

Date: October 22, 1996 1:45 pm
Public Hearing- Hate Crimes, Terrorism and Arson
Main Capitol Building- Room 140

The Honorable Jere Schuler
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee's Special Task Force
on Hate Crimes, Terrorism and Arson

Testimony: Robert J. Soop- Police Officer
Springettsbury Township Police Department
Criminal Investigations Unit
1501 Mt. Zion Rd.
York, PA 17402

This witness is Robert J. Soop a municipal police officer with the Springettsbury Township Police Department in York County, PA. I have been a municipal police officer for 10 years within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and have been assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit of the Springettsbury Township Police Department for the past four and a half years. In addition to mandatory training for police and college education I have received additional law enforcement training regarding hate groups and I have investigated hate crimes.

In the report " Five Years of Hate Crimes in Pennsylvania 1988-1993", which was prepared by the Office of Attorney General and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, York County was highlighted as the sixth highest in reported incidents. The report indicated that 49 hate crimes had been reported within York County. Southeast metropolitan and Suburban areas of Philadelphia had 539 reported incidents with same being the highest in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the period of the report. As a criminal investigator within the eastern suburbs of York County I do not deal with hate crime investigations on a regular basis. The presence of hate groups is known by the public and law enforcement officials, within York County, and is a concern particularly when such groups exist within your municipality.

Historically in York County the presence of hate groups has been noted for at least ten years. Specifically the Eastern Hammer Skinheads have had a base within York for approximately 9 years and members of the Ku Klux Klan have also had a base within York for at least that period of time. In York County typically reported hate crime incidents are not found to be the act of a specific group, they tend to be acts of an individual.

Unfortunately Springettsbury Township became the victim of a hate crime on February 18, 1995 through an incident which gained local, state and even national media attention. This incident involved the Ohev Sholom Synagogue located at 2251 Eastern Blvd.

within Springettsbury Township. On February 18, 1995 at approx. 9:15 am worshipers arrived for service to find that during the night a pig's head had been placed on the front door handle of the synagogue. This incident produced outrage from the Jewish faith and from York Citizens as a whole. After the incident the Synagogue hosted a unity service in which numerous citizens attended bringing together the support of the community. During the subsequent investigation of this incident we were able to identify suspects in the incident which were found to be associated with known members of the Eastern Hammer Skinheads. A group of the Eastern Hammer Skinheads had moved into a residence located in close proximity to the synagogue prior to the incident taking place. Prior to this incident taking place our department was aware of the presence of the skinhead group and had been monitoring the group for possible criminal activity. In fact on the night which this incident took place this investigator had been in the area of the residence as a large number of vehicles had been observed at the residence. The registration numbers of the vehicles present were recorded for investigative purposes which proved to be invaluable after the incident took place. The Springettsbury Township Police Department was as outraged as the community at the incident and conducted an extensive investigation. This investigation came to fruition on March 8, 1995 with the arrest of two subjects for their participation in this incident. This investigator arrested a Mason E. Aldrich and Andrea Arnold for Criminal Conspiracy, Ethnic Intimidation, Institutional Vandalism and related charges. Upon being arrested a variety of hate related literature was found on the person of Aldrich and in his vehicle. In the attached packet you will find examples of such material and news articles relating to this incident (see items 1,2,3,4). Mason Aldrich was subsequently found guilty at trial and Andrea Arnold entered a guilty plea and testified against Aldrich at trial.

Law enforcement officials are educated regarding ethnic intimidation and are professional showing their humility and concern when hate crimes take place. Obviously through our investigation we have displayed our outrage and support of any person who is a victim of ethnic intimidation or any such related criminal offense.

During the investigation of this incident this investigator had the opportunity to interview individuals who were self proclaimed white supremacists. Hearing the ideas and thought processes of such individuals is certainly an educational experience. These individuals have placed their failures upon African Americans and people of the Jewish faith. In the attached packet you will also find literature which has been

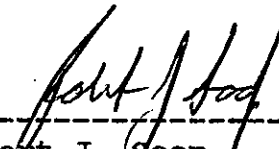
distributed in York County by the Eastern Hammer Skinheads (see items 5,6,7,8,9) which will illustrate some of these individuals ideas.

