

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

Not In Our Town

By Bernice Powell Jackson

While some Americans have tried to say that we have settled our nation's racial justice problems, events of the past few months have proven once again the deep chasm between the way people of color and white Americans perceive the world. One thing for sure, hard numbers show that hate crimes and intolerance are still a regular



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occurrence in America. Indeed, during 1994, 5,853 hate crimes were reported and probably thousands of others went unreported.

While we often read about violent crimes in the inner cities, we read less often of the violent hate crimes which signal the growing threat of intolerance in many smaller communities across the nation. In the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing, we have learned of the growth of well-organized white supremacists and paramilitary groups, but we have not seen much which links such groups with hate crimes against people of color, gay and lesbian persons and Jewish persons. Yet, these supremacist groups, and their sympathizers, are often the perpetrators of hate crimes.

The good news is that while hate crimes are escalating in communities across the country, there are Americans who are taking a stand against them and finding solutions to stop hate crimes in their own neighborhoods. Using the theme **Not in Our Town**, which is based on a PBS documentary of the same name, a nationwide campaign to stop hate crimes has been launched. The documentary, scheduled to be aired on December 17, focuses on Billings, Montana and how its people joined together to support their neighbors who were under attack by white supremacists. Klu Klux Klan fliers had been distributed throughout their community, the Jewish cemetery had been desecrated, the

home of a native American family had been vandalized, African American church-goers had been intimidated and bricks had been thrown through windows with Hanukkah menorahs.

At the urging of the Billings police chief, however, the people of Billings took a stand. The Painters Union volunteered to paint over racist graffiti, religious groups of every denomination sponsored marches and candlelight vigils and ten thousand citizens put the full-page menorahs printed by the local newspaper in their windows.

Similar hate crime stories are unfolding across the nation. In Kenosha, WI the schools were forced to confront "slave-tagging," a practice by skinheads whereby African American high school students were "tagged" and targeted for hate crime activity. In Putnam County, New York, a predominantly white community created a diversity committee after a cross burning on an African American neighbor's lawn. In Bozeman, MT, an anti-gay rally of 28 was met with an overwhelming community response of 600 counter-demonstrators. In Boise, Idaho, coalitions are working to oppose a white supremacist movement which has declared Idaho and four other states as their "homeland."

Not in Our Town events will be held in cities and towns across the country during the week of December 10-17, to encourage ordinary citizens to work to counter hate crimes. Every American can take action against the spread of hate crimes in their own community. Participating in the campaign is one way to begin.

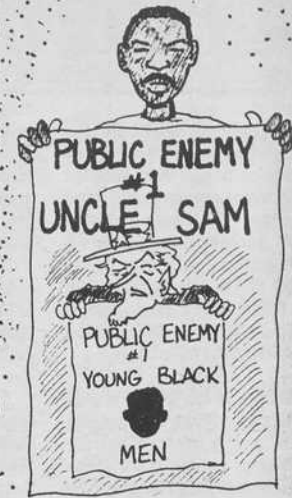
(For more information on **Not in Our Town**, contact the Institute for Alternative Journalism (415) 284-1420 or fax (415) 284-1414 or the California Working Group at (510) 547-8484 or fax (510) 547-8844.)

POINTS
TO
PONDER
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PROFESSOR
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WHO IS APPOINTING BLACK LEADERSHIP IN AMERICA? ... THE BLACK MASSES OR THE WHITE MEDIA?

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Enmity Increases Between Blacks, Whites

By James Alsbrook, PhD

Why did strained relations between America's black and whites develop from the predominantly black jury's finding of "not guilty" in the O.J. Simpson trial? Mutual resentment has increased.

The answer is that different people in different groups have different life experiences that result in different perceptions of reality. Perceptions are colored by the textures and backgrounds in which they occur. Black people are plagued by old sores that America has not allowed to heal, and they remember unpleasant interactions especially with the offensive minority of "bad" white people. But "good" white people are the majority and tend to look at race relations from a "Goody Two Shoes," "mother and apple pie," "God Bless America" viewpoint with a "Don't Blame Me" attitude toward blacks.

Racial wrongs make awkward, unpleasant, guilt-

laden talk that whites generally avoid.

But many persons on both sides shared a common thorn. They were not happy with the interracial marriage. Some whites hated O.J. for "crossing the line" on interracial sex and wanted to punish him for violating their taboo. Some blacks did not like him for the same reasons, but they say that at least he married the woman, which is more than can be said for thousands of white slavemasters and overseers who raped black women and produced the variety of colors now called "black."

