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RACIALLY MOTIVATED RANDOM VIOLENCE

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P. O. Box 42707, Atlanta, Georgia 30311

November 15, 1984

Dear Friend,

We hope your reading of the issues of RMRV, which we have been sending out free of charge since 1981, has proved an enlightening, if perhaps frustrating experience. (One of our regular readers opened a copy in our presence and remarked to a friend standing next to her--"Now get ready to get angry!"--then became immediately absorbed.)

We have sent RMRV to a wide range of concerned people, and especially to activists and to those who have written us requesting copies. Our mailing list has now grown far beyond our capacity to continue our policy of free mailings, however much we would like to.

Logistical problems have forced us to delay for a very long time sending you the enclosed issue. We would like to send you subsequent issues which we have produced or will be producing (through March, 1984; these will be the last issues which we will produce.)

We will no longer be able to send out issues free of charge.

If you would like to remain on our mailing list, please send your check or money order in the amount of six dollars (\$6.00) for the remaining five issues due out, covering the period January 1983 through March 1984. Make check payable to Racially Motivated Random Violence. A coupon is attached below for your convenience.

Thank you for your interest and your support.

Yours truly,

*Imani*

Imani Claiborne, Editor and Chair,  
Committee on Research into Racial Violence

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P.O. Box 42707, Atlanta, GA 30311

## NEWSCAN ISSUE

## WEST

1. Various racially motivated incidents have been reported in late 1982 in the Seattle-Tacoma, Washington area:

In late summer or early autumn, a 14-year-old black youth was arrested for snatching the purse of an elderly white woman. When she reportedly tried to take money from him (presumably at a later date), a tussle ensued. Police called to the scene reportedly told a white bystander who wanted to beat the boy "We'd like to let you, but we'd better not." The boy was reportedly placed in a cell with an adult and stripped naked, before being brought to a juvenile center.

In September, a black sports reporter for KING-TV, Thomas Jenkins, was verbally and physically assaulted at a Shorecrest High School sports event. He sustained broken ribs and a fractured skull. The white cameraman accompanying him reportedly did not film the incident, though the sound was recorded.

A black youth stepped in front of a car while crossing the street. The white driver jumped out of his car, shouting obscenities and waving a baseball bat. The astonished youth, visibly shaken, walked away.

On May 30, two black teen-agers went through a self-service gas station in the wrong direction. The white attendant waved a 357 magnum in the air and told them to hold it. He told them, laughing, it was a "fucking gun."

- Burning Spear, 9-82, p. 6.

2. In Mid-September, 1982, leaflets were placed in student lockers in Oroville, California Central High School. The leaflets bore Nazi swastikas, and read, in part: "What percentage of niggers in your school are ugly? A. 95% B. 98% C. 100% White who defend niggers are? A. traitors B. degenerates C. communists D. Jews? If you answered these questions correctly, then you've got what it takes to stay out of nigger-infested schools. Show the Federal race-mixers and creeps that the Viking spirit of your ancestors is still alive." The Nazis also came into the black community in the late night and early morning hours and stuck leaflets in windows, under doors and on cars. They also have a 24 hour telephone dial-a-message service designed to spread race hatred.

On November 6, 1982, Perry Bernard Warthan, 41, business manager of the Oroville Nazi Party and two juveniles were arrested on charges of having shot nine times in the head Joseph Hoover, 17. Hoover, whose body had been dumped in an isolated spot, had confessed to police his participation in planting hate literature in Oroville Central High and had implicated Warthan.

On December 11, the United Front for Freedom and Justice of Oroville, a coalition of black activist groups, and the Concerned Parents of South Oroville, coordinated a march and demonstration in which more than 2,000 people participated. The racially mixed groups included people from as far away as Arizona, Oregon and New York. San Francisco's Longshoreman's Local # 10 declared a one-day work stoppage so that its members could participate. Denise Johnson, president of the Concerned Parents of South Oroville, declaring that the racist groups are just the tip of the iceberg, vowed that the struggle for jobs, freedom and justice had just begun.

- Chicago Defender, 11-8-82, p. 10; N.Y. Amsterdam News, 12-11-82, p. 2, 12-18-82, p. 4; Phila Tribune, 12-21-82, p. 1; Atlanta Voice, 12-25-82, p. 1.

3. Edward Lawson, the California business consultant who, wearying of being stopped by police in white neighborhoods, filed and won a suit against the San Diego Police Department, will appear in U.S. Supreme Court. The decision, upheld in Appellate Court, was appealed by San Diego. According to Lawson, the Fourth Amendment issue is at stake. (See RMRV 2, v-vi, # 64.)

- South Carolina Chronicle, 9-18-82, p. 1.



4. On Tuesday, September 7, 1982, shortly after 3 a.m., two Long Beach Calif officers spotted a car which had been stolen, gave chase and when the two suspects in the car crashed in a garage, gave chase on foot. A 13-year-old youth, later identified as Tyrone Dawson, was caught by the foot as he attempted to jump from atop a fence. The youth, according to police, put his hand in his pocket, pulled it out and thrust it at the officer, who thereupon fired at the youth, killing him. The youth was found to be unarmed.

His 20-year-old companion, Ronald Eugene Page, of Compton, Calif, was apprehended and booked on Grand Theft Auto.

Relatives of young Dawson disputed police accounts. According to George Dawson, his brother looked more like 10 than 13, and had gotten into the car with his sister and another young girl on the invitation of two men to whom he had been talking at a neighborhood store. Tyrone continued to ride with the men after they had dropped the girls off at home. George Dawson stated that the police car smashed into the car being pursued and woke up a lot of people, who then saw the rest of what happened from doorways and windows. He stated witnesses told him that the officer who reportedly shot Tyrone was never in the alley through which he was running.

Shortly after the shooting of Tyrone, an 83-year-old white woman was stabbed five times by a burglar who wrote on her wall "This is in revenge for Tyrone Dawson."

The Dawson family announced their intention to file suit against the city of Long Beach.

- L.A. Sentinel, 9-7-82, p. 1; 9-9-82, p. 1.

5. Eighteen-year-old Rosalind McElwee was five months pregnant when, in July 1982, she was sent to Santa Rita jail in Alameda County, Calif for shoplifting. When her labor pains started some three weeks later, an orderly ordered her legs elevated to stop the pain. When her pain and cries persisted, she was placed in solitary confinement. Three hours later, Rosalind gave birth. Prison authorities did not discover the birth until the next morning, but the child was dead.

Ms McElwee filed a \$2 million lawsuit against Alameda County. However, she suffered depression after her release in the Autumn of 1982.

- Burning Spear, 10-82, p. 23.

6. On Sept 4, 1982, a Filipino minister got into an argument with black youths on drugs in the streets of San Francisco (Sunnydale community). Enraged, the minister tried to chase the children down in his car, and, failing that, smashed two four-year-old black children into a cement wall. Blood reportedly landed a hundred feet from the point of attack, such was the force. The bodies of the children were so smashed, they could only be identified through dental charts.

The minister then got out of his car and attacked black witnesses with a pipe. Those present attacked him in return, stopping only after being threatened by an armed store employee.

- Burning Spear, 10-82, p. 5.

7. In May, 1979, during the gasoline shortage which created long lines at the pumps, 20-year-old Elton Satterwhite and his 11-year-old brother were waiting to purchase fuel in Lynwood, a suburb of Los Angeles. The station ran out of gas, and the owner called sheriff's deputies to disperse the vehicles. Deputy David O'Dell reportedly told Satterwhite: "Move your damn van, nigger." When Satterwhite replied: "My name is Elton, not nigger," he was pulled from the van, forced to the ground, beaten by O'Dell and four other deputies, and a choke hold applied.

Satterwhite was awarded a \$30,000. out-of-court settlement by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Oct 19, 1982 as a result of a suit he had filed.

- Los Angeles Sentinel, 10-21-82, p. 1.

8. On September 28, 1982, while in a Richmond, Calif jail charged with suspected burglary, Willie Drumgoole died of a broken neck. The young black man's family filed a \$15 million suit for wrongful death against the city of Richmond. A rally was organized by the local NAACP chapter on November 23, 1982. The family of Willie Drumgoole has organized the People for Justice Coalition to combat police brutality.

- Burning Spear, 11-82, p. 11; Letter and flyer, People for Justice, undated.



9. According to a report compiled by the California Governor's Task Force on Civil Rights, attacks on minorities are almost "a way of life" and are getting worse. The report further states that public officials are "often indifferent, abusive, or confused" in face of such violence.

- Atlanta Constitution, 12-30-82.

10. Lance Corporal Raymond Michael Grant went AWOL from his Marine post in Hawaii in July 1982, upset because bullet-riddled bodies of three black Marines were found along the roadside. Corp. Grant had called his mother from Hawaii in June, stating the facts were being swept under the rug by authorities. He also stated to NAACP officials that "it was evident we were not welcome" off-base, and that blacks were frequently subjected to racial slurs and abuse.

Grant turned himself in in October at the urging of his mother.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News, 12-11-82, p. 9.

11. Nine members of the Christ Miracle Healing Center and Church, founded in Chicago in the 1960's, purchased 16 acres in Miracle Valley Arizona, near the Mexican border, in the late 1970's. By late 1981, the membership had grown to 100 adults and approximately 200 children. The black church thus constituted the majority in Miracle Valley--population 450 (Cochise County, where Miracle Valley is located, has a population of 73,261 whites and 3,224 blacks).

The Church had been consistently subjected to racially motivated attacks and threats by the local citizenry, while the Cochise County Sheriff Jimmy Judd ignored their complaints. But when Church members reportedly armed themselves, the local citizenry complained and Sheriff Judd intervened. (See RMRV 1, viii-ix, Nov-Dec 1981, #10).

One year later, the tensions between the Church and Sheriff erupted into violence when, on Oct 23, 1982, Sheriff's deputies Larry Denver and David Jones came to serve traffic warrants on three church members. Accounts as to precisely what happened vary.

According to Urbane Leiendecker, who was trimming trees at a house nearby, two deputy sheriffs went to a church apartment building about 9:50 Saturday morning, Oct 23, and about 20 church members surrounded them, attacking them with rakes, two-by-four wood posts, rocks, bloodying their heads and faces. Leiendecker stated the first shot came from a teenager behind a tree across the street from the apartment building. By then, according to Leiendecker, 50 to 60 church members were attacking the deputies, who were trying to handcuff them. Then other shots were fired, though Leiendecker's account, as printed (National Leader) does not indicate from whom. Another white neighbor reportedly told the Arizona Daily Star "It almost made me vomit that I didn't have a pistol in my hand. I'm a dead shot." (Revolutionary Worker, rpt The Black American).

Sgt Allan Schmidt of the Arizona State Department of Public Safety told the Black American that it was not clear who had fired first, but that both sides had fired shots. He also stated several church members had fought with pipes, clubs, baseball bats and rocks.

When the dust cleared, church members William Thomas, Jr., 33, son of the pastor, Rev. Frances Thomas, and his father-in-law, 52-year-old Augusta Tate, had been fatally shot, and Roy Williams had to be hospitalized with a severed spine. Deputies Denver and Jones had sustained gunshot wounds and seven other deputies had received minor injuries. Nine church members were arrested on the day of the shootings and held on \$68,500 bond each. Another church member was arrested the following day. According to some accounts, the tenth detainee was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. According to others, he was charged with running a non-existent stop sign. All ten were soon variously indicted by an all-white Cochise County grand jury on 35 felony and one misdemeanor charges.

The 300 member congregation all went to Chicago for the Oct 29th funerals of their two slain members, and did not return to Miracle Valley afterwards. The funerals were held at PUSH headquarters. Rev. Jessie Jackson, several officials of Christ Miracle Healing and other churchmen subsequently travelled to Arizona to confer with Governor Bruce Babbitt, whom they asked to guarantee the safety of the church members, should they return. The ministers also pushed for a speedy and thorough investigation, after which they travelled to Washington to make similar demands of Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds.