The current trends of these groups include open recruitment and distribution of hate related literature. The hate groups are not full of uneducated people, they are organized and have attorney's to examine any possible civil violations completed by law enforcement officials. Informants indicate that many of the subjects involved in these groups have permits to carry concealed firearms and have access to firearms. Information obtained from informants indicates that these individuals train with firearms in wooded areas.

Fortunately with the passing of the Ethnic Intimidation law it provided charging enhancement for individuals who engage in criminal activity based on a specific hatred. This is one means of attempting to deter such activity. A possible further attempt to deter such activity would be to place a mandatory sentence on offenders convicted to charges with ethnic intimidation being included in the offenses. The sentencing judge, in ordering a pre-sentence investigation, could be required to request that the appropriate probation department complete a check on the individuals underlying beliefs and involvement in hate group activity. I believe that in curtailing such activity individual citizens must examine our education and beliefs and must see that our children are raised without hatred and bias.

In reviewing House Bill 2484 sponsored by State Representative Dennis O'Brien I feel that such a bill would further enhance law enforcements ability to deal with individuals involved in such activity. At the current time the only available legislation which is in existance to charge such an individual having a facsimile bomb would be through prosecution under the crime of Terroristic Threats Title 18 Consolidated Statutes Section 2706. This section could be brought if an individual would attempt to cause the evacuation of a building through the threat of force. Obviously the existing section does not allow for prosecution of simply the possession to use a facsimile bomb.

In closing I appreciate the opportunity to appear and to testify before you today. I hope that the information I have provided will prove to be beneficial to the task force and offer any future assistance that the Springettsbury Township Police Department can provide.



Robert J. Soop

ATTACHMENTS

- Item 1- York Sunday News article dated February 19 1995 relating to ethnic intimidation incident at the Ohev Sholom Synagogue
- Item 2- Patriot News article dated July 21, 1995 regarding court case of the Ohev Sholom Synagogue incident
- Item 3- York Dispatch editorial dated March 13, 1995 regarding the Ohev Sholom incident
- Item 4- Business cards of skinhead organizations found in the wallet of Mason Aldrich upon his arrest for the Ohev Sholom incident
- Item 5- Copy of a 45 record holder and song lyrics found at a mall within Springettsbury Township
- Item 6-9 Examples of literature distributed within York County

Pig's head hung on synagogue door

LESLIE STREETER
and CAROLINE NYLEN
Patch/Sunday News

Members of a Springettsbury township synagogue arrived for sabbath services yesterday morning to find a pig's head hanging on the door, in what police called a rare incident of reatening vandalism.

Springettsbury police Sgt. David Eshbach said the vandalism at Ohev Sholom Congregation, 2251 Eastern Blvd., was discovered around 9:15 a.m. and had occurred some time after 10 p.m. Friday.

"As far as I can tell, there's no other damage ... other than

'As far as I can tell, there's no other damage ... other than the emotional damage.'

Sgt. David Eshbach, Springettsbury police

the emotional damage," Eshbach said.

Rabbi Kenneth Cohen said the synagogue hasn't suffered vandalism like that before, and said he didn't know of any similar incidents in the area.

He plans to report the vandalism to the Anti-Defamation League and other watchdog groups, he said.

The mess was cleaned up before most of the congregation arrived, he said, but he discussed the vandalism with them after morning services.

"Frankly, I'd rather it come from me than from rumors," he said. "I told them I don't want to blow this out of proportion ... But this is a very ugly incident."

Cohen said he'd received no explanation for the act. "I don't have any letters. I don't have any threats. No phone calls, no messages, no nothing."

"Ethnic Intimidation": However, he said the message was clear. "It's ethnic intimidation," he said.

Jewish dietary regulations forbid eating pork and other pig products because they are considered unclean, or unkosher.

"A pig is regarded as an animal of abomination," Cohen

See SYNAGOGUE Page B5

SYNAGOGUE

Pig's head hung on door

Continued from Page B1

The vandalism was a disturbing reminder that anti-semitism is not dead, Cohen said.

