

Hate Groups Use O.J. Verdict For Recruiting Drive

JACKSON, Miss. - White supremacist groups say they believe the verdict in the O.J. Simpson trial will prove to be a boon to fund-raising and recruitment drives.

At least two organisations —

the California-based White Aryan Resistance and a Jackson, Mississippi group called the Nationalist Movement — are already trying to exploit any racial divisions that may have been enflamed by the former

football star's acquittal.

"This is a great boost to what we're doing," Tom Metzger, the head of White Aryan Resistance, said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles. "My phone is ringing off the hook with new

people. They're all just exasperated and fed up. This is the last straw-type attitude."

A day after a mainly black jury acquitted the black former football star of killing his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her

friend Ron Goldman, Mississippi's Nationalist Movement mounted its biggest mailing since the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Movement leader Richard Barrett asked citizens in a letter to contribute to the organisation's efforts to repatriate black Americans to Africa. "As someone who warned against mongrelization of the judicial system and miscegenation of the social system, I sense that the nation is ready to reject minority tyranny as never before," he wrote.

The groups are hoping to pick

up new members and contributions from among white working-class men earning \$15,000 to \$30,000 a year. But black leaders and civil rights advocates say this latest gambit by American hate groups only underscores their flagging influence.

"They've got to do something. I think they've run out of other issues and are grasping at straws," said attorney Cleve McDowell, former field secretary for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People in Mississippi.

Gangs Infiltrate Chicago Police - Report

CHICAGO - Street gangs are infiltrating the Chicago police force, dealing drugs and tipping off gang members of police raids, the Chicago Sunday Sun-Times reported Saturday.

The Sunday edition on newsstands Saturday said that in the last three years at least 15 police officers have been charged with crimes or forced to resign for illegal activities linked to street gang affiliation.

"It's growing as a problem," Police Superintendent Matt Rodriguez told the Sun-Times. "We've had more officers arrested in recent memory whom we found were affiliated with street gangs."

Some of Chicago's most notorious groups, including the Gangster Disciples, the Latin Kings and the Latin Lovers, are involved.

Rodriguez said many officers are suspected of being members or fraternising and associating with gangs, often to enjoy benefits such as luxury cars and expensive clothes.

Police have been reported scuffling during roll call after two officers flashed opposing gang signals, using police cars to transfer drug money and being questioned for possible links to gangland-style killings, the paper found.

"They come in and learn our investigative techniques, can spot undercover cops, know how we do things," Deputy Superintendent Michael W. Hoke told the Sun-Times.

An undercover agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration told the paper that raids of local street gangs have been aborted because of tip offs,

creating problems between the DEA and police. A 30-year-veteran of the force was also reported saying the infiltration is breeding mistrust in the Chicago ranks.

Constitutional protections of

freedom of association and a 1992 arbitration of the labour contract make it nearly impossible to dismiss a police officer for having a relationship with gang member, Rodriguez told the paper.

Colin Powell Has Misgivings About Running For President

LONDON - Retired gen. Colin Powell said Monday he still had misgivings about running for president and would decide by next month whether to do so or not. "I have to decide some time in November at the latest because of the Republican primary system," Powell told BBC radio.

Powell, who is in Britain promoting his autobiography, is considering running in the 1996 elections either for the Republican Party or as an independent.

Recent polls showed he would beat President Clinton by nine percentage points in a

presidential election if he were to run as a Republican candidate.

But he said he was still uncertain about whether to take the plunge.

"The searching that is going on in my heart and soul right now is: is this the right thing to do? Can I bring the passion to it that it requires?" he said.

"My highest ambition was not to become a politician at the highest level, it was to do my very best in the military," Powell added. He said his wife Alma was also concerned about the impact that running for the presidency could have on their domestic life.

TAINTED CASES

(Continued from Page 5)
tried to bring that to the attention of the system," he said.

"Now after Mark Fuhrman's acknowledgement of that fact and the 39th district officers' acknowledgement of those facts you're seeing an awareness of that reality that hadn't been seen before," Bridge said.

In the Simpson double-murder trial, the black former football star's lawyers argued that incriminating evidence was planted by now-retired detective Mark Fuhrman in an act motivated by racial hatred.

Simpson was acquitted last week by a mostly black jury. One juror has said she believed a bloody glove that Fuhrman testified to finding was planted

on Simpson's property.

Those whose cases were dismissed Tuesday were mostly charged with misdemeanor or felony drug offenses. Of the nine, some had been convicted, some were still being sought and one had been murdered, Bridge said.

He said some 1,400 cases were being reviewed and those in which corrupt officers played a significant role, such as signing a search warrant or testifying against a defendant, would be brought to the court with a request for dismissal.

"We're looking at any case in which the officers were involved for which we can find paperwork. Any case in which the officers were involved is subject to scrutiny," he said.

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