Church members provide an entirely different perspective in their account of what transpired. According to Bishop Julius Gillespie, the incident began Friday, Oct 22, when Deputy Sheriff Brett went to arrest Frank Bernard for an outstanding traffic ticket. Bishop Gillespie stated: "The arrest warrant was falsely made up. Bernard never had a ticket in Arizona." (Burning Spear). The next day, two deputies went to the home of James Pitkin. When Rev. Gillespie told them Pitkin no longer lived there, they asked for Frank and Billie Bernard. When told the Bernards were not there, the deputies called for back-up on their car radio. Minutes later, according to the account in the Burning Spear, which interviewed Rev. Gillespie: "400 to 500 killer cops in riot gear which included the FBI, SWAT teams from Tucson, the border patrol, and local and county pigs [i.e., presumably police from the village of Sierra Vista and Cochise County Sheriff's deputies] vamped on Miracle Valley." Rev. Gillespie is quoted as saying: "Ten police would beat one man. They beat in heads with the butt of guns--even the women....After the first crew came the M-16 crew arrived....They all had automatic weapons and sawed off shotguns." Then a white man drove up in a Dodge Bronco, jumped out, and began shooting into the crowd. The church members ran for cover. (The account does not indicate whether the Bronco driver was in uniform, or whether he was selective in who he aimed at.)

Mrs. Ann Thomas James, sister of slain church member William Thomas, told the Amsterdam News reporter Peter Noel that members had surrounded about 30 sheriff's deputies and police armed with automatic gunfire as they tried to serve tickets. William Thomas came out of a house to find out what the commotion was all about, just as a group of teen-agers fled by. Mrs. James stated: "He had turned his back to the police and raised his hand in the air yelling out to the teenagers when a police officer just jumped out of the back of a black truck and shot my brother in the back." She stated further: "We have children here with all kinds of bruises on their backs. The women were hit in their faces with the butt of automatic weapons and beaten with axe handles." Mrs. James called reports of armed patrols at the center "vicious rumors" spread by ill-willed white neighbors. "It is against our religion to carry weapons," she stated.

There is some confusion in accounts as to when sheriff and FBI first came and the initial reasons for their visit. Some reports indicate that on Friday, Oct 22, Rev. Frances Thomas informed deputies "You can't take any of our people." (National Leader) But aside from the issue of traffic violations, some sources indicate that the sheriff's office had posted notice--presumably before the incident of Oct 22-23--that church property was to be auctioned off, and that Rev. Gillespie had expressed outrage over the "land fraud." Other reports indicate that the church property was in debt and that the sheriff's office had been called in to foreclose (actually, sheriffs do not foreclose; they serve eviction notices).

The confusion surrounding eviction/foreclosure/auction vs traffic warrants is not the only discrepancy in this story. Of greater seriousness is the charge that the raid was preplanned. Mrs. James, sister of one of the slain members, stated that the night before (whether Thursday or Friday is unclear), sheriff's deputies had come to order white residents out of the area. The account credited by the Burning Spear to Rev. Gillespie, according to which 500 riot-clad police appeared within one minute of a radio call by deputies at the scene implies considerable pre-planning, while leaving room to argue that the raid was a contingency plan. The Revolutionary Worker, however, pulls no punches: "We have since learned that a highly placed source in the state has, for whatever reasons, let it be known that as early as Wednesday, Oct. 20--three days before the raid--the plan for this assault had been worked out and submitted for approval by authorities high in the state government of Arizona." (rpt Black American).

Also unclear is the time sequence of some events: When did the FBI enter the scene? When were residents moved out of the area? Some press agency reports suggest 20 FBI agents came in on Sunday, Oct 25, at the request of Gov. Bruce Babbitt and began interviewing church members preparatory to an investigation of any possible civil rights violations (on one side or both?) It was also reported that Gov. Babbitt had asked the State Dept of Public Safety (DPS) to Assume charge of the criminal investigation. DPS spokesman Schmidt indicated that non-members of the church residing in the area were asked to evacuate until order was restored. The area was then sealed off to non-residents as the FBI questioned church members. Roadblocks were removed and residents allowed to return home Sunday, Oct 24. But one UPI report indicates the FBI and the roadblocks were moved out early Sunday, implying the FBI had moved in Saturday, rather than Sunday.



Adding to the confusion as to where truth in this case lies are charges by church members and other civil rights activists of cover-ups and set-ups. Cochise deputy sheriff Ray Thatcher admitted to shooting William Thomas and Augusta Tate in the front. He was backed up by Tucson coroner Richard C. Froeder, who listed cause of death for Thomas as "gunshot wound to the chest and abdomen." However, photos of Thomas' body are said to show no bullet holes in the chest, but at least two holes in the back. When Froeder's report was challenged by a group of ministers led by Jessie Jackson, who had gone to see the Governor, Froeder is reported to have stated: "I meant that the bullets came from the back into the chest and abdomen." (Chicago Defender).

As Jackson and other ministers were in Washington meeting with Justice Dept officials, one of the bishops of the Christ Miracle Healing Church received two phone calls from unidentified persons at the Tucson Medical Center where Roy Williams was being treated for his spine injury after the raid. As a result of the calls, the bishop left. According to some sources, the person in question was a Julius Thomas, brother of one of the slain men. Other sources however give his name as Julius Gillespie, (who had earlier given interviews to the black press). In any case, Thomas or Gillespie took a plane for Tucson. Upon disembarking, he was arrested for allegedly carrying several rounds of ammunition and for inciting to riot the night of his brother's death. According to sources, ammunition can be bought over-the-counter in Arizona. Moreover, Rev. Thomas or Gillespie had passed through three metal detector stations from the time he left Washington. Said Jackson: "We believe he was set up."

- Baltimore Afro American 10-30-82, p. 1, 11-6-82, p. 1; Mobile Beacon, 11-20-82, pp 1, 2; N.Y. Amsterdam News 11-27-82, p. 4, 10-30-82, p. 3; Atlanta Constitution, 10-25-82; National Leader 11-11-82, p. 3, 12-9-82, p. 29; Phila Tribune 10-26-82, p. 1; Black American 10-28-82, p. 16; 11-18-82, p. 19, 12-16-82, pp 20-21; Chicago Defender 11-8-82, p. 3, 11-27-82, p. 3; Burning Spear 11-82, pp 3, 6; Balto Afro American 12-4-82, p. 3.

#### MIDWEST

12. On Thursday, Sept 16, 1982, Rodney Hunt, 31, his brother Dean, 27, Darrell Debroe and Carol Getting, sister of the Hunt brothers and a witness to the incident, alleged charges of police brutality against the police and security guards of White Sox Park in Chicago. The four had gone to the park Tuesday night, Sept 14, 1982, to attend a game but a fight broke out between the men and security guards. Dean Hunt suffered multiple contusions to the arm and face. Rodney suffered a fractured right wrist, bruises to the head, neck, left arm, chest, and a cut above the right eye. Blood was also discovered in his urine, but for causes not known.

Thomas Hughes, chief of park security, denied any charges of police brutality, and stated that the men refused to surrender gin and vodka they were bringing into the park. Ms Getting stated that the use of profane language by one of her brothers provoked the attack after the three had relinquished the opened bottles. Ms Getting further stated that the police and security guards attacked the men. They were handcuffed and taken to a room where they were beaten with a broken baseball bat.

After the beating, the men were arrested for assault and resisting arrest. Their injuries were treated at Mercy Hospital. The three police officers refused treatment, stating that "they would see their private physicians."

- Chicago Defender 9-18-82, p. 39.

13. In December 1982, Terry Patton, a 27-year-old black Chicago woman stationed at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, charged sexual, verbal and physical harassment by several white naval officers there.

According to Ms Patton, incidents began to occur when she "refused to become socially and sexually active with several white officers." She identified one as Chief John Hatcher, who called her a "nigger" on numerous occasions, had someone to tamper with the brakes on her car, and threw a brick at her. After returning to the base one evening, Ms. Patton stated that Hatcher and a petty officer named Lovell were standing on the ramp above her saying "We're going to have to get rid



of that nigger." Ms. Patton stated she had reported all incidents to her superiors, but "Hatcher and the others are the chain of command, so it was pointless." She stated that she "fears for her life" and was "almost too frightened to return to the base."

Rudy Polk, administrative assistant and chief of staff to Congressman Gus Savage (D) stated to the Defender that he is "personally" investigating the charges.

- Chicago Defender 12-29-82, p. 3.

14. In December 1982, approximately 20 Chicago police officers arrived at the home of Anthony Lee, a black resident, with their guns drawn. Lee had been involved in a domestic dispute with a neighbor. He invited them in and they asked "Where are all the guns?" In the meantime, a gun was being held to his head by one of the officers. While the search was in progress, one of the officers attempted to search Lee's mother's purse. When Lee tried to intervene, he was called a "smart nigger." Lee stated "Another police officer put a gun to my right eye and pushed me against the wall, saying he would give me the electric chair."

Lee was charged with aggravated assault in the domestic dispute but later two additional charges were filed. No comment was made by the Internal Affairs Dept of the Chicago police, pending investigation.

- Chicago Defender, 12-29-82, p. 3.

15. On Monday, December 6, 1982, Earl "Buddy" Goodin, Jr., 21, Michael Seabrook, 24 and Gregory Gaweł, 23, all white and residents of Burnham, near Chicago, were indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiring to firebomb the home of a black family who had moved into the predominantly white neighborhood.

According to Mrs. Mildred James, a Chicago Transit Authority bus driver, her family, including Charles James, her 42-year-old disabled husband and three teenage children, had needed a larger home. On the night of July 28, 1982, a bomb was taped to the garage door and detonated. Although the family was at home, no one was injured.

After an extensive investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office, Goodin and Gaweł were charged with violating the James' civil rights, conspiracy, and federal firearms laws violations. Seabrook was charged with making a Molotov cocktail and harassing the family.

According to U.S. Attorney Dan K. Webb of Chicago, the investigation would be continued by a special federal grand jury.

- Chicago Defender 12-7-82, p. 1; Michigan Chronicle, 12-25-82, p. A2; Philadelphia Tribune 12-24-82, p. 10.

16. On Wednesday, Oct 6, 1982, Kenneth Hunt, a 21-year-old black youth, was accompanying his brother and a friend to a court hearing in Chicago at which his brother was to appear. According to Johnnie Mae Hunt, sister of the two brothers and owner of the car in which they were riding, two police cars and a paddy wagon approached the three men at the courthouse. When a search turned up five bags of marijuana, the three were arrested and brought to a detention center.

Johnnie Mae Hunt was able to make bail for one of her brothers. But as she waited to bail out the other, she states she heard policemen laughing about someone hanging himself with a sweat shirt. She saw paramedics, then a coroner, enter the jail. She was first told Kenneth's papers were not ready, then she was told to go to Mercy Hospital. She went home to pick up her mother and one of her sisters called the hospital; she was told to call the jail. A call to police then revealed that Kenneth had died before he left the station.

According to police accounts, Kenneth hung himself with a sweat shirt. But his sister disputes this version, stating that just the day before, Kenneth had sustained a cracked rib, 14 stitches in his penis and cracked bones in his right arm as a result of an attack by a gang he had refused to join. She feels he was in no condition to commit suicide. Renault Robinson, Executive Director of the Afro American Police League, was also suspicious. He stated: "I as well as others have heard some officers brag how they will get Blacks. They make covenants to commit these acts, and they keep them."

- Chicago Defender 10-11-82, pp 1, 3.



17. In an out-of-court settlement in Chicago, the Cook County board of supervisors approved a \$1.8 million award to surviving family members of Panthers Mark Clark and Fred Hampton, killed Dec 4, 1969 in a pre-dawn raid in which 14 policemen stormed the Panthers' Chicago headquarters. The case, which went all the way to the Supreme Court, lasted 12 years.

- Chicago Defender 11-2-82, p. 1;  
Atlanta Voice, 11-13-82; Balto Afro  
American 11-13-82, p. 1.