A few members of his congregation have lived in Europe, where some synagogues use armed guards, he said, but "we don't have to live that way yet."

He said his advice to his congregation was to be careful, but not to be paranoid. "We're just going to be watchful and mindful," he said. "We're not going to ignore it."

Eshbach said church vandalism — usually spray-painted graffiti or broken windows — happens occasionally in the area, but vandalism like this is rare.

Because of the nature of the act, police could charge suspects with intimidation as well as institutional vandalism, he said, adding that police do not have any suspects yet.

Anyone with information can call Springettsbury Township police at 767-8525.

He said it wasn't clear where the severed pig head came from, and that after police examined the scene, the head was "disposed of for sanitary reasons."

■ COURTS

Man found guilty of desecration

Pig's head hung on synagogue door

By Jerry L. Gleason
York Bureau

YORK — A York County jury of six men and six women deliberated for three hours yesterday before finding Mason E. Aldrich guilty of hanging a pig's head on the door of a synagogue.

The jury found Aldrich, 22, of the 100 block of Memory Lane, guilty of desecration, institutional vandalism or defacement, desecration of venerated objects and criminal conspiracy to commit each of the crimes.

He faces a maximum sentence of seven years in jail, with sentencing scheduled for Sept. 6 before Judge John C. Uhler.

Two witnesses, Andrea Jo Arnold, 19, of Windsor, and Adrian Bucchioni, 16, of York, testified that on the night of Feb. 17 they saw Aldrich walk toward Ohev Sholom Synagogue with the pig's head and return a few minutes later without it.

Members of the synagogue found the pig's head hanging on the front door the next morning when they arrived for services.

"It was a fair verdict," said Deputy District Attorney Christy Fawcett.

Hanging the pig's head on the synagogue was an affront and outrage to the Jewish community, Fawcett told the jury.

"It's the same as a military veteran might feel if someone had defecated on the flag that had been flying over the graves of his fallen comrades," she said.

Aldrich's attorney, Linda Hollinger, presented no evidence in his defense and attempted to discredit Arnold and Bucchioni's testimony in her closing remarks to the jury.

"Andrea Arnold and Adrian Bucchioni wanted to cover their own skin," Hollinger told the jury. "That's why they pointed the finger at Mason Aldrich."

Arnold, who was charged as a co-conspirator, earlier pleaded no contest to ethnic intimidation, desecration of venerated objects, conspiracy to com-

Man found guilty of desecration

■ GUILTY — From Page B1

mit both crimes and harassment and stalking and agreed to testify against Aldrich in return for a sentence of time spent in jail and 23 months parole. She spent 23 days in jail before posting bail.

Springettsbury Twp. Detective Robert Soop said Aldrich and Ar-

police. Bucchioni was never a suspect, he said.

Arnold testified that she purchased the pig's head as a joke at New Eastern Market and took it to Aldrich's home.

Later that evening, Aldrich and others discussed placing the pig's head in the synagogue.

Page A4
Monday, March 13, 1995
The York Dispatch

Our views

Super sleuthing in Springettsbury

Bravo to the Springettsbury Township Police Department for its dogged pursuit of those responsible for hanging a pig's head on the door of the Ohev Sholom Synagogue Feb. 17.

Last week the department arrested two people with known connections to the Stewartstown-based Eastern Hammer Skinheads hate group and charged them with criminal conspiracy, ethnic intimidation, institutional vandalism, desecration of venerated objects and harassment.

Springettsbury police tracked the suspects down using the only piece of evidence they had: the pig's head. They traced it to the Eastern Market on Memory Lane, and then to the suspects.

A court of law will determine if the two are guilty. If so, the judge should throw the book at them as an example that our community will not tolerate ethnic intolerance and hatred.

Kenneth Cohen, rabbi at Ohev Sholom, echoes our sentiments when he says he was impressed with the detective work. Although "it's not very soothing to know that down the road a piece are a bunch of skinheads," said Cohen, "that's not going to change our attitude, way of life or anything we do at the synagogue."

Amen.

