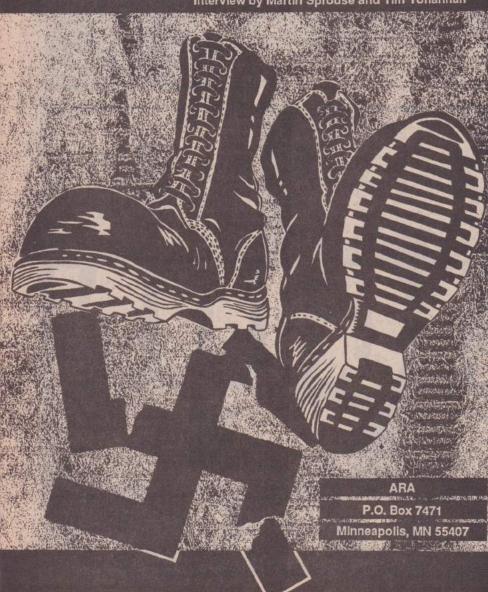


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Interview by Martin Sprouse and Tim Yohannan



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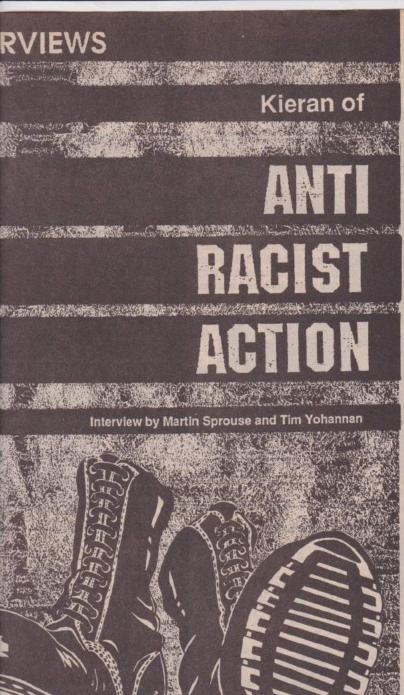
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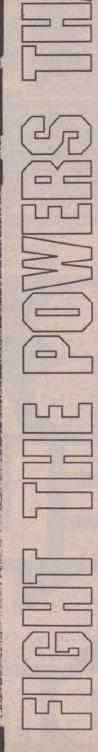
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ARA

P.O. Box 7471

Minneapolis, MN 55407

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MRR: Let's talk about the one tactic that stands out as dealing with Nazi skins, which is physically confronting them.

Kieran: From our experience the tactic that has worked in Minneapolis includes physical confrontation, which is fighting them and kicking the shit out of them. I don't see this means as an end because it's important to talk to people in the scene about racism and not letting it be acceptable. If you are means as an end because it's important to talk to people in the scene about racism and not letting it be acceptable. If you are going out there and fight and the scene isn't going to be behind you then it's not very effective. We started by talking with some of the younger people involved with the Nazis, making sure they know what they will be defending if there is a fight. We made it clear to the Nazi skinheads that they will not organize at shows, they will not organize at hangouts, we will not be friends with these people. Like the Specials song goes, "if you have racist friends then you're supporting racist people". So we kicked their ass, moved them out and wouldn't let them hang out and that has worked. There are no Nazis in Minneapoils because of this tactic being used and same is true for Chicago.

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Nazis are not the majority of the scene and if the majority of the people in some way resist them either by not speaking to them, not letting them into shows, or fighting them they're going to be gone. I think all of those approaches are useful but I think fighting does it best for us.

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their nationalist view on others then I'll work

with them.

MRR: A lot of middle class kids who mainly constitute the hardcore scene are not used to violence or they're afraid of violence and when they see it they're put off by it. Do you have any thoughts about that?

Kieran: If people feel that they can't fight then that's their decision. Maybe they could do something else to support anti-racist activities. I think we should do what works to fight Nazis and that's what convinces me. MRR: What about people who say that you employ violence so you're as bad as them or sinking to their level?

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MRR: How do you distinguish what's OK violence and what's not OK violence?

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MRR: What do you think about the results of

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MRR: What do you think about the results of damage that the Nazi skins have done and the publicity surrounding that? Do you think that it is possible for anti-racist skins to ever regain the confidence of either minorities or the general public at large or is it a losing battle because people only relate skinhead to Nazi and at best you're just treading water?

ter?

Kleran: I think there are a lot of valid points there and I don't know what the answer is. But a good example is England where there are still anti-racist skinheads who are organizing and turning the tide even though in Europe skinhead is thought of as a Nazi thing. One of the main reasons why we stay skinheads is because we have affinity with the subculture but also by anti-racist skins existing we damage a recruiting tool that Tom Metzger and the Nazis have. I think that it's really important for any movement to have some type of culture and skinhead is the one they're pulling for right now and if there are people within that culture actively fighting it then it makes it harder for them to grow. For me, I like the music and style and there are going to be kids who are going to like it and if they come into it and the only option they have is to hang out with Nazis then they'll do that. So I think it's important to have alternatives to that. Kleran: I think there are a lot of valid points

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MRR: Is the public you deal with In Minneapolis aware of the difference between racist and anti-racist skinheads?

Kieran: We had one press conference (after one Nazi attack) to make it clear that we weren't Nazis and that we were going to fight these people. I think we need to do more things like that because obviously we can't compete with Geraido and Oprah pointing out Nazi skinheads. In the high schools, word gets around that there's this group called the Baidles who are different. Once in a while people will question us about whether we're Nazi and we've always been able to explain ourselves before the fists fly. It's something that scares me because I don't want to get to the point where people of color are afraid of me or anyone from our group, and if that happens I might have to reevaluate things. At this point we've made enough connections through different communities so it's ok. In other cities, the scene is so separate from other communities that the two elements other cities, the scene Is so separate from other communities that the two elements are rarely around each other and that's the reason why they don't have to change, I don't know if that's good or not.