

# HATRED IN GEORGIA, 1989

A Chronology of Hate Activity



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A Neighbors Network Publication

This chronology was compiled and its introduction written by Patrick Kelly. It was edited and typed by R. S. Cross. The pictures were taken by Jimmy Lee. All are Neighbors Network volunteers.

We would like to offer a special thanks to the Police Advisory Board of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Chapter of the A.C.L.U. of Georgia, without whose help this chronology would not be complete.

The Neighbors Network is in the process of producing other Georgia hate crimes documentation. These include chronologies of anti-immigrant violence (1983-1989) as well as for a number of Georgia counties, such as Clayton, Polk, and Carroll. The Neighbors Network has also produced fact sheets on a number of Georgia hate groups and leaders.

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## HATRED IN GEORGIA, 1989

This chronology was compiled by the Neighbors Network to illustrate the problem of hate crime and hate group activity in Georgia.

It is not exhaustive. Hate crimes are underreported, and in many cases the authorities and community leaders try to keep them from public view in an attempt to "keep their town from getting a bad name" and "keep things from getting worse."

Many newspapers around the state do not report on incidents of racial violence in their area. Some area police departments remove reports on hate crimes from the incident reports they provide for the press.

This list was compiled from victim reports, arrest reports, reports from law enforcement, and monitoring of area media. Much of the information on hate groups came from monitoring of Ku Klux Klan and Nazi rallies and literature.

No one should feel embarrassed or defensive because their community has experienced these kinds of incidents. Our country is currently suffering from an epidemic of hate crime, and few communities are untouched. A community should not be judged by whether it has had hate incidents, but by how it responded to them.

Types of Crimes

Each year, a number of Afro-American and Hispanic families moving into white neighborhoods are the targets of racially motivated attacks. These attacks have ranged from spray-painting and cross-burnings to gunfire and fire bombings. This year "move in" incidents were reported in Henry, Cherokee, Crisp, and Pulaski Counties; and especially in Clayton County.

Interracial couples and families have been victimized by similar attacks this year in Cherokee and Clayton counties.

Anti-Semitic violence also occurs, ranging from vandalism to threats and assaults. During the past few years Jewish families have also been the targets of move-in violence.

Racial brawling in schools and after-school occurred in Cobb, Fulton, Douglas, Spalding, and DeKalb Counties. There were unverified reports from many schools. One incident in Marietta left a 17-year-old boy in a coma, and led to a later shooting. This type of incident is one of the hardest incidents to verify.

Two types of violence deserve special mention. Violence against immigrants and "gay bashing" attacks are more frequent, more brutal, more likely to end in murder, less likely to be reported, and less likely to be taken seriously if they are reported than other types of hate crimes. Immigrants were the target of harassment or violence in Polk, Cherokee, Gwinnett, and Hall Counties. Gay bashing attacks are common throughout the state. Several Georgia homicides are suspected of being motivated by hatred against gays. In one case, two Douglas County men who

had come into Atlanta to beat up and rob gays ended up robbing and murdering a passing motorist.

Violence and harassment is also directed at those who struggle for justice. In 1987, peaceful Brotherhood marches were attacked twice in Forsyth County. Since that time at least five north Georgia civil rights activists have been the target of gunfire directed at themselves or their homes.

Organizations which monitor hate activity, including the Neighbors Network, receive a constant stream of hate calls and mail. Activists have also been assaulted and threatened by Nazi youth gangs.

In a tragic ending to the year, package bombs mailed in Georgia took the lives of Robert Robinson, a Savannah attorney active in civil rights, and Robert Vance, a Federal judge in Alabama. At year's end the killers, apparently white racists, are promising more deaths.

Activities of a wide variety of hate groups, ranging from various Klan factions to several Nazi organizations (including skinheads), continue to spread hate and recruit members.

In our chronology, we have included all types of crimes by hate group members. The nature of these groups attracts a wide variety of disturbed people with little respect for the law. Most notable entry in this category is the arrest of David Craig and Neva Veitch, Grand Dragon and Secretary of the True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, for the 1987 murder of Ms. Veitch's husband.

"Do You Think the Klan Did This?"

It's a question commonly asked following an unsolved hate crime.

Frankly, it is not that important---particularly to the victim. Whether a crime is the act of an organized hate group, or is an act of random racially motivated violence, committed by people acting in the same fashion and out of the same mentality has little impact on the seriousness of the crime or the possibility that it will be ongoing.

"It's Just Kids"

There are, after many hate crimes, those who are reassured by the fact that the crimes were committed (or may have been committed) by young people.

We are not reassured. If all hate crimes were committed by aging men wearing white sheets we could at least feel that in another generation this would all be behind us. That a hate mentality has affected any portion of our youth so that they would burn crosses, spraypaint slurs on houses, or make Nazi youth gang organizing a problem even in area middle schools, is nothing to take comfort in.

There is also the implication that if it's kids, the crime can't be serious. Young people, nationally and locally, commit the biggest share of serious hate crimes. Hate groups see the value of recruiting the young, and the average age at area Klan rallies has dropped dramatically in the past several years.

"We Don't Want to Give Our Town a Bad Name"

"We Want to Keep This Quiet so It Won't Get Worse"

The most common attitude among public officials, police officers, school administrators, and the like is that the best way to deal with hate crimes is to keep them from public view, and if they can't, to deny a racial motive. If they can't do either, there is often an attempt to deny the seriousness of the crime. This is usually done under the rationalization of one or both of the statements given above.

In one case this year, when a Black couple had "KKK" painted on their house, police reaction was "that it was more of a vandalism type thing than it was a threat."

A few days later the couple's home was entered and ransacked, and a racial slur was painted on a wall. Local police were sure the motive for this second incident was burglary, though little was taken.

In one case in Cedartown several years ago, police and the local paper termed a cross-burning a "domestic dispute" because one of the men involved was related to one of the victims. In fact, both perpetrators had frequently made threats against minorities, and one had threatened to kill any of his relatives who married a Black or a Mexican (as was the case).

Another manner in which hate group activity is downplayed is to compare these groups to the NAACP or similar legal nonviolent groups which oppose them, particularly to those who attempt to assist the victims. Following a spray-painting incident in Locust



Grove, the police chief equated the civil rights activists with the Ku Klux Klan, and cited protests which followed an attempted fire bombing in Clayton County two years before. Actually, these protests never occurred.