18. On Tuesday, Aug 31, 1982, at approximately 4:30 a.m., Joe Montague, 60, of Harvey, Illinois, his brother Edward Ivy, Vernon Coleman, 56 and another friend, all black, were allegedly assaulted both verbally and physically by two white teenagers in the Bridgeport area of Chicago. Joe Montague suffered skull lacerations after having been struck in the back of the head with a brick by one of the boys. He was treated and later released from Michael Reese Hospital.

According to Coleman, a Chicago Transit Authority supervisor, he and his friends--occupying two cars--were en route to purchase bait for a fishing trip. When they stopped at a traffic light preparing to turn left to the bait shop, a white teenager was standing on the corner and began yelling abusive language at them. After entering the parking area, they were followed by the youth, who had been joined by a friend. When they got out of the cars in an attempt to enter the shop, the youth who had been standing on the corner said "If you get out that car, we'll bust out your car windows. This is klan territory, and what do you think you're doing here in the first place, nigger."

When Montague reached down to get his bucket, he was struck in the head by the same boy. His wife and brother jumped out of the car and hit the other boy, since the first one had fled. He ran screaming, "I'll be back for you, niggers."

After the incident, Coleman asked the store owner to call the police but they never arrived.

- Chicago Defender 9-1-82.

19. David Ciesnicki, a 25-year-old white counselor and machinist instructor at the Focus: HOPE industrial center in Detroit, was stabbed to death by a young black male at two in the morning on December 5, 1982. The intruder then raped Ciesnicki's black wife, forced her to drive him around the city for several hours while assaulting her, then released her. Ciesnicki had for several years made his career working among disadvantaged black youth, with whom he reportedly had excellent rapport.

- Michigan Chronicle 12-11-82, pp 1, 4.

20. When, on Dec 1, 1982, Benjamin Davis, 36, allegedly ran a red light in Southgate, a Detroit suburb, police from various suburbs eventually became involved in a chase which ended when Davis rammed his car into that of a neighbor on the Detroit street on which he lived with his wife, son and two step children. Davis fled on foot toward his house. The neighbor whose car he had rammed witnessed as Lincoln Park police officer Michael Killian shot twice, slaying Davis on the sidewalk. According to the neighbor, Aaron Trotter, Jr., Killian was close enough to Davis to have easily disabled him in the legs.

Killian was first held then released by order of a Detroit district court judge, pending investigation. The Davis shooting was the third in 21 months that suburban police pursued and killed Detroiters who had allegedly committed minor offences. On Feb 12 1981, Donald Ray Clark was pistol whipped to death by Dearborn police officer Gregory Tabaczynski after a high-speed chase. Clark had reportedly been stealing hubcaps. Tabaczynski was sentenced to 18 months to five years for manslaughter, but later freed on appeal bond. And in March of 1981, shoplifting suspect Theordic Johnson was shot to death by a St Clair Shores policeman after a high speed chase.

- Michigan Chronicle 12-4-82 pp 1,4.

21. In early 1982 the Michigan advisory committee to the U.S. Committee on Civil Rights released a report entitled "Hate Groups in Michigan: A Sham or a Shame?" The committee had been concerned with the escalation of racially and religiously motivated violence in Michigan and urged all public officials to take proper action in curtailing such violence.

Several recommendations were made in the report to federal, state and local officials which included the following: 1) to respond quickly and conduct full investigations of any incident relating to racial or religious harassment or violence; 2) to encourage affirmative action by law enforcement agencies in the



hiring of individuals representative of the communities they serve; 3) to teach in all schools studies relating to racial and religious discrimination; 4) to urge legislation banning cross burnings, para military camps operated explicitly for the purpose of teaching how to construct explosives to be used in creating civil disorder, and destruction of religious symbols or property of minorities.

A copy of the report can be acquired from the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Midwestern Regional Office, 230 S. Dearborn St., Room 3280, Chicago IL 60604, (312) 353-7371.

- Michigan Chronicle 9-18-82, p. 3.

22. On Wednesday Sept 29, 1982, Frank McGrone, a 40-year-old black man of Indianapolis reported to the Indianapolis Recorder that several incidents had occurred during the previous week. According to McGrone, a weekend supervisor with the Job Corps at Camp Atterbury since 1965, his car had been set afire on Sept 5, 1982 while parked in the lot at work. Prior to that, his home had been burned in 1980.

On Sept 20, 1982, McGrone received a telephone call at approximately 10:30 p.m. from someone under the pretense of having information about the burning of his car. He was told to drive to Camp Atterbury but while en route was forced off the road into a cornfield by headlights of an automobile being driven in the wrong lane.

When McGrone got out of his car, two white men were standing near the rear of the car. One was described as 6'2" tall, 200 pounds; the other was smaller. A pistol was held to his temple by the larger man and his hands and feet were tied with nylon cord by the other man. McGrone was hit in the head and chest and a heated wire was used to brand KKK marks on him. Later, he was hit in the face several times and knocked to the ground.

After the attackers left, McGrone was able to free his feet and walk to a house about 500 yards away. McGrone was fired from his job a few days later. One Job Corps official stated "It's because we fear for the safety of the students and staff." Sheriff Mike McElwain claimed the investigation was hampered by McGrone's fear.

- Indianapolis Recorder 10-2-82, pp 1, 19.

23. Clifford Redwine, his two sons Jack and Samuel, and Chester Strong, all white, were indicted by a federal grand jury in Indianapolis on Sept 8 1982 for firebombing and destroying the home Sammie Lee and Hattie Williams occupied with their four children in a formerly all-white area of Muncie, Indiana. The fire-bombing occurred at 3 a.m. on July 17, 1980, a month after the family had moved in. All six members of the family escaped without physical injury.

The indictments also charged the defendants with having thrown rocks through the Williams' windows on June 25, 1980, and with threats and intimidation designed to force the family to move. The defendants face possible penalties of up to 31 years and \$31,000. in fines.

- Bay State Banner 9-9-82, p. 14; Pittsburgh Courier 9-18-82, p. 5; Balto Afro American 9-4-82, p. 3; Chicago Defender 9-4-82, p. 18.

24. In August 1982, Joseph Paul Williams was found not guilty in the shooting of Vernon Jordan, former president of the National Urban League, by an all-white jury in South Bend, Ind. Although 46 witnesses were called during the five days of testimony, prosecutors were unable to secure adequate evidence against Franklin.

Judge Allen Sharp enjoined spectators prior to leaving the courtroom not to question any of the jurors about their decision.

- Jet 9-6-82, p. 38.

25. In Sept 1982, John and Betty Fort, a biracial couple in Seelyville, Ind, reported to the police that acts of vandalism had been perpetrated against their new home as they attempted to move into an all-white neighborhood.

According to Fort, vandals splashed paint on the house, broke windows, and burned a cross on the lawn. The police also discovered 11 handwritten notes of a racist nature on the porch, chunks of wood that had been thrown through windows, and an empty whiskey bottle. At the time of the incident, the couple's 16-year-old daughter, 13-year-old son, and a 5-year-old guest were at home. Al-



though there were no suspects, Fort believed that the vandalism was caused by the ku klux klan.

- Indianapolis Recorder 9-4-82, p. 1.

26. On Thursday morning, Oct 28, 1982, Richard B. Cook, a 20-year-old black man and his companion, 21-year-old Stephen B. Thomas, both of Marion County, Ind., and suspects in a jewelry robbery, were involved in a high speed chase with the police which ended in the shooting death of Cook by police. Different versions of what happened were reported to the Marion County grand jury. According to Thomas, he accompanied Cook inside Franklin Jewelry because Cook wanted to have a ring repaired. After the clerk turned her back, Cook grabbed a tray of rings and said, "Let's get out of here." After they left the store, Cook was driving his car and the police soon began pursuit. Thomas jumped from the car and surrendered. Cook lost control of his car in a churchyard after police fire mortally wounded him. According to Officers Stiegelmeier and TAYlor, who fired into the car, Cook "reached under the dashboard" and "their lives were endangered plus Cook was a fleeing suspected felon." Thomas and other witnesses said Cook had no weapon.

- Indianapolis Recorder 10-30-82 pp 1,9.

27. On Tuesday, Dec 7, 1982, James Macon, father of Rickey Jerome Macon, a 26-year-old black man who died at the Indiana State Farm Oct 6, 1981, filed an \$8 million suit against the state for the death of his son. According to the brief, it was "the denial of medical care so essential to life itself and so inappropriate in this case as to evidence intentional, willful and malicious maltreatment causing death." Rickey suffered an asthmatic attack after having been involved in a "near-riot" at the Indiana State Reformatory in Pendleton on Oct 4, 1981. The suit claims Macon was denied treatment because of his race.

- Indianapolis Recorder 12-11-82, p. 1.

28. On Nov 18, 1982, Vashti Armstrong and five family members went to an East Cleveland, Ohio police station to inquire about the incarceration of Mrs. Armstrong's 16-year-old son for fighting. An altercation began with police Sergeant Richards, who demanded the family leave. But outside on the street, the argument escalated into physical fighting when Mrs. Armstrong stepped between her children and the policeman who had followed them out. According to witnesses, Sgt Richards grabbed Mrs. Armstrong at that point, knocked her down and choked her. Her daughter, Carrie, jumped on Richards, grabbed his hair, pounded his back. Two other daughters ran home. Mrs. Armstrong was then, according to witnesses, beat by Richards while another officer held her against the wall of the police building. She was taken to the hospital where she was treated for facial lacerations and a possible concussion. She and Carrie were charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest and were jailed. Richards also filed charges against Carrie of assaulting a police officer.

The next day, the two daughters who had run home appeared again and were arrested after creating a disturbance. All family members remained in jail for four days. A Jan 12 1983 trial date was set. Meanwhile, the Armstrongs' attorney requested investigations by the FBI and by the East Cleveland Police Department.

- Cleveland Call and Post 12-25-82, pp. 1A, 4A.

29. On Dec 21, 1981, police arrested Pamela Gaines and Patricia Williams for shoplifting in a Maple Heights, Ohio shopping center. They were booked and put in jail. Bail was posted for Ms Gaines, but police erroneously released Ms Williams. Ms Gaines was later found hanging by her kneesocks, her lip cut and bruises on her body. Ms Gaines was engaged to be married and had just received a grant to return to cosmetology school. Her mother has accused police in this Cleveland suburb of venting on her daughter their anger for their mix-up in the release.

- The Brutal Truth, Winter, 1983, p. 5.

30. At 2 a.m. on Dec 15, 1981, police, answering a call by Cleveland residents that they suspected a home was being burglarized by armed men, knocked at the home of 24-year-old Kenneth Daniels. A friend in the house later stated he heard only the shots, no voices. The officer who shot, Walter Thomas, stated he gave no warning before shooting. Daniels was killed. Immediately after killing Daniels, Thomas went into the room where Daniels' friends were, reportedly told them he was afraid, made them lie down on the floor and threatened to shoot them. Police then ransacked the house and took some personal belongings. Thomas was not charged.

- The Brutal Truth, Winter 1983, p. 5.



31. On Oct 12, 1982, Ms Didomenico, a white English teacher at Charles A. Mooney Jr. High School in Cleveland, Ohio, was attempting to discipline 12-year-old Terrence Turnage. She pulled the youth to the side of the class and told him if he didn't begin to do his schoolwork he would turn out to be another "dumb black nigger." AT a meeting with the school principal and Mrs. Turnage, Terrence's mother, Ms Didomenico apparently admitted to having used a wrong choice of words, but according to Mrs. Turnage, the teacher talked around the issue and never gave her the apology she was demanding.

According to the principal, the matter was being blown out of proportion. She termed Terrence a habitual trouble-maker. One black teacher at the school stated however that the Turnage case was not an isolated incident: "Things of this sort have been going on for the last three years, but they have been covered up..." Her accusations were not corroborated however by other black teachers.

Terrence was suspended for three days, reportedly for tardiness. The suspension order was made the same day the story was originally carried in the Cleveland Call and Post. Subsequently, the school bus driver refused to let Terrence on the bus. Mrs. Turnage had to arrange for him to take another school bus.

