing before the seminar. It's the Power song turned into a sing-along. The member organizers walk out of their seats into two columns and march up stage singing away, awaying and having some fun. They receive awards. Then it's time for a break.

Tony Guersin from local 18007 of the Gas Workers Union talks of their struggle, ongoing since last summer. It seems the people of Chicago, who use Peoples' Gas, have been having their meters tampered with by non-union workers to install a device on them which a van driving at some 30 mph can "read" without actually looking at the

meter. These unqualified workers are paid piecemeal. The more devices they install, the more money they get. The union feels this is a public safety issue. It has compromised the safety of Chicago gas consumers, which is everybody. This sped-up work can cause gas leaks or noisy meters, which the union workers, then have to go and correct. He says channel 2 is soon to do an expose on this situation. He passes out a questionnaire for Chicago residents to fill out and mail in to the company. We are to xerox them and pass them out to all the Chicago residents we know. It sounds like a plan to me. Unions should always help their sister unions when needed.

Next to speak is Paul Policicchio S.E.I.U. Executive Vice-President for the Central States. Sheesh! I wonder if he has his own militia! He gives the report on the entire midwest. He says Chicago is "the home of the good, the bad and the ugly." The good are the Bulls. The bad are the White Sox. The Ugly? Da bears! He says local #73 is the largest local and the best. We provide leadership, vision and excitement, which is truly to be modeled after. Are the rest so bad? We showed the other locals that yes organizing hospital workers is indeed possible. Last week the goal was attained. Ten thousand new workers have joined the union in the midwest. He says the bosses are only interested in giving you what they have to give you. You must get power (by being organized solidly) before you get to the bargaining table. "You put the right leaders in place here. When in hell have you seen S.E.I.U. locals come together that you see here today...It finally dawned on us, as leaders, we have to organize our unions so we have more power." He says Tom and Ron (Carey of the Teamsters) have brought together locals faster than ever before. He encourages stewards to be "politically active" and go support those ephemeral "pro-union" candidates.

He asks who goes to church. Most everybody (except me) raises their hand. He says most church members do nothing (I heard that!) Only ten per cent make the church solvent. It's like a poor usage of W.E.B. DuBois' "talented tenth." Church? Ugh! Here's his analogy. The ten per cent that actually "do" something for the union are the stewards. He says we can forget the union meetings which are boring, as long as we make it to job actions, like demonstrations. "The sky's the limit for you (stewards.) It's just a question of how high you want to raise the bar. Thankyou."

Tom Brea reports on the union's political activity. He says the politicians understand two things: Number one is people, petitions, letters, phone calls and volunteers for their campaigns. Number two is money. (\$) There's a big surprise! He said no congressman spent less than \$600,000.00 on his lousy campaign. How obscene! The Committee on Political Education (C.O.P.E.) raised \$23,000.00 to shower on these politicians last year. He wants more this year. Why feed this addiction???

Al Washington, the Secretary of the Treasury of the union speaks next. He says the union has spent a lot of money upgrading their computer system in order to keep union records "in house." The old leadership contracted all the union's records out. He promises to attain a better-run union. Everybody is "upgrading!" Why do you think ol' Bill Gates is so nauseatingly rich? He controls all the damn computers! The union hopes to double or triple the organizing staff. A large part of the budget is earmarked for this. Dues are going to be raised, but Al doesn't give any specifics. He said the union officers only got a dollar raise last year.

Tom Balanoff comes back to rap things up. He claims the union is in the leadership of a "bold new action plan." They're recruiting new members. He thanks the stewards for their hard work. There are challenges ahead. "We need to know our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats." We have added 8,000 health care workers to the union, but there are tens of thousands still out there, waiting to be recruited. Organizing is critical. Last year we had three campaigns and three victories, which added 900 new workers to our union. In 1998 we plan six hospital campaigns. In 1999 we are going to do ten. By the year 2000, we will be a force! New jobs will be union jobs! In 1997, 18% of dues went to organizing. In 1998 it will be 20%. We need more control over our health funds. I propose that other S.E.I.U. locals join with us and pool these funds to ensure that all our members have access to legitimate health care. He plans on "holding industry and the politicians feet to the fire." He gives corporate America the blame for the health care fiasco.

cesspool of corruption and despair. Racism seethes. To the west of Matteson, separated by farms are the more affluent towns of Frankfort, Mokena, etc. Steered whites populate these places. 39

Somewhat north and east are other destitute black towns that corporate America avoids with a vengeance, such as Markham, Phoenix and Robbins. Many of the poor do congregate in Markham, as the huge county court building is located there. The only "enterprise" contemplated for these areas is the incinerator proposed for Robbins, a few fast food dumps, small shops, gas stations, etc. to supplant the junkyards and liquor store. Most industry has long since vanished. Their congressman, Jesse Jackson Jr. has jumped in bed with the republicans in supporting a third airport way to the south (my house is in the airport "footprint") of his district. His hopes for economic viability lies in the jobs created by this massive project, which very few of his constituents would receive - at the cost of massive ecocide (the destruction of prime farm land.)

When the cat jumped out of the corporate bag and the movers and shakers of Texaco were shown to be the basest of racists, (by their very own drooling utterances,) it just slipped out. It wasn't supposed to be shown like that. What it exposed was the pervasive racist soullessness of corporate reality. These deities are the Gods that the American state, all local governments, the courts, the police, every municipality, and each individual American must prostitute themselves to accomodate. Racism in housing, as it is in every industry, is a business decision.

Other towns are also trying to use "affirmative marketing." It can be said to be the active pursuit of white homebuyers in a racially mixed town, ostensibly to "maintain diversity," but really meant to maintain white control so as not to give those with capital reason to discontinue business in that town, which would further exacerbate white abandonment.

Harvey, a once thriving satellite city of Chicago, like Joliet, Elgin, Aurora, Peoria, Lockport and Chicago Heights, is now a vast wasteland. Guess what happened! It borders South Holland. South Holland wants to "slow a pattern of 'white flight'" 5. This is supposed to be accomplished by the "affirmative marketing" aimed at whites, willing to live with blacks. The fair housing laws are being offered as legal back-up, if it can be shown that real estate outfits are steering blacks in and whites out.