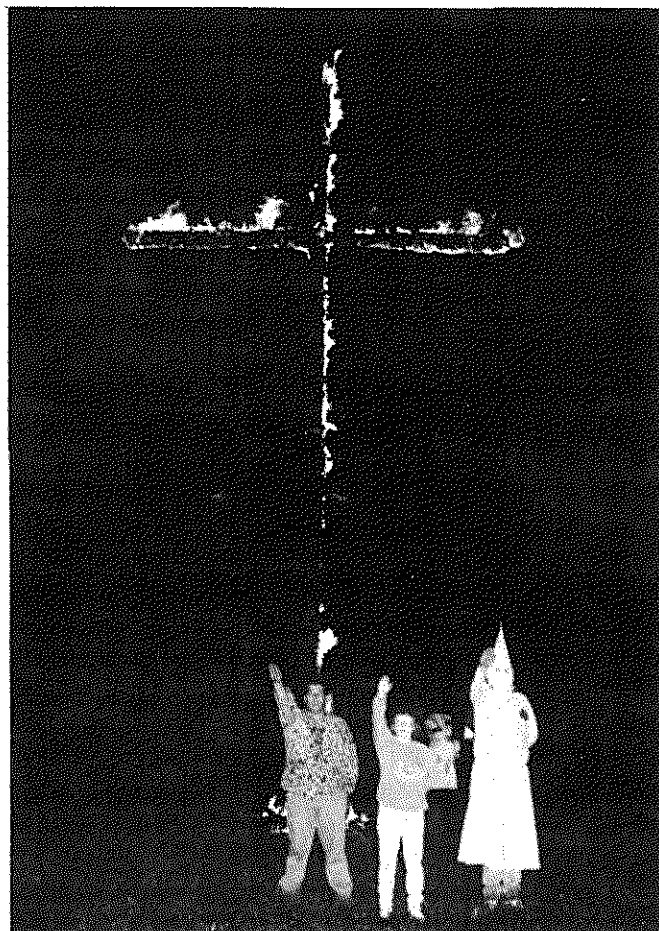
In many cases there is an attempt to shift part (or all) of the blame onto the victim. This may be as extreme as two Polk County juries acquitting whites in the shooting deaths of two unarmed Mexicans, on the grounds of "self-defense." It can be as simple as a policeman's statement that the victims of move-in violence should have expected that kind of thing in this neighborhood.

This is not to say that these same law enforcement officers will not do their best to bring the criminals to justice. In the Locust Grove case the perpetrators were quickly arrested, and two charged with felonies. In other cases, however, this has not been so.

Why Hate Crimes Are Community Problems

Victims of hate crimes are often targeted because they are seen by the haters as being isolated within their community, that because of their race, religion, or sexual orientation the community will not join hands in their defense.

The vast majority of people in Georgia do not care what color their neighbors are, only that they are good neighbors. However, this may not be the perception of a family that has just had a cross burned on their lawn or racial slurs painted on their house. They have already heard from the minority in the community which objects to their presence, now they need to hear from the rest of us.



Aiding the Victims of Hate Crimes

One of the two key points in aiding the victims of hate crimes is to help end this perceived isolation within the community.

Everything that shows this support, from the first police car pulling up at the victim's house, is important. Rarely do the perpetrators of move-in violence live more than three or four doors away and they will carefully note everyone that comes and goes. Press reports, particularly if accompanied by strong statements from the authorities and elected officials, are important. They let the haters know that their acts will be reported and that they are not endorsed by the general public.

Church leaders, especially from nearby white churches, should speak to their congregations, speak out publicly, and should offer support to the affected family. Seeing a group of clergy enter a victim's home, or pray with them in front of their house, can have a positive impact on a neighborhood. In addition to the impact on the haters, it can encourage neighbors to show their support.

Statements by civic organizations, business leaders, union locals, and veterans' groups are all important. Where communities respond quickly and clearly to hate crimes, a serious on-going problem is usually averted.

In Metro Atlanta, these kinds of responses are not happening. During 1989, Neighbors' Network volunteers visited the homes of seven families victimized by move-in violence. In most

cases no other organizations had contacted the families. In most cases, no clergy or elected officials had offered support.

Most of these victims remained in their homes. However, having any families forced from their homes is too many.

A second key point is that any on-going campaign of violence or harassment is a breakdown in the criminal justice system. The problem may be that victims, for varying reasons, may be scared to report the crime. It can be that the responding officers do not take them seriously. The problem can be at the level of the police chief, magistrate, or District Attorney. The system must be examined at each step so the problem areas can be identified and corrected.



A Word About the Police

There was a time in Georgia when many police officers belonged to the Ku Klux Klan, and police departments were expected to defend a system of segregation.

Times have changed. There are still isolated incidents of police officers belonging to hate groups, still each year a number of questionable shootings of black men by white officers, and places in Georgia where little has changed in the way of police community relations. However, these are the exceptions rather than the rule.

The vast majority of police officers today have little use for the Ku Klux Klan, and do their job as professionally as possible. To see people screaming "Cops and Klan work hand in hand" and "Blue by day, white by night" in the faces of often black police officers is ridiculous. It is also insulting to those people who fought to see police forces integrated, and who fought to bring a certain amount of change to the state.

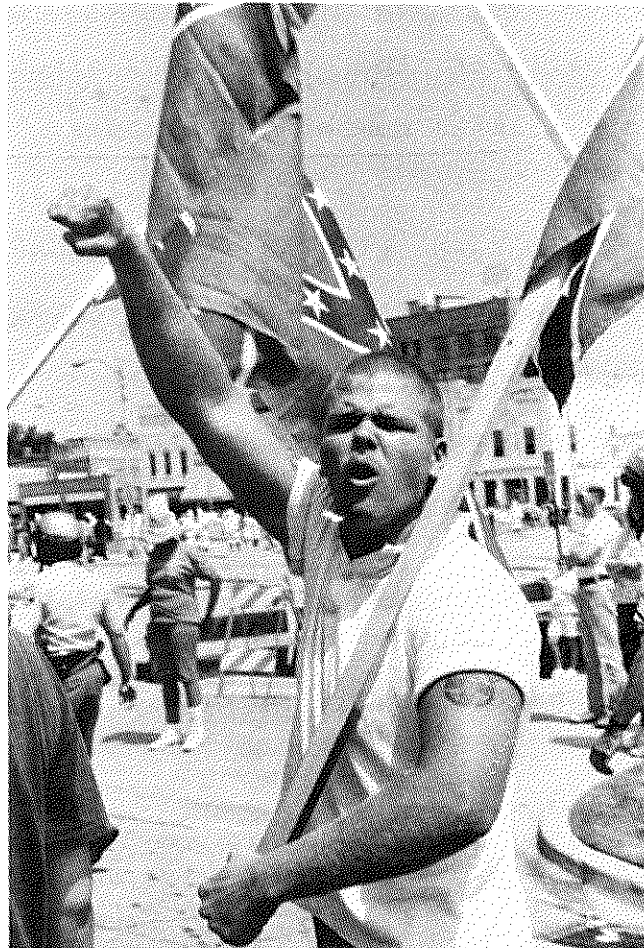
Among area police departments, there are a few with excellent records in dealing with hate crime and hate groups. There are a few that are extremely poor. The vast majority lie in between.

It is important to remember that police officers deal on a regular basis with a wide range of crimes; including murder, assaults, rapes, etc. Beside crimes like these, a spraypainting or crossburning may not seem like a serious crime.

It is important to remember that hate crimes are committed not just to make an impact on the specific victims involved, but to terrorize segments of the community. Thus they are more than just vandalisms or just threats, and are problems for the entire community.

It is also asking a lot to expect law enforcement agencies to take hate crimes seriously if no other sector of the community does.

Among the Georgia police departments doing an excellent job of dealing with hate activity are the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Cobb County Police Department, and the Gainesville Police Department.



Hate Group Activity in Georgia

This chronology documents more than two dozen legal, public activities by hate groups. There were others we missed. The True Knights alone, prior to their disbanding in August, were out nearly every weekend, leafletting, holding a rally, or attending another faction's rally.