One example of the "good" white person who would have found Simpson guilty is my late former landlord, Iver Opstad. This Norwegian American was reared in Canada and was superintendent of public schools in Iowa City. In the 1950s when Southern-bred white barbers opened a shop in Iowa City and refused to cut black people's hair, he assembled a group that got a city ordinance passed prohibiting racial discrimination of any kind. Then he and others got this provision made into Iowa state law.

He was a Christian man who wanted to save my soul, loved everybody and refused to believe that Ku Kluxers would throw a bomb into a church and kill four black girls. I had to produce newspaper clippings to prove it.

He would have believed L.A. Police Chief Darryl Gates and Mark Fuhrman because he wanted to think all police officers were good men as they were in Iowa City. He, like many "good" whites, was idealistic and frequently naive on matters of race. Examples of "bad" white people have been encountered too often by black men particularly. The most recent and example is Mark Fuhrman, the

Los Angeles Police Department's proven liar and racist. Black men know there are many Mark Fuhrmans, some of whom are blatant while others are sneaky.

Some police abuse has been videotaped, as was the Rodney King beating, and other examples not as well known. Examples of "bad" police have been cited before and elsewhere but among the worst was the brutal police killings of Malice Green of Detroit. His killers were convicted and are in prison. The fact that so many black people over the years have had spontaneous, unprovoked and unpleasant experiences with arrogant, untruthful and hostile white police causes black people generally to trust only those white police they know and respect.

"Good" blacks obviously are those who obey the law, work for a living, do not offend or prey upon their neighbors but make positive contributions to the race and to the total society. They have standard middle-class values and strive for upward mobility, peace, prosperity and general happiness. They have "class."

"Bad" black people include:

- Male and female intellectual prostitutes who "sell out" to racist publishers, television shows or others, humiliating black people and violating their dignity.
- Television hogs who put on choir robes, shout gospel and do the funky chicken, the bugaloo and shim-sham-shimmy for telecasting.

- All dope peddlers.
- All Uncle Toms and Aunt Jemimas. They reinforce negative stereotypes and send injurious messages to the entire world.

(James E. Alsbrook, PhD, is professor emeritus at Ohio University.)



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

generate as much heat as possible on UMC and the University of Nevada School of Medicine for their dishonest, racist, callous disregard and lack of sensitivity to the African population of this city.

So, we will see how the battle shapes up. For the hospital's sake, I hope that the war that they wanted is as good as the war that they now have.

La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues!

we had formal fellowship training in trauma at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services, which is perhaps the finest trauma center in the country. The trauma building at UMC is loosely modeled after the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services.

In addition, we are both board certified not only in surgery, but also in critical care. Together we have close to 30 years of experience in trauma; with him having approximately 12 years of experience and myself having close to 17 years; and both have held various administrative positions at 4 different trauma centers, all of which are Level I trauma centers, as opposed to this one, which is a Level II.

You would think then that one of us would be eminently qualified to be the Trauma Director. Not so. Clearly, the

decision was made that the Trauma Director here at UMC had to look just like the rest of the University of Nevada School of Medicine staff; that is, lily white.

As a result, both of us were passed over in favor of a white boy that neither I nor any of my colleagues have ever heard of. Now this has just been accepted, although not without some ranker by the Medical Executive Committee of the UMC.

From my perspective, this means that I am on wartime footing with University of Nevada School of Medicine/UMC. It is going to be one hell of a war because there will be no time, as long as there is breath in this body, that I will sit back and allow these yo-yo's to pull that kind of bull—in this day and age. While the county commissioners may not care one way or another, I intend to

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

The Weeks of Infamy (Choosing a Trauma Director for University of Nevada/UMC Style)

By James S. Tate, Jr., M.D., Executive Director, NAARPP

Franklin Delano Roosevelt characterized the sneak attack on the part of the Japanese Imperial Navy on Pearl Harbor as a "Day of Infamy." The same characterization can be ascribed to the way that the University Medical Center and the University of Nevada School of Medicine conspired together to choose a so-called "Trauma Director" for the Trauma Center at UMC. For those who may not understand this, the trauma director is the person who will be in charge of the entire trauma program at UMC's Trauma Center, including the hiring and firing of physicians, etc.

There were two brothers who applied, myself and another brother from Atlanta, whose name I will not mention at this time. However, in both cases

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