- Cleveland Call and Post 10-23-82, pp 1, 4A; 11-6-82, pp 1, 4A.

32. Joseph D. Paskvan, white, dressed in a white tee shirt, was, according to witnesses, driving erratically down a Cleveland, Ohio street on July 23, 1982, and almost hit the car Michael Woods, a 24-year-old black man was driving. Down the street the two men stopped for a traffic light in parallel lanes. Woods and Paskvan exchanged words. Paskvan called Woods "nigger," according to reports, then shot Woods through the neck with a 9 mm automatic, which was on the seat beside him. Woods lost control of his car, which went through the intersection, hit a utility pole, and turned over twice.

Witnesses, including firemen from a station nearby, reportedly rushed up, looked in the car, noticed no gun or ammunition. Meanwhile, Paskvan came up, leaned across Woods' body, then went back to his car and changed into a police uniform. He told the crowd Woods had shot at him, and he thought he was a robber.

When other police arrived, they conferred with Paskvan, then went to his car and claimed to have found a bullet embedded in it. (No bullet was ever found, according to subsequent reports.) According to witnesses, Woods was holding his head and trying to talk as he lay on the ground, but police, guns drawn, kept everyone away. The shooting had occurred at 12:10 p.m. It was 1:40 when he was pronounced dead on arrival at Lakeside Hospital.

Paskvan was put on leave with pay and reportedly allowed to "volunteer" his time in the internal investigation division while his case was being investigated. It has been alleged that he answered the phone there, scaring off possible witnesses against him, and had free access to the files.

(The above information was provided to a Cleveland grassroots newsletter, The Brutal Truth, by Lucius Woods, whom we assume to be a relative. An article in the Cleveland Call and Post gives the name of the police officer as James C. Erne, a sergeant, and goes on to give the following follow-up information.)

Erne was exonerated of any wrongdoing by a grand jury (which refused to let one witness testify on the grounds he was too far away to have heard). He published a story in September 1982 in a Fraternal Order of Police magazine in which he called Woods "another of society's maggots." The slur provoked an outcry in the black community. Fred Johnson, president of the Black Shield Police Association (black), stated that such sentiment was widespread in the department.

- The Brutal Truth, vol. 1 no. 3 (winter, 1983), pp 8-10; Cleveland Call and Post 9-18-82, pp 1, 4.

33. A 23-year-old eastside Cleveland woman was abducted just before dawn on Oct 14, 1984 by a white male who threatened her with a 45 pistol as she walked toward a drug store. After forcing her into his car, he forced her to lie down, drove around, talking and hitting her on the head with the gun. He then entered a wooded area, robbed her of jewelry and \$200. and raped her. The woman was able to escape and, with the aid of a passing motorist, find her way to a hospital for treatment. It appears that no complaint was filed with the police.

- Cleveland Call and Post 10-16-82, p. 4A.



34. At about 2:30 a.m., October 2, 1982, Darryl Williams of Cleveland, Ohio, was driving through Collinwood with two companions. As he waited for a traffic light to change, a group of nine white males coming out of a bar called them "niggers." Williams cursed back. The men hit on his trunk and threw a car jack, smashing his windshield. Williams drove to a nearby police precinct, where he was reportedly told no squad cars were available to investigate, even though a woman (white) who had seen the incident came into the station, corroborating his story.

- Cleveland Call and Post 10-9-82, pp 1, 4A.

35. On Friday, October 29, 1982, an altercation developed between several white and black students at Collinwood High School in Collinwood, Ohio, which resulted in the injury of five students.

According to William Martin, principal, there had been a confrontation between the students earlier in the day and at about 2:15 p.m. they gathered outside the school building. Several carloads of adults from the neighborhood arrived at the school and handed out baseball bats to the white students.

Martin further stated that he had worked hard to eliminate periodic racial tension at the school which involved only a "certain element of both black and white students" and not the majority of the student body. He was also investigating the incident.

- Cleveland Call and Post 10-30-82, pp 1A, 4A.

36. In September 1982, Ms Gloria Martin and Dennis Burris, 17, both black and residents of the Wayne Miner Housing Project, filed complaints with the Office of Citizens Complaints against the Kansas City police department, charging police brutality. According to the victims, they were beaten by several police officers who were answering a disturbance call in the building where Ms Martin resided. Burris was a frequent visitor in the Martin's home and, after leaving at about 11:30 p.m. on August 24, 1982, en route to his home, the police "grabbed him and beat him."

Ms Martin sent a message to Mrs Burris, informing her of what was happening. When both women proceeded to the fourth floor where Dennis was being beaten, police officers told Mrs. Burris "to get her ass downstairs" and one said "if she didn't move, he would shoot her." Ms Martin was struck by a police officer with a night stick and choked with it. At the jail an officer allegedly struck her in the mouth and twisted her arm behind her back while she was being fingerprinted. Dennis was hospitalized for five days suffering from head injuries.

- Kansas City Call 9-23-82, p. 5.

37. Five Saudi's were attacked in December in Ottumwa, Iowa by residents with clubs, jealous of their wealth and their dates with white women.

- Norfolk Journal and Guide 12-22-82, p. 3.

#### EAST

38. On August 21, 1982, a gang of black youths attacked white passengers on a Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority (MBTA) line running from Forest Hills in Jamaica Plain to Oak Grove in suburban Malden. In face of pressure from local politicians, MBTA officials added six officers to the line on an overtime basis, and pledged the immediate hiring of 14 additional MBTA officers.

- Bay State Banner 9-2-82, p. 1.

39. Kevin McElroy, a 21-year-old employee at Boston City Hospital, brought charges before the hospital administration that on July 6, 1982, he was the victim of an unprovoked attack by security guards or city police. McElroy had tried to settle a dispute between a former neighbor seeking to see his nephew after visiting hours and security guards, who did not accept his assertion that he had special visiting privileges. The neighbor was arrested by police officers detailed to the hospital and McElroy walked away from the scene. He states he was then assaulted by men in blue uniforms, kned in the face, kicked and punched. One asked him: "What did you call me, motherfucker." A month after the incident, hospital administrators held an informal hearing, after which a spokesman stated that there was a lot of conflicting testimony, but that he would soon conclude his inquiry.

- Bay State Banner 9-9-82, p. 1.

40. On Sept 28, 1979, Darryl Williams, then a 15-year-old high school football player in Boston, was shot in the neck during a game at Charleston High School, located in an all white neighborhood. He suffered paralyzing injuries.



In September 1982, Williams filed a \$3 million suit against Mayor Kevin White and school and law enforcement officials charging they "knew, or should have known, that holding an interracial athletic event in Charlestown would pose a grave peril to the safety of black persons." The DA, assistant DA and police commissioner were also named, on charges that they "failed to ascertain or disclose the true facts regarding the shooting."

- Bay State Banner 9-30-82, p. 12.

41. Charles Prater, the young Boston father whose car was smashed on August 8 1982 by white youths hurling racial epithets as he sat inside with his wife and children, was forced to stand trial for allegedly striking one of his assailants. Although he was cleared on Sept 27, 1982, he described the court experience as frustrating and did not look forward to grand jury hearings to determine whether indictments for assault and battery against his assailants should be handed down. He stated however that he fully intended to see the case through.

Although police would not typify the attack as racially motivated, Prater's wife testified that the white youths yelled at them as they smashed: "We're going to kill you, you fucking niggers. Your're going to die, die, die!" (See also RMRV 2, v-vi, #63)

- Bay State Banner 10-14-82, pp 3, 23.

42. Michael Gaine, the 18-year-old white teen-ager arrested for gross lewdness (exposing himself and urinating) and racial harassment and insults hurled at a black family living across the street from a playground in Boston's Hyde Park area, was released without bond. Judge Augustine Cannon stated he released Gaine because the charge went in as a misdemeanor. Police state the charge is a felony. Whatever the apparent recording mix-up, Gaine, if convicted, could serve up to three years on the lewdness charge. He pled not guilty to defying a court order specifically forbidding harassment of Hyde Park residents. Convicted of contempt however, he was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

- Balto Afro American 9-1-82, p. 1;

Jet 9-6-82, 9-13-82, p. 54, 9-20-

82, p. 6; National Leader 9-9-82, p. 6.

43. On March 19, 1982, Michael Kee was on duty as a security guard at the Orchard Park housing project recreation center in Dorchester, Mass. when 16-year-old Jeffrey Robinson and friends entered. Kee fired a shot, killing Robinson. The action angered residents, who stated Robinson and his friends were in the building to attend a night game and that Kee overreacted.

In the face of mounting disgruntlement, the Suffolk County DA's office filed a murder complaint against Kee in Oct 1982, but a Roxbury district court judge ruled there was no probable cause to charge Kee, by then working in West Virginia.

- Bay State Banner 10-14-82, p. 22;  
11-11-82, p. 1.

44. Two white 16-year-old Dorchester, Mass. youths were arrested and found guilty in juvenile court of the May 19, 1982 firebombing of a home occupied by three black women and their children (See RMRV 2, v-vi #68). The two were then released, as first offenders. Two other white youths were also suspects in the case. Their disposition was unclear.

The racial harassment endured by the black women and children in the predominantly white Dorchester neighborhood ultimately forced them out of their homes. They are suing the mayor and the city for tolerating an atmosphere in which lawlessness toward blacks prevails.

- Bay State Banner 9-9-82, p. 3.

45. Massachusetts State Education Comr. John Lawson stated in late 1982 that he had received reports of written or verbal racial epithets in as many as 50 communities across the state, and increasing numbers of complaints from Jewish and black citizens. In late August 1982, the Massachusetts State Board of Education called for the Equal Educational Opportunity Bureau and school officials to discipline students for racially motivated acts of hostility or vandalism.

- Bay State Banner 9-2-82, pp 1, 20.

46. At about midnight, Oct 4, 1982, Marvin Olliver and his fiancée Priscilla Jackson were stopped on a Jersey City street in what, according to Olliver, officers Robert Cowan and Ernest Guimano described as a routine check.



Olliver could not produce the correct car registration (Ms Jackson stated her family had two cars and she had picked up the wrong registration.) Olliver stated Cowan pushed him onto the hood of the car, verbally abused him and choked him with his night stick. He was taken to the stationhouse and Ms Jackson's car impounded, while she was left on the street. Olliver states that at the stationhouse, Guimano pushed him into the bars of the holding cell several times. Other white police stood around and said nothing. Meanwhile, Ms Jackson and Olliver's sister arrived at the station. Olliver was released eight hours later, with bruises on his hand, neck and side. He required five stitches in his leg.

Police stated Olliver was arrested for driving with a broken tail light. Olliver states witnesses can verify the light was not broken at the time of arrest. He states further that while the car was impounded, the light was broken, seats were ripped and the steering column was broken. Olliver was charged with aggravated assault and obstructing the work of a police officer. Police claim they do not know how his injuries were sustained.

Concerned citizens of Jersey City pressed for a City Council probe, and Olliver pressed charges against Cowan and Guimano. Cowan was at the time of the incident under internal investigation on similar charges.

- Black American 10-28-82, p. 31.

47. The Guardian Angels and widow of slain Guardian Angel Frank Melvin, a black man, filed charges in late October 1982 in District Court in Newark N.J. accusing Newark police officers Donald Karas and Milton E. Medina, Police Director Hubert Williams, and Mayor Kenneth Gibson of conspiring "to hide, cover up, falsely justify and obstruct the prosecution of criminal complaints against the officers by procuring false and fraudulent reports from the medical examiner and the police department, and that the defendants disseminated lies and untruths."

It is to be noted that Karas and Medina had recently filed a slander suit against Guardian Angel leader Curtis Sliwa. Attorneys for the Angels state their suit has no connection to the one filed by the police.

- Baltimore Afro American 11-6-82, p. 1.