1989 was a mixed year for hate groups in Georgia. In May, a Klan "unity day" saw more Klan factions and Nazi groups based in Georgia or claiming Georgia members working together than any day in recent memory. By August, Klan grand Dragons were once again at each other's throats. The end of the year saw the situation take a serious turn as the Aryan Nations arrived in Georgia, and package bombs claimed two lives.

The latter part of the year saw a situation in which no faction could claim a large number of members, primarily due to the lack of a single effective Klan leader or organization in the state. Private property Klan rallies, however, were drawing more participants than at any time in years, and a march in Gainesville drew over 300 marchers.

Nazi skinhead activity is one of the most disturbing and violent aspects of the white supremacist movement. In the Atlanta area, the two most important skinhead groups are the Old Glory Skins and the American Front. Members of both, including their local leadership, participated in white supremacist rallies during the year.

January

Atlanta

Fulton County

Early in the year, a billboard honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. is defaced on Edgewood Avenue.

01/01/89

Hawkinsville

Pulaski County

A cross is burned at the home of Willie Mae Bumbry and her two children, shortly after they move into a predominantly white Pulaski County neighborhood.

Robert George Dykes of Pulaski County is later sentenced to two years in prison and three years probation. His sister, Charlotte Alexander, is sentenced to 20 days in jail for cursing the judge who sentenced him.

01/21/89

Cumming

Forsyth County

Prior to his march in Atlanta, Richard Barrett holds a press conference in Forsyth County. His Nationalist Movement is a Nazi organization. At the end of 1988 he held a "target-shooting" weekend at his farm in Mississippi, attended by 70 young people, including at least three young Atlanta skinheads.

01/21/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

Richard Barrett leads approximately eight of his followers on a march protected by approximately 2000 police and National Guardsmen. Though most of the counter-demonstrators are peaceful, rock and bottle throwing leaves 13 people injured and 40 people arrested.

January 1989

Cedartown

Polk County

A Mexican couple report a crossburning to local anti-racist activists, but are afraid to follow up on it.

02/07/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

Lorri Sullivan, 27, is shot to death in her car, near Lenox Square, by Thomas Wayne Griffin and Donald Lindsey Griffin of Douglas County. The two men conspired to come into Atlanta to beat up and rob gay people, and on the spur of the moment kill and rob Ms. Sullivan.



02/08/89

Fairburn

Fulton County

At Campbell High School, two students bump into each other, resulting in a fight between several white and black students.

02/09/89

Fairburn

Fulton County

At Campbell High School, an angry confrontation between about 100 white and black students occurs in a lobby. Students exchange insults and challenges. Several report seeing guns during the disturbance, including a shotgun. Students are not allowed to change classes for the day's final period.

02/10/89

Fairburn

Fulton County

About 40 per cent of the students at Campbell are absent.

02/11/89

Cordele

Crisp County

A cross is burned at the Crisp County home of Mary Jo Lester and her children. The Lesters had recently moved into the white Meadow Park subdivision. Following the attack, the Lesters move.

02/13/89

Cedartown

Polk County

Melindo Reyes, after two years of delay, arrives at the Polk County Courthouse to attend the trial of Floyd Andersen Jr. for shooting Reyes in 1987. Instead, Reyes is assaulted by whites in the street in front of the courthouse, and sees the case against Andersen dropped.

Reyes was shot in 1987 by Andersen, his wife's ex-husband. According to Reyes, Andersen shouted, "I'm going to kill me a wetback", shot Reyes once through the window of Reyes' trailer, then entered the trailer and shot him again. Reyes became the fourth Mexican to be shot by whites in Cedartown since 1980. No one has ever been convicted in these shootings.

After being released from jail, Andersen threatened to shoot more Mexicans, and quickly acquired another pistol. According to Reyes' wife, Andersen showed her the pistol on several occasions, stating he was going to kill Reyes and other Mexicans. Reyes and his wife moved from house to house, moving each time Andersen found them. Eventually Reyes' wife went back to her family, who also disapproved of her marriage to a Mexican. It was members of her family who assaulted Reyes on Feb 13, 1989.

According to a notarized statement made by Reyes, a friend and two anti-racist activists escorting them to the courthouse, Charles Corn approached their car, shouting threats and several slurs. He reached into the car and struck Reyes several times in

the face. He also threatened to stab the two activists. A policeman who observed the incident advised Reyes to take out a warrant. However, the magistrate advised Reyes that this would only add fuel to the fire. Charges against Andersen were dropped.

02/14/89

Cordele

Crisp County

The house vacated by the Lesters is burned by Steven Deal, 24, who later pleads guilty to one count of conspiring to violate the civil rights of the Lesters and the homeowner.

Deal testified that he was paid \$300 by Richard Welch of Cordele to burn the house. The fee was to have been \$500, but was reduced when the house was vacated. Welch was later tried and convicted.

Two other Crisp County men, Roger Worthy and Oscar Simpkins, were given prison sentences of 15 and 6 months, respectively, for burning the cross.

02/16/89

Telfair County

A 16-year-old Black student is hospitalized after an altercation with a white teacher. The incident increased tensions in the Telfair schools, where meetings were being held to protest the treatment of Black students.

02/22/89

Eatonton

Putnam County

According to his suit filed in the State Court of Fulton County, Lionel Reese, a Black truck driver, claims that he was assaulted and threatened by a security guard and another man at a plant where he was picking up a load.

Reese states that when he entered the plant to find the security guard, George Arthur, he found him talking to several other men. Reese says they used racial slurs against him, threatened to hang him, poked him in the stomach with a knife, and broke a broom handle over his head. As Reese tried to get up, he says that one of the men picked up an iron pipe and Reese fled to the scale house, where he called the police.

February 1989

Lithia Springs Douglas County

Robert Smith, an organizer for the American Front (a Nazi skinhead group), leaves for Florida with two recruits, both 14-year-old Douglas County girls. One of these girls, abandoned by Smith, spent two months in the Nazi underground before being located and brought home by her mother and a Neighbors' Network volunteer.

Smith would later be convicted of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and interfering with custody.

February 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

Outside the Oak Apartments in Little Five Points, a group of skinheads harass two women whom they perceive to be Lesbians. The next day, the two women find their car windows smashed.

February 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

A gay man was attacked while walking in his Mid-Town neighborhood by several men. The men, calling him "faggot" and other anti-gay epithets, beat him. Injuries included several lacerations, head injuries, and bruises.

February 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

Skinheads threaten a Black resident of Oak Apartments in Little Five Points, telling him that he would be the target of a crossburning, and would be stabbed to death.

March 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

A group of skinheads gather behind Oak Apartments, drinking, displaying weapons, and threatening people. A Neighbors Network volunteer called the police. Upon their arrival, they are told by skinheads, "We're just beating up a fag."

Later, when a resident of Oak Apartments went out to her car, she was threatened and assaulted by skinheads, who told her they were going to clean up the neighborhood of "kikes and dykes and niggers."

03/12/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

Two Neighbors Network volunteers, searching for the two missing Douglas County girls, are recognized as they drive by a skinhead house at Barnett and Magill. On a return pass (the house is located on a dead-end street), they hear shouts of "White Power" and a pistol shot.