Who would use these courts? Blacks?? Every black person has been harassed and menaced by the police and court system in this country. The courts and jails overflow with black "criminals." The village is trying to lure whites. How the hell are the courts going to give blacks justice???

The village of South Holland wants to establish a "cooperative home buyers workshop and a process whereby real estate agencies provide sales statistics to the village as a means of 'rumor control.'" ibid. Obviously, they mean by "rumor control" the racist panic-mongering that whites frequently lower themselves to. "Census figures from 1990 show South Holland's minority population at 12 percent, although village officials privately estimate it currently at 15 percent." ibid. Why should they be so squeamish over a lousy 3% rise in "minorities?" (read blacks.) Whites still outnumber blacks almost six to one. Whatever happened to the celebration of diversity? South Holland is infamous for its particularly venomous reaction to the initial pinpricks of open housing in the sixties. Then the white supremacists squealed blind hate.

White people in general, have been molded into a sort of homogenized sameness. They get up, go to work, having swallowed the big American lies of "freedom," "equal opportunity," "democracy" - the whole American dream portrayal. They do their jobs, as told, watch massive amounts of television and consume ad nauseum. There's rarely so much as a free-thinking peep out of most of them. If you want diversity, you'd think you'd want less of these types of people and you'd crave more blacks, Arabs, Asians, Chicanos, etc.

But the liberals refuse to look upwards to get a glimpse at the real racist string-pullers, who have always called the shots in America. The conservatives, at least, embrace the nation's tormentors as their ideal. They're dead wrong, but at least they're honest enemies. Liberals think they can "reform" a monstrous system by ignoring its reality, while pecking away at minor symptoms, by self-proclaimed, well-intentioned initiatives. They rely on the law that is written by and for the benefit of the rich, yet is broken by them whenever they feel threatened or greed driven. The only "laws"

38
ignorant white racists as to its economic fate. But it goes much deeper than that. Just as "white" then "re-segregated" or even "integrated" communities are planned, so is this ingrained racism. Corporations and banks orchestrate how solvent a community will be, by expanding business or shuttering them, based mostly on their profitability or the perception of future profitability. As blacks move in, corporations see red and pull out the economic rug, without repercussions, usually with governmental assistance, go elsewhere to invest and exploit other areas' workers. It is the untouchable right of capitalists to maximize profits. Meanwhile, blacks are left with the cupboard bare and ignorantly blamed for this "planned" outcome.

A rare few communities, such as Oak Park, Evanston and Park Forest, have had a comparatively stable experience with integration. Oak Park is an older community to the west of Chicago and Evanston is north, home to Northwestern University. Blacks and whites live in close proximity and treat each other more-or-less (outwardly) cordial. These communities have a higher percentage of enlightened whites living there, more often than not, with a higher ratio of colleges and universities to population than other communities. I like to take my sons to Central Park in Park Forest to play. It's always more fun to play with the black kids.

Blacks are perfectly willing to live and associate with whites, but not at the expense of being excluded from enjoying their black neighbors. Blacks have had to exist among large numbers of whites since day one and understand how the racist game operates. Few blacks, however, stoop to embrace white, bourgeois "values." Whites have always been steered away from grasping black societal values which keeps whites racially, culturally, socially and politically ignorant. The truly oppressed (blacks) always know more about societal reality, as the gloves are off in their dealings with the system. There's no honey-coating reality and there's no racist "privilege" to be baited with.

If white people were smart, they would accept the decency offered by blacks, befriend them, learn of life and fight racism.

"In a survey of Matteson's residents conducted as part of the Quality of Life Task Force review, the majority of respondents stated that they wanted to live in a diverse community. If current housing trends continue, however, Matteson will not remain diverse because the number of white home-seekers is fewer than the number of home-seekers of other races. In an effort to preserve the diversity of the village, efforts will be made to promote Matteson to the under-represented home-seeker who is interested in living in a community where diversity is a value." 4, p. 3.

Let's stop and try to decipher this. At this time, summer of 1995, Matteson was roughly 50% white, 40% black and 10% "other." They are really only talking about blacks and whites here. Chicanos, Arabs, African Blacks, Orientals - even Europeans, are not even being considered. Other "races" basically means, "People we're not concerned with." They have figured out that once a community goes below 50% white or over 20% black, they are in big trouble. The whites vanish and the blacks "take over." Aren't whites a minority in this world? Why must a community always have a white majority or it is written off? "Preserving the diversity" is a nice sounding phrase, but it really means keeping the white population above 50% minimum, and the black population below 20%. What is the importance of these figures?

Ultimately, in capitalist America, the whims of corporate boards must be catered to, at all costs. A suburb like Matteson relies heavily on shoppers. A once thriving mall, Lincoln Mall, is now about half full. It is now surrounded by large "super" stores, such as Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Target and other mega-franchise operations, blandly typical of suburban America. In another south Chicago town, Harvey, when its mall, Dixie Square closed down, it signalled the death knell of that town. The only use made of Dixie Square in the last twenty years was when the Blues Brothers trashed it in their movie, while being chased by the Chicago police. They claimed they were on a mission from God.

Three towns to the east of Matteson, is the poorest suburb in the damn country! This is called Ford Heights. It used to be called East Chicago Heights, but when Ford moved a plant there, the town officials renamed it, in a beggarly attempt to curry favor. It didn't work. They've done absolutely nothing for the welfare of its citizens. It is reduced to liquor stores, "missions," and rundown housing. The town just to the east of Matteson, is the relatively enlightened Park Forest. To the east of that, dominating the area, is the city of Chicago Heights. This has been a long-time Mafia-run

2
Instead of universal health care (like all the other industrialized countries,) we got stuck with "managed care." It was turned over to the private sector and now we have for-profit outfits cutting staff and services to maximize profits. We have drive-through operations and births, etc. Only in America, gang! I heard horror stories from hospital workers as to how Cook County Hospital (the "new" CCH) will no longer offer the poor and indigent patients, service. Other hospitals are sending these "non-paying" patients back into the streets. Balanoff claims the fight for universal health care is not dead.

