

EDITORIAL / OPINION

Perspectives



The Black Church: A Real History (Part 3)

I began this four-part series by suggesting that the Black Church (an 8,000-year old institution) could bring youth into the fold by promoting the true and documented history of the Black people - by promoting the concepts of identity and an enhanced self-image.

It was a significant and pervasive role indeed that Africans played, not only in the creation of the Christian Church, but more importantly in developing the ancient concepts of spirituality and existence which provided the basis for the earlier Hebrew religion(s). Let us examine this excerpt on Creation and the Trinity (Diop, pp. 108, 109, The African Origin of Civilization).

"One can also understand that Phoenician religion and beliefs are to some extent more replicas of Egypt's. Phoenician cosmogony is revealed in fragments of Sanchroniation, translated by Philo of Byblos and reported by Eusebius. According to these texts, in the beginning there was uncreated, chaotic matter, in perpetual disorder (Bohu); Breath (Rouah) hung over Chaos. The union of those two principles was called Chephets, Desire, which is at the origin of all creation.

What impresses us here is the similarity between this cosmic Trinity and that found in Egypt, as reported by Amelineau in his Prolegomenes: In Egyptian cosmogony also, at the beginning there was chaotic, uncreated matter, the primitive Nun (cf. Nun=nothingness in Wolof). This primitive matter contained, in the form of principles all possible beings. It also contained the god of potential development, Khepru. As soon as the primitive nothingness created Ra, the demiurge, its role ended. Henceforth the thread would be unbroken until the advent of Osiris, Isis, and Horus, ancestors of the Egyptians. The primitive Trinity then moved from the scale of the universe to that of man, as it did later in Christianity. Phoenician cosmogony reveals once again the kinship of Egyptians and Phoenicians, both of Krishnaite (Negro) origin. This kin-

ship is confirmed by the revelations of the Ras Shamra (ancient Ugarit, on the Syrian coast) texts, which place the original habitat of Phoenicia's national heroes in the south, on Egypt's frontiers ('Wolof' is a West Coast African language

Well, well, well! Isn't that exactly what is said in the Book of Genesis, written thousands of years later? Write it stone or on papyrus, brothers and sisters - and your heritage cannot be denied. Not the frequent allusions to the world having been created from nothing, 'Chaos - Primitive Nun - uncreated matter containing all possible beings. This is precisely how today's 'scientists' are describing the creation of our universe - as a Big Bang in the middle of nothing, whereupon in a billionth of a second quarks, hydrogen, helium and all the progenitors of matter, planets, suns and galaxies began 'acting up'. Get serious white folks, obviously the African figured that out millenniums ago.

The reference to the African gods Osiris, Isis and Horus as the Trinity underlines the theme of the Black Mother of Man carried throughout the known world and its literature. Isn't it strange that the world's scientists have only now, through genetic research, established a "Luey" as the African female progenitor of all humans alive today? Isis, the wife of Osiris, was the mother of Horus, the African god whose 'eye' Thomas Jefferson placed above the pyramid in his design of the Great Seal of the United States. He stated that it represented the secret spiritual destiny of the nation (see the reverse of the dollar bill).

It is the story of Isis and her heroic efforts to save her son Horus that lead to the Jewish legends of Moses hidden in the bulrushes, Ji, Budge, The Dwellers on The Nile, an infant Abraham rescued from Nimrod (p. 134, Asimov's Guide to the Bible). Matthew (2:13 to 2:15) describes the infant Jesus saved by Joseph's dream. You will note that everybody made it to Africa for safety, good food and a job. Just like the emigration to America today.

(Concluded Next Week)

PORTLAND OBSERVER

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

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Skinheads: racism, terrorism and murder

Continued from Page 1

Chicago heavy metal group known as Creative Violence.

Skinheads in Florida have disrupted rock concerts in St. Petersburg and Clearwater, and in October 1986, five were arrested in nearby Ybor City after allegedly clubbing a group of youths leaving a punk-rock club. Ybor City merchants have been the targets of skinhead vandalism. Several Tampa skinheads have been arrested for aggravated assault. A skinhead band known as Jehovah's Sicknesses, which flamboyantly hurls Nazi salutes and shouts racial insults, has appeared in bars in the Gainesville, Florida area.