03/24/89

Gwinnett County

The Gwinnett sheriff's department reports that Peggy Dickey (wife of convicted child molester Edward Dickey) was suspected of having joined the Posse Comitatus and might be armed.

The Posse Comitatus, a right-wing extremist group, does not recognize the authority of the Federal or State governments. Its members have been involved in a great deal of violence, including the murders of two U.S. Marshals in North Dakota and a sheriff in Arkansas.

After a juvenile court judge ordered her two children into state custody, Mrs. Dickey filed a statement with court officials renouncing her citizenship and stating she was no longer under their jurisdiction.

March 1989

Metro Atlanta

An area county NAACP receives threats on its phone machine.

March 1989

Woodstock

Cherokee County

Robert Smith, American Front organizer, calls a young man who had briefly associated with Nazi skinheads, and threatens to kill him. On another occasion, Smith threatens to rape and kill the boy's mother.

04/08/89

Rockmart

Polk County

The True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan hold a rally on private property owned by two of their members. Also present were members of the Invisible Empire, Southern White Knights, National Knights, North Georgia Knights, Tennessee Confederate Hammer Skins, and some skinheads from Atlanta.

Don Romine of the North Georgia Knights spoke while waving a pair of brass knuckles. Randall Wiley Smith of the Southern White Knights also spoke, bragging about his tear gas and brass knuckle attack on a Black teenager in Cedartown in 1984. Weapons, including pistols and knives, are illegally possessed by some of the participants.

04/11/89

Banks County

Eight robed members of the Invisible Empire attend a county commission meeting to protest a proposed nudist camp.

04/15/89

Jackson

Butts County

About 90 people attend a rally sponsored by the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Denied a permit to march, the rally is restricted to a parking lot. Various Klan and Nazi groups take part.

04/28/89

Forest Park

Clayton County

Upon moving onto a street where they were the only Black residents, Florient and Kimberly Pierre awakened to find "KKK" spraypainted on their home in two places. Forest Park police played the incident down saying, "It's more of a vandalism type thing than it was a threat."

April 1989

Forest Park

Clayton County

A second incident a few days later sees the Pierres' home broken into, ransacked, and a racial slur painted on an interior wall. Despite the fact that little is taken, and that no arrests are made, police believe the motive is burglary. The Pierres move.

April 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

A gay man is murdered in his apartment. He suffered multiple stab wounds. The man was gay and robbery was apparently not a motive. Mutilation or multiple stab wounds often indicate a hate crime.

05/01/89

Norcross

Gwinnett County

Jose Medina Velazquez was assaulted and stabbed while hitchhiking home to Florida. Two men got out of a car and attacked him. Due to the fact that Velazquez was Hispanic, and there is no other obvious motive, we are listing this as a hate crime.

05/05/89

Lawrenceville

Gwinnett County

Local Nazi skinhead activist John Daniel Edwards was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The charges stemmed from his involvement with a girl who briefly associated with his group. Other members of the group were responsible for the theft of a shotgun and money from the girl's parents. This is one of several incidents brought to the attention of the Neighbors Network in which Nazi skinheads stole weapons from parents of young people involved with their groups.

The other incidents occurred in Douglas and Cherokee Counties.

05/07/89

Summerville

Chattooga County

Members of the North Georgia Knights and "several gentlemen with no hair on their heads" attend a city council meeting and announce that they will use a public address system at their upcoming rally even if the city does not permit it.

05/13/89

Summerville

Chattooga County

A Klan and Nazi rally sponsored by the North Georgia Knights is held on the courthouse steps. Don Romine, Grand Dragon, makes vicious profane attacks on the town's elected officials. At least eight Klan factions and four Nazi factions took part, including the American Front and the Old Glory Skins. Don Romine is cited for illegal use of a P.A. system.

05/13/89

Lyerly

Chattooga County

The same factions mentioned in the May 13 Summerville entry hold a private property rally and crossburning. The rally passed without incident, in contrast to a 1988 rally here which nearly erupted in violence between KKK members and local residents.

05/20/89

Franklin

Heard County

The Invisible Empire hold a "roadblock" (leafletting) followed by a private property rally.

05/20/89

Carrollton

Carroll County

Shortly after the rally breaks up in neighboring Heard County, three robed masked Klansmen enter a pizza parlor owned by a young Black man and threaten him.

May 1989

Carrollton

Carroll County

After receiving telephone threats at his home, the owner of the pizza place decides to go out of business and move.

05/22/89

Locust Grove

Henry County

The new Henry County home of Blair Keys is spraypainted with "KKK", "666", and "Nigger Go Home." He decided to move in anyway. Authorities arrested 3 teenagers, charging two of them with felonies. Chief Crawford equated civil rights marchers with the

KKK, and cited protests which followed an attempted fire bombing in Clayton County in 1987. These protests never occurred.

05/27/89

Woodstock

Cherokee County

David Craig, Grand Dragon of the True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and nine of his followers hand out literature, including "The Truth at Last", formerly "The Thunderbolt", edited by longtime Nazi activist Ed Fields of Marietta.

05/28/89

Dalton

Whitfield County

A brawl occurs between about 100 young Black people in the parking lot of the Dalton Community Center and the Dalton police. The NAACP would later accuse police of using abusive language and racial slurs, beating people already arrested and turning attack dogs loose on people.

05/28/89

Rome

Floyd County

Members of the Lindale-based Royal Confederate Knights, including their Grand Dragon Elmer Watkins, hand out literature, and engage in a heated exchange of words with Becky Grant, a local business owner.

Summer 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

A man met another man at a gay bar in Buckhead, and took him home. At the man's home, the visitor attacked him with a knife, nearly amputating an ear and several fingers. The victim was stabbed repeatedly. He has been in rehabilitation for six months, and has \$100,000 in medical bills.

The suspect was apprehended and released two days later on a bond of only \$5,000. He has not returned for subsequent hearings.

06/03/89

Beersheba Springs, Tennessee

The Invisible Empire holds a rally with Georgia participation. The rally draws 20 Klansmen and 50 spectators.

06/03/89

Griffin

Spalding County

The True Knights sponsor a public rally attended by various factions and a Skinhead with a Nazi flag. A tire is slashed on a Neighbors Network truck parked near the rally site.

06/03/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

As he walks through the Little Five Points neighborhood, a young Black man named Terry Leach is harassed by Nazi skinheads, including one involved of an assault on Leach the previous September. During the earlier assault, Terrence Georges, chairman of the Atlanta Old Glory Skins, and some others armed with guns and brass knuckles, had brutally beaten Leach in Little Five Points. Leach successfully prosecuted Georges and others.

In the June 3rd incident, the skins gather around Leach yelling "Heil Hitler", and "White Power", and threaten to get a gun. One man grapples briefly with Leach. At this point, Neighbors Network volunteers intervene and help Leach safely leave the area. Several of the skinheads involved are seen regularly at Georgia and Tennessee Klan rallies.

06/06/89

Cobb County

David Craig, Grand Dragon of the True Knights, is convicted of using abusive language to a police officer. The incident occurred during a Klan leafletting in Acworth in December 1988. Craig was fined and ordered to learn the Boy Scout oath. Craig would later lie about this incident at a rally in Norcross, where he stated that no True Knight had ever been convicted of a crime.