Northern Hammer Skinheads



N.H.S.
P.O. Box 551
Berwyn, IL 60402

N.H.S.
P.O. Box 34634
Chicago, IL 60634

Northern Hammer Skins

Item 4



Hammering The Way To Victory
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P.O. Box 34634 Chicago, IL 60634
P.O. Box 734 Midlothian, IL 60445

Northern Hammer Skinheads



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Berwyn, IL 60402

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P.O. Box 34634
Chicago, IL 60634

Northern Hammer Skinheads



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Berwyn, IL 60402

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P.O. Box 34634
Chicago, IL 60634

Atlanta Area Chapter Hammerskin Nation



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WHEN THE HAMMER FALLS, WHERE WILL YOU BE?

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WHITE POWER

MAX RESIST and the HOOLIGANS

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and Merchandise

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Rochester, MI
48308-1371

Milwaukee Area Northern Hammer Skinheads



P.O. Box 33 Germantown, WI 53022

W.A.R. WHITE ARYAN RESISTANCE





MAX RESIST THE HOOLIGAN-Out on a limb

Sometimes you don't have a choice
Nowhere to run you've got to fight
But now my back is to the wall
Who will catch me when I fall?

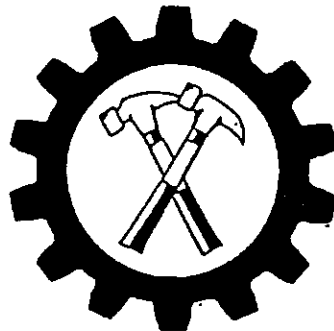
(CHORUS)
We're out on a limb (x2)

We've been fighting for too many years
Lost some brothers & shed some tears
But there's a pride in my heart
That's where this song got it's start

(CHORUS) (x4)

It's past the time for too much
Broken hearts, well that's just tough
There's no forgiveness in the end
Because I'm out on a limb

(CHORUS)



NORDIC THUNDER- I.R.A./A.N.C.

Day after day, I hear it again & again
The torture & death of our own White men
A group that claims to be a nationalist front
A communist society is what they really want
Assassinate, torture, maim, & kill
Destroy their land at their own free will
If Ireland is to be at peace one day
We must stand together, smash the I.R.A.!

You hear them fighting for what you think is right
Bombing & shooting throughout the night
Do you really know what's behind their war?
Communist pigs & filthy Chinese hordes
Bombing of pubs with our White kin
Maiming & killing innocent Aryans
You support & ignore what you see
Their goals run deep with the A.N.C.!

(CHORUS)

The I.R.A., the A.N.C.
Two more fronts of our Zionist enemy
Communist groups working hand in hand
To enslave Whites in their own homeland!
The I.R.A., the A.N.C.
Two more fronts of our Zionist enemy
Ulster defence & the A.W.B.
Will lead the fight for victory!

The A.N.C. tries to destroy the White state
Hang the nigger Mandela before it's too late
The I.R.A. is supported by the A.N.C.
Supplying weapons for their communist greed
Killing our own people in a bloody fight
Don't tell me they're in the right
The Afrikaners & the Ulster cause
Hear the roar of the White man!

(CHORUS)

BOUND FOR GLORY-D.M.D.P.

Hey punk we finally meet
As I come kicking down your door
For years you've eluded me on the streets
Now with your face I'll wipe the floor
I'll bring you out from under your rock
Right into the light
And you can bring all your friends
Because a Skinhead loves to fight! (x6)

(CHORUS)

First you get indoctrinated from the left & from the right
Feel my steelcap thunder as it comes with all my might
Welcome to the Doc Marten Dental plan
Equal opportunity employer-D.M.D.P.
New customers are always welcome-D.M.D.P.
You'll get service with a smile-D.M.D.P.