In Portland's Old Town District last October, a gang of over 20 skinheads marched in formation toward a popular teen night spot armed with axes, pipes, knives and baseball bats. They were intercepted en route by some three dozen police in patrol cars. Portland skinheads have distributed neo-Nazi cards printed by Gerhard Lauck, a leading disseminator of hate literature who lives in Chicago and operates from a Nebraska post office box. One of the Portland skinheads attended the 1986 Aryan Nations Conference.

In Orange County (south of Los Angeles), California, skinheads have distributed neo-Nazi flyers and vandalized property with spray paint. The biggest concentration in the area is located in Huntington Beach.

Skinheads in Dallas have been arrested for robbery, assault, criminal mischief and narcotics violations. In the Deep Elm area, a hangout for skinheads, there have been skinhead assaults on minorities. Skinheads have reportedly threatened store owners, destroyed property, intimidated pedestrians and resisted arrest.

Denver's small skinhead contingent has operated from an apartment attached to the Salvation Army building. Its leader has been 20-year-old Robert Cass Goodman, whose hair is shaved in the form a swastika.

Hate Movement Links
Skinheads are regarded by leaders of functioning neo-Nazi groups as potential recruits and have been courted in recent

years with some success. On June 30, 1985 the Chicago skinheads participated in a march sponsored by the (Chicago-based) American Nazi Party to protest the annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Day rally. They have also sent delegations to weekend conferences for national hate-group activists hosted by Robert Miles, former head of Michigan's Ku Klux Klan, who is presently under indictment on charges of plotting a violent overthrow of the United States government. Among others indicted are leaders of an underground terrorist gang known as the Order, whose founder Robert Mathews (now deceased) reportedly planned to use part of the group's illicitly-acquired funds to promote white power rock bands in the U.S. The Detroit area skinheads have also shown up at conferences sponsored by Miles, where their leader, Dave Lozon, was a featured speaker in early October, 1987.

Skinheads have also been in attendance at the 1986 and 1987 conferences of the Aryan Nations, a militant Nazi-like group whose compound is located in rural Hayden Lake, Idaho. One skinhead, Martin Cox, upon driving away from the 1987 Aryan Nations conclave, was arrested for illegal possession of a firearm. Ex-convict Cox, on federal parole for an assault in California, is an organizer for White Aryan Resistance (WAR) leader Tom Metzger in Orange County and has appeared on one of Metzger's self-produced tapes ("Race and Reason") which his followers around the country distribute to cable television stations.

Metzger, a former California Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon, has courted skinheads from his base near San Diego where he is attempting to expand his organization and its youth arm, the Aryan Youth Movement, beyond the confines of California. Metzger describes skinheads as "young, urban working-class people, and they don't like anyone to push them around. Sometimes they get into confrontations with other groups, such as black gangs." A contingent of skinheads showed up last June along with Metzger

and other followers to picket the office of California State Senator Ed Davis. Davis is the co-sponsor of legislation increasing penalties for the commission of hate crimes. Metzger has highlighted skinhead activities in his periodical, also known as WAR. The periodical is distributed by skinheads in Orange County and in Cincinnati. The skinhead SS-Action Group in Norwood, Ohio sponsors Metzger's program "Race and Reason" on local cable access television.

A former youth organizer for Metzger was the victim in August, 1987 of an assault by baseball-bat wielding thugs he has identified as skinheads following his public repudiation of his racist past. Greg Withrow, who helped launch Metzger's Aryan Youth Movement, was later nailed to a six-foot plank and slashed with a razor across his upper chest after speaking out on a Sacramento talk show. According to Withrow, his organization sought to attract youngsters by offering propaganda, "all oriented toward violent behavior." One of the affiliated groups of the Aryan Youth Movement is none other than Chicago's Romantic Violence.