06/07/89

Rome

Floyd County

Police investigate harassing phone calls to Becky Grant, who had argued with Klansmen on May 2nd.

06/13/89

Marietta

Cobb County

An evening basketball game at the Park Street School turns into a brawl between Black and White youths, leaving two of the white youths injured. One, Scott Gilbert, slipped into a coma with critical head injuries.

06/14/89

Marietta

Cobb County

Jack Spivey, 42, of Ohio, a relative of the two young men injured in the previous night's brawl, returns to the scene with a gun looking for revenge. Police, watching for further trouble, approach Mr. Spivey, who pulls his gun on officer John Friedlander, and is shot by Cpl. Michael McClure, after repeated commands to drop the weapon.

He was listed in fair condition, and charged with ag-



gravated assault on a police officer and felony possession of a weapon.

06/17/89

Fairmount

Gordon County

The Fairmount Klavern of the Invisible Empire holds a leafletting, followed by a rally in the park.

06/17/89

Calhoun

Gordon County

Following their activities in Fairmount, the Invisible Empire holds a leafletting and rally in Calhoun.

06/21/89

DeKalb County

\$30,000 worth of damage is done when three fires are set at Showtime Florist on Marjan road. "KKK" and "Get Out, Jew Lover" are spraypainting at the scene.

06/24/89

Rome

Floyd County

The Royal Confederate Knights sponsor a rally at the courthouse. Also participating were the North Georgia Knights, Confederate White Knights, Southern White Knights, and several members of the Invisible Empire, as well as several skinheads.

A crowd estimated at several hundred watches, some for and some against the Klan. Following the rally shouting matches break out as truckloads of Klan members drive through the streets shouting racial slurs and White Power slogans.

The public rally is followed by a private property rally at a Flea Market on Darlington Drive, attended by an estimated 500 to 600 people. A shotgun was raffled off, and one Klansman stated that he wished he had 400 to give away, "to shoot niggers with."

Two participants were arrested for public drunkenness.

06/29/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

Terry Leach is again the victim of a skinhead assault in Little Five Points. A skinhead named Sanderson approaches Leach and objects to him speaking to white women, then punches Leach in the face. Despite repeated requests from Leach that he back off, Sanderson continues the assault and Leach is forced to defend himself.

Sanderson goes through a plate glass window, to the hospital, and to jail. He is charged with simple battery.

06/30/89

Cedartown

Polk County

J.B. Floyd, who has a long history of threatening Mexicans and those who associate with them, enters the home of a woman who had befriended Mexicans, holds a knife to her throat and attempts to strangle her. He also threatens two young Mexican men who came to her aid.

June 1989

Calhoun

Gordon County

Sometime during June, Aubrey Tatum of Fairmount files a suit against the city of Calhoun for refusing to allow the use of a P.A. system at the upcoming Klan rally.

June 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

Residents of Cabbage Town, a low-income white neighborhood, intervene as skinheads harass an elderly man, sending one skin to the hospital.

07/02/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A fight breaks out at a party in Little Five Points as skinheads begin yelling "White Power" and "Heil Hitler". Skins get the worst of it.

07/04/89

Dawsonville

Dawson County

The Nationalist Movement, led by Richard Barrett of Mississippi, holds a rally attended by 20 people, nearly all members of other Klan and Nazi organizations. Most were there only to observe, and did not even endorse the event to the extent of wearing robes or uniforms.

07/06/89

Forest Park

Clayton County

Elizabeth and John Chitwood, an interracial couple, find "Get out of Forest Park, Nigger --- KKK" painted on a fence they were building at their home. Mrs. Chitwood had occupied the house for 43 years, Mr. Chitwood since they had married 12 years before.

07/08/89

Marietta

Fulton County

A woman, identified as a Lesbian by a gay-related bumper sticker on her car, is verbally harassed and threatened by a man who followed her into a grocery store.

07/09/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A man, walking on Peachtree Street between the Armory and Bulldogs, two gay bars, is verbally harassed and assaulted by another man. The assailant, saying "he had kids", hits the victim in the head, knocks him down, and kicks him repeatedly. Passers-by apprehend the suspect and hold him till police respond one or two hours later.

07/15/89

Dallas

Paulding County

Report of a leafletting by an unidentified Klan group.

07/20/89

Decatur

DeKalb County

After years of complaints about his incompetence, James Venable, 87, Imperial Wizard of the National Knights, agrees to surrender his law license.

07/21/89

Carrollton

Carroll County

While two young Black men are inside a Pizza Hut a window on their car is broken, and a sticker is placed on their car which read, "We are watching you and we don't like what we see --- KKK."

07/22/89

Austell

Cobb County

Report of a leafletting by an unidentified Klan group.

07/22/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

An abortion clinic and women's health center receive bomb threats.

07/22/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

Nazi skins, including one who took part in the following week's Klan rally in Norcross, briefly confront activists at

literature tables in Little Five Points. Later they confront and threaten to shoot an activist.

07/28/89

Forest Park

Clayton County

A Forest Park woman, mistakenly believing a Black family was moving into a house near hers, painted "Nigger Get", etc., on it. She and three juveniles were arrested.

07/29/89

Norcross

Gwinnett County

The True Knights hold a rally in a city park, ostensibly to support a white police officer who had shot and killed a Black man. The local NAACP Legal Redress Chairman had termed the July 1 shooting a racially motivated murder.

The rally quickly degenerates into a shouting match as the approximately 40 Klan members and skinheads shout insults and challenges at Black spectators. The Klan, enraged by a negative reaction from the mostly white crowd, twice storm into the crowd to confront people, including two women and several children singing, "Jesus Loves the Little Children." One participant in the Klan rally, Sherree Jenkins of Lawrenceville, is arrested for disorderly conduct after she punches a young woman.

The True Knights announce a rally in Mississippi, and one for Cedartown over Labor Day weekend.

07/30/89

Albany

Dougherty County

Mittie Bell Rowe, 70, finds "KKK" written on a car at her home. A similar incident took place about a few weeks before.

08/01/89

Stone Mountain

DeKalb County

DeKalb County police report that a Black Stone Mountain woman's car had "Nigger Go Home" spraypainted on it at her home on Main Street Lake Drive.

08/03/89

Carrollton

Carroll County

The True Knights distribute leaflets at Tower Mall. The leaflet promotes the upcoming Villa Rica rally.

August 1989

Gainesville

Hall County

Ku Klux Klan flyers targeting Hall County's Hispanic

population appear, causing a number of families to move away. The Mexican consulate expresses concern.

08/05/89

Villa Rica

Carroll County

A rally is held by the True Knights. It draws 50 participants (half of them skinheads). James Haray, an Invisible Empire leader from Roanoke, Alabama provokes outrage from the skinheads present when he repeats comments he made about them in Norcross, including the suggestion that not all the skins were white.

He also urged spectators to join the True Knights instead of the Georgia Invisible Empire.

Among the participants was Robert Smith of the American Front.

08/05/89

Paulding County

The True Knights hold a private property rally.

08/06/89

Lithia Springs Douglas County

A 14-year-old who had briefly associated with the American Front (A.F.) receives a threat from a former friend still in the A.F.

08/09/89

Lithia Springs Douglas County

Robert Smith and two carloads of Nazi skinheads, at least four of whom had participated in the Villa Rica rally (see entry dated 08/05/89), arrive at the house of the young man who had left their group.