As for security, he wants to expand the unionized market for security personnel. He wants to provide job training for increased skill for these people, which should facilitate higher wages. "Independent" unions are usually company unions and their purpose is to confuse, diffuse and stultify wage and benefits demands. Local #73 is an "open" union, and we'll represent anyone who wants to fight for economic justice. We won't shy away from direct action or avoid gray legal areas. Recently the security officers staged a job action in the wake of the shooting of a security guard. They stopped work and picketed to demand that a third officer be replaced on security trucks, among other demands. This was granted. It takes a bold action to get results.

As for public sector jobs, Tom says the union is growing in the face of privatization. He plans on opening offices of the local in Champaign, Galesburg and Peoria to supplement the ones in Chicago and Springfield. "If you're going to privatize, we're going to fight you."

As for the social services, he scolds the politicians to ensure that sufficient funds are made available so workers can do their jobs adequately. Good luck there! He asks for legislative protection for whistle-blowers, to ensure all citizens receive quality care. He talks as if the politicians who are lackeys of industry will reverse the headlong dive into imiserating large sections of black and other poor. As for the disintegrating industrial sector, he explores these aleasy politicians to oppose legislation which undercuts workers - and impede the stampede of ever sacred profit maximization? Are you out of your politician-tolerating mind??? He says to politicians that the union has "no permanent friends, just permanent issues." For every \$1.00 unions gave politicians, the companies gave \$12.00 (that's just what has been reported. Who knows how much cold hard cash is exchanged under the table?) He says our real strength lies in the people who can be mobilized to direct action. Hey! Now you're talking! Let's forget this politics jans and get on with direct action! Yeah, right! He says in 1998, there will be a regular steward's newsletter. Also coming up next year will be demands for more full-time paid workers and stewards working on collective-bargaining, as spelled out in the actual bargaining agreements. Also next year, the union will have "letter jackets" (like in high school!) for stewards who donate one day per month in a political action committee or as a member organizer. One good thing will be a \$10,000.00 tuition fund for stewards who want to go to college. Balanoff claims to be ready for a big fight with Michael Reese if that's the way they want to play. "We will be in the forefront of any and every labor struggle." O.K. It's noon and it's time for lunch.

I take a seat and wait for the long lines to thin. Denise King is across from me. We commence talking about our jobs and the various ways our bosses are trying to screw us over. A couple of other black ladies are also at the table. One tells how her son was ensnared into the corrupt, racist "justice" system. He received a ten year sentence for the catch-all, nebulous crime of "conspiracy." She said she got him out and he's home now, looking for employment and schooling.

Denise is also to be in the discrimination workshop. I get a copy of Race Traitor to show her and she reads my anti-racist rant letter near the back of it. She's impressed by the intensity, conviction and clarity of it. I give her the copy, even though they're \$5.00 apiece. I do that a lot. We head to the workshop.

We make a list of the types of discrimination. There is discrimination based on sex, age, race, handicap and disability, religion, marital status, sexual preference, unfavorable military discharge and arrest record. It's defined as having power over an individual, based on a prejudiced exclusion of an individual by one in power (boss) that violates fairness or laws.

We work through a number of scenarios without solutions and missing vital information in order to figure out how to go about clarifying these situations to determine if a grievance is necessary and on whose behalf it should be filed. We dealt with maybe a half a dozen cases of variously wronged individuals pertaining to discrimination. We factored in how affirmative action, when applicable plays a role and discussed pertinent labor law. We did a role-playing skit. I played the mean old plant manager and ad-libbed extra meanness to the script. We received a booklet explaining affirmative action and why it is useful. We talked about how California in a reactionary spasm, has eliminated its application. We got a copy detailing the Equal Employment Law. There was lively discussion among the stewards on this ubiquitous problem. There was only one other "white" person. I felt very comfortable among these activist stewards.

It's almost four p.m. Time to form a queue and get our union stuff. A deejay is playing music and some food and soft drinks are laid out. I get in line and start to converse with the black lady next to me. Her name is Claudette Cohen. She was in the political action workshop. She said they concentrated on ways to affect electoral politics, how to better elect "our" candidates, regardless of whether they are democrats or republicans (as if they are the only two parties!) Claudette thinks this is the wrong approach. We should take our demands to the streets! I agreed. I'm for direct action. Being reliant on a political system arranged to legitimize the catering to the rich is not where our focus should lie. Will our interests or needs be met this way? She railed against the capitalist system in general. I agreed with her. It's gotta go. She mentions that she's a communist and hands me a paper of the Progressive Labor Party (Marxist-Leninist.) I tell her I'm an Anarchist, as well as an Abolitionist. "Yeah! John Brown! What do you propose to put in place of capitalism? "Anarchy." "Then you don't have faith in the workers." "No. I'm a worker. I believe in workers' control. I believe in voluntary co-operation! I don't think you need a dictatorship telling workers how to run their lives. Leave people alone. Let's enjoy real freedom. I don't think, especially with "white" workers, that anarchy or communism has any kind of chance these days, as people are so thoroughly inculcated with terrible, self-defeating ideas, little ability to think rationally, or the impetus to overcome their fear of liberating ideas and the actions needed to realize them." People are overwhelmingly limited to self-interest. Although I see little chance of success, I feel it's still worth it to learn, study, struggle and advocate for truth, change and a better world in the future, if for no other reason than those of self-esteem and providing an example, however flawed, of lived freedom of thought and the shown strength of ones' convictions. Children deserve this from their parents.

What seems hopelessly oppressive and impenetrable has a propensity to quickly evolve into a potentially revolutionary situation, especially when society is based on exploitation and lies. Who knows when the dam will break? For now, we live through the dark ages. Too bad people generally have to be personally thrown into the maelstrom before they're receptive to revolutionary ideas, save for a minute few.

Later, I talked with her further. We had an involved discourse about the merits of communism and anarchism. I told her I knew about PL when it was affiliated with SDS as I took a PL/SDS bus from Chicago to Washington, D.C. on November 15, 1969 for the Vietnam Moratorium, exactly 28 years ago, when I was sixteen. I was familiar with their line, had read such Marxist literature and was familiar with various tendencies etc. I had a subscription to their paper and journal, World Revolution.

