

CRIMES

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munities with all new recruits and identifies some of the problems they might face," Clark said.

The conference also featured a visit by a representative of Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice.

Ozz Kaos, with shaved head and tattoos covering his arms, explained to a group of about 70 people the difference between racist skinheads and those who fight against racism.

The conference closed Saturday evening with a speech from prominent civil rights lawyer Morris Dees.

An Alabama citizen, Dees became famous in the Northwest after winning a 1990 case in Portland against the

'We have to reach out and train and educate our young people to care about themselves and love each other.'

— Morris Dees,
civil rights lawyer

California-based Aryan Resistance.

Dees stressed the value of education in combatting racist harassment.

"We have to reach out and train and educate our young people to care about themselves and love each other," he said. "That is the justice we must seek."

SKINHEADS

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wear red "laces and braces," meaning boot laces and suspenders.

"Green laces mean someone who has recently beat up a gay or a lesbian, but, fashions change," said panelist Eric Ward, Communities Against Hate Project coordinator.

Kaos said "that's all changed," and that skins just wear braces to hold up their pants.

Asked about the appeal of being a skinhead, Kaos said it is a style he has always been comfortable with.

"Sometimes it's neat to have everybody flip you s---," he said.

At the same time, Kaos helped form Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice because he was tired of being considered racist. SHARP works against Nazis either by brawling, hang-



Photo by Michael Shindler

Ozz Kaos (left), who helped form Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice, and Eric Ward debate during the "Skinheads ... the Myth" panel discussion.

ing around Nazi residences pressuring the occupants to leave or be evicted and dissuading kids from joining racist skins.

Asked how central violence was to anti-Nazi skinhead philosophy, Kaos said anti-Nazi skins do not actively espouse violence.

"I probably wouldn't be here today if we did," he said. Although he said he believed "when it's necessary, it's necessary."

Ward said members of Communities Against Hate believe in non-violence and that Nazis have the right to free speech.

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