One young woman was arrested for making a terroristic threat. After her arrest, she stated that she had felt that they were going to kill the young man.

Fortunately, a police car passed the house and the group fled.

08/11/89

Smyrna

Cobb County

Robert Smith is arrested for making a terroristic threat, after he threatened to shoot his sister's husband. He also stated that he had called two friends to bring him a gun. As he was being arrested, two of his friends arrived, and Smith told them to go get bail money. Smith later stated that he sent the two to borrow money from David Craig, Grand Dragon of the True Knights (who didn't give it to them).

08/12/89

Winder

Barrow County

The Southern White Knights hold a rally.

08/15/89

Lawrenceville Gwinnett County

At a Gwinnett County Planning Commission meeting, a number of people living near the proposed Temple Beth David Synagogue object to the county allowing the synagogue to be built. A number of these people make anti-Semitic remarks.

08/20/89

Snellville

Gwinnett County

Mailboxes in the vicinity of the proposed Temple Beth David Synagogue are stuffed with white supremacist literature. Included is "The Truth at Last", formerly "The Thunderbolt", edited by long-time Nazi Ed Fields of Marietta. According to one Nazi source, a number of white supremacists including skinheads did an impromptu late night march through the neighborhood, stuffing mailboxes.

08/21/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A tear gas bomb explodes at the Southeastern offices of the NAACP. The bomb, sent through the mail, goes off as it is being opened by Earl Shinholster and a secretary. Eight people are sent to the hospital, and seven others receive lesser injuries. Evidence would tie this bombing to the package bombings later in the year.

08/21/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

The Feminist Women's Health Center is heavily vandalized by intruders. A bomb threat signed "Sp 1776" is found pasted on a nearby phone booth.

08/23/89

Gwinnett County

Mark Epstein, president of the Beth David Synagogue, reports two "vulgar" phone calls, and one threatening to burn down the not-yet built temple.

08/24/89

Canton

Cherokee County

A Mexican man and his American wife, living on Waleska Road, find their tires slashed. This is the first in a series of incidents which would plague two successive Mexican and American couples occupying the apartment.

08/25/89

Canton

Cherokee County

The couple living on Waleska Road in Canton find a death threat and racial slurs painted on their car.

08/25/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

In Little Five Points neighborhood, two young Black men are robbed by a group of skins armed with a tire tool. At least one of the skins had participated in the Villa Rica rally (see entry dated 08/05/89).

08/26/89

Canton

Cherokee County

A firebomb slightly damages the car of the couple on Waleska Road. The car was approximately two feet away from the front of the apartment. Had it caught fire, their lives would have been in danger.

08/26/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

In Little Five Points there is a confrontation between the two young Black men robbed the day before and the skins who robbed them.

Neighbors' Network volunteers approach the two young men to offer them support and urge them to report the robbery.

08/26/89

Concord

Cabarrus County, NC

The Invisible Empire hold a rally with Georgia participation. Darlene Carver of Hall County speaks for the Georgia Invisible Empire.

08/27/89

Canton

Cherokee County

Rocks are thrown through the windows of the apartment on Waleska road and the couple moves out.

August 1989

Lithia Springs Douglas County

Toward the end of August, David Craig disbands the True Knights and disconnects their "dial-a-hate" line. No faction carried out the scheduled Cedartown rally, which was to compete with the rally in Gainesville.

Fall 1989

Stone Mountain DeKalb County

Two gay men are allegedly assaulted in a Stone Mountain car dealership. According to these two men, they are waiting for a car they were buying to be "prepped," when they notice a couple driving it away. When they question this, they are told that they are not going to be sold a car, and are not going to be given their credit application back. At this point, the men say they are assaulted by employees of the dealership.

09/02/89

Gainesville Hall County

A rally sponsored by the Invisible Empire and the Southern White Knights draws over 300 marchers. This is the public march for the annual Stone Mountain Klan-Nazi rally. Among the speakers is Richard Butler of the Aryan Nations. Most of the speakers make attacks on Gainesville's Hispanic community. About 70 skinheads take part, some of them from Georgia.

09/02/89

Stone Mountain DeKalb County

The annual Stone Mountain Klan-Nazi rally is held on the property of James Venable, Imperial Wizard of the National Knights. 600 to 700 people attend, making it the biggest rally there in many years.

09/03/89

Canton

Cherokee County

The apartment on Waleska Road is again rented by a Mexican and American couple. Almost immediately one of their windows is broken and a screen door is torn off.

09/07/89

Canton

Cherokee County

The Waleska Road couple find racial slurs and threats written on their car in wax. One reads, "Death to All Sand Niggers."



09/10/89

Canton

Cherokee County

The same Waleska Road couple receive a harassing phone call.

09/16/89

Fairburn

Fulton County

Keith Smith of U.S. Klan, apparently competing with Richard Barrett in the category of most pathetic attempt at a white supremacist march this year, marches eight people through Fairburn, two of whom are Invisible Empire members. There are only slightly more spectators. Smith does not even attempt to have a rally.

Until the beginning of September, Smith had been calling himself National Coordinator of the National Knights. Apparently angry at being given no role to play in the Gainesville-Stone Mountain rallies, Keith Smith began the U.S. Klan. A minor change, as under any name he is without membership.

Smith frequently wears a T-shirt and beret with the insignia of the White Aryan Resistance, Tom Metzger's California-based Nazi group.

09/16/89

Fulton County

The U.S. Klan holds a private property rally.

09/16/89

Jasper

Pickens County

The Invisible Empire holds a public rally.

09/16/89

Fairmount

Gordon County

The Invisible Empire holds a private property rally.

09/16/89

Jonesboro

Clayton County

The Ward family move into a mixed neighborhood in Clayton County. Their immediate neighbors, all white, have varied reactions.

Some greet the Wards, but one next door neighbor puts his house up for sale, and another begins flying a Confederate flag. On the 19th, an object is thrown at the Wards' teen-aged daughter, but in the darkness she is unable to see the assailant.

09/21/89

Jonesboro

Clayton County

A crude cross, already charred, is placed on the Wards' lawn. Later a 15-year-old boy is arrested for the threat.

09/23/89

Toccoa

Stevens County

The Invisible Empire and Southern White Knights hold a private property rally.

09/27/89

Rome

Floyd County

Police in 21 cars rush to a park after receiving a tip that a fight was planned. Twenty-three adults and twelve juveniles are arrested for loitering, some Black and some White. State Senator Kenneth Fuller, in the park at the time, noticed a vehicle flying two Confederate flags, and a car with "KKK" written in mud on the side.

09/28/89

DeKalb County

Vandals spray-paint "KKK" and racial slurs on a sidewalk at Druid Hills High School. Shouting and shoving matches broke out the next day as students discovered the graffiti, but there were no injuries. Three teenagers would later be charged in the vandalism.

09/29/89

DeKalb County

Graffiti similar to that at Druid Hills High School is found at the Briarcliff Elementary School.

Late September 1989     Lithia Springs     Douglas County

Robert Smith, organizer for the American Front, makes a threatening phone call to a former associate.

09/30/89

Lithia Springs     Douglas County

Robert Smith, American Front leader, calls the mother of a former associate and threatens him.