We talked about the Bolshevik revolution. I said two of seven members of the Military Revolutionary Council were Anarchists. Many workers and soldiers from Kronstadt, etc., were in the front lines of the struggle early on, harboring anarchist beliefs. Lenin's most lucid writings, such as State and Revolution, the April Thesis and other proclamations were basically anarchist declarations. His social program "Peace, Land and Bread," was lifted entirely from the left SR's, which accounts for the surge of popular support for the Bolsheviks. Plus their program of direct action at the time was definitely revolutionary. Had the Bolsheviks been honest and told the workers they were bent on installing a one party (Bolshevik) dictatorship, based on state terror, the workers would not have fought for them.

furthering worker docility. The role of the friendly neighborhood bank is similar to the IMF or the World Bank, which control the imiseration of whole countries, in the "third" world. 37

Real estate agents and mortgage company employees see these racist outlines through individual closings. The overt racist is no longer "politically correct," but the covert, unconscious, "sincerely" anti-racist worker for capitalism, steers whites away from changing neighborhoods and villages. They suggest more "stable" (i.e. white) communities nearby. The fact these white communities' housing is more expensive and thus the realtors commissions are increased, is but a perk for "helping" white families attain the living situation they so desire, supposedly. As for black home seekers, they are perceived as having less capital to work with, whether this is true on an individual basis or not. White realtors (like most all whites) have been kept ignorant of black culture, aspirations, motivations, etc., (which is where the only true heart, brain and soul of the country is to be found.) These realtors have no feel for what to do. They may pawn these people off to black realtors or more likely, steer them to "changing" neighborhoods.

Nobody likes to be an extreme minority, such as the only black family in a white neighborhood. In a thoughtlessly racist society, a daily environment of harassment for oneself, spouse, and children, over and above the daily racist assault delivered to every black person in this country, is too much for all but the bravest. When you go home, you want some peace and quiet. To insure that, other blacks are needed to relate to and socialize with. When an upwardly mobile black is aired in exclusively white "culture," he suffers miserably. The grotesque example of such devolution is Clarence Thomas.

At first, a fearless black family moves in and is usually able to withstand the cold and occasionally aggressive "greeting" from his new neighborhood. The truly ignorant, panic-mongering racists are the first rats to jump ship, accelerating the availability of housing in the area. People do move for a variety of reasons. Racist fear, ignorance and racial steering accelerate the changing of a community.

I grew up in this general area, in the intensely racist southwest suburb of Tinley Park. I got married at age 23. My new wife had some money we were able to use for a down payment on a starter home in Hazel Crest, IL. The marriage only lasted 3 years, but I retained possession of the house and lived there a total of thirteen years. I got a couple of friends to move in to defray costs. It became a sort of bachelor pad. All my neighbors, it seemed, were older, white and hopelessly racist.

Finally! Blacks started to move in. The neighbors went into a panic. "They're taking over the park... They hang out at the White Men... They blast that music!..." Gee whis! Black children actually play in the parks and ride their bikes! They're seemingly not as glued to the tube as white kids. Thus they "appear" more visible than their actual numbers. They are not afraid to live or be seen. As for myself? I loved it! I got excellent new neighbors. A great blues joint opened in place of a dine-a-dozen drug store, with soul food next door. The town was waking up from its all-white downer.

The two white ladies on either side of me, I felt a particular distaste for. They'd constantly call the cops to my house, harass my animals and generally spew racist venom. Both their husbands were harried, hen-pecked wusses. One day one of these guys came over to give me all his old beer. It seemed strange because I never really talked to him before. He always hid out in his house (like a lot of older folks do.) The next day, the ambulance arrived and brought out his body. He'd put a bullet in his brain. Living in a racist household could not have helped his state of mind. The lady on the other side of my house talked incessantly about how she had to "move away from the niggers." Her and her husband did move - to Paducah, Kentucky. I guess that's a type of haven for such low-life racist swine.

I got to know a few of the blacks. It was the only time I felt accepted and treated with a neighborliness, the whole 13 years I lived there.

In 1990, my second, most excellent wife, first young son and I moved, for a variety of reasons. I wanted to raise my kids out in the country. It certainly was not to flee from association with black people. The blacks I'd befriended asked me not to leave. I felt sort of like I was abandoning them. I'm still friends with the ones I knew where they live. It's sickening to me, that a neighborhood is dependent on the lowest, most

In 1938, a federal court judge ruled in favor of "affirmative marketing" in a case involving the south Chicago suburbs of Matteson, Park Forest, Richton Park and University Park. "Affirmative marketing" is the targeting of white homebuyers to a community afraid of becoming resegregated by blacks. Supposedly, black buyers would in no way be hindered in their search for housing by these campaigns. Matteson, the most vocal campaigner even claims to "celebrate" their "diversity." Needless to say, they are not actively recruiting Chicanos, Arabs, Orientals, Black Africans, Europeans or Blacks. They need whites to celebrate with.

"The freedom to choose is elemental in a democracy." 1. True. However, this is not a democracy, and never has been. The parameters of "choice" have been dictated by the monied interests - the corporations interested, and the mortgage companies (banks.) The housing "industry" is no exception to the rules of American capitalism.

"The Fair Housing Act, section 3604 (c) prohibits racially discriminating advertising. Section 3604 (a) prohibits discriminatory actions and effects that limit housing availability to minorities and others. Our concern is whether the affirmative marketing program, although not intended to discriminate, in fact has the effect of denying information about available properties to minority home buyers." *ibid*. The NAACP is concerned that Matteson's "affirmative marketing" campaign may be stepping on the toes of the fair housing laws. It has no quarrel if it supplements, rather than supplants normal market activities. Now, who would want to interfere with "lawful" business?

Getting to the point is Matteson resident and community leader Henry Swan's focused statement and question. "I'm offended because what they are saying is if you get too many of me in the community, that's bad. Why is it that when we move in, people start segregating and making changes?" 2. To which Ralph Coglianesse, Matteson Village administrator and writer of letters inviting advertisers to vie for the job of cooking their advertising campaign, responds by saying, "It's hard to comprehend that people think) somehow we're trying to keep minorities out." *ibid*. Let's help this poor, lost soul out.

Sherlynn Reid, director of community relations in Oak Park, says, "Segregated and segregated communities are planned. So if you want to live in an integrated community, it has to be planned too." 3. So much for democracy. This hints at the reality of the situation. Communities are pre-determined. By whom? Why? What's the engine driving these outcomes?