Looks like a splitting headache
Bleeding from the core
Your eyes are swollen shut
Your teeth are on the floor
Your senseless battle is over
Why don't you give it up?
Tell me how the hell can you speak
When your mouth is wired shut? Fight! (x6)

(CHORUS)

Put this in your head
You filthy leftist pricks
Giving you a world of pain
Is how I get my kicks
So, think about this next time
You're shouting anarchy
Who the hell is gonna save you from me?! Fight! (x6)

(CHORUS)

BULLY BOYS-6 Million more

They're on the media night & day
Looking for sympathy
The "holocaust" & "crystal night"
Don't mean a thing to me
I can't take much more
Of this Zionist intervention
The only fool-proof plan
Is mass extermination

(CHORUS)
6 Million more (x2)

All across the nation
The people hear their lies
They hear the propaganda
But they don't ask why
They're sending money to Israel
While our own people starve in the streets
Now's the time to take a stand
Tell them just what we think

(CHORUS) (x2)

They're on the media night & day
Looking for sympathy
The "holocaust" & "crystal night"
Don't mean a thing to me
I can't take much more
Of this Zionist intervention
The only fool-proof plan
Is mass extermination

(CHORUS) (x6)

e.p. is dedicated to the memory of Ian Stuart, Erik Banks, & Melanie Preuss
SEE YOU IN VALHALLA!!!

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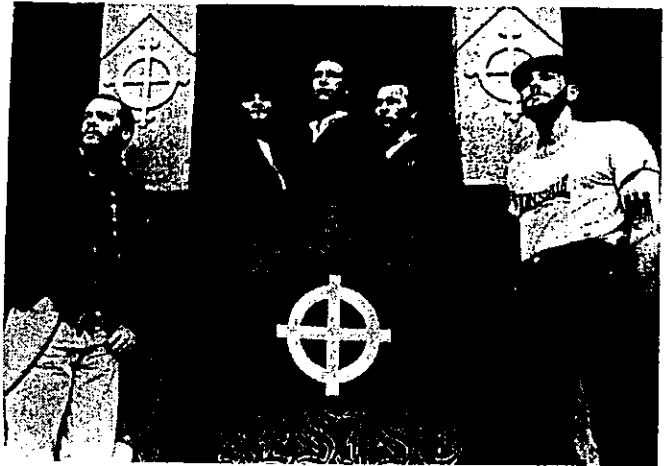
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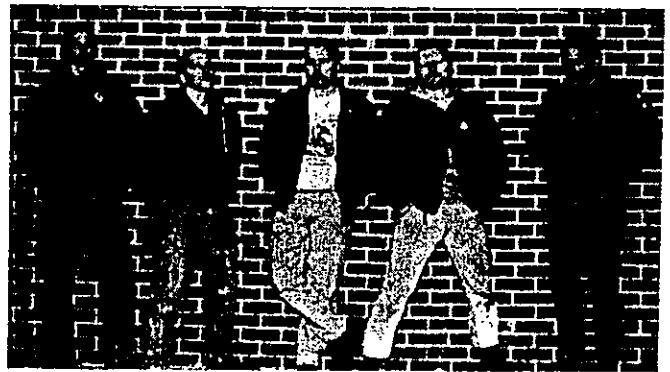
MAX RESIST & THE HOOLIGANS
Out on a Limb



BULLY BOYS
6 Million More



NORDIC THUNDER
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Bound For Glory



Rich-Drums Carl-Bass Ed-Guitar Joel-Vocals

B.F.G./N.H.S.

P.O. Box 6773
E. St. Paul Mn.
55106

Max Resist ^{Item 5}

AND THE HOOLIGANS



Sean-Vocals Pat-Guitar Steve-Guitar G.G.-Drums Paul-Bass

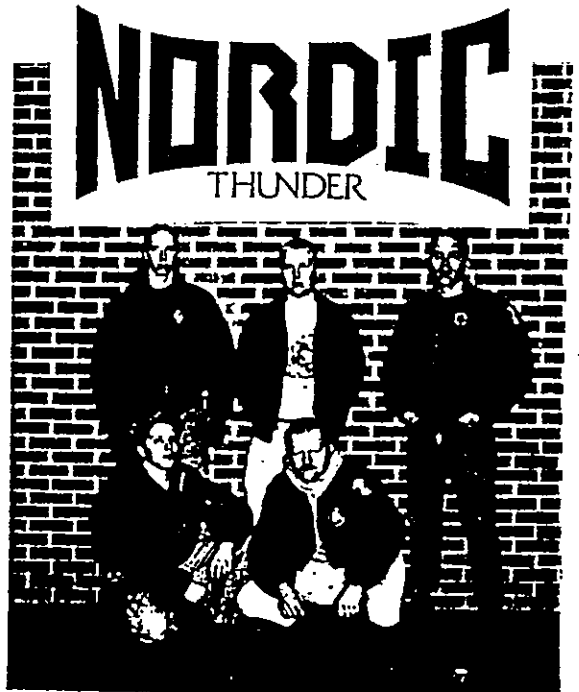
Max Resist/N.H.S.