October 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

Skinhead graffiti appears in Little Five Points, including death threats against a leftist youth group.

10/01/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A carload of skinheads harass a black man and a white man they perceive to be gay on North Avenue.

10/05/89

Jonesboro

Clayton County

A white Clayton County woman, Lana Fly, returned to her home to find a threat and racial slur ("Nigger Lover, Your Nex") written in lipstick in her bathroom.

10/05/89

Canton

Cherokee County

The Mexican and American couple on Waleska Road return to their apartment to find that a dead cat had been placed between the doors of the apartment.

10/05/89

Griffin

Spalding County

At Griffin High School, an altercation between a White student and nine Black students leaves the white student injured. Dave Holland's Southern White Knights "Dial-a-Hate" phone line would later exploit this incident.

10/06/89

Griffin

Spalding County

Two students were arrested at Griffin High School for having unloaded pistols in their possession. Though police and school officials said that the arrests were not related to the previous day's fight, school officials admitted that tension was running high.

10/07/89

Pulaski

Giles County, TN

An Aryan Nations march draws Georgia participation including leadership of the Southern White Knights, U.S. Klan, former True Knights and long-time Nazi activist Frank Shirley. Terrence Georges, chairman of the Old Glory Skins of Atlanta, distributes a letter accusing most of those who had been members of the O.G.S. of back-stabbing and immaturity.

10/07/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A Jewish man leaving a club in Little Five Points is harassed by a group of Nazi skins, who follow him to his car and threaten him with a tire tool. The incident ends when the victim produces a pistol.

The next day, Neighbors Network volunteers spot skinheads wearing Aryan Nations T-shirts in Little Five Points.

10/12/89

Alpharetta

Fulton County

Some fifty officers are standing by at Milton High School as a result of a fight at that school, as well as rumors that white youths from Forsyth County would be at the school to retaliate for an incident involving Black Milton High School students.

The officers, from several jurisdictions, include a helicopter and SWAT team.

Other officers patrolled the school.

10/14/89

Franklin

Heard County

The Invisible Empire hold a private property rally.

10/14/89

Riverdale

Clayton County

The Johnston family, who had lived in their mostly white neighborhood for a year and a half, found "KKK", "Die Tomorrow", and obscenities scrawled on their truck.

10/18/89

College Road

Fulton County

Mark Trotter, a white man, found "Nigger Lover" and "KKK" spraypainted on his car. A Black woman who works with him had been at his house the night before.

10/22/89

Smyrna

Cobb County

A dark day for the American Front. A car driven by David Lynch of Port St. Lucie FL, leader of the American Front for the Eastern United States, read-ends a car driven by Robert Smith, local American Front organizer.

Lynch is charged with driving on a suspended license and having no proof of insurance. Smith and Lynch were armed at the time of the accident.

10/31/89

Riverdale

Clayton County

A Riverdale resident is charged with making two unprovoked racist assaults on Black people in a single day. In one incident, the man steers his car at a black family on a bicycling trip. One of the family is a two-year-old girl, who was fortunately unhurt. A friend of the family receives minor injuries.

In the second incident, about half an hour earlier, he allegedly attacks two Black men near their home with a metal rod while shouting racial slurs and a death threat. Both incidents take place along Roy Huie Road.

Though initially he is charged with aggravated assault, a felony, these charges are reduced to misdemeanors, despite the fact that he is originally charged with intending to cause "serious bodily harm."

October 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

A gay man is found stabbed to death in his apartment in Mid-Town. There have been no arrests.

11/01/89

Riverdale

Clayton County

The Hairstons, a Black couple, move into a mixed neighborhood. Before their first weekend there they find a note at their house complaining about two old cars the Hairstons were restoring. This first note contained no racial slurs or threats.

11/02/89

Montgomery

Alabama

A Federal court refuses to allow Georgia white supremacists Dave Holland and Frank Shirley to hold a counter-demonstration at the November 5th dedication of a monument to those murdered during the civil rights movement. Holland claims that the forty people listed on the monument (including Dr. King) are communists. Holland contacts Montgomery bail bondsman Sonny Livingston, requesting that he aid any Klansman arrested on the 5th.

Livingston was once indicted in the 1957 murder of one of those listed on the monument.

11/03/89

Valdosta

Lowndes County

Two men are arrested for burning a fifteen-foot cross during a football game at Lowndes High School. Police say the cross-burning is the result of tensions stemming from an assault earlier in the week.

Justin Andrew Brown, 20, is charged with making a terrorist threat, carrying a concealed weapon, and felony obstruction

of justice. Ray Allen Parrish, 19, is charged with making a terroristic threat and misdemeanor obstruction of officers. Both men live in the Hahira area.

11/08/89

Rex

Clayton County

Yet another Black Clayton County family is the target of racial vandalism. The Durdens have "KKK" sprayed on their driveway with gold paint.

Clayton Police say that the act is probably a prank by a teenager.

11/09/89

Cobb County

Former True Knights Grand Dragon David Craig and former Imperial Secretary Neva Veitch are arrested for the 1987 murder of Veitch's husband, Bill Joe.

Veitch had told police that she and her husband had been kidnapped near Six Flags Over Georgia by two Black men who robbed them and murdered her husband. She had claimed that she was then driven to Carroll County, where she was sexually assaulted before escaping.

At the True Knights rally in Norcross (see entry dated 07/29/89), Veitch even passed out copies of a police artist's sketch of the non-existent "assailants".

Billy Joe Veitch, himself a Klansman, joined the long list of white supremacists murdered in recent years by members of their own organizations.

11/18/89

Jefferson

Jackson County

The Invisible Empire holds a leafletting.

November 1989

Lithia Springs Douglas County

A number of racial fights occur at Lithia Springs High School. In one incident, a fifteen-year-old girl, a longtime Nazi activist, is beaten by a Black male student.

Late November 1989

Riverdale

Clayton County

The Hairstons (see entry dated 11/01/89) return from a Thanksgiving trip to find one of their cars vandalized.



12/16/89

Mountain Brook Alabama

A package bomb, sent from Newnan GA, explodes at the home of Robert Vance, a Federal judge, killing him. Vance had made a number of rulings which had angered white supremacists.

12/17/89

Woodbury

Meriwether County

At approximately 1:00 a.m., Ulysses Mahone, an unarmed Black man, is shot dead by Joel Gill, a white Woodbury police officer. Gill said he shot Mahone as Mahone was reaching for his pocket.

However, a witness claims Mahone was shot while he had his hands in the air.

Later in the day, about 60 Black protestors gathered at the police station. According to news reports, tires were slashed on several patrol cars.

12/18/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A package bomb mailed in Georgia is found at the Federal Courthouse in Atlanta. The bomb is discovered before it explodes.

12/18/89

Savannah

Chatham County

About eight hours after the bomb is discovered, another bomb also mailed in Georgia explodes, killing Robert Robinson, a lawyer and civil rights activist.

12/18/89

Woodbury

Meriwether County

About 100 Black demonstrators march through Woodbury, chanting "Justice." As the march pass through downtown, an older white man comes out of a store and swings a hacksaw at an "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" photographer. Police protect the man from the crowd.