You have freedom for the monied interests to pursue the greater accumulation of wealth and power. All the "laws," media, etc. are stacked in their favor. The majority white people follow the dictates set down for them. Racism is drummed into them from infancy. They are taught to be servile, functionaries in entrepreneurial enterprises. They are atomized from their surroundings, compartmentalized in their jobs, and thoroughly fused as to the economic, social and political machinations around them. They are early alienated from a proper appreciation of their potential value in society and retreat to a cocoon of their family and a few friends, dulled by a myriad of mindless capitalist pursuits such as religion, drugs (especially alcohol) and sports, hampered by the inaccessibility of insightful analysis. They are fed the drone of capitalism's justifications for the sanctity of private property and the "god" given right of a free-market-driven economy. In effect, the sheep being led to slaughter consider their situation favorably. They're "free." At least they're not black or poor. When truth and light are stumbled across, the reaction is instant fear. This is the market the housing industry caters to, as do almost all other major American industries.

As for housing, "The situation has been fostered over the years by discriminatory estate and banking practices, and it is predicated on a harsh reality: most whites do not choose to live in areas with large black populations. Demographic studies have shown that generally, once a community's black population goes beyond 20 percent, whites are leaving." *ibid*. Well, ... most whites really have been successfully brainwashed. self-crippling mindsets, now haven't they?

The racism of the housing industry is institutional, varied, complex and nauseating. Banks control the transactions and in effect, such of the homeowners lives, as the interest rates are so high, a steady income is essential to maintain possession of ones home,

The workers and soldiers wanted freedom from Tsarism, capitalism and war. They wanted genuine workers' democracy through their councils (soviets) towards a better life. The Bolsheviks turned the soviets into mock councils, rubber stamping whatever the Bolshevik hierarchy demanded. All other parties were suppressed through terror, crushing even "the flower of the revolution," Kronstadt. All other anarchists and freedom-loving fighters for social justice were likewise liquidated before they turned the execution squads inward in a paranoid thermidor. Millions of workers, and "Kulaks" (already thoroughly controlled) were none-the-less tossed into the vortex of the ocean of blood spilled in the name of "communism." All authority is inherently evil! The less government, the better! A society without government is the best! Of course, whenever people develop these pockets of freedom, authoritarian forces drown them in blood, "proving" the need for authority!

It's a sad child-dying world we live in. Most people in this country don't realize what the world goes through on our account and they are conditioned not to care or want to know.

Black people, due to their unique history of oppression are much more cognizant of the reality of this world and how racist systems operate under this capitalist country. "Whites" overwhelmingly fall for some form of the governmental lies that the country stands for "democracy" and "human rights." If and when the revolution occurs, it will be led by blacks, women, other people of color, but not "whites." "White" people will no longer consider themselves "white" and will fight alongside their natural brothers and sisters, if social and economic progress is to be had.

"The shock Brown gave the walls of the slave institution was felt from its centre to its utmost limits. It was the entering wedge; it laid bare the accursed institution, and taught good men everywhere to hate it with a perfect hatred. Slavery received its death wound at the hands of a 'lonely old man!' John Brown was compelled "to Harper's Ferry to become a traitor to the government in order that he might be true to the slave... The distinctive act which has given the name of John Brown to immortality, was his attempt to organize and arm the slaves to arise and strike for their freedom. This deed aroused the nation and startled the world... Like the ghost of Hamlet's father, the spirit of John Brown beckons us to arise and seek the recovery of our rights, which our enemy... has sought forever to destroy... The rifle shot at Harper's Ferry received answer from the cannon fired upon Fort Sumter. The nation needs again to be aroused. The friends of truth and justice must be rallied." - Reverdy C. Ransom.

"He was simple, exasperatingly simple; unlettered, plain, and homely. No casuistry of culture or of learning, of well-being or tradition moved him in the slightest degree: "Slavery is wrong," he said, - 'Kill it. Destroy it - uproot it, stem, blossom, and branch; give it no quarter, exterminate it and do it now.'" - W.E.B. DuBois.

"If all the bullets that have ever been aimed at me had hit, I should have been as full of holes as a riddle." - John Brown.

LETTERS

Dear Tony -
Thanks for your recent letter, together with a copy of New Abolitionist News. I read the articles by Robin D. Kelly and Mary Foulke and Noel Ignatiev, and I was impressed by all three. Theirs were well-reasoned, deeply perceptive accounts, and I was very enthusiastic. I am writing for a subscription to the NAM. I wonder also about the book you refer to, Race Traitor. How can I get that? Is that the book which the former Harvard prof. - Ignatiev - wrote?

I hope you & Leslie know well when she will have surgery. Please let us know. We will be hoping that that difficult operation goes well with her.
Keep well yourself - and hug the boys for us both! Yours aye! Del R.

That's from my uncle. I think he's 79 years old and still learning all he can. Send \$15.00 to Race Traitor, P.O. BOX 603, Cambridge, Ma 02140-0005. Or send \$20.00 for four issues of the journal. It comes out about twice a year.

Dear Tony!
Thanks for your comradely inquiry & all the interesting enclosures! Hope you find the various items enclosed herein of interest...
- Franklin Rosemont. Surrealist greetings & yours for the revolution.
KERR PRESS, CHICAGO.

LETTERS

30

Dear Tony - got the latest stuff - you are kickin' some ass - as opposed to most out there who are still just kissin --. I leave for Berlin next week and a few months away from cold Chicago - time to renew my European contacts - and see what can be done to help the franchisees rule the world. A burger in every bedroom, McDonald's means more and more of less & less. Enjoyed your comments on "white" collar crime - which is the American method of referring to class warfare. Blue = worker/white = management. The Abolitionists were a gas - John Brown and Wendell Phillips have yet to receive their due from conservative historians. Brown just may be the great American prophet - He single-handedly helps precipitate the American Civil War. These were people who stood for something. If we think America believes in bravery - try to find a brave man. Those who refuse to "take liberties" never have any.

Movin' -, Warren Leming
dummy.down anti corporate headquarters, 2418 w. Bloomingdale, Chicago, Ill, 60647.