P.O. Box 08-1371
Rochester Mi.
48308



Scott-Drums John-Bass Rusty-Guitar & Vocals

Bully Boys/C.H.S.
P.O. Box 741314
Dallas Texas
75374-1314



Mike-Drums Ryan-Bass Bob-Guitar Mike T.-Guitar Joe-Vocals

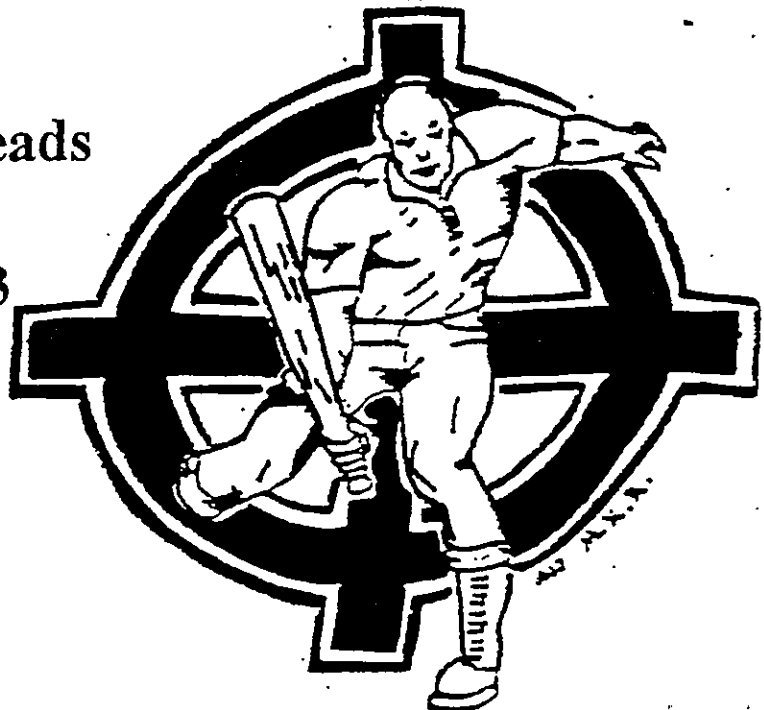
Nordic thunder/E.H.S.
P.O. Box 9441
Newark De.
19714 9441

STOP TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST WHITES!!

Who will be the next white victim of gang violence in York? When will the senseless beatings and killings end? When Whites unite and bring down these savages. They attack innocent white people trying to mind their own business in a city filled with muds. When will their terrorist actions cease? It will only get worse if we continue to let these scum get away with murder.

**JOIN THE FIGHT BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE!! SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
HAMMERSKINS!!**

Eastern Hammer Skinheads
P.O. Box 21
Stewartstown, PA 17363



WHITE AND PROUD

In America in recent years we have all heard talk about racial pride that is black pride, Jewish pride, Hispanic pride—even "Gay Pride". In fact, there is only one major segment of our country that is not encouraged to openly take pride in its heritage, culture and the achievements of its ancestors. That group is the Aryan or White race.

The lack of pride on ones race is a truly sad and detrimental thing, because as a race, White people have so much more to be proud of than any other people. No race or people on Earth can compete with the Aryan Will. The glories and greatness that the men of our Race have won over the centuries should serve as a constant reminder, a source of pride and inspiration for White people everywhere.

Since the dawn of history, we have been a mighty race of builders, explorers, artists, warriors, scientists, inventors, philosophers, and cultivators. We have sailed the seas, tamed vast wilderness, scaled towering mountains, and journeyed to the depths of the ocean and into the cold void of outer space. We have built great civilizations, created breathtaking works of beauty, and made the deserts bloom.