48. Services were held at the House of the Lord church in Brooklyn on Nov 30, 1982 in commemoration of the death of 15-year-old Randolph Evans of East New York. Evans was killed on Thanksgiving 1976 by patrolman Robert Torsney, who fired at the youth at point blank range outside the latter's apartment building. There was no apparent provocation, according to reports. Torsney was acquitted in 1977 of any wrong-doing by a Brooklyn grand jury by reason of "temporary insanity" and removed from the force.

The acquittal sparked protests and community organizing which led to the establishment of the New York Black United Front and to the Randolph Evans Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Randolph Evans Community Crisis Center.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 11-27-82, p. 13.

49. According to Mrs. Zuma Ruiz, police from New York's 77th precinct beat her husband, a Panamanian tailor, in Sept 1982 when they failed to find narcotics on him. She stated he was so badly beaten she could not recognize him. He was killed by 77th precinct police in another narcotics raid later that year. According to a witness, Ruiz had raised his hands in the air in apparent surrender before he was shot. Another witness related that an unmarked car pulled up to Ruiz and two men in civilian dress got out with pistols drawn. Ruiz ran and one of the armed men shot. The same witness further states that when she maintained her account after a police interrogation and tried to round up witnesses, a policeman told her "Bitch, shut up. You're starting a racial thing."

Mrs. Ruiz and the Black United Front are pressing the Brooklyn D.A.'s office to investigate the incident.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 12-25-82, p. 5.

50. On August 6 1982, 17-year-old Braxton Mitchell, a black Boston Youth, was gunned down by a Boston policeman--who stated Mitchell was trying to run him down in a stolen car. According to eyewitness Arthur Dewberry, Mitchell was trying to escape without harming the officer. Stated deputy police superintendent Paul Johnson: "There is no indication of any wrong-doing on the part of the officers involved." Mitchell died three weeks later.

- The Militant, rpt The Black American 9-16-82, p. 19.



51. On Thursday, Oct 7, 1982, over 20 police entered a black gay bar on W. 43rd Street in Manhattan. They reportedly yelled "All you niggers to the back!" Then began beating and robbing patrons, and smashing things up. No arrests were made. Police reportedly claimed they were called to the bar to quell a disturbance, but those present in the bar have denied that any fight was taking place.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 10-9-82, p. 5;  
10-23-82, p. 14.

52. On Oct 19, 1982, as strikers were picketing outside the Center for Problems of Living in Harlem, someone threw a bottle near a police officer. The officer approached Allen Anderson, in the line, and when Anderson denied any knowledge of the incident, reportedly said "I will break his fucking head and have him arrested." The officer then reportedly began to beat Anderson. When Wakil Shakur, another striker, approached, the officer beat him too.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 10-23-82, p. 23.

53. Louise Grimes, an elevator operator at Kings County N.Y. Hospital, was, according to witnesses, beaten and dragged through the hall by hospital security officers, then arrested. According to Elizabeth Grace, Kings County personnel director, other accounts indicate Ms Grimes was seeking entry through an unauthorized gate, and an altercation ensued, as a result of which, a security officer was treated for injuries. She stated the matter was under investigation.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 10-16-82, p. 9.

54. At 3:15 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 25, 1982, Brooklyn police officers Richard Figueroa and Joseph Birro returned to the scene of a domestic argument with Evelyn Hayward, who had been locked out of the house by her brother, Fred Hayward. When Hayward's girl friend, Gwen Morris, asked police what they wanted, Biro reportedly retorted: "You mind your own business, bitch." Thereupon Hayward asked the two officers to leave. Hayward stated they started smashing dishes and glasses on the table, and Biro "stuck a gun in my ribs and told me that he'll blow me away."

The policemen left about 15 minutes after their arrival, apologizing to each other and to Ms Morris. Morris and Fred Hayward went immediately to the precinct to file a complaint. Hayward stated Figueroa and Biro followed, then sat in a patrol car watching as they went in. When they returned, all four tires had been slashed. They reentered the precinct, and Ms Morris asked Figueroa about the tires. She reports he pushed her, and then "a sergeant nearby jumped over a desk and hustled the two officers out of the room." Ms Morris stated she planned to sue. A police department spokesperson said the complaint was being investigated.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 11-27-82, p. 9.

55. Ronald Rodney, 32, is a Rastafarian and wears his hair in plaited, uncombed "dreadlocks." He stated that during a job interview at Jack Werner Steel Shipping Company in New York, the interviewer, Jack Luckner, rudely dismissed him when he saw his hair. When Rodney protested "his blatant discriminatory attitude," he states Luckner picked up a steel bar.

Rodney filed a complaint with the New York State Division of Human Rights.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News, 10-23-82, p. 58.

56. Officials of Erie County, N.Y., and the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce had pledged a total of \$100,000. reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a white man who was ravaging the community with racially motivated murders. A suspect, Army Pvt. Joseph Christopher, was in effect arrested on the strength of information provided by two black Army nurses. (See RMRV 1, vi-vii, pp. 25-26; 1, viii-ix, # 2; 2, v-vi #46).

Despite the decision by ARMY officials that the nurses were entitled to collect, the agencies decided not to pay, based on an opinion by former DA Edward Cosgrove (in office when Christopher was arrested) that, as Army personnel dealing with Army personnel, they would be ineligible. Black leaders in the community are charging discrimination.

- National Leader 12-23-82, pp. 1, 3.

57. Bantam weight boxing champion Jeff Chandler became involved in an argument with two white men on a Philadelphia street after his car was blocked by that of one of the men. After one of them punched him, eight other whites joined in, one of them stabbing Chandler in the back. Chandler drove himself to the hospital, where he was treated, then released.

- Jet Sept 13, 1982, p. 51.



58. Michael McDonald, 21, had been arrested along with his two companions for the April 16, 1982 racial murder of John H. Jabbar Eaddy on a Philadelphia street (see RMRV 2, iii-iv #37). However, at a September preliminary hearing, one of McDonald's co-defendants, William Powers, reneged on a plea-bargain with the DA's office and refused to testify against McDonald. Charges against the latter were dropped.

McDonald was rearrested October 20, 1982 on the basis of new evidence. At a Common Pleas Court hearing on Nov. 27, 1982, Brian Polisano, 15, testified that McDonald hit Eaddy repeatedly on the head with a board as Eaddy lay on the ground.

However, Polisano, who had been granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for his testimony, shifted the burden of responsibility in his testimony from himself and the eight other whites with him at the time of the incident. He stated that Eaddy and Willoughby (who had also been attacked but survived) "started exchanging words with us" and that Eaddy tried to strike one of the whites with a "rod" after they told him they "did not want any trouble."

On the basis of this "new" evidence, the Powers brothers, Thomas (22) and William (19) and McDonald (21) were charged with 3rd degree murder.

- Philadelphia Tribune 10-22-82, pp 1,17;  
10-24-82, pp 1, 19; 10-26-82 pp 1, 35;  
10-29-82, pp 1, 26; 11-30-82, p. 2.

59. Patricia Johnson and Joseph Drumwright were accosted by three teen-agers on a Philadelphia street the night of August 27 or 29 (source is not clear) 1982. According to Ms Johnson, Drumwright was fighting them off when police arrived. They reportedly grabbed Drumwright, held him on the ground, handcuffed and beat him. When Ms Johnson asked why her friend was being beaten, she states she was hit with a night stick.

Police took Drumwright to a hospital and dropped Ms Johnson off at the home of Drumwright's mother, turning down her request to be driven home. Ms Johnson states her friend's mother "called police when she saw that my bone was sticking out of my arm." At the hospital, the police who had hit her told Ms Johnson "You should not have been trying to tell me what to do," according to her statement. She responded she was going to report him. Five minutes later, a sergeant came to her bedside and arrested her.

Police state while they were attempting to subdue Drumwright, Ms Johnson tried to remove an officer's gun from its holster and had to be restrained with a nightstick. Police stated she fled the scene, but concur she was arrested at Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital.

- Philadelphia Tribune 9-10-82, pp 1, 20.

60. On Nov 12, 1982, Rev. Clarence Robertson, 36, a black former police officer turned minister and social worker, was evicted by city police from a West Philadelphia building at the request of Drexel University, which claimed to own the building, in which Robertson had taken up residence with his three children two weeks earlier.

According to police, Robertson attacked them and was arrested for assault, terroristic threats and squatting. According to Robertson, he invited the policemen (who, from photographs, appear to be white) in to discuss the eviction, turned to reenter the building and was struck on the back of the head. Witnesses stated that when they saw Robertson in the doorway, he appeared calm and passive and handcuffed. They report seeing no scuffle, but corroborate that Robertson and police went inside the building. Newspaper photographs show a battered and bleeding Robertson being led away in handcuffs, and minister's collar.

Robertson stated he thought the building was owned by the city of Philadelphia. An official of the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority denied this, but research done by the Philadelphia Tribune showed the property had been owned by the Redevelopment Authority since 1967. (The property--and Drexel University, with its white majority student and faculty--are in a poor and blighted majority-black neighborhood).

Rev. Robertson stated he wanted to start a stress clinic for police, and had collected over \$30,000. worth of donations to that end. He was working with teen-aged street gangs in an organization he had started at the time of his arrest. He faced a possible total sentence of five years on charges of criminal



trespassing, terroristic threats, and assault and battery. It was conceded by police authorities that they are legally barred from eviction action; the sheriff's office has jurisdiction in such cases. Community groups joined with Robertson in demanding the assault charges be dropped.

- Philadelphia Tribune 11-16-82, pp 1, 23;  
11-30-82, p 1.

61. As a response to increasing racial violence in South Philadelphia, the West Philadelphia Community Mental Health Consortium began offering credit courses in the fall of 1981 in "Conflict Resolution Skills Training." The high schools targeted were John Bartram, West Philadelphia Catholic Girls and West Catholic Boys. The project was funded by a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

- Philadelphia Tribune 9-21-82, p. 5.

62. Two white Philadelphia men, John Christiansen, 19 and his brother Russell, 23, pleaded guilty on Sept 24, 1982 to charges of aggravated assault and conspiracy in the April 4 1982 attack on weightlifter Greg Mackrides. All three men are white.

But Mackrides was attacked because he came to the defense of a 14-year-old black youth, Warren Parks, as Parks waited for a trolley with a 14-year-old white female companion. The Christiansen brothers came up to Parks, threatening and hurling racial slurs. Parks ran down the street, finally entering Mackrides' health club. The Christiansens' burst in, one with a police night stick and one with a baseball bat. When Mackrides refused to turn over "the little nigger" as the brothers put it, they each attacked him on the head and one slashed his face with a steak knife.

Mackrides called to Parks to get help. By the time the manager of the 7-11 store across the street responded with .45 in hand, the Christiansens had fled. Police recovered the baseball bat and the steak knife. The car in which the Christiansens were driving was traced through the license number, which a passer-by had taken down. Mackrides spent 14 days in the hospital recovering. He will be unable to compete in the 1984 olympics as a result of his injuries. Common Pleas Court judge Alfred DiBona sentenced both Christiansen brothers to four to ten years on December 17, 1982.

- Philadelphia Tribune 9028-82, pp 1,9;  
12-21-82, pp 1, 19.

63. On May 6, 1981, the suburban Roslyn, Pa home of Michael Grant was fire-bombed when white youths threw gasoline-filled wine bottle with a lit fire-cracker taped to it, in what was reportedly their effort to solve Roslyn's "Black Problem." A white neighbor's home--which the youths mistakenly took for a black home--was also torched.

Subsequently arrested were Franco Bucci, 22, Robert Hower, 21, Stephen Gulden, 20, Eugene Pasioka, 20 and Francis Bottone, 20. A Montgomery county grand jury handed down presentments stating that the suspects had been "animated solely by racism," and that after several meetings, they had decided to "get the niggers out of Roslyn."

Elsewhere in Roslyn, the garage of another black family was vandalized and spray-painted with the word "nigger."