12/19/89

Jacksonville

Florida

A package bomb mailed from Macon GA is discovered at the Jacksonville NAACP office. Only a series of chance occurrences kept the bomb from being opened and detonated.

12/22/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A bomb threat is received at the Federal Courthouse in Atlanta.



12/22/89

Woodbury

Meriwether County

About 300 people attend the funeral of Ulysses Mahone (see entry dated 12/17/89). Dr. Joseph Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (S.C.L.C.) spoke, and call on the Justice Department to investigate. The shooting has sparked five protest marches the previous week.

12/28/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

WAGA-TV receives a letter in which the sender threatens to kill station staff unless a statement is read on the air. The statement is signed by a person or persons calling themselves Americans for a Competent Federal Judicial System. In the statement, which is read that night on the air, this group claims credit for the recent package bombings, and states that each time a Black man rapes a white woman in Florida, Alabama, or Georgia, a judge, a lawyer, and an NAACP official will be killed. It also states that two more NAACP officers will be killed in retaliation for the murder of Julie Love, a young Atlanta woman murdered earlier in the year.

The evening of the broadcast, WAGA receives bomb threats.

12/28/89

Riverdale

Clayton County

Someone breaks the Hairstons' front window.

12/30/89

DeKalb County

The "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" reports that Roger Mills, lead plaintiff in a DeKalb County school desegregation suit, has been warned by law enforcement officers that he is a potential target of the bombers.

12/30/89 through 01/01/90

DeKalb County

Law enforcement officers search DeKalb County schools, concentrating on taking samples from typewriters and copying machines. Apparently the search is connected with the package bomb cases.

12/31/89

Marietta

Cobb County

Robert Smith, American Front organizer, states that he intends to hold a "Robert Matthews vigil" on private property because he was unable to get a permit for a public rally. Robert Matthews, an Order member wanted for robbing banks and armored

cars and for shooting an F.B.I. agent, died in a gun battle with Federal Agents in Oregon several years ago.

12/31/89

Atlanta

Fulton County

A series of messages, including death threats, are left on phone message machines at the Center for Democratic Renewal and the Anti-Defamation League. A staffer at the C.D.R. recognizes the voice of a local white supremacist leader. The C.D.R. provides law enforcement officers with a photograph of Robert Smith taken by the Neighbors Network at the August 5 Klan rally in Villa Rica.

December 1989

Atlanta

Fulton County

Skinhead graffiti is reported in various places, around Little Five Points. The graffiti, some of it very elaborate, includes threats against a leftist youth group.

December 1989

Experiment

Spalding County

The end of the year sees the remnants of the True Knights affiliate with the Aryan Nations. Led by Don Taylor of Spalding County and James Brown of Gwinnett County, the new organization is called The True Knights, Aryan Nations of Georgia. It holds its first rally in early 1990.

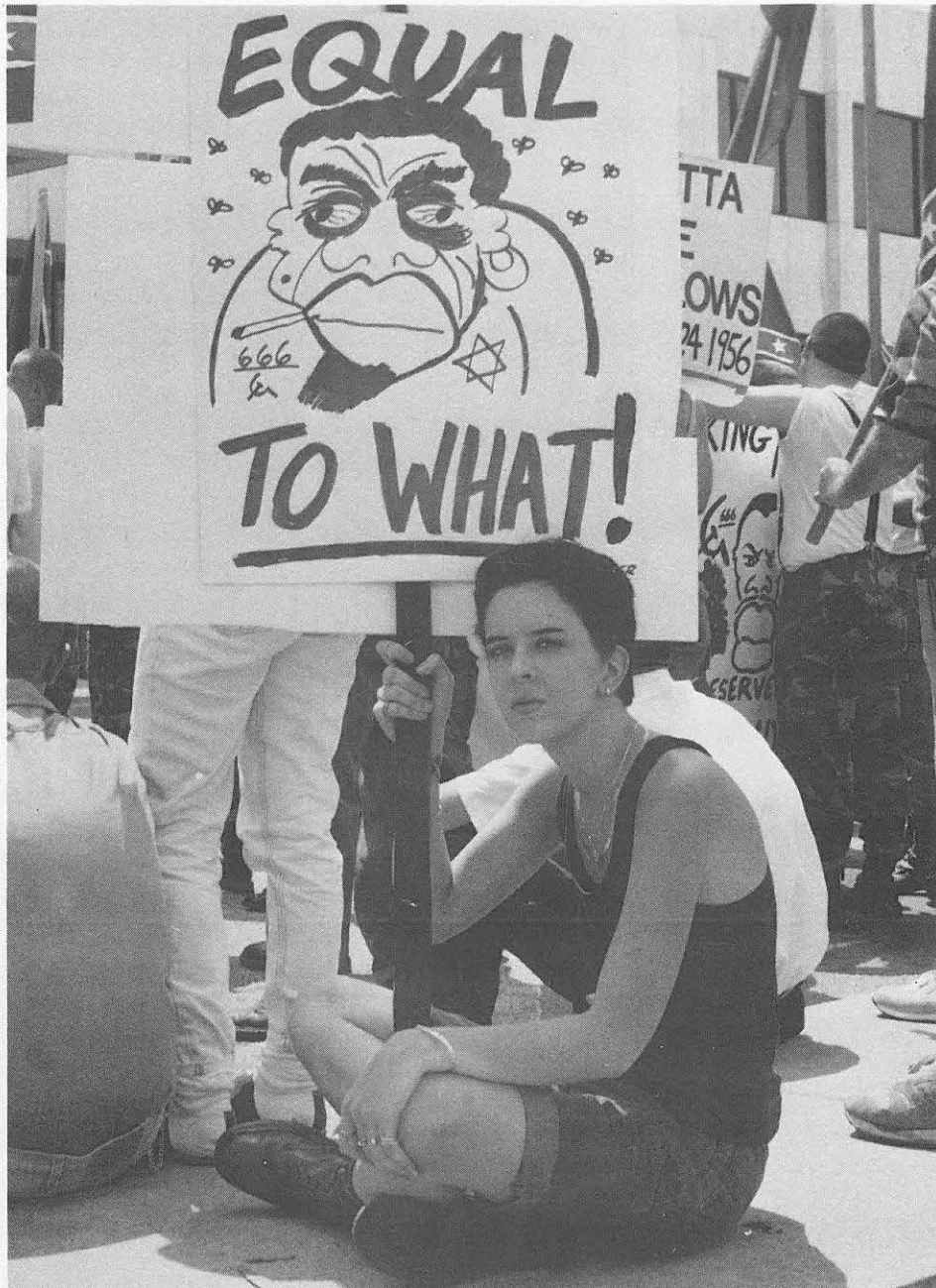
The Aryan nations is the primary example of a terrorist group in America today. A secret organization, its members receive paramilitary training, and many have been convicted of bank robbery and murder.

January 1990

Gwinnett County

In a January 24 "Atlanta-Journal Constitution" article, officials of the Habitat for Humanity charge that their projects in Gwinnett County have been met with racism, suspicion, and fear. Habitat for Humanity builds housing for homeless or low-income people. In one 1989 incident, an arson fire destroys a not-yet-occupied Habitat House. In another incident, residents of a shelter run by the group (already the target of a neighborhood petition drive) are harassed at night by people running around the house banging on doors and windows.





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