Anthony,
Thank you for the package, postmarked August 29th. I'm glad that there is some attempt going on amongst white workers towards cultural renewal and political education from a progressive perspective (I hesitate to use the word "left," since so much of the white left are in fact left-wing white supremacists, both in theory and (more importantly) in actual practice, so I say "progressive" for lack of a better word.) I have no illusions, but I'm optimistic about the prospects. The struggle against left-wing white supremacy amongst activists (the "advanced element" within the white working class) must rage on along side that of the usual struggles against the traditional enemies of the people that we all face and against their servants amongst their respective communities; be they "Corporate Interests," "racist cops," "Grand Dragons of the KKK," or "Uncle Tom/Aunt Jeanna Poverty Fimps."

I haven't had a chance to review all of what you sent me. It looks like it was a very well done conference. Once I finish, I'll send comments.
Peace, Greg Jackson, Black Autonomy International, 323 Broadway Ave. E#914, Seattle, 98102.

Hi Anthony -
Here's the last couple-3 weeks' worth so you can see what we do. Between e-mail & freebies around town and subs, we're up to about 2000 readers a week on virtually no money. Kind of amazing. Welcome back to the world of ranting! Doug H. is an amazing guy.
p.o. box 85541
best, Geov Parrish, Eat The State, Seattle, WA 98145

Dear Anthony,
Thanks for your letter and the essays you sent. I'm glad you explained what you meant by "abolition of the white race," because I thought you maybe meant it in some kind of physical way instead of in a mental way. I think all "races" should be abolished - if you lined up everyone in the world, from the palest Scandinavian to the darkest African, you could not possibly say where one "race" ends and where the next begins. It's an unbroken continuum. What I find really upsetting is that the state and federal government have this huge effort to racially classify everyone (driver's licenses, census, I-9 forms, college admissions, etc., etc.) I heard they might have a "mixed race" category in the next census - technically, everyone should check that box - there is no such thing as a "pure race." ...
-Ed Stamm, AGEA (evolutionary anarchists group)
PO BOX 1402, Lawrence KS 66044-8402.

Hi Anthony -
Thank for samples of your work along w/ the buck. Enclosed is Universe of Truancy.
Also: My deepest gratitude for staying faithful to yourself past your 20's. CONGRATULATIONS!
Sincerely, Susan Boren, POB 243961, Anchorage, Alaska, 99524-3961.

Dear Anthony,
Thanks for the letter. It raises so many questions, I can't hope to answer all of them. Essentially, I would say: 1. Anarchism as a political program offers no chance of achieving the goals of liberation from class society that you desire. 2. You are lumping together Bolshevism (Lenin) with revisionism (Stalin) when they are profoundly different. I'm sending you a few of our journals, which deal with both of these points. I've marked what I suggest reading first.... Meanwhile, on with the battle against racism and the racist capitalist system! Revolutionary greetings, Tim Hall.
STRUGGLE, DETROIT

What's striking about Matteson's "Constructive Engagement" excuse me, I mean "Affirmative Marketing" ploy to lure white families, is, not the "novelty" of the approach. What particularly galls me about the whole sordid effort is the egg-shell walking of the actual ads. It never comes out and says, "We're getting too many blacks! We're desperate and we'll pay to get whites to move out here! We're afraid we're turning into a black ghetto, because the racist chickenshit whites are moving out! Blacks are moving in and our "investments" are going to hell!!!" are moving out! Blacks are moving in and our "investments" are going to hell!!!"

They actually go out of their way to fend off the charge of racism. They want whites to move there specifically. But that's not because they're small-minded racists! Oh no! They "celebrate" their diversity. That's why they're spending thousands to lure whites to Matteson! Then, they can really "celebrate!" If they want to be so racially diverse, why not target Orientals to move in? Or Chicanos?? How about Arabs??? They want whites! Why? Because it's a white racist, capitalist society and they want to stay a part of that vacuousness. racist, capitalist society and they want to stay a part of that vacuousness. What is that?

"Best of all, you'll see clean, safe neighborhoods..." What is that? What it tries hard not to have to spell out, is the common racist belief that as more blacks move in, the crime rate increases. Whites move out and property values plummet. "Please, please, white home buyers! Save us!" Heaven forbid the sacrosanct institution of private property be undermined!

I live near Matteson. It sure seems "White" as hell to me! The stores are white-run mega-franchises, like everywhere else. Ethnic restaurants and places of entertainment are at a bare minimum and the unceasing drone of policed capitalism ka-chings ever onward. I see a lot of blacks, alright, usually doing the low-wage jobs, walking around or driving. I wish there was a panic! A panic to overthrow this insipid picture of "normalcy!"

I remember when my neighborhood was "changing" in Hazel Crest, a nearby town. I was ecstatic when the racist assholes moved out! Let 'em move to Paducah, Kentucky, the low-life swine! Interesting blacks moved in! Good! I finally had neighbors with brains above their necks instead of ugly, pink protuberances! We got a blues house in town with some decent music! A soul food joint opened next to it. Hey! This is more like it! And Matteson is begging for white trash! It's repulsive and a racist slap in the face to the blacks who've been decent enough to already have spent their hard-earned (underpaid) money moving out to the half-assed suburb of Matteson.

I'm sorry, I don't buy the fancy mumbo-jumbo about how non-racist their intent is. What is the difference between in the first place, keeping blacks steered away, or pouring on the pressure to sucker whites into occupying the limited number of dwellings available - in effect, denying them to desirous blacks? I'm sorry, uh uh. NO! Racism is not something you can absolve yourself of involvement in, by proclaiming your good intentions. Racism is an all-pervasive disease, that requires constant, vigilant struggle against. It is the hand-maiden of capitalism. You can't just wish this whole nightmare will go away. It won't!

This is what I came up with when I first started to look into how Matteson was trying to cope with white flight racism without actually acknowledging the deep-seated racism that fuels these problems. It made me mad. After a while I decided that a more thorough examination of the situation was in order. So, I researched and wrote the upcoming piece. A few weeks after that, Tom Brokaw devoted a whole hour of his TV show to supposedly examine this particular problem, specifically as to Matteson. So, the other pieces stemmed from that. Sit back and prepare to be deluged with this problem that is in no way unique to this area.