Roslyn, a middle-class community of about 6,000 in Abington, Pa, has in fact seen its eight or nine per cent black population victimized and vandalized since 1977. In 1978, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission criticized local police for failing to act, and worked for the creation of the Community Relations Committee. Its chairperson, Joanne Weaver, discounts the likelihood of organized klan activity, and recently stated the police were "conducting a very intensive investigation" into the vandalism which continues to plague Roslyn.

- Philadelphia Tribune 8-10-82, p. 1;  
9-17-82, p. 1.

64. Herman and Earnestine Ward and their five children are the only black family in Chester, Pennsylvania's Eleventh Ward, known as a Republican stronghold. They began experiencing racially motivated harassment within three months after moving into their home in 1980. Their children have endured racial slurs and beatings, and their windows have been broken. Local police officials appear to have been treating Ward's complaints as a low priority, indicating they lack sufficient evidence of disturbance.

- Philadelphia Tribune 9-24-82, pp 1, 19.



65. On a warm Sunday in October 1981, neighbors watched as 47-year-old Marne Toogood, a black used-goods dealer, shoved two police officers out of his Chester, Pa. home. As he stood in his doorway, he was shot twice in the mouth and once in the chest by a third officer, Thomas Boden (white). Boden was eventually sentenced to a \$500 fine, 500 hours of community work, and two years probation for involuntary manslaughter. His right to bear firearms and to seek police work were taken from him.

There was mixed reaction in the black community to the sentence, which carries no jail time. Many felt that no guilty verdict at all would have been handed down without pressure from the black community, which had organized a Citizens Coalition for Justice for Marne Toogood.

- Philadelphia Tribune 9-3-82, p. 1.

66. Robert Garner, 35, a tall, black, disabled veteran, was pursued by police in the Squirrel Hill section of Pittsburgh, early on the morning of Oct 8, 1982, in response to a call from a woman resident, who claimed he was leaning on a neighbor's van. Police unleashed an attack dog, and when Garner fought him off, pursued him on foot. One officer claims to have been struck unconscious from behind. Garner sustained a bullet wound in the chest, narrowly missing his heart. Police were vague as to who shot him or why.

At a magistrate's hearing on Oct 18, 1982, charges of striking the policeman and the dog, and of theft were dropped for lack of evidence. Garner still faced charges of resisting arrest and aggravated assault. Stated Garner's brother, Rev. Garfield Garner: "It was clearly a case of Negrophobia. A big, black man walking, who wouldn't stop."

- Pittsburgh Courier 10-30-82, pp 1,2.

#### SOUTH

67. The National Alliance has published a credo which includes among its tenets: "...no multi-racial society can be a truly healthy society...America's present deterioration stems from her loss [sic] of racial homogeneity..." The National Alliance also publishes a newsletter, the National Vanguard, whose June 1982 issue charged that the YWCA has been taken over by "lesbians, feminists and racial egalitarians." The newsletter has a Washington, D.C. post office box.

- Mobile Beacon 9-25-82, p. 4.

68. Although more than 500 cases of klan violence and an equal number of cases of random racial violence have been documented in the recent past, the Justice Department has only prosecuted 20. This is because the Federal government claims jurisdiction in only a limited number of "specifically protected activities," such as voting, use of public facilities, etc. The National Anti-Klan Network (NAKN) opposes this posture, contending that the right to life is federally protected, and that sufficient laws are on the books to cover other cases. NAKN chairperson Rev. C.T. Vivian made these remarks as the Network launched its 1983 campaign to end racial violence with a mass petition drive. Thousands of signatures were to be delivered to Reagan and Attorney General William French Smith during the 20th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington.

- Baltimore Afro American 1-15-83.

69. On Sept 1 or 8 (sources give conflicting dates) 1982, 25-year-old Rupert Campbell, a Jamaican-born construction worker, went to the neighborhood store in a Jamaican neighborhood in Pimlico, in north Baltimore, to get a \$300. money order to pay his rent. According to witnesses, a white police officer came up to him on the corner and began searching him. Campbell broke away, ran down the street, and dived through a plate glass window into a neighbor's house, running into the basement. Several police gave chase; one, appearing at the doorway to the basement with a gun drawn, ordered the resident--who had been sleeping--to come upstairs. They shackled Campbell and put leg irons on him, and beat him. Campbell lost consciousness, and was pronounced dead at Sinai Hospital.

The Medical examiner later stated he had found no gunshot wounds, and that injuries sustained by the victim did not seem substantial enough to cause death. He noted a deep cut on the left thigh, which he theorized was received when Campbell dived through the glass door, and which could have caused him to bleed to death.

Police state they were on the corner as the result of a tip about a drug stash and approached Campbell when they noticed a bulge in his pocket (the rent money). Three officers followed Campbell into the house. One fired a shot at him, during the chase, reportedly believing he saw Campbell point a gun at him. No weapon was found on the victim.



A crowd had gathered, mostly Jamaicans, during the incident, and had watched the pursuit and beating, which they could see through the windows. Many expressed outrage, and stated their community was constantly being harassed by police. Police spokesman Dennis Hill, on the other hand, stated that after the incident, Jamaicans and other area residents "shot out the street lights. They were walking around the street firing guns."

Police made 175 drug arrests, 17 arrests for armed robbery and 21 arrests for handgun violations on one corner in Pimlico between January 1, 1982 and the time of the incident. A strike force of 140 equipped with rifles and shotguns conducted a raid at 6:15 a.m. on September 15, arresting 29 people; drugs, hand- and shotguns and ammunition were confiscated, though it was not stated whether the firearms were licensed. Some of those arrested were Rastafarians (only seven were Jamaicans). Hill said the Rastafarians "were kicked out of Washington, kicked out of Prince Georges County and kicked out of New York City. We're in the process of doing the same." Hill stated further: "We were told that there were carefully hidden shotguns on the roof of a house. We believe under some type of sham they were going to get police in the area and start shooting." Other sources indicate police used battering rams to break down doors and ransacked houses. A 74-year-old man was forced at gun-point to lie down on his front porch when he came out of his house to see what was happening. \$8,500. was confiscated from the Ace of Spades grocery store. After entering his house without a warrant, police reportedly put a gun to a man's neck, forced him to walk around the house, goaded him to reach for a gun, arrested him on drug charges, though no drugs were ever found.

- Baltimore Afro American 9-11-82, pp 1-2; 9-14-82, pp 1-2; The Militant, rpt The Black American 10-14-82, p. 18.

70. David Bouth, a black federal prosecutor, has accused Virginia Federal District judge D. Dortch Warriner (white) of handing down stiffer sentences to black defendants than to white. He cited cases where a white man, convicted of conspiring to obstruct justice, threatening a witness and income tax evasion was sentenced to six months in prison; another white man, convicted of income tax evasion, making false statements and attempting to influence a grand jury witness, was given ten months in prison and fined 25,000. and cases where a black man who stole \$3,000. worth of military jackets was given 14 months in jail and fined 5,000; a black man convicted of stealing 12 rifles was sentenced to 30 months. (No information is available as to what the prior record was in each of these four cases.)

- Bay State Banner 10-21-82, p. 11.

71. One hundred forty-five demonstrators, including Walter Fauntroy (D - D.C.) were jailed September 27, 1982 by order of N.C. Governor Jim Hunt, for demonstrating against the dumping of toxic wastes in Warren County, N.C., which is 75% black. Also jailed were Mrs Evelyn Lowery, wife of SCLC's national president, and Dr. Curtis Harris, head of SCLC's Virginia state unit.

The decision to use Warren County to dump the lethal pesticide PCB was taken after white residents of Chapel Hill and four other predominantly white counties objected. Dr. Charles E. Cobb, of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, called the decision racist, and "just one more example of the attitude that the Black community can be dumped on."

- Philadelphia Tribune 9-28-82, p. 4; Norfolk Journal and Guide, rpt Philadelphia Tribune 10-5-82, p. 3.

72. On May 3, 1982, Chester Reams, a 37-year-old black man of Durham, N.C., was killed by a hit-and-run driver as he walked along Guess Road with his white female companion, Ms. Patricia Reid. The driver, Robert B. Grimes, a 19-year-old white, was charged with involuntary manslaughter and hit-and-run. The incident occurred about 10:30 p.m.

According to Ms Reid and the brother of Reams, who also allegedly witnessed the death, the car first passed the couple headed in the opposite direction, swung around, hit Reams and sped away with its headlights off." Ms Reid further states that Grimes had yelled racial epithets when he first passed them and that she recognized him from having had past drug dealings with her brother.

As the trial approached for Sept. 13, 1982, the question foremost in the minds of local black citizens was whether or not the incident fit the pattern of racially motivated random violence that has been on the upswing.

- Carolina Times 9-11-82, pp 1, 8.



73. In November 1982, Leroy McNeil, a 26-year-old black man of Durham, N.C., filed a \$650,000. suit against ABC officer Ronald Allen, the county, and the ABC office after having alleged police brutality. McNeil's suit came as a result of having been assaulted by Allen with a flashlight when he and two other Durham County ABC officers attempted to raid his mother's house which had been suspected of "bootleg" activities.

McNeil charged that his hearing has been permanently impaired in both ears since receiving a blow to the head by Allen. He is seeking \$400,000 in actual damages and \$250,000 in punitive damages. The McNeil suit is one of several in the U.S. that have been filed by citizens against law enforcement officers charging police brutality. Since it is usually difficult for citizens who file criminal charges against the police to receive retribution, many resort to seeking a federal investigation and file a civil suit. AS a result of the increase of police brutality, many citizens are winning cases and are awarded large payments. According to the U.S. Justice Department statistics, 45 per cent of the people killed by the police in this country are black. In larger cities the figure can be as high as 70 per cent.

- Carolina Times 9-20-82 pp 1, 7.

74. On October 28, 1982, Danny Winstead, a disturbed Vietnam veteran, began battering the hood and windows of cars passing him on a Durham N.C. street with a 2 x 4 length of wood. Five Duke police drove up in response to a call by witnesses. One of them, according to some of these same witnesses, told Winstead to drop the wood. Winstead reportedly swung at an officer, later identified as Edward Godley. Godley fired. Then, as Winstead turned away to run, three more shots were fired by Godley. SEveral witnesses asserted the officer fired no warning shots, and that the last shot must have hit Winstead in the back. Another, however, stated she heard five shots, of which three were warning shots. Another witness stated the police actually chased Winstead. A former Duke public safety officer stated it was not the department's policy to fire warning shots.

- Carolina Times 10-30-82, p. 1.

75. According to the S.C. Chronicle, there has been a noticeable drop in incidences of police brutality since Reuben Greenberg, a black, took office as chief of the Charleston, S.C. police department. Departmental policy, according to Greenberg, was to investigate every case in which force was used to arrest a suspect. Between April 14, 1982 and September 18, 1982, no complaints were registered against Charleston police. Force was used 97 times, a decrease, but arrests were up 28 per cent. Police fired four shots in that time, none of which resulted in death.

Two weeks after these statements, Chief Greenberg passed around a "dangerous-looking" toy pistol to a group of reporters. Roscoe Little had been holding the unloaded starter pistol designed to fire blanks when three Charleston policemen, on September 25, 1982, fired six bullets into him. The confrontation began when Little went outside a pool hall to stop an argument between his brother and another man who had cut his brother on the arm. Little's other brother, Peter, and a friend were trying to coax the blank gun away from him when police drove up. According to Peter Little: "One of them jumped out and just started shooting." Nathaniel Montgomery, in whose pool hall Little had been, stated the officers watched the scene a few moments, then got out of the patrol car, telling Little to drop the gun. Instead he turned and pointed the gun. They fired eight to ten shots then stood over Little and fired three more, according to Montgomery. Chief Greenberg stated the officers, Al Buford, James Simmons and David Williams, were justified in firing as their victim reportedly drunk, continued to advance on them, defying their drawn .38's. Greenberg dismissed as irrelevant witnesses statements that Little was shot at least three times after he fell to the ground.