The technological achievements of our people, from the megalithic calendar of Stonehenge, to the moon-walk of the Apollo astronauts, are unequaled.

We have devised sublime philosophies, conquered deadly diseases, and performed soul stirring acts of heroism and self sacrifice.

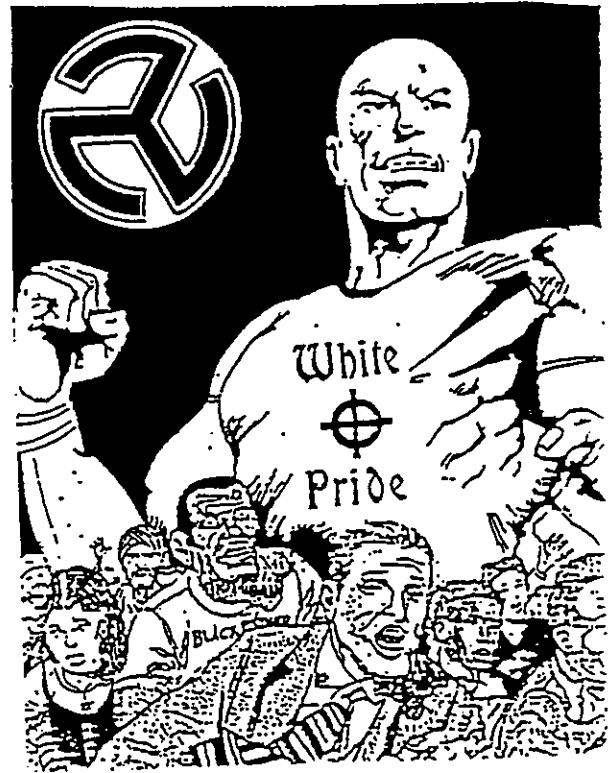
To complete this list, just to list the accomplishments of our race, would require the work of a lifetime.

No single race has more to be proud of than we do! We of the Eastern Hammer Skinheads wish to awaken our people to our proud heritage.

In order for an individual to be healthy and productive, he or she must have a clear-cut sense of identity, and identity of who that person descended from, what the accomplishments were in prior generations, and what is expected of that person in their lifetime as a continuing part of our bloodline. All these things contribute to a strong sense of self-worth. For our Race as a whole to be strong and healthy, White people everywhere must develop a sense of racial identity and racial worth. There is no better way to attain this necessary level than to take and show pride in your people, the people of your race, and having an awareness of their accomplishments.

EASTERN HAMMER SKINHEADS
P.O. Box 21, Stewartstown, Pennsylvania 17363

YOUR TIME IS UP!



Ladies and gentlemen, your time is running out. The day is here, where the White race will no longer let ourselves be treated like second class citizens. Our snowballing movement has grown so large that we no longer have to worry about who stands in our way. This includes you!

We represent the White separatist movement and our only concern is the White race. We will destroy any and all who stand in our path, but do not lose hope. Our movement is large, strong, and organized, but we are still accepting racially conscious White people. But not for long!

This will probably be your last chance to prove yourself worthy of calling yourself an Anglo and/or Aryan. Help us in our ultimate victory or die in disgrace. You, as a White man, are either for our cause or against it. Fence sitters will be treated as harsh, if not more harsh, than our enemies.

A new dawn is now occurring in America. The beginning of a new day for White culture and heritage. A day where White women and men can walk safely down the streets without fear of harassment. A day where our only nation is our race. A day that is fast approaching and leaves no time for procrastination. As the old saying goes, "Better late than never", but we do not believe in this laymen's logic. IT'S NOW OR NEVER! DON'T BE OUR VICTIM, BECOME OUR ALLY! Write to:

EASTERN HAMMER SKINHEADS
P.O. BOX 21
STEWARTSTOWN, PA 17363



THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY MUST BE ABOLISHED



MARTIN JR. WAS A COMMUNIST & HAD A FETISH
FOR WHITE PROSTITUTES. HE IS NOT A NATIONAL
HERO, HE IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE.

EASTERN HAMMER SKINHEADS
P.O. BOX 21
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