"But why is it that it seems to you so 'repugnant' to marry your sons and daughter to colored persons? Simply because public opinion is against it. Nature teaches no such 'repugnance,' but experience has taught me that education only does. Do children feel and exercise that prejudice towards colored persons? Do not colored and white children play together promiscuously until the white is taught to despise the colored?"
- David Ruggles, black abolitionist

The guy on the cover is obviously in trouble. He has two torpedos on his head, a wet dryer attached to him, he's got about 9 seconds before he steps on a land mine, and he has a firework going off just about five feet away!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Yikes! It looks like our friend is in a spot of trouble. Let's hope his good attitude can stand him in good stead. It would be a shame to see his jaunty jingle turn into a dirge. I've got a feeling we haven't seen the last of this merry chap.

I've got to tell you about my other son. His name is Stephen. He is three years old. He loves to tussle, drink eggnog, play on his computer and read books. He's my little buddy and he's sitting right next to me (giving instructions) right now! His advise? "Try pushin' a button." Nothing like clarity, eh?

I'm putting this issue out before getting any feedback about #1, as I had a lot of material and wanted to say more fast. For those of you in Canada, I'm sorry if you didn't get a copy of #1. The strike up there prevented mail from being delivered. That's a damn good reason, if you ask me. I've started to receive mail from overseas - Europe and Australia. Stephen says "where's your 'enter'?..Only you have 'escape?'" No, son, it's a typewriter. I don't have all that supposedly vital stuff - just letters. Anyway, I would suggest to all of you out there to pop for the extra bucks and write to our brothers and sisters, overseas. They're starving for real information about this accursed country. We've got to let them know what real people think. Tourists and "news" only gives them a perplexed, jaundiced view of reality in America. They do enjoy American music. We gotta give them the music of our minds, not just guitar, bass, drums and vocals. They need to know that we're back here struggling and exactly how we're going about it. They're counting on us to show the way out of this pax Americana nightmare. You will find it is well worth it as they send you an explosion of news and heartfelt interest in what we do. They even go to the trouble of learning English because they know we're not going to learn French, German, Flemish, etc.

Stephen is standing on his chair now and playing with his penis. Now he's messin' with my pencils and pens. It's just me and him right now and for some reason my concentration is not all there. He's truly a wonderful joy to us. I was going on 41 when Leslie delivered him. At a town fair, one of Stanton's friends from school (a girl) came over to sit with us at a picnic table. They chatted for a little while as I was eating something. Then she looked hard at me and said to Stanton, "What is he? Your dad or your grandpa?" Stanton resignedly said, "My dad."

Anyway, this issue will focus on these south Chicago suburbs as to housing and racism. This encompasses the "rust belt" and generally the people are poorer and less educated than the more affluent north and west suburbs. There are pockets of wealth around here as well as suburban ghettos. Household necessities can be had a lot cheaper around here at the thrift shops. Our toys and clothes don't have to be expensive, designer labeled pointless status symbols like so many others feel compelled to pop for. All the fancy restaurants, computer stores, etc. are located in the west suburbs, the city or up north. The veneer is not so thickly layered. Food, rent, land and such are cheaper down here. We're closer to the farmers, in distance and thinking. We're mainly wage slaves who live from paycheck to paycheck with crumlier schools and facilities. There's some destitution, homelessness, despair, crime - everything you find that people in the city are struggling with, but it is more sequestered. It's a simple life. People work, raise children, drive their cars, watch television and read the papers. Hardly anyone has ever heard of a zine or been exposed to alternative ways of thinking. This may account for my extreme disgust with society. People out here are so compartmentalized and fearful of others. It's just maddening. Many don't know (or want to know) their neighbor. The fear of personal harm is almost palpable. Fear of thought is pathological. Society has them well cowed. It may sound like a broken record, but it seems to me, blacks are unique in their willingness to take on the challenge of an open exchange of ideas - at least as to where I come from. It's not that I'm prejudiced against whites. Hell! I'm very "white." It's just that I'm disappointed in white peoples' inability to cope with societal brainwashing.

A Note of Appreciation from the Rich

Let's be honest: you'll never win the lottery. On the other hand, the chances are pretty good that you'll slave away at some miserable job the rest of your life. That's because you were in all likelihood born into the wrong social class. Let's face it—you're a member of the *working caste*. Sorry!

As a result, you don't have the education, upbringing, connections, manners, appearance, and good taste to ever become one of us. In fact, you'd probably need a book the size of the yellow pages to list all the unfair advantages we have over you. That's why we're so relieved to know that you still continue to believe all those silly fairy tales about "justice" and "equal opportunity" in America.

Of course, in a hierarchical social system like ours, there's never been much room at the top to begin with. Besides, it's already occupied by us—and we like it up here so much that we intend to keep it that way. But at least there's usually someone lower in the social hierarchy you can feel superior to and kick in the teeth once in a while. Even a lowly dishwasher can easily find some poor slob further down in the pecking order to sneer and spit at. So be thankful for migrant workers, prostitutes, and homeless street people.

Always remember that if everyone like you were economically secure and socially privileged like us, there would be no one left to fill all those boring, dangerous, low-paid jobs in our economy. And no one to fight our wars for us, or blindly follow orders in our totalitarian corporate institutions. And certainly no one to meekly go to their grave without having lived a full and creative life. So please, keep up the good work!

You also probably don't have the same greedy, compulsive drive to possess wealth, power, and prestige that we have. And even though you may sincerely want to change the way you live, you're also afraid of the very change you desire, thus keeping you and others like you in a nervous state of limbo. So you go through life mechanically playing your assigned social role, terrified what

others would think should you ever dare to "break out of the mold."

Naturally, we try to play you off against each other whenever it suits our purposes: high-waged workers against low-waged, unionized against non-unionized, Black against White, male against female, American workers against Japanese against Mexican against . . . We continually push your

wages down by invoking "foreign competition," "the law of supply and demand," "national security," or "the bloated federal deficit." We throw you on the unemployed scrap heap if you step out of line or jeopardize our profits. And to give you an occasional break from the monotony of our daily economic blackmail, we allow you to participate in our stage-managed electoral shell games, better known to you ordinary folks as "elections." Happily, you haven't a clue as to what's really happening—instead, you blame "Aliens," "Tree-hugging Environmentalists," "Niggers," "Jews," "Welfare Queens," and countless others for your troubled situation.

We're also very pleased that many of you still embrace the "work ethic," even though most jobs in our economy degrade the environment, undermine your physical and emotional health, and basically suck your one and only life right out of

you. We obviously don't know much about work, but we're sure glad you do!