Greenberg resisted charges from the black community that excessive force had been used. An internal investigation concluded no wrongdoing. Said Greenberg: "I'm not going to throw cops to 'em." Criticism persisted, however, that police had not used common sense. Local PUSH and NAACP officials stated they would press for a federal investigation, and Charleston City Councilman Robert Ford advised local residents to submit a petition to City Council, for forwarding to the Justice Department. The incident also sparked debate about police brutality generally, with advice being printed in the black press as to how to behave if approached by police.

- Charleston Chronicle 9-18-82, pp. 1,4;  
10-2-82, p. 3; 10-9-82, p. 1; 10-16-82,  
p. 5.



76. Three white male prisoners at the county jail in Kingstree, S.C. filed a federal lawsuit against Theodore McFarlin, the state's first black sheriff since Reconstruction, and two black jailers he suspended charging that on August 1, 1982, they were beaten and sexually assaulted by seven black inmates for six hours, and that McFarlin and the two jailers ignored their screams. McFarlin was indicted October 28, 1982 by a county grand jury, and Gov. Dick Riley immediately suspended him replacing him with a black state trooper, George D. Fulton. McFarlin faces a possible sentence of up to eleven years in prison and fines up to \$1,000.

- Baltimore Afro-American 10-30-82, p. 1;  
National Leader 11-11-82, p. 5.

77. Julian McKay, white, claimed he was beaten by Shelby County, Tenn. sheriff's deputy Robert L. Anderson, black, in 1981 following a disturbance in a restaurant parking lot. McKay was fired, but later reinstated by the civil service commission. His first trial ended in a mistrial, but he was acquitted by a majority white jury at his second trial. According to Anderson's attorney, cases of this type are not normally retried, if a verdict is not reached at the first trial.

- National Leader 11-4-82 p. 6.

78. The attorney for three black inmates accused of stabbing James Earl Ray 22 times in a Tennessee Prison has charged that Ray staged the stabbing to get sympathy just before coming before the parole board. Ray is serving a life sentence for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The attorney, Isaiah S. Gant, further charged that his clients are all officers of the militant all-black Alkebu-Lan, an inmate organization which had sponsored a hunger strike two days before the stabbing, protesting certain prison conditions such as food, shelter and inhumane treatment. He states prison officials became wary when white prisoners joined in the strike, and are seeking to undermine the group.

- Chicago Defender 10-5-82 p. 4.

79. On Thursday, November 4, 1982, the Georgia State Conference of NAACP Branches appealed to the Georgia Supreme Court to review the criminal conviction of Tom Shaw, an imprisoned black civil rights activist of Dooly County (see RMRV 1, vi-vii, p. 12). Robert Flanagan, president of the state NAACP organization and director of field operations for the Atlanta-based Voter Education Project, said: "Judicial proceedings such as the Shaw case create the impression in the minds of Georgians, including most black Georgians, that our judicial system is used in a racially discriminatory manner to disadvantage blacks in general and civil rights activists in particular and that procedural shortcuts such as trying defendants without attorneys, will be employed, if necessary, to convict civil rights activists who local officials dislike."

- Atlanta Constitution 11-5-82, p. 24A.

80. During late summer or early fall of 1982 Senator Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.) presented a speech to the Senate which stated that several NATO allies are compelling the United States to lessen the number of blacks at its European military installations. Hollings, in a letter to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, urged that such thoughts be rejected publicly by the department. Hollings requested to be apprised of whether the issue had been discussed, the names of allies involved, how it was presented to the U.S. government, and the U.S. response in each instance.

- Indianapolis Recorder 9-4-82, p. 3.

81. In December 1982, U.S. District Judge Dudley Bowen prohibited a town ordinance in Wrightsville, Georgia that would allow the local police to indiscriminately arrest "without probable cause anyone previously arrested or suspected of a crime." Two years earlier, the police had followed such an ordinance after a disturbance erupted in the town and 150 blacks were arrested. Some of those arrested were elderly, others had been attending church, and still others were sitting on their front porches. (See also RMRV 2, i-ii, #1, pp. 9-10).

- Atlanta Constitution 12-30-82.

82. Mrs. Gwendolyn Sims of Atlanta filed a \$7 million suit against police officer R.C. Sampson and former chief George Napper (now Commissioner of Public Safety) in November of 1982. The suit charges that Sampson beat her husband, 54-year-old Kirby Sims, on November 19, 1980, precipitating two strokes which caused his death. Sampson had ordered Sims to put out a fire in his front yard (Sims was burning leaves). The beating reportedly occurred when Sims turned his back on Sampson. Sims had a history of heart problems.

In another case involving Sampson, U.S. District Judge Orinda Evans ruled in



June of 1982 that Sampson and another officer had struck Thomas E. Patillo without provocation on January 1, 1980 because he resisted questioning. Patillo died as a result of the beating. Judge Evans awarded his family \$25,000.

- Atlanta Daily World 11-23-82, pp 1, 4.

83. Justice Department records made public in the Fall of 1982 revealed that the FBI failed to prosecute former klansman Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr. for acts of violence he committed in the 1960's, including his possible involvement in the murder of civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo. Rowe, an FBI informant at the time, was considered "too valuable." Rowe is now believed to be living in Georgia under the FBI's witness protection plan.

The disclosure was made after Playboy magazine won a Freedom of Information suit. The information will probably greatly aid Mrs. Liuzzo's five children, who have sued the federal government for \$2 million on grounds that it failed to control Rowe.

- Atlanta Daily World 11-2-82, p. 1.

84. On September 24, 1981, three guards at Reidsville State Prison, Georgia, watched as three white inmates attacked two black inmates with knives. They did nothing. One of the black prisoners, Michael Blackwell, died as a result of his injuries. The other black inmate, Franklin Rivers, survived his 32 stab wounds. The attack occurred later in the day during which black inmates had attacked whites.

A memo by the warden's administrative assistant which gives the account of the incident states that a prison sergeant finally told the whites to stop and return to their cells, and that the white prisoners immediately obeyed. Some white inmates not involved reportedly told FBI agents investigating the case that guards provoked the attack on the black prisoners. The prison memo states Blackwell was taken to meet a helicopter for transferral to an Augusta hospital, but no helicopter had ever been summoned. Blackwell died in an ambulance on the way back to the prison.

Four guards were fired as a result of the incident. They appealed the dismissal and three were reinstated pending the outcome of their appeal, due to personnel shortages. The three white inmates were convicted of murder. Franklin Rivers and the family of Michael Blackwell have filed a suit against the state of Georgia, prison officials and the three white inmates.

In late 1982, five other guards resigned after being implicated in supplying prisoners with drugs and weapons, and two were suspended pending an FBI investigation that they violated the civil rights of prisoners.

- Atlanta Daily World 9-7-82, pp 1,6.

85. Clyde Royals, a former klan organizer, was indicted on July 14 by a Federal grand jury in Savannah for the threatening klan-embellished letters sent whites in Willacoochie, Atkinson County (South Georgia) in 1981, accusing them of race mixing. He was also charged with firing into the bedroom of an interracial couple (see RMRV 1, vi-vii, pp 23-24).

An all-white jury deliberated for just over three hours before returning a verdict of innocent on all counts. Royals, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Valdosta (Georgia) State College, was facing a possible sentence of 21 years.

- Atlanta Daily World 9-9-82, p. 1;  
9-12-82, p. 1.

86. Two men, shoplifting in a downtown Atlanta department store on December 18, 1982, were spotted by store security, who gave chase. Out on the street, an Atlanta City policeman on foot patrol saw the chase and joined in. Both officers lost the suspects, but another policeman spotted them a short time later. When the policeman, Joe Bulat, ordered them to lie down, they refused, according to a police department spokesperson, and a struggle ensued. Officer Bulat shot one of the suspects, Richard Whittaker, in the head. He died at the county hospital the following day. No charges were filed against Bulat.

Rev. Joseph Reid of the Atlanta Consumers Club, and the local NAACP branch both called for thorough investigations. A police spokesperson from homicide division stated an investigation is routine any time a gun is fired. When their investigation is completed, results will be turned over to the county grand jury. A separate investigation was undertaken by internal affairs, which, according to a spokesperson from that department, would seek to determine whether any rules had been violated. The results of the internal affairs investigation were to be forwarded to the chief of police and the commissioner of public safety.

- Atlanta Daily World 12-19-82, pp 1,4;  
12-23-82, pp 1,4.



87. In November 1981, Bobby Lee Hayden, a 45-year-old black man, and Karen Davis Hayden, his 35-year-old white wife, both of Decatur, Alabama, received threats in the mail from a local insurance agent. Jerry Kirk Sharp, a 35-year-old white man of Decatur, was indicted in the U.S. District Court in Birmingham during September, 1982, on two counts of violating the Fair Housing Act and sending a threat through the mail.

- N.Y. Amsterdam News 9-18-82, p. 3.

88. In the early Sunday morning hours of August 8, 1982, 27-year-old Robert Pollnitz was found dead, hanging from bars by his socks, tied around his neck, in the Chickasaw, Alabama City jail. Pollnitz, a resident of the neighboring town of Prichard, had been arrested just three and one half hours earlier and charged with third degree theft for having shoplifted \$37. worth of merchandise from a Chickasaw store. It was the second time in 18 months that a black man had been found hanging in the city jail of the town of 8,000 residents, outside Mobile.

Ironically, it was the lone black policeman on the force who found Pollnitz. Pollnitz had reportedly written a note on the jail cell wall, with tooth paste, to the effect that he could not face his family any more. It was not clear just where the toothpaste had come from.

In late March of 1981, Cleophus Powell, another black Prichard resident had been found in the same cell (see RMRV 1, vi-vii, p. 13). An FBI investigation into Powell's death yielded no evidence of foul play, according to the U.S. Justice Department. According to the local black press, neither Powell nor Pollnitz had any emotional problems; the New Times editorialized further: "Suicide among black men is a rarity for this area, and almost unheard of under these circumstances." Pollnitz's mother insisted her son was not suicidal.

On Monday, August 16, 1982, a mass meeting, organized by Prichard NAACP president John Langham, was held at the Holmes Street Baptist church in Prichard with some 450 people in attendance. When a boycott of Chickasaw businesses was suggested, Langham said any demonstration in the name of the NAACP would have to be approved by the national office.

The idea of a boycott was considered viable, however, and took shape under the leadership of the Mobile County Concerned Ministers, a coalition formed in response to the hangings. At a meeting called by the ministers on Monday, August 23, 1982, it was pointed out that over 60% of Chickasaw's revenue comes from purchases made by black residents of Prichard, Mobile and North Mobile County. That is, blacks, whose homes ring Chickasaw, provide the majority of support for the nearly all-white town. There are reportedly between 10 and 20 black residents, all of them recent arrivals in Chickasaw.

Several of the ministers had earlier that day met with Chickasaw police chief and one of the Chickasaw city council members to request a full investigation into both hangings. The mayor and other city officials were reportedly unavailable. The ministers had also requested a Justice Department investigation.

Picket lines were set up at the Prichard-Chickasaw boundary and all other points of entry into Chickasaw. The phone company and Gaylord's Department Store were asked to establish branches in Prichard, so that blacks would not have to go into Chickasaw at all. The NAACP joined in the effort.

On Saturday, August 28, over 700 people marched from Prichard to the Chickasaw City Hall, where a rally was held in support of the boycott. At least three Chickasaw residents were detained at the scene of the march and rally for possession of weapons. One former Chickasaw policeman was arrested across from the City Hall with two high powered rifles on his car seat.

By late September, the boycott was 95% successful. Chickasaw mayor J.C. Davis and city council members were distributing leaflets carrying an urgent plea from Davis to Chickasaw residents to "make all your purchases in Chickasaw." The focus of the boycott soon grew to include the disproportionately high number of blacks arrested, and their reportedly higher fines and stiffer sentences than white detainees. Picketers reported harassment by whites: a dead bird thrown at them by a Chickasaw policeman; trash thrown from a school bus; ku klux klan literature placed by a Prichard policeman along the demonstration route.

On Tuesday, November 28, the FBI announced that, after an "intensive investigation," they concluded that Pollnitz had, in fact, committed suicide.