Skinheads are the subject of admiring stories by The Spotlight, the weekly publication of the anti-Jewish organization Liberty Lobby, which reaches over 100,000 subscribers, and Frontline, published by the National Democratic Front, a small Maryland-based neo-Nazi group with close ties to England's National Front. A 1986 article and photo spread entitled "Skinheads: They're Young, They're Wild and Standing Up for America,"

Conclusion

Two main problems are presented by the appearance on the American scene of skinhead gangs; the threat it brings of violence in our communities and the possibility that it signals the growth of youthful neo-Nazism.

As this report has shown, criminal activity has occurred in virtually all the cities where the skinheads are active. This challenge requires the attention mainly of the law enforcement agencies,

although the fact of the skinheads' youth also warrants the active concern of the entire community.

No less serious than the prospect of violence is the possible recruitment of skinheads into the neo-Nazi movement. Hardcore membership in the avowedly neo-Nazi groups in the U.S. has declined steadily over the past decade, from a peak of 1,000-1,200 in 1978 to no more than 400-450 in 1987. The present rise of the skinhead gangs could bring about a reversal of that downward trend. Plainly a neo-Nazism with the appearance of a contemporary youth cult and associated with rock music is more attractive to potential young recruits than is the traditional image of Nazism.

The skinhead connection also offers the neo-Nazis something they have rarely enjoyed in the United States: a base of support from which to recruit. Except for links they have had with fringe elements of the motor-bike culture, neo-Nazi groups have operated in virtually total isolation from any broader institution or segment of American society. In consequence, when past growth has occurred, it has usually been at the rate of one-convert-at-a-time. The skinhead gangs, however, may provide the neo-Nazis with a pool of prospective members, as they have done in Great Britain. Time will tell whether these disturbing possibilities actually become reality or if the skinhead phenomenon proves to be simply a passing fad. In the meanwhile the progress of the skinhead gangs requires careful monitoring.



HARRIET ROSS TUBMAN

"I started with this idea in my head. There's two things I've got a right to... death or liberty."

Racist and Anti-Semitic Groups

(Incomplete List)

Neo-Nazi

1. National States Right Party - Marietta, Georgia.
2. New Order - Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
3. National Alliance - Mill Point, West Virginia.
4. National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei-Auslands Organization (NSDAP-AO) - Lincoln, Nebraska.
5. National Socialist Liberation Front - Metairie, Louisiana.
6. National Socialist Aryan People's Party - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
7. America First Committee - Chicago, Illinois.
8. S.S. Action Group - Detroit, Michigan.
9. National Socialist American Workers Party - Glendale, California.
10. National Socialist White America Party - Pacific Palisades, California.
11. World Service - San Diego, California.
12. National Socialist Vanguard - Goldendale, California.

13. Euro-American Alliance - Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
14. American White Nationalist Party - Columbus, Ohio.
15. American Workers Party - Bartlesville, Oklahoma.
16. New Order Legion - Portland, Oregon.
17. Skinheads - Various factions e.g. Cincinnati, San Francisco, Seattle.
18. Ohio White Nationalist Party - Toledo, Ohio.
19. National Socialist League - San Diego, California.
20. National Socialist Movement - Cincinnati, Ohio.
21. National Socialist Party of America - Chicago, Illinois.
22. American Nazi Party - Chicago, Illinois.
23. Romantic Violence - Chicago, Illinois.
24. Aryan Youth Movement - Fallbrook, California.
25. New Dawn - Burbank, California.

Message To The Community

By City Commissioner Dick Bogle

The murder of Mulugeta Seraw is more than a senseless tragedy. It is the visible eruption of a community cancer normally existing just below the surface of our everyday lives.

Every citizen of this city deserves to be able to walk on any street at any time, day or night, without fear of insult, injury or death.

The ability to do that is one of the foundations in measuring the degree of a city's livability. Mr. Seraw's death is, of course, a loss to his family and loved ones. But, in addition, the manner of his death is an immeasurable loss to Portland, since we have to face the fact that hatred has killed. We cannot deny that racist hate groups do practice what they preach.

I have full confidence that the Portland Police Bureau will spare no effort to bring his killers to justice.

And, as we see this further evidence of irrational acts and violence, we who claim to be pure of heart and open of mind must take particular diligence not to allow the deadly virus of retribution to infect our spirit and direct us down a path of violent confrontation.