Of course, life could be different. Society could be intelligently organized to meet the real needs of the general population. You and others like you could collectively fight to free yourselves from our domination. But you don't know that. In fact, you can't even imagine that another way of life is possible. And that's probably the greatest, most significant achievement of our system—robbing you of your imagination, your creativity, your ability to think and act for yourself.

So we'd truly like to thank you from the bottom of our heartless hearts. Your loyal sacrifice makes possible our corrupt luxury; your work makes our system work. Thanks so much for "knowing your place"—without even knowing it!

Rich \$cum of America
He who hath the gold makes all the rules

Please make copies and share with other members of your caste!

MAXWELL STREET FOREVER!

If you were forced to live in a desert, what would you think of a tiny privileged clique who, solely for motives of malice and greed, planned to destroy the nearest oasis? That is the situation today regarding Chicago's celebrated Maxwell Street.

The imminent destruction of this glorious century-old open-air market is threatened by the sinister cabal who runs the nearby University of Illinois at Circle Campus, aided and abetted by an agency that is practically a synonym for doing the wrong thing: the Chicago City Council.

That Maxwell Street is an oasis—an oasis of freedom and pleasure in a wasteland of misery and boredom—is one of those plain, universally-agreed-on truths that we refuse to argue about. In a society increasingly totalitarian, in which police rule is steadily invading life's every nook and cranny, Maxwell Street remains a kind of *free territory* where human beings can actually relate to each other as human beings rather than as victims, slaves, informers, spies, order-givers and order-takers.

Nowhere in Chicago do the many races and ethnicities that make up the city's population mingle on such a scale with greater freedom and equality, or with higher spirits, than in the delightfully liberated zone known all over the world as Maxwell Street.

Indeed, international observers have proclaimed it a place unique in the United States, and praised it highly. Certainly there is nothing else even remotely like it in or near Chicago. For many of us, it is the single most interesting place in the entire city. Happily unstained by the reactionary crowd-control school of urbanism promoted by that pompous coo-man, Daniel Burnham, Maxwell Street is virtually the opposite of a "mall." Bourgeois and authoritarian prejudices—discipline, order, neatness, punctuality, obedience, hierarchy—have little meaning here where music, dancing, carefree wandering and joyful discovery are the pleasures of the day.

Maxwell Street is a living example of creative disorder at its brightest and most spontaneous: a kind of festival or carnival or, if you prefer, the best theater in town. All who come are strolling players at a sprawling, multidimensional, free-for-all fair, where the worries and woes of the workaday world give way to the exuberant enjoyment of an unparalleled promenade through a waking dreamtime of color,

* One of the most insightful contributions to the current discussion is the letter of a recent immigrant from Ghana, Nana Kwame Boafo, published in the *Tribune* for Friday, October 1 (Section 1, page B). Here are a few passages from this remarkable testimony: "The parallels between this unique American marketplace and its counterparts in Africa today are striking. . . . In Africa and in Maxwell Street, it is in the marketplace that strangers as well as familiar people meet to exchange goods and opinions, to listen to musical performances and to hear important announcements of interest to the local community. . . . That Maxwell Street evolved rather than was planned undoubtedly makes it an organic and important part of Chicago. In Africa, clear and abundant evidence remains of traditional marketplaces existing and operating alongside modern institutions. So too can Maxwell Street exist alongside and with the University. . . . In sum, the Maxwell Street market deserves to be preserved because it forms an essential part of the historical landscape of Chicago and it represents what is best about America."

scent and sound.

Here, too, if one likes, one can buy or barter for fresh fruit and vegetables, musical instruments, lamps, books, records, tools, Venetian blinds, herbs and spices, antiques, toys, jewelry, snake-oil, plumbing fixtures, pillows, timepieces, radios, African masks, household furnishings, Mexican food, tires, clothes, magazines, paint, paintings, prints, posters, statues, sports equipment, hood ornaments, goldfish bowls, sunglasses, balloons and a seemingly limitless supply of the world's most wonderful junk—all in splendid juxtaposition that is itself the very stuff that poetry is made of.

Not surprisingly, no place in Chicago is more popular on Sunday mornings. The thousands—*tens* of thousands on warm days—who gather here to see the sights, listen to blues and saunter in the sun, clearly recognize Maxwell Street as one of the city's greatest treasures. Unhesitatingly we affirm that Maxwell Street is more marvelous than the "Magnificent Mile"; more educational than the Museum of Science and Industry; more fun than any of the official multi-million-dollar extravaganzas at Grant Park or Soldier Field.

The destruction of such a haven, for any reason, would be a tragedy. But to destroy it in order to expand what is probably the ugliest college campus in the country would be a travesty. For our part, we would infinitely prefer to see the entire Circle Campus razed and its grounds used for the expansion of Maxwell Street.

We realize, of course, that the special qualities which endear Maxwell Street to us, and to all freedom-loving people—the qualities variously called "primitive," pre-industrial, medieval, carnival-like and anarchic—are the very factors that condemn it in the eyes of bureaucrats, Chambers of Commerce, and other mean-spirited mercenaries who hate all freedom except the freedom to exploit and bully others.

And that is why all those who love and delight in Maxwell Street must now raise their voices and let their feelings be known. We must unite and act now, without delay, to save the street from the devastation planned for it by insensitive functionaries who regard their petty administrative ambitions as more important than the good of all.

We must drive home the point that Maxwell Street is not merely another historic landmark or crumbling monument, but an irreplaceable part of our lives, an irreplaceable part of the lives of all who live in Chicago and all who come here, an irreplaceable part of the life of the city itself. The respite Maxwell Street affords from the monolithic uniformity and regimentation of the daily grind is not a dispensable trifle but a vital necessity for us all.

Maxwell Street is a gift to be enjoyed, not a "problem" to be solved. To the Circle Campus bosses, the City Council, "city-planners" and others who know nothing of life in the city, we say: Let Maxwell Street alone! Let it flourish! Let it grow!



Created by Tony Rayson
Illustrations by Stanton Rayson

The Surrealist Group

Chicago, October 1993

CHARLES H. KERR PUBLISHING COMPANY

Established 1886

1740 West Greenleaf Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60626