Boycott leaders stated they expected such a statement, but were prepared to continue the boycott until their larger demands, which now included better jobs, were met. They voiced their disagreement with the FBI findings. Meanwhile, Chickasaw officials stated they had taken measures to prevent the recurrence of hangings such as those of Powell and Pollnitz by altering the ceiling in the jail.

- The New Times (Prichard) 8-12, 19, 26-82;  
9-, 23-82; 12-2-82.



89. In 1977, J.B. Stoner was convicted of dynamiting the Bethel Baptist church in Birmingham in 1958. He received a 10 year sentence. The Alabama Supreme Court upheld the conviction in late summer of 1982.

- Louisiana Weekly 9-11-82, p. 6.

90. At about 3 a.m. on Monday, August 16, 1982, members of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) of the Mobile City Police Department, dressed in camouflage uniforms, their faces painted black and armed with rifles and shotguns, ordered College Street residents of Prichard, Alabama, from their homes at gunpoint, then tear gassed and ransacked the houses. One resident stated she and her four children (aged 8 to 14) were forced to kneel in the street with their hands above their heads. Tear gas was thrown through their windows and doors torn from hinges. Another resident was forced outside in his undershorts. His doors and windows were damaged.

Police claimed to be searching for Ronald Lacey, a robbery suspect. He was not found and residents interviewed by the local black press disclaimed all knowledge of such a person. Because police were not in uniform, some residents thought they were under klan attack. They are planning legal action for damages to their homes.

- The New Times (Prichard) 8-19-82, p. 1.

91. William Avant, a black IBM clerk at Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company (ICG) in Jackson, Mississippi, was suspended for 60 days from his job by company officials who termed him "negligent." According to Avant, who was hired shortly after having filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Employment Commission, blacks at ICG Jackson are being harassed. He stated that his life has been threatened and that he was physically assaulted by white employees on company property. Earlier in the year, black switchmen had been threatened and shot at.

C.C. Bryant, retired ICG employee and civil rights activist, recalled that the Company has a history of blatant discrimination and its white employees one of violence against blacks. He recalled that in 1963, two black women employees had been beaten with chains by three white men when they tried to integrate the women's restroom.

- Jackson Advocate 9-16/22-82, pp 1, 3.

92. Leroy Brown, a black resident of Tchula, Miss., has accused the white Holmes County plantation owner for whom he works of attempting to kill him after the tractor in which he and a co-worker, Arthur Simpson, were riding, landed on its side in a ditch. Brown gave the following account:

The tractor went out of control when Brown swerved to avoid hitting the white overseer, Zack Killebrew, who pulled his truck along side as Brown and Simpson worked the field. Killebrew became angry, and when he noted that both men had cans of beer in the tractor, told them to report to W.C. "Buddy" Waterer and that they were fired. When Brown proceeded to drink his beer first, Killebrew took both men to Brown's car. When they got to Waterer's driveway, Waterer ran out, grabbed Brown by the collar, then grabbed a gun in Killebrew's truck, pointed it at Brown's face and pulled the trigger. The gun misfired; Brown was not harmed. He was ordered out of the plantation quarters and off the property. Brown's wife, Mary, a domestic in Waterer's house, got in the car with her husband and Simpson, and the three drove away.

They then went to Tchula to file charges with magistrate Dean Taylor, but Taylor--who was at a place called the Horseshoe Gin--just laughed. (Dean Taylor is wife of Holmes County "boss" B.T. Taylor and the same magistrate who refused to honor black mayor Eddie Carthan's assault charges against the police chief appointed illegally by the City Council in April 1980. The power struggle between Taylor and Carthan, the first black to challenge seriously the white power structure, is well known in Holmes county.)

Brown claimed Taylor did not keep her appointment with him later that day in her office, and that the next day (Tuesday), when he got no results from the Tchula police, he went to the United League. Taylor later told the Jackson Advocate that Brown had filed charges Tuesday evening.

Brown stated that Waterer pays his workers \$2.00 of the minimum \$3.35 per hour, and at the end of the year gives them a portion of the withheld amount as a "bonus."

- Jackson Advocate 10-21/27-82, pp 1, 10.

93. Terry Wales, a 20-year-old black resident of Madison County, Mississippi, was found hanging in his cell on November 5, 1982, in the county jail, where he was being held as a suspect in an insurance company robbery. A suicide note was reportedly found, and a partial autopsy by a Jackson pathologist yielded a finding of death by hanging.

Wales' mother and other members of the black community speculate however that Wales was forced to write the note for fear of his life, and that he died at the hands of city and county police, who were overzealous in their attempts to recover the money (\$114,000. had been taken in the robbery). They base their speculations on the



belief that Wales, whom police said had just finished showering at 8 p.m., could not have had time to fashion a rope by 8:10, the time his body was found, and that suicide is not likely when the victim's feet are both touching the floor and his hands are both free, as was true in Wales' case. They also distrust Jack Pentecost, who is either the jailer or the jailer's husband. When a Jackson Advocate reporter attempted to take pictures of the jail from the outside, Pentecost reportedly warned: "I have a good record for killing niggers and I ain't rech my peak yet." At a trial at which he stood charged with having wounded another black resident with shotgun pellets when the victim asked him for directions, Pentecost reportedly stated that he was "sent by God to kill all bad niggers."

The fact that a recent alleged suicide (hanging?) victim at the Canton city jail had been found sitting on his bunk was also brought out as an indication that foul play, rather than suicide, has been going on in the jails in Madison County.

- Jackson Advocate 11-18/24-82, p. 1.

94. On June 28, 1980, Houston, Miss. police officer Jimmy West sprayed A.B. Johnson, a local black resident, with mace in the course of arresting him. When Johnson asked for assistance, police chief Roy P. Davis gave him a towel and directions to the restroom. Johnson was, according to the officers, physically resisting and under the influence of alcohol. The day after the arrest, Davis took Johnson to a local doctor, Charles Simpson, when he noticed Johnson's eyes were swollen.

Johnson filed suit through North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, charging brutality and failure to provide medical attention. West admitted in testimony that he had no formal instruction in the use of mace. Dr. Simpson testified that Johnson's eyes were swollen shut and that his sight was in danger.

On September 10, 1982, Federal judge L.T. Senter ruled against the brutality charge, but found the officers guilty of medical neglect. He awarded \$2,517 in damages to Johnson.

- Jackson Advocate 9-23/29-82, p. 1; National Leader 10-7-82, p. 3.

95. Waymon Ray Fortenberry, a superintendent at the East Carroll Parish (Louisiana) Prison Farm, was indicted for violating the civil rights of two black youths who died after he ordered them into a 70 inch long, 32 inch wide, 78 inch high steel box, on August 24, 1980. The two youths were kept in the box 15 hours, in an attempt to force them to divulge information. Moore was found dead and Harris died soon after he was removed. Both men died of heart failure resulting from heat stroke and dehydration. Maximum penalty on the charge is life imprisonment.

- Cleveland Call and Post 10-9-82.

96. At about 2 a.m. on November 22, 1982, Rodney Jones (27) and Russell Favorite, both of Marrero, Louisiana, climbed down a drainage canal to aid two women trapped in a car which had been hurled down the embankment by an 18 wheel truck. They were soon joined in their efforts by Craig Morrison. A crowd collected.

When police arrived about 20 minutes after the accident, they ordered the three men out of the ditch. Jones stopped on his way out to brush mud from his clothes. According to witnesses, a white plainclothesman who did not identify himself grabbed Jones, shouting "Get your fucking ass on the side!" There was a scuffle in which seven white deputies rushed Jones. He was slammed face down on the hot hood of a squad car and made to remain there, despite his protests that it was hot. (One deputy reportedly retorted: "Yeah, I know.")

Jones was taken to jail and booked with resisting arrest, disturbing the peace and battery on a police officer. He was later treated by a private doctor for second degree facial burns and a sprained neck. Jones filed a suit, but was having difficulty finding witnesses willing to testify. He asserts the matter could have been entirely avoided if the plainclothesman had identified himself in the first place. Jones' father is a deputy sheriff in the same parish (Jefferson), and due to retire soon.

- Louisiana Weekly 12-11-92, pp 1,4.

97. An observance commemorating the deaths of Raymond Ferdinand, Sherry Lynn Singleton, Reginald Miles and James Billy, Jr., was planned for November 13, 1982, in New Orleans. The four were killed by police in three separate incidents all connected with the police investigations into the murder of police officer Gregory Neupert in the predominantly black Algiers section of New Orleans in November 1980. Bill Hampton, brother of slain Black Panther Fred Hampton, was scheduled to appear at the event.

The police files in the Algiers case were made available following a Supreme Court ruling that public records could not be withheld. (The suit had been filed by CBS Television, in preparation for a "60 Minutes" report). Reporters are said to have found nothing new in the files. Presumably there was nothing in the files linking



Neupert to the two men police claim killed him, REginald Miles and James Billy, Jr.

The U.S. Supreme Courty recently cleared the way for seven New Orleans policemen to stand trial for allegedly beating and intimidating black citizens during their investigation of the 1980 slaying of Neupert. (See RMRV 1, vi-vii, pp 1-2)

- Louisiana Weekly 11-13-82, p. 1; 11-27-82, pp 1, 4; National Leader 12-16-82, p. 4.

98. Augustine J. Rodrigue, police chief of Thibodeaux, Louisiana, arrested Jesse W. Renfrow on January 17, 1981, outside a bar after Renfrow failed to leave the scene of a disturbance. Rodrigue had been called to investigate. Back at the station, Rodrigue beat Renfrow with a metal chair while his lieutenant, David S. Pipes, ordered other officers away from the room. Renfrow required 18 stitches to injuries to the face and head.

Rodrigue and Pipes were indicted by a federal grand jury in mid-1982 on charges of conspiring to injure and intimidate REnfrow and deprive him of his civil rights.

- Louisiana Weekly 10-23-82.

99. Rep. Henry Gonzales (D.-Texas), chairman of the House Subcommittee which oversees HUD, accused SAMuel R. Pierce, SEcretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) of being a "steppin Fetchit" in his implementation of Reagan policies, particularly in the president's plan to turn public housing over to private landlords. NAACP Executive Secretary Benjamin Hooks called such characterization "unfortunate and misleading."

- N.Y. Amsterdam News, 10-2-82, p. 3.

100. A State Department spokesperson stated in late September that the Department of Commerce authorization of the sale of 2,500 electric shock batons to the Republic of South Africa had been issued in error, due to "administrative inadvertence," and that the sale "should not have been licensed," and was "under investigation." The batons are used for crowd control--and torture--and deliver a painful 3,500 volt shock.

- National Leader 9-30-83, p. 3.

101. Judge Julius Chambers of Charlotte states that he, his wife, Judges Leon Higginbotham and Thelton Henderson, all black, were observing the trial of six young black South Africans on charges of security offenses in Ciskei, one of the "homelands." Three plainclothes police stopped the four Americans coming out of the courthouse, then took them to police headquarters, ringed by men with machine guns. The entire incident has been denied by South African security police.

- Black American 9-16-82, p. 19.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue of the newsletter, we have organized cases according to geographical regions, rather than by date of occurrence, in order to give some idea of the national configuration of random racial violence. We are also discontinuing our reports of klan violence and other activities as reflected in the black press. This decision was taken after a great deal of thought. However, since the major focus of our work is random violence, we have decided to concentrate rather than spread our efforts. We have enlarged our sources of information somewhat, and are reporting a correspondingly greater number of cases in this issue.

However, we want to point out that there are printed sources to which we do not have access. And we are sure too that many, many cases never get reported. Once again, we appeal to our readers to send us clippings, and, if possible, first-hand or word-of-mouth information.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

An organization has been formed to fight police brutality and crimes, called Families for Police Accountability. Families is organizing a national conference in July, 1984 in Milwaukee. Co-conveners include the United Black Community Council of Milwaukee, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ. For information and donations, write Hubert C. Canfield, United Black Community Council, 2636 N. 3rd St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, (414) 562-4288.

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